

P A P E R S

RELATING TO

PROCEEDINGS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS,

AND

STATE OF THE UNIONS AND WORKHOUSES,

IN IRELAND.

FIFTH SERIES—1848.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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P A P E R S

RELATING TO

PROCEEDINGS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS,

AND

STATE OF THE UNIONS AND WORKHOUSES,

I N I R E L A N D.

FIFTH SERIES.—1848.

CIRCULARS of INSTRUCTIONS to BOARDS of GUARDIANS and POOR LAW INSPECTORS, issued by the COMMISSIONERS.

EMPLOYMENT of ABLE-BODIED PAUPERS in receipt of OUT-DOOR RELIEF.—Circular of Instructions to Boards of Guardians of Unions to which an Order for Out-relief to the Able-bodied has been Issued.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
1848.

SIR,

Miscellaneous.

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland desire me to call the especial attention of the Guardians of Union to that part of the order of the Commissioners, authorizing the Guardians to afford out-door relief to able-bodied persons in food, which requires that every able-bodied male person so relieved, shall perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives relief.

The manner in which this important part of the order should be carried into effect, demands the immediate attention of the Guardians; and the Commissioners now proceed to explain the result of their own experience on the subject.

Most of the suggestions which have been made to the Commissioners have reference to the supposed advantage of obtaining productive labour in return for the relief afforded; and many of them involve the proposal of employing the able-bodied applicants for relief in the cultivation of land, on the best terms which can be obtained by the Guardians, from the parties occupying or owning such land.

To every proposal of this nature the Commissioners consider objections to exist which are insurmountable, and they do not contemplate giving their approval to such proposals under any circumstances whatever. One obvious objection is, that such proceedings might interfere with the operation of the legislative measures expressly provided to facilitate the improvement of landed property in Ireland; under which measures, labour will be employed and paid in the ordinary course, without any disturbance of those relations which naturally subsist between the employer and the employed, and which it is of the utmost consequence to maintain, as far as possible, undisturbed.

Among the evil tendencies of a system which permits the recipients of relief, to apply their labour to profitable and productive employment on the property of private individuals, the following are perhaps the most prominent:—

Firstly. Such a system tends to absorb the general stock of employment, and so to bring more labourers on the poor-rates.

Secondly. It tends to lower the market value of labour, to the great injury of the self-relying labourer; since the occupier of land will not contract for the employment of pauper instead of independent labour, unless he can obtain some advantage in the rate of wages.

Thirdly. It tends to spoil the industry and habits of the labourer, who will not work with the same energy in return for relief, as when he has a bargain with a private employer to work for wages; the continuance of his employment and the amount of his receipts depending, in one case, on his industry and the value of his work, and in the other case, on the necessities of himself and those dependent on him for support.

There is no system of obtaining labour in return for relief from the poor-rates,

B

Miscellaneous.

which is wholly free from the above objections. The desideratum, therefore, is the mode of employment which is least open to objection; and this will be found, as the Commissioners believe, *in any such employment as shall be least calculated to attract labourers to itself, and thus draw them away from the ordinary employments by which they have been accustomed to maintain themselves.*

With these views, the Commissioners recommend the Guardians to establish a system of breaking stones by measure, as the most suitable employment for able-bodied males requiring relief. The advantages of stone-breaking are, that it is easy to superintend and regulate as task work,—that the materials are generally available, the implements of labour few and simple,—and, above all, that it is less eligible to the labourer than most other employments, provided that it be vigilantly superintended, and that a full day's labour be rigorously exacted from each recipient of relief.

The Commissioners are aware that such a system cannot be established through a large Union without expense, and without great and persevering exertion on the part of the Board of Guardians; but, on the other hand, the widely-spread distress which, on the representations of the Guardians themselves, has led to the issue of the order authorizing relief in food to the able-bodied, presents the two alternatives, either of such a system as the one now laid down by the Commissioners, or of a system of rations unchecked by any test or condition. But the latter system, even when administered with the greatest care and under the best control, must involve a profuse expenditure, demoralise the population, and by making them independent of their ordinary employments, diminish the productive resources of the country, and accumulate causes of distress.

In every electoral division, therefore, in which the Guardians find it necessary to avail themselves of the power to give rations to the able-bodied, it is their imperative duty, in discharge of the trust which they have received from the rate-payers, to provide a rigid system of task-work, and to appoint a sufficient number of superintendents of labour, under that branch of the order which authorizes them to appoint such officers.

These appointments should be made, not permanently, like those of the regular relieving officers, but for such time only as their services may be required, at a weekly rate of wages of about 10s.; for which amount, there is no doubt, that trustworthy and suitable persons, able to render accounts in writing, may be obtained.

The Guardians will have to determine the amount of labour to be required from each applicant for relief, and the amount of rations to be given him in return by the superintendent of labour, after the performance of the task.

The ordinary relieving officers will present the cases to the Guardians, and take their directions on each case. The result of the decisions of the Guardians may be communicated by the relieving officers to the superintendents of labour in the following duplicate form:—

Name of Applicant.	Daily Task of Work.	Rations.	Name of Applicant.	Rations.

The right-hand portion of the sheet will be detached in slips by the superintendents, and delivered to the parties employed, in the form of tickets, entitling them to receive their rations from the contractor, or from the person in charge of the dépôt, as the case may be. Where contractors can be found to take on them the distribution of the rations, it is obvious that some trouble and expense will be saved in respect of dépôts of provisions and the payment of persons to take charge of them. In either case the tickets brought in will be the vouchers to the Guardians for the consumption of so much food.

The Guardians probably expect from the Commissioners some principles to assist them in determining the task of work and the amount of rations in each case; the Commissioners therefore desire to observe, that it is not necessary the

amount of rations should bear any direct proportion to the task ; on the contrary, the order itself requires that each recipient should give a full day's work for every day for which he receives rations ; and it is manifest that the amount of rations must depend on the number of persons who, besides himself, are dependent on him for support.

The justice of this arrangement stands on the following basis :—The food is given, not as the price of labour, but as the relief of destitution. The labour given in return is the condition of receiving that relief ; and if the necessities of the recipient and his family are wholly relieved, it is just that he should give in return the full value of his labour, whatever that may be.

The Guardians, acting on the above principle, will have to determine the amount of daily labour which may fairly be claimed from an adult male of average strength ; secondly, from an adult male of less than the average strength ; and, lastly, from male applicants above 15 years of age, but not yet adult, respectively. The ration, as already observed, will be in proportion to the number dependent for support on the person relieved.

The selection of the places proper for the employment of the applicants, in sufficient, but not too great numbers, the procuring of materials and the conveyance thereof to each depôt, the providing of such implements as may be found necessary to provide for those coming to labour, are points which will necessarily have the attention of the Guardians in due course.

The Inspector of the Union has been especially charged to afford the Guardians all the advice and assistance in his power, to enable them to carry out the order with most effect and advantage ; and the Commissioners request the Guardians will take the arrangements into consideration with the least possible delay.

By order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To

*The Clerk of the Guardians
of
Union.*

IMPLEMENTS for EMPLOYMENT of ABLE-BODIED.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
January 19, 1848.*

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to transmit herewith, for your information and guidance, a copy of a letter from Mr. Trevelyan, of the 14th instant, together with a copy of the Treasury Minute of that date therein referred to, relating to implements belonging to the Board of Works, which are available for the employment of able-bodied paupers, where relieved out of the workhouse ; and I am to request that you will furnish the Commissioners, as early as possible, with an estimate of the numbers of the several descriptions of implements required for the employment of able-bodied paupers in the Unions of in which an Order authorizing out-door relief under sec. 2 of 10 Vict., c. 31, is now in force.

The Commissioners also request that you will be prepared to furnish them, from time to time, with similar estimates in regard to any other Unions in your district, to which similar orders may hereafter be issued.

It will be perceived from the previous Minute of the Treasury of the 4th instant, also transmitted herewith, that any of these implements that may be lent for the purpose in question, are to be returned to the Board of Works when done with.

I have, &c.

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

*To Inspectors of Unions in which an Order
for Relief to the Able-bodied is in force.*

ENCLOSURES.

GENTLEMEN,

Treasury Chambers, January 5, 1848.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a minute of this Board, authorizing the transfer to your officers of such of the tools under the charge of the Board of Works in the different counties of Ireland as may be wanted for the purpose of enabling destitute persons to perform the tasks of work required from them as the condition of the relief afforded to them and their families.

I am, &c.,

C. E. TREVELYAN.

The Poor Law Commissioners, Ireland.

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TREASURY MINUTE, dated 4th January, 1848.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works that it is their Lordships' wish that they should place at the disposal of the Poor Law Commissioners, from time to time, such of the tools under the charge of the Board of Works in the different counties of Ireland as may be wanted for the purpose of enabling destitute persons to perform the tasks of work required from them as the condition of the relief afforded to them and their families.

These tools, when transferred to the Poor Law Inspectors or Guardians, will remain under their charge as long as they may be required for the above-mentioned purpose, but when no longer wanted, they should be returned to the Board of Works.

GENTLEMEN,

Treasury Chambers, January 14, 1848.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit herewith, for your information, an extract from their Lordships' Minute, dated the 14th instant, and to state to you, that it is their Lordships' wish that the tools referred to should be lent by you to the different Boards of Guardians, as they may be from time to time required, for the purpose of enforcing the labour test; and that the permanent and temporary Inspecting Officers in the several Unions should exercise a general control and superintendence over the care of the tools, to the extent of seeing that they are not used for any purpose which has not the full sanction and approbation of your Board, and that they are taken proper care of; for which purpose they should be occasionally collected and counted, under their superintendence and inspection.

*The Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin,*I am, &c.,
C. E. TREVELYAN.

TREASURY MINUTE, dated 14th January, 1848.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, in reply to their letter dated 11th instant, that my Lords approve of the mode in which they propose to effect a settlement of the cost of the large quantity of tools purchased for carrying on the Relief Works, namely, to charge the several counties, in the shape of a per centage upon the cost of the works, with half the difference between the original cost of the tools and their present value, and that the tools should remain at the disposal of the Government.

Referring to the letter from this Board, dated the 5th instant, their Lordships desire that the Commissioners will immediately confer with the Poor Law Commissioners, and obtain from them an estimate of the entire quantity of tools likely to be required in the different Unions of Ireland during the ensuing year, for the purpose of aiding the proper administration of the Poor Law, by enabling the Guardians to test applications for relief, by annexing to the receipt of relief, whether in or out of the workhouse, the performance of a task of work equal to a full day's labour; and that the Commissioners of Public Works will reserve the tools likely to be required for this important object, keeping them in dépôt in the situations best suited for meeting the wants of the Boards of Guardians in the several districts of Ireland.

SIR,

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
January 26, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to transmit herewith, for your information and guidance, a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from Mr. Trevelyan, stating that the Lords of the Treasury have desired the Board of Works to return to Boards of Guardians any sums received in payment for tools supplied by the Board of Works; and I am to request that the Commissioners may be informed of any cases in which such payments may have been made, if there be any such in your district.

To

By order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.**Each Permanent and Temporary
Poor Law Inspector.*

ENCLOSURE.

GENTLEMEN,

Treasury Chambers, January 24, 1848.

WITH reference to the letter from this Board, dated the 5th instant, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that the Commissioners of Public Works have been desired to return any sums of money which may have been received by them from Boards of Guardians in payment for tools; and I am to request that you will inform the Boards of Guardians in question that the tools in respect of which these payments were made will be considered to have been lent to them in the same manner as similar loans of tools have been made to other Boards of Guardians.

*The Poor Law Commissioners,
Dublin.*I am, &c.,
C. E. TREVELYAN.

ADVANCES by the BRITISH RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

SIR,

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
January 21, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to transmit herewith, for your information and guidance, a copy of correspondence with Count Strzelecki, in reference to the advances made to certain Unions by the British Relief Association, and their repayment.

By order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

*To the Inspectors of Unions to which
Advances have been made.*

ENCLOSURES.

SIR,

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
December 20, 1847.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, desire me to express their thanks for your letter of the 14th instant, accompanying a statement of the sums recently remitted by you on behalf of the British Association, as grants to several of the Unions in Ireland, amounting in the whole to 1300*l*.

In the case of the Cavan Union, the Commissioners entertain no doubt that the Vice-Guardians will shortly be in a position to replace the sum of 300*l*., the advance of which has been attended with the greatest convenience and advantage, but which the Commissioners would on no account recommend to be made a grant in aid of the rates of Cavan Union, or any of the electoral divisions thereof.

The Commissioners trust there may be other instances in which sums advanced from the funds of the Association to relieve immediate distress and under the pressure of great emergency, may be ultimately repaid from the rates when collected, and thus increase the resources at your disposal, and become available as grants in other cases.

The Commissioners desire, however, to call your particular attention now to the cases of those Unions, to which the sums remitted may be considered either now or hereafter as grants of money *not* to be repaid from the poor-rates.

It is intended that such sums should be administered in the same way as the poor-rates; and they will, therefore, be in the nature of funds for dispensing relief to the poor under the Poor Laws, derived from other sources than poor-rates.

It will be necessary in keeping the accounts of such Unions, that credit should be given to the several electoral divisions, or some of them, to the full extent of the sums so granted; for under the Poor Law statutes there is no head of account referable to the entire Union, but every item, both of receipt and expenditure, is brought to the account of one or more electoral divisions.

The Commissioners have deemed it right at once to call your attention to this point, as it is rather for you, than for any party to whom the sums may be remitted, to determine which electoral division of a Union should have the benefit of these grants, and in what proportion each division should enjoy that benefit. In the event, however, of your leaving the appropriation of the grants in the hands of the parties at whose disposal they are placed, the Commissioners beg to suggest, for your consideration, whether it might be expedient to accompany that trust with some expression of your views as to the principle on which the benefit of the grant to any Union should be apportioned among the several electoral divisions.

To Count P. De Strzelecki.

I have, &c.,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

SIR,

*British Relief Association Office, Dublin,
January 4, 1848.*

As regards that part of your communication of the 20th ultimo, No. 42,138, which refers to those Unions to which the sums remitted by the Association may be considered as grants of money not to be repaid from the poor-rates, I beg to offer the following for the consideration of the Poor Law Commissioners:—

In all cases in which the eleemosynary interference of the Association for the out-door relief is called upon, the agency will be guided in its action by the opinion and recommendation of the Poor Law Commissioners, not only as to the amount of grant required for the exigencies of the Unions, but also as to the proportion in which the grant is to be appropriated or allocated to each of the electoral divisions.

The sum granted will be charged in the agency accounts, for convenience sake, against the Inspector, to whom the money will be transmitted.

Each grant will be accompanied by an advice to this effect, that the grant is to be appropriated by the Inspector to each of the electoral divisions, in the proportion determined by the Poor Law Commissioners, and that those appropriations are to be accounted for to the Commissioners, according to the rules and forms prescribed by the Poor Law statutes.

It would be, perhaps, advisable that a return of advances made by the agency of the British

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Association to the Inspector, for exigencies of the divisions composing his Union, be forwarded from time to time to the Poor Law Office, for the purpose of checking the different accounts. In that case you will, perhaps be so good as to inform me whether weekly. or fortnightly, or monthly return will be required by the Commissioners.

W. Stanley, Esq.,
Secretary.

I have, &c.,
P. E. DE STRZELECKI.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
January 6, 1848.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, respecting advances made to certain Unions by the British Association, which are not required to be repaid out of the poor-rate; and I am to express the Commissioners' thanks for your communication.

The Commissioners desire me also to express their approval of the course proposed by you, which entirely meets their views.

They will be obliged if you will send the return proposed of advances made to the several Inspectors, fortnightly.

I have, &c.,
W. STANLEY, Secretary.

To Count Strzelecki,
&c. &c.

RELIEF of the DESTITUTE without regard to previous Residence.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
December 29, 1847.

SIR,

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, having observed, that in some instances, relief has been refused to applicants, or discontinued to paupers to whom it had been given, on the ground that they had not previously resided in the Union, or had not resided in it for a certain time, or that they "do not belong to the Union;" I am directed by the Commissioners to point out to the several Boards of Guardians that previous residence in the Union is not, by any provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Acts, made a condition upon which relief should be given, destitution being the sole ground of relief; and that if any applicant be deemed by the Guardians, in the exercise of their discretion in regard to the case, a fit object for relief as a destitute person, such person should be relieved in the Union in which he is or becomes destitute and applies for relief, without regard to the circumstance of his having been previously resident therein or not, or to the length of time during which he may have been resident.

By the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act (10 Vict. cap. 31), the Guardians are now required to make provision for the relief of all classes of destitute persons, either in or out of the workhouse; and the consideration whether a destitute person has or has not been previously resident in the Union, cannot legally affect his claim to relief, under the provisions of the Acts, although the mode in which the cost of such relief is afterwards to be charged, either to the Union at large or to particular electoral divisions, is to be determined according to his previous residence, in accordance with section 12 of 10 Vict. c. 31.

I have, &c.,
W. STANLEY, Secretary.

To

The Clerk of the Guardians of each Union.

ALLOWANCES to PAUPERS on removal from Workhouses on Out-door Relief.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
January 18, 1848.

SIR,

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland desire to draw attention to the following portion of their Circular of the 14th of August last:—

"Under existing circumstances, it appears most desirable that the present accommodation in the workhouse, should, as a general rule, be reserved for the relief of such able-bodied persons, not falling within the first section of the Extension Act, as may be deemed to be destitute; and the Commissioners are prepared to approve (for the present) the discharge of persons from the workhouse who may fall within any of the three classes

specified in section 1, and who may be deemed properly and sufficiently provided for by a weekly allowance out of the workhouse, so long as the causes of their destitution shall continue to exist."

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The Commissioners are still strongly of opinion, that the workhouse accommodation should be reserved for destitute able-bodied persons and their families. However the Commissioners are still equally desirous that the Guardians should be cautious in ascertaining that those whom they remove from the workhouse on weekly out-door allowances are properly and sufficiently provided for.

Whenever such allowances, being legal, may be deemed proper for any persons who are at the time inmates of the workhouse, the Board of Guardians should, as a matter of routine, discharge those inmates from the House Register, order them the proper weekly allowance, and cause their names to be entered on the Out-door Register, as well as on the Relief Lists of the respective relieving officers for the electoral divisions in which the allowances are to be dispensed. It will, in every such case, be obvious, that the persons so transferred to the Out-door Relief Books should be given in charge to the relieving officers at the workhouse, and that immediate provision should be made for their subsistence, until the next day for dispensing out-door relief allowances in the electoral divisions to which they are respectively to repair.

By order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To the Clerk of each Union.

RECOVERY OF POOR-RATES FROM LANDLORDS.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
January 14, 1848.

SIR,

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, deem it advisable to draw attention to the modes prescribed by law for recovery of arrears of the poor's-rate due by immediate lessors.

The Act 6 and 7 Victoria, cap 92, sec. 2, points out three courses for this object:—

1. By action or suit in the superior Courts, with consent of the Commissioners.
2. By Civil Bill in the Court of proper jurisdiction.
3. Where the lessor resides in any county, part of which may be in the Union, by complaint to any justice, on non-payment after 15 days' notice, and summons thereupon to appear before such justice in petty sessions.

Whenever application may be made to the Commissioners for their consent to proceed in the superior Courts, it will be necessary to transmit a list of the immediate lessors proposed to be sued in such manner, stating their places of abode, the total amount due by each, and the grounds on which proceeding by action appears necessary.

By order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To the Clerk of each Union.

PROVISION OF COFFINS FOR PERSONS dying out of the Workhouse.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
November 1, 1847.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to inform you that, in consequence of applications received by them, they have deemed it advisable to obtain counsel's opinion as to the legality of providing, out of the poor-rates, coffins for the burial of poor persons who die out of the workhouses; and I am to annex, for your information and guidance, the following copy of questions submitted to counsel, with his opinion thereon.

Queries.

1. "Whether the Boards of Guardians can provide coffins for deceased persons who were in receipt of out-door relief, as destitute poor persons, at the time of their death?"

Opinion.

1. "I think not. In such cases coffins should be provided by the churchwardens, and the expense assessed upon the parish, under the 7 Geo. IV. cap. 72, sec. 10."

2. "Whether the Boards of Guardians can provide coffins for deceased poor persons not in receipt of such relief, and not in the workhouse at the time of their death?"

2. "I think not."

3. "Whether, under section 3 of 10 Vict., cap. 31, which empowers the Commissioners to regulate and determine the kind of relief to be afforded out of the workhouse, when not directly specified by the Act, and the manner of granting, ordering, and giving such relief, the Commissioners can issue an order empowering a Board of Guardians to provide coffins for the classes, or either of them, of persons referred to in Questions 1 and 2?"

3. "I think not."

To each Poor Law Inspector, &c.

I have, &c.,
W. STANLEY, Secretary.

CIRCULAR to TEMPORARY INSPECTORS as to the State of the Workhouses.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
February 12, 1848.

SIR,

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, are desirous of calling the attention of all the Temporary Inspectors to the importance of their constantly inspecting the workhouses of the Unions in which they respectively reside, and of their taking care that the Commissioners' rules and regulations are duly observed in them.

The public will expect, that the workhouse of an Union in which there is a Temporary Inspector, should be a model of good ventilation, cleanliness, and order; and this cannot fail of being the case, if the Guardians, the officers of the workhouse, and the Inspector, perseveringly do all which it is in the power of each to accomplish.

The Commissioners would suggest, that each Inspector in visiting the workhouse should carefully go over the workhouse rules and regulations, and should consider whether any of them are not duly observed.

If the Inspector discovers that any are violated or neglected, he should consider with whom the blame really rests.

If the blame rests with the master or matron, he should make a special report on the conduct of either the one or the other, or of both, as the case may be; and it will become a subject for consideration with the Commissioners, whether they will allow them, or either of them, to continue in their present office.

If the blame rests with the Guardians, as will almost necessarily be the case if there is not a sufficient stock of bedding, clothing, and of the other supplies required in a workhouse, the Inspector should bring the subject pointedly under the notice of the Board of Guardians, and respectfully urge them to remedy the evils which are complained of.

If the Board of Guardians disregard the representations which may be made to them by the Inspector, the Commissioners request that the Inspector will make a formal report on the subject to this office, in a separate and distinct communication.

At the same time, the Inspectors should not fail to continue impressing upon the Visiting Committee the paramount importance of their complying with Article 57 of the Workhouse Regulations, in reference to their carefully examining the workhouse of the Union once in every week at the least, and reporting the result of their examination to the Board of Guardians, in the Visiting Committee's Report Book.

By order of the Commissioners,

To each Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

W. STANLEY,
Secretary.

CIRCULAR to TEMPORARY INSPECTORS as to the Workhouse Buildings.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
February 14, 1848.

SIR,

IN connexion with the Circular of the 12th instant, which is forwarded to you by this day's post, I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the

Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to call your particular attention to the Circular of the 6th of December last, and the enclosures therein referred to, relating to the workhouse buildings.

Miscellaneous.
Page 35, 4th Series.

I have, &c.

W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

To each Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

CIRCULAR as to SURRENDER of LAND to enable Applicants to receive Relief under section 10 of 10th Vict. c. 1.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
February 15, 1848.*

SIR,

THE attention of the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland having been directed to cases arising under section 10 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act (10th Vict. c. 31), in which applicants for relief who held more than a quarter of a statute acre of land had offered to surrender the land to the landlord or his agent, who, however, refused to accept the surrender unless the applicant also gave up a house held with the land which the applicant refused to do; to cases in which an unsuccessful attempt has been made by the occupier to surrender his land, even though no such condition was attached to the proposed surrender as that above mentioned; and to cases in which the husband being absent from Ireland in search of employment, the wife and children continue in the occupation of his cabin and land, in which cases relief has been refused by Boards of Guardians on the ground that the wife could not effect a legal surrender, though willing and desirous to do so;—the Commissioners have deemed it right to submit a case to Counsel for his opinion on the subject. A copy of the questions put to Counsel, together with the opinion of Mr. Henn, Q.C., thereon, are now transmitted herewith for the information and guidance of the Guardians in regard to the administration of relief in such cases; and the Commissioners desire to observe, that the Attorney-General for Ireland agrees in the opinion given by Mr. Henn.

By order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY,
Secretary.

To the Clerk of each Union.

QUESTIONS AND OPINION above referred to.

Queries.

1. Whether the refusal of the surrender by the Landlord disqualifies a destitute person from receiving relief under the section of the Act above recited?

2. Whether a person occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land, would be excluded from relief by the provisions of that section, in consequence of a legal incapacity to surrender the land?

Opinion.

1. I think not, provided the party applying does not continue in the occupation of land of greater extent than the quarter of a statute acre.

2. I think a person continuing to occupy such quantity is excluded by the statute, whether capable of legally surrendering his interest in the land or not.

The Guardians are not, in any case, compelled to grant out-door relief. They may always exercise a discretion where the party applying is one to whom such relief may be granted, and grant relief to such person, either in or out of the workhouse, as to them shall appear fitting; but in cases coming within the 10th section, the Guardians are prohibited from granting any relief, either in or out of the workhouse. In my opinion, the occupation or non-occupation of the quantity of land mentioned is made the criterion of destitution, and the Guardians are warranted in relieving any person who is not in such occupation, and they are not bound to investigate title at all, or ascertain whether the tenant's interest has been legally determined by surrender or otherwise.

(Signed) J. HENN.

February 2nd, 1848.

16, Upper Merrion-street.

Miscellaneous.

CIRCULAR—Publication of Lists of Persons receiving Relief in the several Unions :—*February 25, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland having had under consideration the expediency of publishing from time to time, for the information of the rate-payers generally, lists of the persons receiving relief in the several Unions, whether in or out of the workhouse, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that it appears to them advisable that lists should be made out of all the persons receiving relief in the Union, distinguishing those in the workhouse from those receiving out-door relief.

Such a list should be made for each electoral division separately, and be divided into townlands, so arranged as to specify opposite each townland in the division the names of the persons receiving relief in such townland.

The lists should be posted at the usual places of posting public notices in the respective electoral divisions; and each list might be affixed to the police stations in the electoral division and townlands to which it relates. In fact, every possible publicity should be given to the lists, and information respecting the circumstances of persons receiving relief should be earnestly invited and be readily received, from all employers of labour and all trustworthy persons in the Union.

The accompanying form may be adopted for the purpose; and the lists be printed for posting accordingly.

The Commissioners recommend that the lists should be made out and posted at the beginning of every fortnight.

To the Clerk of each Union.

By order of the Commissioners,
W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

ENCLOSURE.

_____ Union. Electoral Division of _____

LIST of PERSONS receiving Relief in the above Electoral Division on 1st of 184 .

Townland.	Name of Person relieved.	Number in Family.	If in Workhouse, Date of Admission.	If receiving Out-door Relief, Date from which Relief commenced.	

APPOINTMENT of additional TEMPORARY INSPECTORS.

The POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS to Mr. TREVELYAN :—*January 12, 1848.*

THE Commissioners direct me to forward herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have received from Mr. N. Loftus Tottenham, Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Manorhamilton Union, representing the necessity which exists for the appointment of a Temporary Poor Law Inspector for that Union. The Commissioners have to request the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to the appointment of a Temporary Inspector for this Union, and also one for the Dingle district of Tralee Union.

The Commissioners are of opinion, that the case of Dingle does not call for any special observation. However, in reference to the Manorhamilton Union, the Commissioners in addition to what is stated by Mr. Tottenham, have to observe that the Union is a very poor one, and in fact poorer than the adjoining Union of Sligo, which has an Inspector; the net annual value of the Manorhamilton Union, being 47,284*l.* and the population 45,990. The Manorhamilton Union is further west than the Mohill Union, and it was

merely from unwillingness to propose a Special Inspector for a Union, if the necessity for such an officer could be ultimately avoided, that the Commissioners did not apply for an Inspector for the Manorhamilton Union in the first instance.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. TOTTENHAM, Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Manorhamilton Union, to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS:—*January 11, 1848.*

I BEG leave to call to your notice the necessity of appointing an Inspector to the Manorhamilton Union, county of Leitrim, for the following reasons.

The business is so heavy since the commencement of the out-door relief, that two days per week would not suffice to go through the relieving officers' books, as they should be examined, as well as their accounts, and the other matters.

The admission of paupers every Board-day consumes most of the day, and the routine business of the Union, without leaving time to go through the collectors' books, and forcing them to do their work and get in the rates; and a fever hospital is now to be looked after also; added to this the master and matron and schoolmaster have had fever, and are not yet able to do anything, and the interior economy of the house is going to ruin fast.

And you must be aware, no unpaid parties will give up more than one day of the week to the business. Moreover, considering the distance the Guardians have to come, and the shortness of the days at present. If an Inspector was appointed for six months, even so as to get the whole machine fairly set going, we might then be able to manage without him from thenceforward, but unless some such person be sent there for a little time, I and most of the Guardians conceive the whole thing will be one scene of confusion, mismanagement, and waste, and the rates will not be collected.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 14, 1848.

Write to the Commissioners, that my Lords are pleased to authorize the appointment of a Temporary Inspector to the Manorhamilton Union, and of another to the Dingle division of the Tralee Union, as recommended by them.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. TREVELYAN:—*January 19, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to give them permission to appoint, with the previous approbation of His Excellency, Temporary Relief Inspectors in Unions wherein out-door relief to able-bodied men has become necessary, and in which great distress prevails.

The reasons for this request are, that the Commissioners are convinced, by experience, that they cannot reckon on out-door relief being properly administered to able-bodied men in any Union in a distressed district, unless an Inspector constantly resides there, to stimulate the Guardians, to prevent abuses, and to see that the Commissioners' regulations are duly observed.

The Commissioners do not mean to express an opinion that such an officer will always be necessary; but they are satisfied that the new system of poor-laws will not have a reasonable prospect of success, unless for a while there is constant local inspection and supervision.

The Unions to which the Commissioners, if they received the sanction of the Treasury, would at once appoint Inspectors, are Nenagh, Thurles, Cashel, in the county of Tipperary, and Kells Union, in the county of Meath. But the Commissioners would wish to be empowered likewise to appoint such officers for

Oldcastle,	Ennis,
Granard,	Dunshaughlin,
Tipperary,	Gort,
Mullingar,	Naas,
Callan,	Roscrea,

in all of which the order authorising out-door relief to able-bodied men has become necessary, and has been issued by the Commissioners.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 21, 1848.

Write to the Poor Law Commissioners, that my Lords are pleased to authorize the appointment of Temporary Poor Law Inspectors to any of the 14 Unions

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named in their letter to which, in their opinion and in that of the Lord Lieutenant, it is necessary that such Inspectors should be appointed; but their Lordships do not consider it advisable to give a general authority for the appointment of officers of this class.

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir DENIS LE MARCHANT—*Financial State of Unions:—*
February 19, 1848.

THE Commissioners have the honour to state, for Sir George Grey's information, that the collection of poor-rates in Ireland, during the month of January, 1848, is now known to have exceeded 190,000*l.*

A statement in the usual form is in preparation for that month, and will be forwarded in due course when completed.

The series of similar statements forwarded already extends to the close of the year 1847, and the Commissioners take this opportunity of reviewing the collection of rates in Ireland during the past year, and of placing before Sir George Grey some particulars not contained in their previous communications to him on this subject.

The total amount of poor-rates made in Ireland during the year 1847 appears to have been 1,618,240*l.*, giving an average throughout the Unions of 2*s.* 5½*d.* in the pound.

The total amount of the rates previously made, but uncollected at commencement of the year, was 243,384*l.*

The total amount, therefore, which was in progress of collection during the year was 1,861,624*l.*; of this total, there was collected within the year 970,318*l.*, giving an average throughout the Unions of 1*s.* 5½*d.* in the pound.

The fact that less than half the rate which was in collection in 1847, was collected within that year, will be explained by the following statement of the account of rates made in each month, whereby it will appear that of the total arrear which remained uncollected on the 1st January, 1848, viz., 890,639*l.*, no less than 715,693*l.* consisted of rates made within the preceding four months:—

The Rates made in the Month of	Amounted to
January, 1847	£60,008
February „	75,451
March „	38,570
April „	147,734
May „	121,315
June „	116,943
July „	192,487
August „	149,372
September „	199,707
October „	168,852
November „	147,353
December „	199,781
Total in the 12 months	£1,618,240

The average period heretofore usually bestowed on the collection of rate in Ireland appears to have been about six months; this length of time is owing partly to the provisions of the original Act, which contemplate a half yearly rating in each Union, and partly to the great extent of the collecting districts, which comprise, on the average, 45 square miles each, the entire number of collectors being 699.

The amount collected in January shows an increased ratio in the progress of the collection as compared with the amount on the books; and the Commissioners have every reason to believe that in the present month the collection is also satisfactory.

The Commissioners have deemed it right to submit these remarks to Sir George Grey, inasmuch as they are aware that the large amount returned in the column uncollected in the recent monthly statements has led to a supposition that a large portion of that amount is likely to fail of being collected, which, looking to the present ratios of progress, the Commissioners have no reason to suppose will be the case.

STATEMENT relative to the COLLECTION of POOR-RATE in UNIONS, in which Vice-Guardians have been appointed.

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OF the 17 Unions in which paid officers were appointed, prior to the close of January last, there are five, namely, Galway, Trim, Kenmare, Athlone, and Carrick-on-Shannon, in which the appointments were made in January, and in which the interval, since the appointment of the Vice-Guardians, has not enabled the results to be fairly developed in the collection of the rates.

Statements of the collection in the remaining 12 Unions, of which the following is a summary:—

1. CAVAN UNION.

In the Cavan Union, the Vice-Guardians were appointed on the 8th December, 1847, and before the close of that month a rate of 3s. in the pound (previously adopted by the Board of Guardians, after strong opposition, and under threat of dismissal,) was put in collection, amounting to 16,757*l*.

In *eight weeks*, ended the 31st January, the sum of 10,616*l*. was collected, or about two-thirds of the rate; the amount collected in the month of January alone being 8950*l*., a larger amount than was ever collected in a like period in any Union.

Contrasted with the above collection, the collection in the 12 months prior to the dissolution of the Board, was 5379*l*. (or an average levy of about 10*d*. in the pound), and 5000*l*. less than their expenditure—a deficiency, in fact, almost equal in amount to the year's collection.

Some opposition has been offered, but has been resolutely met by the collectors; the result has been that the Vice-Guardians have collected sufficient to pay a debt of 5000*l*. due at the time of their appointment, and to provide for the current expenses of relief; there remaining a balance in the treasurer's hands on 31st January, of 5944*l*.

2. KANTURK UNION.

In the Kanturk Union, as in the Cavan Union, the collection has been signally successful.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed on the 16th November, 1847, the Union being then encumbered with a debt of 6680*l*.

On the 27th November a rate (adopted by the late Guardians) of 3s. in the pound (in one division 4s.), was signed, and on 30th November was put in collection, its amount being 16,837*l*.

	£.
There was collected in December	5,677
And in January	5,936

Total collection in two months	11,613
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being more than two-thirds of the entire rate.

The collection by the late Guardians in the 12 months ended 30th November, was only 10,342*l*. being an average levy of about 2s. in the pound), and, as above shown, 6680*l*. under their expenditure.

The collection of two months has placed at the command of the Vice-Guardians, sufficient to meet the expenses of relief, to defray their debts, and to leave a large balance available for the relief of the poor, there being on the 31st January in the treasurer's hands, the large sum of 5111*l*.

3. SCARIFF UNION.

The proceedings of the Vice-Guardians in the Scariff Union, with reference to the rates, have been highly satisfactory.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed on the 28th October, 1847, the Union being at that time burthened with a debt of nearly 6000*l*. (5888*l*.), which would alone absorb a rate of more than 2s. 6*d*. in the pound.

The late Guardians had proposed a rate prior to their dissolution, which, after deducting the amount of their debts, would have left but very little to support the destitution of the Union.

The Vice-Guardians, however, having duly considered the lowness of the existing valuation, and the exigencies of the Union, adopted a rate of 7s. 6*d*. in the pound, calculated to yield 16,776*l*., and, including former arrears, 17,353*l*. This rate they signed on the 3rd December last.

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The rate was not in course of active collection until the latter end of December; and the Vice-Guardians, on the 28th January, reported that they expected, at the close of that month, that the whole collection would amount to 6000*l.* (it having at the date of their report considerably exceeded 5000*l.*), and they expressed a hope that in a very few weeks, the whole outstanding cheques (which had been drawn by the late Board on the treasurer, without providing funds to meet them) would be liquidated.

On the 5th February, the Vice-Guardians reported that the sum of 1232*l.* on account of these cheques had been actually paid, the amount of outstanding cheques, exclusive of the other debts left by the late Board, being thereby reduced to 2069*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

Captain Hart, the Temporary Inspector of the Union, informs the Commissioners that he has intimated to the collectors, that he expects they will complete their collection during the present month.

The collection by the Vice-Guardians, contrasted with that by the late Guardians, is most remarkable.

The late Guardians collected—

In the year ended September, 1846 £1714
And in the year following, down to their dissolution . . . 1551

Total collection in two years £3265

The collection by the Vice-Guardians in the two months of December and January last was about 6000*l.*, or more than one-third of a 7*s.* 6*d.* rate.

4. LOWTHERSTOWN UNION.

The collection of the rate in the Lowtherstown Union was commenced under the disadvantage of the Vice-Guardians being appointed to levy a rate for repayment of Government advances, which the Guardians had opposed.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed on the 18th September; on the 6th October they signed a rate of 6461*l.*, and on the 13th of October put it into collection.

A decided and general opposition to the collection was manifested in the beginning.

The collection progressed as follows:—

In October £156
In November 374
In December 787
From 1st January to 12th February . . . 2039
— £3356
Leaving uncollected on the 12th February . . . 3105

This arrear is considerable; and the Vice-Guardians, at their meeting of the 2nd instant, required the collectors to lodge the arrear within the present month.

The decided improvement in the collection during January, as compared with December, justifies the expectation of the collection being brought near to a close within this month; that is to say, within four months after its being put in active collection.

This rate of collection compared with that of the previous rate is very favourable. The late Guardians collected in eight months previous to dissolution, of a rate of 1443*l.*, only 1083*l.*, leaving debts due to contractors alone, amounting to 964*l.* This debt the Vice-Guardians have already raised funds to liquidate, as will be seen by the subjoined comparison of collection and expenses:—

	Collected down to 12th Feb.	Expenses down to 12th Feb.
	£.	£.
October	94	218
November	374	214
December	787	467
January 1 to February 12	2,039	721
Total four months . .	3,356	1,620

Thus the excess of collection over expenses down to 12th February, was 1736*l.*; the debts at the date of appointment of Guardians, 964*l.*; showing that the collection has covered the debts and current expenditure, leaving a surplus balance to the credit of the Union; the money in the treasurer's hands on the 12th instant being 1028*l.*

5. CAHIRCIVEEN UNION.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed in the Cahirciveen Union on the 24th December, 1847.

The rate was made by the late Guardians about the middle of November, at 3*s.* in the pound, amounting to 3578*l.*

The warrants were issued about the middle of November, but little of the rate was lodged in November. In December 620*l.* was collected. In January about 782*l.*, being more than one-fifth of the entire rate, and showing a favorable increase on the previous month's collection; the collection of the two months amounting to 1402*l.*

The late Guardians collected only a shilling rate, amounting to 1217*l.* during the whole of the previous year, leaving debts to the amount of 1649*l.* at the close of November.

6. BANTRY UNION.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed in this Union on the 19th October, 1847.

On the 12th November, they made a three-shilling rate, amounting to 6285*l.*, and with the arrears to 6884*l.*

The warrants were issued for the collection in part of the Union, in the middle of December, and in the rest of the Union towards the close of the month.

The collection during the month of December was 771*l.*, and during the month of January, 1242*l.*

The temporary Inspector reported at the close of January, that notwithstanding the opposition encountered, the collection was proceeding favorably.

The collection down to the 31st January, amounted to 2013*l.*, or more than one-fourth of the entire rate, the amount collected in the year preceding being only 1084*l.*, whilst the debts left due by the Guardians were 3879*l.*

7. ROSCOMMON UNION.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed on 31st December last; there being then an arrear of rate uncollected amounting to 1695*l.*

The total rate collected in the previous year by the Guardians was only 3620*l.*; debts remaining at the close of the year to the amount of 6874*l.*

A rate of 3*s.* in the pound had been previously agreed upon, but the collecting books were not ready for issue until the close of January. On the 31st January the Vice-Guardians reported that the collectors had applied for assistance, and on the 9th instant they reported that praise was due to the collectors for their great exertions.

444*l.* was lodged in the week ended 5th instant, and the prospects of the collection, under the above circumstances, are favourable.

8. MOHILL UNION.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed on the 10th December, 1847, there being 1326*l.* uncollected of a rate made in December, 1846, which rate, with arrears, amounted to 3457*l.*; showing that, in the entire year, only 2266*l.* was collected; leaving debts to contractors alone amounting to 2443*l.*

The Vice-Guardians, early in January last, made a rate of 3*s.* in the pound on a portion of the Union, but, owing to the difficulty of getting the revision of the valuation completed, and in appointing collectors, they were unable to bring the entire rate into collection before the close of January, and therefore no return of the success of the collection has yet been received; the new rate is calculated to yield 8665*l.*, exclusive of arrears.

9. BALLINA UNION.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed in Ballina Union on 24th December last; they commenced their duties on the 27th December; and they made it one of their first acts to direct their solicitor to apply to the immediate lessors who had not paid their rates; also, to urge the collectors to proceed against occupiers.

The state of the collection at the date of their appointment was as follows. The rate was made in July, 1847, amounting, with arrears, to 13,869*l.*; of this, a sum of 9353*l.* remained uncollected at the time of their appointment; only 4500*l.* having been collected in the preceding six months, leaving debts to the amount of 1741*l.*

The amount collected in the month of January last was 1600*l.*, leaving 7609*l.* uncollected. Of this arrear, the Vice-Guardians have estimated that a large portion is irrecoverable from the present occupiers.

At the same time they report that many defaulters seeing that it was the intention of the Vice-Guardians to put the law in force, had paid up their rates.

10. BALLINROBE UNION.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed in July, 1847; on 15th October following they made a rate of £14,126

The amount collected to 31st January, was 3,333

The arrear being 10,793

The collection in December was 994

And in January 2,180

Showing a very favourable increase in the last monthly collection, the collection of the two months amounting to 3,174*l.*

The amount collected in the previous year by the late Guardians was only 2,584*l.*, leaving debts to contractors alone, amounting to 2000*l.*

11. CASTLEBAR UNION.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed 13th July, 1847; they made rates varying from 3*s.* 1½*d.* to 5*s.* in the pound on 9th October following, amounting with arrears to 9947*l.*

In the last three months the collections was as follows:—

November £516

December 563

January 560

£1,639

Leaving uncollected 8308*l.*; the collection of 1639*l.* in the three months contrasts favourably with the former collection in the Union; the total amount collected in the two preceding years being only 2673*l.*, and in the latter year only 448*l.*, leaving debts to the amount of 4000*l.*

According to a return down to the 5th February, the total amount collected was 1805*l.*

Proceedings are being taken against all defaulters; the collector failed in his proceedings at first, owing to informality in the notices. This error, however, having been remedied, the arrears may be expected to be reduced speedily.

12. WESPORT UNION.

The Vice-Guardians were appointed on 16th August, 1847; on 1st November they made a rate of 7335*l.* and with arrears (1051*l.*) 8386*l.*

The amount collected in December was £876

„ „ January 1220

Total in two months £2096

Scarcely any rate was collected by the late Board of Guardians in the year preceding their dissolution, and they left a debt of nearly 3000*l.*

GRANT for the ERECTION of OVENS in remote or distressed Unions.

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Mr. TREVELYAN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 1, 1848.*

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having had under consideration a communication from Sir R. Routh, dated Dublin, the 29th instant, relating to the construction of ovens in certain Unions on the west coast of Ireland, with a report from the Architect's Department of the Poor Law Commission Office, dated 28th instant, upon the subject, I am commanded to transmit for your information copy of a minute of this Board thereon.

ENCLOSURE.

TREASURY MINUTE:—*December 31, 1847.*

WRITE to Sir R. Routh that their Lordships are of opinion that, with a view to secure a successful trial of the experiment of constructing ovens for the purpose of baking bread for out-door relief, the best course of proceeding will be to place a sum of 500*l.* at the disposal of the Poor Law Commissioners, to be employed by them under the superintendence of their architect in the erection of ovens at two or three workhouses, at which the means of baking bread on an extensive scale are most urgently required, and at which the experiment is most likely to succeed; but their Lordships desire that it may be fully understood that whatever the result may be, any further expenditure which it may be desirable to incur must be incurred by, and at the expense of, the Unions, without any assistance from the Government.

Sir R. Routh is, therefore, authorized to pay the sum of 500*l.* to the Poor Law Commissioners in Ireland in such proportions as it may be required; and he will also place them in possession of all the information which he has collected on the subject, and give them any other assistance which may be in his power in carrying out this useful object.

The COMMISSIONERS to their Architect, Mr. WILKINSON:—*January 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to enclose herewith a copy of a communication received this day from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury relating to the erection of ovens in certain Unions; and I am to state that the Commissioners are anxious to commence at once the erection of ovens in Berehaven in Bantry Union, and at Binghamstown in Ballina Union; and the Commissioners request your earliest attention to the subject.

RETURN of RELIEVING OFFICERS appointed since the Return in Fourth Series, p. 29.

Name of Union.	Population in 1841.	Estimated Area in Statute Acres.	Number of Electoral Divisions in Union.	Number of Relieving Officers appointed.	Average Salary of Relieving Officers.	Remarks.
Antrim . .	49,168	116,343	19	3	40	The Commissioners have been in communication with the Guardians on the subject of appointing relieving officers, and the Board of Guardians not having complied with the General Order of 5th August, 1847, Article 2, the Commissioners issued a further Order on 13th December, 1847, defining the districts, and fixing the number of relieving officers to be appointed. Copy of Order annexed. The Guardians have not yet complied with the Order. Clerk directed to advertise for relieving officers on the 3rd February; districts decided on 17th February. Relieving officers are to be appointed on the 29th February.
Celbridge . .	25,242	86,053	15	None.	..	
Clifden . .	33,465	191,426	4	8	35	
Downpatrick	74,938	147,367	24	6	40	
Galway . .	88,973	292,760	12	11	32	
Inishowen . .	43,569	159,323	21	3	35	
Kilkeel . .	28,638	81,726	10	3	37	
Larne . .	38,758	231,073	13	None.	..	
Lisburn . .	75,444	119,300	27	None.	..	
Lurgan . .	71,128	80,120	19	6	35	

CELBRIDGE UNION.

TO the GUARDIANS of the POOR of the CELBRIDGE UNION; to the Clerk to the said Guardians; to the Clerk or Clerks to the Justices of the Petty Sessions held for the Division or Divisions in which the several Townlands and Places comprised in the said Union are situated, and to all others whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it is expedient to fix the number of relieving officers to be appointed by the Guardians of the Celbridge Union, and to define the limits of the several districts within which the duties of the relieving officers so to be

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appointed shall be performed respectively, and the salaries to be given to each of the said officers.

Now therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby order and direct that the number of relieving officers to be appointed in the said Union shall be two :—

And we do hereby define the limits of the districts of the relieving officers so to be appointed, as follows, that is to say :—

1. The first district shall consist of the electoral divisions of Celbridge, Leixlip, Clonsilla, Lucan, Donaghcumper, Newcastle, Rathcoole, and Saggard, and shall be called the Celbridge District.
2. The second district shall consist of the electoral divisions of Kilcock, Cloncurry, Rodanstown, Donadea, Balraheen, Maynooth, and Straffan, and shall be called the Kilcock District.

And we do hereby further order and direct that the salary to be paid to each of the relieving officers, to be appointed as aforesaid, shall be 40*l.* per annum.

Sealed with our Seal, this Thirteenth day of December,
in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight
Hundred and Forty-seven.

(Signed) E. T. B. TWISLETON.

(Countersigned)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir DENIS LE MARCHANT—*Payment of Poor Rates in the Ballinrobe Union by Sir R. L. Blosse :—December 24, 1847.*

THE Commissioners forward herewith, for the information of Secretary Sir George Grey, a correspondence respecting the payment of poor-rates in the Ballinrobe Union, by Sir R. L. Blosse.

The Commissioners desire me at the same time to state, that Sir R. L. Blosse has expressed a wish that the whole correspondence should be printed, and they are of opinion that the request is reasonable, and should be complied with, unless Sir G. Grey sees any objection.

Owing to the great pressure of other business, some delay has taken place in copying this correspondence.

Sir DENIS LE MARCHANT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 30, 1847.*

I HAVE laid before Secretary Sir George Grey your letter to me of the 24th instant, with its enclosures, respecting the payment of poor-rates in the Ballinrobe Union, by Sir R. L. Blosse, and I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that Sir George Grey thinks it most reasonable that information should be laid before Parliament disproving the former statement with regard to Sir R. L. Blosse; but Sir George Grey wishes the Poor Law Commissioners to consider whether this object might not be obtained without presenting and printing the whole of the voluminous correspondence which accompanied your letter, and as Parliament is not now sitting, there will be time to consider this suggestion before any further papers can be presented.

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir DENIS LE MARCHANT, in reply :—
January 15, 1848.

THE Commissioners concur in the suggestion of Secretary Sir George Grey, that it is not necessary to present to Parliament and print the whole of the voluminous correspondence relating to this matter.

The letter of the Commissioners to Sir R. L. Blosse, dated 17th July, 1847, briefly recapitulates the whole transaction, and conveys the views of the Commissioners regarding the conduct of Mr. Otway, Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Bowen, collector of the poor-rates, against each of whom Sir R. L. Blosse preferred complaints.

A copy of that letter, and of the subsequent correspondence between Sir George Grey and the Commissioners on the subject, will, the Commissioners think, suffice to place the matter before Parliament in its proper light.

ENCLOSURE.—The COMMISSIONERS to Sir R. L. Blosse:—*July 17, 1847.*

THE POOR LAW Commissioners have received Mr. Ball's report of his inquiry into your complaint of Mr. Bowen's conduct as rate collector in the Ballinrobe Union, in improperly representing to the Commissioners that you were a defaulter for poor-rates, which representation was made public, by Mr. Otway's observations upon it having been included in certain correspondence presented to the House of Commons by command of Her Majesty during the present Session of Parliament.

This representation was contained in a letter from Mr. Bowen to the Commissioners, dated 28th December last, and was in the following terms:—

"Mr. O'Reilly, land agent to Sir R. Lynch Blosse, has also declined to pay for his tenants under 4*l.*, alleging that he cannot get in the rents."

The observations of Mr. Otway, endorsed on a paper containing a resolution of the Ballinrobe Board of Guardians the 7th January, are as follows:—

"Mr. Bowen, the rate collector, in his letter to the Commissioners, mentioned rate as due by Sir R. L. Blosse and Mr. C. Kenny, J. P., who lives in the town of Ballinrobe." (The inaccuracies in the printed correspondence have arisen in the press.)

In your letter to the Commissioners of the 16th ultimo you state, that you cannot concur in their opinion that Mr. Otway's conduct was justifiable and proper; and you complain that Mr. Otway selected your case and did not give the names of all persons, who were represented by Mr. Bowen as owing rates.

The Commissioners now assure you, for your further satisfaction in regard to Mr. Otway, that no other names than those of yourself and Mr. C. Kenny, were mentioned in the letter of Mr. Bowen to which Mr. Otway's observations apply. Those observations were made to the Commissioners in a shape entirely confidential, were not intended, and were not likely to be made public, and in making them Mr. Otway did not assert or affirm any fact regarding yourself, but merely recited the effect of Mr. Bowen's communication.

The Commissioners cannot doubt that you will feel satisfied with this statement as regards Mr. Otway; but, in any case, they now repeat their opinion that his conduct was perfectly justifiable and proper, and that you have no ground of complaint against him for referring, as he did, to this communication of Mr. Bowen's, in his confidential correspondence with the Commissioners.

In reference to your complaint against Mr. Bowen, his statement regarding yourself appears to have been derived by Mr. Bowen from a person named Glynn, employed by him in the collection of the rates. From the evidence taken by Mr. Ball, the Commissioners are satisfied that Glynn did give that information to Mr. Bowen, and that the latter in making the statement believed it to be true.

If the evidence of the person named Glynn could safely be relied on, it would appear that at the time Mr. Bowen wrote his letter of the 28th December, your agents were avoiding payment of the rates on other grounds than those alleged by them, namely, their objection to pay all that was alleged to be due. Contradicted, however, as Glynn was, by the evidence of other witnesses, and not meriting, as the Commissioners believe, the confidence which appears to have been placed in him by Mr. Bowen, the Commissioners cannot consider the allegation borne out by proof, that either yourself, or the persons acting on your behalf, had refused to pay poor-rates for which you were legally liable; and the Commissioners are well satisfied that your own desire was, that your agents should punctually pay on demand the poor-rates which were due on your account.

The Commissioners, therefore, while acquitting Mr. Bowen of wilful misrepresentation in his letter to the Commissioners of the 28th December, can by no means excuse him for not informing himself better of the facts of the case, and for making and reiterating assertions injurious to yourself upon information supplied to him by a person not deserving his confidence, when, by direct communication with yourself or your agents, Mr. Bowen might have avoided all misunderstanding on the subject.

The Commissioners will communicate their views to Mr. Bowen, and they will request him, while acting as collector of poor-rates, to be careful as to the facts which he may repeat to the Commissioners, and the character of the parties whom he employs, and from whom he derives his information.

SLIGO UNION.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 15, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday.

A great part of the able-bodied paupers who were admitted to the poor-house last day of meeting have since gone out, with the expectation of getting out-door relief, but their vacancies have been filled up by those admitted yesterday. There are now upwards of 1400 in the house.

In consequence of the weather having been so wet during the past week, the sheds in progress of erection could not be completed, as was expected; the Guardians had therefore, for want of room, to send back to their respective divisions the large crowd of applicants, and as their destitution was most manifest, it was considered necessary to place them on out-door relief till next day of meeting, when accommodation can be obtained.

A deputation, formed by the mayor and clergymen of Sligo, waited on the Guardians yesterday, and requested them to take some steps for the immediate relief of the able-bodied in this town, 1500 of whom (all men able to work) they represented as being without employment or means of subsistence. The deputation was advised to apply to the Commissioners of Public Works for money, sufficient to complete two unfinished roads in the neighbourhood of the town, in order to give those men employment for the present.

After the intended additional accommodation is occupied, and if found insufficient, a special meeting of the Guardians will be called, to take into consideration the propriety of applying for permission to place the destitute, specified in the 2nd section of the Act, on the out-door relief.

There was lodged by the collectors in the hands of the treasurer, the sum of 1228*l.*, rates collected last week; in some of the electoral divisions, the attendance of the military was required to protect the collectors, and was found useful in making an example of the refractory rate-payers. I have recommended to Colonel M'Arthur, commanding officer in this district, the necessity of applying for additional troops for the use of this Union, as I fear their services will be required; there is but a very small party quartered in this town, and none in any other part of the county.

REPLY to the above :—*December 16, 1847.*

THE Commissioners regret to observe, that in consequence of the destitution of a large number of applicants, for whom there was not room in the workhouse, the Board of Guardians, at their last meeting, felt it necessary to give those destitute persons out-door relief until next meeting.

The Commissioners desire to observe, that if the persons so relieved are not of the classes described in the 1st section of the Act 10 Vic., c. 31, the relief is not legal without an order, under the 2nd section of that Act.

This, however, is not stated with a view of inducing an application for such an order, but in the hope that the Guardians will be prompt in the adoption of means for extending the in-door accommodation for the classes that cannot legally be relieved out of the workhouse.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 22, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians for this Union yesterday.

The poor-house was as usual, surrounded by paupers, mostly able-bodied, who were exceedingly clamorous for relief; 542 were admitted, who entirely filled the new sheds and other accommodation, afforded by the removal of the orphan children to the house provided for them.

From the crowded state of the house, fever and dysentery are on the increase; two additional fever sheds are to be erected immediately, to meet this advance of disease.

Having been unwell myself last week, and unable to attend personally to the collection of the rates, that especial part of my duties has not progressed as well as usual: 253*l.* was lodged with the treasurer during the past week.

I have been unable to impress on the minds of the Guardians, the subject of your communications of the 13th and 17th instant, relative to the appointment of assistant relieving officers, in lieu of the additional salary proposed to be given to the permanent officers; and they object to make such appointments for the reason set forth in their resolution, to be submitted to you by the Clerk to the Board.

It has been found very difficult to carry out the system of the New Poor Law, from the laxity of the Guardians, a few of whom only can be made attend.

Mr. Wynne, the Chairman, Mr. Wood, and some few more gentlemen, deserve the highest credit for their assiduity and labour, meeting at 11 o'clock in the morning, and from that hour until 7 o'clock and late in the evening; perseveringly endeavouring to perform the very onerous duties imposed on them, and meeting frequently more than twice the same week, with the most indefatigable spirit. I would suggest the necessity of the Commissioners' interference in this respect, and a letter from them would, I am sure, have the effect of drawing the attention of the Guardians to the trust for which they were appointed, and to the wants of their poor, which otherwise, and at their own cost, must sadly be neglected.

REPLY to the above:—*December 24, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have caused a circular letter to be addressed to each Guardian of the Union, drawing his attention to the statements contained in your report as to the number of persons applying for admission into the workhouse, and the difficulty experienced in carrying out the system of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, from the neglect of the Guardians to attend to the duties of their office.

I am at the same time to state, that if the Guardians, notwithstanding that circular, still neglect their duty, the Commissioners are prepared to consider their responsibility and powers under the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 29, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians for this Union yesterday.

The poor-house still continues full, and is incapable of containing more. To meet the pressure of able-bodied applicants, it was recommended to appoint a Committee of five Guardians, and empower them to rent a large house in the town, and remove the lunatics and infirm thereto, under proper care.

The large building occupied at present by the lunatics being adjacent to the fever hospital, can then be made available for further hospital accommodation, as the daily increase of fever and dysentery in the house requires much more room than can be at present commanded.

The Committee were also ordered to hire another house for the able-bodied paupers, in order to diminish the applicants for out-door relief. A contract for the erection of two more sheds has been entered into. Every exertion is being made to prevent the necessity of placing the destitute of the 2nd and 3rd sections of the Act, on the out-door list.

The collection of the rates is steadily progressing; 1030*l.* was lodged in the treasurer's hands during last week.

REPLY to the above:—*January 1, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will have the goodness to furnish the Commissioners with an immediate communication as to whether additional workhouse accommodation in the Union can be procured, about which it appears that there should not be any further delay.

Sligo Union.

I am at the same time to enclose herewith, for your information, copies of orders extending the powers of the Board of Guardians for giving out-door relief; and I am to request that you will report to the Commissioners, as to the necessity which now exists for the issue of either of these orders, in the Sligo Union.

The Commissioners conclude that all the persons hitherto relieved in the workhouse, who come within the classes specified by the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, have been discharged and relieved out of the house, with a view to the accommodation being exclusively used as a test of destitution of able-bodied applicants for relief, and of classes not coming within those provisions.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 30, 1847.*

I BEG to acquaint you, that from the difficulty opposed to the enforcing of the collection of the rates, and the threats held out to all who assist the collectors, it is impossible almost to procure carts at any price to remove the corn seized from the defaulters.

Under these circumstances, I am induced to apply to you for an order for six artillery or commissariat waggons and horses from Athlone, it being the nearest depôt. There is sufficient room in the Sligo barracks for 12 horses. The resident magistrate coincides with me in the belief, that were such a step adopted, it would make a salutary example of the refractory rate-payers, and be a means of the more speedy collection of the outstanding rates.

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir W. M. SOMERVILLE, Bart., M.P:—
January 1, 1848.

I AM directed to forward to you herewith, a copy of a report which they have received from Captain Gilbert, Temporary Poor Law Inspector of Sligo Union, applying for the use of some artillery waggons, for the conveyance of goods seized by collectors of poor-rate, and I am to request that you will be so good as to submit the application for the consideration of his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 5, 1848.*

I HAVE to state that the additional workhouse accommodation, as stated in my report of the 29th ultimo, has been procured. A large storehouse on the quay, surrounded by a wall, and capable of containing 700 people, has been hired. One-half of the building will be ready for occupation on the 7th instant, and the remainder in about a month.

The sheds mentioned in my preceding report, are also in progress of erection.

Two hundred and seventy-five of the able-bodied were admitted to the poor-house, in room of that number who declined entering after having been admitted last day.

Three hundred of the same class were also ordered to be admitted; and the heads of families were sent home for their wives and children; but, as on other occasions, it is probable they will decline the test.

430*l.* rates collected was lodged with the treasurer during last week.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 12, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians at the poor-house yesterday.

Two hundred able-bodied paupers were admitted, and 100 more were ordered admittance, and sent home for their wives and children.

The additional accommodation intended to be procured by the Guardians has not been yet obtained, as the owner of the large store they endeavoured to rent, is at present in England, and until he returns there must be some delay in the proceedings.

There are at present 1542 paupers in the house, 344 of whom are sick, prin-

cipally of fever and dysentery, there being of these two diseases an increase of 70 since my last report: 31 deaths occurred during the past week—one of fever, and the remainder chiefly from dysentery. This unusual spread of disease in the house, was reported by the medical officer yesterday, to arise from the stagnant and offensive state of the sewers and cesspools attached to the building, and the want of a proper supply of water.

To remedy this serious evil, I applied some time back to the Board of Works for a supply of tools and implements from their store-house here, to employ the able-bodied paupers in cleaning the sewers, and for laying down pipes for the conveyance of water, which must be brought a distance of a mile and a half. Up to this time the tools have not been obtained, as there was some delay in the pricing of the articles; but I expect in a few days to have them, and to set a number of men to work, with the double advantage of employing the able-bodied, and improving the health and cleanliness of the house.

There is an improvement in the state of the collection of the rates; 1100*l.* was lodged with the treasurer last week.

REPLY to the above:—*January 14, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have drawn the attention of their architect and of the Board of Works, to that portion of your report, which relates to the sewerage of the workhouse and the supply of water for the inmates.

As regards the number of persons admitted into the workhouse, the Commissioners trust that care will be taken not to overcrowd the establishment, as disastrous results have invariably followed the reception of a larger number of persons into the workhouse buildings than they could properly contain.

With a view of enabling the Guardians to make additional room for the relief of able-bodied applicants, the Commissioners will issue an order authorizing the Guardians to afford out-door relief to widows with one child, and to children both of whose parents are dead. By relieving these classes and the classes coming under the first section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, out of the workhouse, much accommodation will be obtained.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 19, 1848.*

I ARRIVED here yesterday, in time sufficient to attend the meeting of the Guardians for this Union at the poorhouse.

On my arrival I found the election for the situation of relieving officer for the electoral divisions of Ballintogher and Ballinakill, had terminated in favour of John Morrisson, who appears a very fit person in my opinion for the appointment, and fully capable of performing its duties.

The Commissioners' permission to place the second class of the destitute on out-door relief is not easily made available, as the option of relief outside has been offered to the orphans, but not one of them wished to leave, as they had no friends to take them, and no place they could claim as a home; the Guardians, therefore, did not wish to act uncharitably or use compulsion in this case.

For the present demand for relief by the able-bodied there is adequate room. All of that class who applied yesterday were admitted.

The house mentioned in my former reports the Guardians intended hiring, has been refused them. The Committee appointed to rent a large house succeeded in obtaining another comparatively commodious, and at a much cheaper rate, 6*l.* per month; there is accommodation for about 100 able-bodied paupers besides the lunatics (40), who are to be removed thereto.

The present idiot wards must then be turned into fever wards, as the fearful advance of disease requires much more hospital accommodation than can be afforded. One of the new fever sheds is completed, and will be occupied so soon as the walls are dried. The other shed will be finished in about 10 days, which I fear will also be required for hospital accommodation.

The number at present receiving out-door relief is 7275, which, with the numbers in the house and sheds, and the children in the house hired for them, makes a total of about 9500 receiving relief, equal to one-twelfth of the population of the Union.

Sligo Union.

Captain GILBERT to Count STRZELECKI:—*January 20, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, a return for the week ended 16th January instant, of the issue of relief to the juvenile destitute through the medium of the schools, in this Union. This return is the eighth transmitted to you since 20th November, 1847, from which time the poor children have been benefiting by the benevolence of the British Relief Association.

The numbers have gradually increased to 10,700 daily, the present number, which I think will be the maximum, although should I see absolute necessity, I will increase the numbers according to your kind permission.

There have been, during the past week, 64,470 rations issued, at an average expense of less than three farthings. Those rations, which consist, in general, of bread, are dearer than where I am enabled to give soup, and where the cost is little more than one farthing. In all cases, however, a substantial ration is given, whether of bread composed of rye, Indian and wheaten meal, or good meat soup well seasoned and thickened with meal and vegetables.

I need not remark on the material benefits this system of relief is to this Union; they are most manifest in decreasing the clamour and demand for relief amongst the adult and able-bodied of the destitute, who would, were not this aid afforded them, become a burden on the poor house, and an additional taxation to the already impoverished rate-payers. Many of the paupers have left the workhouse, on finding their children would be supported at the schools, and with this responsibility taken away, have endeavoured to shift for themselves.

Although from the quantity of business I have to transact in this Union, I can afford but a limited part of my time to this important point, yet every exertion in my power shall be given to further the benevolent intentions of the British Association; and I trust, that what has been already effected, will meet your approval.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 26, 1848.*

ALL the able-bodied who applied for relief and were willing to enter the poor-house were admitted at the meeting of the Board of Guardians for this Union yesterday; but although the severest destitution prevails amongst this class, in some districts, still there is a disinclination to enter the poor-house more than usually manifest; the paupers urging as their objection, *the dread of fever*, and I regret to have to say, with some justice, for the diseased state of the house is very alarming. In my opinion, so long as steps are not taken to remove the infection of an hospital from the premises, the workhouse can never be safe or healthy. I pointed out some time ago the benefit that would accrue from the transmission of the fever and dysentery patients to the old District Temporary Fever Hospital, now occupied by the children of the poor-house: this arrangement would leave the children still in the poorhouse, afford the same amount of accommodation, besides the incalculable benefit of removing contagion from the remaining inmates. The Guardians, however, did not accede to it; and until the additional fever accommodation now in progress is completed, no sanitary measures can be adopted.

The large store-house hired for the able-bodied, will be ready for occupation in a few days.

I have to inform you, with regret, that the depôt for the Tubbercurry district was broken into on the night of the 21st instant, and 7½ cwt. meal taken away. The police have arrested several persons on suspicion; one of them, it is probable, will turn evidence against the remainder, and I hope that the punishment inflicted on them will prevent such disgraceful outrages for the future.

I have to state, in conclusion, that my strenuous exertions to enforce the collection of the rates have been more successful, and the dismissal of the collector, Jackson, by the Commissioners, has been a salutary example to the remainder. 1,142l. were lodged with the Treasurer last week.

REPLY to the above:—*January 31, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to know your own opinion as to whether there is material danger of infection from fever to destitute persons, who may receive relief in the Sligo Union workhouse at the present time.

If this be so, the Commissioners would suggest that you should make a formal application to them for an order, authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men, as the Commissioners deem it unjust that destitute persons seeking relief should be compelled, as a condition of such relief, to run any peculiar risk of losing their lives from fever.

The Commissioners entirely approve of not receiving fever patients into the workhouse, in the present state of the Union; and if the Guardians persist in refusing to obtain accommodation for them elsewhere, under the 16th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, the Commissioners cannot think that the Board of Guardians are performing their duties effectually.

The Commissioners desire you to bring the whole subject pointedly under the notice of the Guardians, at their meeting to-morrow.

The Commissioners have great satisfaction in learning, that there is an improvement in the collection of the rates in Sligo Union.

DONEGAL UNION.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 29, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to make my first Report of the Union of Donegal, which you have placed under my inspection.

At the meeting of the Board of Guardians on Saturday, the 27th, no able-bodied person presented himself for relief, but several cases of fever were admitted to the temporary fever sheds.

The Union house, arranged for the reception of 500 inmates, has now vacancies for 275.

The Board of Guardians, being fully alive to the necessity of the poor-rate, struck in April last, being completed in collection before any fresh rate be attempted to be made, has specially summoned the attendance of all the collectors on Friday next.

A full attendance of the Board of Guardians has also been especially required on Saturday next, the usual day of meeting, to consider whether the time has not arrived, in which the several relieving officers (already appointed and "approved of") should be ordered to commence their duties in their respective electoral divisions.

I am anxious to see these arrangements commenced, and systematically carried out, in order that, being forewarned, the Union may be fore-armed to meet any pressure that may arise, as the severer part of the winter approaches.

I am much gratified in not having yet witnessed any immediate symptoms of distress.

REPLY to the above:—*December 2, 1847.*

WITH reference to your remarks respecting the collection of the poor-rate, I am to state, that you are doubtless aware that it can be collected at the present season more readily than at any other period of the year, and that you are, therefore, fully alive to the importance of having the old rate closed, and a new one placed in course of collection with the least avoidable delay.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 6, 1847.*

I DO myself the honour to furnish, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, my weekly report of the Union of Donegal.

In my inspection of the Union workhouse, I have had every reason to be satisfied with its cleanliness, with the propriety of everything being in its allotted place, and with its general internal economy.

The Board of Guardians has not yet granted any out-door relief.

Two able-bodied men, applicants for relief, were admitted, as also other applicants strictly under classes 1, 2, and 3, which still leaves 188 vacancies.

Three of the four collectors of the poor-rates having attended with their accounts, which were not deemed satisfactory, proper measures have been adopted to inflict the fine of 5*l.* upon them; the fourth was reported to be ill.

One of these collectors, with a small arrear, stated to be in his possession, importuned very earnestly for a yet longer time, 28 days, to produce his money; I granted him but 24 hours, and as he had neglected to keep his appointment, is one of the three under summons.

But I confidently expect the arrears of the old rate will be early forthcoming, particularly as the Board of Guardians, seem cordially disposed to support me, by a firm line of conduct and a determination to enforce a rigid discharge of the duties of the several collectors.

The Commissioners may be assured, I do not undervalue the importance of another rate being struck with the least avoidable delay; for though the markets produce large quantities of cereal food, and a good supply of fish is

still caught, fresh herrings being sold at 8s. per thousand, there yet remains the fact of not one pound of potatoes being exposed for sale.

Hence it is incumbent for all our energies to be directed to the collection of the rates, to be fore-armed.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 13, 1847.*

SINCE I had the honour of making my last weekly communication, I have inspected some of the townlands which are in the electoral divisions of Mount Charles, Clogher, and Laghy; in the two latter employment being found for the peasantry, there were no symptoms of destitution; but in Mount Charles there were all the symbols of approaching want not to be misunderstood; all there seemed to be in search of employment, and with the exception of young females from 9 to 15 years of age, who were taught in various industrial schools to supply needlework for small pecuniary emolument, I may state, from appearances and inquiry, the search by able-bodied men for employment had been fruitless.

On the affairs of these industrial schools I am in communication with Count Strzelecki, the agent to the British Relief Association.

At the ordinary meeting of the Board of Guardians on Saturday, measures were instructed to be taken to summon the collectors of the poor-rates for a breach of the instructions, under Sections 100 and 102, with the view to levy the fines therein specified. Without some such stringent measures to enforce on the part of the collectors, the correct discharge of the duties they have voluntarily undertaken to perform, the legal provision of the poor will become inoperative; the delays of the law, however, will for a time postpone the correction to be applied to the neglect of these duties, but the Commissioners may feel assured no endeavours will, on my part, be withheld to stimulate and exhort the collectors to collect the poor-rates.

So large an arrear as nearly 1200*l.*, uncollected from a rate struck in April last, has left the proceedings of the collectors without the smallest shadow of excuse.

The Commissioners will be gratified to learn that only *one* able-bodied pauper presented himself for relief, and was admitted into the Union house; a few cases of women and children were also admitted, leaving still 167 vacancies.

The Board of Guardians have not yet administered any out-door relief, and as the resident proprietors are fully alive to the advantages of reproductive labour being afforded to the peasantry, instead of unproductive idleness in a workhouse, I entertain sanguine hopes that the workhouse will not be filled for some time.

If there were required any fresh proofs of the benefit which arises to landed proprietors from the improved cultivation of the soil, I beg to report that Mr. Hamilton, a resident proprietor in the vicinity of Donegal, *drained and sub-soiled* in the spring, a few acres of ground considered as of little value, at a cost of *fifteen pounds* per acre, including seed; and having sown these acres in April last with Swede turnips, he is now realizing in December, no less a sum than 28*l.* 15*s.* for every acre thus sown.

From the experience gained by Mr. Hamilton, it is scarcely necessary for me here to state that he is now draining very largely with advances of money furnished by the Crown.

I have unbounded satisfaction in being enabled to report that the conduct of the whole population continues as heretofore, peaceable and orderly.

Captain HERBERT to The COMMISSIONERS:—*December 20, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, that owing to the employment found for the population generally in the Union, (except in the electoral divisions of Inver and Mount Charles,) three able-bodied men only became applicants for relief during the week, and were admitted into the Union poor-house.

Donegal Union.

A few additional cases of women and children were also admitted, leaving still 119 vacancies.

No out-door relief has yet been granted.

Being fully sensible of the expediency of a new rate being made with the least avoidable delay, the Board of Guardians have been specially summoned to attend on Thursday next, the 23rd instant, with a view to strike a rate of 3s. in the pound throughout the Union.

The Commissioners may be assured every available means will be taken to place the new rate in an accelerated course of collection.

Under these assurances, the Board of Guardians have considered that the relieving officers might blend, with great advantage to the Union, their present services with those of collecting the poor-rates; and that such an admixture of duties, with a small poundage for collection, would operate as a stimulus to the relieving officers, and prove economical to the Union.

A communication to this effect will be submitted to you by the Chairman, and as I have every reason to consider it will answer and work well in this Union, I have to record my approval of the measure.

The weekly markets have been well attended with cereal food, with a large supply of turnips and cabbages.

REPLY to the above:—*December 27, 1847.*

WITH reference to the proposal to cause the relieving officers to act as collectors of poor-rate, I am to state that the Commissioners think that the two offices ought not to be united, as each requires the whole time of an active individual.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 26, 1847.*

HAVING still 118 vacancies, no out-door relief has yet commenced. During the week, one able-bodied person had been admitted.

The Board of Guardians were specially summoned for the 23rd, to take into consideration the necessity of striking a new rate of 3s. in the pound, throughout the Union, adopting for their proceedings the "substance of instructions" from the Treasury, forwarded in a circular, bearing date the 16th September, 1847.

With every disposition to have a uniform rate of 3s. struck, it was represented in forcible terms, that such a rate would operate injuriously on any electoral division which had supported its own poor without having received any advances from the late Relief Commission, and the meeting was adjourned for further deliberation, till the 30th instant.

It is gratifying to state that, employment being generally afforded to able-bodied persons, except at the electoral division of Inver and Mount Charles, destitution is comparatively kept at bay.

At the weekly market a large supply of cereal food exchanged ownership, as well as an abundance of turnips and cabbages.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of GUARDIANS:—*December 28, 1847.*

I AM to state, for the information of the Board of Guardians of Donegal Union, that they have received a report from their Inspector, Captain Herbert, in which he states that the Board of Guardians was specially summoned for the 23rd instant, to take into consideration the necessity of striking a uniform rate of 3s. in the pound, adopting for these proceedings the substance of instructions from the Treasury, in a circular of the 16th September last, and that it was represented that such a rate would operate injuriously on any electoral division which had supported its own poor, without having received any advances from the late Relief Commissioners, and that the consideration of the subject was adjourned to the 30th instant.

In reference to this report, I am to state that the instructions from the Treasury had reference only to electoral divisions from which sums were due

on account of advances under the Temporary Relief Act, and accordingly, in deciding on the amount of rate to be levied in the several divisions, the Guardians will only be required to levy such an amount of rate as would suffice for the ordinary expenditure under the Irish Poor Relief Acts in those divisions from which no sums are due to the Relief Commissioners, but in the cases of divisions which owe any sums to the Relief Commissioners a rate of not less than 3s. in the pound will be required, if the sum requisite for ordinary expenditure, together with the sum due to the Relief Commissioners, would equal or exceed 3s. in the pound.

I am at the same time to forward herewith, for the information of the Guardians, a schedule showing the amount of the loan to be repaid by each electoral division.

Donegal Union.

ENCLOSURE.

POUNDAGE RATES, made 1847.

Name of Electoral Division.	Amount or Loan to be Repaid.			Rate which would suffice for Repayment of Advances.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Donegal	614	0	0	0	2	0½
Clogher	279	0	0	0	2	10½
Dunkineely	457	3	10	0	2	8
Glenties	117	0	0	0	1	8
Inver	395	0	0	0	2	10½
Laghy	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lough Derg	55	19	6	0	0	5
Lough Eask	210	0	0	0	2	10½
Mount Charles	654	0	0	0	2	10½
Taureanilly	74	0	0	0	2	10½
Templecam	..	..	..	..	..	..
Union	28	8	11	..	..	..
	2,884	12	3	..	..	..

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 3, 1848.*

THE Board of Guardians, on the 30th ultimo, unanimously struck a rate of 3s. in the pound throughout the Union, excepting the electoral divisions of Loghy and Lough Derg, on which a rate of 1s. 6d. was struck, being sufficient to meet their proportion of probable expenses for the current year. The Guardians have likewise given directions for the rate to be accelerated in its collection by every available means, and will advertize for other collectors.

Legal measures have been taken against the present collectors, for wilful disobedience of orders, in not appearing every week to have their accounts audited.

Eighty of a number of defaulters of the poor rates were summoned at the petty sessions, at Balintra, last week; 30 of them paid their rates before the day, 25 on the very morning of the sessions, and five paid actually in Court, leaving but 20 to be proceeded against.

In the face of such facilities to procure the poor rates the conduct of the several collectors appears the more reprehensible.

The Union poor-house having still many vacancies no out-door relief has yet commenced.

The markets still continue to be well supplied with grain.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 8, 1848.*

In my last report I mentioned a rate of 3s. in the pound had been struck throughout the Union, except on Laghy, and on Lough Derg, whereon a rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound had been considered sufficient.

For Lough Derg, it should be the Electoral Division of Templecam, and I beg the favour to allow the correction to be made.

The clerk of the Union reports that, at the petty sessions held at Donegal on

Donegal Union. the 5th instant, the under-mentioned collectors of poor-rates were fined the several sums as noted against their names, for disobedience of the orders of the Board of Guardians, viz. :—

Mr. Hoey, 20s.
Mr. Michael Griffin, 20s.
Mr. Thomas Reed, 20s.
Mr. M'Laughlin, 1s.

These measures will, I trust, tend to convince the collectors of the error of their conduct, and satisfy them, the law is powerful enough to meet their case.

At the weekly market there was a large supply of cereal food, with an abundance of excellent Swedish turnips, and also cabbages.

The Union workhouse having still many vacancies, no out-door relief has been granted.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 15, 1848.*

I do myself the honour to state, that being enabled to attend the ordinary meeting of the Board of Guardians, I was much pleased to find the Union workhouse had still 126 vacancies.

Much destitution is stated by the relieving officers to prevail in the electoral divisions of Inver and of Mountcharles; but still the destitute refrain from seeking admission to the workhouse, and struggle on to hold their little plots of land.

The Board of Guardians, fully sensible of the importance of keeping the workhouse as the test of destitution, have been seeking to hire premises for the children at present in the house, but hitherto without success. The next consideration will be, therefore, for Classes 1, 2, and 3.

The medical officer of the Union having reported many cases of diarrhoea of a severe type among the inmates, the Board of Guardians very humanely ordered rice to be mixed with the daily food.

Diarrhoea and influenza are at present very prevalent throughout the Union.

The weekly markets continue to be well supplied with grain, with excellent Swedish turnips, and with cabbages.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 17, 1848.*

I do myself the honour to forward the enclosed return of the schools in the Union of Donegal, for the information of Count Strzelecki, the Agent at Dublin for the British Relief Association.

The Board of Guardians are making every exertion in carrying out the operation of the Poor Law; and I do certify that any assistance afforded to the school children will tend greatly to ameliorate the destitution now spreading in many of the electoral divisions.

ENCLOSURE.

DONEGAL UNION.—RETURN of the Names of the SCHOOLS in the Union of Donegal, arranged in Electoral Divisions, Candidates for the Receipt of the Bounty of the British Relief Association, with the Number of Scholars at present in the several School-rooms, and the Number the Schools can accommodate.

		Scholars at present.	Can Accommodate.
Donegal Electoral Division	1. Moor School	50	70
	2. Drumolagher	30	50
	3. Drumahoul	45	90
	4. Ballydevitt (lower)	60	100
	5. Ballydevitt (upper)	70	100
	6. Tullybrook	40	65
	7. Donegal (male)	70	120
	8. Donegal (female)	70	120
	9. Haugh	50	80
Lough Eask Electoral Division	10. Lough Eask	60	100
Tawnhawully Electoral Division	11. Tawnhawully	60	100
Glenny Electoral Division	12. Disart	34	56

Return of the Names of the Schools in the Union of Donegal, &c.—*continued.*

Donegal Union.

		Scholars at present.	Can Accommodate.
Laghy Electoral Division	13. Laghy	30	30
	14. Truman	65	70
	15. Ballynakillew	30	100
	16. Shannagh	58	80
	17. Brownhail	30	50
	18. Aghadowney	30	60
	19. Ballintra (male)	65	80
	20. Ballintra (female)	30	80
	21. Ballintra (female)	56	80
	22. Drumchory	45	70
	23. Murvagh	20	50
	24. Golard	60	190
	25. Killaghtee	48	60
	26. Ballyederlan	33	60
Dunkineely Electoral Division	27. Dunkineely (1.)	45	80
	28. Dunkineely (2.)	80	150
	29. Lisavaddy	20	20
	30. Casheltown	60	100
	31. Bruckless	45	70
	32. Corkerbeg	80	150
	33. Gortaward	12	30
	34. Drumbeagh (1.)	40	60
	35. Tullyvoose	12	60
	36. Munternuse	15	60
Mount Charles Electoral Division	37. Glencoagh	50	60
	38. Doorin	60	80
	39. Drimcoe	56	100
	40. Mount Charles	70	100
	41. Drumbaran	48	100
	42. Drumbeagh (2.)	28	40
	43. Inver	50	50
	44. Brenter	12	30
	45. Ballymacahill	56	66
	46. Drumfin	3	30
Inver Electoral Division	47. Keeloges	48	58
	48. Drumrainy	40	50
	49. Drimduff	40	80
	50. Carraduffy	59	70
	51. Birchill	52	52
	52. Druminin	30	80
Clogher Electoral Division	53. Clarcam	40	70
	54. Leghawney	40	90
Total		2,420	3,987

ABSTRACT.

Donegal Electoral Division	9 Schools	485	795
Lough Eask Electoral Division	1 School	60	100
Tawnhawully Electoral Division	1 School	60	100
Gleneny Electoral Division	1 School	34	56
Laghy Electoral Division	12 Schools	529	850
Dunkineely Electoral Division	8 Schools	391	670
Mount Charles Electoral Division	10 Schools	391	690
Inver Electoral Division	8 Schools	308	434
Clogher Electoral Division	4 Schools	162	292
Totals	54	2,420	3,987

Donegal, January 18, 1848.

GEORGE F. HERBERT, *Commander R. N.,*
Inspector of Poor Laws for the Union of Donegal.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 22, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state that other collectors for the poor rate having offered themselves in pursuance of public notice, at poundage rates, varying from 6*d.* to 9*d.*, their names will be shortly transmitted to the Commissioners for approval.

I am much gratified in being enabled to report the Board of Guardians have been unanimous in requiring the collectors for the new rate recently struck, to find bonds and solvent securities, that the rate be collected by the 1st of May.

Donegal Union.

The former collectors have been called upon to close their books by the 27th instant, and to present them to the Board on that day, with the view of having the arrears, small I believe in amount, entered on the new rate books.

I avail myself of the occasion of a fair attendance of the Guardians to impress upon their minds the necessity of setting a good example, individually, of an early payment of their rates; and to the chairman as a magistrate of influence, I ventured to appeal for his good example in particular.

The laudable conduct of many of the resident gentry, of finding reproductive labour for the able-bodied persons, rather than permit them to have recourse to the workhouse, is highly to be commended, and has materially benefitted the Union. These advantages would yet extend to a wider sphere if Mr. Brook of Lough Eask, the diligent chairman of the Board of Guardians, could receive his first instalment under the "Land Improvement Act," the requisite papers, as represented to me, having been lodged in office some time back.

A refractory disposition having manifested itself among the able-bodied men in the workhouse, on being called to their work on Thursday morning last, the master very properly selected one of the most prominent, and confined him in the refractory ward. This had the immediate effect of restoring order, by the people resuming their labour.

It is not requisite for me to enlarge upon the absolute necessity of disorderly or refractory symptoms being checked in its earliest bud; and as this has been the first, I trust the firmness displayed by the master on this occasion may prevent a recurrence.

The Guardians continue their exertions to find a house suitable for the reception of the children, that increased room may thereby be afforded, and the test of the workhouse be invariably used for applicants claiming relief. At present we have vacancies for 107 in the house.

The weekly markets continues to be fairly supplied with grain and with excellent Swedish turnips.

REPLY to the above:—*January 25, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners will forward to the Board of Works an extract from your report in regard to Mr. Brook's application under the Land Improvement Act.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 29, 1848.*

VARIOUS difficulties having occurred in procuring out-door accommodation for the children at present in the Union workhouse, the experienced eye of Mr. Otway, who was present at the last Board-day of the Guardians, recommended some of the under rooms at the workhouse might be converted into rooms for the children; and, accordingly, a Sub-Committee of the Guardians are progressing in the necessary arrangements.

The severity of the weather has brought into the workhouse a few more destitute, but not many able-bodied persons; the vacancies have now dwindled down to 83.

Four or five cases of sickness have occasioned temporary out-door relief to be granted for the first time.

The new rate-books are ready for the entry of the arrears of the old rate, and measures have been adopted to procure the old books from the collectors.

The weekly market had a very thin display of anything, to be attributed rather to the severity of the weather, and the depth of snow on the roads, than to any other cause.

REPLY to the above:—*February 2, 1848.*

IN reference to your statement that it is proposed to convert some of the under rooms of the workhouse into rooms for the accommodation of children, I am to request that you will be so good as to state precisely what rooms it is intended to convert into rooms for the children, how they are intended to be occupied, whether as day rooms or dormitories, and what additional accommodation is expected to be gained by the arrangement.

The BOARD of WORKS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 31, 1848.*

Donegal Union.

WITH reference to your letter of the 26th instant, calling attention to an extract from report of Captain Herbert (which you annex), respecting the application of Mr. Brooke, of Lough Eske, for a loan under the Land Improvement Act, I am directed to acquaint you that an order has been made for a loan of 1000*l.* to Mr. Brooke, and only awaits the receipt of the bond for the due application of the loan, previous to issuing the certificate for the first instalment of the loan.

Ballyshannon
Union.

BALLYSHANNON UNION.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 2, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report the proceedings of the Guardians of this Union at their ordinary meeting, held on the 27th ultimo, and also at a special meeting which was held on the 1st instant.

Upon the 27th ultimo, according to advertisement to that effect, five Relieving Officers were elected; a proposition was made by one of the Guardians that they should not enter upon the duties, nor be put under pay, till a future period; but this I negatived, stating that it was alone on the condition that they, at once, enter on their duties, that the Commissioners had consented to the change of districts, as recommended by the Guardians, and also to the reduction of the aggregate amount of salaries.

I laid before the Guardians the estimate for the support of the fever hospital, whereupon they ordered a cheque for 30*l.* to be drawn in favour of the treasurer of the Relief Committee on account, and that the payment of the balance should be deferred till Wednesday the 1st instant, when the accounts could be examined more minutely, and if a greater sum appeared due, payment should be made.

Yesterday, the 1st instant, a special meeting of the Guardians was held, for the purpose of making inquiry and investigation as to the solvency of the persons who had been named and proposed, as securities for the Relieving Officers; and after a scrutiny of each, those offered by Mr. Michael Daly were objected to as quite insufficient, and consequently repudiated by the Board, and the Clerk was directed to inform Mr. Daly that he must procure others to present for their approval, at their ordinary meeting to be held upon the 4th instant.

The Finance Committee having audited and passed the accounts of the temporary fever hospital, and forwarded them to the Guardians, it was agreed that the balance appearing due after the payment of 30*l.* already made, should be supplied, and also the funds necessary for its future support.

I find there are at present in the workhouse many married females with families, whose husbands are in England or Scotland, and some actually employed in this country, whilst their families are being supported by means of rates. This latter class can be proceeded against under the Vagrant Act, but the former it would be almost impossible to find, migrating as they do, in search of employment. The Guardians have been considering the propriety of discharging these families altogether, and I request information whether this course may be permitted.

There is another point on which I have some difficulty, which is, the admission to the workhouse of persons having no fixed residence within the Union, or who may have lately come to reside within it. The Guardians invariably refuse to admit such persons on the ground that this is not, or may not be, strictly speaking, the Union to which they belong, and yet some whom I have seen refused under these circumstances were evidently in abject distress; and I must confess, it appears to me a hardship that a man is liable to a prosecution for begging, and yet be refused the means of obviating the necessity to do so.

Throughout the country generally, the people present the most wretchedly, squalid appearance, and it is evident that those who are endeavouring to support themselves at home are not half fed; a great number are at present living on turnips, and as that description of crop is fast disappearing in the country, I apprehend in a month or two hence, very general and severe distress. Dysentery is very prevalent in the workhouse, and on the increase, and I think it is in some degree attributable to the want of shoes and stockings, the yards not having been stoned, or any means provided to carry off surface water; the damp of course adds to the evil.

Many of the able paupers that I had put to break stones, for the purpose of laying over and improving the yards, have been taken into the infirmary, in consequence of dysentery. The doctor is of opinion that the dietary requires to be changed, and he also thinks the want of covering for the feet has increased the tendency to this disorder.

I have again to report the very wretched state of the sewerage connected with the workhouse and yards. It is impossible to conceive anything more filthy or obnoxious than the female side of the house from this cause—the sewers empty themselves into a sort of cesspool, immediately outside the yard wall, and as there is no means of this discharging itself, the effluvia arising from it is most offensive, and must be calculated to engender disease.

REPLY to the above :—*December 3, 1847.*

IN reference to your request for information, as to whether the Guardians may be permitted to discharge from the workhouse, the families of men who are in England or Scotland seeking employment, or who are in employment in this country, I am to state that if the parties are destitute, the Commissioners think that the Guardians would not be justified in discharging them from the workhouse, but the Commissioners think that the relief given in all such cases should be by way of loan; at the same time, every effort should be made to discover the husbands, and, wherever practicable, proceedings should be taken against them under the 10 and 11 Vic., c. 84.

As regards the refusal of the Guardians to admit applicants for relief, on the ground that they do not belong to the Union, although such applicants are in a state of abject distress, I am to state that the Guardians are by no means justified in refusing relief on such a ground. The Union in which a person is found destitute is the Union in which relief ought to be administered; and the Commissioners think that the provisions of the Vagrant Act to which you refer, are founded upon this supposition.

The Commissioners will again communicate with the architect on the subject of the sewerage; they rely, however, upon your urging the Board of Guardians to take such steps as may be in their power in regard to this and the several other matters adverted to in your report, and especially to press upon them the importance of being guided by the advice of the medical officer in providing whatever may be necessary to maintain the workhouse inmates in a healthy state.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 13, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report concerning the proceedings of the Guardians of this Union, held on the 11th instant.

It will be perceived, on reference to the minutes, that the views and instructions of the Commissioners are now more likely to be carried out than heretofore, and I have every hope that the business of the Union will, in future, be conducted on a different system to that which has hitherto been pursued.

I shall after the meeting of the house committee, which is to meet for the first time on Wednesday next, report what steps are to be taken to improve the very wretched condition the workhouse is at present in; until then there is nothing that calls for special notice save the intention of the Board to remove the children of the workhouse to a separate establishment, and on this point I shall be anxious to hear from the Commissioners their views and wishes.

It would ill become me to detail to the Commissioners the difficulties and many personal annoyances I have experienced in carrying out their instructions and inducing their adoption by the Guardians, but I shall feel myself amply repaid, if the course I have pursued will enable me to succeed in having the law administered in a more satisfactory manner, and with a Board hitherto so inimical.

REPLY to the above :—*December 14, 1847.*

I AM to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the statements contained in your Report of the 13th instant. With reference to the proposed removal of the workhouse children to a separate establishment, I am to state that the Commissioners fully approve of the proposal; and, as regards your request to be informed of the views of the Commissioners on the point, the Commissioners will be ready to furnish you with any instructions you may require, on being informed of the specific points on which such instructions are required.

Ballyshannon
Union.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 16, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, the proceedings of the house, or visiting committee, of which I obtained the appointment on Saturday, the 11th instant, at the ordinary meeting of the Board of Guardians held that day.

The following gentlemen, members of the Committee, visited the workhouse with me on the 15th instant, Messrs. Davis, Brady, Bloomfield, and Allingham, and I took that opportunity of pointing out to them the heavy and serious responsibility that devolved upon the Guardians, to whom the management of a Union formed for the relief of the poor is confided, and that their duties were of a two-fold character, independent of the many minor matters of detail which need not be noticed in this Report, but which nevertheless tend in their proper discharge to increase the onus which devolves on Poor Law Guardians: the first of these duties consisting in the extension of wholesome and sufficient relief to all destitute persons, so that none of their fellow-creatures should be lost from want of necessary food and raiment; the second, that the distribution of that provision and relief should be as economically afforded as was compatible with the due performance of the first.

After considerable discussion on these points, and combating the opinion of Mr. Brady in particular, "that no matter how badly kept they were, that it was preferable to their previous state of life," we proceeded to examine the internal condition of the workhouse, and the state of its inmates.

On entering the male and female schools, the children, I regret to say, presented a sickly and attenuated appearance, and we found a want of proper clothing, particularly shoes and stockings; and I pointed out that an alteration in the dietary, and a supply of warm clothing suited to the inclemency of the approaching season was requisite.

Upon inspection of the infirmary, we found a considerable portion of the workhouse inmates suffering from dysentery, the number of patients on that day being 94, which confirmed my view that a change of food was necessary to adults as well as to the children; and turning towards those employed in breaking stones, and laying over the yard, we remarked the same want of shoes and stockings, which must greatly increase this disorder.

Upon examination of the yards, they were found in a most neglected state, except the women's, at which I have had the able paupers employed since my arrival; but so many have been taken to the infirmary from time to time, that the completion has been delayed; however, at the farthest now, another fortnight will, I trust, finish it; and I am convinced that the yards having been heretofore in grass, and therefore holding the rain-water, the exhalations from them, added to the damp under foot, have acted prejudicially on the health of the inmates.

The sewers from the women's yard were originally carried only through it, and allowed to discharge immediately outside the wall, and a most offensive effluvia from the cesspool, so formed, is wafted through the house. I pointed out the necessity that a covered drain should be made to convey the water to a distance from the house, and a cesspool then properly sunk at its termination, which might be allowed to waste itself amongst the fissures of the rock upon which the workhouse is built.

I pointed out the necessity of at once having this done, as greatly tending to promote the sanitary condition of the workhouse, which was one of the most imperative and paramount duties of the Guardians, not alone as regards it, but in connexion with the community that reside about the workhouse, as the prevalence of any epidemic there, must eventually spread itself through the town.

I urged the Committee to impress upon the Guardians the sound policy of instituting a system of out-door relief to old and infirm persons now in the workhouse, as calculated to afford much additional accommodation, and thereby prove a test to able-bodied paupers seeking relief.

In conclusion, I impressed upon the Committee that they should induce the Board of Guardians, by every means in their power, to encourage employment both by their example and advice, as it is alone by the increased productiveness of the country, and the absorption of surplus labour in attaining this end, that they would be enabled to meet the altered circumstances of this part of the

kingdom, and avoid the ruinous taxation that must otherwise be imposed upon them to support so dense and unemployed a population.

The fruits of my endeavours will be found in the report which emanated from the Committee, and which will be transmitted on the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Guardians at their next meeting; and it is a remarkable fact, that this is the first Committee of the sort that has been appointed since the formation of the Union.

I would beg to remark that, although I have much difficulty in managing this Board, for, taken as a whole, it is the most parsimonious I ever met, yet some members are most willing to co-operate with me; and the assistance I have received from Mr. Bloomfield in particular has materially aided in directing even the small advances which have been made, in the right direction.

That an idea may be formed of the manner in which the paupers of this Union were kept I would beg leave to notice, that shoes and stockings have been hitherto unknown as articles of necessary clothing, and this day the Committee have directed that 80 pairs should be ordered. The dietary is to be changed, and a substantial meal of rice given daily, and the drain I have so frequently urged the necessity for is to be made. I trust that by means of this Committee, I may be able to effect much good; but it will require time to overcome the prejudices of the Guardians, and to complete the improvements which I have already projected, and which are so essential to the well-being of the workhouse and Union at large.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 19, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to forward my report of the proceedings of the Guardians of this Union upon the 18th instant.

On reference to the minutes of that day it will be found, that the accounts of the temporary Fever Hospital are again referred to the Workhouse Committee, which meets next Wednesday, with an order that they shall be sent forward in a more regular and business like manner.

A schoolmistress in room of the late mistress, who resigned, was elected by a majority of the Guardians; and from the respectability of her personal appearance, and the high character I have heard of her, I consider her the fittest of any who offered to fill the situation.

I have intimated to the Count Strzelecki that very numerous applications have been made to me from Manorhamilton Union, for assistance in food to their schools, and I have every reason to believe the representations which have been made of the existence of very severe distress. Should he wish to extend any relief of that sort to them, I should be happy, with the permission of the Commissioners, to undertake its management; the persons who applied were induced to do so hearing of its being introduced in this Union, and not knowing that I have alone the charge in this, and supposing it might apply to them also. The orders which I have already received from the British Relief Association, I have informed the Guardians I shall not use, until they complete the arrangements for immediate commencement of the duties of Relieving Officers and take the necessary depôts for them; and which arrangement is absolutely necessary at once, as I never witnessed greater wretchedness and starvation than was apparent in the appearance of the applicants for admission to the workhouse the last Board days; and I would respectfully suggest, that a letter from the Commissioners to the Board, informing them that it would be necessary that these officers should at once enter upon their duties, would enable me to press the matter to a conclusion.

Considerable dissatisfaction was evinced by the Guardians, at the sealed order for the increase of 5*l.* to the salary of the Protestant chaplain; particularly by Mr. Brady, an elected Guardian, whose violence and impropriety of conduct I think it my duty specially to notice. The circumstances are as follow:—

Two of the collectors were before the Board, and I thought it a good opportunity to impress upon them the necessity of a vigorous collection of the rate, and explaining to them that the Circular of the Commissioners to collectors dated the 27th of October last, showed that it was the opinion of the law officers

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of the Crown that they could at once proceed to levy a distress upon occupiers under their warrants, and not suffer two months, as heretofore, to elapse before they proceeded in that way; and further I stated, that I expected that within *two months*, they should have *all the rate collected*, and that they should show neither favour nor affection, and above all, should not be afraid to perform their duty, and that the Guardians should be amongst the foremost, who, from their position and station, should set the example of payment, the first applied to by the collectors.

Mr. Brady then started up, using the most violent gesticulation and language, and "dared them, or me, or the Commissioners, to levy a distress upon him; "that he would like to see who would sell his cattle, or who would buy them, "and told me that I might at once prepare military, and that they should come "before he would permit it, and that he would not pay his rate these *six months* "to come;" and at the same time using the most opprobrious epithets to me as the representative of the Commissioners. Some members of the Board are as willing to carry out the law as any Guardians can be, but the systematic obstruction and violence of this person tend greatly to prevent them in their endeavours; and in my mind, he is urged on by others to this conduct, who perhaps do not wish to appear in the matter, as a large portion of the lower class of Guardians act with him. The course he is pursuing is seriously detrimental to the operation of the law in this Union. If it is permitted that a Guardian should thus outrage propriety, and by his violent language intimidate collectors, and with impunity incite to opposition of the law, it will be impossible in districts already sufficiently predisposed to opposition, that rates can be collected.

The COMMISSIONERS to the GUARDIANS of BALLYSHANNON UNION:—
December 22, 1847.

I AM directed to state, for the information of the Board of Guardians of Ballyshannon Union, that they have received a report from their Inspector, Mr. D'Arcy, in which he states that at the meeting of the Guardians on the 18th instant, he took the opportunity of impressing upon two of the collectors who were present the necessity of a vigorous collection of the rate, and that the Guardians should be amongst the foremost who, from their position and station, should set the example of payment, and be first applied to by the collectors, when Mr. Brady, a member of the Board, said that he dared them or the Commissioners to levy a distress upon him; that he would like to see who would sell his cattle, or who would buy them; that Mr. D'Arcy might at once prepare military, that they should come before he would permit it, and that he would not pay his rates for the next six months.

In reference to these observations, I am to state that it is of the utmost importance at the present time that the Guardians should set a good example by paying the rates which are due from themselves, and the Commissioners rely on the Board taking active measures to enforce the payment of rates by every individual of their own body, however unpleasant it may be to their feelings.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners do not doubt that the Guardians will perceive that if the rates payable by the Guardians remain unpaid to any extent, it will be the duty of the Commissioners to consider their responsibilities and powers, under the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the Commissioners, dated the 27th of December, enclosing me copies of letters addressed to the clerk of the Guardians of this Union, adverting to my report of Mr. Brady's conduct upon the 18th ultimo, and also a copy of that addressed to the collectors respectively; and I beg leave to state that nothing could possibly be more opportune; and I am convinced that the prompt notice taken of this circumstance by the Commissioners, will have a salutary effect upon the collection of the present rate.

There is not a doubt on my mind, that a very great disinclination is entertained by some of the Guardians to the payment of the rate, and by Mr. Brady in particular, who did not pay the rate of 6d. in the pound made on the 23rd of

January, 1847, until the last week in the October following, and his name was actually returned as a defaulter upon a list made by Kelly, the collector, just as I arrived here; but he (Mr. Brady) came in, scratched it out himself, and paid the money *then nearly nine months due*. Within the last week, he further evinced his disinclination by endeavouring to induce the clerk to erase his name out of the rate-book, and substitute his son's for a considerable part of his rate, as he paid a portion for the place he resides, and wished to evade paying for a farm he holds at a distance from his house, and at the same time appear upon the return to be made by the collectors to the Commissioners, as one of the Guardians who had paid up his rate.

Amount of Rate collected in each Half-Year.

	£.	s.	d.
Up to 29th September, 1843	880	17	0
From 29th September, 1843, to 25th March, 1844	197	9	6
„ 25th March to 29th September, 1844	877	9	9
„ 29th September, 1844, to 25th March, 1845	287	0	2
„ 25th March to 29th September, 1845	44	12	5
„ 29th September, 1845, to 25th March, 1846	530	5	8
„ 25th March to 29th September, 1846	508	7	8
„ 29th September, 1846, to 25th March, 1847	578	10	8
„ 25th March to 29th September, 1847	921	1	6

Total amount of rate collected in the Union up to 29th
September, 1847 £4825 14 4

Thus averaging 537*l.* for each half-year.

To rate-payers and Guardians accustomed to such small rates and so tardy a collection, it may be easily supposed how unpalatable the amount of the present rate must be, and the rapidity of its collection, 996*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* in three weeks, being widely different from 921*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* in six months.

I am more alive to the necessity of making Guardians set the example of payment, and of propriety of language, as not a sentence which transpires in the Board-room is not, immediately the Guardians separate, bruited abroad by the lower class of them, and with particular emphasis, should it be a severe thing against an Inspector, or calculated to throw any disparagement upon the law.

Upon the 17th of December, 1847, Wilson, the collector for Churchhill division, stated to me in the clerk's office, and in his presence, that, as he had come up that day, to use his own phrase, "a well-wisher of his had strongly advised him to resign this collection, for that lives would be lost about it;" and turning to me said, "to tell the plain truth, sir, they lay the blame of the big rate, and the hurry that is on them to you;" and he said, too, that "you had better mind yourself." These were his words *verbatim*. On the 22nd of December, after the House Committee had separated, Mr. Dickson, an ex-officio Guardian, came up to me in the street of Ballyshannon, and said, "Mr. D'Arcy, I think it but right to tell you that you should take care of yourself; for yesterday, at a fair in Leitrim, I heard one man say to another, 'This is a curious Commissioner that has come to Ballyshannon, nothing will do him but collecting the rate at the point of the bayonet;'" and Mr. Dickson went on to say that I should be careful not to be out late, &c., &c. Under these circumstances, it is not matter of surprise that I should strongly deprecate conduct such as Mr. Brady has constantly exhibited, and the coarse and violent language he makes use of; as I feel from the ignorance of the people that the big rate, as they call it, is attributed to my arrival here, and that I am a marked man. One other instance I shall give of the feeling that is abroad in regard to it. I had at one time an idea of taking a house for my family in Bundoran, three miles from this, and Mr. Cockburn, the hotel-keeper, asked me, "Is it true, Mr. D'Arcy, you are about to take a house in Bundoran." I replied, I had been thinking of it; and he said, "I would advise you, Sir, to remain in Ballyshannon. I doubt if it would be safe for you going in and out late; and I would not say this if I had not reason."

I should not have occupied so much time in detailing these personal matters, were it not that they are useful in giving the Commissioners a clear view of the mischief that may arise from the conduct of Guardians, who may express themselves violently either as against the law or those employed to administer it; and I trust the Commissioners will therefore excuse what would otherwise be egotistical.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. D'ARCY :—*December 27, 1847.*

I AM to forward to you the enclosed copy of a report which has been transmitted to them by the Under Secretary, relative to the death of Thomas Robinson at Carragan; and in reference thereto I am to request that you will be so good as to inquire and report on this case to the Commissioners.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. H. ROWAN to the INSPECTOR GENERAL :—*December 30, 1847.*

ON the 18th instant Thomas Robinson was found dead on the public road in the townland of Carragan within three miles of Belleck. The coroner held an inquest on Sunday, when the following verdict was returned :—

"We find that the deceased, Thomas Robinson, came by his death from weakness and want of daily support, and the inclemency of the weather; and we find there is no mark of violence on him, and that there is no blame attached to any one."

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 4, 1848.*

REFERRING to the discovery of the body of Thomas Robinson, and the verdict of the coroner's jury thereon, I have to submit the following report :—

The deceased, with his mother, brother, and sister, had been admitted to the Ballyshannon workhouse upon the 23rd of October, 1847, and continued in it until the 12th of December following, when they requested their discharge, that they might look after some bedding and articles of furniture which remained in their house at Canakeel, which is commonly called Callagheen, and is a townland of the electoral division of Inismacsaint, and not of Boho, situate about two miles off the high road and in the hills.

On visiting the spot, I found the body had been discovered in a standing posture under a bush in a ditch; and it appeared that the deceased had there taken shelter from the storm and rain, which was very violent upon the day he is supposed to have died, which was Friday, the 17th; the discovery of the body by the police having taken place on the 18th of December.

About 12 o'clock on the 17th of December, his mother had sent him with one penny to purchase its value in meal, which he had done, and in addition, received from the person selling it, some turnips as a gratuity, and was returning when his weakness and the remarkable severity of that day occasioned his death: there can be no doubt entertained he died from weakness and destitution, hastened by the inclemency of the weather.

Anne Robinson, the mother of Thomas Robinson above referred to, with a son and daughter, are at present in the workhouse. Last evening, on my return from Canakeel, I went there to ascertain the dates of their previous admission and discharge, and found she had been re-admitted provisionally upon the 31st of December ultimo. I questioned her, and received the same information I had previously from the peasantry in the vicinity of the spot his death took place.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 9, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward my usual weekly report of the state of the Union, condition of the workhouse, and proceedings of the Guardians at their ordinary meeting, held Saturday, the 8th instant.

The causes of the difficulties that are experienced in the management of this Union are by no means few, and are increased by the want of energy and zeal amongst the Guardians generally; although some few are most active, yet, in the present crisis, it requires more than can be effected by individuals: and the possession of these qualities, in combination, by a Board of Guardians, as a whole, is almost indispensable to the working of the law—carrying out its provisions with cordiality, and to the advantage both of the rate-payers and recipients of relief.

The first cause of the difficulties above mentioned is the large amount of debt which the Guardians have contracted; and this has chiefly been induced by the very small rates they hitherto were in the habit of making, and which a slow and spiritless collection rendered less tangible; six months were consumed in receiving what should have been done in one; the current expenses still accrued, and the liabilities already incurred were farther than ever from liquidation.

This course having been pursued from the formation of the Union, had at last reached its climax, when, to heighten the dilemma, the failure of the potato crop occurred; advances were required, and received, under the Relief Commission, and

4,100*l.* was added to the debt already due. On the 6th of November, 1847, after having devoted much of the previous week to unravel the actual condition of the pecuniary affairs of the Union, I found them to be as follows;—

Amount of outstanding cheques	£900
Sundry accounts, including salaries	150
Due Poor Law Commissioners for advances	1,300
Due Relief Commissioners	4,100

Total amount liabilities £6,450

To rates sufficient to repay this large sum it appeared necessary to add, as the probable cost of relief in the workhouse for the next six months, the sum of 2,817*l.*, making a total of 9,267*l.* The Treasury Minute not requiring a larger rate than 3*s.* in the pound to be made, gave the Guardians an opportunity of refusing to strike one sufficiently large to pay at once all debts: thus, in some of the divisions, even were the whole rate collected, a balance would remain due; and to exhibit this I send a tabular form:—

—	Amount of Rate struck.	Amount it will produce.	Amount which will still remain due, if foregoing was even collected.	Amount of Rate which would have been required to meet all liabilities.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Ballyshannon	0 3 0	1,748 0 0	523 0 0	0 3 11
Bundoran	0 3 0	1,406 0 0	347 0 0	0 3 3
Ballintra	0 2 11	646 0 0	..	..
Kinlough	0 3 0	590 0 0	150 0 0	0 4 0
Innis-mac-Saint	0 3 0	732 0 0	487 0 0	0 5 0
Belleek	0 2 3	325 0 0	..	..
Devenish	0 3 0	480 0 0	272 0 0	0 4 7½
Glenade	0 1 8	300 0 0	..	..
Boho	0 3 0	413 0 0	25 0 0	0 3 2
Church-hill	0 1 10	428 0 0	..	..
Total	..	7,068 0 0	1,778 0 0	..

The total balance remaining due, as shown above, still would amount to a considerable sum, viz., 1,778*l.*

I have constantly endeavoured to explain to the Guardians that a speedy collection of the rate will mainly contribute to extricate them from their difficulties, and reduce future expenditure, as one-third at least has been added to the market price on every article they purchased, on account of their want of cash or credit.

The collection has, however, progressed better than I anticipated; and were it not for the illness of three of the collectors, it would have been even farther advanced. The first time I attended the meeting of the Guardians, I fancied, from the readiness with which they struck the rates that I showed them would be required, and the fair promises they made of compelling collectors to do their duty, that I had to deal with a Board anxious to meet their engagements, prepared to look their difficulties in the face, and set about overcoming them like men. But I regret to say, I have since learned by experience how incorrect was the estimate I had formed. Day after day resolutions, excellent in themselves, were put on their minutes; but they seemed to think they had done enough by recording them, without ever putting them into execution.

One instance, however, of a desire to aid in the collection of rates, and support the law to its fullest extent, I shall give in the case of Mr. Bloomfield, of Castle-caldwell, an *ex-officio* Guardian, who was absent from home, and could not attend the meeting of the Board the day the rate was struck. On his return he called at the house of the collector, asked what the amount of rate was he was liable for, immediately discharged it, and told the collector if he needed assistance, on application to him as a magistrate, he would at once afford it. Shortly after a rescue took place, the collector applied to him, warrants were issued; one of the parties is arrested, and the other has absconded.

There is a part of the district where difficulty had always been experienced in the collection of even smaller rates in better times, and Mr. Bloomfield told the collector that the day he proposed to go to those townlands he would accompany him and his driver, which he accordingly did, and being a man of great nerve and determination, and the representative of considerable property, the

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course he has pursued has produced the best results; so much so, that the collector told me, that if he called at a house now for rate, and that he resolved on driving for it, the people would aid him in driving their own cattle to the pound. Nothing can possibly be more deserving of praise than this conduct, and I feel pleasure in drawing the special attention of the Commissioners to it.

The condition of the workhouse is not yet by any means what I could wish, and the progress has not been made in laying down the yards with stone that I had hoped, but this is attributable to the awful amount of illness which pervades the establishment. Each day in the past week I visited it, and found that from three to five men only were able to labour out of 643 individuals; in fact, the house is one vast infirmary; and so crowded has been the hospital, that separate beds could not be provided each patient.

The pressure for workhouse relief is, as I anticipated, becoming greater, and I so stated my opinion in a previous report. Turnips are and have been almost their sole food, and as they are becoming scarce and rising in price, the people are constrained to look for relief. I think nothing can more forcibly impress the mind with the distress of the country than to see each market day the poor creatures crowding round carts of turnips with their bags, and purchasing them in stones and half-stones, as formerly they did meal. Unless rate-payers and proprietors can be induced to exert themselves, I cannot see where it is to end. Some few have availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the Land Improvement Bill; Captain Johnston, of Kinlough, has already commenced; and Mr. Bloomfield is anxious to do so, having applied for a thousand pounds, or thereabouts, some time since, and I understand all the preliminaries have been arranged, and yet I regret to say he has not obtained the money. Were his improvements in operation, in addition to Captain Johnston's, it would greatly relieve the pressure.

I have no doubt that a little exertion of this sort on the part of the rate-payers would enable them to avoid the provision of out-door relief for able-bodied; and I have constantly laboured to get the Guardians to put in operation the clearing the house of all who may legally receive out-door relief. Were this done, and the children removed, there would be room made for at least 300. The great obstruction which has stood in the way has been want of funds; and although a very large sum (that is for this Union) has been collected in the last four weeks, yet so many persons held unpaid cheques of the Guardians, that no sooner did the treasurer receive with one hand than he paid with the other. I hope, however, to remedy this in some degree, by inducing the Guardians to stop the issue of further cheques till they have funds to meet them.

Already confidence has been restored, by the determination to make a speedy collection of the rate—and this is evinced by the numerous offers the Guardians received on the 8th instant, from persons anxious to become contractors, who two months since would not have trusted the Board for one pound's worth; and in consequence of this, and of the offer contained in the advertisement I forward, to pay weekly or monthly as required, they have been enabled to contract for two months' supply of Indian meal, at 10*l.* 5*s.* per ton; for oatmeal, 11*l.* per ton; and the four-pound loaf of best flour, at 7*d.* The saving which will be thus effected is considerable; meal of both descriptions, since my arrival, up to this, having cost 15*l.* per ton.

It will be perceived by the minutes of last day's proceedings, that the relieving officers are at once to enter on their duties, and that a special meeting of the Board is to be held on Monday, the 10th instant, to discharge those who are eligible to receive out-door relief, and who are willing to take it, and thus reduce the present over-crowded state of the house to proper limits.

Depôts are to be taken for the relieving officers; the children to be removed; and I trust the initiative steps taken to render the fullest relief at the least possible cost to the Union.

I trust the Commissioners may approve of these steps, and of the course I have taken to carry out their views.

ENCLOSURE.

THE Board of Guardians of the Ballyshannon Union will take tenders, on Saturday next, the 8th instant, from persons wishing to contract for one or two months, to supply the workhouse with oaten and Indian meal, and good loaf bread, per 4 lb. loaf; the payment for which will be made weekly, or monthly, as required.

By order,

Board-Room, Ballyshannon, January 3, 1848. JAMES M'GOWAN, Jun., Clerk to Union.

REPLY to the above :—*January 13, 1848.*

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THE Commissioners approve of the steps taken, as detailed in your report, for removing those inmates of the workhouse who may receive out-door relief, and for bringing the workhouse and the affairs of the Union generally into a more satisfactory state; and the Commissioners rely upon the continuance of your exertions in this respect.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to communicate the proceedings of the Guardians of this Union, at a special meeting held yesterday, the 10th instant.

This meeting was appointed in consequence of my urging upon them, at their ordinary meeting held on Saturday the 8th instant, the necessity of taking immediate steps to put the relieving officers in requisition, and by giving out-door allowances, clear the workhouse of a portion of its inmates, as well as admit those provisionally received on Saturday, and which the lateness of the hour precluded completing that day. The Guardians who live at a distance (the course itself having been unanimously resolved on) left it to those in and near the town to carry out.

When I was proceeding to the workhouse I met Mr. Dickson, an *ex-officio* Guardian, who resides ten miles from Ballyshannon, and in his presence asked Mr. Davis, the deputy vice-chairman, whom we met, and who lives in the town, to accompany us, but he said he could not. We then went to the workhouse, and no Guardian being in attendance, we occupied ourselves examining the state of the house and inspecting the schools. The female portion being some time without a mistress, the additional labour thus thrown on the matron is very considerable; a schoolmistress has been selected, but has not yet received the consent of the Commissioners. Having done this, we returned to the Board-room, and finding no attendance of Guardians likely to take place, I despatched the porter to some that I knew were at home, and might attend if they pleased, and so finally I obtained a Board.

On the chair having been taken, I pointed out to the Guardians that it was a matter of the last importance that their duties should be efficiently discharged, and if steps were not at once taken in the present crowded state of the house to make room, it would become my duty to report the remissness to the Commissioners; and that if I saw further apathy evinced, it would also be my duty to state my opinion to them, that the business of the Union was not duly discharged by the Guardians, and that I conceived, both on the score of humanity to the destitute as well as concern for the interest of the rate-payers, that a paid Board should be substituted for them. Notwithstanding this, I was obliged to watch them lest they should leave the room and not return, and as one or other did leave, as he said for a short time, I addressed him to show if he did not return and give us his assistance, that we should not have a Board, and could not continue the transaction of the matters on hand.

We commenced by selecting the strongest of the boys, who are this day to be removed to the new school-house, and then took into consideration ninety-two cases of individuals eligible to receive out-door allowances, and willing to leave the house. We were occupied from 11 A.M. till past 6 P.M., in making these inquiries and the necessary arrangements.

A circumstance was mentioned by Mr. Dickson, which tends to show the state the county is in, and how likely distress unrelieved will be to increase the disorganization of the lower orders. On Saturday night last the cow-house of a steward of Captain Johnson, of Kinlough, was maliciously burned, and three fine cows which were in it. Mr. Dickson, as a magistrate, examined the scene of the outrage, and found the half-burned sod of turf that had been used to ignite the thatch.

The Board of Guardians adjourned to this day to complete the business we had in hand, and which is most urgent, as the workhouse, built for 500, last night contained 705, with still a great pressure for admission.

I shall report to-morrow the proceedings of this day.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 16, 1848.*

I DEFERRED reporting the proceedings of the Board of Guardians at their special meeting, held by adjournment from Monday the 10th instant to Tuesday the 11th, intending to combine that and my remarks upon the proceedings of the house committee, which was to have met on Wednesday the 12th; but the death of Captain Johnston, of Kinlough, prevented all attention to public business that day; and, indeed, his loss will be severely felt in that district where he was the only resident landed proprietor, and one who, in the employment of the labouring population, most worthily performed his duty.

I have now the honour to forward my report of the proceedings, both upon Tuesday the 11th, and Saturday the 15th instant. When I arrived at the workhouse on Tuesday I found no Guardian present; and the business being of an urgent nature, I directed the porter to go for a sufficient number of Guardians to constitute a Board. I sent him to the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Davis, first, who said he could not come; and at last, after a delay of an hour or more, four Guardians presented themselves. I again represented the very onerous duties they had taken upon them to perform, and the obligation that rested on them to discharge such duties with zeal and activity, and not unwillingly or languidly; and pressed on them the propriety of holding a second meeting in the week, as it was impossible one day would suffice; and, accordingly, on their minutes will be found a resolution calling for a full meeting of the Board on the Saturday following to consider the matter.

I have attended the past week, daily, at the workhouse, and, in fact, in addition to the duties of Inspector, have been performing those of an assistant master. In truth, it is almost impossible for any one man, unaided, under the existing pressure, satisfactorily to discharge the various duties connected with the situation of master.

On Monday and Tuesday, the relieving officers were in attendance, and each day I took care to explain and enlarge fully upon the nature of their duties. I saw them make the first entry in their books of the persons we were discharging on allowances from the workhouse, and, as far as lay in my power, rendered them every assistance.

The male portion of the workhouse children have been removed to the temporary school-house, which had been taken for them. I myself superintended their removal; and I hope in a week hence, when some small matters tending to the finish and improvement of the establishment shall have been completed, that it will be both healthy and commodious.

The destitution of this Union is rapidly on the increase, and it is miserable to witness the importunity of the wretched crowd that daily throng about the workhouse door, clamorous for admittance.

The relieving officers have, in a few cases, assisted persons in urgent distress; but the majority of the Guardians are so averse to increase the expense, that these functionaries are almost afraid to exercise a discretion. I shall give an instance. On Friday, the 14th instant, I was visiting the workhouse school, and a very miserable and infirm man applied to me for relief; I directed him to Mr. M'Intyre, the relieving officer for the Ballyshannon district. I then left the town to visit schools at which I had that day commenced the distribution of bread rations, from grants of the British Association; on my return Mr. M'Intyre met me, and said he had not yet gone to the man's house to see exactly the state of his case; I said I would accompany him if he was prepared then to go, and accordingly, having followed the man down a lane off the main street, we arrived at a sort of cellar, and nothing I can write would convey an adequate idea of the squalid misery that presented itself, as my sight became accustomed to the darkness the place was enveloped in. On either side a fire-place, insensible and, apparently to me, in the last stage of fever, were stretched two young women, literally naked, a little straw under them, and the remains of a blanket over; their clothes had all been disposed of to procure food and the necessaries they had stood in need of; there was no furniture in the room, save a pot and three-legged stool, and in every way they were steeped in misery. I gave the father some silver, and desired Mr. M'Intyre never for one instant, to hesitate in affording relief to cases even approaching this in destitution, much less where such abject misery existed.

A section of the Guardians of this Union I only do justice to, when I state them

to be ready and willing to afford sufficient funds to provide relief for the distressed, and prepared to go with me in making the changes in the mode of administering it, which the altered circumstances and increased destitution of the country require. Messrs. Dickson, Allingham, and Bloomfield, I would always except when making any general statement regarding the Board: but so large a portion are opposed to them, and actually incapable of entertaining the comprehensive views which are necessary for the management of the Union, not alone in providing relief, but in shaping the arrangements attendant upon it, that I at times despaired of being able to effect the objects for which I have been sent here by the Commissioners. Each progressive step I could make, an obstacle presented itself, and to overcome or remove it wasted much valuable time, retarded the improvement of the condition of the Union, and only tended to what the Guardians so much deprecate, that is to say, "increased expenditure." I have constantly endeavoured to disabuse their minds of the idea, that I had the slightest wish to increase their outlay, and have shown them that the present rate is, for the most part, to repay liabilities they themselves previously incurred, and that but about one-third is appropriated to defray the current expenses of the Union in relief, &c., for the next six months. Still I am daily met with arguments, the fallacy of which I have fully and repeatedly exposed before; and this is the more disheartening as I feel, were I to omit attending the meeting of the Board for one day, that improvements I had laboured for a month to establish might be in an hour rendered nugatory.

I have for some time past had under consideration a scheme, which, with the permission of the Commissioners, I think might beneficially be put into operation, and would be attended with many advantages to the rate-payers, and aid in diffusing amongst the lower classes an improved knowledge of agriculture. Nothing can be more melancholy than to see the rising population growing up in ignorance of the proper management of the land they live on; and the labour that can alone be applied in a workhouse, as a test, by breaking stones, will not fit them at any future period, or when they arrive at man's estate, to contribute to their own support or the wealth of the country at large, which would be undoubtedly increased by the extension of agricultural knowledge, not alone amongst the higher classes, but also the operatives of the country, most of whom from their deficiency in this respect, are unfit to take employment with any farmer or gentleman who wishes to cultivate an improved description of husbandry. Lads reared in a workhouse will be alone fit for a workhouse, and thus become a perpetual incubus on the rates of a Union.

From the experience I have obtained whilst Inspector under the Relief Commissioners and Board of Works, I am perfectly aware of the difficulty of obtaining a good system of public work; but what I am about to recommend for the consideration of the Commissioners, is not open to the objection that it would be upon a large scale, and therefore likely to get above control; nor would it be employment for wages, but merely as a test of destitution.

I found on examination that the cost of milk supplied to the Ballyshannon workhouse during the past week, amounted to 18*l.* 15*s.*, and will be likely to average in future 18*l.*, amounting per year to 936*l.*; now, the quantity of milk to supply this consumption could be produced off a 12 acre farm cultivated by spade husbandry, and cropped judiciously with the various green food and esculents best calculated to feed cows. The plan I would propose is, to rent such a farm; employ the able-bodied paupers in its cultivation—and above all, the school-boys who would be able to perform light works, such as weeding, thinning, and hoeing, and so obtain that knowledge which is at the present moment so great a desideratum, and thus qualify themselves to fill the situation of farm servants. The more advanced of the girls might be employed in milking, cleansing vessels, and the various duties attendant upon a dairy.

In addition to the advantages the Union would derive from the saving effected by this plan, it would greatly increase the means of diffusing agricultural knowledge generally and practically through the country, and be better calculated than any other measure that could be adopted to produce so desirable a result.

The supply of milk from this dairy would effect a clear saving of over 700*l.* above rent, loss in purchase of cows as springers, and sale as strippers, &c. &c.

Ireland has no manufacture to employ her surplus population; the land is her raw material, and the amount of manipulation it receives might yet be so much increased as four-fold to enlarge its produce. Were it possible to make a work-

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house a self-supporting establishment, and at same time diffuse knowledge, and apply labour as a test of destitution, it would in my humble judgment, materially improve the general condition of the country.

The collection of the rate in the week ended the 8th instant, not having been as large as I expected, and believing that if proper exertions were made by the collectors, that it might have been doubled, I therefore addressed the following letter to each collector.

"SIR,

Ballyshannon, January 10, 1848.

"THE Board of Guardians have had much cause to be dissatisfied with the collection of last week, as it was not at all commensurate with the requirements of the Union, or the large amount of outstanding rate still due.

"I take this means of repeating what I so frequently have urged upon collectors, and which I specially warned them of when undertaking the collection of this rate; that is to say, that *the whole rate* must be collected by February, as, if it remained outstanding till March, and the seed sowing commenced, it would be impossible to raise then much that could now be collected.

"I have shown each collector that he can drive on his warrant, without delaying to summon, and have informed him should any difficulty arise, on application to me, I shall be ready to give every assistance and support in my power to the collectors in the discharge of their duty.

"Under these circumstances, unless a much larger sum shall be paid to the treasurer this week, and more active exertions made and persevered in for the future, it will be my duty to report to the Commissioners the propriety and necessity of dismissing the present collectors, suing their securities on their bonds, and appointing persons likely to be more energetic in the discharge of their duty.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"JOHN S. D'ARCY."

The amount collected in the week ending Saturday the 8th was 265*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, and that paid to the treasurer in the past week, ending the 15th instant, was 598*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, which shows what may be effected by properly stimulating the collectors; the increase on that week over the previous being 333*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*

I forward two threatening letters received by Flanagan, one of the collectors. In one of these letters I am directly threatened by name, and the other alludes to me, though I am not mentioned. I trust I need hardly tell the Commissioners that they have not the slightest weight with me, but they certainly have had with Flanagan, who actually shook like an aspen when speaking of them to me. I have told him that if he applied to the magistrates for assistance, I would attend to back his application.

Saturday, the 15th instant, there was rather a full attendance of the Guardians, and my recommendation to the Guardians, to meet a second day in the week, has been resolved on. This having been the first day that the relieving officers attended, very increased duty devolved upon the clerk; and the press of business was so great, that the Board could not go into their books till Monday, the 17th instant, when they are to be examined and confirmed by the Board. On the whole, a better spirit was evinced; and perhaps this result may be traced to a rather lengthened discussion, which took place when the Guardians first met. I explained at some length, and as clearly as I was able, their duties and responsibilities, and the impossibility of their discharging them properly, if they did not, as I had recommended the Board on Tuesday, meet at least twice a-week; and then, in place of spending their time cavilling at the law, and taking exceptions to any step in advance, if they would cordially apply themselves to work it out as it stood, that they would find it in the end the most economical, most comfortable, and praiseworthy course. Mr. Dickson then stood up, and said, he feared that neither two, three, nor four days would be sufficient; and that the mass of destitution in Glenade and part of Bundoran was so great, that no relieving officer could get through it, nor the Board control or relieve it, and that he thought paid Guardians might better be at once appointed.

I replied that the *will* appeared to me more wanting than the *ability*, and that I knew no two gentleman more capable of performing those duties Mr. Dickson would delegate to others, than himself and Mr. Bloomfield; and I also remarked, that I had commenced to supply bread to the children in the school from grants

of the British Association, and that this would relieve the pressure upon the Guardians in a great degree. Mr. Bloomfield agreed with me, and said, he was willing to sit daily, if necessary, in that Board-room, and he put it to the Guardians if they would brand themselves with incompetency; at length it was resolved unanimously, that they would exert themselves in earnest, and see how far they could succeed.

A reference to their minutes will show that an auxiliary workhouse is to be taken; that depôts have been rented for the relieving officers; that shoes have been purchased for the paupers; that Wednesday is to be henceforth an additional Board day; that a special meeting is to be held on Monday for the purpose of examining the books of the relieving officers, and setting them fairly afloat; that an assistant is to be employed to aid the clerk to whom they so long objected to pay an increased salary; and in fact much that, from the temper previously exhibited by the Board, I had almost feared I should never have got accomplished, was done and projected.

This report has extended to much greater length than I intended, and I trust the Commissioners will excuse my being so prolix, but my anxiety to inform them fully on all these matters must plead my apology.

ENCLOSURES.

SIR,

Kilcock, the 6th, 1848.

WE the people of the district that you collected the Poor Rates in, in either Boush or Innismacthesaut, or any other part that you collect the Poor Rates in, or take up any distress, or drives any person's cattle for the Rates, we will be under the necessity of shooting you in the open daylight, for we may as well loose our lives as to loose our support; so if you don't like this warning we give you, take your own advice, for we are determined to stop you or any other person that will come to collect them till the times mend.

JAMES FLANAGAN,
There is your doom,
so if like it
continue.

SIR,

TAKE notice, that if you attempt to collect any more Poor Rate that you will only loose your life by so doing, as we, the inhabitants of Baha division are determined not to pay any more Poor Rate, as we refer you to the Marquess of Sligo's letter in the paper to the government, showing that the landlords should pay all Cess and Rates, therefore we will not pay until government decides the matter at their next sitting. Do you think we will give all our little support to you in rates and leave our families starving, as we cannot even pay our landlords until harvest next; should you not comply with this notice, so help our God you will be shot, and this is your last notice. You were often told verbally to stop, but now you must. You state that Mr. D'Arcy insists on the collection, let him try it himself, and he shall meet the same fate. We will keep our cattle in the house, try will you break our doors.

Date, January, 1848.

JAMES FLANAGAN, Collector,
Baha Division.REPLY to the above:—*January 19, 1848.*

IN reference to your remarks on the conduct of the Ballyshannon Board of Guardians, the Commissioners desire to state that it will give them great satisfaction if the Board for the future will meet regularly twice a-week at least, and will discharge efficiently the important duties which are devolved upon it by the legislature. If, however, notwithstanding the zeal and ability of individual Guardians, the Guardians as a Board, should not hold regular meetings as often as the necessities of the Union demand, or if they should in other respects make default in the discharge of their duties, the Commissioners would suggest to you the propriety of making a separate report to them on the subject, in reference to the provisions of the 18th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act.

The Commissioners deeply lament the destitution which you describe as existing in the Ballyshannon Union, and the due relief of it will require systematic and continuous energy on the part of the Guardians both in enforcing the payment of the poor-rates, and in carrying out their administrative arrangements in such a manner that the destitute shall not be allowed to perish from want. In regard to the relieving officers, however, it is to be observed that their legal powers independently of the Guardians are limited, and that they have no authority,

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except under an order of the Board of Guardians, to grant relief on any case of necessity which is not *sudden* as well as urgent. Their proper course with any other case is, to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with all the circumstances, and to bring it before the Board of Guardians for their decision.

In regard to your proposition for taking land, and establishing a dairy connected with the workhouse, the Commissioners have to thank you for your suggestions, but they have to state that propositions of this kind have long since been fully considered in reference to workhouse management, and have been deliberately deemed unadvisable; in fact, there are few subjects on which, in England, there has been such extensive and decisive experience.

In regard to the pauper children, it is very desirable that such arrangements should be made as may enable them to receive instruction in field labour; and the Commissioners do not object to the Guardians hiring as much land to be occupied with the workhouse, as may enable the Guardians to carry out this object. The Commissioners, however, would much prefer that this should be effected in a separate and distinct workhouse for pauper children, in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Commissioners' circular of the 26th of August last.

In conclusion, the Commissioners have to express their entire approval of the course taken by you in order to compel the collectors to perform their duty; and the Commissioners sincerely regret that there should have been any attempt to intimidate you by threatening letters, or otherwise, in the discharge of your duty. The Commissioners, however, do not doubt that if you deem the matter of sufficient importance to make representations concerning it to the local magistrates, you will receive the fullest protection of the law.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 18, 1848.*

MAY I request that the threatening letters which I forwarded yesterday to the Commissioners may be returned, as Mr. Bloomfield thinks it probable if they are, he may succeed in tracing them to the writers; and as he is a most active magistrate, and knows minutely the divisions they refer to, I think, from circumstances he has mentioned to me, he may succeed.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 18, 1848.*

YESTERDAY, the 17th instant, after returning from Belleek division, where I had been arranging for the baking of bread for schools, I attended a special meeting of the Guardians, and have the honour to forward to you my report.

The books of four relieving officers were gone through, and two of them produced their application and report books, kept in a very creditable form: the persons I allude to are Messrs. Scott and Johnston. Messrs. Daly and M'Intyre made some mistakes, but they were explained fully to them, and I should hope there will not be a recurrence of them. Mr. Rogers had been permitted to remain out with his books till the 22nd instant.

The propriety of granting assistance to the master of the workhouse was discussed, and a notice put on the minutes that it should be considered, at the Saturday meeting of the Board.

The house which was offered by proposal to the Guardians on Saturday, the 15th instant, has been taken, and will afford a considerable increase of accommodation; but still I fear that no house-room can be provided in Ballyshannon, which will be at all commensurate with the destitution, and out-door relief to those at present eligible under the Poor Law Extension Act must be provided to a very considerable extent. The workhouse is again becoming overcrowded, and I purpose directing the medical officer to report to the Board the number he thinks the house can now contain with safety; and I hope to induce the Guardians to resolve upon the number, at which the workhouse and its auxiliaries shall be considered full.

The clothing for the paupers is both scanty and bad, and I have directed the master to make a report of what he thinks is required. The water for the use of the workhouse is costing weekly rather a large sum in carriage; and some time since I forwarded a plan for conveying the water from the roof of the house to the tanks, for the consideration of the Commissioners' architect, but have not yet received a reply.

I shall not be able in future, to attend so constantly to the workhouse or the meetings of the Guardians, as I shall be greatly occupied with the rationing of children in the schools; and if my constant attention were not directed to that, I fear that abuse would exist to a considerable extent. The power to ration children, and the means afforded me, have had considerable influence on the Guardians in conducing to a better order of things, as I refused to commence till they had done their part in taking depôts for the relieving officers, and made the preliminary arrangements contemplated by the Poor Law Extension Act; and the commencement of both systems together has been attended with satisfactory results. This week, the greater portion of the Union will be in receipt of rations for schools, and I hope the whole, next week.

REPLY to the above:—*January 20, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report in which you state that the workhouse is becoming overcrowded, I am to state that on receiving the medical officer's report, and your own views on the subject, the Commissioners will be prepared to fix a maximum number for each building by a sealed order. They are desirous of doing this in every case; and they will thank you to report to them after receiving the medical officer's report, and after conference with the Guardians, the estimated extent of accommodation afforded by

1. The original building.
2. Additional accommodation provided therein.
3. Detached sheds or temporary buildings on the workhouse site.
4. Permanent fever hospital.
5. Other buildings not on workhouse site.

The Commissioners rely upon your attending the Board of Guardians as frequently as possible, and they trust you will not allow the distribution of relief afforded by the British Association so far to engross your attention as to prejudice the due supervision and inspection of the ordinary affairs of the Union, which the Commissioners consider to be your primary duty. The Commissioners will call their architect's attention to the plan for conveying water from the roof of the workhouse.

MR. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 21, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the first Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Guardians upon the 19th instant. Their minutes will show that according to my instructions, the master sent in a report of the clothing necessary, not alone for the present inmates, but for the increase that we are sure to have the moment the auxiliary workhouse shall be prepared to receive them.

On Wednesday, there were 750 on the workhouse books, which deducting 92 that are in the temporary school-house, left 658 domiciled in the workhouse itself; and much as I wished them to give admission to numbers of miserable applicants, I was obliged to represent to the Guardians the necessity of refusing further admissions, in the present state of the house. I have requested the medical officer to report on Saturday, for the information of the Board, the number he thinks the house can contain without danger of disease, or of spreading what may exist.

I am happy to state that the mortality is greatly checked, since the change of diet. A fortnight since we had 12 and 15 deaths a-week—now they are but two. The alteration to a bread diet has produced this improvement; and yet, in conjunction with the medical officer, I was for weeks urging the propriety and humanity of it before it was adopted.

In the present state of the liabilities of the Union, the outlay for clothing will be severely felt: it would be a great matter if anything could be done to assist in this respect.

THE COMMISSIONERS to SIR R. ROUTH:—*January 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed extract from a report which they have received from Mr. D'Arcy, the Temporary Inspector in charge of the Ballyshannon Union, in which he refers to the clothing requisite for the inmates of the workhouse; and in reference thereto, I am to

H

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request that you will be so good as to inform the Commissioners whether there are any articles of old military clothing and bedding in store, in the neighbourhood of Ballyshannon, which could be made available for the purposes of the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. D'ARCY :—*January 25, 1848.*

WITH regard to your remark, that in the present state of the liabilities of the Union, the outlay for clothing will be severely felt, I am to inform you that the Commissioners have forwarded your observations to Sir R. Routh, and have requested him to inform them whether there are any articles of old military clothing and bedding in store, in the neighbourhood of Ballyshannon, which could be made available for the purposes of the Union.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 25, 1848.*

I DEFERRED reporting upon the proceedings of the Guardians at their ordinary meeting held the 22nd instant, that I might combine my report of that and the special meeting held Monday, the 24th.

Mr. Otway attended on Saturday, and afforded the Guardians many valuable suggestions; and his advice and assistance to me were most useful, not alone as regarded that particular day, but with a view to the future management of the Union and workhouse. A plan he laid down for the increase of the workhouse accommodation at a small expense, by throwing a roof over the small yard adjoining the entrance, and behind the porter's lodge, was unanimously resolved on.

The Guardians went through the cases eligible for out-door relief, and ordered the discharge of 50 persons. Many cases came before the Board of people who had sought admittance, evidently with the hope of immediate discharge, that were refused; and some have since left the house in consequence, which confirms me in the opinion that although very great distress exists, still the present pressure on the workhouse exceeds the necessity, and is induced in the hope of an out-door allowance. On Monday evening, having remained to see the worst cases get admission, this fact was proved to demonstration. I stated to the paupers that I trusted they had not sought admission in the expectation of being put out shortly on allowances, and that if so they were mistaken, as an additional house had been taken, and that the workhouse was to be enlarged, so that they should remain inmates of one or other of these houses. Upon this a woman with five children, who had been most clamorous for admittance, at once left the house, and six others followed her example; and I am satisfied did the Union possess workhouse accommodation for a couple of thousand persons, that its expenditure would be lessened by one-half at least.

On Monday, the 24th instant, four of the relieving officers were in with their books; and the Guardians, though they sat from 11 A.M. till 6 P.M., could not complete their decisions. I recommended an adjourned meeting to this day; and I trust that by the ordinary meeting on Wednesday all the work done since the commencement of the relieving officers' labours, will appear on the minutes, and be transmitted to the Commissioners.

I strongly recommended the Guardians to adopt the system of giving food in place of money, as I think the pressure would be thus much relieved; but they fear the expense of an increased staff.

I shall wait for a short time longer to see whether or not the pressure may become less, and the Guardians, from increased practice, more competent to discharge the serious duties that devolve upon them; but if matters should continue as at present, it will become my duty to report the necessity of their dismissal. At the same time I am bound in candour to say, that they are much more willing to endeavour fairly to do their duty now than they have been; but I fear their inability as a body.

The workhouse of this Union was originally built to contain 500 paupers, and the fever sheds 50. The medical officer is of opinion that the house and sheds may with safety accommodate 650.

The temporary school-house taken for the boys, he thinks, may afford room for

100, and the auxiliary workhouse taken, but not yet sanctioned by the Commissioners, 120; thus giving workhouse room for 870 persons in all; and my opinion entirely coincides with his.

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REPLY to the above:—*January 28, 1848.*

WITH reference to your recommendation to the Guardians that out-door relief should be given in food in lieu of money, and to the grounds on which the Guardians declined to adopt that suggestion, viz., the expense of an increased staff, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they believe that arrangements have been made in other Unions for administering relief in food, without any increase in the staff of relieving officers. This is done by an arrangement with the contractors, who undertake to deliver the meal at certain stations; and the relieving officer, instead of giving money, gives an order on the contractor for a certain quantity of meal. If, however, relief in cooked food is contemplated, the case would be different. However, the Commissioners do not lay down any regulation on the subject, it being considered most advisable to leave this point to the discretion of the Board of Guardians, as is done in England.

Adverting to your observations as to the extent of accommodation likely to be afforded by the workhouse and other additional buildings in the Union, I am to inform you that the Commissioners propose to issue an order, specifying the number of persons that may be accommodated in the workhouse and additional buildings; and they will, before doing so, give your observations in regard to the numbers due consideration. They presume that the auxiliary workhouse to which you refer as capable of accommodating 120 persons, is that described in the Guardians' minutes of the 17th instant as Miss Thompson's house, the renting of which has been this day sanctioned by the Commissioners.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 28, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that in Belleek division Mr. Armstrong, receiver under the Courts over Major Bloomfield's property, has refused to pay the rate for the tenants under 4*l.* rating, and also for unoccupied farms deserted by the tenants. I do not know whether I am right or not in my opinion, but I think the desertion of the lands by the tenants necessarily renders the landlord liable. Surely there must be some owner.

REPLY to the above:—*February 1, 1848.*

WITH reference to the refusal of the receiver to pay for tenants under 4*l.* annual value, I am directed by the Commissioners to suggest that the attention of the receiver should be drawn to the order of the Court of the 12th November, 1845 (a copy of which is enclosed), declaring it to be the duty of the receiver to pay in such cases.

As regards the rate in respect of farms which have been deserted by the tenants, the Commissioners desire to observe, that the rate may be recovered from any subsequent occupier, in accordance with the 71st section of the Irish Poor Relief Act.

ENCLOSURE.

November 12, 1845.

ORDERED,—That in all cases where, under the existing Poor Laws, payment of the poor's rates devolves exclusively on the landlord, it is the duty of the Receiver, Guardian, Committee, or Sequestrator, who shall be in the receipt of the rents of any landlord so liable, to pay to the person duly authorized to receive the same, all such poor's rates without any rule or order for that purpose.

WILLIAM HENN,
J. S. TOWNSEND,
THOMAS GOOLD,
E. LITTON, } *Masters in Chancery.*

EDWARD B. SUGDEN, C.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 30, 1848.*

SATURDAY, the 27th instant, I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians for the fourth time during the past week, and have now the honour to make my report for the information of the Commissioners.

The chief matters of business that occupied the Guardians each day were, the Application and Report Books of the relieving officers, which, from the pressure, had got into arrears, but now are, and not without difficulty, examined and initialed by the Chairman up to Saturday last, on which day I did not leave the workhouse till seven o'clock in the evening.

Room having been provided on Wednesday last, by the immediate removal of paupers into the auxiliary workhouse, which was done upon the suggestion of Mr. Otway (although the sanction of the Commissioners had not been received); the pressure for relief has greatly diminished, as numbers most urgent in their demands for it, having been offered the workhouse, refused to accept it.

The Guardians I found could scarcely get through the heavy labour latterly imposed upon them; and I have recommended that they should meet on Friday, as well as Wednesday and Saturday, in each week, whilst the pressure lasts; and they have adopted my suggestion, and will do so in future.

An assistant to the master (Sergeant Healy) was chosen by the Guardians temporarily on Wednesday; and they proposed, and advertised so to do, to proceed to an election on Saturday the 29th instant, of a person to fill that situation permanently; but no one at all eligible having offered, it was agreed that he should be continued for the present. He was colour-sergeant in the 64th Regiment, has received the highest character, and seems a very steady respectable man.

The collection of rate has, up to this, progressed very fairly; and a sum greater than I some time since anticipated is collected weekly; and if the proceeding of collectors and Guardians of this Union heretofore in that respect is contrasted with the present, it will exhibit a very remarkable difference. The first payment of the new rate was made on the 18th of December, 1847; and up to the 29th instant, a sum of 2,997*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* has been paid to the treasurer. I have used every means in my power to stimulate collectors, and am almost daily in personal communication with one or more of them, and urgently impress the necessity of energy and activity in their collection. Had the system hitherto pursued in this Union been followed, that is to say, to serve a six days' notice, and then proceed by summons, I am convinced one-half of the sum received would not have been made available, as three weeks, or perhaps more, would have elapsed in that way before a collector could compel payment.

From the commencement, I directed the collectors to drive on their warrants in the electoral division of Belleek. On one occasion, having found that the collector had applied for 26 summonses, I at once directed him to countermand them and drive, which he did; and the result not alone in that, but in the other divisions, has fully answered my expectations.

GLENTIES UNION.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 22, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to submit for your consideration a letter from James Hamilton, Esq., of Fintown, regarding a rate of 3s. in the pound which has been struck in his electoral division, as well as in all the other electoral divisions of the Union.

Mr. Hamilton's statement with respect to his supporting his own electoral division all last year, is quite correct; and I also know that he has employed, and is still employing, all the able-bodied labourers on his property in the Fintown electoral division.

I have further to state, that I have no doubt that Mr. Hamilton would support his own electoral division this winter if a rate were not exacted from him.

* ENCLOSURE.

Mr. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 19, 1847.*

I FIND that the Board of Guardians of the (Glenties) Union has resolved on making a rate of 3s. in the pound to meet the expenses of the out-door relief over the entire Union. I represented to them that, during the last year, I had allowed no rate to be made for out-door relief under the Temporary Act, as I had kept the division up by employing a great number of persons by my own means, and by money raised from the Board of Works under the Treasury Minute, and now carrying on under the Land Improvement Act, and that I intended to do so this year too, and that I was at present engaged in laying out work for the winter, to commence almost immediately. The rate of 3s. would oblige me to reduce my number of men, as I have to pay nearly the entire rate myself, on account of the most of the occupiers being under 4l. They agreed fully that it would be a hard case, as they fully admitted the truth of my statements, and their belief that it would not be required, but said that directions had been received to strike the rate, and it must be done, but begged me to refer the case to you. I should wish to have no rate struck; and I think, Gentlemen, you will allow the Guardians to exercise their discretion in striking a rate on the Fintown division.

I forward this through Captain O'Neill, your Inspector, who will add any remarks he may think proper, and hope you will excuse my troubling you about this.

REPLY to the above:—*November 24, 1847.*

I AM to state that a 3s. rate ought not to be made in the electoral division adverted to, if it is not required either for the repayment of Government advances or for the relief of the destitute in the division.

The Commissioners have written to this effect to the Board of Guardians, and have forwarded a copy of Mr. Hamilton's letter to them.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 27, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that Mr. Cumming, Commissariat Clerk at Killybegs, came here on Monday last, the 22nd instant, and told me it was the intention of Government to build an oven in the workhouse for the purpose of baking bread for that establishment, and also to supply those who will become entitled to out-door relief. I fully concur in opinion, that this would be a most excellent plan to adopt, but I could not give my sanction to such proceedings without an order to that effect from the Commissioners, as it might invalidate the insurance on the workhouse. May I, therefore, request the Commissioners will furnish me with instructions on the subject.

I beg also to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the necessity of erecting ovens in different parts of this Union, for the purpose of administering cooked food, in the shape of bread, to those paupers entitled to out-door relief, as I am convinced it would be a great saving to the Union; in the mean time the Board of Guardians have resolved to issue meal, and have for that purpose selected different places throughout the Union for stores. The rate of relief generally, is six pounds of meal in the week to full grown persons above 15 years of age, and from eight to twelve ounces daily to those under that age.

As I have received instructions from Count de Strzelecki, agent to the British Association, to establish a bakery here, as a model one, for the purpose of issuing rations to the children belonging to the different schools in this

Glenties Union.

locality, I have engaged with a regular baker in this village, who has a very good oven, and has undertaken to supply fuel, baking utensils, a good store for the bread, and to bake himself, and also to give instructions to any number of women from the different electoral divisions whom I may order in to be made acquainted with the art of baking, and who will be ready to undertake a bakery in those divisions where an oven may be established; so that there will be a sufficient number of women ready trained to commence operations as soon as the ovens are erected.

The Guardians have also passed a resolution to advertise for contracts for meal, to supply the out-door relief for six or nine months; also for a supply of clothing. This last-mentioned article, I fear, will press very hard upon this poor Union; and I should respectfully suggest to the Commissioners, (if it were possible,) that Government would grant a supply as the inmates of the workhouse are very badly off, for that necessary article, particularly now on the approach of winter, and I fear all the rates that will be collected will scarcely be sufficient to support the demand for out and in-door relief.

I beg to draw the attention of the Commissioners, to the apathy that is apparent in this Union as regards the cultivation of the land. There is not one farmer from one end to the other of this district, that is employed draining, trenching, or subsoiling his farm; all is left until the spring of the year. No preparations are making in any one place, even with those who are able to do so, and the people appear to be lazy, idle beggars, all looking forward to some assistance from Government or some benevolent society or association.

I respectfully beg to point out to the Commissioners the necessity of sending a good practical agriculturist through this Union, to point out the manner that the farmers should proceed in, and also to hold meetings for the purpose of delivering lectures to them on an improved system of cultivation; for, as I have already said, there is not the slightest attempt in any part of this Union to drain, trench, or subsoil the land, and from every inquiry that I have made, it appears that the farmers in this district never attempt to do anything to their land until the months of March or April.

There are constant applications for admission into the workhouse from women with large families of children, whose husbands have deserted them and gone to Scotland or elsewhere, which will be seen from the fact, that out of 500 at present in that establishment there are only 44 able-bodied men above 15 years of age in the house. As an instance of the tricks that are practised,—on Friday, the 19th instant, a woman, of the name of M'Hales, applied for admission, alleging that her husband had gone to Scotland; but I caused her to be rejected, having heard that he had been seen two or three days before in this town begging. After the Board had broken up, this same woman came forward with her husband and demanded admittance, which was granted by the master. The fact was the husband of this woman was skulking behind the walls of the house in the dark, and when he found that his wife would not be taken in without himself he then came forward.

It is a singular fact, that notwithstanding the alleged poverty of the island of Arranmore, there have been but few instances of admission into the workhouse, since the relieving officers have commenced taking down the names of applicants for out-door relief; and the way I account for this is, that most of the poor on this island hold some land, and many of them are begging all over the country. There are, however, a great number of women and children in the workhouse belonging to that island whose husbands have deserted them and gone to Scotland. Those, at present, have been admitted some time ago.

I beg leave to suggest to the Commissioners the propriety of employing the girls in the workhouse. This could be done by allowing a teacher of embroidery to be employed, and in the course of three months, a girl could be taught to embroider sufficiently well that she could earn 6d. per diem. I would propose, when a girl could earn a livelihood in this way, that she should be discharged from the workhouse at once. I do not, by any means propose, that any of this work should be disposed of for the benefit of the house or its inmates, but merely to instruct the children in some useful employment.

I know there is a commercial gentleman in Killybegs who has got up a number of those schools, and I have heard that he offered, some time ago, to send a teacher to the workhouse gratuitously to instruct the children there. I do not

know this gentleman's name, but should the Commissioners be disposed to allow such instructions to take place in the house, I shall make every inquiry into the matter.

I think it would be most desirable to bring up the children in the workhouse, so that they might be able to earn their bread as servants, or in some sort of useful employment; but the system of education that children get in a workhouse (at least in the Glenties) is not of that description that qualifies them for any sort of domestic work.

It is only lately that six wheels were introduced into the Glenties workhouse to spin wool, and those employed at this work are only a few of the able-bodied women. There is a great field for the employment of the able-bodied of both sexes, but the Union is so wretchedly poor, there are no funds available to purchase the necessary articles to set the paupers to work.

The Board of Guardians have given instructions to their attorney to take legal proceedings against the Marquis of Conyngham, Mr. Johnston, of Laputa, and others, to pay up a disputed rate amounting in all to 92*l*. When this is recovered it will only leave 253*l*. of an uncollected rate, which is a very small sum, when it is considered that this is one of the poorest Unions in Ireland, with a great amount of destitution existing all over it. The collector has told me that he expects to collect all the old rates very shortly, and that he does not think there will be more than 20*l*. deficient.

REPLY to the above:—*December 2, 1847.*

IN reference to the erection of ovens, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they approve of the erection of ovens in different parts of the Union, and also on the workhouse premises, if a convenient spot for the purpose can be selected. The Commissioners will request the opinion of Mr. Wilkinson on the latter point; but at any rate they would not object to an oven in Glenties, detached from the workhouse, for the purpose of out-door relief, under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

With reference to your recommendation of a grant of clothing, I am to request that you will be so good as to procure, and forward to the Commissioners, a statement of the clothing required.

The Commissioners will forward your remarks respecting the neglect of cultivation, and the want of a practical agriculturist in the Union, to the Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland.

Your statement respecting the woman who first professed to be deserted by her husband, and who afterwards, when refused out-door relief, came with her husband into the workhouse, shows the importance of adhering strictly to the rule of granting relief to deserted wives in the workhouse only.

The Commissioners have no objection to the instruction of the workhouse children in embroidery, if there is a steady market in Glenties Union, or its neighbourhood, for females engaged in this occupation, otherwise the Commissioners would prefer that the children should be instructed in some industrial pursuit, less liable to the fluctuations of fashion and taste; but they leave this subject to your discretion and the discretion of the Guardians.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. WILKINSON, Architect to the Commission:—
December 2, 1847.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have received a communication from their Temporary Inspector, Captain O'Neill, in which he states that he has been informed by the Commissariat Clerk at Killybegs, that it is the intention of Government to build an oven in the workhouse of the Glenties Union for the purpose of baking bread for that establishment, and also to supply those who will be entitled to out-door relief.

Captain O'Neill approves of this project; but he expresses apprehension that it might invalidate the insurance.

The Commissioners have stated to Captain O'Neill that they approve of the erection of an oven in the workhouse, provided a convenient spot could be selected; and on this point the Commissioners request you will be so good as to favour the Commissioners with your opinion.

Glenties Union.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 4, 1847.*

I PROCEEDED on Monday last, the 29th ultimo, to Killybegs, Kilcar, and Glencolumbkille, for the purpose of making inquiry into the state of the different schools all over this district of country, so as to be able to make a report to the Commissioners on their actual state, and I find the numbers now pressing for admission into the school-houses, because they have heard that there is gratuitous relief about to be administered, is fearful.

I shall here give one instance which will at once prove to the Commissioners the want of accommodation.

I went into the Roxborough-school-house with the Rev. Edward Labatt, rector of the parish of Kilcar. The room was a small one, and could accommodate about 90 children. In this I found 174. The heat and vitiated air were so bad that I could not remain more than a few minutes in it; I requested Mr. Labatt would at once give directions to the schoolmaster not to admit more children than the school-room was built for, and to direct all the children who had come merely for the purpose of getting food to be sent home until I should make a report to the Commissioners on the subject. I have not as yet, issued any gratuitous relief from the funds placed at my disposal by Count De Strzelecki, agent to the British Association; first, because I have not got in correct returns; and, secondly, because now that the out-door relief has partially commenced, I think it better to have correct lists of the probable numbers that will require relief before any provisions are issued; this will check fraud.

I would beg leave to suggest that a barn or good out-house should be hired, and a common teacher employed to give instruction to those poor children who are both in want of education and food, as if this class are indiscriminately admitted into the established schools, it will be the cause of driving the more respectable description of children out of them.

I shall make a report of this to Count De Strzelecki, should the Commissioners approve of it, with a view of getting some funds placed either at my disposal, or that of some of the clergymen, to hire such a place for the destitute children, and also for a small remuneration for the teacher, and to buy books.

The out-door relief has partially commenced, but from the difficulty of getting the meal carted over bad roads to the different stores which have been taken, and the contract for supplying the meal for the above purpose not being yet complete, it was found impossible to carry that measure out all over the Union at the same time; but I am in hopes that we shall be able to relieve all those on the relieving officers' books, by Monday next the 6th instant.

The following are the numbers on the books of the relieving officers for out-door relief up to Friday the 3rd December :—

Electoral Divisions.	Relieving Officers.	Number of Persons entitled to Out-door Relief.
Ardare	John O'Donnell	164
and Menavelly		107
Lettermacward	Anthony Hanlon	6
and Dungloe		8
Rutland	John Boyle	13
and Mulleghdug		2
Derryloughan	Hugh O'Donnell	74
and Fintown		Nil.
Glenties	Carroll Mulloy	104
and Navan		221
Kilcar	James Hagerty	105
and Malinbeg		31
Killybegs	James Cunner	127
	Total	962

It will be seen that during the first week, 962 are actually returned for outdoor relief, and from what the relieving officers have stated I think this number will be very much increased, as many are anxious to get meal who would not be so urgent if cooked food were established.

Hence I think if ovens were erected, and good wholesome brown bread issued, the number of applicants would decrease considerably.

I beg to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the number of stores which the Guardians have established, at an expense of six pounds a-year for each.

A store has been taken at Kilcar, another at Carrick, and one in Glencolumbkille; the two former places are within three miles of each other, whereas, in my opinion, the one at Carrick would do for the electoral divisions of Kilcar and Glencolumbkille, thereby causing a saving to those two electoral divisions of 12*l.* a year for two stores, viz., the one at Kilcar and the other at Glencolumbkille. There are also two stores taken in the electoral division of Killybegs, within four miles of each other, whereas I think one would do (at Killybegs town), where there are police to protect it in case of an attempt at robbery. The reasons assigned by the Guardians for establishing so many stores is, that the people would have too far to come for their provisions; but when this very well known fact is considered, that several of them have gone five and six miles out of their way when they wanted to buy a peck of meal, to save two pence, I do not think it any hardship for them to travel eight or even nine miles, to get a week's provisions at once. As an instance, when cooked food was issued last summer I knew a man who came seven miles every day for one quart of stirabout, and he was very thankful to get it; and this same man returned home every day. Besides, there are but very few of them that would have to travel one quarter that distance, and it is not to be supposed, in a poor district like this, that stores can be made available for all the paupers who are spread over a wild mountainous district.

I should therefore respectfully suggest to the Commissioners, to allow only one store for every two electoral divisions, and that to be placed in the most central part, and as near a police station as possible.

There have only been eight additional able-bodied men admitted into the workhouse during the last week; but it is extremely difficult to get them to give up their small farms of land, although they have not a particle of any sort of crop to support them, nor are they able to pay rent or supply themselves with food from the land they hold. I must confess I never met with a more lazy, idle, lying set of people than the generality of the lower orders in this Union. Their wants are but few, and if they can eke out the most miserable existence they would prefer it to working for a fair day's wages and a sufficiency of food.

I have made inquiry from Mr. Russell, agent to the Marquis of Conyngham, relative to the piece of land to the westward of the workhouse for the fever hospital. Mr. Russell told me that he was prepared to grant a lease of 61 years, which was the utmost he could do, or sell at 25 years' purchase at 10*s.* an acre. Mr. Hill, who is in possession of this land, has offered to take 40*l.* for his goodwill of it. I should recommend that preparations be at once made to commence the hospital, as it is very much wanted from the many cases of fever that are constantly taking place, which endanger the health of the inmates of the house.

REPLY to the above:—*December 9, 1847.*

IN reference to that part of your report which relates to the relief afforded by the British Association to children attending schools in the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners are desirous that relief should be given to the utmost reasonable extent to children in the Union; but, at the same time, as the expenditure of the funds is not under the control of the Guardians, the Commissioners do not deem it within their province as a public Board to offer any opinion on the regulations, as long as they do not interfere with the proper working of the New Irish Poor Law.

The Commissioners will communicate with the Guardians on the subject of the stores adverted to in your report.

The COMMISSIONERS to the GUARDIANS of GLENTIES UNION:—
December 9, 1847.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, for the information of the Board of Guardians of Glenties Union, that they have received a report from Captain O'Neill, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, in which he states that a provision store has been taken in each of the electoral divisions of Kilcar, Carrick, and Glencolumbkille, and suggests that, in consequence of their proximity to each other, the store at Carrick would answer for the three electoral divisions. He also states that two stores have been taken for the Killybegs electoral division, and that, as these stores are only four miles distant from each other, he considers that one store at Killybegs, where there are police to protect it, would be sufficient for the wants of the electoral division. The Commissioners concur in this view, and they think that one store for two electoral divisions would be found amply sufficient; the store to be placed in the most central part, and as near a police station as possible. The Commissioners believe that the adoption of this suggestion would not render it necessary for the people to proceed any inconvenient distance weekly, in order to obtain out-door relief; and the Commissioners think, therefore, that they would not be justified in sanctioning a larger number of stores than above stated. They request, however, to be furnished with the views of the Board of Guardians on the subject.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 11, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners that yesterday, Friday, being the Board-day, tenders were received for supplying Indian meal for the out-door relief, when Mr. M'Devitt, of this town, got the contract at 14*l.* per ton for six months, to supply the electoral divisions of Narin, Derryloughan, and Glenties. The former contractor would not undertake to supply Indian meal for any part of the Union under 15*l.* per ton, therefore he was, as a matter of course, rejected.

It would be most desirable if the Commissariat at Killybegs would undertake to supply the workhouse at the market price of the day, as it is almost impossible to get any of the merchants to contract on moderate terms; from the credit of this Union being so bad, and from the contractors' fear of having to be out of their money so long.

Indian meal is now selling at Derry, 40 miles from this, at 10*l.* 10*s.* per ton, still the Guardians cannot get a contract under 14*l.*, but then the carriage from Derry to this place would be 2*l.* per ton.

The market town of Ballybofey, 19 miles from this, is reckoned one of the cheapest in this part of the country, and the Indian meal was selling there within this last few days, at 11*l.* per ton, and 10*s.* per ton cartage to this place.

The contract entered into with Mr. M'Devitt is *conditional* (that is) in case the Commissariat department at Killybegs would undertake to supply what would be required for out-door relief, the engagement with him at once ceases.

It will be seen that the number of applicants for out-door relief is rapidly increasing. Since last week, 287 have been taken on the relieving officer's books, and several of them told me that this number would in many electoral divisions be double next week. The following are the numbers at present on for out-door relief, belonging to the different electoral divisions in the Union:—

Electoral Divisions.	Number receiving Out-door Relief.
Malinley	118
Kilcar	124
Genties	84
Navan	90
Derryloughan	79
Lettermacward	8
Dungloe	16
Rutland	38
Mullaghaderg	10
Ardara	335
Menavilly	267
Killybegs	48
Total	1217

Number of inmates in the Glenties workhouse on Friday night, December 10, 1847:—

Glenties Union.

Able-bodied men above 15 years .	60
Able-bodied women above 15 years	138
Boys under 15 and above 2 years .	123
Girls under 15 and above 2 years .	141
Infants under 2 years	10
Aged and infirm	14
Sick	14
Total	500

Admitted Friday, December 10, 1847:—

Able-bodied men	10
Able-bodied women	6
Boys under 15 and above 2 years .	8
Girls under 15 and above 2 years .	7
Infirm men	1
Total	32

The pressure for out-door relief is now become very great all over the Union; many able-bodied men and their families, who some time ago would not enter the workhouse when there was room, are pressing for admission into it, because they find it full.

It will be seen from the enclosed return, that there are 138 able-bodied women in the house, the greater part of them have been deserted by their husbands, who have gone to Scotland or are begging about the country; whereas there are only 59 able-bodied men in the house; now if those women who are at present in the workhouse could be got rid of in any way, there would be a sufficiency of room for able-bodied men.

There are also about 70 orphans in the house, who could be put on the out-door relief, to make room for the able-bodied men, if the Commissioners would sanction it. This is the only way that I can see to meet the difficulty, and I should feel obliged by the Commissioners giving me further instructions on the subject.

A resolution was passed by the Board of Guardians to apply to the Commissioners for an Order under their seal, to be permitted to administer relief out of the workhouse to the able-bodied, from the number of applicants for admission on the last Board day.

This resolution I cannot recommend, as I am sure, and indeed I have every reason to suppose, that if there were room in the workhouse not one out of every ten would take advantage of it. Hence the necessity of having room in the house as a test to the able-bodied.

As an instance, an able-bodied woman applied for out-door relief, but she was told it could not be granted, as there was room in the house for her. She at once refused, saying that she never was in the workhouse, and never would enter it; that there were others getting out-door relief who were in much better circumstances than what she was, and as she could not get relief out of the house she never would enter it.

Mr. Quigley, the rate collector, has written a query for the decision of the Commissioners, as to the barracks occupied by the police. The premises are rated, but the immediate lessor claimed an exemption on the plea that the buildings are occupied by the police, and therefore are not liable to be rated.

The Marquess of Conyngham's agent, Mr. Russell, has, on my remonstrating with him, agreed to pay up the disputed arrears of rate amounting to 67*l.*, as also Mr. Johnson, of Laputa, near Ballyshanon, 11*l.* There remains now to be collected of the old rate, including the above, 320*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* which the collector expects to get in immediately.

The grounds about the workhouse being nothing but a swamp and bog, I have got all the able-bodied men at work, draining and improving them; and I expect, in the course of the spring, to have them all laid out in good gardens. The female yard was also in a very bad state, from the centre being higher than that part next the building, which caused the house to be flooded in wet weather. I have got at least from 3 to 4 feet taken off, so that there is now a

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fine fall from the building for all the rain-water to run off. The females are employed knitting stockings for the use of the house, and spinning wool; and when some more wheels are procured, I think the paupers will be able to manufacture a good deal of their own clothing.

I have been informed by Mr. Carr, who is a Guardian, that, in three townlands, called Drumnaho, in the electoral division of Killybegs, and belonging to a Mrs. Skean, who lives at Bundoran, near Ballyshannon, seven families have given up possession of their farms, alleging that the rent was too high. Last summer, the tenants on this property were receiving one-sixth of the gratuitous relief which was distributed to the Killybeg's electoral division.

REPLY to the above:—*December 15, 1847.*

WITH reference to your suggestion that the Commissariat at Killybegs, should undertake to supply the workhouse at the market prices of the day, I am to state that the Commissioners do not know what the Commissariat arrangements are, in reference to the Glenties Union; but they will forward an extract from your report to Sir Randolph Routh for his information.

With reference to your observations, as to the pressure upon the workhouse, the request of the Guardians for an order to authorize out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and the necessity of having room in the workhouse, as a test for the able-bodied, I am to state that the Commissioners have given directions for the preparation of an order authorizing out-door relief, in food, to destitute persons of the following classes:—

1. Widows with one child dependent upon them.
2. Children whose parents are both dead.
3. Able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families dependent on them for support, are affected by severe sickness, or serious accident.

The Commissioners trust that, if the Guardians remove from the workhouse all the present inmates who may be considered as coming within either of these three descriptions, and all to whom out-door allowances may be legally given under the 1st section of the Act, they will have sufficient workhouse accommodation at their disposal, for the relief of all the destitute able-bodied poor who will be willing to accept relief in the workhouse.

The Commissioners have not received Mr. Quigley's query, to which you refer, as to the rateability of police barracks; they may state generally, however, that they believe, premises which are occupied exclusively as police barracks, are exempt from poor rate.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS of the Glenties Union:—
December 15, 1847.

ADVERTING to the resolution passed by the Board of Guardians of the Glenties Union, at their meeting on the 10th instant, in which they request the Commissioners to issue an order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they are unwilling to issue such an order, until it is manifest that the relief of the destitute able-bodied cannot be otherwise provided for, as they are of opinion that the issue of such an order would tend to increase the burthen upon the industrious rate-payers to a very serious extent. The Commissioners are therefore desirous that every means should be tried, to render the workhouse available for the relief of all the able-bodied applicants for relief, and with this view they have directed that an order be prepared, authorizing out-door relief in food to destitute persons of the following classes:—

1. Widows with one child dependent upon them.
2. Children whose parents are both dead.
3. Able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families dependent on them for support, are affected by severe sickness, or serious accident.

The Commissioners request that the Guardians will remove from the work-

house, and grant out-door allowances to all the present inmates who may be considered as coming within either of these descriptions, and all to whom out-door allowances may legally be given under the 1st section of the Act.

The Commissioners trust that the adoption of this course will place at the disposal of the Board of Guardians, a sufficient amount of workhouse accommodation for all the destitute able-bodied poor who may be willing to accept relief in the workhouse.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 18, 1847.*

THE following are the numbers receiving out-door relief, as taken from the relieving officers' books on the 17th instant for the several electoral divisions, viz. :—

Electoral Divisions.	Name of Relieving Officer.	Numbers Relieved last Week.	Number of Applicants for Relief in the ensuing Week.
Ardara	John O'Donnell	292	145
Menavelly		229	49
Lettermacward	Anthony Hanlon	17	50
Dungloe		23	45
Derryloughan	Hugh O'Donnell	89	20
Fentown		Nil.	..
Malinbeg	James Hagarty	125	44
Kilcar		137	11
Rutland	John Boyle	41	..
Mullaghadery		17	..
Killibegs	James Cunner	106	23
Navan	Connel Mulloy	172	62
Glenties		82	18
Total		1,330	467

It will be seen from the above statement that the total number at present receiving out-door relief amounts to 1330, and in the ensuing week this number will be increased by 467 more, which will make a total of 1797, exclusive of what is in the workhouse, and from what the relieving officers have stated I fear this number will very much increase shortly; but there are numbers of women with large families whose husbands have deserted them in the workhouse, and I fear some of this class are getting relief out of it, as there is not room in the house for the number of applicants, and I wish to make the house the test for the able-bodied men.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 19, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your consideration, a letter from Mr. Russell, agent to the Marquess of Conyngham, relative to the island of Arranmore, requesting that this island may be made into an electoral division of itself.

This is a course I should strongly recommend, as it is the most miserable and wretched part of the electoral division it belongs to, and of the whole Union, and is at present a heavy burthen upon both.

The case is evidently different from any application of the kind that has hitherto been made to the Commissioners.

I understand that Mr. Chorley, of Belfast, who is the person he alludes to, intends building and residing on the island, and exerting himself in every way to improve the condition of the people.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. RUSSELL to Captain O'NEILL:—*December 10, 1847.*

A CAPITALIST has offered to purchase the island of Arranmore in Glenties Union, and purposes employing all the population there, provided it can be formed into an electoral division of itself. I need not state to you, who know the condition of the islanders and the burden they are on the electoral division, of which the island at present forms a part, all parties concerned are anxious that this arrangement should be made; and by your representing it in the proper light to the Poor Law Commissioners, have no doubt but the request will be granted.

REPLY to the above :—*December 21, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have received an application from Mr. Chorley on this subject, and they have requested the views of the Board of Guardians thereon. On receiving the observations of the Board of Guardians, the Commissioners will give the subject their best consideration.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 24, 1847.*

THE Board of Guardians have passed a resolution to the effect that the Island of Arranmore would be made an electoral division of itself, should the Commissioners be pleased to approve of the same; and from the want of a resident landlord living in that island, I should say it would be the most desirable to get a gentleman with capital to improve the island, and give employment to the people, as there certainly are great destitution and misery existing in it.

I beg leave to forward the resolution of the Board of Guardians, marked No. 1.

The Guardians have also signed the collectors' books and the warrants for collecting the rates, which I shall urge the collectors to get in as fast as possible.

The following are the numbers receiving out-door relief for the week ending the 24th December, 1847 :—

Electoral Divisions.	Names of the Relieving Officers.	Number receiving Relief.	Number of Applicants for ensuing Week.
Ardara	John O'Donnell	305	76
and Manavally		264	29
Derryloughan		109	4
and Fintown	Hugh O'Donnell	Nil.	..
Glenties		138	8
and Navan		236	33
Kilcar	James Hagarty	160	86
and Malenbeg		176	59
Killybegs		173	52
Sellermacaward	James Cannea	67	14
and Dunglae		65	53
Rutland		41	..
and Mullaghary	John Boyle	17	..
		1,751	414

It will be seen from the above, that the numbers receiving gratuitous relief are rapidly increasing, as there are 1751 now actually receiving out-door relief, and 414 on the relieving officers' books for the ensuing week, showing an increase of 421 since my last report of the 18th instant.

The Guardians have accepted tenders for the supply of 47*l.* worth of clothing for the female children belonging to the workhouse, for girls' shifts and frocks.

In conclusion I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have got all the able-bodied men employed in draining the grounds belonging to the workhouse, and I am in hopes of being able to have it laid out in good gardens, by the latter end of April or beginning of May, and to have a supply of vegetables for the house, and also to plant some ornamental shrubs in it. Mr. Brady, the agriculturist, has examined it, and he highly approves of the manner the work is laid out and executed.

ENCLOSURE.

RESOLVED,—That in reply to the Commissioners' letter of 15th instant, enclosing a copy of Mr. Chorley's letter, relative to having the Island of Aranmore made into an electoral division, the Guardians beg leave to inform the Commissioners that they unanimously agree

to have the Island of Aranmore made into a separate electoral division, as it would be of great relief to the Rutland electoral division, as also to the Union at large.

Resolved,—That a contract for bread and groceries be advertised for. Tenders to be received this day fortnight.

Glenties Union.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 13, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state for your information, that the want of a resident magistrate in this locality has induced several gentlemen of this Union to request that I should be recommended to the Lord Chancellor for that appointment, as there is not a single magistrate within eighteen miles of this town, but one who lives upwards of ten miles from this.

Sir James Stewart, Vice-Lieutenant of this county, has accordingly recommended me for the Commission; and I last night received a letter from the Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, stating that his Lordship had given directions to have me appointed a magistrate for this county. I have therefore, to request the Commissioners will be so kind as to let me know if they have any objection to my accepting of such an appointment, which shall not in any way, interfere with my duties as Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

I beg leave to add, that the want of a resident magistrate in this town, is severely felt by all classes in the neighbourhood; and I should feel obliged by an early reply to this communication, so that I may give an answer to the Lord Chancellor.

REPLY to the above:—*January 17, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that if they had been consulted previously, they would have objected to your being appointed resident magistrate while you were Inspector of the Glenties Union, inasmuch as cases may be easily imagined in which your duties as magistrate and Inspector might clash with each other.

Still the Commissioners do not wish to interpose, except to state, that they rely on your not permitting the time which you devote to the duties of Inspector to be curtailed by your new appointment.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 20, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and I hope you are aware that I am not to receive any pecuniary reward for my services, should I be appointed a magistrate for this county.

I shall take very good care should such an appointment take place, that it shall not in any way interfere with my duties as Temporary Poor Law Inspector. My only reason for allowing myself to be put in nomination for the appointment was, that as there is no resident magistrate within 14 miles of this place, that the ends of justice are frequently defeated for want of a magistrate to sign summonses or warrants.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 29, 1848.*

At a meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, when Mr. Otway was present, five resolutions were passed. The first resolution was to take into consideration the Temporary Fever Hospital at Dungloe.

Second resolution, relative to the number of stores taken for out-door relief.

Third resolution, relative to a contract to be taken for out-door relief, for those electoral divisions where there is no contract for at present.

Fourth resolution, directing advertisements to be published for tenders to build the Fever Hospital.

Fifth resolution, appointing a committee to examine into the inmates of the workhouse, to see if there are still any that could be discharged on out-door relief, to make room for the able-bodied paupers. A copy of resolutions herewith transmitted.

The collectors have lodged in the treasurer's hands, within the last week or ten days, about 600*l.*, and I have urged both collectors to press the rate-payers

Glenties Union.

to pay up their rates at once, and I have every hope that a similar sum to that stated above will be got in by the first or second week in February.

The workhouse, I am glad to say, is in an excellent state, clean and orderly, and the number in the infirmary only amounts to seven; not a single case of fever amongst the inmates of the infirmary or the house, and all appear perfectly healthy.

The number in the house up to this date amounts to 535, and those receiving out-door relief to 2904, making a total on the rates of the Union for in and out-door relief of 3439.

I intend proposing to the Guardians to take a house in this village, and fit it up for the accommodation of the male children, which will relieve the house very much, and make room for about 70 or 80 able-bodied men. And if the Commissioners would approve of it, I shall get the Board of Guardians to pass a resolution to cover in one of the small yards at the entrance of the building, which would answer as a school-room, and turn the present school-room into a dormitory for sleeping in, thereby making room for at least 100 more paupers. The medical man states that there is sufficient day room for 200 more than the house is calculated to hold, but he does not think there is sufficient accommodation for more than the house was built for, for sleeping apartments; and he appears to think that this would be an excellent plan. The pressure for out-door relief still continues to a great extent; this alteration could be made for a mere trifle, and any sacrifice would be better than to have recourse to the Commissioners' sealed order to grant out-door relief to the able-bodied paupers.

I have to report that I have got all the ground belonging to the workhouse now thoroughly drained, and I intend, as soon as the weather permits, to employ the able-bodied paupers in digging and subsoiling it, but this will be of little use without a wall is built to enclose it, as it is at present completely exposed to the public, there being no fence of any description round the grounds. Might I therefore request that the Commissioners would be pleased to grant a loan to the Union for carrying out this desirable object. Should the Commissioners be so kind as to comply with my request, I think that a wall 5 or 6 feet high could be built at a trifling expense, and I shall take care to have an advertisement for proposals to be sent in for the building of it, so that no irregularity may arise.

REPLY to the above :—*February 2, 1848.*

THE Commissioners fully approve of your intended proposal to the Guardians, to take a house for the purpose of affording additional workhouse accommodation, but in regard to the proposal to cover in one of the yards to answer as a school-room, the Commissioners will consult their architect, and address you again on the subject.

The Commissioners regret that it is not in their power to obtain a loan from Government, for the purpose of building a boundary wall to the grounds of the workhouse, but, at the same time, they desire to observe that if a loan from the treasurer could be effected, the repayment of it by instalments, with interest, might be secured by charge on the future rates of the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain O'NEILL :—*February 3, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report of the 29th ultimo, in which you propose to cover in one of the small yards of the workhouse of the Glenties Union, for the purpose of increasing the workhouse accommodation, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward, for your information, the enclosed copy of observations of Mr. Wilkinson on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. WILKINSON above referred to :—*February 3, 1848.*

THIS plan has not been found successful elsewhere. I would advise the workhouses being used only as they were originally intended, for, from experience, I believe that nothing is gained by departing from such arrangement.

I think the proposition to take an old house is good, and at such premises I would advise any temporary buildings to be erected instead of at the poorhouse.

BALLINA UNION.

Ballina Union.
Erris district.

Mr. RICHARD HAMILTON, Temporary Inspector at Belmullet, to the
COMMISSIONERS:—*November 28, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians at Ballina on Friday the 26th instant, and with reference to the resolution adopted by that Board authorizing their Committees in Erris to take Mr. William Bingham's house at Binghamstown, as an auxiliary workhouse for the reception of paupers from that district, I can only say that I will do all in my power to make it available for that purpose, with the least possible delay, and see that it be managed as well as can be, under the peculiar circumstances of the case; but the Commissioners must be aware of the difficulties under which I shall labour in managing this establishment, until proper officers be appointed to superintend it, and the requisite articles of furniture supplied. The distress of about 300 able-bodied applicants on the relieving officer's books, who have been approved by the Guardians as fit objects for relief, is of such an urgent nature, that I feel I should not be doing my duty unless I provided immediate relief for them, so as to prevent their dying from starvation; most of these people are those who were refused admittance at the Ballina workhouse on the 1st of this month, and who have lingered on since that, in the greatest state of destitution, no relief having been given to them, except what I gave from funds placed at my disposal by the British Association.

Out-door relief has been given to the classes on the relieving officers' books who were entitled to it, under the first section of the Act, the administration of which I superintended myself; and in order to prevent imposition, I have no doubt but it will be requisite to put the most stringent checks on relieving officers in giving out provisions.

I do not expect much co-operation from the Committee of Guardians, as they are principally men in the lower rank of life, whose occupations would preclude their devoting much time to public business.

I shall make most minute inquiries with respect to the Commissioners' request conveyed in your letter of the 24th instant, regarding the number of farmers in this district, whose holdings are of an extent to require hired labourers, and who have means of employing such; but I may remark from what I already know of this district, that there are many farmers holding large tracts of land now waste, and but very few, if any, who could afford to pay labourers for the proper cultivation of their farms.

I have been doing all in my power to persuade the proprietors of this barony to take advantage of the Land Improvement Act, and trust I shall be able to succeed to a certain extent; but up to the present time, Mr. Atkinson (who has a small property close to this town) is the only proprietor who has obtained any money under the provisions of that Act; and he is doing a vast deal of good on his estate, nearly all the poor on it being employed. I have been most cautious in holding out no hope of relief other than through the Poor Law; and have done all in my power to persuade the people to exert themselves for their own benefit.

REPLY to the above:—*December 2, 1847.*

THE Commissioners recommend that immediate application should be made by you to the Board of Guardians, to appoint officers for the additional workhouse at Binghamstown, and to provide requisites for affording relief in it.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners approve of your checking the dispensing of relief by the relieving officers.

Mr. RICHARD HAMILTON, Temporary Inspector at Belmullet, to the
COMMISSIONERS:—*December 4, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians at Ballina on Friday. The state of the poor in Erris having been discussed, it was decided, after a considerable degree of opposition on the part of the majority of the Board, that

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the resolution adopted at their previous meeting, authorising Mr. Bingham's house to be taken as an auxiliary workhouse in Erris, should be confirmed.

In consequence of Mr. Carney, the architect employed by the Board, having estimated the cost of completing the unroofed portion of the building and erecting sheds, at 954*l.*, (as will be seen by the annexed plan and estimate,) I thought it advisable not to make any conclusive arrangement with Mr. Bingham, until I brought the subject again under the consideration of the Board of Guardians; more particularly as the number of applicants for relief had increased from 600 to 1100, and it was impossible to obtain workhouse accommodation for such increasing applications.

I hesitated in recommending the Board of Guardians to incur at this critical period, so heavy an expense as 954*l.*, still I felt called upon to urge on them, in the strongest manner, the necessity for taking Mr. Bingham's premises, and appropriating them in their present condition as a test of destitution; and I have no doubt that, with a little management, the building might be made available for a larger number of paupers, by a much smaller outlay than Mr. Carney's estimate contemplates.

With reference to the Guardians' resolutions, requesting the Commissioners to authorise out-door relief in Erris to the able-bodied, I have only to state, that if a proper local machinery existed, such an alternative might perhaps, be deferred for some time longer; but, under existing circumstances, having due regard to the preservation of human life, I have no other course to recommend.

I feel it but due to myself to state, that the existing staff in this district, for carrying out any extraordinary measures of relief is quite insufficient; and to attempt any system without a properly organized staff, will only lead to a repetition of the notorious abuses which existed in this locality last summer. I have only two relieving officers in my district, which comprises an area of 175,090 statute acres; and independently of their ordinary duties, these men have to attend a meeting of a Committee of Guardians as well as a Board at Ballina, 40 miles distant. I brought this subject particularly under the notice of the Board of Guardians at, their two last meetings.

There still exists every inclination on the part of the majority of the Ballina Board, to throw the entire responsibility of the support of the Erris paupers off their own shoulders; and there is no doubt that if the people had been left entirely at their mercy (although there are several Guardians anxious to do all in their power for the poor in that district) deaths from starvation must have occurred, had it not been for the provisions placed at my disposal by the British Association. This I have in no way made known to the Board of Guardians.

I consider it my duty to inform the Commissioners that, so far as I can see into the prospects of this district, two-thirds of the population will shortly be applicants for relief, and the remaining third without either the means or the inclination to assist them.

REPLY to the above:—*December 8, 1847.*

As it appears by the plan of the building proposed to be adapted for a workhouse, some weeks will be necessary to render it fit for occupation, the Commissioners will be prepared to issue an order for out-door relief in the interval, pursuant to the 2nd section of the Act 10 Vict., cap. 31; and they, therefore, request that you will propose to the Board of Guardians on the 10th instant, the arrangements to be made by them for that object, both in respect to a temporary increase of the number of relieving officers, and the providing of supplies of food. I am at the same time, to observe that until these arrangements are made, and shall be reported to the Commissioners (who should be at the same time, apprised of the period necessary for completing the additional workhouse), the issue of the order will be deferred, with a view of enabling the Guardians to be fully prepared.

I am also to state, that for the purpose of expediting the alterations necessary for the workhouse, and their being completed in a suitable and economical manner, Mr. Wilkinson, the Commissioners' architect, will immediately inspect the existing building, and confer with the Board of Guardians, for which object he proposes to be in Ballina on the 10th instant.

With respect to your observations as to the duties of the relieving officers, I am to state, that as the persons applying for relief do not attend before the

Board of Guardians at Ballina, it is not necessary that the relieving officers in the Erris division should go there weekly, and that the Board can order relief on the Committee's report, which the Act directs to be made. Ballina Union.
Erris district.

The Commissioners request that the mode of issuing relief in food, the places of issue, and the means of checking abuse, may be proposed to the Guardians at their next meeting.

Lieut. HAMILTON, Temporary Inspector at Ballina, to the COMMISSIONERS:—
December 4, 1847.

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, as usual. The proceedings were retarded by certain members who were anxious to have everything their own way, consequently there was a very small amount of business transacted; a great deal of talking, and a great deal of important business left undone, owing to the day having been wasted in fruitless discussions.

I am exceedingly sorry to trouble the Commissioners with so unpleasant a report, particularly as there are several Guardians on the Board who are most anxious to act, in accordance with the Commissioners' instructions; but in a Union like this, it is impossible to transact the necessary business with justice both to the rate-payers and the applicants for relief, unless all co-operate and make the best use of the one day in the week, which is appropriated to business.

In my last report, I alluded to the increasing pressure on the workhouse, and I stated my intention of consulting Mr. Bourke, Poor Law Inspector, as to the best mode of meeting it. We agreed to make the workhouse continue to bear the pressure until the next Board day, and then to urge on the Guardians the immediate necessity of providing additional accommodation, which you will perceive by the minutes has been authorised.

This morning, in company with three of the Guardians, I hired a store for 50 guineas a-year, capable of containing 300 paupers, which number will be this day removed to it from the workhouse. This will, for the present, prevent the having recourse to extreme measures at this early period; but it is impossible to say how long this will be adequate, for the increasing applications. There is another small store, which I am in hopes of being able to obtain.

I have now been through the greater portion of my district, and I have little hesitation in stating that, although very great destitution exists among certain classes, and to an extent which it is very questionable whether the present powers of the Guardians can effectually meet much longer, yet up to this period, it is by no means general, and there is a considerable portion of the population who may safely be left to their own resources, for some months to come. There is another portion, who are subsisting almost exclusively on turnips, who will very soon, either from disease or the exhaustion of their stock, have to be provided for; the remaining portion, who are subsisting either by plunder or begging, are still holding on in the hope that out-door relief must be granted; and there are many who encourage them in such a hope.

It is evident to me, from what I have seen, that no system of relief can be carried out in this district without considerable abuses, and the more extensive the relief, the greater will be the abuses; consequently, if the Commissioners should, from the amount of distress of the classes to which I have alluded, be obliged to issue an order for out-door relief, I am afraid that the present machinery of the Poor Law will prove quite inadequate, as a sufficient check upon the imposition which will be attempted, and which, if not properly checked, will require funds to an amount of which no estimate can be formed.

So far, I have alluded only to the portion of the Union which is in my district; but the state of the district of Erris has been so repeatedly before the Guardians (the majority of whom seem inclined to treat it as a distinct district), that I think it right to call the attention of the Commissioners to the embarrassing position in which the Inspector there is placed; thrown on his own resources, and loaded with a responsibility which I am sure, it is not the Commissioners' intention should be exclusively borne by him.

REPLY to the above:—*December 7, 1847.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' approval of the measures you have taken for providing additional workhouse accommodation.

Lieut. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 5, 1847.*

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date, in which I stated that 300 paupers were to be removed yesterday from the workhouse to the store, which a Committee of the Guardians had taken in the morning, I beg to acquaint you that notwithstanding the greatest exertions on the part of the officers of the workhouse, it was found impracticable to move them earlier than this day; consequently 1698 persons had to be provided for last night in the workhouse.

I was at the workhouse early to-day, and had every possible precaution taken against infection.

The applicants for admission are in the most miserable and filthy state; there is neither bedding nor clothing for 600.

I am now going to see the Chairman of the Board, with the view of summoning a special meeting of the Guardians.

I must say, I think that the Guardians ought to have been earlier prepared. On the 8th November, I requested them to make arrangements for giving outdoor relief to persons legally entitled to it, but this step was deferred until it was too late to be of any use. Unless the Board meet more frequently, and give more time to business, it is impossible that they can carry on the business of this large Union properly.

REPLY to the above:—*December 7, 1847.*

I AM to refer you to a recent letter of the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians, with respect to the delay in providing for the accommodation of an increased number of paupers.

I am at the same time to request, that you will be so good as to suggest to the Guardians, at their next meeting, the necessity of the Board's sitting more than once a-week, during the pressure of distress in the Union.

Lieut. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 11, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the usual weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union yesterday, and an adjourned meeting this day.

Without at all questioning the good intentions or capabilities of the Guardians individually (which, as regards a large majority, I have no reason to do), I feel that I should very much mislead the Commissioners, if I were to hesitate any longer, in stating my decided opinion that as a Board, they have failed to carry out the law effectually, and that the sooner paid Guardians are appointed the better, both for the rate-payers and the destitute poor.

It is with very great regret, that I submit this opinion for the Commissioners' consideration, but at this critical period, deeds, not words, are required; and I think very few of the Guardians will deny, that useless discussions occupy their principal time.

I beg to annex a letter which I received yesterday from the medical officer, relative to the state of the workhouse and infirmary; I lost no time in requesting the Board to have some looms removed from one of the temporary fever sheds, with the view of increasing the hospital accommodation. The Board at once ordered their removal. On going round the infirmary this morning, I found that the looms had not been removed, and on inquiry I learned that one of the Guardians, had directed that they should not be disturbed. The doctor informed me that he had been obliged to refuse to take 40 sick persons into the infirmary. At the adjourned meeting to-day, I protested against any Guardian being allowed to take so unwarrantable a step as that adopted; and I think it would be well if the Commissioners were to express their disapproval of individual Guardians interfering with orders of the Board. There is one of the resolutions in the minutes of yesterday's proceedings, which

I stated to the Guardians, would not meet with the sanction of the Commissioners, viz., that "authorising food in the house, and one penny per head, "to upwards of 600 applicants for relief, in order to provide a lodging for the "night." It was, however, a case of extreme emergency, and could only be justified by the fact, that many of the applicants had come several miles, and were in a state of the greatest destitution. These cases were again brought before the Board to-day; at my suggestion a selection of the few able-bodied were made to undergo the workhouse test, which in every case, was most gladly accepted by the poor creatures, and a week's supply of provisions was issued to the remainder. I saw no other means of saving human life.

Mr. Wilkinson, the Commissioners' architect, inspected the workhouse, the auxiliary workhouse, and a building, which was this day offered to the Guardians. The proprietor subsequently wished for time to consider, whether he will let it or not, therefore the subject is deferred until next Board day. This last building could be made available for 600 children, at an expense of 100% or 150%. The rent demanded is 85% per annum. I shall strongly recommend the Guardians to take this building if they can get it.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. DEVLIN to Lieut. HAMILTON :—*December 10, 1847.*

I AM just now returned from visiting the patients in the infirmary. They are suffering much, in consequence of the numbers that are crowded into it.

I have no hesitation in saying that, unless additional accommodation be procured for the sick, many lives will be sacrificed; indeed, in order to keep the house in a healthy state, *several hundreds* of the present inmates ought to be removed; and may I beg that you will call the attention of the Guardians to this subject.

REPLY to the above :—*December 14, 1847.*

THE Commissioners require that specific acts of neglect of duty on the part of the Guardians, should be brought before them, before they will feel themselves warranted in exercising their powers, under the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act. If you will place on record such instances, the Commissioners will feel no difficulty in complying with your recommendation.

With reference to the resolution of the Guardians, to allow one penny a-night lodging money to 600 applicants for relief, to be fed in the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners are prepared to issue an order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied in this Union, if you recommend such an order; but the course pursued by the Guardians, previously to the issue of such an order, was illegal.

As regards the building which you state, could be made available for 600 children, and which you recommend should be taken by the Guardians, I am to express the Commissioners' sanction of the proposal to rent, and fit up the building referred to, as an auxiliary workhouse.

Mr. RICHARD HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 11, 1847.*

WITH reference to the Commissioners' letter of the 8th instant, I beg ^{Erris.} to report that I brought the subject of out-door relief in Erris, before the Board of Guardians, at their meeting on the 10th instant, and you will perceive by their minutes, certain resolutions were adopted, appointing an additional relieving officer, with some assistants, together with a few matters of detail, and again expressing their inability, from want of local knowledge, and I may add, local interest, to provide for the wants of that district.

As the auxiliary workhouse will almost immediately be available for the reception of about 200 paupers, I suggested to the Board that it should at once be applied as far as possible, to test destitution, by reserving it exclusively for able-bodied men: those from distant portions of the district to have a preference, as to house accommodation, and those residing in the locality, to be fed and employed on the premises, during the day, and at certain hours, to be allowed to retire to their own homes for the night. I recommended that a school should be erected on the most economical principle, on the premises; a master and

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mistress appointed; the children fed and educated during the day, and in the evening allowed in like manner, as the men, to return to their homes for the night. With regard to the adult female paupers, I do not see how they can be relieved, except by giving them a weekly supply of provisions. I am of opinion no machinery can be found by which the paupers in Erris could be supplied daily with food; and no matter what checks are put on the distribution of out-door relief, I am certain abuses to a great extent must exist.

I propose going down with Mr. Wilkinson, early to-morrow, in order to show him the house the Guardians have taken at Binghamstown.

I find the greatest difficulty in bringing the applicants on the relieving officers' books, before the Committee of Guardians, in consequence of the crowd of people who collect round the door; and at the meeting last Wednesday several hundreds burst into the room, thereby putting a stop to all further proceedings.

Lieut. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 12, 1847.*

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date, I beg to acquaint you, that on visiting the workhouse this day, Sunday, I found that nine cases of fever had appeared since yesterday; and that, owing to the crowded state of the infirmary, and there being no room in the fever hospital, the doctor had found it impossible to separate them from the other patients, and was obliged to leave some of them in the body of the house among the paupers.

It appeared to me that there was no further time to be lost, in taking precautions to prevent a repetition of last year's disease and mortality in the house; I therefore on my own responsibility authorized the master at once, to discharge such of the women and children who have been recently admitted into the house for shelter, but for whom there was neither bedding nor clothing, and to give them the out-door allowance offered by the Guardians, to persons who come under the 1st section of the Act. I desired him not to force any of them out of the house, but to allow such as would accept a week's supply of provisions, and had any place to go to, to leave the house, until the Guardians can provide suitable relief for them. I likewise directed the looms to be removed from the fever shed. By these arrangements the numbers in the house will be reduced by about 300, and additional infirmary accommodation provided for 50 or 60 patients.

I am aware that I have taken a very grave responsibility upon myself, but I hope the Commissioners will not think that I have done more, than the urgent and immediate necessity of the case called for. I have not discharged any men; the women and children in question have been in the probationary wards, and in one of the fever sheds, without bedding, without any clothing but the filthy rags which they came in, crowded together in a tainted atmosphere, and liable to infection from being mixed up with half-cured fever cases; they were admitted solely, because it was considered that of two evils, it was less than turning them away from the house to perish. So long as their health did not suffer, I thought it better not to embarrass the Guardians further than by constantly calling their serious attention to the state of the house, and repeatedly requesting them to visit the house and judge for themselves. But it would be inhuman to let these poor persons perish from disease; and I hope the Commissioners will approve of the steps which I have taken with the view of saving not only their lives, but the lives of the regular inmates of the house.

I beg to annex a letter which I have received from the doctor on the subject; it is a statement in writing, similar to that made verbally by him to me, before I authorized the discharge of the paupers this morning.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. DEVLIN to Lieut. HAMILTON:—*December 12, 1847.*

THE number of inmates at present in the workhouse, makes its condition so very alarming that I feel myself bound to call on you, if you think you have authority to do so, to remove from the house, in such way as you may think best, the extra number beyond what it was built to accommodate.

There are at present, as I understand, 1500 individuals in a house intended, as you are aware, to contain not more than 1200. I found, on going through the house to-day, that fever has become very prevalent among the children. The manner in which the paupers are crowded together in their sleeping apartments, is so very frightful that I apprehend the most

shockingly fatal consequences will be the result of a continuance of such a state of things. I feel the strongest possible conviction that, if matters be allowed to remain so, much longer, the entire house will be included in one terrific mass of disease.

I have been obliged to refuse several applications, on this day and yesterday, from persons really in want of hospital accommodation, for whom I had been unable, by any possibility, to make room.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS of Ballina Union:—
December 15, 1847.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of an order which they have issued to day, in accordance with the recommendation in a report made to them by W. J. Hamilton, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, authorising you to afford out-door relief under the second section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act in the Ballina Union.

In reference thereto, I am to draw your attention to the circumstance, that no relief under this order can be legally given to persons in employment, that such relief must be in food only, and that no able-bodied man should receive relief except in return for work.

With regard to the nature of the work which should be offered to able-bodied men, the Commissioners have to state, that the making of roads and stone-breaking are two modes of labour which have been suggested as expedient for employing persons receiving out-door relief.

The Commissioners are desirous that the question of employing the able-bodied paupers of the Union on the roads left unfinished by the Board of Works, or in the making of any other roads, should not be raised at the present moment, and as road-making has been proved on a very extensive scale to be no adequate test of destitution, the Commissioners would strongly recommend the other test which has often been found effectual, namely, stone-breaking; and they suggest the making preparations for obtaining a large supply of hard stone, and for employing able-bodied paupers at stone-breaking by task-work in return for the rations to be supplied by the Union.

The Commissioners have further to state, that they are anxious strictly to prohibit and prevent the granting relief on account of the insufficiency of wages to persons occasionally in employment during the week.

It appears to the Commissioners that there is no rule of greater importance in the administration of out-door relief to able-bodied men, than that they should be maintained either wholly by their employer, or wholly by the Board of Guardians, and that the strongest line should thus be drawn between relief and wages.

In setting able-bodied men to stone-breaking by task-work as a condition of relief, much will depend on the knowledge, firmness, and discretion of those who may be appointed to superintend stone-breaking, and the Commissioners cannot too strongly urge you to be peculiarly careful in permitting yourselves to be influenced by no other considerations than those of personal fitness in selecting candidates for that highly important office.

The Commissioners will take this opportunity of observing, that in specifying the period of eight hours at least, in the day, during which, every able-bodied pauper should be required to work, they have made allowance for the present season of the year, and for the possible circumstance that some of the able-bodied paupers may come to the stone-breaking from a considerable distance. It is not, however, by any means intended to prevent the Guardians from requiring work, during a still longer period of time. The period of eight hours is in fact, merely the minimum space of time in the day, during which, every able-bodied pauper should give the value of his labour to the Union.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire to remind you, that the out-door relief order is merely temporary, and that every possible exertion should be made to render the workhouse available almost exclusively, for the relief of able-bodied men with their families, and that it is also advisable to promote further workhouse accommodation, by every means which the Union may present, for affording in-door relief as far as practicable to all classes of the destitute poor.

Lieut. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 15, 1847.*

WITH reference to my report of the 11th instant, and the request of the Commissioners to furnish them with specific instances of neglect of duty on the part of the Guardians of this Union, I beg to say that I can only point to the unprepared state which I found the Board in, for meeting any extraordinary distress; which state they have remained in, notwithstanding my repeated applications to them to take active steps, instead of allowing the distress, at this early period, to get a-head of them.

I now see no alternative but out-door relief, in order to save life; but I am nevertheless of opinion that, if the Guardians had taken proper steps in time, they might have proceeded for some weeks without having recourse to so ruinous a course; and one (to judge by what I have seen of their proceedings) they will be quite unequal to carry out.

I have reason to know that the most influential of the Guardians contemplate communicating with the Commissioners on the subject of their resignation, owing to their inability to cope with the distress any longer. I think it will be very desirable that the object should be attained, through that course. I had not mentioned the subject to any one, nor did I know until Monday last, that such a step was contemplated; therefore I saw no other course open to me for the public good, but to recommend the dissolution of the Board, on the grounds of their not having taken steps in time to provide for distress, and their general unbusiness-like proceedings as a Board; neither of which charges I could make against them individually.

If the communication from the Board relative to their resignation, be not speedily forwarded, and the Commissioners should be of opinion that I have given sufficient general grounds in my communications on the subject, I have not the least objection to those communications, together with this, being referred to the Board, which will bring matters to an issue.

Lieut. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 18, 1847.*

I ATTENDED a meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union yesterday. Owing to the extreme severity of the weather, there was a smaller attendance of Guardians than usual; the proceedings were less noisy, and I wish I could add that they were of a more practical nature; but really, with the exception of passing resolutions, nothing was done.

I think that there could not have been less than 2000 applications for relief, of which about one-half were extreme cases; the remainder, in my opinion, would require a strict scrutiny, to prevent imposition. In order to afford shelter from the weather (and, I feel bound to add, with every charitable feeling), the Guardians directed that the crowd should be admitted into the dining hall, and that four days' provisions should be issued to all who had tickets from the relieving officers; but such was the dense mass of human beings, that the master, the relieving officers, and the inmates of the house, found it impossible to keep any order: finally, the police were sent for, and the scene of confusion can only be realized by those who witnessed it. As soon as the Guardians adjourned (six o'clock), Mr. Howley, Mr. Hamilton, Poor Law Inspector for Erris, and myself, went down; it was by the greatest good fortune that persons were not crushed to death: this painful scene ended by the house being cleared. A few of the most destitute looking objects were ordered some relief, for the night.

The Board met again this day; a few Guardians attended; and I think that the proceedings were much more satisfactory than I have witnessed for some time.

I need hardly say that the real difficulties of the case are increased tenfold, by the fact, that it is not considered any crime by those who are not in want, to take the bread out of the mouths of poor starving creatures.

The Guardians are perfectly paralysed; many of them are, comparatively speaking, in great want, their properties lying waste, and likely to remain so next year; with whole tracts of country similarly circumstanced, the prospect before them is not cheering. There appears to be no limit to all this relief; it is only, therefore, from those men who look upon the salvation of human life as their first duty, that one meets with any disinterested co-operation.

I confess that, under such circumstances, I do not see how cases of starvation can be prevented; but, at the same time, admitting all the practical difficulties of carrying out the law at a time when the country is in a state of insolvency and social disorganization, I think that at present any such cases must be attributed to breaches of the law, and not to its defects. It is only fair to those gentlemen who are willing and anxious to carry out the law and overcome difficulties, that I should mention that all their exertions are counterbalanced by the impossibility of finding, in a Board composed of 66 members, that unanimity which will insure for the law, a firm and impartial administration.

MR. RICHARD HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 19, 1847.*

IN consequence of the Commissioners' order for out-door relief in the Ballina Union, I attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, for the purpose of seeing what arrangements they proposed to make for complying with the Commissioners' instructions. Erris.

The Board, as usual, expressed their anxiety to give me every assistance, and passed resolutions similar to those adopted at their previous meetings, some of which may lead the Commissioners to suppose that I receive great practical assistance from them, which is not the case, as most of their resolutions remain dead letters. I may remark, that the Erris auxiliary workhouse has not as yet been supplied by them with any one requisite, for the purpose of making it available as a test of destitution, although I have been invariably informed, at each meeting, that the articles required should be forthwith forwarded; I have provided everything which could be obtained in Erris for the use of this house, but from the remoteness of the locality, it is impossible to get some of the most necessary articles.

The Guardians, after some discussion yesterday, authorized the expenditure of a small sum, for the purpose of making a portion of the building available, for which I submitted an estimate, approved by Mr. Wilkinson; however, from the tone of some of the Board, and the disagreeable remarks I am subjected to, regarding the expenditure of money on the premises, as well as for the support of the Erris paupers, I feel it will be quite impossible to go on with any improvements, unless I am in some way supported. The Board on all occasions, express their anxiety to afford me every assistance, but, at the same time, invariably state, that they are perfectly unable to deal with the district; consequently, I lose two days in the week, attending their meetings, without deriving any benefit.

I am now returning to Erris with a cheque for 100*l.* in my pocket, a portion of which is to pay the expenses incurred on the building, the remainder to provide for between two and three thousand persons on the Relieving Officers' books. I have no staff on which I can place any confidence, to assist me, and as far as the Committee of Guardians is concerned, the Commissioners may judge of the assistance I receive from them, when I mention that the only member who attended the meeting of the Board, as I am informed, for a considerable period (on the occasion of the appointment of officers to the Erris Workhouse), stated, they would soon be applying for relief themselves.

THE COMMISSIONERS to MR. RICHARD HAMILTON:—*December 20, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your Report of the 11th instant, and to state that as the Board of Guardians is to be dissolved, and an order has been issued for out-door relief in the Union, the Commissioners now find it necessary to address you only with regard to the number and conduct of the persons applying for relief on the 8th instant.

In reference thereto, I am to state, that the Commissioners consider that it is of great importance that the system of granting relief, through the application and report books of relieving officers, alone, should be observed, and they presume that the police authorities of Belmullet would, if applied to, afford due protection against interruption by the paupers.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Lieut. HAMILTON and Mr. RICHARD HAMILTON respectively :—*December 21, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have given directions for preparing an order for the dissolution of the Ballina Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners deem it right to make you acquainted with their intentions, but they do not wish you to communicate on the subject, with any person in the Ballina Union, until the order actually arrives.

The COMMISSIONERS to BOARD OF GUARDIANS—*Dissolution of the Board:—December 22, 1847.*

THE Commissioners had under consideration, reports of their Temporary Inspectors, Mr. W. Hamilton, at Ballina, and Mr. Richard Hamilton, at Belmullet, with other documents relative to the relief of the destitute poor in Ballina Union.

On giving their deliberate attention to these reports and documents, and on taking a review of the present position of the Union, the Commissioners have arrived at the conclusion that the duties of the Ballina Board of Guardians have not been duly and effectually discharged, according to the intention of the Irish Poor Relief Acts, either in respect to the collection of rates, or in providing proper workhouse accommodation, with bedding and clothing for the destitute persons recorded as receiving workhouse relief; while in consequence of timely exertions not having been made to prepare auxiliary workhouse accommodation, large numbers of destitute poor persons have received no relief at all, or relief inadequate to their necessities.

The Commissioners are fully sensible that many individual Guardians of the Union have bestowed much time and attention on the affairs of the Union, and by their valuable services have deserved well of the rate-payers. At the same time, the difficulties of the Union have been too great to be met by individual exertions, at a time when the perils of the emergency required the steady and systematic energy of all the Guardians acting as a Board; and the Commissioners regret to state that the Board of Guardians appear to have been unequal to the discharge of their important functions.

The Commissioners therefore have felt themselves called upon to exercise their power under the 18th section of the Act 10 Vic. cap. 31, by dissolving the Board of Guardians, and appointing paid Guardians to carry into execution the provisions of the laws for relief of the destitute poor. An order to that effect, under seal of the Commissioners, is accordingly enclosed herewith, and will be shortly followed by an order containing the appointment of paid Guardians.

Mr. BOURKE, Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 24, 1847.*

I BEG leave to report that I attended at the Ballina workhouse this day, when the sealed order for dissolving the Board was read, and entered on the minutes. The Guardians present being of opinion (in which I concurred) that, under the terms of this order, they were rendered incapable of any longer acting in their capacity of Guardians, retired from the Board-room, and it then became necessary for me, in conjunction with Mr. W. Hamilton, to make provision for the support of the destitute poor, during the interval preceding the arrival of the paid Guardians.

Upon examining into the affairs of the Union, I found that the workhouse contained its full number, and that the additional building at Ardnaree was not yet in a condition to receive paupers. I also found that each of the relieving officers' Application and Report Books contained names varying in number from 50 to 1000, and amounting I should think in all to upwards of 5000 (exclusive of Binghamstown and Belmullet), all of which had been inspected; and in the large majority of instances, recommended as very urgent cases requiring instantaneous relief. About one-third of these had been submitted to the Board of Guardians on their last day of meeting; but instead of investigating each application, and entering on the books the quantity of relief to be given, I observed with surprise that the Guardians had contented themselves with ordering every one who appeared on the books to receive four days' rations, leaving no record of the provision to be permanently made for them.

Under the circumstances it appeared to me that, without some special order from me, the 5000 persons on the books of the relieving officers must be deprived of all support, as the power possessed by relieving officers of affording provisional relief does not extend beyond the next Board day after the application for relief, which period had in all the cases expired. I therefore issued an order to the relieving officers, in which Mr. Hamilton joined, whereby we directed them to continue for one week, the provisional relief ordered by the late Board of Guardians, and to afford a corresponding amount of food to each of the parties subsequently entered on their Application and Report Books; and whom, on going over their books with the officers, we learned were urgently in need of immediate relief. For this purpose, we authorized them to obtain the necessary quantity of meal from the contractor at Ballina, and we instructed them how to bring it to charge in their several books, so as to avoid a confusion of account. In the same manner, we provided for the necessary wants of the workhouse for the ensuing week; and I trust you will consider that in thus acting we have not exceeded our duty, and have been justified by the necessity of the case.

I am conscious that much of the relief thus sanctioned will be distributed to able-bodied persons, and that by not exacting from them a certain task of work, I have violated the provisions of your sealed order; but though I had drawn out a plan for carrying out these directions, and meant to have proposed it to the Guardians for their adoption, if they had continued in office, I found it impossible to bring it into operation in time to be available for the present distribution of relief; and I was deterred by the representations of the relieving officers and others, from deferring the issue of food until the machinery for setting to work could be brought to act. I have, however, made some preparations for carrying out your views as to employment, and I hope that on their first Board day, the Vice-Guardians will be in a position to exact a task of stone-breaking from every able-bodied male receiving the out-door relief.

The total neglect on the part of the Board during the last three weeks, in examining applications for relief, and recording their decision on the books of the relieving officers, together with the indiscriminate manner in which they ordered out-door relief to be administered, have not only produced an immense arrear of applications which must all be investigated before they can be permanently decided on, but have furthermore commenced the system in so lax and unguarded a manner that it will require a large amount of labour to reduce it to order, and a resolute course of conduct to narrow the relief within the proper limits, beyond which it should never have been allowed to extend.

Under these circumstances, therefore, I cannot too strongly urge upon you the advantage of securing the immediate attendance of the paid officers who are to succeed the late Board of Guardians; and I am happy to see, by the papers referred to me this day, that Mr. Drought may be expected to arrive immediately.

I hope to meet Mr. W. Hamilton and Mr. Richard Hamilton in Ballina to-morrow, and to communicate to you our views upon some other matters connected with the further administration of the law in this Union.

REPLY to the above :—*December 29, 1847.*

IN the difficulties created by the neglect of the late Board of Guardians, in not having investigated the applications for out-door relief and made a definite order in each, whereby large numbers were transferred indiscriminately to the charge of the relieving officers for provisional relief, there appeared to have been no other course available for the maintenance of the destitute poor, pending the meeting of the Vice-Guardians, than that adopted by you and Mr. Hamilton, as described in your report, and the Commissioners therefore approve of it.

THE POOR LAW INSPECTORS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 25, 1847.*

THE experience of the last few weeks having shown us the difficulties of effectually carrying out the provisions of the Poor Relief Extension Act in this Union, we think the present a favourable time for submitting our views and

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pointing out the manner in which we conceive these difficulties may to a certain extent be met.

The population of this Union, according to the Census of 1841, was 120,787, and the number of persons receiving rations during the week ended the 4th July last, appears to have been 93,612, exclusive of the Belmullet and Binghamstown electoral divisions, from whence no return was received. When it is remembered, that the supply of food is greater now than during the past year, and that employment for the poor is not more abundant, it may naturally be expected that the demand for relief from the rates, though perhaps it may not reach the same extent as during the last summer, will yet be very considerable. In confirmation of this opinion it may be stated that at present there appear on the books of the relieving officers for the different electoral divisions, exclusive of Belmullet and Binghamstown, the names of upwards of 5000 individuals who have been visited and reported on as fit objects for relief, whilst in the two last-named divisions alone the numbers amount to nearly 4000. These cases have been selected from an infinitely larger number of applications made to the relieving officers, and have been reported on by them as requiring instant relief.

The difficulty experienced in dealing with the poor of Belmullet and Binghamstown, distant upwards of 40 miles from the town of Ballina, made it necessary at an early stage of the proceedings to appoint a Committee for those divisions, under the 6th section of the Relief Extension Act, and the large increase of applications soon after, compelled the Guardians to engage a building in Binghamstown, which is now under repair for an auxiliary workhouse.

The Board of Guardians being now dissolved, the Committee has also ceased; but as the causes which led to its appointment still continue, some corresponding plan must, in our opinion, be adopted by the paid officers. The assistance afforded by this Committee was little more than nominal, and Mr. Richard Hamilton found that the labour and responsibility of determining on the different applications for relief was entirely thrown upon him, and that owing to the extent of the distress and the disposition both on the part of the relieving officers and of the poor to impose (which his unacquaintance with the district rendered him unable to detect) the important duty of selecting fit objects for relief, was most unsatisfactorily executed. In the Ballina Board, we regret to say, that the duty of investigating the cases brought before them was for the last three weeks completely neglected, and that relief was indiscriminately afforded to every one appearing on the relieving officers' books.

Both these circumstances will impose a vast increase of trouble on the paid Guardians, who will have to determine not only on the current applications brought before them, but on the long arrear left behind by the Ballina Board and the Erris Committee.

By an order under seal, which has this day reached us, we perceive that you have appointed two paid officers to carry into execution the provisions of the law in this Union, and we very much fear that, under the circumstances we have just detailed, it will be found impossible for so small a number duly to perform the duties of Guardians in this extensive Union.

Assuming the principle still to prevail which actuated the appointment of a Committee in Binghamstown, it will be necessary for the paid officers, or one of them, to attend there once in every week. Two days will be occupied in travelling, and at least an equal number in investigating the circumstances of each applicant,—thus leaving but two days in the week for the discharge of the ordinary business of the remaining electoral divisions, at the Ballina workhouse. Our experience yesterday, when we examined the books of the relieving officers without calling in the applicants themselves, has satisfied us that the duty cannot be effectually performed in less than three days, and that it might very well occupy four; whilst the other important business connected with the management of the workhouse, and the details of the labour test, will also require a considerable time both in Ballina and Binghamstown.

Under these circumstances we think it right to state, for your information, our mature opinion that a third officer will be indispensably necessary for the due execution of the duties of the Guardians of this Union; that he should reside in Binghamstown to act in conjunction with the Temporary Inspector as a Committee for receiving applications, and also as a visiting Committee for the regulation of the house, and that at certain intervals a Board should there

be held. We have already seen enough to satisfy us that it will require much energy and unremitting attention to check imposition and fraud, and we feel convinced that two officers, however diligent, will be found insufficient to perform the mass of duties which will devolve upon them in this extensive Union.

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REPLY to the above :—*December 29, 1847.*

IN accordance with your recommendation, the Commissioners propose appointing a third paid Guardian for the Union, and have offered the appointment to Mr. J. D. Waters, of Athy.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 1, 1848.*

DURING the past week I have gone through this district, for the purpose of ascertaining the localities best adapted for employing gangs of able-bodied paupers. Erris.

In consequence of the great extent of these two electoral divisions, and the immense number of able-bodied applicants for relief, I am fully persuaded it will be requisite to have at least eight or nine stations for this purpose, as it cannot be reasonably expected that any man will be able to walk a greater distance than three miles to the place at which he may be employed.

Binghamstown Division is upwards of 20 miles from end to end, and by the census of 1841, contained 9428 inhabitants, who are scattered in a vast number of small villages lying at short distances from each other, nearly in a direct line north and south. The relieving officer for this district has already 1500 applicants on his books, 400 of whom are able-bodied.

Belmullet Division, by the census of 1841, contained 13,345 inhabitants, widely scattered over an area of 145,598 statute acres, and there are upwards of 2000 applicants on the books, 500 of whom are able-bodied.

I should have recommended the Guardians as far as possible, to make the auxiliary workhouse exclusively a test for all doubtful applicants, but owing to a proprietor in the immediate vicinity (Mr. Walsh), having during the last week unroofed the cabins belonging to nearly all his tenants, and turned about 80 families from the village of Mullaghroe adrift, without covering almost of any kind, I am afraid we shall have no alternative but to fill the house with these people, although they were a class of paupers who I should have considered, the best entitled to out-door relief. I visited this village a month ago, and found the greatest destitution existing in it; but on going there again the day before yesterday, I was not a little astonished to find nothing but the walls of the houses remaining, the inhabitants being scattered through the country, seeking shelter where they could best find it.

As the supply of turnips, on which a large proportion of the population in this district has been subsisting for some months past, are now nearly exhausted, the distress has become of a much more urgent nature; consequently I had no alternative, in order to prevent deaths from starvation during the last fortnight, but to allow the relieving officers to give a small supply of meal to the most distressed persons on their books, until proper arrangements could be made by the Guardians, for carrying out the Commissioners' instructions regarding the administration of out-door relief to the able-bodied.

I have no doubt that if overseers can be found, who will be firm in making each pauper complete his task of work before he shall be entitled to his ration, a great reduction will almost immediately be made in the number of applicants, as I am fully aware of many parties on the books who have means of earning a subsistence for themselves.

To give the Commissioners some idea of the state of mendicancy to which all classes in this district are reduced, I may mention that no later than yesterday, a lady who is proprietor of upwards of 300 acres of land, applied to me to have her name put on the relieving officer's books for out-door relief.

I am very happy to state that several of the small proprietors in this district have at last decided upon applying for advances, under the provisions of the Land Improvement Act. Mr. Carter (who is one of the principal proprietors) has applied for 6000*l.*; and I think the drainage on his estate will be com-

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menced almost immediately, which will afford a vast deal of relief to the most distressed portions of the two electoral divisions.

REPLY to the above :—*January 4, 1848.*

I AM to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 1st instant, relating to the Ballina Union, in which you state that in the Belmullet district it will be necessary to have, at least, eight or nine stations at which to employ the able-bodied paupers in the receipt of out-door relief; and I am directed to request that you will have the goodness to state whether you have made this suggestion to the Vice-Guardians, whose duty it is to make the necessary arrangements, and to whom, therefore, you should propose whatever you consider advisable.

MR. R. HAMILTON'S REPLY :—*January 8, 1848.*

UPON the dissolution of the late Board of Guardians, I made such arrangements, in conjunction with Mr. Bourke and Lieutenant Hamilton, as we considered would best meet the exigencies of our respective districts.

On the arrival of the Vice-Guardians, I received a communication from Lieutenant Hamilton, in which he stated, that the Guardians proposed visiting the Erris district on the 3rd instant; but, at the same time, expressing his doubts whether they would be able to fulfil their intentions, owing to the arrear of business left by the late Board.

Finding that the Guardians did not arrive on the 2nd instant, I wrote on the 3rd to Lieutenant Hamilton, stating that, unless some decided steps were taken by the Guardians for the proper administration of relief in Erris, I anticipated the worst consequences; and, among other subjects connected with the district, I mentioned that nine stations, at which to employ able-bodied paupers, would be required.

I received a reply from him, stating he had laid my letter before the Guardians, who requested him to mention that, as Mr. Waters (the Guardian specially appointed for Erris) was hourly expected, they would supply him with funds, and request he would place himself at once, in communication with me.

Immediately on receipt of this, together with your letter, I determined upon starting for Ballina, in the hopes of meeting Mr. Waters, and conferring with him and the other Vice-Guardians. I was fortunate enough to meet them, and am happy to add, they have approved of all the steps I was compelled to take on my own responsibility, with regard to the preservation of human life.

I have laid before them my suggestions as to carrying out the Commissioners' instructions, respecting the administration of out-door relief to able-bodied paupers, in which they coincide.

Mr. Waters and myself purpose going this day to Belmullet, with a full understanding as to our future proceedings.

MR. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 9, 1848.*

IN my letter of yesterday's date, I briefly detailed the proceedings during the interval which elapsed between the dissolution of the late Board of Guardians (and consequently the Committee which was deputed to act for this district) and the arrival of the Vice-Guardians.

I have only to add that Mr. Waters and myself will lose no time in taking the necessary steps to place matters on a more satisfactory footing than has hitherto existed; and with this view, notice has been given to each of the relieving officers, to warn all applicants to attend at stated places on appointed days during the ensuing week, in order that their cases may be properly investigated.

MR. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 4, 1848.*

ON visiting the auxiliary workhouse at Binghamstown yesterday, I found the doors surrounded by several hundreds of the most miserable looking

objects seeking admittance, and stating they had no place whatsoever to shelter them at night, or a morsel of food of any description to eat: however, as the available portion of the building was quite inadequate to accommodate such a number of paupers, I had no alternative but to refuse taking them in, at the same time giving them to understand that they should be admitted as soon as accommodation could be provided for them.

Under these circumstances, together with the certainty that it will be absolutely requisite to provide in-door accommodation for nearly 1000 persons in the district, I think it would be most desirable that the unfinished portion of the buildings attached to the workhouse should, with the least possible delay, be made available, and likewise that a range of temporary sheds for day-rooms, school-rooms, &c., should be erected in the outside yard; but, in order to carry on any extensive work on the premises, I would suggest that the Commissioners should send down a person who had some previous knowledge of building, in order to take a general superintendence of the works, and keep accounts of expenditure, &c.; as from the experience I have had of the parties at present employed, I consider they have not energy sufficient to complete any task of work.

At my suggestion, Mr. W. Bingham (proprietor of the house) was employed by the late Board of Guardians, at 1*l*. per week, to take charge of the premises until proper officers should be appointed; but, as no officers have as yet arrived, he still remains.

There are upwards of 30 orphan children at present in the auxiliary workhouse, most of whom I sent there myself, in order to prevent their dying on the roads for want of shelter. No other class of persons has been admitted, or indeed could be admitted, until a proper division is made to separate the males and females.

I may remark, with reference to the admission of paupers, that fever has greatly increased in this district within the last few weeks; and should it break out in the workhouse (which is more than likely), there is no hospital or place for the reception of patients nearer than Ballina, a distance of upwards of 40 miles.

REPLY to the above:—*January 20, 1848.*

WITH reference to your suggestion, that a competent person should be sent to superintend the additional buildings proposed to be erected at the auxiliary workhouse at Binghamstown, I am to state that Mr. Wilkinson received instructions, in accordance with your suggestion, to employ a clerk of works, and to forward the plans for the temporary buildings necessary, pending the erection of the permanent workhouse.

The VICE-GUARDIANS of Ballina Union to the COMMISSIONERS:—
January 5, 1848.

WE beg leave to submit to you the present report.

1st. As to the state of the house, everything has since been satisfactory, with the exception that on Friday last, a refractory spirit was manifested by the able-bodied inmates who refused to work. We immediately went amongst them, and by ordering some to be dismissed forthwith and all allowances to be stopped, succeeded in bringing them to a sense of duty.

2nd. As to collection of rates, we have with the solicitor revised all the collectors' books, and directed proceedings to be commenced against all defaulters for various amounts, making in the aggregate about 400*l*.; first sending to each person to whom we deemed it necessary a printed letter, a copy of which is enclosed. The names of the defaulters, the sums due by each, the nature of the proceedings ordered to be taken, and the reasons for adopting the particular mode of procedure in each case will shortly be submitted for your approval with the result so far.

3rd. With respect to the revision of the lists, we have, in every case where it appeared indispensably necessary, subjected each applicant to personal examination; but owing to the neglect of the late Guardians in not revising the relieving officers' books, and owing to the immense amount of destitution appa-

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rently existing in the country the applicants for relief have increased to an enormous number : and from all accounts we hear, we are led to believe, that though much imposture is practised, still many are in that state, that if all relief is withheld they undoubtedly will perish, and consequent odium attach to us as Government officers.

We are perfectly aware of the immense advantage to be derived, from the personal examination of all applicants for relief, and the consequent facility of offering the best of all tests, that of the workhouse. This we would willingly do at any amount of labour to ourselves ; but it is evident that if we did so in all cases, many weeks would elapse before those applicants whose names have been returned up to this time, could be examined, and consequently before they could be relieved, and in the mean time, the numbers on the list would be daily increasing.

It, therefore, appears that there are only three courses open to us.

1st. To permit relief to be granted to all applicants till time would permit us to sanction it by personal examination. This would be to act illegally.

2nd. To withhold all relief, until we have examined each applicant personally and approved of him. This would endanger many lives.

3rd. To revise for the present, without personal examination, all the names now on the lists ; and judging from the representations made by the relieving officers as well as from other sources, and also by putting ourselves in a position to offer the workhouse test wherever we may deem it necessary, to approve of such as may seem fit to us, restricting the amount of relief afforded as much as possible, until time will permit us to revise the lists more strictly by personal examination, which course we propose adopting in every case, as soon as the arrears are disposed of.

No doubt much abuse may arise from adopting this course, but under all the circumstances, we apprehend it will be the evil of the least magnitude ; and we must feel that any amount of evil so arising, is in a great measure to be laid to the charge of the late Guardians, who did not take steps to prevent such an arrear of business and such consequent destitution.

We have placed ourselves in a position to offer freely the workhouse test. It has answered our expectations, and much imposition has been checked, and considerable destitution of principle manifested.

We have commenced the labour test ; the details and machinery have been arranged, so as to afford sufficient checks on all parties, and can be submitted for your approval if necessary.

Mr. Bourke's suggestions have been highly valuable in this instance.

In conclusion, we confidently expect that by being able to offer the tests of the workhouse and of labour, the expense of out-door relief will not be so enormous as has been feared.

We may remark that our difficulties have been considerably increased, owing to the arrears into which the clerk's business has fallen, since the commencement of out-door relief.

REPLY to the above:—*January 18, 1848.*

I AM directed to request your attention to the provisions contained in the 58th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, and to the Commissioners' regulations for the punishment of disorderly and refractory paupers. The Commissioners consider it to be more expedient to resort to the means authorized by the Irish Poor Relief Act, and the general regulations for the punishment of disorderly or refractory paupers, than to punish them by dismissal from the workhouse.

I am at the same time to state, as regards the allowances referred to, that the opinion of the Commissioners is unfavourable to giving extra rations to paupers, as whatever services they may be required to perform are due, and should be given without reward.

The VICE-GUARDIANS of the Ballina Union to the COMMISSIONERS:—
January 12, 1848.

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WE beg to forward our report as to the collection of the rate, and also a schedule showing the amount that was due by each party; the proceedings that we have directed in each case, and the results so far. We have in many instances, been obliged to resort to proceedings in the superior courts, for the following reasons,—1st. From the time that we were appointed we were not able to take the necessary steps to enable us to proceed before the Barrister at sessions, as 12 days' notice was necessary. 2nd. Magisterial summonses have not been hitherto effective, nor are they likely to be so, the magistrates being in the constant habit of postponing the sessions, and thereby causing delay. We fear this is done intentionally, and are of opinion, that the resident magistrate should be required to adjudicate at the next sessions, 1st of February, if the local magistrates will not act. The local magistrates are also, as is reported to us, in the habit of decreeing for a much less amount than what may be due, upon any trivial cause shown, which renders appeals, and consequently delays, necessary. Two collectors reported this to us yesterday, they having lost seven weeks owing to postponements, having summoned defaulters for several hundred pounds. The amount paid in since we came, from the 28th December to 11th January, was 973/. The preliminary steps for taking proceedings in the superior courts, have in many instances effected an immediate settlement; but in all such cases in which it appears by the annexed schedule, that such steps have been taken, it is necessary for us to get special leave from you to commence actions; and we are anxious that such permission should be granted, *without delay*, to enable us to obtain execution in as short a time as possible, the 20th of January being the last day for filing declarations.

In many instances, even the stringent proceedings we have directed may fail, owing to the inability of defaulters to pay; but we thought it our duty to leave no stone unturned to effect a collection of the rates, and hope for your sanction of our proceedings so far, and your special authority to continue the same, where such authority is necessary.

We will forward another report upon the state of the house and the labour list, showing the details of the system we have established.

ENCLOSURE.

A LIST of POOR-RATE DEFAULTERS in the UNION of BALLINA, showing the Amount remaining due by each, and the Directions of the Vice-Guardians in reference to the recovery thereof.

Names, &c.	Amount due.	Directions of Vice-Guardians for Recovery of Rate.
Lord Clanmorris, (lessor)	£. s. d. 9 15 11½	The <i>last</i> rate has been paid by the agent of the present nobleman. The amount now due is for <i>former</i> rates made in the lifetime of the father of the present Lord Clanmorris, when the property had been in the hands of trustees (resident in Dublin), to whom the Guardians direct application to be made, and against whom, if necessary, proceedings are directed in the superior Courts, Dublin.
Jas. Anderson, esq., (lessor)	72 5 0	There is a receiver over the property of this gentleman. An application to be made to the Court for an order on receiver to pay the amount, if he refuse payment on application.
Annesley Knox, esq., (lessor)	97 5 2	Proceedings in superior Courts. This amount has been paid upon proceedings having been threatened.
Capt. Wm. Atkinson, (lessor)	104 11 7	Proceedings in superior Courts. This sum includes two rates. He has been served with a writ, and the consent, in writing, of the Commissioners, is required before the declaration can be filed.
Lieut.-Col. Geo. V. Jackson, (lessor).	93 19 6½	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ issued against this gentleman, but not served, in consequence of his paying 49/. on account, and promising payment of balance as soon as possible. With this arrangement the Guardians were satisfied, feeling from his explanation that he was most willing to pay all, and was prevented by his present inability.
Colonel Knox Gore, (lessor and occupier).	166 0 0	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ issued against this gentleman, who is at present resident at Kingstown, near Dublin. Written consent of Commissioners required.

Name, &c.	Amount due.	Directions, &c.
	£. s. d.	
John F. Knox, esq., (lessor)	45 16 0	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ issued, but not served, in consequence of Mr. Knox evading the service.
Earl of Arran, (lessor) . .	135 9 7	Paid.
James V. Jackson, esq., (lessor and occupier).	21 14 5	Paid, less by about 6 <i>l.</i> , upon writ having been issued against him. Promises to pay balance in a few days.
William Malley, senior, esq., (occupier).	21 16 4	To be summoned before magistrate.
Henry Crofton, esq., (lessor)	37 18 6	Proceedings in superior Courts. Proceedings threatened by letter, and amount paid, less by 5 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> , for which he has got a short time for payment.
John Bourke, esq., (lessor and occupier).	153 0 0	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ served. Consent of Commissioners required previous to filing declaration.
Harbour Commissioners (occupiers).	22 10 0	To be summoned before magistrate.
John Hendry, (occupier) .	13 2 10	To be summoned before magistrate.
John Gardiner, (occupier) .	13 0 0	To be summoned before magistrate.
Robert Jones, esq., (lessor) .	80 13 8½	Proceedings in superior Courts by <i>outlawry</i> . This gentleman resides somewhere on the Continent. The proceedings directed must be sanctioned by the Commissioners.
Thomas Jones, esq., (lessor)	19 2 6½	Proceedings in superior Courts. Prayed time until his return to the country from Dublin, in a fortnight, which was given to him by the Guardians.
Robert Moore, (occupier) .	9 14 0	To be summoned before magistrate.
Mrs. Bourke, (occupier) .	6 3 5	To be summoned before magistrate.
John M'Hugh, esq., (lessor)	19 9 0	Proceedings in superior Courts. Paid 10 <i>l.</i> on account, and got a short time for payment of balance.
Henry William Knox, esq., (lessor)—Rate 6th July, 1847.	75 7 6	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ served. Consent of Commissioners required before declaration filed.
Rate 17th August, 1846 .	19 0 0	
Edward Ackinson, (occupier)	8 16 8	To be summoned before magistrate.
Stephen Loftus, (occupier) .	5 8 0	To be summoned before magistrate.
Miss Creemmer, (lessor) .	10 4 10	Proceedings in superior Courts if resident in Ireland, if not, month's notice on occupiers.
Mr. Bury, (lessor) . . .	6 15 0	Receiver over this gentleman's property. Application to be made to receiver; if not paid, application to Court for an order to compel him. Receiver paid on solicitor's application.
Thos. Howley, esq., (lessor)	22 0 0	Proceedings in superior Courts. Paid on being threatened with proceedings.
Walter Bourke, esq., (lessor)	80 18 3	Proceedings in superior Courts. Paid on being threatened with proceedings.
William Orme, esq., (lessor)	91 0 6	Proceedings in superior Courts. On being applied to by solicitor, paid 50 <i>l.</i> , and got time from Guardians, until 5th March, for payment of the balance.
John Knox, esq., Castlereagh, (lessor).	137 9 7	Receiver over this gentleman's property. Application to receiver, and on his refusal, to Court for an order. Receiver has been applied to by solicitor, and states he has no funds.
Captain John, and H. W. Knox, esq., (lessors).	54 2 10	Receiver over this property. Receiver has stated his willingness to pay, but that the Messrs. Knox have desired him not. An application to the Court for an order to compel him.
Francis W. Knox, esq., (lessor)	18 9 7	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ served—12 <i>l.</i> then paid, and a promise given of payment of balance and costs <i>within a fortnight</i> .
Thomas Palmer, esq., (lessor)	58 15 3	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ served. Commissioners' consent in writing required, to enable solicitor to proceed.
John Perkins, esq., (lessor).	28 19 9½	Proceedings in superior Courts. Both those gentlemen paid on being threatened with proceedings in superior Courts.
Arthur Perkins, esq., (lessor)	51 10 2½	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ served. Written sanction of Commissioners required to enable solicitor to proceed.
Captain John Knox, (lessor)	37 8 5	This gentleman resides out of the kingdom. A month's notice to be served on the occupiers.
William Knox Orme, esq., (lessor).	27 1 3½	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ served. Commissioners' consent required for further proceedings.
Richard J. G. Green, esq., (lessor).	27 16 2	To be summoned before magistrate.
Thomas Waldron, (occupier)	22 4 0	To be summoned before magistrate.
William Kirkwood, (lessor).	29 19 6	To be summoned before magistrate.
John Knox, esq., (lessor) .	11 15 2	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ served. Commissioners' consent required.

A List of Poor-rate Defaulters in the Union of Ballina, &c.—*continued.*

Ballina Union.

Names, &c.	Amount due.	Directions, &c.
	£. s. d.	
William Phibbs, esq., (lessor)	16 17 4	Proceedings in superior Courts. This gentleman is resident on the Continent.
John Orme, esq., (lessor)	11 7 0	Paid on application by solicitor.
James A. Knox, esq., (lessor)	13 16 2	Paid on application by solicitor.
John Palmer, esq., (lessor)	13 12 4½	The property of both those gentlemen being under a receiver, an application to be made to him for payment, and afterwards to Court, in the event of his refusal. Receiver refuses to pay, saying that the property is <i>leased</i> , and that accordingly the <i>occupiers</i> should be rated. He admits that he has funds.
Wm. Palmer, esq., (lessor).	7 13 7	
Rev. Mr. Burrowes, (lessor)	15 17 6	Paid on application by solicitor.
Wm. Gardiner, esq., (lessor)	13 3 11½	To be summoned before magistrate.
Mervyn Pratt, esq., (lessor).	118 7 1	Proceedings in superior Courts. This gentleman is at present resident in Dublin. A writ has been issued against him, which will, if possible, be served. The consent of Commissioners required for this proceeding.
Thomas Pagett, esq., (lessor)	.	To be summoned before magistrate.
Wm. Ormsby, esq., (lessor).	130 0 0	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ issued, but not served. Ormsby evaded service.
James Nowlan, (occupier)	7 1 3	To be summoned before magistrate.
Rev. St. George Knox (lessor)	10 0 0	To be summoned before magistrate.
Charles Goodwin, esq., (lessor)	17 2 4	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ not served, in consequence of Goodwin's evading the service of it.
Henry Goodwin, esq., (lessor)	14 6 9	To be summoned before magistrate.
Wm. O'Handy, esq., (lessor, resident at Kinnegad, or near it).	12 0 0	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ issued, and very likely served.
Henry Rogers, (lessor and occupier).	10 0 0	To be summoned before magistrate.
John Gardiner, (occupier)	3 4 3	To be summoned before magistrate.
Robert Gardiner, (lessor)	9 15 8	To be summoned before magistrate.
Duke Ormsby, (lessor)	8 13 11	To be summoned before magistrate.
Miss Handy, (lessor, resident in Dublin).	10 12 0½	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ issued. Commissioners' consent required.
Mrs. Irwin, (lessor, resident in Dublin).	64 0 2	Proceedings in superior Courts. Have not been able to ascertain in what part of Dublin she resides.
Captain Knox, (lessor)	31 9 5½	Mr. Knox being resident out of the kingdom, a month's notice to be served on the occupiers.
Mr. Cheevers, (lessor)	10 18 0½	A month's notice on the occupiers.
Mrs. Handy, (lessor)	23 15 8½	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ issued. Commissioners' consent.
St. George Stock, (lessor)	19 16 3	Month's notice on occupiers, Mr. Stock living out of the kingdom.
Mrs. Armstrong, (lessor)	33 14 11½	Month's notice on occupiers, Mrs. Armstrong living out of the kingdom.
Minors, Ormsby, (lessors)	58 12 7	Those are wards of Chancery. An application to be made to the Court for an order for payment.
Denis Bingham, esq., (lessor)	141 14 0	Proceedings in superior Courts. Mr. Bingham resides at present at Kingstown. Writ issued. Commissioners' consent required.
Rev. Richard Handy, (lessor)	10 1 3	Notice on occupiers, Mr. Handy not residing in the Union.
Wm. H. Orme, esq., (lessor)	6 19 11	Notice on occupiers, Mr. Orme not residing in the Union.
Daniel Madden, (lessor)	36 14 8	Case pending before magistrates.
Edward Deane, esq., (lessor)	19 14 2½	To be summoned before magistrate.
Mrs. Bingham, (lessor)	24 17 ■	To be summoned before magistrate.
John Walsh, esq., (lessor)	63 16 1	Proceedings in superior Courts. He resides in Dublin, and is an attorney. Consent of Commissioners required before declaration can be filed. The issuing of a writ unnecessary, as he is an attorney.
Jasper V. Fowler, esq., (lessor)	20 9 0½	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ issued. Consent of Commissioners required. Mr. Fowler lives in Dublin.
Henry Bingham, esq., (lessor)	22 17 0½	To be summoned before magistrate.
Mrs. Short, (lessor)	11 18 6½	To be summoned before magistrate.
Francis B. Knox, esq., (lessor)	17 15 7½	Application to be made to him by solicitor; he resides in Dublin. Application has been made to him by letter.
J. W. Richards, esq., (lessor)	5 4 5	A month's notice on the occupiers; Mr. Richards residing out of the Union.
M. Atkinson, esq., (lessor)	18 11 4½	Paid the amount to collector on solicitor's threatening proceedings against him in superior Courts.
Thos. M'Cloughery, (occupier)	27 13 9	Summons.
Henry Simpson (occupier)	27 17 3	To be distrained.
Lady Ormsby Gore, (lessor)	8 7 2	Bailiff promises to pay; collector directed to urge him to do so.
William Halliday, (occupier)	15 0 0	Summons.

Names. &c.	Amount due.	Directions, &c.
	£. s. d.	
Captain Ormsby, (lessor) .	5 11 3½	Receiver over this gentleman's property; application to be made to him.
Edward Simpson, (occupier)	9 3 4	Summons.
James Pagett, esq., (lessor) .	30 15 10	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ issued but not served, Mr. Pagett having left the country for Dublin before the arrival of the writ. A renewal about to be issued and served in Dublin. Commissioners' consent required.
Edward Atkinson, (occupier)	5 0 0	Summons.
Pat Sweeny, (occupier) .	2 10 0	A balance. Summons.
John Lavalley, (occupier) .	5 14 4	Lavelley having left, proceedings by summons to be taken against the next occupier.
John Walker, (occupier) .	5 16 0	Summons.
Francis Caffrey, (occupier) .	6 18 0	Summons.
Edw. Patterson, esq., (lessor)	6 0 0	Not resident in the Union. Solicitor to ascertain his address and write to him.
Mr. Fenton, (occupier) .	3 10 0	
William Beatty, (occupier) .	6 17 4	Distress.
George Beatty, (occupier) .	7 13 2	Distress.
Louis Jones, (occupier) .	18 18 5½	Distress.
John Stenson, (occupier) .	7 12 5	Summons.
William Ormsby, (occupier)	5 12 10	Summons.
James M'Nair, (lessor) .	7 15 9	Apothecary to the workhouse. This sum to be retained from his salary.
Fras. Murphy, esq., (lessor)	6 0 0	Not resident in the Union. Solicitor to ascertain his address and write to him.
Edward Howley, esq., (lessor)	20 4 2	This stands over.
Wm. H. Orme, esq., (lessor)	84 5 0	This gentleman is resident abroad. It is believed there is a receiver over his property. If so, an application to the Court for an order to compel payment.
William Knox Orme, esq., (lessor).	34 6 1	A month's notice on the occupier, as this gentleman resides out of the kingdom.
Captain Knox, and H. W. Knox, esq., (lessors).	23 17 2	See former rule about this case. This sum is payable in addition to the amount before mentioned.
Chas. O'Donnell, esq., (lessor)	21 10 0	This gentleman is resident abroad. A month's notice on occupiers.
Geo. H. Orme, esq., (occupier)	7 10 7	Summons.
Walter Bourke, esq., (lessor)	5 19 2	Resides in Dublin; solicitor to write to him. Has been written to.
Mrs. Atkinson, (lessor) .	7 13 0	Summons.
George Irwin, (lessor) .	18 18 5	Summons.
William Johnson, (lessor) .	10 9 8	Summons.
Mrs. James Nolan, (lessor)	18 1 4	Summons.
The Minors Joynt, (lessor)	6 1 8	Application to receiver; if not paid, application to Court.
Mrs. Jackson, (lessor) .	6 4 9	She is a non-resident. Collector to write to Mr. Clendening, her agent.
Mrs. Pugh	■ 3 10½	Distrain the lands.
Pat Fergus, (lessor and occupier).	9 16 10	Distrain where he is occupier; 15 days' notice, and summons for the balance.
Luke Coyne, (lessor) .	15 17 6	A month's notice on occupiers.
Cornelius Kelly, (lessor) .	6 3 6½	To be written to. Does not live in the Union.
George Irwin, (lessor) .	7 4 0	Month's notice on occupiers.
James Burns, (lessor) .	32 14 1	Fifteen days' notice and summons.
William Haliday, (occupier)	30 1 8	Summons.
Representative of William Culkin, (lessor),	20 11 5	Proceedings in superior Courts. Writ served. Consent of Commissioners required.
Robert Verschoyle, (lessor)	9 18 2	Stands.
John Fair (occupier) .	60 0 0	Distress.
Edward Atkinson, (occupier)	40 6 0	Settled by his account with the Guardians, as one of the contractors.
Thad. O'Dowda, esq., (lessor)	49 4 0	Summons pending before magistrate.
George H. Moore, esq., M.P., (lessor).	28 4 1	His agent promises to pay in a few days.
George Moore, esq., (lessor)	20 3 3	Application to be made to Mr. Clendening, the receiver over the property.
Francis Evans, (lessor) .	24 17 5	Application to Court, if receiver refuses to pay. Receiver states he has no funds for the purpose.
Mrs. Louis Atkinson . .	29 8 9	Has been summoned.
William Ham	7 4 9½	Settled by his account against the Board of Guardians.

Ballina, January 11, 1848.

THOMAS MACANDREW, Solicitor.

LIEUT. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the annexed letters which I have received from Messrs. MacAndrew and Irwin, rate collectors, complaining of the constant adjournments of the Ballina Petty Sessions.

I have to request, that the Commissioners will have the goodness to communicate with the proper authorities, in order to prevent a recurrence of this very just cause of complaint.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. MACANDREW to Mr. W. HAMILTON :—*January 14, 1848.*

I BEG leave to acquaint you, that I have had a large number of summonses served upon defaulting rate-payers for the last three weeks, and there has been no Petit Sessions' Court here since, to dispose of those cases. The last Court was held on the 21st December, and during the interval between that time and the present date there have been two days appointed for holding a Court, one on the 4th January, and the other on the 11th; but on each day one magistrate only attended to adjourn the Court. I stated to the one magistrate that did attend, that he alone could adjudicate on poor-rate summonses, but he declined doing so without the aid of a second magistrate. The Court now stands adjourned till the 1st of February.

Mr. IRWIN to Captain HAMILTON :—*January 15, 1848.*

It is quite impossible for a collector to bring in rates, especially out of a poor district, in consequence of the non-attendance of the magistrates at the Ballina Petit Sessions. We had no Court there since the 14th December, nor shall have until the 1st of February next. We had two or three adjournments since the last Court.

REPLY to the above :—*January 22, 1848.*

THE attention of Her Majesty's Government has been drawn to your communication.

LIEUT. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 17, 1848.*

WITH reference to the loan of implements, &c., I beg to say that it will be necessary to take precautions to prevent wilful damage to such implements, as, on two occasions last week, overseers reported to me that the workmen employed under them broke their hammers, &c., designedly, the moment the overseers' backs were turned. On the last occasion I found 17 hammers broken, I told all the workmen that if I found them playing that game, I would recommend the Guardians to try the effect of shot drill (as practised at some of the military prisons under Colonel Jebb's superintendence). I gave them some idea of what kind of work they would find it, and I think so far the threat has succeeded.

I will feel obliged by your acquainting me whether the Commissioners consider such a punishment objectionable, and, if so, what you recommend to be tried.

REPLY to the above :—*January 21, 1848.*

THE Commissioners consider that all such persons who do not conduct themselves in an orderly manner at the work which they are required to give in return for the food supplied to them, cannot really require relief, and should, therefore, be struck off the relief lists.

The Commissioners recommend that the Vice-Guardians should give notice to this effect, through all the Relieving Officers.

LIEUT. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 17, 1848.*

I HAVE attended the meetings of the Vice-Guardians as frequently as my other duties would admit of during the past week, some portion of which I spent in visiting schools.

I can report favourably on the state of the workhouse, and bear testimony to

Ballina Union.

the anxiety of the Vice-Guardians to do their utmost to relieve distress and check imposition, but I am sorry to say that in every respect the affairs of this Union are daily becoming more difficult to deal with.

The Relieving Officers are overwhelmed with applications for relief; nearly the entire population received relief last year, and nothing less will *satisfy* them this year.

It is painful to witness, day after day, distress, disease, and demoralization in their worst forms, and the last exists to such an extent that I greatly fear it is almost hopeless to expect success in every instance, in affording timely and effectual relief to those who really are in want of it.

REPLY to the above:—*January 18, 1848.*

I AM to suggest that the Vice-Guardians should at once consider the expediency of remodelling the relief districts of the Union, with a view to the increase of the number of the districts, and the appointment of additional Relieving Officers, so that each Relieving Officer may be responsible for the discharge of such an amount of duty as he may reasonably be expected to perform. By this means, relief will be more duly afforded where distress is not simulated, and imposition will be better detected in other cases.

The Commissioners request you to direct your earnest attention to the making such arrangements as will prevent the deaths of the destitute from starvation. However great the destitution is, it must be grappled with, and relieved as far as is permitted by the law.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 22, 1848.*

DURING the past week, Mr. Waters and myself have continued, as far as possible, our personal examination of the applicants for relief in different portions of the district; but owing to the ignorance of the people, and the imposition attempted, we find that a longer period will be required for a proper selection and classification of paupers, than we at first anticipated.

From the general emaciated appearance of the people, together with the horrifying sights coming under our immediate observation, we deem it absolutely necessary to make arrangements for affording relief on a more extended scale than heretofore; and as from experience we are quite convinced that food can only, with safety, be given in a cooked form, we purpose erecting boilers in the most central parts of the two electoral divisions.

I shall communicate with Count Strzelecki, before any of the boilers belonging to the Association in this district are removed, but the localities in which they are at present situated are not adapted for our purposes.

There are at present 50 orphan children in the auxiliary workhouse, and I regret to say there are 17 cases of dysentery, which are to be principally attributed to the change of diet, after the privations these poor little creatures had previously undergone. The healthy children have been separated to a detached portion of the building, and every precaution to check the progress of disease has been made.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. W. J. HAMILTON on a Communication from the Board of Health relating to the increase of temporary hospital accommodation in the Ballina Union:—*January 17, 1848.*

As the Vice-Guardians are not at all satisfied with the tenure of the ground, on which the fever sheds were erected under the authority of the Board of Health, they decided on advertising for tenders for a house or houses capable of containing 50 patients; however, no tenders have been received. The Vice-Guardians have, therefore, directed that the hospital attached to the auxiliary workhouse at Ardnaree, should be exclusively devoted to fever patients; and they purpose, if the Commissioners have no objection, to turn the Ardnaree workhouse into a fever hospital, and endeavour to procure a store, called Casement's store, to be used as an auxiliary workhouse.

I think that no persons, except paupers, should be admitted to the fever

hospital, and charged on the rates. At present, I am informed, that every applicant is admitted.

The sooner that these fever hospitals are placed more under the control of the Guardians the better.

I have not received any communication from the Board of Health.

Ballina Union.

REPLY to the above:—*January 28, 1848.*

AN extract from your observations has been forwarded for the information of the Board of Health.

As regards your suggestion, that no persons but paupers should be admitted into the fever hospitals, and charged on the rates, I am to state that it is not necessary that a person should be destitute to entitle him to relief, if affected by fever, or other dangerous contagious disease; and I am to request your attention to the 15th section of the Irish Poor Relief Amendment Act, and to the Fever Acts, on this point.

With reference to your observations, as to the expediency of having the hospitals placed more under the control of the Guardians, I am to state, that in the present state of the law, the fever hospitals established under the Board of Health are to be supported by the Boards of Guardians out of the Union funds, upon the estimates furnished by the Relief Committees, when such estimates have been allowed by the Finance Committee, and countersigned by the Inspector of the Union.

The Commissioners trust that by this means, a sufficient check may be kept upon the management and expenditure of the temporary fever hospitals.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 24, 1848.*

WE beg to annex the accompanying communication which we have received from the Rev. Richard St. George, vicar of Crossmolina.

We fear that in this extensive Union, it will not be possible to provide adequate accommodation for all fever cases. We therefore beg to suggest, that the subject be referred to the Board of Health, with a view of having their opinion as to the best course to pursue under such circumstances.

We have this day decided upon at once appropriating the auxiliary work-house in Ardnaree as a fever hospital, in consequence of the great increase of fever.

ENCLOSURE.

The Rev. Mr. ST. GEORGE to the POOR LAW GUARDIANS of the BALLINA UNION:—
January 24, 1848.

ALLOW me to call your attention to the awful state in which the poor of this extensive Union are placed by fever, without any means of administering to their wants or giving them any relief, or removing those in a state of fever from those who are not as yet unaffected. When the Relief Committee was in existence I brought the subject before them. The only person who was willing to assist me, or join in the application, was the Roman Catholic clergyman, Rev. Mr. Costello. The consequence is, that during the past twelve months, but more especially during the last three months, fever has been on the increase, and much more malignant in its character than heretofore; and I assert, that unless some means are afforded of giving relief and removing the infected, the whole population will be swept off. I would have gone into Ballina this day, but I have parish duties to attend; but I hope some means may be devised to have the sick attended in this neighbourhood, or removed into Ballina.

REPLY to the above:—*January 28, 1848.*

THE attention of the Board of Health has been drawn to your communication.

Lieut. HAMILTON and Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—
January 29, 1848.

HAVING been in communication for the past week as regards the present state and future prospects of our respective districts, more especially with a

Ballinac. Union.

view of considering how long the Vice-Guardians will be able to meet their weekly engagements, we feel anxious to lay before the Commissioners a brief statement of our views on this latter subject, as we are apprehensive that much confusion and increased difficulties may shortly arise from the present financial state of the Union.

We feel we cannot conscientiously recommend any gratuitous assistance from the funds of the British Relief Association, so long as the rate books exhibit their present list of defaulters, there being still uncollected about 7500*l.* of the rate made last July. The Commissioners are aware that every step has been taken to enforce payment, and we do not despair of being able ultimately to recover a considerable portion of this sum; however, we cannot reckon upon weekly lodgments sufficient to cover the weekly expenses, which, according to the following rough estimate, we calculate to be about 630*l.*, viz.—

In-door relief	£120
Rent	3
Fever hospital	30
Out-door relief	415
Salaries	62
Total	630

The present liabilities of the Union, including the amount advanced by the Commissioners last year (but not taking into account the advances under Act 10 Vict., cap. 7, for which no rate has been struck), amount to about 2500*l.* Supposing 4000*l.* of the uncollected rate to be recovered, there will be sufficient funds to carry on until the end of February.

It is not easy to calculate what the probable expenses of the four following months may be, but assuming that there will not be much increase on the present expenditure, a sum of 10,000*l.* will have to be provided. We feel that to attempt to raise this amount by striking a new rate would not only be unfair towards many who have made great sacrifices to pay the present rate, but would have the effect of keeping the entire Union out of cultivation, and paralyzing any exertions which may be made.

We are, however, of opinion that a rate ought to be struck in July, being a year from the date of the last rate made, and that the amount of such rate should depend upon circumstances; that is to say, if no exertions be made in the mean time by landowners and farmers to help themselves, and we should find the information we have received to be correct, viz., that some proprietors have taken a nominal surrender from their tenantry, in order to get them on the out-door relief lists, and that public opinion should not be brought to bear against such conduct, we feel that it will be useless to attempt to assist the Union, in which case we would suggest the striking and enforcing a rate sufficient to cover all expenses.

We shall feel much obliged by your acquainting us with the Commissioners' views on this subject.

We have only to add that fever and dysentery continue to increase to an alarming extent. Mr. Bingham, proprietor of the auxiliary workhouse in Binghamstown, and the person placed in temporary charge of the premises by the late Board of Guardians, pending the appointment of the necessary staff, died this morning of fever after a few days' illness.

We beg to call the Commissioners' attention to the remarks made on Mr. and Mrs. Cormick's appointment as master and matron, as it will be necessary at once to procure some person to take charge of the establishment.

It is exceedingly difficult to procure proper persons for subordinate situations in this Union, every candidate is so strongly recommended that strangers are apt to be misled. It would be very desirable, therefore, to send down a few competent persons to the Vice-Guardians if such can be easily procured.

The Vice-Guardians have allowed each relieving officer an additional assistant for one month, which we hope will have a good effect.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing we have visited the auxiliary workhouse at Binghamstown, which we found in confusion in consequence of Mr. Bingham's death. We lost no time in requesting Mr. Waters, Vice-Guardian, to appoint a person *pro tem.*, to take charge of the premises, &c.

We have likewise received by this evening's post your communication re-

specting Mr. and Mrs. Cormick's appointment not being sanctioned by the Commissioners. We agree that no other course could have been adopted, as it would not be desirable to place Mr. Cormick in such a situation of trust; his conduct does not appear to have given satisfaction to the respectable portion of the late Relief Committee, to which he acted as Clerk.

It is perfectly true that Mr. Cormick has strong testimonials, but we are not disposed to place them in the balance with disinterested testimony, being aware how easy it is to get a character.

REPLY to the above :—*February 3, 1848.*

THE Commissioners observe that of 7500*l.* due under the rate made in July last, you do not reckon on the recovery of more than 4000*l.*, which will be only sufficient to defray the current weekly expenses, about 630*l.*, to the end of February, and pay debts of the late Board amounting to 2500*l.* exclusive of advances by the Relief Commissioners, &c. You at the same time state that you do not think it would be advisable to levy a further rate in the Union until July next, the amount of which should in your opinion be determined by circumstances.

The Commissioners recommend the most strenuous exertions to be made by legal proceedings, and otherwise, for enforcing payment of the outstanding rate by all persons known to possess any means of paying it.

The Commissioners approve of the steps taken in providing for the management of the auxiliary workhouse, pending the appointment of a master and matron. They recommend notice to be published in one of the Dublin morning newspapers, as also in a weekly paper, when Union officers are required.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 4, 1848.*

WE are most anxious to learn, at your earliest convenience, the manner in which you wish us to act under the following circumstances :—

Persons holding from one to five or more acres of land with a house make application to their landlord to take a surrender from them of the land, and at the same time refuse to give up the house; the landlords naturally refuse to accept such as a surrender, feeling that if they did so, those persons might at any future time successfully claim the land again on the ground that that surrender, being only a portion of one certain letting, was not legal, and they, at the same time, warn us not to relieve such persons, they being still in possession.

We have at all times given relief to destitute landholders who have *bonâ fide* endeavoured to act up to the spirit and meaning of the Act of Parliament, by endeavouring to divest themselves of possession (as appears by a resolution in the minutes of our proceedings), and in cases where a landlord refuses a tender of possession of the entire merely on the ground of arrears of rent not being paid, we give relief if the party is destitute, as we consider this a *bonâ fide* endeavour on the part of the tenant to divest himself of possession.

But we cannot conceal from ourselves, that the offering possession of part only is not endeavouring to act up to the spirit of the Act. We have often suggested to landlords a method of obviating this difficulty, and at the same time protecting themselves (which is acted on by Mr. Symes, the Earl of Arran's agent), viz., by taking possession of the entire, thus accepting a legal surrender, and at the same time acting humanely, by permitting the tenants to re-enter the houses as caretakers; but many landlords will not do this, and many tenants refuse, fearing to trust their landlords. Our difficulty is this—we wish to act humanely in not forcing people to part with their houses and become homeless, but the 10th section of the Act is imperative, and we feel if we act as humanity suggests, we would directly infringe an Act, the provisions of which we are appointed to carry out.

As the cases we allude to are very numerous, and daily becoming more so, we think it better to seek for instructions without further delay, in the meantime, our relieving officers know their responsibility too well to permit any one to starve.

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REPLY to the above:—*February 7, 1848.*

THE mere refusal of a landlord to accept a surrender of land does not disqualify a person, who has ceased to occupy more than a quarter of an acre of land, from receiving relief.

By the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, it is merely the occupation or non-occupation of a quarter of an acre of land which is made a criterion of destitution, provided that an applicant for relief may otherwise be deemed entitled to it.

Hence the Guardians, as far as that clause is concerned, are warranted in relieving any body who is not in such occupation; and they are not bound to investigate the title at all, or to ascertain whether the tenant's interest has been legally determined, by surrender or otherwise.

Lieut. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 6, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you my usual weekly report.

Erris.

I think the interior economy of the workhouse is gradually improving. I have constantly visited the house at uncertain hours, and generally found matters to my satisfaction.

The schools appear to be well managed; and the infirmary, considering its crowded state, is very clean and regular. The mortality has been trifling; only two deaths last week out of between 1500 and 1600 inmates.

I think it is very desirable that the last half-yearly accounts of the Union should be audited. I know that owing to Mr. M'Nunn's (the late clerk) neglect, there has been a difficulty in the way, but as the correspondence has not passed through my hands, I am not aware of the particulars.

Mr. M'Nulty, the Clerk, has recovered from fever, and resumes his duties. I am quite satisfied he is doing his utmost to pull up his brother's arrears, and I think the Vice-Guardians are right in giving him a fair trial.

I am glad that the Commissioners have dismissed Mr. Toody. If Mr. Irwin and Mr. Corcoran do not collect a larger amount of rates next week, I shall request the Commissioners to dismiss them likewise.

Several of the relieving officers (especially Mr. John Palmer) are doing their duty well; others I have little or no confidence in; but in the absence of any proofs of their neglect of the interests of the poor or the rate-payers, and owing to the very great unwillingness of the latter class to give any information worth having, we must only make the best of them until they commit themselves.

Mr. Bluett, the superintendent of overseers of working parties, appears most zealous; and, to judge by the frequent absence of persons from the working parties, the labour test has been most successful. There has been some difficulty in getting tools, owing to the exorbitant demands made by store-keepers for storage; but Mr. Brett, the county surveyor, will be here to-morrow, and I have no doubt that he will arrange everything satisfactorily.

The Society of Friends have authorized me, in conjunction with the Rev. Mr. Lees, to take some lands, which Colonel Vaughan Jackson and Mr. Orme have placed at their disposal rent free. The Agricultural Society have directed Mr. Martin, the practical agriculturist, to render us every assistance. We purpose giving employment next week in the electoral divisions of Bucks, Ballina, Kelfyan, and Crossmolina. I hope that, as this undertaking will be a great assistance to the Union in many ways, the Commissioners will approve of my giving up a portion of my time to see it carried out.

I think there has been some little attempt at ploughing, digging, &c., during the last few days.

The British Relief Association are giving relief to 12,000 children daily at the schools in my district. This great boon has been most thankfully received by persons of all religious persuasions; and, taking everything into consideration, the experiment has succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations.

I have so far only alluded to my district of the Union, in which there is nothing like the distress which I witnessed during my recent visit to Erris. The condition of the poor in Erris is very frightful. I accompanied Mr. Richard Hamilton through parts of the electoral division of Binghamstown. We witnessed the ruins of Mullaghroe, once a village on the estate of Mr. Walsh, of

Castle Hill. This gentleman is a defaulter of poor's rate, to the amount of 63*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* (being 48*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*) for two years' rates in Erris, and 15*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* for one year's rate in Crossmolina electoral divisions); it is almost unnecessary I should add, that legal proceedings have been taken against him.

I was informed that 80 families had been ejected within the last two months by Mr. Walsh, their houses destroyed, and the unfortunate outcasts left to seek shelter where they could find it. I rode through the ruins to try if there were any human beings to be found, but I only saw one family. I inquired what had become of the other inhabitants, and was informed that some were in their graves, others under the ditches, others begging shelter from house to house, and plundering whatever they could lay hands on.

In alluding to this very distressing subject, I beg to say that in my first report from this Union, I stated that "I had been much struck with the number of "roofless cabins throughout the Union;" but so long as I was satisfied that the proprietors had paid their rates, and by so doing had contributed towards the support of their wretched tenantry, I considered that my duty consisted in endeavouring to assist the Guardians to provide relief, and not in inquiring into the humanity or inhumanity of landlords towards their tenants; however, from being constantly on the spot, I have necessarily become acquainted more or less with the circumstances of many of the evictions which have taken place, and I take the opportunity of stating, that several (I wish I could say all) of the landlords have acted with the greatest forbearance and liberality. I may mention the Earl of Arran, Colonel Wingfield, Colonel Vaughan Jackson, Mr. Orme, and others whose names do not immediately occur to me. I am not aware whether Mr. Walsh has been worse treated by his tenantry than other landlords have been; I presume he has, for I never before saw such wholesale desolation, and I hope I never may again. I am in daily correspondence with Mr. Richard Hamilton; in one of his last letters he says—"I visited Mul-laghroe again to-day, in order to try to make some provision for the people "turned out of it. I saw worse sights than the Geraghty's; it was neither more "nor less than horrible."

The Geraghty's were a wretched family we visited at Farrane, where we found the father lying dead, and the mother and five children huddled together on the floor, all bowed down by disease; none of the family had been able to go for their rations. However, we ascertained from the relieving officer at Binghamstown, that he had sent their rations to them.

P.S. I must add, that Mr. Walsh is pulling down houses in the electoral division of Crossmolina; his tenantry are all through the miserable town, which is full of fever.

REPLY to the above:—*February 9, 1848.*

With reference to your request to be allowed to devote a portion of your time to superintend the employment of poor persons on lands placed at the disposal of the Society of Friends by Colonel Jackson and Mr. Orme, I am to state that the Commissioners do not wish in any way to impede the benevolent exertions of the Society of Friends, for whom the Commissioners entertain the highest respect.

I am at the same time to state, that, for general reasons of policy into which the Commissioners deem it now unnecessary to enter, they are desirous that you should not associate yourself with the proposed project for employing poor people on the lands of the Society of Friends.

The Commissioners do not wish, however, that you should infer that they are opposed in any manner to the plan of the Society; they merely deem it advisable that their Inspectors should not be instrumental in carrying it out.

Lurgan Union.

LURGAN UNION.

Sub-Inspector LITTLE to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL:—*November 8, 1847.*

I HAVE to report that a labouring man, named John Kearns, a native of near Lurgan, in this district, on his way home from Scotland, took ill at Lurgan, and died there in a lodging-house on the 4th instant. An inquest was held on the 6th instant, by the coroner on view of the body, and the following is a copy of the verdict found, viz.—“We find that the said John Kearns died of starvation at Lurgan, on the 4th day of November, 1847.”

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*December 1, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration, the report of Sub-Inspector Little, which was referred to them on the 11th instant, relative to the death of a labouring man, named John Kearns, who was stated to have died of starvation at Lurgan on the 4th instant.

The Commissioners have procured from the coroner a copy of the depositions taken by him, at the inquest held on the body of John Kearns, and they now forward, for the information of his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant, a copy of that evidence.

From this evidence it will be seen that there is nothing, except the opinion of the medical man, founded on the emaciated appearance of the body, to lead to the conclusion that John Kearns died of starvation. On the contrary, it appears from the evidence of John Costelloe, that he went out and bought apples the night before his death, and it seems hardly probable that this description of food would have been preferred by a hungry man. There is nothing to show that he complained of hunger, and the emaciation of the body might be the result of internal disease.

It does not appear that the deceased at any time applied for relief to any of the persons entrusted with the administration of relief to the destitute poor in Lurgan Union.

ENCLOSURE.

County of Armagh, } Informations of witnesses taken on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the
to wit. } Queen, this sixth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, in the town of Lurgan, parish of Shankill, and said county, before George Walter Young, one of Her Majesty's coroners for said county, touching the death of John Kearns, then and there lying dead, as follows:—

Daniel Costello, of Lurgan aforesaid, lodging-house keeper, being sworn on the Holy Evangelist, deposeth and saith,—That he was not acquainted with deceased until he came into his house looking for lodging on last Wednesday evening; deceased was then sober, but appeared somewhat delicate; deceased went out of deponent's house and bought apples, which he eat on his return to deponent's house; deceased went to bed and became unwell, was moaning. A woman asked deceased, was he not unwell; he did not reply; this was about ten o'clock; deceased continued unwell all night, and died at seven o'clock on last Thursday morning.

his
DANIEL X COSTELLO.
mark.

Taken and acknowledged the day and year, and at the place aforesaid, being first truly read to the deponent before

GEO. W. YOUNG, *Coroner.*

Robert Strickland Hannay, of Lurgan aforesaid, in said county, surgeon, being sworn on the Holy Evangelist, deposeth and saith,—That he examined the dead body of deceased; there are no marks of violence on the body; from the emaciated state of the body, is of opinion that he died of starvation.

ROBERT S. HANNAY.

Taken and acknowledged the day and year, and at the place aforesaid, before

GEO. W. YOUNG.

Copy depositions taken on the inquisition held on the body of John Kearns, at Lurgan, on the sixth instant.

GEO. W. YOUNG, *Coroner.*

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. SENIOR, Poor Law Inspector.

Lurgan Union.

THERE is nothing to show that the deceased died from want of the necessaries of life. He is stated to have bought apples the night before his death—a description of food a hungry man probably would not have preferred; he does not appear to have complained of hunger, and it is not stated whether any money was found on his person. Emaciation of person is, of course, very often the result of internal disease.

Swineford Union.

SWINEFORD UNION.

Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 24, 1847.*

I HAVE to lay before the Commissioners the result of the meeting of the Board of Guardians held yesterday. The attendance, owing, I presume, to the weather, which has been very severe, and the long distances the majority of the Guardians have to come, was very small; from these causes, also, the desire to get away again was very manifest, and, indeed, by four o'clock, when the meeting broke up, it had become almost dark.

I drew the attention of the Guardians to the disproportionate number of women and children with husbands and fathers in the house, to those without; suggested that a list should be furnished to me of these separately classed, that upon any of the latter leaving the house, as they most probably will, on the return of their husbands, the relieving officer may be cautioned to be on the alert to enforce the 2nd section Act 10 & 11 Vict. cap. 84.

In reference to the subject I formerly adverted to, respecting the Vagrant Act, the chairman, who is also a member of the Gaol Committee, stated there was not room in the gaol, for the commitments already made for other crimes; and the bridewell here, although finished, is not available, as some dispute has arisen with the contractor and it has not been taken off his hands. What is to be done under such circumstances?

The amount of money paid in by the collectors was only 25%. Three only of the four collectors attended, and one of them neglected attending on Saturday, to audit his account. They were all cautioned that upon the next dereliction of duty, they would be summoned and fined; and also, that if they did not exert themselves more in collecting the rates, and make examples of some of the defaulters, they would render themselves liable to be dismissed.

The property of this Union is unfortunately situated. Upon obtaining a list of the highest rate-payers, I find there are no less than six properties in Chancery, and out of a return of nearly 70 names, from 50 to 60 are non-resident; the tenantry proportionately neglected, or, I might say, abandoned, for in few cases is the agent resident either.

I feel the necessity is arrived of some onward move on the part of the Guardians, in order to secure the collection of the rates; and I shall strenuously call upon them to exert their powers upon the principal defaulters next week, should, as most probably will be the case, the rates have not been paid up. I was on Monday engaged in obtaining information respecting the schools in this Union.

I have to mention that a resolution was made yesterday, to issue no more orders on the treasurer. It appears to have been the custom to have given drafts upon the Bank when there were no funds in hand; these drafts are in circulation (of course at an enormous discount), and the system was so evidently fallacious, that it was very desirable it should be discontinued. Some applications for admission were entertained, and several admitted.

It will shortly, I fear, be necessary to consider the steps to be taken to meet the numbers applying for relief. Upon this subject I shall, I hope, be able to offer a suggestion for the Board's approval, in conformity with their views, should it be found necessary to increase the accommodation.

REPLY to the above:—*November 26, 1847.*

WITH reference to your observations as to the small attendance of Guardians at the meeting of the Board on the 23rd instant, I am to state that the Commissioners trust, that under the critical circumstances of the Union, the members of the Board of Guardians will provide for the discharge of the important duties devolved upon them, and by an arrangement for the occasional attendance of each member, secure the presence of a sufficient number for business at every meeting.

As regards the number of women and children in the workhouse, the Commissioners recommend that the wives of men who are not in the workhouse, should be required to swear informations before the magistrates against their husbands for desertion, with a view to proceedings being taken under the Vagrant Act.

The Commissioners cannot point out the course which the magistrates should take, in consequence of the bridewell not being available for the punishment of vagrants; but they presume that if any temporary place could be provided, to which paupers could be committed and kept to hard labour, for only a day, as often as found begging, the practice would be checked.

Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 27, 1847.*

I REGRET to say the weather this week has totally prevented my visiting the country portions of the Union. It has never ceased pouring since I last wrote to you, and has on some days prevented my getting as far as the workhouse.

Since I last wrote to you, one of the collectors, in the execution of his duties, made a seizure of some cattle, when a rescue took place under rather serious circumstances (as sworn in the informations), a sword-stick having been drawn and threats used. The parties were arrested and brought before the Petty Sessions Court yesterday, but the solicitor of the Union had the case postponed until the 17th proximo, in consequence of one of the principal witnesses being absent, he having been previously summoned to attend at a Manor Court in a distant part of the country.

I have directed the collectors to proceed against the better class of rate-payers who either refused or neglected to pay the sums due by them. I regret to find such men as Lord Lucan, Lord Claremorris, Sir Roger Palmer and others among the defaulters. I trust, however, when they find proceedings have been commenced, they will spare me the painful necessity of having their property seized, and that it will duly operate on the other classes who, as yet, have not settled their rates; at all events, I have determined no pains shall be spared in collecting the rates, for it is evident all our powers must be neutralized if the funds are not forthcoming, at a season when it is probable the demands will be highest on the workhouse. Having found a few spades and shovels, I have commenced in the yards to trench the borders, &c., and have undertaken, if the tools are ordered, to drain and subsoil the land attached to the workhouse, which will be a useful practical lesson to the able-bodied, who, I hope, may be induced to apply it elsewhere.

I have been employed chiefly, in investigating cases in the workhouse, and have sifted out many who ought never to have been admitted. In one case, a woman and her child have been in since October, her husband living at Foxford in the Union at the time. I imagine this arose from want of sufficient scrutiny at a period when there was much accommodation in the workhouse, which probably induced carelessness in inquiry into the cases admitted; most of the women situated as represented in my letter of the 24th, state themselves either to be widows or having husbands in England. One man, this week returned from England, called at the house and took away two children (the one six, and the other three years old); his wife, it appears, had died in his absence, and the children were put into the house. I have ordered him to be applied to for their cost of maintenance, and in case of refusal to have him summoned.

REPLY to the above :— *December 1, 1847.*

THE Commissioners fully approve the most active steps being taken to effect the collection of the rates, with the least possible delay.

The Commissioners also approve the steps which you have taken to have the workhouse inmates employed, and the Commissioners are of opinion that it will be advisable to direct the special attention of the Guardians to the necessity of applying the test of labour to the destitution of the workhouse inmates, by keeping them employed, according to their capacity and ability.

As regards the cases to which you advert, in which relief has been afforded to parties whose relatives, liable for their support, are not inmates of the house,

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the Commissioners approve the course which you are taking, of scrutinizing the relief lists; but they do not think that legal proceedings against the parties liable for the support of such inmates, with a view to the recovery of the cost of relief afforded, will be successful, if the Guardians did not, at the time of their relief, declare the cost of such relief to be by way of loan.

The Commissioners suggest that proceedings should be taken under the Vagrant Act, against the parties punishable under the 2nd section of that Act.

Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 1, 1847.*

THE meeting that took place yesterday of the Board of Guardians for this Union, was better attended than any previously held since my arrival at this place.

I therefore took advantage of this circumstance, to bring before them the subject of uncollected rates. I pointed out to them the necessity of at once taking steps to ensure their payment, particularly amongst the larger rate-payers and principal immediate lessors. I also pointed out the impropriety of allowing these rate-payers to stand over, whilst the former were made to pay, as it tended to induce a belief that there was one law for the rich, and another for the poor. I pointed out to them the proper course in my mind, to pursue—to ascertain critically the liabilities of every description of the Union, and then to face their difficulties like men, with a determination to overcome them. I also told them, that if they expected to get over their difficulties without some sacrifice on their parts, they would no doubt be mistaken, and that it was far wiser to reconcile themselves to this at once, than to attempt to stave it off from time to time. With this view, they consented to appoint a local committee to confer with me, and to assist me in collecting the rates. Orders have been given from time to time, to the solicitor of the Union, to commence proceedings against certain individuals, and in his absence, it would have been unsatisfactory to proceed by summary means, in all cases. It has therefore been decided to request his attendance on Friday next, on which day this sub-committee is to meet, and on ascertaining exactly what steps he has taken, and how matters stand, we shall then be in a better position to determine on the future.

The case of the master of the workhouse was again brought before the meeting, in consequence of the letter from the Commissioners, desiring that they should proceed to elect another, by advertisement. I was called upon for an opinion of him since I joined the Union, and having found him intoxicated yesterday, on visiting the workhouse, I strongly urged his removal at once. I understand he is an unfortunate man, who having inherited a nice little property has managed to muddle it all away, and that he is nearly connected with many members of the Board of Guardians, who naturally, it may be urged, would screen him. Still I feel from the situation he holds, as master of the house, the total destruction of all moral example he sets the inmates, renders it imperative he should be at once removed, and I trust the Commissioners will be firm in their determination of having him superseded.

The case also of the schoolmistress was brought again before the Guardians. From what I have seen she seems a respectable nice young woman, desirous of doing her duty, taking pains with the children, and, if one may judge from her letter to the Board of Guardians, of superior education. I have also observed a kindliness of manner to the unfortunate children not to be overlooked.

The Guardians gratefully accept the offer of the French hand-mill, if the Commissioners will kindly have it sent down.

Tools have been purchased to a small extent from the Board of Works, by an order made this day, and spades and shovels have also been ordered to be provided.

I regret again to have to revert to the timber the contractor is using in building the new fever hospital, and do not hesitate to say it is a disgrace to him as a tradesman; I recommend some stringent step to be adopted to secure proper materials being used in the construction.

The admission of several paupers took place; amongst others brought before the Board, was one of a woman and her family of four or five children. She had formerly belonged to this Union, she had, however, been 12 years absent in England, and had only returned to this country three months, she was refused admission. I again drew the attention of the Board to the Commissioners' letter

of the 18th instant, requesting their views of appointing a medical officer under section 5 of the Poor Law Extension Act; it was again postponed until this day week.

I trust, after our meeting on Friday, to be able to report a favourable result on the subject of enforcing the rates still uncollected.

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REPLY to the above:—*December 3, 1847.*

THE Commissioners approve the advice which you gave the Board of Guardians, with reference to the state of their affairs, and of the course which has been adopted with a view to the speedy collection of the rates in the Union. The Commissioners await your further report on that subject.

As regards the master of the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners will issue an order under seal for his dismissal, unless he immediately quits the workhouse.

The Commissioners have requested Mr. Wilkinson's attention to your observations relative to the timber which the contractor for erecting the fever wards at the workhouse, is using.

The Commissioners presume, that in the case of the woman referred to in your report as applying for relief, the applicant was not considered to be in destitute circumstances

Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 9, 1847.*

I HAVE to report to the Commissioners, the result of the meeting of the Board of Guardians for this Union, held this day.

The resignation of the master of the workhouse was accepted, and the porter intrusted to perform his duties, until a new master is appointed. I brought before the notice of the Guardians, the case of the younger children, who from being confined hitherto in their meals to the stated hours for the adults, were left 18 hours at one spell without food, and an order for 4 ounces of bread each, at night, was ordered in addition, for those between two and seven years of age.

The sealed order from the Commissioners, ordering no more than 750 persons to be admitted into the Swineford Union workhouse, led to some discussion. The fact of there being nearly 400 children included in the above number of the present inmates, suggested the idea of having them removed to the new shed which was built last year, but never occupied by fever patients, which would give much room in the house. These sheds are reported by the contractor as executed, according to his specification. They have not been covered with any material to keep out the weather, and are altogether useless, on account of letting in the rain and weather at every crevice. I am requested to ascertain from the architect to the Commissioners, whether in the price specified in his printed circular (which was the one adopted by the Guardians), covering the roof with asphalte felt was included. It is not quite so clearly specified as not to admit of a doubt, and I shall feel obliged by an early answer; because if it was not, the contractor is entitled to his money, whereas if it was, he is clearly liable to the expense attached to covering it, to render it wind and weather-tight, which it most decidedly is not at present. Should a pressure exist for the next month, I would suggest that the elder boys might be allowed to sleep in hammocks in the school-rooms, which, by a simple contrivance, might be made available, and thus afford much space. The contractor, who arrived here last week, has admitted the whole of the timber I condemned was most improper; and that, if he himself had been here, he would not have allowed it to be used: this, however, confirming my report, is no justification for his not employing a proper person to look after it in his absence. The accident alone of my being here has, I do not hesitate to say, saved the Union some hundred pounds.

I wish to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the state of the officials in this workhouse on my arrival. The master, who has just been got rid of, is brother to the matron; the medical officer is brother-in-law to both; the whole either cousins or connected with three or four of the Guardians. Now, without wishing the least in the world to find any fault with the individuals, the tendency of these connexionships is adverse to the proper working of the system.

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Swineford Union.

It is obvious, if any of these parties neglect their duties the other would not be in a position to report faithfully any neglect; and it might be worth the consideration of the Board, in any future appointments, to guard against a system injurious to the pauper and detrimental to a fair working out of the Poor Law.

I am very desirous to be supplied with the Ordnance sheets of this Union on the large 6-inch scale. It will not be necessary they should be mounted in the superior form; simple sheets sent in a tin case will answer all my purposes, and I trust they may be supplied, including the portion of this Union in the county Sligo. I also request some common note books; those about $7 \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ in., with blotting-paper between the leaves, I have always found the most convenient size.

Upwards of 60 cases were admitted this day; among the others, a woman with nine children in extreme want.

REPLY to the above:—*December 10, 1847.*

THE Commissioners approve of the alteration which you have proposed in the dietary of the workhouse inmates.

Your observations with respect to the sheds which have been built on the workhouse premises will be immediately referred to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners concur with you in thinking, that near relationship between officers of a workhouse, who are intended to a certain extent to keep a check upon each other, is not desirable; and that, in making appointments of such officers, it would be well that these circumstances should be taken into consideration by the Board of Guardians, in whom is vested the appointment of the workhouse officers.

The sheets of the Ordnance survey comprising the Swineford Union will be sent to you with as little delay as possible; and the memorandum books which you require have been ordered from the Stationery Office.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain BROUGHTON:—*December 10, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a report which they have received from their architect, relative to the execution of the contract for building the fever-ward to the workhouse of the Swineford Union.

I am at the same time to state, that steps have been taken, with a view to having the timber in the fever-ward, to which you objected, removed.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. WILKINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 4, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of an extract from a report of Captain Broughton, referring to the use of inferior timber in the new fever hospital of the Swineford poor-house, and also the communication No. 40,004, D./47, of your Board of yesterday's date accompanying it.

In reply to the instructions of your Board for giving immediate attention thereto, I have to state that I have this day seen the contractor, and he explains the defects to be owing to the use of some timber with too much sap. He informs me that he has given orders for its immediate removal; if this be the case the clerk of works will be able to report accordingly to Captain Broughton.

I may here state that it appears to me satisfactory that the Guardians should accept Captain Broughton's proposal to inspect the building; it will be advantageous also to the contractor, if he proceeds properly with the work, to have his payments made with as little delay as possible.

The contractor has expressed a desire to suspend some of the works till better weather; my opinion is in favour of his so doing, and I believe the building will be thereby better executed and sooner ready for occupation.

Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 11, 1847.*

I REGRET much to say my Sub-Committee could not be formed yesterday, on account of the non-attendance of three members.

I have now arranged to employ every man, young or old (capable of being set to work), in the workhouse; and on Monday they will be in full employment.

A curious state of things occurs in the workhouse at this moment; on taking the return of inmates, out of 84 borne on the books as able-bodied there are only 15 really able-bodied men, 24 who are only fit for breaking stones, and 45, in fact, only children, who, by calling themselves 15, thought to avoid school, and as the weather has been dreadfully severe, and very little out-door work capable of being done, preferred roasting themselves over the fire in the men's wards to going into school; however, I had them all sent into the school-room.

Sixteen are in the infirmary or hospital, and 21 are either so infirm or bed-ridden as to be unable to perform any work, and are, in fact, waiting their time to die in the usual course of nature; making a total of adult males in the house of only 60. I mention the above, in reference to the Board's sealed order, forbidding more than 750 to be admitted into the house, which from the above state, would appear to require the modification of sexes, for whilst the female wards are pretty well filled, there remains one ward on the male side quite empty, and some accommodation in those that are occupied still available, unless indeed the male wards could be made available for a portion of the females, which appears never to have been done, nor is it indeed desirable.

The abstract of the state of the house at present would be—

Adult Males.	Adult Females.	Girls.	Infants.
60	176	204	25

and 251 boys, 45 of whom only are about 15 years old, the rest quite children.

The knowledge that tools have been provided and work insisted on, has already sent some out and deterred others from coming in. The system of allowing women and families into the house, during the period when there was much spare room, (alluded to in my report of 27th ultimo,) has, I fear, been more extensively acted upon than I had imagined, and I shall desire a list to be furnished for each electoral division, to the respective relieving officers, for inquiry, which I hope will result in discovering some of the parties who may be in possession of holdings, which they would have had to have given up if their coming into the workhouse with their families had been insisted upon.

It is my intention to employ the 45 boys alluded to (as men) in breaking stones in a separate yard, when the weather permits, and they are not in school, and to propose to the Guardians to erect sheds, available either for work or play in bad weather.

REPLY to the above:—*December 20, 1847.*

I AM to suggest whether the boys could not be transferred to some of the men's apartments, and the girls placed in the boys' wards, the girls' ward being then applied for the use of the women.

Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 14, 1847.*

THE Board of Guardians met this day. I brought before their notice the recommendation of the Commissioners, as conveyed in their letter of the 9th instant, in reference to having the books for the rate agreed to on 20th July completed, by entering the arrears from the old rate; but the solicitor not having had quite sufficient time to enter his proceedings, it was decided to wait until he had the opportunity and the result made known. I must say, in justice to the Guardians present, there was no disposition whatever to put off the rate, by way of avoiding it, on the contrary, they expressed their gratitude to the Government for all that had been done for them.

I brought before the Board the necessity of at once entering into contracts for keeping the house in repair, in conformity with the specifications forwarded to the various services concerned, which was agreed to, and circulars ordered to be printed and distributed. The leakages in the roofs in various places are becoming very serious and require immediate looking after.

A shed for children to play under in bad weather was also approved of and a contract to be made for its erection; some bedsteads, forms, and tables, were also sanctioned.

I was obliged to bring before the Board the conduct of the schoolmaster, Eugene McGuire, who, in passion, brutally assaulted a poor little child, only

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about seven years of age, leaving a cut extending from his eye to his mouth, and laying open his cheek. He has been forthwith dismissed.

It does not appear that this person's appointment was ever confirmed by the Board.

A person of the name of Kelly (as I am given to understand) was recommended by the Board, for the situation, who has been acting as assistant in the workhouse pending the decision of the Board, but he also has not been confirmed. I recommend his approval to be sent.

Much dissatisfaction has been shown at being obliged to work, but by a little firmness this has been overcome; some have left rather than submit, which of course was not objected to.

I have to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of the Ordnance sheets of this Union on the 6-inch scale.

REPLY to the above :—*December 17, 1847.*

THE Commissioners fully approve the dismissal of Mr. M'Guire, who has been employed as schoolmaster in the workhouse.

The Commissioners will send the usual questions for answers, to be signed by the clerk of the Union, and Mr. Kelly, whose appointment as schoolmaster you recommend them to confirm.

Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 18, 1847.*

THE adjourned petty sessions took place yesterday, and the case of rescue adverted to in my report of 27th ult., was disposed of before sending the parties for trial to Ballina quarter sessions.

It having been blowing a perfect hurricane the last three days, no one attended at the sub-committee at the workhouse.

I had an opportunity to-day of meeting the solicitor to the Board relative to the portion of the rates intrusted to him for collection; he stated, from letters he had received, that a great portion of the rate will be settled before a fortnight. I again urged upon him the importance of immediate collection.

It appears to have been a system in this part of the world to collect rents, county rates, and other fiscal dues at certain fixed periods, after certain fairs, &c., a usage of so long standing as to have become almost law. The same view seems to have been applied to poor-rates, forgetting that a rate is liable to be called for at any time when the necessities of the Union render it imperative, independent of any periods applicable, in a certain extent, to other fixed rates. I am led also to imagine, but I wish to guard myself in saying so, that a tacit acquiescence in the non-payment of rates is, in some measure, tolerated until the rents are secured, when, should anything remain, they are called for and left to a somewhat precarious collection. Another tact in this Union renders the collection of the poor-rate difficult, and results from the state of property in the Union, and non-residence of the proprietary, as mentioned in my report of the 24th ult. Most of the holdings are under 4*l.* annual value, and hence proceedings cannot be taken against the tenant until four months elapse, and another month's notice is given at the expiration, under section 3, Act Vic. 6 and 7, cap. 92. Not being a lawyer, I am afraid I may not always make myself understood, but trust to the Commissioners' indulgence.

I have been lately much occupied again in endeavouring to organize the relief contemplated by the British Association through the existing schools; but really the state of things has become so monstrous, I have been obliged to refer to the Count de Strzelecki for his views. For instance, in the electoral division Killeadan, where three schools were named to me by the Inspector under the National Board, as existing and containing, on the 18th of last month, 56, 79, and 41 pupils respectively; a return has been sent me of 17 schools with 2138 children in this electoral division alone. They seem to have sprung up like mushrooms under the shower of relief to be afforded, whilst not one shilling is forthcoming for the purposes of management from any local source.

REPLY to the above:—*December 22, 1847.*

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THE Commissioners desire me to observe, in reference to your statement respecting the delay unavoidable in recovery of rates due on holdings under 4*l*. value, that it is not necessary or advisable to await the lapse of the time after which the occupiers may be called upon to pay the rate, but that the immediate lessors should be called upon by notice in the first instance, and, on failure of payment, should be sued by one of the courses pointed out in the Act 6 and 7 Vict., cap. 92, section 2.

I am also to state that, if the property be under the Courts of Chancery or Exchequer, the receiver, or other party in charge, should be called upon for the rates.

I am further to observe, that it is considered of great importance to press forward the collection of the rates in the Union now, as the means of payment may otherwise soon pass out of the hands of the occupiers.

Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 21, 1847.*

I HAVE to report, for the information of the Commissioners, the result of this day's meeting of the Board of Guardians for the Union of Swineford.

I laid before them the Commissioners' communication, dated December 17, 1847, relative to the collectors of poor-rate, it was decided to call the Guardians together on Tuesday next, together with the solicitor, and to take into consideration the collection of the rate struck on 20th July last; the result will be made known to the Commissioners.

The applications for admission into the workhouse to-day were very few, but the house being full, I brought before the Board the necessity of making room for them, and proposed, in order to effect this, that those women with families, who it is supposed have their husbands in the country, so often alluded to in my correspondence, should be discharged with a week's provisions to seek their husbands; this was acceded to, and the result has been the turning out (with rations) nearly 80, who were never legally admitted, and whose cases, if they return, may be again considered and put, if thought proper to re-admit them, upon a legal form, by way of loan; at the same time, a list of them has been provided to each Relieving Officer, to scrutinize, and make distinct inquiries as to their husbands being in the country, and holding land or otherwise.

The house in this way has been reduced below the complement allowed. If necessary, the suggestion of the Commissioners shall be acted upon, by placing some of the boys in the men's wards, and giving up the boys' wards to the female children, which will have a good effect. I am again urged to request an answer to my letter of the 7th instant, requesting information from the architect of the Board as to the forms of the contract for building the temporary fever sheds. The contractor is clamorous for his money, which, if he has fulfilled his contract, should be paid him. Taking into consideration the circumstances of this Union, and that they never put themselves under the Fever Act, and consequently drew no funds from the Government for this purpose (which, in all other cases, was eventually a gift from the Government), I would beg to recommend this fever shed might be allowed upon the same footing as those to whom grants were made, and which were presented by the Government, and as would have been the case had they formed themselves into a Fever Committee under 10 Vict., cap. 22.

I would request an answer to this proposition before next Tuesday. I think it founded upon reasonable grounds, and would have a favourable effect in the decision of the Board on the question of the rates on that day. I beg, however, distinctly to state to the Commissioners, they have in no way been compromised if they think otherwise, as I have not mentioned the subject to any individual.

REPLY to the above:—*December 24, 1847.*

WITH reference to your observations as to the discharge of some of the women in the workhouse whose husbands are supposed to be living, I am to state that it is only in the cases specified by the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act that the Guardians are authorised to give out-door relief;

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I am, at the same time, to forward for your information an order which has been issued in some Unions extending the powers of the Guardians for providing out-door relief.

A copy of a report which the Commissioners have received from Mr. Wilkinson relative to the contract for erecting the temporary sheds on the workhouse premises for the accommodation of fever patients is enclosed herewith; for your information; and I am to state, in reply to your remarks on this subject, that a loan of 1250*l.* has already been obtained for the Guardians, for the purpose of erecting temporary and permanent buildings for the accommodation of fever patients; and that there are now no funds which could be appropriated as a grant to the Board of Guardians of Swineford Union, with a view to placing them on the same footing as other Boards of Guardians to whom grants of money have been made for expenses incurred in the relief of persons affected by fever, even if that course were deemed expedient in the Swineford Union.

ENCLOSURE.

To the Guardians of the Poor of the ——— Union; to the Clerk or Clerks to the Justices of the Petty Sessions, held for the Division or Divisions in which the Townlands and Places comprised within the said Union are situated, and to all others whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it has been shown to our satisfaction, that, by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the ——— Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded to destitute poor persons, being widows with one child dependent on them respectively, or to destitute poor persons, being children whose parents are both dead, or to destitute poor persons, being able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families, dependent on them for support, are affected by severe sickness or serious accident:

Now, therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorise and empower the Guardians of the said Union, for the period of two months from the date of this order, to administer relief out of the workhouse, in food, to such destitute persons as aforesaid, being widows with one child dependent on them respectively, or being children whose parents are both dead, or being able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families, dependent on them for support, are affected by severe sickness or serious accident.

Sealed with our seal, this fifteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

(Signed) E. T. B. TWISLETON.

(Countersigned)

WM. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 28, 1847.*

THE meeting of the Board of Guardians took place this day, and was fully attended. I am happy to report, I had the advantage of Mr. Burke's presence in the consideration of some subjects of importance, which were brought before the notice of the meeting.

The principal points discussed were the condition of the rates, and the propriety of signing the books for the collection of the rate agreed upon on 20th July last; the election of a new master to the workhouse; the referred petition of the Rev. Mr. Durcan, P. P.; the claim of the contractor for building fever sheds; and discussions on other subjects of minor importance. I propose to take them seriatim; before doing so, however, I desire to inform the Commissioners I suggested at the last meeting the adoption of brown bread, or bread made from whole meal, in the workhouse, in lieu of that made from the finest wheat flour, which was agreed to by the Guardians. The difference in price is from 18*l.* to 10*l.* per ton, and thus a great saving will be effected, whilst a more wholesome article is furnished. It has always appeared to me to be one of the many anomalies of this country, that one finds the poorest peasantry perhaps in Europe, feeding on bread made from the finest and most expensive material, and I do conceive that a great benefit would be derived to the community at large, by the general adoption of this brown bread. I omitted mentioning this in my last report.

With regard to the rate, after a very full discussion it has been determined, that the collectors be called upon to complete their collections within one month, of all the sums not given over to the solicitor for his collection; and in default of so doing, that their securities be made available, and that at the expiration of that time, a new rate be signed under any circumstances. This appeared to be the best

arrangement that could be entered into, under all the considerations forced upon the meeting, and appeared to meet the concurrence of Mr. Burke. Out of five candidates for the mastership of the workhouse, two were selected for competition, viz., Michael Henry, who obtained eight votes, and Martin Sheridan, who obtained five votes. The former was elected, subject to the approval of the Commissioners. I am bound to say that I do not consider either of the candidates, whether as regards position, education, or local connexion, calculated to make an efficient officer to the institution; the person selected is perfectly ignorant of his duties, was a Guardian to the Swineford electoral division, and resigned to enable his brother to occupy the situation of relieving officer, which he at present holds. If a retired sergeant of some regiment, accustomed to discipline and organization, could be found sufficiently active and steady to fill these offices, I cannot but think great benefit would be derived to the institutions generally.

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With regard to the memorial referred to me, so numerous signed in this district, I do not consider it warranted by the circumstances of the Union. At the present time much individual suffering may occur, but as yet we have not had recourse to any out-door relief, and the workhouse at this time is not full. It is remarkable, that concurrent with this petition was an influx of paupers into the house, which crowded it a little for a few days, until the abuses I complained of were got rid of; and also that a verdict of a coroner's inquest was represented as finding a case from starvation to have occurred, which, as far as I have as yet been able to make inquiry, was on the body of a stranger passing through, and who never made any application to any relieving officer, or elsewhere, for assistance, although the relieving officer of the district attended regularly at the appointed places, and at the appointed times; nor do I, as far as I can see my way, hesitate to say, I shall be able to overcome any probable difficulties that may arise within this Union. The rigid adherence to work as a test (hitherto not insisted upon in the workhouse), is operating most beneficially in its results, as the inmates are no longer allowed to sit idling over the fires.

The contractor's claim for the money due to him, on Mr. Wilkinson's representation, has been acknowledged; but it has been requested that the money may be sent to me, in the first instance, as it appears he has had 6*l.* advanced to him by the Guardians, and has left many of his mechanics and labourers unpaid in this vicinity.

Out of the persons sent out to seek their husbands, as reported last week, only three families returned this day.

REPLY to the above:—*January 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to the proposed substitution of brown bread, for the bread hitherto supplied to the workhouse inmates, I am to state that the Commissioners have no objection to this change, but they consider that the medical officer should be consulted with regard to any alteration of the workhouse dietary.

As regards the postponement of the new rate for a month, to enable the collectors to complete the collection of the old rate, I am to state that it will be advisable in the mean time, to have the rate-books and collectors' books filled up for the 3*s.* 1½*d.* rate, so that nothing may remain to be done but to insert the arrears.

With reference to the election of a master for the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners have objected to the proposed appointment of Mr. Henry, and have recommended the Guardians to proceed to the election of another person to the office of workhouse master.

With reference to the balance due to the contractor, for erecting the additional buildings at the Union workhouse, and the sums due by him to tradesmen and others, I am to state that the money due to the contractor will be forwarded to you; but the Commissioners are not aware how far the Guardians may be justified by the circumstances, in interfering with the fulfilment of agreements made by the contractor with other parties.

With regard to your observations, as to the persons you would recommend for the office of workhouse master, I am to state, that discharged non-commissioned officers of the army, have been found in other Unions to make efficient masters of workhouses.

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Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 11, 1848.*

I REGRET to have to say, it has been with some difficulty I was able to attend the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, from my suffering still from the effects of a rather severe attack of influenza.

The meeting did not take place till nearly 2 o'clock, from the circumstance of a road sessions being held at the court-house, and was occupied until nearly 4 o'clock, with discussion arising out of the Commissioners' dismissal of the matron. The meeting was unusually large, and it appeared as if it had been expressly collected to bolster up this person's cause, and to resist the order for election of master sent down. The view the Commissioners arrived at in respect of the matron, has been fully borne out by the discussion this day; for it turns out, the permission was given to her at the time when the inmates were on a potato dietary. I referred to the peelings and waste at that time.

By the time the various admissions were gone through it was past 6 o'clock, so that I was totally unable to bring before the consideration of the Guardians, any of the important subjects referred to in the Commissioners' letters of 8th instant.

I trust the state of my health will be a sufficient apology for so short a report on the present occasion, but it has really been with some difficulty I have done so much.

Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 21, 1848.*

I HAVE to report that I had the advantage of meeting the sub-committee to-day. Contracts have been agreed to, for providing the requisite furniture for completing the dormitories and refectory; as also for supply of turf and straw to the building.

I brought before the notice of the Sub-Committee the propriety of obtaining a detailed list of the inmates, with the view of selecting such as would be proper persons to whom to apply the out-door relief under the 1st section of the 10th Vict., c. 31; and I intend to propose, with the sanction of the Commissioners, that each relieving officer be provided at his depôt with, say, one ton of meal, and a list of those to whom he is to issue relief in the proportions marked against their names. By this means, no great abuse could exist, as the relieving officer would be held accountable to the full extent supplied him. This leads me to suggest to the Commissioners, to embody in their next General Order, the General Rule of "mustering" on the 1st of every month, the inmates of each workhouse, when by comparison with the books, no fraud on the establishment can remain long undetected. The state of the workhouse at the present time (the detail of which I will forward in my next report) would, I think, fairly lead to the conclusion that the workhouse of this Union is not sufficient for the demand likely to be made periodically upon it. The power of extending is easily arranged by sheds, capable of holding any number of either sex, either of infirm or children, against the boundary walls on either side, or both. Lodges might also be erected at the entrance, one of which might be converted into a bakery, with an infant school-room above, whilst the other might be available for a porter's lodge and dwelling, with a good store-room above—an arrangement I should prefer to the proposed sites for these essentials. Sixty-nine pounds were collected this week.

I regret to say the grand jury at the quarter sessions held at Ballina, ignored the bill against the parties accused of rescue, and from whom the sword-cane was taken.

REPLY to the above :—*January 25, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' approval of the arrangements made for providing food to the destitute persons entitled to out-door relief in the Union.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners are in communication with Mr. Wilkinson, as regards your suggestions for providing additional workhouse accommodation.

LOWTHERSTOWN UNION.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 27, 1847.*

WE are in receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, referring to our last week's report. The confidence we then expressed, as to the collection of the rates, is not abated, although the weekly lodgment (82*l.* 10*s.*), upon the 20th instant, has proved less than any we have lately had to report. It is based on our observation of the district, which is sound and well-disposed notwithstanding exceptions, and our opinion of the collectors themselves, which continues unchanged.

We are in frequent communication with them, and we shall henceforward (as they are earnest in desiring of us) mark out for each, the course to be taken from one day to another in the prosecution of the collection. For his next lodgment, to have been made this day, but which for reasons to be found in the letters, of which a copy is herewith forwarded, will not be made until to-morrow, the collector, Alexander Robinson, has in his hands a sum approaching to 200*l.*, and which will be considerably augmented by the levy we have directed him to make this day in Lowtherstown and its immediate neighbourhood. This part of the district had, with many others, been hitherto untouched, and it seems desirable that he should follow up the example made within the past week of the recusant rate-payers, mentioned in our last report, by the immediate intimation, which will be best given at the head-quarters of the Union, that the rate will now be got in from each and all as fast as it can be applied for, and we have provided him against the possible expectation of indulgence in any particular case, with a signed requisition of the Board to this effect.

The rate-payer in question whose high position made it the more indispensable that he should be promptly and effectively dealt with, persisted, as we learn, in his refusal, but happily succumbed on the collector's actually driving his cattle.

The letters, of which a copy is herewith forwarded, will furnish the best account of the proceedings of the other collector, speaking at once to the character of the man and of the district. The suggestion conveyed to him by the unknown, but unquestionably friendly hand (to bring the police, and rid or sweep for rate any single townland where menaces have been loudest), we cannot but consider to be, under the circumstances, a perfectly necessary one; as it will be, however, the first manifestation of the kind on our parts, we would gladly receive from you any instructions you may think suited to give better effect to the measure.

With respect to the sale of seizures to go forward, as noted in the letters this day, at Pettigo (if the collector should be driven to that alternative), due precaution has been taken to conduct it effectively.

The assault referred to in our Minutes is to be heard, not to day, but on Monday next, the 3rd of January. Our resolution to employ an attorney upon the occasion, has, for its object, rather to evince our sense of its importance than to add anything to the strength of the case, which is sufficiently clear, and there can be no question of an exemplary sentence being obtained.

These indications, though they may give matters an unfavourable aspect for the moment, were, we need hardly say, to have been looked for, so soon as the levying of the rates should be taken in hand in earnest; and there need be little apprehension as to the result, on their being promptly and firmly met, while the evidence so afforded of the strength of the law cannot fail to conduce to the general peace and order of the country.

We think, indeed, that this is an argument well entitled to have weight with the more influential residents of the Union; and should the current week exhibit any increase of menaces or rescues, it may not be inexpedient that we should address an emphatic circular on the subject by post to each.

As regards the collection and the collectors, the particulars now noticed will be found to furnish better grounds for coming to a definite opinion than any we have had to submit to you in former reports; and we have some confidence that your judgment, formed upon them, will be in confirmation of our own.

With respect to the state and management of the house, it will appear by your last minutes that any material amendment is not to be expected until a new master and matron shall be appointed; at the same time it is only just to Mr. and Mrs.

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Union.

Somerville to state that the recently exhibited spirit of insubordination among the paupers has altogether subsided, nor do we hear of any further murmurs or complaints on either side. It is undeniable that both master and matron show themselves to take an increasing interest in their charge, and to be at all times laboriously occupied with it: but the method is wanting; and without this the best dispositions must be ineffectual. The resignation of both Mr. and Mrs. Somerville was duly tendered and accepted on the 23rd instant; and we expect to learn by every post, when the parties with whom we have been in treaty, but whom, on account merely of this uncertainty, we have not as yet finally engaged, as their successors, would be able to enter on the duties.

We shall earnestly hope for your approval of the appointments suggested in our last report of an assistant schoolmaster and an assistant schoolmistress for the younger adults, and to be otherwise generally useful in the conduct of the establishment under the master and matron.

Should you sanction these new officers, we propose procuring fit parties from the training institution of the National Board of Education, instead of advertising as we first contemplated.

We have also to request your instructions on the subject of medical certificates in outlying cases of fever or other severe sickness, bringing the applicant for out-door relief within section 1 of the Act, the dispensary surgeons declaring themselves under no obligation to attend on the requisition of the Board.

The certificates in question can at the same time be ill dispensed with.

Our own medical officer is most willing to assist us to the extent of his ability and opportunities; but considers it impracticable to report fully on such cases, even within his own dispensary district.

The number of applicants for relief on the last Board day showed a sudden and large increase, as we anticipated so soon as the out-door allowance should be extended to others besides fever cases.

There was evidence in nearly all the cases of increasing destitution.

The numbers approved of for out-door relief were 158; for admissions to the house (including, for the first time, the father with the family, were 102; to admit whom we found ourselves enabled to discharge 53 of the actual inmates as eligible to out-door relief.

The house at present contains 535, with few so eligible remaining in it; so that we may find ourselves somewhat at a loss on the next Board day. We have happily some prospect of procuring accommodation in the town for one of our two schools, the female, which is the side of the house most thronged. Every way by which an addition to the building, temporary or permanent (but the latter preferably on all accounts), can be expected will have its importance.

For the employment of the able-bodied labourers of the Union, we cannot learn that there is any extra work in contemplation with either farmer or proprietor. As our official position may warrant parties in looking to us for some details of the actual destitution, though the residents of each locality cannot fail to be already cognizant of its extent, we have directed the relieving officers to furnish us with returns of all holding less than the statute rood in the several townlands of the Union. An abstract of these returns we hope to be in a condition to make public by the end of the first week in the new year. By a statement of this description, those who are liable for the support of such destitute will, it is to be hoped, be influenced to come to some general determination, which may save the Union from an alternative which it is admitted on all hands cannot be too strongly deprecated.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. THOMAS ROBINSON, Collector, to Mr. JOHN IRVINE, Clerk of the Union:—
December 23, 1847.

On Thursday I met a deal of opposition, and rescues committed. I thought to have went upon yesterday to make a statement of what had passed the day before to the Guardians, but night came on, and I was afraid to travel. Houses locked against me. I never had cause to apprehend danger till now. The men I took with me proved traitors; had they acted as I, we would have made good the seizures. Let the Guardians know of this. I was down in the Dromore division yesterday; got no money, could make no seizures.

I got a letter last night from a ratepayer of that division, desiring me not to come to that locality without police. The letter states,—I have known the minds of all that come near me, and they say, as long as I do not attempt to seize, I may pass on. The person that wrote the letter has paid me the rate, I believe. I got no name to the letter, but that person, from what

he said on a former occasion, I believe to be the writer. The writer said, I would have told you personally, only if I could be brought to prove this, I might leave the country. Nothing less than the police will do. A respectable man told me yesterday, if I were to bring the police one day, and read a townland, and charge the ratepayers with the expense, he thinks I would have no trouble. I expect to hear from you by to-morrow's post, as I have to be in Pettigo to auction cattle seized.

Mr. THOMAS ROBINSON, Collector of Poor Rates, to Mr. JOHN IRVINE, Clerk of the Union:—
December 25, 1847.

As Christmas has come on the week at a close, I have exerted all in my power—making seizures, getting little money, cattle yet under seizure. I don't wish to travel collecting to-day, and as a number of respectable men who have large sums to pay (some of their cattle under seizure), my friends think it advisable to stop in this neighbourhood to-day, as they and I think they'll release them to-day; if not, I am determined to sell on Monday. What I have under seizure amounts to upwards of 40*l*. The country presents an awful appearance. I have exerted all in my power, late and early, so much, that many tell me I'll rue it one day or other. Sir, I believe it will be out of my power to lodge money sooner than Tuesday, from the way I am situated; I hope to have a large lodgment to make then. I'll be up on Monday evening. I enclose to you the notice I got. If you have anything particular, let me hear by the boy.

The enclosure has been served by a person whose name I don't know. Not knowing the nature of the enclosed at the time he handed it to me, I asked no questions, and he walked fast away before I had time to read it.

The ENCLOSURE above referred to.

MR. ROBINSON,

December 20, 1847.

SIR,—On yesterday I had something to tell you, but fearing that I should be brought to prove what I heard, if I told you personally, I believed my duty to let you know by writing the minds of those who come under my acquaintance. I saw you yesterday in our neighbourhood, and from what I heard, they done as they said, that is, as long as you do not seize, they'll let you pass on; but to prevent you from seizing cattle, they were locked up. As a friend, and one who paid you the rate, don't come here for the purpose of seizing till you have assistance. I heard you would call on police. A respectable neighbour, and one who paid you the rate also, he and I were talking about you. He said, if you were to bring police one day, and read a townland, and charge them with the expense, you would have no further trouble for the time to come. If the priest, Mr. Owens, has not paid you, it is first to commence with him. You have called on him. I understand he has some aversion, nor will he pay until you drive; then you may expect opposition.

I remain a friend, and one who will assist you all in my power. Don't come again, I entreat, without police.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*December 29, 1847.*

In reference to any attempt which may be made by intimidation or otherwise to prevent the collection of the rates, the Commissioners recommend you to confer with the stipendiary magistrate of the district, and to apply for escort only on sworn information of its necessity. I am at the same time to return the anonymous letter sent to the collector, Mr. Robinson, a copy of which is annexed to your report.

With respect to your proposal of issuing circulars, the Commissioners request that you will not issue any circulars to the ratepayers without the Commissioners first seeing a copy.

As regards the necessity of medical certificates in the case of applicants for out-relief, who, by reason of sickness, come under section 1 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, I am to state, that if medical certificates of sickness be found necessary to guide or check the relieving officers, in placing persons on the relief lists under the 1st section of the Act 10 Vict. c. 31, it would appear to be the better course for the officers to call for the certificates when the applications are made, in which case the applicants should themselves obtain them from the dispensary surgeons. In every such case, however, you should require the relieving officer to satisfy himself of the facts by visiting the abodes of the parties.

In regard to the appointment of an assistant-schoolmaster, and assistant-schoolmistress, I am to refer you to the Commissioners' letter of yesterday.

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Mr. MORTON, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 31, 1847.*

I AM under the necessity of addressing you the present letter in much haste to avoid losing the post, having only now returned from calling upon a magistrate, Edward Atthill, Esq., of Ardvarney House, Kesh, with the collector, Thomas Robinson, as arranged by my colleague and myself, if we should not earlier hear from you in disapproval of that course which was mentioned in our report to you of the 27th instant as in our opinion the best for us to take under the circumstances; and on hearing the statement of the collector, who was not, however, put upon his oath, Mr. Atthill being in fact already apprised of the greater part beforehand, Mr. Atthill, at my request, appointed Wednesday next, the 5th of January, to go to the townland of Glassmullagh, one of the worst in the district, and meet the collector there, and have some of the police force with him to protect him while collecting the rates. It was my own purpose to be present, as Mr. Atthill has himself been threatened, and Mr. Atthill saw no objection to that course. On my return from this duty, I am but now in receipt of your letter of the 29th instant, in which, with reference to the above subject as brought under your notice in our last report, you recommend us to confer with the stipendiary magistrate of the district, and to apply for escort only on sworn informations of the necessity. Mr. Holmes, of Swanlinbar, is (I understand from the sub-inspector of the force at this place) the stipendiary magistrate of the county, but otherwise the district is commonly considered as not having any such officer.

May I beg your further instructions under these circumstances.

REPLY to the above:—*January 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that the object in referring to a stipendiary magistrate in the Commissioners' letter of the 29th ultimo was to secure an escort when required, and which the local magistrates might not be enabled to provide.

If Mr. Atthill will obtain the necessary escort as expected, there is not occasion for applying to the stipendiary magistrate; but if hereafter escort should be required where Mr. Atthill does not act, and recourse must be had to the stipendiary magistrate, it will be probably sufficient to forward the collector's information to him in an official letter applying for the protection requisite.

Mr. MORTON, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 3, 1848.*

DURING the absence on leave of my colleague, Mr. M'Manus, it falls to me to report, as you desire of us weekly, the state of this Union, and particularly as respects the collection of the rates.

There was lodged on Tuesday last, the 28th ultimo, by the two collectors, a sum of 245*l.* only, instead of a much larger sum we had been led by their statements to expect. Of this the proportions were, by Alexander Robinson 163*l.*, and by Thomas Robinson 82*l.* I am far from satisfied with it, but have no other reason to qualify the opinion conveyed of the two men in our late report. There can be no doubt that the time is fully come for enforcing the collection by every arm, and you may rely on its being done. Our determination in this respect is well known, and that the leading ratepayers above all will be the parties most rigorously subjected to proceedings in case of default, a course it is at least satisfactory to state, of which I hear nothing but approval on all hands. In the absence of my colleague I shall entirely apply myself to this great duty, and have a confident hope of being able, in another week, to report a satisfactory progress.

The cases for this day at Trillick Petty Sessions have had unavoidably to be postponed in consequence of the quarter sessions now holding. The proceedings intended for Wednesday next, in Glasmullagh, but now fixed for Friday, after swearing the informations in due form, will make ample amends for the delay, and I apprehend that by these there will either be an immediate stop put to all further intimidation, or the upper classes will find it imperative for their own sakes to stand forward and crush at once, as in this county they are as yet well able, a spirit so incompatible with social order. But I entertain no doubt of the happier result, and the magistrate who is to be of the escort, Mr. Atthill, agrees with me, that the smaller the force the better; we shall take, therefore, no more than three men with the constable in command. My purpose is to follow up this measure

by a fresh demand on every ratepayer in the other refractory townlands; and, unless I see reason for it in the interim, without the aid of the police. Should the necessity arise we can take the same or a larger force. The question as to whether the people are to escape paying or not, which I understand has actually existence in the minds of some, will be speedily brought to its just issue. Your letter of the 1st instant relieves me of the apprehension that it might be necessary to apply to the stipendiary magistrate, as a matter of form. We shall, I think, be at all times able to secure an escort when required by applying to the local magistrates.

With respect to the state of the workhouse, I regret to say it is every week further removed from what it ought to be, and I wait only the reply of my colleague to a letter which I had occasion to address to him on Saturday, acquainting him with another most eligible offer, to supply the only remedy, in the appointment of a master able to enforce discipline, and who will neglect no part of the important duties of his post. We can then, and only then, look for a return to a normal state. The numbers in the house, which since the admissions of last Board-day have exceeded largely the limit of 500, will be reduced to that limit, or to something not far outside it, by the immediate removal of 50 children from the girls' school, and the discharge upon out-door relief, of many to whom (though eligible to such relief) it was considered advisable to apply the test in the first instance. The actual numbers are, in the workhouse, 630, on out-door relief, 560. Happily, the house was never free from disease or sickness of any description. Besides the house (Graham's) alluded to in our last minutes, and which will hold 50, a larger building freely bestowed by Mr. D'Arcy, of Necarne Castle, is in course of repair: it will accommodate, if necessary, 150, or more. The fever hospital is still delayed by the imperfect convalescence of the builder, Mr. Samuel Moore, who is only recovering from an attack of fever.

In reference to the desired appointment of an assistant schoolmaster and an assistant schoolmistress, which you decline to sanction for the reasons mentioned in your letter of the 28th December, to which you refer us in your letter of the 29th December. I have to request your attention to a resolution to be found in our last minutes, in which our objects in recommending such appointment is stated at some length, and now recommending in its place the appointment of an assistant master and an assistant matron.

Your desire that no circular shall be issued to the ratepayers without your first seeing a copy, as also your instructions relative to the procuring of medical certificates, will be strictly observed.

REPLY to the above:—*January 11, 1848.*

In reference to your proposal to appoint an assistant master and assistant matron for the workhouse of Lowtherstown Union, I am to state that the Commissioners rely on your selection of an efficient master and matron; and if such appointments be made, the Commissioners consider that there will be no necessity for the proposed additional officers in a workhouse of the extent of that of Lowtherstown; but the Commissioners have no hope of remedying the defects arising from the appointment of inefficient parties, by creating supplementary officers, and must decline to sanction that course.

Mr. MORTON, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 7, 1848.*

In reply to your letter of the 6th instant, desiring to be informed how far cases falling under the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, have come before us as Vice-Guardians of this Union, and of the course we have taken in regard to such, and to the surrender of the land, where persons applying for relief were at the time, occupying more than a quarter of an acre, and whether difficulties have been experienced by us in acting on the 10th section, and how we have usually dealt with such difficulties; I beg to state, that we have hitherto in this Union, had no applications for relief from persons holding more than a quarter of a statute acre; nor, so far as we are aware, have any such been made to our relieving officers, who had our instructions from the beginning, to make it generally known that such persons could not be allowed either in or out-door relief, according to the express terms of the Act of Parliament.

I write in the absence on leave, of my colleague, but after conferring on the subject of your letter with the clerk.

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Mr. MORTON, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 14, 1843.*

I SHALL confine myself for the moment to the collection of the rates, and proceedings in Glasmullagh on Friday last, with an escort of police for that object.

The general collection is making progress, and though the lodgments of 116*l.* on the 4th instant, and 244*l.* on the 10th, cannot be regarded as satisfactory, I am yet enabled, by my frequent interviews with the collectors, and observation of what passes in the district, to assure you, both that the men are now doing their best, and that there need be no apprehension as to their making the levy complete.

On Friday, the 7th instant, as arranged by Mr. Atthill, the collector, Thomas Robinson, proceeded to Glasmullagh, a townland where he had been peremptorily refused payment, with violent menaces and warnings not to return there for rates. I was unable to attend, as, for reasons stated in my last report, I could have desired, and Robinson (very imprudently, but as it turned out without bad consequences) had with him but a single assistant. The police, five in number, and Mr. Atthill with them, were upon the ground at the hour fixed, and within summons in case of need. On the first demand made by the collector, the rate was stoutly refused; and the seizure which Robinson proceeded to make in consequence, was immediately rescued by the party—upon this the escort came up, and on the complaint of the collector, the rescuer was taken into custody and handcuffed. This prompt interference, and exhibition of the handcuffs especially, at the outset, was decisive for the rest of the day. On payment, however, being at once tendered, and on the family urging the plea of fever, from which the party was barely recovering, he was liberated. On each subsequent demand of the collector's, a seizure had to be made, but there was no further attempt at rescue, and payment was in every instance promptly tendered in release. The rates of both Glasmullagh and the adjoining townland of Drumkirk (equally refractory), were collected in full, nor did there appear to be any want of means to pay, on the contrary, Mr. Atthill, on whom I have since waited to make further arrangements for an escort to three other townlands, assured me that he was not a little astonished at the sheafs of notes produced by parties whom he had supposed to be in very different circumstances.

Towards the close of the day the Rev. Mr. Owens, whose name is, I believe, already familiar to you in connexion with these menaces, was also called upon, and after some little hesitation paid his rates in full.

A solitary cow, at the end of the whole proceedings, was the only seizure that had to be impounded; and that also was released before six o'clock in the evening, when the collector left the place.

REPLY to the above :—*January 18, 1848.*

I AM to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners with the successful result of the proceedings taken to collect the rates in Glasmullagh at Drumkirk. At the same time the Commissioners hope that the Vice-Guardians will continue vigorously in the same course of action, as the Commissioners cannot but regard the sum collected since the last rate was made, as inadequate to the resources of the Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 18, 1848.*

NOTWITHSTANDING our desire to the contrary, we have found it next to impossible to be punctual to the day we had fixed for our present report, such has been the increased demand for relief; and when we were happily successful in our arrangements to meet it, the necessity imposed upon us by the incapacity we have so long had to contend with, on the master's part, of superintending personally every step of their execution.

At the same time, it was urgent that we should communicate with you, as well for our guidance, as for the sanction of your authority on matters more than one of immediate moment.

To these, as they arise out of the details we have to lay before you, we shall now rapidly proceed.

The admissions to relief at our late Board meeting (which extended from the 12th to the 15th instant, inclusive), were, after the minute investigation due, above all at the present crisis, to each separate case, to the house, 233, and to the out-door relief 477, making together 710 additional to our previous numbers.

Besides these, there were upwards of 100 who refused to enter the house, and others who were rejected on the score of having comfortable relatives, or sufficient means of their own to support them. Eventually, out of the above 233 admitted, 87 took their departure before the end of the fourth day, leaving 146 new inmates, in addition to the number of 528 before in the house, and the detachment of 60 of the girls' school at *Graham's*.

We were prepared, it should be observed, to detach also 60 of the boys' school, as has since been done, to another building, (*Montgomery's*), removed only by a single field from the workhouse, upon the country side, so that out of the number abovementioned of 528 within the walls, there were 468 only to be taken into account when dealing with the fresh applications before us. Add 146 newly admitted, and who remained in the house, together with a family of six admitted yesterday, and deduct four deaths (of infants dying when admitted), and 86 discharges on out-relief and otherwise, during the four Board days; and 61 more discharges on out-relief (also from among those admitted at previous Board meetings), which took place yesterday, and the result would be 469 inmates within the walls of the workhouse at the present moment.

The two school detachments of 60 each, make up, with the above number, 589 actually on in-door relief. The number on the out-door list is 1244.

We have been the more particular in the above detail as we are anxious to satisfy you of the important fact that, notwithstanding the late extraordinary number of applications for relief, we have been enabled by our arrangements, strictly in accordance with the 1st section of the Act, and with your instructions, so far to maintain the workhouse test, without any rigour in the proceeding; and that we are still in a condition to maintain it at to-morrow's meeting. The house being limited to 500, and having 469 actual inmates; it is, however, the detachments from the schools that has carried us over last week's pressure, and we have no similar resource for the present week, while the relieving officers give us reason to apprehend that the applications will be scarcely less inferior in number.

This brings us to the further auxiliary measures which we have to submit for your approval.

The first of these is to appropriate the house, late *Anderson's* (bestowed by Mr. D'Arcy, free of rent, as stated in a former report, but requiring repairs to the amount of about 14*l.*, which it was intended to occupy with one of the schools; the pressure admitting of no delay, we were reduced to substitute another, *Montgomery's*, for this purpose), as a subsidiary poorhouse, to be placed under a competent female, engaged at the rate, say of 15*l.* per annum and rations, for the accommodation of the senior female paupers, and more especially mothers with infant children, supplied, as in the case of our school detachments, with cooked rations from the workhouse.

The house in question is in the main street of Lowtherstown, having three floors, its front well secured, with a considerable walled yard also secured, in the rear, and behind this again a garden and running stream. It will accommodate about 120 inmates. We shall confidently hope for your approval of this important additional accommodation. We have the best reason to believe that in combination with other partial measures, which you will perhaps also see fit to authorize, viz., the extension of out-door relief to *orphans*, and to widows with only *one child*; others have also occurred to us, which however we have not sufficiently considered to do more than submit them to your better judgment, namely, out-door relief to the wife and children, provided the husband becomes an inmate, the husband, as it commonly happens, deserting his family, who become inmates on swearing informations, while he is not to be got at; and again, out-door relief to all who have been inmates for more than six months (there may be so many as 70 of this latter class). With such additional measures we have the best hope at the present advanced state of the season, that the appropriating (late) *Anderson's* house, as we have suggested, will enable us in this Union to escape having recourse to the 2nd section of the Act, in its full extent of general out-door relief to the able-bodied.

In our letter of the 15th instant, we reported the fever hospital to be ready for the inspection of your architect. There is reason to press its being placed at our disposal as soon as possible. We had last week the sudden appearance of some bad cases of typhus fever, chiefly among the newly admitted; and at the same time of dysentery (ascribed by the medical officer to the weather and taking cold through the bare feet), among the inmates in general, crowding the infirmary at one and the same time, so as to expose the other patients to closer neighbourhood with the fever cases (11 in number) than the medical officer considered to be prudent, and

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though there has been no loss of life as yet from this cause, and 6 out of the 11 fever cases are now convalescent, we feel it a duty (as we are again about admitting fresh applicants, some of them doubtless as liable to the attack as those of last week) to lay this state of things distinctly before you. With the fever hospital in our hands, the inmates would be comparatively secure.

Another subject also presses for your directions: Mr. William Anderson, the relieving officer of Lowtherstown, Trillick, and Moorfield divisions, has represented to us that he finds the duty of so large and populous a district too much for him. We had observed this ourselves, and had he not made such a representation, it would have been equally our duty to bring it under your notice. We would suggest that Lowtherstown division alone be left to him, reducing his salary for the time being so long as the pressure continues by 10*l.*, and appointing (under the name of assistant) another officer, at a salary of 10*s.* a week, for the two other divisions. We are at the same time of opinion, that though nominally an assistant, this new officer should act independently of Mr. Anderson, whose attention ought to be confined to Lowtherstown division alone, and should be in direct communication with the Board. The sooner this arrangement (should it meet with your approval) can be perfected the better, as it is not too much to say, that during the past week at the least, great suffering from cold and privation in Mr. Anderson's district, has been sustained by very many of those on out-door relief, waiting over the appointed day, and exposed to the inclemency of the weather without obtaining their allowance.

We may mention in our present report, for your consideration, that an opportunity now offers, of rare occurrence, to hire a piece of ground adjoining the workhouse of 8½ acres plantation measure, at a reasonable rate, and the ground in excellent heart (two guineas per acre). It is the farm to which Montgomery's house (which we have taken, as before mentioned, for the boys' school) belongs. Montgomery has a lease of it from Mr. D'Arcy, of years (just expired), and one life (in America), so that Mr. D'Arcy, with whom we have not yet spoken on the subject, would have to be a party to the transaction. We are not aware of what Mr. D'Arcy's intentions might be with regard to it, but he has hitherto shown the best disposition to second our efforts in the cause of the Union. We conferred with him some weeks since as to ground for a grave-yard, which is absolutely indispensable, but which he then stated would be difficult to procure.

With respect to the condition of the workhouse and its management, it is unnecessary for us to enter into particulars, which would be but to repeat the complaints, and no less emphatically than heretofore, of irregularity and absence of all discipline so painfully described in our past reports.

It has required nothing less than our repeated daily and almost hourly inspection, remonstrances and personal directions, to enforce, and that but indifferently, attention to meal hours and cleanliness, to maintain a semblance of order, and arrest the unruliness of all classes of the paupers.

Nine of the male paupers were brought before the Lowtherstown bench of magistrates, on Friday last, the 14th instant, and committed for a month to Enniskillen gaol, under 58th section of the 1 and 2 Vic. c. 56. There has been more decency of conduct since that wholesome lesson. Meantime, a large number of the female paupers have been kept employed at the needle, and the men have been constantly worked in gangs out of doors. Happily by the kind co-operation of the Cavan Vice-Guardians, our new master and matron, Serjeant Dodd and his wife, have been arrived in Cavan since Wednesday last, having daily lessons of management at the Cavan workhouse: they are to be here in a day or two, and there is hope at last that we shall have the house in an efficient state, and in proper order under their discipline. Serjeant Dodd bears the character from his officers, of having been remarkable for the good order and excellent discipline of his men.

The industrial training of orphan lads, under the master tailor and shoemaker is proceeding satisfactorily, and both clothing and shoes are in use at present which have been made, and well made, by these boys, without the master's touching the work. In the girls' school detached at Graham's, the shifts and petticoats of the children are also now being made up by the children themselves under Mrs. Kane, who manages that detachment.

We have to report to you in conclusion, as to the collection of the rates. As respects the ratepayers, it has been brought round to a decidedly healthy and promising aspect; but the week's lodgment made yesterday by the collectors of 239*l.*, it is to be admitted, does not afford the most marked evidence of this.

They are warned that, defend it as they may, and let them be as confident as they profess, (and as we believe them really to be,) of their ability to complete the levy by the 13th March, a continuance of this remissness will not be endured on our parts. We have had a very full interview and explanation with them since the above lodgment was ascertained. There was a difference of temper on the occasion exhibited by the two brothers, which, looking at the character of their respective districts, was happy enough. There is little risk of serious default (nor we believe, was there ever any worth dwelling on) in Alexander Robinson's district, comprising Lowtherstown, Castle Archdall, Trillick, and Moorfield divisions; the recusants were for the most part of the other divisions falling to Thomas Robinson, and in these if at all, was difficulty to be apprehended. We had them before us separately, and it was satisfactory to learn from Thomas Robinson, that he had received rate from several now coming forward of their own accord, out of Gortnagullion, Carrickhouter, and Drumskinny, the three townlands to which we had arranged with Mr. Atthill the magistrate, to have an escort of police, upon that gentleman's return from Dublin, but which the collector has since determined to enter and enforce the rate with five assistants of his own. He stated that from this out, he should proceed regularly forward from one townland to another, through the entire district, with the same body of assistants. His number heretofore was three, and this number he was to have had with him in Glasmullagh, on the late occasion, but two of them disappointed him. This collector appeared much impressed by our observations, and promised warmly that he would make good, weekly, more than the average which would complete his levy within the time. He left, saying we should hear of him, and next day brought us accordingly an account of his visit to a gentleman on whom he had urged his vigorous enforcement of the rate; the party was absent, but he waited only his return to make the seizure, as directed. This collector holds also cheques from certain of the leading ratepayers, which have been given to escape the severe remedy, but will not be paid at the bank till some days are past.

Alexander Robinson, on the other hand, met our remonstrances with a degree of embarrassment, and almost resentfulness, conveyed, however, only by a protracted silence on his part. "He had been confined to his house by illness for two days of the past week, he had done his utmost, there was no fear of the rate, except where the lands were waste; the people he had summoned to Trillick petty sessions, wanted to compromise by now paying rate and costs, if we would let him, which would leave the case of Sheerar only (a rescuer who had violently threatened so as to put him in fear, and whom he determined to make an example of), to be proceeded with. He had promises from all the weighty ratepayers, which were as good as the cash, and by the 3rd of February, almost the entire of Lowtherstown division would have paid. He would not say how much he would get in this next week, but it should not be under 300%, and then he intended to go straight on through the district." This temper would not do in Thomas Robinson's district; however, he is warned to expect that instead of further, remonstrances from us for the time to come, our future course will be, if necessary, to appeal at once for your direct interposition.

We had nearly omitted to mention, and it is with much pleasure we now add it, that the ratepayers throughout the entire of one of our relief districts have engaged to employ for the future all the able-bodied applicants for relief chargeable to them, and Mr. Henry D'Arcy has for himself and his father made a similar engagement as respects Lowtherstown.

We have also to add that in our anxiety to relieve ourselves of the very unfavourable bread contract we have been hitherto bound by, we have anticipated your authority in causing an oven, already the property of the Union, to be fixed in a suitable position in the workhouse, and which we hope will be approved of by your architect. The saving which will be immediately effected by this means will be very considerable.

REPLY to the above :—*January 25, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' approval of your taking Anderson's house for additional workhouse accommodation; and the Commissioners will issue an order authorizing out-door relief to orphans, and widows with one child.

The Commissioners have communicated with their architect respecting the inspection of the fever hospital, and he states that he will have it inspected this week.

In regard to your proposal to appoint an assistant to the relieving officer for

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the divisions of Lowtherstown, Trillick, and Moorfield, the Commissioners recommend, under the circumstances, that a separate relieving officer should be appointed rather than an assistant.

With respect to the proposal to hire an additional piece of ground, the Commissioners desire to point out that the quantity to be held with the workhouse must not, under section 35 of the Irish Poor Relief Act, exceed 12 statute acres, independently of three acres that may be held under section 20 of the Extension Act, for cemetery or other purposes.

Regarding the collection of the rate the Commissioners request a special report of the present week's progress; the Commissioners regard the slow progress of the collection with much dissatisfaction, and they are unable to understand why a larger sum has not been yet collected.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 25, 1848.*

IN our last report we entered so fully into all matters requiring to be brought under your notice in connexion with this Union, that it will be sufficient for the present to confine ourselves to one or two leading particulars arising out of the week since expired.

The amount of rate collected during the week ending the 22nd instant, was 239*l.*, a sum far short of what the promises of the collectors, as mentioned in our last, had authorized us to count upon; our clerk is consequently now instructed to notice them of our purpose to apply to you for an order specially addressed to them, and that we shall thereafter have recourse to the 102nd section of 1 and 2 Vict. c. 56, and put it strictly in force against them should their next weekly lodgment be under 500*l.*

Although from the circumstances of the district, and the statements to us of many well acquainted with it, and to be relied on, we feel no apprehensions on the subject, but are on the contrary well persuaded that the levy will be made within the time limited; we are yet of opinion that the collectors have shown a very culpable remissness since our repeated injunctions to them to proceed with greater expedition; injunctions which they have paid very little regard or respect to, and as little to their own assurances given us from time to time to the contrary.

There is no general opposition to the payment of poor rate in this Union; neither for the most part are the rate-payers of a class to be very seriously inconvenienced by its immediate demand, though complaining of its unusual amount. In Boe Island, where the collector Thomas Robinson spoke when we last saw him of the possible occasion for an escort of police, he was encouraged by some of the ratepayers themselves to proceed at once without such escort, engaging that they would find him good men to go with him; an engagement we understand which they have made good, and he passed through the island accordingly in the execution of his duty unmolested.

The newly engaged master and matron, Serjeant Dodd and his wife, arrived here from England, after passing eight days in Cavan, in daily attendance at the workhouse there, on Thursday last, the 20th instant. They had, it appeared, eight children, six of whom they intended should reside with them in the workhouse, and had now brought with them four out of the six, having heard of no regulation to the contrary. On learning from us that such residence of the children with them could not be permitted, they declined to enter upon the duties, assuring us that had they been aware of the regulation in question, they would never have come over. According to the accounts which he laid before us, we found that Serjeant Dodd's expenses had been very heavy, about 13*l.*, and as he would otherwise have been subjected to further loss by waiting here for money to take his departure home, we felt warranted under the circumstances in making him an advance of 6*l.*, solely however as a loan, and on his giving a written engagement to repay it, should you not approve of such compensation being allowed him, which on our own part we venture to recommend as not unreasonable.

We have to request the favour of your directions in reference to this subject, for further particulars of which we beg to refer you to our minutes of the last Board meeting (19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd instant).

In consequence of the above disappointment, our clerk, Mr. Irvine, is now, agreeably to a resolution at our previous Board meeting, acting as master *ad interim*, with authority from us to assist himself for the purpose with the services of two

respectable individuals approved by us, and to act entirely under his directions for the time being, until we can procure other efficient parties, but without any increase of expense to the Union. We shall at once communicate again with Serjeant Maguire, whose name we mentioned in a former report, and the very high testimonials he could produce. He was to obtain his furlough early in February.

The arrangement for the time being of Mr. Irvine directing the entire management answers well so far, and there is already since Saturday a marked improvement in every department. The workhouse books, so long in arrear, will now have their entries duly completed, and we shall be furnished immediately with the result, the absence of which on our minutes from week to week has marked the entire period of Mr. Somerville's tenure of office.

With respect to the numbers in the house it is needless to enter into detail; our arrangements, we are happy to state, with the discharge on out-door relief of all found eligible under the first section of the Act, have again placed us in a position to maintain the test, and admit freely (with the prospect before us of your approving of the house mentioned in our last report, as an out-door accommodation to the paupers generally) such applicants as may be approved of at the coming Board meeting.

With respect to the health of the inmates, fever is, we regret to say, rapidly on the increase, and the infirmary is barely equal to receive the number of patients of this description alone. Our medical officer expresses great anxiety for the immediate use of the new fever hospital, and requests that we should write to you most urgently upon this subject. The promised arrival of your architect to inspect the building, and place it in our hands, cannot be too soon. The great increase in the number of fever patients, at present upwards of thirty, from only six but a week since, is obviously to be ascribed to the influx and efflux of the late numbers of new applicants for relief, and the deficiency of clothing which confines them for several days together, and in too crowded a state, in the probationary wards. We cannot but think, also, that the utter want of shores (sewers), and of an adequate drainage of the cesspools, which we have remarked on in former reports, and in our minutes, is a circumstance which greatly contributes, and from which, when the frost breaks up, still greater mischief may be apprehended. Chloride of lime is constantly in use in the probationary wards, no less than in the infirmary, and the whitewashing of the building throughout is in progress and nearly completed.

Dysentery also has become extensively prevalent among the inmates in general; and we have in consequence, at the suggestion of the medical officer, suspended the soup dietary for the present, confining it to Sundays.

We are happy in being able to add to our report on the same subject last week, that throughout the Union the rate-payers are beginning to be alive to the necessity of affording employment to prevent the able-bodied and their families falling on the rates for support. There is a very improved spirit in this respect shown by those on whom the burden of the rates chiefly falls; and we confidently look forward to this change having a most beneficial effect on the future management of this Union.

By the same post with our present report you will receive our observations on the objections of Mr. William Archdall, of which you favoured us with an extract in your letter of the 18th instant.

Our oven and bakery are all but complete, for the making henceforward of our own bread. This will greatly reduce the present expenditure on this head, which has been unavoidably much greater than we could wish from the very unfavourable contract entered into by the late Board, and from which we could only withdraw by having our oven fixed and in operation.

REPLY to the above:—February 3, 1848.

IN respect to the unsatisfactory state of the collection of the rate, and the notice given by you to the collectors, stating your intention to apply to the Commissioners for an order to proceed against them, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that the issue of a sealed order to an officer requiring him to do some specific act, which is part of his ordinary duty, is a course never taken by the Commissioners. Each paid officer is under the immediate direction of the Guardians; and if he disobeys a legal and reasonable order of the Guardians he is liable to a penalty under the 100th section of the Act 1 and 2 Vict. c. 56.

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The Commissioners trust that the hitherto unsatisfactory progress made in the collection, will shortly result in a return of greater proceeds from the large outstanding rates.

As regards the engagement of Serjeant Dodd and his wife as master and matron of the workhouse, and the advance made to them by you under the circumstances stated in your report, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they regret that Serjeant Dodd should have been put to so serious an expense as that incurred by him through the misunderstanding alluded to, which does not appear to be referable to any default on his part. The Commissioners cannot, however, give their approval to any part of the expenses thus incurred being charged upon the poor-rates.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 10, 1848.*

WE are in receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, in which you desire to be informed, by return of post, as to the progress made since our last report (dated 25th ultimo) in the collection of the rates during the two weeks from the 22nd ultimo up to the 5th instant.

For the week ending the 29th ultimo the lodgment (made on the 1st instant) was 479*l*.

For the week ending the 5th instant the lodgment (made on the 9th) was 393*l*. 5*s*.

Of the former lodgments the parts contributed by the collectors were,—

	£.	s.	d.
By Alexander Robinson	200	0	0
By Thomas Robinson	279	0	0

Of the latter,—

By Alexander Robinson	219	0	0
By Thomas Robinson	174	5	0

The balances remaining uncollected in the two districts are now as follows, viz.:—

	£.	s.	d.
In Alexander Robinson's district . .	1970	7	4
In Thomas Robinson's district . .	1149	12	8½
Total uncollected . .	£3120	0	0½

As the post leaves at 2 o'clock we defer to to-morrow the detail we could wish to have accompanied the above statement of our measures, in reference to the collection since the 25th ultimo, and of the prospect it now presents. It will appear from them that this most important matter has had our unremitting attention. The collectors are at present, under our direct orders, to lodge for the next three weeks the one 500*l*., and the other 300*l*. weekly. Their term for completing the collection expires on the 13th proximo; and besides the penalties which we are now in a condition to enforce, should they fail to comply with the above orders (admitted by each collector to be reasonable), they are distinctly apprised that their securities will be proceeded against, and their poundage applied for costs, should any but reasonable arrears be found remaining on the 13th proximo.

The CLERK of the UNION to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 11, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 10th instant, desiring to be informed what steps the Vice-Guardians are taking to obtain a master for the workhouse, and whether the schoolmaster has yet resigned.

Having laid same before the Board, I am directed to inform you that with the view to obtain a master they proceeded to Cavan on the 8th instant, to be present at the election of a master for that Union.

And finding among the candidates that Mr. Bullock, the present assistant-master of Lurgan workhouse was very highly recommended, they have written to

offer him the situation. In the event of Mr. Bullock's declining, the Vice-Guardians desire me to say, that they have already been in communication with Sergeant John Henervick, late of the 6th foot, who applied a few days previously, and whom in that case they propose to engage on trial.

The schoolmaster was discharged on the 31st ultimo, when he left the work-house.

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The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—February 12, 1848.

IN our letter of the 10th instant, to avoid losing the post, we confined ourselves to a bare statement of the amounts of rate collected during the weeks ending the 29th ultimo and 5th instant, deferring to a further communication the fuller detail which should otherwise have accompanied such statement.

The progress of the collection from the beginning, as ascertained from the lodgments with the treasurer, is best exhibited by taking it as below, in fortnightly periods.

	£.	s.	d.
For the fortnight ending October 16th the collection was .	60	17	5
For the fortnight ending October 30th	106	0	0
For the fortnight ending November 13th	151	5	0
For the fortnight ending November 27th	206	0	0
For the fortnight ending December 11th	340	0	0
For the fortnight ending December 25th	327	10	0
For the fortnight ending January 8th	360	0	0
For the fortnight ending January 22nd	453	0	0
For the fortnight ending February 5th	872	5	0

Annexed to our present report will be found a statement of the collection for each week, with a comparative view of the same as reported on the minutes. It will thus appear that the minutes taken alone convey but an imperfect idea of the actual progress; and this merely from the rule of not entering upon them any lodgment made later than the Monday previous—a lodgment made, for instance, upon the Tuesday, or upon the Board-day, Wednesday, itself, though the collection belongs equally to the week ended the Saturday previous, and the treasurer's receipt perhaps in the hands of the clerk.

The improvement for the last two weeks, though sufficiently marked (the collection for each being about double its previous amount), is yet far from having satisfied us, as it is also short (and in the latter of the two weeks short by one-half) of what had been expressly promised us by the collectors. We have reason to believe, notwithstanding, that for these two weeks each collector has made unusual efforts. We had just announced to them our purpose of procuring a sealed order; and 100% and upwards was collected in the space of a few hours after that announcement by Alexander Robinson, the less tractable of the two. The actual lodgment for that week, 479%, proved little short of our requisition of 500%; and at our subsequent interview with both, on the 31st ultimo, they gave us readily the further assurance, that for the three weeks next ensuing 500% per week, at the least, should be lodged by the one, and 300% by the other: the first of these three weeks has, however, produced 393% only, instead of the promised 800%. We have considered it accordingly advisable to act upon the instructions conveyed in your letter of the 3rd instant, referring us to the 100th section of the Act 1 and 2 Vic., c. 56; and to ensure certainty in the proceeding, should there be occasion to carry it so far, we have thought it expedient to secure beforehand, in the presence of our clerk, the collectors' admission that our order to the one to collect and lodge at the least 500%, and to the other at least 300%, for the current week, is, in fact, (as the Act requires it should be found to be,) *reasonable*. The matter to be decided by the bench is thus narrowed to a simple question of fact, viz., the actual amount of the lodgment. There was happily with these collectors men of equal spirit and good sense; no occasion to leave our object unexplained, but rather the contrary: nor have we much apprehension that we shall be compelled to use this free admission on their parts against either of them. It will be a memento to them, simply, not to relax their promised efforts. A copy of this order accompanies our present report.

The slow progress of the collection up to the 25th ultimo (the date of your letter, in which you animadvert upon it as requiring explanation), is attributable to several causes very sensibly influencing it, and which we proceed to mention. In

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the first place, on the collectors' part, there has been a fixed plan from the commencement (and at the first not injudicious, but to which they have adhered long since it should have given place to a general enforcement of the rate), of levying the rate in the first instance from the least able while they had the means, and from the least willing, before they should make head against it. They were reluctant, also, as respects the larger rate-payers, to insist upon their remedies before the 3rd instant, when the half-yearly gales of rent are for the most part payable, and both landlord and tenant find the demand less inconvenient. That in some cases such an indulgence was only reasonable, and even more or less so in all, may be conceded. Policy, *keeping in view the future*, would also suggest the expediency of consulting within due bounds the convenience of the rate-payers. But when out of five months, within which the collection was to be completed, five weeks only remained, and half the rate still to be got in, it must be admitted that the indulgence has been carried too far, and the rate-payers' convenience consulted beyond what the most considerate, having regard to the duties undertaken, could approve.

While we think, however, that the collectors have shown either a want of judgment, or of due diligence on their parts, and that they might have been more expeditious, had they been so pleased, in the next place, and a very material cause of the slow progress of the collection has been the untoward disaffection of the rate-payers throughout the Union, on account both of the unusual amount, and the dissolution of the late Board.

These feelings, we are happy to say, are at length dissipating, and a better and more just view of the exigencies of the Union and of the position of the present paid officers, is everywhere taking their place, unless, indeed, we are to except the division of Lowtherstown, where alone, notwithstanding the influence of its largest proprietor exerted to suppress them, any serious evidence of such feelings can at the present moment be said to remain. In other parts of the Union, and those not a month since the least promising, we have now, from week to week, fresh instances of a friendly and willing co-operation.

A further impediment to the collection which was experienced to a remarkable degree at its outset, and which, but for Mr. Atthill's prompt and judicious support, might even have become of alarming prevalence, was the determined resistance of parties at all times lawlessly disposed, and who counted upon the general bad feeling to second them in their opposition of brute violence to the demands of the collector. Rescues were frequent, and the consequent necessity of attending the Courts of Petty Sessions occupied much of the collectors' time. The spirit was happily met and overcome, and little or no obstruction from it is now experienced.

The general aspect is that of improved good feeling towards the Poor Law and its administration throughout the Union, improved even in Lowtherstown itself; and after so much blame, not to deny our collectors their just share in the achievement of so important a result, we ascribe it not less to their firm and becoming deportment (which we hear of from every one) in the discharge of a duty rendered by circumstances peculiarly onerous, than to the conviction upon all hands that the poor of the Union are being fairly and effectually relieved—a tribute of commendation we are proud on our parts to share with our relieving officers.

A striking instance of this amended state of things (of which evidence has appeared also on our minutes for some weeks past) was reported to us on Monday last, the 7th instant, with his proceedings for the week previous, by the collector, Thomas Robinson, and it is sufficiently to the purpose to find a place in our report.

This collector was induced on Saturday, the 5th instant, to make trial of the townland of Drumshinny, where he was formerly anxious to have with him an escort of police. He found the people more friendly than he had expected, and, with one exception, well inclined to pay.

Thus encouraged, and accompanied by some of the Drumshinny rate-payers, he proceeded through the adjoining townland of Lugmore. Opposition was here frequent, and with occasional menaces; and the hour being late, he was warned against returning through those wild parts homewards. He was hospitably entertained for the night by one of the more friendly rate-payers. Next morning (Sunday) he proceeded to the chapel of the parish (Drumkeeran), and was there welcomed by the officiating clergyman, who expressed his regret at what he had heard of the conduct of parties on the preceding evening; and taking the collector by the hand, in the midst of his congregation, threatened with his severe displeasure any who should be found resisting the rate, concluded with an appeal to all to look at the relief given around them, and who it was that was being relieved.

—no other than the most destitute amongst themselves. “And why,” asked the reverend gentleman, “do you oppose such a rate?”

The collector justly infers that his prospects in this parish will be greatly the better for this emphatic and publicly-avowed support—a support, too, for which there would seem to have been no light occasion, as information was afterwards given him which will prevent his returning to Lugmore without an escort of police, and we have applied for it accordingly.

To conclude our notice of the causes to which the slow progress of the collection is attributable, we may mention, that it has been our opinion for some time that the task is too heavy a one for two only; and whenever another rate will have to be struck it will be prudent to appoint more than two, *perhaps four* collectors. The two Robinsons are men of extraordinary strength and energy, but their appearances of late give evidence of the hard work in hand.

Mr. Barron assisted at our Board meeting on the 9th instant. The collector, Alexander Robinson, was in attendance, and his books were minutely inspected. Mr. Barron's observations had a sensible effect on him. His chief defence was, that the blanks could be made good at any time. He evinced at the same time a consciousness that the defence was a lame one, when reminded of the repeated painful remonstrances of the Board; and that, as was observed to him, he had in fact very narrowly jeopardized his securities, by his misjudged system of indulgence to the rate-payers. He took his leave, saying with an emphasis intended to remove all doubts, that “driving,” the Board might rely on it, was all he had in his head from that out.

In conclusion of our report on this important subject, we have to mention that the clerk informs us that the blanks now remaining in the rate-collecting books are such as to satisfy him, from his intimate acquaintance with the Union, that there will be little loss, except in some few cases, where parties having leases of small holdings and unable to support themselves, have locked up and abandoned their houses, and overhold from the landlord, leaving no seizable property.

Of the state of the workhouse and matters of immediate interest in connexion with it, we propose making you a distinct report.

ENCLOSURES.

TABLE of WEEKLY COLLECTION of the Rate struck 6th October, 1847, up to 5th February, 1848.

Refer- ence No.	Weekly Collection.	For Week ending	Lodged with Treasurer.	Reported on Minutes of	As below, viz.:—
	£. s. d.				£. s. d.
1	5 15 0	Oct. 9 . .	Oct. 7 . .	Oct. 13 . .	5 15 0
2	55 2 5	Oct. 16 . .	Oct. 12, 16 .	Oct. 20 . .	55 2 5
3	64 0 0	Oct. 23 . .	Oct. 26 . .	Nov. 3 . .	64 0 0
4	42 0 0	Oct. 30 . .	Nov. 8 . .	Nov. 10 . .	98 5 0
5	56 5 0	Nov. 6 . .	Nov. 8 . .	Nov. 10 . .	
6	95 0 0	Nov. 13 . .	Nov. 15 . .	Nov. 17 . .	95 0 0
7	112 0 0	Nov. 20 . .	Nov. 22 . .	Nov. 24 . .	112 0 0
8	94 0 0	Nov. 27 . .	Nov. 29 . .	Dec. 1 . .	94 0 0
9	233 0 0	Dec. 4 . .	Dec. 6 . .	Dec. 8 . .	233 0 0
10	107 0 0	Dec. 11 . .	Dec. 13 . .	Dec. 15 . .	107 0 0
11	82 10 0	Dec. 18 . .	Dec. 20 . .	Dec. 22 . .	82 10 0
12	245 0 0	Dec. 25 . .	Dec. 28 . .	Jan. 5 . .	245 0 0
13	116 0 0	Jan. 1 . .	Jan. 4 . .	Jan. 12 . .	360 0 0
14	244 0 0	Jan. 8 . .	Jan. 10 . .	Jan. 12 . .	
15	239 0 0	Jan. 15 . .	Jan. 18 . .	Jan. 26 . .	453 0 0
16	214 0 0	Jan. 22 . .	Jan. 24 . .	Jan. 26 . .	
17	479 0 0	Jan. 29 . .	Feb. 1 . .	Feb. 1 . .	479 0 0
18	393 5 0	Feb. 5 . .	Feb. 9 . .	Will appear on Minutes of Feb. 16.	

COPY of ORDER of VICE-GUARDIANS to COLLECTOR, referred to in Report of
12th February, 1848.

To Mr. Alexander Robinson, Collector of Poor Rates.

Whereas a statement is before us of your several lodgments with the treasurer of said Union, made since the 13th of October last, when you were duly appointed collector of poor rates for certain electoral divisions of the same, to collect a rate struck upon the 6th of October aforesaid, and amounting for such divisions to the sum of 34917. 4s. 10d.; such collection to be completed within the term or space of five months from your appointment as aforesaid, and

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it appears by such statement that more than half the said amount of rate remains still to be collected by you, though now arrived within five weeks of the expiration of the said term.

And whereas by an Act passed in the second year of the reign of Her present Majesty, Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act for the more effectual Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland," it is provided (sec. 100) that in case any officer of a Union shall wilfully disobey the legal and reasonable orders of Guardians in carrying the orders of the Commissioners, or Assistant-Commissioners, or the provisions of said Act into execution, he shall, upon conviction before any two justices, forfeit and pay for every such offence any sum not exceeding five pounds.

And whereas we being paid officers appointed to carry into execution in said Union the provisions of the Acts in force for the Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland, do deem it our duty to make this present order in the above matter, the same being both legal and reasonable.

Now, therefore, we do hereby order you to collect within the week commencing this date, and lodge with the treasurer of said Union, on or before Tuesday the 15th instant, the sum of 500*l.* at the least, in part of the rate so remaining uncollected by you as aforesaid.

Given under our hands, at an Extraordinary Meeting held this 7th day of February, 1848.

BERNARD M'MANUS.
PIERCE MORTON.

REPLY to the above:—*February 17, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having had under consideration the situation of the affairs of Lowtherstown Union, have resolved, under the circumstances, to restore the management of the Union to a Board of Guardians elected in the ordinary manner; and the Commissioners will accordingly issue an order for the election of Guardians.

You will continue in office until the 25th March next; and thereafter until the election of Guardians for the year which will end on 25th March, 1849, shall have been completed.

The Commissioners trust that you will not relax in your endeavours to have the remainder of the rate collected; and I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners will be glad to receive the further report which you propose to make as to the state of the workhouse.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*February 17, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having had under consideration the present circumstances of Lowtherstown Union, I am directed to state that they have resolved to issue an order for the election of a Board of Guardians in the ordinary manner, to resume the management of the Union at 25th of March next; and the Commissioners propose to re-appoint you to be returning officer at such election of Guardians as on former occasions.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

IN our reports of the 10th and 12th instant, we confined ourselves exclusively to the important subject of the collection of the rates. We now beg to lay before you our proposed further report on the present state of the workhouse, and the administration of out-door relief.

There is a marked improvement, we are happy to state, in the management of the workhouse, and in the appearance and conduct of the inmates, notwithstanding that we are still under the serious disadvantage of being without the services of an efficient master and matron. This disadvantage, which we have so long had to contend with, will not, however, be protracted beyond the 23rd instant, on which day a new master and a new matron—Mr. James B. Bullick and Miss M'Kinstry, the former for some time past assistant master, and the latter schoolmistress in Lurgan workhouse, and both of them very highly recommended to us—are to enter upon their duties, at the respective salaries of 40*l.* and 25*l.*

The more striking features are an increased degree of order and cleanliness in the wards, dormitories, and yards of the establishment, better ventilation, a better and now nearly adequate supply of clothing, more regular observance of the meal hours, and, lastly, improved health of the inmates of all classes, the younger children and infants excepted, amongst whom there has for some time past been an increasing mortality, ascribed by the medical officer chiefly to their sickly and

attenuated condition from want and cold before coming into the workhouse. There will be found upon our minutes of the 16th instant the substance of a representation made to us upon this subject by our medical officer, with the suggestion of the only measure that offers itself to meet the mischief, that you would authorize the discharge from the workhouse and placing upon out-door relief (with one or both parents, and their other children under 15 years of age) any such sickly child, of whom it should be certified to us by our medical officer that the child's only chance of recovery lay in its being removed out of the workhouse.

The able-bodied inmates of both sexes are now kept constantly employed: the females in making up the clothing and furniture of the house; the men, under our new ward-waster, Mr. Johnston Little, at useful works out of doors.

The greater part of the bread required for the house, and which was heretofore supplied by contract at a high price, is now baked on the premises. Besides the very considerable saving thus effected, it enables us, by the substitution of bread and milk at supper for the porridge and milk before given at that meal, to dispense with a third cooking in the day, which, from the large additional numbers to be supplied of late, was productive of no small irregularity, keeping the inmates up to a late hour, and causing an unnecessary consumption of fuel and lights.

The master's books and accounts, which had not been in a condition to lay before us for some time past, have been at length regulated and brought into order by our clerk, who has been acting as master since Mr. Somerville's vacating the office. It is with much gratification we now find ourselves able to state, that, for the interval elapsed since the average cost of each pauper was last ascertained, it proves not to have exceeded 1s. 3d. per week, with the exception only of the week ending on Christmas-Day, when the indulgence of an additional quantity of meat with the soup for dinner was allowed by us.

The new fever hospital having been inspected under the direction of your architect, and approved by him, subject to the making good the few particulars mentioned in his report, was placed in our hands by the contractor on the 5th instant. We had it as expeditiously as possible supplied with the requisite stock of medicines, and with bedding, &c., &c., for 40 patients. Our fever patients, in number 40, were removed into it on the 8th instant; and the infirmary wards, where they had been previously treated with patients suffering from other infectious disorders, mere colds, or accidents, are now being thoroughly cleansed, ventilated, and white-washed, preparatory to their exclusive occupation by the latter class.

This arrangement, with the additional room in the infirmary, admitting of all on sick diet being removed to it from the different wards of the workhouse, will conduce very materially to the improved health of the inmates, and effectually check the spread of contagious disorders in the house.

In connexion with this subject we have to mention, that the medical officer, Dr. Betty, having applied for an increase of salary on taking charge of the new hospital, and on account of increased duty in general, the subject was taken into consideration at our Board meeting of the 9th instant; and Mr. Barron, who was present upon that day assisting us with a statement of the salaries paid by the other Boards under his inspection, we raised the salary of our medical officer from 30*l.*, its previous amount, to 45*l.*, subject to your approval.

The contractor for the hospital, Mr. Moore, has applied for his third and last instalment. There appears no objection to its being now paid him, which we have recommended accordingly by a resolution to be found on our minutes of the 16th instant.

A detachment of the more steady and well behaved of the female paupers, is now, since the 13th instant only (the thatching still to be completed), at the house (Anderson's) procured by us in the town as an additional accommodation to the workhouse. They will be kept usefully employed at spinning, knitting, &c., under the management of Mrs. John Irvine, formerly matron of the workhouse, and on whom we have the fullest reliance. The expense of this additional accommodation, and, in great part, of their own support, will, we have reason to hope, be defrayed by the earnings of the inmates.

The school detachments continue healthy; and being now supplied with the requisite books, slates, writing materials, &c., are progressing satisfactorily in their lessons. The girls make up and repair their own clothing. Mr. Doheny, the National School Inspector, visited these detachments (as well as the school children still in the workhouse) on the 15th instant. He was pleased to express his grati-

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fication at the arrangements, and his approval of the manner in which the children are instructed.

By reference to our minutes of the 9th instant it will be seen that we have taken steps to have two most serious inconveniences, the scanty supply of water, and the very imperfect drainage, immediately remedied. Plans for these important objects will be laid before us on next Board day, when we shall be prepared to communicate with Mr. Wilkinson, as he has invited us to do.

We have this week entered into contracts for supplying our depôts, for out-door relief, with Indian and oat meal in equal quantities for one month; the average price 11s. 3d. per 120 lbs., carriage included.

The substitution of food for money will commence on Monday, the 21st instant, in those divisions where the attendance of the relieving officer is fixed for the earlier part of the week; and the saving to the Union (without affecting otherwise we conceive than favourably the parties relieved) will be at the least 10% per week: the allowance to be, for the adult, 1 lb. per diem; from 15 to 9 years, $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs; and for children under 9 years, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. We have found it necessary to make some changes, with a view to better security as respects the depôts; the particulars will be found upon our minutes of the 16th instant.

We were duly in receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, by which we were gratified to learn that the recent progress in the collection was considered by you to be more satisfactory. We have to acknowledge, also, your letter of the 17th instant, in which the like satisfaction is expressed, and announcing your purpose of restoring the Union to the management of a Board of Guardians, to be elected on or after the 25th of March.

Our endeavours to have the remainder of the rate collected with all possible expedition, shall not, we beg to assure you, be for a moment relaxed. There was lodged since our late report the sum of 496*l.* for the week ending the 12th instant. The collector, Thomas Robinson, came short of our requisition of 300*l.* by 4*l.* only; the other Alexander Robinson, suffering from severe indisposition, was abroad on duty two days only. Both were before us on the 16th instant, and had fresh orders from us to the like effect as for the past week. We forbear giving an opinion as to the short coming of Alexander Robinson for the past week (of his illness, and that it was serious, there can be no question) until apprised of the fruits of the present week's collection; and, as we said to him, we defer till then coming to a decision as to proceeding against him or not for the fine he may have laid himself open to.

P.S.—We beg to add, that the balance now standing to our credit with the treasurer is 1136*l.* 2*s.*, and we are therefore in a condition to repay your two loans of 100*l.* to the late, and of 200*l.* to the present Board, when required.

REPLY to the above:—*February 23, 1848.*

WITH regard to the clothing, of which the supply is now stated to be nearly adequate, I am to request that you will take steps for ensuring a sufficient supply.

In reference to the proposal to discharge from the workhouse, and place on out-door relief, the children referred to in your report upon the certificate of the medical officer, I am to state that the Commissioners approve of the course proposed in regard to children who can be so relieved legally. The Commissioners have approved of the proposed increase of salary for the medical officer, who now has charge of the new fever hospital in addition to the workhouse.

As regards the payment of the contractor for building the hospital, the Commissioners have referred to their architect, for his certificate as to the completion of the contract.

With regard to the repayment of the two loans, amounting to 300*l.*, advanced for the service of the Union, the Commissioners desire to state that the amount should be remitted to this office for repayment to the Commissariat, after which an acknowledgment will be duly forwarded to you.

TRIM UNION:—*Dissolution of Board of Guardians.*

MINUTE:—Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin:—*December 22, 1847.*

Mr. DISNEY, of Clifton Lodge, agent to the Earl of Darnley, has called to state that there is very great distress among the labouring population of Athboy electoral division, as, notwithstanding the exertions made by the gentlemen of the district to provide employment, many are without work and actually in a condition tending to starvation. He states that out-door relief to the infirm poor has only recently commenced; and trusts that there will not be any time lost in ordering out-door relief for the able-bodied classes, the workhouse having on last Saturday, had in it within six of the limited number it can receive.

He states that an order to relieve widows with one child, &c., would not be of any use; and that relief to the able-bodied is now indispensable, provided an arrangement cannot be made in the district this week to provide work for the labourers now unemployed, which will be reported to the Board of Guardians at next meeting. He proposes to write to-morrow.

Mr. DISNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 23, 1847.*

I REGRET to say, the arrangement about employing the labourers in the electoral division of Athboy has failed, and that it is most absolutely necessary to make immediate preparations for extending out-door relief to the able-bodied poor in this electoral division; in fact, I am apprehensive of the worst possible consequences, unless the arrangements are made without delay. The out-door relief to the able-bodied ought not to be delayed beyond Monday next.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*December 27, 1847.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland having received from Mr. Lambert Disney, a communication representing the absolute necessity of making immediate preparations for extending out-door relief, to the able-bodied in the Athboy electoral division of Trim Union, I am directed by the Commissioners, to call the attention of the Board of Guardians to the state of that division.

The Commissioners at the same time recommend, that immediate steps should be taken to provide additional workhouse accommodation; and I am to request the Guardians' consideration of the views expressed in the Commissioners' circular of the 26th August last (a copy of which is herewith enclosed), as to the course recommended by the Commissioners for providing additional accommodation for the relief of the destitute.

ENCLOSURE:—*Circular transmitted to the Trim Board of Guardians in August, 1847.*

SIR,

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
August 26, 1847.

THE Poor Law Commissioners propose to offer a few suggestions in reference to those Unions in which the Guardians are convinced that it will become necessary for them, unless they adopt precautionary measures, to grant out-door relief to able-bodied men during the approaching autumn. When the operations under the Temporary Relief Act are terminated on the 12th September, the poor-rates throughout the whole of Ireland will be liable for the relief of a mass of apparent destitution which, in some districts, may prove wholly unmanageable, unless the Guardians have definite ideas of the precise evils which are most to be dreaded, and of the best way in which those evils can be counteracted or mitigated. The Commissioners deem it right, therefore, to make generally known the views which they themselves entertain on this important subject.

The Commissioners think that the evil which is most to be guarded against is the necessity of granting out-door relief to able-bodied men; and that the main point for the Guardians to keep steadily in view is, to make their workhouse as extensively available as possible for the relief of this class.

On the difficulty of preventing abuses in granting out-door relief to able-bodied men the Commissioners do not intend to dilate. The experience and observation of Guardians as to what has taken place under the Labour Rate Act and the Temporary Relief Act, will probably have convinced them that although such relief may be administered with the utmost

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ability and most upright intentions it is liable to many abuses. During the past year, indeed, it has been absolutely necessary for the preservation of human life, but still it is a matter of notoriety, that numerous persons have had a share of the public alms who ought to have subsisted on their own resources.

On the other hand, very extensive experience has proved that relief may be granted to able-bodied men in a well regulated workhouse, without entailing the certainty of any very serious evils. Speaking generally, such relief combines the two important advantages—first, that those who are really destitute will accept it; and secondly, that those who are not really destitute will not accept it. And this may be illustrated without insisting on the decisive experience of England, by referring to what has occurred in Ireland, in connexion with the distress of the past year.

During last winter and spring the workhouses in Ireland were so full that they contained more inmates than they were originally built to accommodate, and in some Unions it became frequently the painful duty of Guardians to reject, from want of room, some of the applicants for admission. This shows that relief in a workhouse will be accepted when severe distress exists in a population.

On the other hand, the effect of a workhouse, in bringing to light imposition, has been manifested in a remarkable manner within the last fortnight in North Dublin Union. During the week ended Saturday, the 14th instant, there were above 20,000 persons on the Relief Lists of the north city electoral division, and as the operations under the Temporary Relief Act terminated in North Dublin Union on the 15th instant, the Guardians on the 16th instant had to deal, for the first time, with the apparent necessity of having to provide relief for above 20,000 persons. On the morning of that day, however, owing to previous arrangements, they had room in the workhouse of their Union for 400 individuals, and by offering workhouse relief to applicants, aided by some assistance from the Mendicity Institution, the Guardians were enabled, in the course of six days, to reduce the number on the Relief Lists to nearly 3,000 persons. This tends to show that those who are not really destitute, will not accept relief in a workhouse.

The Commissioners do not anticipate that the results of pursuing a similar course in the south and west of Ireland will be equally striking with what has occurred in North Dublin Union, but still the same principles of relief to able-bodied men will be found universally applicable; and it may be confidently expected that wherever those principles are acted on, the results will not differ in kind, but only in degree.

In order, therefore, to carry out those principles, the Commissioners make the following recommendations, in reference to those Unions, wherein the Guardians are of opinion that it will become necessary for them to grant out-door relief to able-bodied men after the 12th of September, if the present mode of administering relief is not previously altered:—

1st. To grant out-door allowances to destitute persons permanently disabled from labour.—The Commissioners think that such allowances should be sufficient in amount to prevent the necessity of begging.

2nd. To grant similar allowances to widows with two or more legitimate children.—The effect of this course will be, to place at the disposal of the Guardians, accommodation for the children of able-bodied men in the children's wards.

3rd. If the above measures are insufficient, to remove all the school children of the workhouse, with the schoolmaster and schoolmistress, to a separate and distinct Establishment.—Such an arrangement, if made permanent, would be attended with numerous moral advantages to the children, and no one measure would place at the disposal of the Guardians so much additional workhouse accommodation with such little inconvenience.

4th. To hire a house or houses for the reception of poor persons affected with fever or other dangerous contagious disease, and to make use of such houses for the reception and medical treatment of such poor persons in preference to the workhouse fever wards.—This measure would be attended with the double advantage of giving additional workhouse room to the Guardians, and of diminishing, at the same time, the risk of infection to paupers in the workhouse. And it is to be observed, that an order for authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men, under the second section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, may become requisite on account of fever or other infectious disease in the workhouse.

If, notwithstanding all these four expedients, it is still found necessary to grant out-door relief in any Union to able-bodied men, this would appear to the Commissioners an indication that the workhouse accommodation of the Union was insufficient, and the Commissioners would willingly co-operate with the Guardians in enlarging the present workhouse, as far as is practicable, or in the erection of a new workhouse.

With regard to raising the requisite funds for this purpose, the Commissioners are not authorized to hold out any hope of their being able to obtain a loan for the Guardians from the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners. The Guardians, however, might borrow the money from any Company, or from private individuals, under the 35th and 90th sections of the Irish Poor Relief Act, and they might charge the principal and interest on the poor-rates, provided that they repaid the principal by annual instalments of not less than one-twentieth of the sum borrowed.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR MOORE, *Chief Clerk.*

To the Clerk to the Guardians,

Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. DISNEY :—*December 27, 1847.*

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THE attention of the Inspector, Captain Huband, has been drawn to the necessity for affording additional relief in the Union, and he will attend the next meeting of the Board of Guardians with reference to that object, and the Commissioners have also addressed a communication to the Guardians on the subject; but in the absence of any application from the Board of Guardians for an order authorizing out-door relief to other classes than those specified in section 1 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, the Commissioners do not feel that it can be issued.

EXTRACTS from MINUTES of the Board of Guardians :—*December 24, 1847.*

THE Guardians have not as yet, passed a resolution respecting the deficiency in clothing and provisions. (A.)

Moved by Mr. Barnewall, seconded by Mr. Dunne—That the memorial read by the chairman, praying that out-door relief may be given to the able-bodied poor in the electoral division of Athboy, and that the memorial be forwarded to the Poor Law Commissioners with a request that they will sanction such relief, as speedily as possible.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Maher, seconded by Mr. Murphy—That out-door relief to the unemployed able-bodied poor be extended to the whole Union.

The amendment was negatived.

Mr. Barnewall's resolution was carried.

Proposed by Mr. Barnewall, seconded by Mr. Moore—That the relieving officers be authorized to make out a list of those able-bodied in the Athboy electoral division, who will require out-door relief, and submit it to the Board at their next meeting.—Carried unanimously.

Ordered—That the meeting of this Board be adjourned to Wednesday next at 11 o'clock, for the purpose of revising the list of applicants for out-door relief.

The relieving officers submitted their books for examination.

The following sums were expended for out-door maintenance in the several electoral divisions :—

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Gallow . . .	1	10	9½	Rathcore . . .	3	0	0
Galtrim . . .	2	13	0½	Killyan . . .	1	5	5
Kilcooly . . .	3	12	5	Kildalkey . . .	1	1	8
Trim . . .	4	16	2½				
Laracor . . .	1	19	2½		£20	12	10½
Rathmolyon . . .	0	14	2				

Provisional admissions into the workhouse, and applications for admission, were considered and decided on, as set forth in the Application and Report Book.

The number of provisional admissions confirmed was . . .	16
Ditto, disallowed	0
The number of applications admitted was	0
Ditto, rejected	0

ENCLOSURE.

MEMORIAL referred to in foregoing MINUTE.

December 21, 1847.

WE, the undersigned, being proprietors or holders of land in the electoral division of Athboy, humbly beg leave to represent to the Board of Guardians the necessity of an immediate application to the Poor Law Commissioners to afford out-door relief to the unemployed able-bodied labourers in this division. We make this petition, with the intent of inducing all parties, resident and non-resident, landlords and landholders, to enter into a general plan of giving employment to the poor.

Montagu Lowther Chapman, D.L., Killua Castle.
William Chapman, J.P., South Hill.
Lambert Disney, J.P., Clifton Lodge.
Patrick Barnewall, Caucestown.

Francis Walsh.
James Rickard, P.P.
Michael Higgins.
Patrick M'Cann.

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RETURN of PAUPERS in the WORKHOUSE, on Saturday, December 25, 1847.

	Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Boys under 15.	Girls under 15.	Children under 2.	Total.
Number of Inmates remain- ing in the Workhouse on the above date . . . }	75	116	163	132	31	517

Number of Inmates that the Workhouse is calculated to contain, 500.

OBSERVATIONS of Captain HUBAND, on Guardians' Minutes of 24th December:—
December 29, 1847.

(A.) THIS remark has appeared several times on these Minutes. I do not understand why the Guardians act thus.

I shall attend the meeting of this Board on Saturday next, and shall report.

The letter to the Guardians does not profess to seek for an order for out-door relief to the able-bodied, because there is great destitution in Athboy electoral division; but "we make this petition with the intent of inducing the resident and non-resident landlords and landholders to enter into a general plan of giving employment to the poor." In other words, we make this application to frighten the landlords and landholders.

The intention of the law is, that the landholders shall either employ the people or support them; and it will succeed, if left to work its own course; but I object to the use now sought to be made of sealed orders in the county of Meath.

If the state of destitution requires them, let them be issued; but I believe, when they are called for for other purposes than to alleviate distress, that their effect will disappoint the calculations of the parties calling for them, and will produce real evil.

Remark, that where the sums expended for out-door relief are set forth, nothing appears to have been expended in Athboy.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of a Meeting of the Board of Guardians, held on Wednesday, the 29th December, 1847.

Lambert Disney, Esq., in the chair. Other Guardians—Mr. Maher, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Hope.

Proposed by P. Maher, Esq., seconded by John Hope, Esq. Resolved, that the poorhouse being now filled, and it being impossible to provide any more workhouse accommodation without great delay, we deem it necessary that the Commissioners do issue an order empowering out-door relief immediately.

That the Guardians are anxious to provide further workhouse accommodation, according to one of the suggestions of the Commissioners; but it is quite impossible that any such accommodation could be provided sufficiently soon to meet the appalling destitution that exists amongst the able-bodied in many parts of the Union, but especially in the Athboy and Laracor electoral divisions.

Mr. James O'Reilly proposed, on the part of Mr. James M'Cormick, to let the house in Market-street to the Guardians for two months, at the rate of 40% per annum. Mr. O'Reilly's proposal was referred to the consideration of the Guardians at the ordinary weekly meeting, to be held on Saturday next.

The clerk was directed to advertise for proposals for supplying beds, &c., for the accommodation of the children in the house which Mr. O'Reilly has proposed to let.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD OF GUARDIANS:—*December 31, 1847.*

THE Commissioners observe, that the workhouse at the date of the last return, on Saturday last, 25th instant, contained 517 inmates, being only 17 beyond the number (namely 500), for which the house was originally designed; and it appears from the Guardians' Minutes of 24th instant, that it was not necessary to disallow any of the provisional admissions during the previous week, or to reject any of the applications made at the meeting of the Guardians. Of the total number of inmates (namely 517) in the workhouse at the above date, it appears that no less than 326 were children under 15 years of age.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners recommend that the Guardians should at once make an entire revision of the inmates of the workhouse generally, with the view of discharging those who are not fit objects of such relief, and of giving out-door relief to any of the present inmates of the classes specified in section 1 of the above Act, so as to make the workhouse available to as great an extent as possible, for the relief of destitute able-bodied men.

The Commissioners also recommend the Guardians closely to scrutinize the cases of the large number of children in the workhouse, with the view of ascertaining whether there are any receiving relief in the workhouse, whose parents are not in it, or are at work out of the house; the relief of children without their parents who are bound to maintain them, being at variance with the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Acts and liable to great abuse.

In regard to the impotent poor and persons relievable out of the workhouse under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, the Guardians have full power to grant such allowances as are required to supply the paupers not only with food, but likewise with lodging, fuel, and clothing.

With respect to the electoral division of Athboy, to which attention has been more particularly called, I am to state that the Commissioners are not specially empowered to issue an order for out-door relief in any particular division, the provisions of sec. 2 of 10 Vic., c. 31, being applicable to an entire Union, but not to particular divisions of it alone; while a motion to apply for an order applicable to the whole Union of Trim was negatived at the weekly meeting of the Guardians on the 24th instant, nine Guardians being present. I am further to state, that it does not appear that out-door relief has yet been given from the poor-rates to the classes who can be relieved out of the workhouse under section 1 of the above Act; and amongst the sums appearing in the Guardians' Minutes of the 24th instant, as expended for out relief in several divisions of the Union, none appears in reference to the division of Athboy.

Under the foregoing circumstances, the Commissioners would not feel justified in now issuing an order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied in Trim Union, the necessity contemplated by section 2 of 10 Vic., c. 31, not having been shown to have arisen.

At the same time, the Commissioners have directed the special attention of their Inspector, Captain Huband (who will attend the Guardians' meeting to-morrow), to the subject, upon which he has been instructed to report to the Commissioners without delay.

The Commissioners observe that the Guardians are in treaty for a house in Trim, and that this matter is to be taken into consideration at their meeting to-morrow; the Commissioners will readily approve of the Guardians' hiring, without delay, any suitable buildings for affording additional accommodation for the purposes of workhouse relief.

Mr. DISNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 30, 1847.*

I THINK it my duty to inform you of the absolute necessity that exists for the Poor Law Commissioners authorizing (suppose it be but for one fortnight) out-door relief to the able-bodied in the Athboy electoral division. It would be utterly impossible to make provision in the workhouse to meet the emergency. The workhouse had the authorized number of poor in it yesterday. You may rest assured that the case is one of urgent necessity, and which will not admit of delay. I certainly understood from you that there would be no delay in the Commissioners giving their assent.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. DISNEY:—*December 31, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to enclose for your information a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Board of Guardians relating to the subject. Letter of 31st December.

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS of Captain HUBAND on Guardians' Minutes of 24th December:—*January 3, 1848.*

At the meeting of Guardians on Saturday, 1st January, I spoke about the deficiencies in clothing.

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The Guardians promised to take this into immediate consideration ; but they seem so dilatory, that unless they be reminded of it again, they will go on from week to week postponing.

The state of the clothing is absolutely scandalous. The boys are in tatters. I spoke about this when I was at Trim some months since. Nothing has been done since.

There is no supply of bedding ; and one of the reasons why they said they could not take in any more persons into the house was, because there was neither clothing nor bedding to give them when they came in.

There have been some old clothes lost ; and there is a large heap of old clothes in one of the idiot wards, but the Guardians are afraid to go near them to cast them, from dread of infection in them. They allowed the clothing to be so thoroughly worn out, that they themselves say they are such rags that it would be impossible to count them. They know that they ought to ascertain the deficiencies, as there is a note by the auditor in the Clothing Book upon the subject, saying that the late master should be obliged to pay for losses ; so that they are neither casting the old clothes, ascertaining the deficiencies, nor getting new.

I think that the Guardians of Trim Union are not equal to perform the duties of Guardians of the poor.

EXTRACTS from MINUTES of Boards of Guardians :—*January 1, 1848.*

- (C.) THE Guardians have not as yet passed a resolution respecting the deficiency in clothing and provisions.

Read a letter from the Commissioners, in reply to the Guardians' application for an order authorizing out-door relief.

- (D.) Moved by Mr Drake, seconded by Mr. Jones,—That an order empowering the Guardians to give out-door relief be applied for ; and that the clerk be directed to advertise for overseers to superintend the work to be done by the able-bodied, under the Commissioners' order ; salary not to exceed 10s. per week. And that a notice be attached to the advertisement, stating that able-bodied persons who will receive out-door relief, are to be employed breaking stones for eight hours per day. —Carried unanimously.

- (E.) Ordered,—That an advertisement be issued for proposals for erecting a shed to accommodate 100 persons ; also, for erecting galleries in the dormitories of the workhouse. Tenders to be taken into consideration on this day week.

The relieving officers submitted their books for examination. The following sums were expended for out-maintenance in the several electoral divisions :—

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Gallon . . .	2	1	4	Rathcore . . .	3	5	5
Galtrine . . .	2	13	0½	Killyon . . .	2	2	5½
Kilcool . . .	3	19	6½	Kildalky . . .	3	13	9
Trim . . .	6	18	11½	Athboy . . .	5	8	0½
Laracor . . .	2	11	0½				
Rathmolyon . . .	1	8	4				
					34	1	11½

Provisional admissions into the workhouse, and applications for admissions, were considered and decided on, as set forth in the Application and Report Book.

The number of provisional admissions confirmed was . . .	17
Ditto, disallowed	1
The number of applicants admitted was	8
Ditto rejected	1

Captain HUBAND to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 3, 1848.*

IN compliance with your instructions, I attended the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Trim Union, on Saturday the 1st instant, for the purpose of inquiring if the state of the workhouse was such as to render an order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied, absolutely indispensable.

The Guardians did not proceed to business until two o'clock, the number necessary to form a Board not having arrived until that hour. The Guardians of this Union never commence business before one o'clock ; and I am informed by the clerk that the usual time is nearer to two o'clock, P.M.

I brought the business upon which I was instructed by you before them ; and it was not until after six o'clock, P.M., that I could induce them to come to any resolution of any kind. Finally, they resolved to persist in their design of affording relief to the able-bodied out of the workhouse, and to again apply to you for a "Sealed Order."

Mr. Disney was the only Guardian who was in favour of postponing the consideration of the out-door relief to the able-bodied, until a full meeting was called upon the next Board day. You will observe that there were but five Guardians present at the meeting when the resolution calling for your order was passed. I think that there were about eight present on Saturday last.

By reference to minutes of proceedings on the 29th of December last, you will see that an offer of a house in Trim for the use of the children was made to the Guardians. I brought this matter before them, but they made all kinds of frivolous excuses to avoid taking this house. But the real reason, in my opinion, why they did not resolve to accept the offer of this house was, because they knew that it would stop the issue of your sealed order to relieve the able-bodied out of the workhouse. The Guardians made no secret of their opinion, that if there was room in the workhouse, the able-bodied applying for relief would refuse to accept relief therein ; and they said, that they considered it a great hardship to ask a poor man to leave his house and go into a workhouse, and that such a measure, if enforced, would only tend to make permanent paupers.

There was a crowd of able-bodied persons who got into the hall, and burst into the Board room several times during the meeting. The spokesman of this mob was a well-dressed, comfortable, well-fed, intelligent looking man.

I brought under the notice of the Board the easy manner in which they could (even before it were possible to get an order from you from Dublin), make room in their workhouse so as to have accommodation far beyond what was at all likely to be required. I wanted them to test a few of the persons who (at the time I was addressing them), were on the stairs leading up to their Board room, but this they refused to do. They said that they had no clothes to put on them. The master said he could take in 20 persons, but the Guardians would not listen to it. Outdoor relief to the able-bodied they were resolved to have ; and equally resolved not to do anything which would throw any impediment in the way of doing so, by diminishing the numbers in the house or testing the able-bodied applicants.

I wish, gentlemen, to bring to your notice these facts which are worthy of attention. This Board of Guardians neglects to provide bedding and clothing for the use of their workhouse ; and by their own default reduce themselves to the necessity of refusing to admit applicants, because they have neither bedding nor clothing to give them should they come in. They apply to you to issue an order to give outdoor relief to the able-bodied, on the plea of the extreme destitution of the poorer classes of the Union ; yet they neglect and refuse to take the most easy and obvious steps to afford relief to as many persons as their establishment could easily support. They get an offer of a building to put out the children, and refuse to avail themselves of it, on the plea that it would endanger the health of the inhabitants of Trim, if these children should by any chance get fever (and in this opinion they are backed by the workhouse medical officer) ; but at the same time that they reject the offer of the house in Trim upon what I consider the most frivolous grounds, they do not contemplate using any efforts to get any other place to put the children into.

The Guardians did not take any step whatever to act upon the suggestions contained in your letter to them, dated 31st of December, though I endeavoured to fix their attention upon the very many ways in which room could be forthwith made in their workhouse.

The Guardians of Trim assembled on Saturday last, confessed that they had been very negligent in the discharge of their duties, and said that they ought to be dissolved, and a paid Board substituted in their place. I am not an advocate for paid Boards of Guardians, inasmuch as I think it useful to accustom the gentlemen of this country to business and regularity, and to give them that opportunity of becoming acquainted with the persons and wants of the poor in their respective neighbourhoods, which can best be effected by their attendance at the Board of Guardians of their Unions. But I cannot shut my eyes to this fact, that if the Board of Trim had been composed of paid Guardians, that there would be, on this night, vacancies for a couple of hundred persons in the Trim workhouse ; and

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that there would not be, as there now is, a deficiency in the bedding and clothing of that establishment.

You will see on the receipt of the minutes of the last day's meeting, another resolution, calling upon you to issue a sealed order for the relief out of doors of the able-bodied.

I do not oppose the issue of such an order; not because I consider that it could not have been avoided, but because I fear that, whilst the Guardians neglect their duty in providing room in their workhouse, it might so happen that some really destitute poor person might suffer, being relieved neither inside nor outside the workhouse.

That the Guardians could admit persons on an emergency is evident, as there is accommodation for 20 persons in the idiot wards, which are, at present, totally unoccupied. But when I suggested that, what with the 20 vacancies the master reported he had, and the 20 in the idiot wards, which I saw in going round the house, making a total of 40, the Guardians could test the wants of the persons crowding the hall and stairs of the Board-room, they refused positively to put the test, and were quite delighted, when one of their body reminded them, that you had issued a sealed order to restrict the numbers to be admitted to the workhouse, a fact which they had forgotten until then, as well as I had myself.

OBSERVATIONS of Captain HUBAND ON GUARDIANS' MINUTES of 1st January:—
January 5, 1848.

(C.) I mentioned, in my report, the state of the clothing in this workhouse; the Guardians promised to bestir themselves and get clothing, &c.; I said all I could to them on the subject of their neglect.

(D.)—There appeared in the newspapers an order to some Union, where out-door relief was permitted, wherein the labour expected to be done by the able-bodied was detailed. The Guardians asked me if the same would be required, in case that they got a sealed order: I told them that it would. Some of the Guardians who did not approve of out-door relief to the able-bodied, although they voted to ask for the order, suggested that if they let the people know that they should be required to work, that it would prevent their applications for relief, and this resolution was passed with that view.

This resolution (E) was passed after I left the Board: I did not leave until a quarter past six o'clock, when all business appeared to be over, as the Guardians went away to speak to the persons who were crowding the halls. I wanted this resolution to be passed in the first instance, but no one would second it though it was proposed. The Guardians insisted upon passing resolution D. Having passed that, and I having gone away, I think that they passed this last resolution to save appearances, as I spoke to them pretty plainly about their refusing to do anything towards avoiding the necessity of out-door relief.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the TRIM UNION:—*January 7, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Trim Union on the 1st instant, from which it appears that the Guardians again call upon the Commissioners to issue an order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men in the Union, while, notwithstanding the Commissioners' letter of the 31st ultimo, the Guardians took no measures for obtaining additional workhouse accommodation, or for giving out-door relief to any of the pauper inmates of the workhouse, to whom such relief may legally be afforded under the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act.

The Commissioners have likewise received a report from their Inspector, Captain Huband, who attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians on the 1st instant. From his report it appears, that there were comparatively few Guardians present; that they did not proceed to business till two o'clock P.M.; and that it was not until after six o'clock P.M. that he could induce the Guardians to come to any resolution of any kind. Captain Huband brought under the notice of the Guardians the easy manner in which they could make room in the workhouse, so that they might have accommodation far beyond what was at all likely to be required, and he urged them to test a few of the applicants who were at the time on the stairs leading up to the Board-room. This, however, Captain

Huband states that the Guardians refused to do, on the plea that they had no clothes to put on them, and although the master said he could admit 20 persons the Guardians would not listen to the proposition; that they were resolved to have out-door relief to the able-bodied, and equally resolved not to do anything which would throw any impediment in the way by diminishing the numbers in the workhouse, or by testing the able-bodied applicants.

Thus, the course adopted by the Guardians appears to have been this: they neglected to provide sufficient clothing for the use of their workhouse, and, by their own default, reduced themselves to the supposed necessity of refusing to admit applicants because there was no clothing for them on their admission. They then applied to the Commissioners for an order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied, while they omitted to take the most obvious steps to have room at their disposal in the workhouse, by giving out-door relief to the classes entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Act of Parliament above adverted to.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners are of opinion, that the Guardians have failed to discharge their duties duly and effectually according to the intention of the Irish Poor Relief Acts; and, in order to protect the rate-payers of the Union from the heavy burden which will be thrown upon them if the present system of managing their affairs is permitted to continue, the Commissioners have determined to dissolve the Trim Board of Guardians.

A formal order for its dissolution is herewith transmitted accordingly, and the Commissioners will proceed, without delay, to appoint paid officers to administer relief to the destitute poor in the Trim Union, in accordance with the intentions of the Legislature.

MINUTES of late GUARDIANS received from the Clerk of the Union:—

January 8, 1848.

At a Meeting of the Board of Guardians, held on Saturday, January 8, 1848, Samuel Winter, Esq. in the Chair:—other Guardians—Mr. Fowler, Mr. Alley, Mr. Gorey, Mr. Jelus, Mr. Hannon, Mr. Conolly, Mr. Disney, Mr. Hope, Mr. Jervis, Mr. Ryme, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Dunne.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

The clerk laid before the Guardians an order of the Poor Law Commissioners dissolving the Board.

The clerk read a letter from the Commissioners, stating their reasons for dissolving the Board of Guardians.

The late Guardians passed a resolution which is forwarded herewith.

ENCLOSURE:—*Resolution received with foregoing.*

MOVED by Mr. Maher, seconded by Mr. Dunne:—

The order for the dissolution of this Board, which we have now read, has filled us with no less surprise than dissatisfaction. The reasons which you allege for this measure are equally untenable. Connected with this locality by residence, and being, for the most part, the most extensive landholders in our respective districts, we have no hesitation to state, that we must be the best acquainted with the wants of the poor on the one hand, and have the strongest motive on the other to economise and justly dispose of the public rates; nor can we perceive how paid Guardians will remedy the evils which you complain of. We, therefore, cannot separate without recording this our strong and unanimous protest against your summary proceeding, and that the Guardians are prepared to prove the charges preferred against them are unfounded, and request an investigation.

OBSERVATIONS of Captain HUBAND on foregoing MINUTES of January 8, 1848:—

January 12, 1848.

THE Guardians of the Trim Union will find it no easy matter to get over their having neglected to follow the advice given to them by the Commissioners, so early as the 26th of August, vide Circular (page 123). Again they were warned to lay in a stock of bedding or clothing by Circular dated 11th of October, 1847; yet on the face of their Minutes of the last three or four meetings, the clerk noted that they had neglected, even to this late period, to order the necessary supplies. Now the paid Guardians will remedy these evils, though the Guardians say they do not see how. No investigation which could be entered upon can clear the Guardians, in respect of the reasons given by the Commissioners for their dissolution.

Trim Union

CIRCULAR above referred to, sent to the Trim Board of Guardians in October, 1847, as to supply of Clothing, &c.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
October 11, 1847.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland desire to draw the attention of the Board of Guardians to the necessity and importance of promptly bringing under review the subject of their contracts for provisions and other supplies, and the present state of their stocks of bedding and clothing, so as to be prepared in due time for any accession to the number of inmates which the present circumstances of the Union render probable.

The Commissioners urgently desire and call upon the Guardians, in making such preparations, to base their estimates on the assumption that the whole accommodation which the workhouse affords will be placed in requisition.

The experience of the past year has, in numerous instances, shown the serious results which arise from the Guardians undertaking to relieve in the workhouse destitute persons for whom they are not prepared with supplies of clothing and bedding. The Poor Law Commissioners, however, called the special attention of Boards of Guardians to the subject last year before the distress commenced, and the Commissioners deem it their duty to bring the subject again under the notice of Boards of Guardians at the present time.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

*To the Clerk to the Guardians
of Trim Union.*

Dr. WADDY and Mr. GRIFFITHS, Vice-Guardians, to the COMMISSIONERS :—
January 14, 1848.

WE are proceeding with all despatch to put ourselves in possession of the state of affairs in the Union, to enable us to make a report thereon, as required. But we are anxious to bring under the immediate notice of the Commissioners the following facts.

In going through the registry, which we have carefully examined from beginning to end, we find that there are at present in the workhouse about 70 children under the age of 15, whose parents have either been discharged without them, or who never have been admitted; and it has occurred to us to be advisable to institute proceedings against the parents legally liable under 1 & 2 Vict. cap. 56, sec. 58, with the hope that it will have the effect of having the children removed, and thus making room in the workhouse; but we shall defer commencing proceedings until we shall have received your approval.

We regret to state that the Clerk of the Union is obliged to leave us to-morrow, for a few days, in consequence of the death of his father, information of which he received this day.

We beg to add that there are tenders before us for erecting sleeping galleries in the dormitories. We should be glad to be informed whether the Commissioners approve of this system of increasing the accommodation.

We are in hopes of being able to procure a house for the boys, in the town; but in consequence of the absence of the agent of the property, we have not been able as yet to conclude the bargain.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*January 19, 1848.*

IN reference to the institution of legal proceedings against parents not in the workhouse, but whose children are maintained therein, I am to state that the Commissioners see no objection to such proceedings being taken, in cases in which parties able to maintain their children have left them to be maintained by the Union; the cases most proper for examples being selected in the first instance.

I am at the same time, to call your attention to the 2nd section of the Vagrant Act, 10 & 11 Vict. c. 84, which enacts, that every person who shall desert or wilfully neglect to maintain his wife or any child whom he may be liable to maintain, so that such wife or child shall become destitute and be relieved in or out of the workhouse, is liable to three months' imprisonment.

As regards the erection of sleeping galleries in the dormitories, I am to state that the Commissioners do not object to sleeping galleries being erected, provided that too many persons are not brought into one dormitory, reference being had to the cubical contents of the apartment; and the medical officer's opinion on this point should be ascertained.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 17, 1848.*

Trim Union.

IMMEDIATELY on our arrival in the Union, on the 12th instant, we proceeded to inspect the workhouse and investigate the affairs of the Union.

In reference to the latter point, we regret we have not been able, as yet, to procure as much minute information as would be desirable, in consequence of the absence of the clerk; but as far as we could inform ourselves on this head in his absence, we have ascertained that the funds in the hands of the treasurer amounted, on the 1st of January, to 270*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*; that on that day cheques to the amount of 208*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* were drawn in favour of tradespeople, &c., and to the amount of 34*l.* 1*s.* 11½*d.* in favour of the relieving officers; and that the liabilities of the Union amounted to about 800*l.*; that the sum of 265*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* had been lodged to the credit of the Union in the previous week, and that there were outstanding arrears, uncollected by the collectors, to the amount of 767*l.* 15*s.* 3¼*d.* In reference to the latter sum, we have not as yet had the collectors before us, and therefore cannot say how much of it has since been collected; we shall, however, lose no time in making further inquiries on this head.

The number of paupers in the house during the last week was 531, of whom 330 were children; and of the latter we have ascertained that 70 were the children of parents who either never had been admitted, or who had been discharged.

On examining the workhouse, we found it to be tolerably well kept; the principal faults to which it appeared necessary to direct the attention of the officers of the establishment were, the state of the men's day-room, the infirm male ward in the house, and the male chronic and female acute wards in the hospital, for want of due cleanliness, as also the absence of sufficient strictness in enforcing the dietary regulations, having observed several instances of paupers, without any apparent necessity, being permitted to take their meals out of the dining-hall. We observed also that the windows of the workhouse were in bad repair, in some of them several panes being broken, and in four of them a half sash being wanted, through one of which in the hall of the men's day-room, the master informs us, boys have been in the habit of passing by night and absconding. We have directed that these should be at once repaired. The yards also appear much in want of being gravelled.

The clothing of the paupers is bad in quality and deficient in quantity, there being only, at present, 24 pair of repaired trowsers, and 4 pair of unrepaired jackets in the store-room for boys, and none whatever for adults, the supply for the latter being so deficient that the master has been unable to provide clothing for some of those lately admitted; and we have been informed by the medical officer, that he has been obliged to retain in the hospital convalescent patients, from the actual inability of procuring a change of clothing previous to their re-entering the house; and it may be well to observe here, that he has suggested it as advisable, that a separate set of clothing should be supplied to the hospital, distinct from that of the house. We beg to add, that there appears to be a quantity of old worn-out clothing, which, however, has never been condemned, but which it will be almost impossible to count, or to say what articles they were, they are in such a tattered condition.

Saturday being the ordinary Board day, the relieving officers were before us; they are seven in number, and are apparently efficient. With some trifling mistakes arising from their unacquaintance with the forms, their books were correctly kept; some cases of able-bodied widows with only one child had been entered on them, and had received relief, which we thought it our duty to check, directing the officer to offer them admittance to the workhouse if they required relief. From some mistaken instruction, the relieving officer of Athboy had entered a considerable number of able-bodied labourers, whom we refused as a matter of course. The out-door relief register has not been written up to the last date. The amount of out-door relief given in this Union consists of 1 lb. of oatmeal to each adult per diem, and ½ lb. to each pauper from 15 years down to 1 year. We have to remark here, that no contracts have been entered into for the supply of meal, the price of which frequently varying makes it impossible to know beforehand accurately what the money value of the relief ordered will amount to.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Commissioners, we are removing from the house all those who would be entitled to out-door relief, under the 1st section, who have any friends outside, or who can be safely removed; the number of those already removed amounts as yet only to 35, but we are in hopes of further relieving the house before next Saturday.

Trim Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*January 20, 1848.*

IN reference to the finances of the Union, I am to call your attention to the expediency of making early preparation for a further rate.

The Commissioners also request that you will take all necessary steps for procuring an adequate supply of clothing for the paupers, as well as for keeping the workhouse in a proper state.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 19, 1848.*

WE have failed in concluding a bargain for the house for the children, to which we referred in our communication of the 14th instant, the proprietor having declined letting it, except under lease.

We have examined other houses since our arrival, only one of which we consider in every way suited for the purpose required, it being in a clear open position, having good accommodation for cooking, &c., in perfect repair, and fit for the accommodation of the children at a moment's warning. There is also a pump, with excellent water, on the premises, which we consider of great importance. We would not hesitate to take the premises, but that we consider the terms rather high; and we therefore forward the proposal for the approval or otherwise of the Commissioners, merely adding, that the gentleman in possession will not take less than the entire sum demanded, viz. 60*l.*, even though the premises should be taken for a shorter period than the term offered. If we were favoured with an answer before Saturday, we would be enabled (if the terms are approved of) to remove the children instantler, and thus have further accommodation for the able-bodied.

ENCLOSURE.

GENTLEMEN,

Trim, January 19, 1848.

I BEG leave to inform the Board of Guardians that I have a house in the town of Trim for disposal, with very extensive and well-secured ere, good offices, in perfect habitable order, in a very healthful position, and capable of accommodating near 200 children; and that the said house having been found on inspection to answer the purposes required by you, I would be willing to give you possession of the premises until 1st November next for the sum of 60*l.*; provided that the said premises be given up to me in the same order in which they are at present in, and that any injury to the premises, by fire or otherwise, be made good accordingly.

N.B. There is a large boiler in the kitchen.

I have, &c.

The Vice-Guardians, Trim Union.

JONES LAMPREY.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*January 20, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to express their approval of your taking the house in question, if you are unable to obtain suitable premises on more favourable terms.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 24, 1848.*

WE have to report that on Friday we concluded the bargain with Dr. Lamprey, relative to the house for the pauper children. Finding, on more exact measurement, that the premises in their present state, would not accommodate more than 140 children, instead of 200, as stated by Dr. Lamprey, we declined giving him the full amount demanded by him, viz., 60*l.*, and it was finally agreed between us that we should pay him 52*l.* 10*s.* for the use and occupation of the premises up to 1st November next. The premises include a garden, containing a rood of ground, besides sufficient play-ground for the children. We send herewith a copy of the agreement. We consider the house in every way suited for our object, and no other that we could procure in the town approximated to it; but we regret to say that the agent of Dr. Lamprey's lessor has taken up the idea that the introducing paupers into the house would deteriorate its value, as well as the value of other houses in the neighbourhood, and he has served us with a notice, a copy of which we send herewith. In addition to this, although Dr. Lamprey gave formal possession of the premises to the master on Saturday, at the same time getting permission to leave in till this day (Monday), a man and his wife who had worked for him, the persons who were in by permission, got assistance, and assaulted and forcibly ejected the pauper to whom the master had, on Dr. Lamprey leaving for Dublin, given over possession.

On hearing this, we went to the premises this morning and demanded possession, but were refused; the persons referred to averring that they held possession for Dr. Lamprey, although they were present when he formally handed over the possession to the master of the workhouse. We strongly suspect that they have been instigated to this act by a Mr. Mooney, who is the agent of the lessor, and has expressed himself very strongly on the subject; he is the petty sessions clerk. Under the circumstances, we thought it most prudent not to force an entry, although we conceive we should have been justified in so doing, but we have sent the master and the man assaulted to swear informations, a copy of which we shall forward as soon as they have been sworn, and shall request advice as to how we shall proceed. The delay in getting possession of the house, which will be caused by this unpleasant affair, is unfortunate, but the workhouse is still unfilled, and the master states he can accommodate 50 more than are in it at present. There are only 502 persons in the house this day, which is 29 less than its full ordinary number.

In reference to the erecting of galleries over the dormitories, the medical officer has stated strongly his objections to them, as will be set forth on the minutes.

We are happy to state that we have been informed this day by the Rev. Mr. Butler, that probably the temporary fever sheds for this district will be closed during the current week.

We have appointed this day to investigate the financial state of the Union, but we shall not be in time to include the results in this report.

In reference to relieving the house of the infirm, and widows with two children, &c., we have constantly turned our attention to the subject; but a difficulty has in one or two instances occurred, owing to the infirm paupers having no clothes of their own. We should be glad to know whether, in a case of this kind, the Commissioners would approve of our giving a small sum of money to procure clothing. The number discharged during the last week, including 38 children, amounted to 59.

P.S. Since writing the above, the master has returned, and states that the magistrate has issued a summons against the parties to cause their appearance at sessions next Saturday.

REPLY to the above :—*January 28, 1848.*

IN respect to your inquiry whether in case of paupers being discharged from the workhouse, who have no clothes of their own, the Commissioners would approve of giving a small sum of money to these persons to procure clothing, I am directed to state that you may legally purchase clothing, and give it as out-door relief, administered to persons relievable under section 1 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act; but the Commissioners would not advise the placing of a sum of money for such a purpose in the hands of a person receiving out-door relief.

The CLERK of the UNION to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 27, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Vice-Guardians of the Trim Union to forward, for your information, a copy of a letter which the Guardians have received from Lambert Disney and William Hopkins, Esqrs., J.Ps., relative to the state of the poor in the Athboy electoral division of this Union, and I am to request you will have the goodness to forward your reply upon the subject referred to therein, by return of post.

ENCLOSURE.

Messrs. DISNEY and HOPKINS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*January 26, 1848.*

WE beg to inform you that an arrangement was entered into amongst some of the proprietors and landowners of the Athboy electoral division, by which employment was found for about 200 men. This arrangement will only hold good to the end of this week; in fact, some of the parties have already sent home the men allotted to them.

We therefore beg to represent to you the absolute necessity which exists for giving out-door relief to the able-bodied in the electoral division of Athboy on Monday next, as we cannot answer for the peace of the neighbourhood if the poor are left unemployed, unless out-door relief is given to them.

Trim Union.

Captain HUBAND to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 1, 1848.*

I RECEIVED from you a copy of a letter dated 26th January, addressed by Messrs. Lambert Disney and Hopkins, magistrates of the county of Meath, to the Vice-Guardians of the Trim Union, and I have now the honour to report to you that I proceeded to Trim on yesterday (Monday) morning. I should have gone on Sunday morning had not the snow rendered the roads impassable, as I expected to find the discharged labourers from Athboy applying for relief at the workhouse on Monday, the day upon which the letter of Messrs. Disney and Hopkins stated out-door relief would become absolutely necessary, in order to save the peace of their neighbourhood. I was therefore anxious that no time should be lost by you in issuing your "sealed order," if it were necessary to do so, in consequence of the workhouse of the Union being filled; and had I found that such was the case, I intended to have instantly returned to Dublin and acquainted you with the fact.

However, on my arrival at Trim, I found that none of the Athboy people had appeared at the workhouse, nor did they do so during the remainder of the day.

I made minute inquiries into the state of the workhouse accommodation, and I ascertained that there were vacancies available for 135 able-bodied persons, calculating without reference to the lunatic wards, and according to your "sealed order."

I have therefore the honour to inform you that, under existing circumstances, you cannot legally issue an order for the relief of able-bodied persons out of the workhouse, under the provisions of the second section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

I gave instructions to the Vice-Guardians that should there be, in the course of the week, sufficient admissions to the workhouse to fill the vacancies at present existing, they should immediately send off a special messenger to Dublin to acquaint you of the fact, so as that no time might be lost in enabling you to issue your sealed order for the relief of the able-bodied, in case it became necessary.

P.S. I beg to mention that the able-bodied labourers, &c., of the town and vicinity of Trim, having heard that I was at the workhouse, went up there in a large body, and demanded that they should get either work or out-door relief. The Vice-Guardians offered to take into the workhouse all those who were willing to go in there, but none of them would accept the offer.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 4, 1848.*

IN reference to your communication of 27th ultimo, and the Commissioners' reply of the 28th ultimo, relating to the application made to you for out-door relief for the able-bodied in Athboy division of Trim Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, for your information, that they have received a report from their Inspector, Captain Huband, on the subject, from which it appears that there was at the time of his visit to Trim, on Monday last, considerable space in the workhouse available for able-bodied applicants, and the Commissioners, therefore, are not prepared to issue an order to authorize out-door relief to such applicants, inasmuch as the necessity contemplated by sec. 2 of 10 Vic., c. 31, has not yet arisen.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON.

Rev. P. DAWSON, Parish Priest of Carrick-on-Shannon, to the COMMISSIONERS:—
November 14, 1847.

I BEG to call the attention of the Poor Law Commissioners to the state of this Union, as one requiring their most prompt and energetic interference. It is unnecessary to call to their recollection the deaths in this workhouse during last winter, or to remind them of the state of the house up to the present time.

I write not to complain of the past, but to beg that the Commissioners will assist in saving human life, which is perilled to a fearful extent at present. There were more than 200 applicants for admission yesterday, many of them evidently starving; not one could be admitted, from the state of the funds.

The Guardians seem determined to turn over a new leaf and act with energy, but whilst their new collectors are arranging books, &c., &c., numbers will die of starvation.

This town must especially suffer, as the destitute, who come in from remote districts, seeking admission, are unable to return, and crawl through the town begging, or die by the way-sides. I most respectfully, but most earnestly, pray the trifling loan sought may be given to save those actually starving, and I would request an order might be issued to the master to admit those poor from remote divisions to whom I referred; they could be placed on their respective electoral divisions the next Board day.

REPLY to the above:—November 18, 1847.

THE whole of the difficulty now existing in the Union has been produced by negligence and unfitness in the collectors employed by the Board of Guardians, and only recently superseded, notwithstanding that the Guardians have been frequently urged by the Poor Law Inspectors to have proper steps taken for collecting the rates. However, two new collectors have been appointed for the Union, who will, it is hoped, make proper exertions to collect the large arrear of rates, amounting to 3000*l.*, and the Commissioners have recommended notice of their appointment to be given by the Board of Guardians, with a statement of the circumstances of the Union and condition of the poor, requiring prompt payment of the rates due.

The Commissioners cannot recommend a loan to be made, where the distress arises from want of proper exertion, as in this case, and where it may be relieved speedily, if the means available to the Guardians be promptly used.

Rev. P. DAWSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—November 19, 1847.

YOUR communication of yesterday, in reply to mine of the 14th instant, grieved and disappointed, but did not much surprise me. The soul harrowing details of last winter in this Union were passed over. I merely stated, "that human life was not only perilled, but actually sacrificed, to an awful extent, already this season." The Guardians, on whose Board I waited, seemed anxious to do (now at least) all in their power. I merely asked an advance of 300*l.* to meet the immediate demands, whilst the new collectors regulated their books, &c., and an order from the Commissioners, that the actual starving, who crawl to the workhouse, should be admitted at once, and apportioned to their respective divisions on the next Board-day, and not have them left (as now) to die by the waysides. The Commissioners coolly reply, that the present difficulty arises from past misconduct, and that they cannot recommend a loan, where the distress arises from want of exertion. Did the men who directed that answer believe, that even a British House of Commons would sanction such conduct? Are the innocent, whose distress arose not from want of exertion on their part, to perish, because the Guardians were remiss last year, and because the Commissioners, their Inspectors, and their Auditors, neglected to apply a remedy, which they alone could apply? The Temporary

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Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

Relief Act last year might palliate the management of the Poor Law; but this season, it is the only hope of starving thousands. I therefore again ask what I solicited in my letter of the 14th, and beg to add, that the Commissioners are accountable to God for the lives sacrificed by negligence, at which they connived.

REPLY to the above:—*November 22, 1847.*

THE Commissioners beg to inform you, that there is no longer a public fund out of which advances can now be made, on the credit of the Union rates, for the support of the destitute poor; and that Carrick-on-Shannon Union should not require such temporary aid more than others surrounding it, to none of which similar advances are made.

Instead of appealing for loans which cannot be advanced, the Guardians will, it is hoped, press for the payment of rates due to the Union; and the Commissioners feel assured, that if the rate-payers be made aware of the true state of the Union and the necessities of the poor, they will no longer permit the latter to suffer, by continuing to withhold the rates for which they are liable.

OBSERVATIONS of Captain WYNNE:—*November 25, 1847.*

I HAVE seen Mr. Dawson, who now appears determined to assist in the collection of the rates, by his influence, seeing that they are the only source from which can now be expected support for the vast numbers of destitute in the Union, and hitherto excluded from the workhouse for want of funds.

REV. P. DAWSON to Mr. REDINGTON:—*December 5, 1847.*

THE awful state of this district must be my apology for again trespassing on your precious time. Mr. Peyton (chairman here) went up on Friday, personally to press the condition of this Union. The death of poor Father Tom Maguire brought him back. Captain Wynne has, of course, reported to the Commissioners how matters are; but hundreds are dying of starvation, pending the arrangement. The inmates of the workhouse must be turned out to add to the mass of misery. The Board have no credit, nor yet collectors. I would, therefore, most respectfully beg that the officer in charge, Captain Wynne, be authorized to advance subsistence to the house until the collectors refund it; and also that this Union be included as requiring aid from Government. How it was omitted surprises me. The Commissioners reported it third amongst the five worst in the kingdom. Captain Wynne says it is the very worst. The population, 67,077 (and two-thirds paupers), to feed on rates out of 61,450%, the annual value of the Union, could not subsist on the entire rental.

REPLY to the above:—*December 8, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have had referred to them your further application to the Under-Secretary for Ireland, to have funds advanced for the support of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union workhouse, and they observe that you have been informed in reply, that there are not any funds at the disposal of the Lord Lieutenant, which can be applied for that purpose.

The Commissioners are anxious to seize every opportunity of impressing on gentlemen of local influence, that it is on local exertions and sources the main reliance must be placed for the future support of such destitute persons as cannot obtain employment, through a proper application and development of the latter.

When the rates due in the Union shall be put in collection, which may be done at once, the immediate difficulty arising from want of funds will be overcome; and the Commissioners cannot regard without surprise the apparent indifference with which persons, owing considerable amounts of rate, still withhold what is due by them, although they must be aware of the distress existing in the Union, and the urgency of the calls for assistance.

The annual value of the rateable property in the Union may, as you observe, be small compared with the amount of pauperism; but much of the latter is doubtless to be ascribed to neglect of the means of affording profitable employment; and there appears no reason to apprehend, that the actual destitution at present in the Union cannot be relieved by the rate-payers.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

Rev. P. DAWSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 11, 1847.*

I AM in receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, and see, with regret, that further correspondence is useless. It is admitted that "the pauperized population cannot be fed out of the rateable property, yet no injustice is done in withholding Government aid, as this must have arisen from local neglect."

Since I came here last March, 1000 of my poor parishioners have died of famine, and disease the effect (immediate effect) of famine. The Poor Law Commission, the Relief Commissioners, and the Government were appealed to in vain. The mortality in the poor-house—89 deaths in February, 189 in March, 295 in April, &c., was allowed to increase, until the house literally emptied itself into the grave-yard.

The amount of ration relief under 1 to 13 was represented; the two-acre test (by which persons holding two acres or over were excluded from relief until they gave up land and house) was brought under their notice. It was shown that the poor-house was overfilled with its awful mortality; that many of them were in fever; and that, quitting their houses in these circumstances must produce certain death. Compensation, pretended to be given to persons quitting their places, was shown to have varied from 15s. to 45s., and, in some cases, to have been paid for burying the parties in their own gardens; yet, in no way would the authorities interfere. Local neglect, local responsibility, the Guardians in fault, is Government satisfied to have the lives of one class at the disposal of the other? If so, further interference is utterly useless.

REPLY to the above:—*December 14, 1847.*

I AM to state that the law has imposed on the Board of Guardians of the Union the obligations of providing for relief of the destitute poor; and if you will state any particular cases in which relief has been improperly withheld from applicants, the Commissioners will cause them to be inquired into.

COPY of Captain WYNNE's Observations.

I HAVE endeavoured to convince Mr. Dawson that the poor-rates were the sole means by which we could expect to afford relief to the destitute poor of the Union; that under the circumstances, instead of at once pronouncing the Union inadequate to the undertaking, it would be much wiser to assist, by his undoubted influence, those who were now determined to test the ability of the Union, which certainly as yet has not been attempted.

There is too much truth in the picture Mr. Dawson has drawn of the past and present condition of the poor of this Union; and the great pressure on him may, in some degree, excuse his unreasonableness and importunity; but he is perfectly aware that at this moment every possible exertion is being made by the Guardians to alleviate the sufferings of the destitute poor of the Union.

December 16, 1847.

E. W.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain WYNNE:—*November 17, 1847.*

I AM to forward a copy of a resolution of the Guardians, in which they request a loan of 300l., to provide for the immediate wants of the workhouse; and I am to state, that the Commissioners cannot assist the Guardians in obtaining the loan required, but trust that, by immediately issuing warrants to the new collectors, on the execution of their bonds, means of providing for the support of the destitute poor may be at once obtained from the rate-payers.

The Commissioners recommend that the Guardians should publish a notice through the Union, announcing the appointment of the new collectors, stating the condition of the workhouse, referring to the wants of the destitute poor,

Carriek-on-Shannon Union.

now solely dependent on the rate-payers, and therefore enjoining the rate-payers to pay the sums due by them with the promptitude which the occasion and their moral and legal obligations demand.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from GUARDIANS' MINUTES of the 13th November, 1847.

"*Resolved*—That the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the Poor Law Commissioners, with a request for the loan of 300*l.* until the present rate is put in collection, as otherwise the result would be that the house would be closed. The immense amount of the most utter destitution that exists requires absolutely that immediate assistance be given to many not at present in the house: and as the rate is a large one, and so large a portion of it is payable by the proprietors, the funds must be very soon available; but we know not where to obtain even small funds to enable us to receive into the house the very worst cases of destitution until then. We, therefore, earnestly request of the Poor Law Commissioners to take our application for this loan into their most serious consideration."

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 20, 1847.*

It would be premature on my part, with my short and limited acquaintance with the Poor Law establishment in this Union, to enter into details as regards the condition in which I find everything connected with it, or the causes which may have led to so unpromising a state of things.

I find the Guardians in debt upwards of 4700*l.*, law proceedings already in progress against them by some of their creditors, the remainder clamorous for payment, large numbers of paupers refused admittance to the workhouse, and the allowance of the children, at present inmates, curtailed beyond what I consider justifiable; the house requiring some repairs before winter sets in, and a sum of 13*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* to meet their demands and provide for the ensuing week.

Nothing but prompt and energetic steps, will meet the emergency, and the Commissioners may depend on such being taken without delay.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 27, 1847.*

IN consequence of my recent arrival in this Union, and of the very imperfect knowledge I possessed of its present condition and future prospects, I did not write a report on this day week; I have, however, since availed myself of every opportunity to acquire information and make such prospective arrangements as I hope, will accelerate the collection of the rates, and lead to the improvement of the establishment, wherever the condition of our funds will enable us to carry out those arrangements.

This week my time has been entirely occupied between the workhouse and in visiting such portions of the Union as I was enabled to reach. In doing which I took occasion to call on such persons as I considered possessed local influence, explaining to them that the rates were now the sole source to which they could look for relief of the multitudes of destitute at present crowding the roads in every direction, and soliciting their countenance and support on behalf of the collectors.

In most cases I received rather encouraging promises.

I also availed myself of these opportunities of visiting the several schools situate in the localities through which I passed, and of obtaining such information as is required by the British Relief Association, to whom I this day forward a report.

With respect to the workhouse, its condition would be highly discreditable to the master and the other officers immediately connected with its management, but that almost all the requisites for putting it in proper order are wanting, and have been frequently applied for to the Guardians in vain.

It is necessary to have three breakfasts, and as many dinners per day in consequence of there being only one-third of tins, &c., required even for the comparatively small number at present in the house.

The urine tubs are out of order and fast going to pieces, and cause great inconvenience.

The rain comes in in various directions, and the pipes and cocks are so much out of order that the boilers overflow of a wet day, producing great inconvenience and disorder.

In the grounds there is a field for the employment fully and advantageously, of such of the paupers as are able to work, but there are no implements.

The master is not, in my opinion, a man of orderly habits, but seems zealous and anxious to improve, and certainly he has not had a fair trial heretofore.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

I this day called the attention of the Guardians to the necessity that exists for immediately supplying implements for the execution of a work, the further neglect of which seriously threatens the health of the house, I allude to the covering of the graves, which were never sufficiently covered, the effects being already perceptible in consequence of the cracking of the ground and holes made by the rats.

The Guardians plead want of funds, and such is the state of their credit that the local printer refuses to print the necessary notices if not paid in cash.

Books are also required, more than half the children being obliged to sit idle for want of them.

I fear the new collectors will meet with considerable difficulty in the discharge of their duties, but they appear determined to act firmly and vigorously, particularly Mr. Lynch, who has advanced this day 100*l.*, which he is to repay himself, and which will enable us to go on for some time.

I understand the ex-collectors are using their influence to get up a systematic opposition, and one of the collectors is giving receipts for arrears from an old receipt-book which he retained in his possession at the time of his dismissal; this man's sureties are not to be found.

We have posted notices that all future receipts will require the initials of the clerk, but if he antedates, we have no remedy but by a comparison with his arrear sheets, which have been found already to be incorrect. I have had the attention of the police directed to this man.

I have forwarded some queries to the secretary, arising out of cases likely to occur in the collection of the rates, and on which it is necessary that the collectors should be thoroughly informed.

I anticipate very great pressure on the house the moment it is opened, which at present it cannot be said to be. In fact, the Poor Laws cannot be said to be in operation in this Union.

There are now wandering about the Union about 1600 persons, most of whom have given up their houses and lands, and are only waiting for admittance to the house, and indeed they appear to be legitimate objects; the numbers are stated to me much higher, but in my calculation there are no able-bodied or any persons on whom the workhouse test would be likely to operate.

We were enabled to admit a large number to day, as will appear from the minutes.

Much inconvenience will arise from want of clothing for the adults.

In conclusion, I must say the chairman appeared willing to adopt every suggestion of mine, nor was there any opposition on the part of the Guardians assembled this day. Several small bills were paid, and credit considerably re-established, and provision made for the wants of the ensuing week.

Tradesmen were also desired to furnish estimates on Saturday next, for the necessary repairs to be done to the house, and implements have been ordered to employ the paupers to a certain extent.

On the whole I feel satisfied with the day's proceedings.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 4, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 39,438, D. /47; and in reference to the recommendation of the Commissioners contained therein respecting the ex-collector of poor-rates in this Union, I have to state that the steps recommended have been already taken, and that the local police have directions to keep a strict watch on his movements.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain WYNNE:—*December 4, 1848.*

I AM to state, in reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, that, in the very peculiar and critical state of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, the Commissioners will make peculiar exertions to ascertain if it is possible, to induce four individuals from Dublin to undertake the duty of poor-rate collector in that Union, and the Commissioners will communicate with you on the subject definitely on Monday next.

Fourth Series,
p. 115.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

MR. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 14, 1847.*

SEEING in your communication to Inspecting Officers and Guardians, the anxiety of the Commissioners to have the poor-rates collected with as little delay as possible, in order to save the lives of the destitute, may I take leave to suggest for their consideration, a matter that I think very much tends to retard its collection. For instance, on Mr. Barton's property, in the Tumna electoral division in this Union, where none, if any rates, have been paid, on account of the difficulty of ascertaining the parties really liable to pay, as Mr. Barton or his predecessors made leases of portions of this land to parties all of whom are long since dead; but prior to their death they so sub-divided their land that the valuator valued the greater number of their present holdings under 4*l*., which makes it impossible to collect the rate from the present occupiers; neither is it possible to ascertain who the heirs or assigns of the original leases are, and I hear Mr. Barton refuses to pay, on the grounds that the leases are still in existence. Such a state of things is a bad example in a neighbourhood, as others do not wish to pay while such escape. The remedy I would suggest is, to get such an amendment in the law as would make the parties in the actual receipt of the profit rent, liable in the first instance, leaving it in their power to charge the occupiers should it be their right.

REPLY to the above:—*December 4, 1847.*

As it appears that Mr. Barton is rated in the rate-books, he is liable for the rate.

I am at the same time, to state that Captain Wynne, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, reports that it appears from inquiries which he has made, that Mr. Barton has never been applied to for payment of his liability, in consequence of the collector having been a tenant of his, and there does not appear any reason for supposing that Mr. Barton will not pay immediately, on being applied to.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 27, 1847.*

I BEG herewith to forward to you the following queries, and to request your earliest information thereon:—

I. The owner of the land and the occupier are named in the rate-book, dated 1842. The occupier is valued under 4*l*.; both parties assert the existence of a middle man, but refuse to show leases, or inform the collector who he is. The owner up to the present time, has not received notice of his name being in the rate-book, nor have the rates ever been demanded from him; can the collector proceed against him, he not having appeared, or must he wait for the expiration of four months, and then proceed against the occupier?

II. Must the collector proceed as above, in the event of the middle-man being an absentee or a pauper?

REPLY to the above:—*December 3, 1847.*

IN the year to which you refer, 1842, the owner or immediate lessor was not liable for the rate, as he has been, since 24th August, 1843, on tenements not exceeding 4*l*. value, held at will, or on lease made after the latter date. In rates signed subsequently to such latter date, the immediate lessor of the holdings referred to, is liable without being expressly named, the law only requiring, in case of doubt, that the title "Immediate Lessor" should be inserted in the column for name. This will enable a collector to recover from the proper party, whenever discovered; but if not known, this can only arise through collusion of the occupier who refuses to disclose the name; and in such a case, it would be proper to enforce the rate from the occupier by the power which the law gives for that object.

If a person be named in the rate as immediate lessor, and shall not have appealed within four months, he may be sued for the sum assessed.

If the immediate lessor be an insolvent person, or reside altogether out of

Ireland, there is no other way of recovering the rate but by requiring the occupier to pay it out of the rent, pursuant to the 3rd section of the Act 6 and 7 Vic., c. 92. Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 4, 1847.*

I HAVE been employed this week principally in making prospective arrangements, with a view to the establishment of cleanliness, order, and system in the workhouse, and in acquiring such a knowledge of the Union as will be of importance whenever the necessity for out-door relief may arise, and the circumstances of the Union will admit of its administration.

I have also taken advantage of any opportunity that offered, to acquire any information that I considered useful, in carrying out the benevolent intentions of the British Relief Association.

Heretofore, I have been unable to effect improvement to any extent in the workhouse, being met on all occasions with the excuse of not having the proper means furnished for the establishment and maintenance of order, regularity, and system.

I have, however, been enabled to procure a supply of implements from the stores of the Board of Works in this town, on the undertaking of the Guardians that they shall be paid for immediately, on the acquisition of funds.

The Commissioners will perceive, from the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Guardians, that the workhouse is almost wholly dependent on the rates to be paid in, in the course of next week, for its support during that week; and that the Guardians have adopted a resolution to the effect that any rate-payer paying his liability into the hands of the treasurer on or before next Saturday will receive their best thanks, and be allowed the poundage which they have agreed to give the collectors when appointed, viz., 2s. 6d. in the pound.

Letters have been written to the largest rate-payers in the Union, specifying the amount of their respective liabilities. I am of opinion that a sufficient sum will be received under this resolution to meet our present exigencies, though not sufficient to render the acceptance of the office of collector less desirable.

The Commissioners will also perceive that the Board of Guardians have directed advertisements to be inserted in the Dublin papers, with a view to induce some non-resident candidates to offer themselves as collectors for the Union, perfectly coinciding in opinion with me, that even the fullest assurance of protection during the process of collecting the rates, will not induce local collectors to discharge their duties vigorously, as their danger would by no means cease with their duties, but being bound to the country by the ties of property or other circumstances, they would be constantly exposed to those persons who might consider themselves aggrieved.

Not so, however, the stranger. He might leave the country when his business was finished, returning when again required.

I do not believe that a continuance of this system would be at all necessary, as I am of opinion that the opposition of the rate-payers in this Union arises more from bad habits contracted under the late collectors, than from any inveterate antipathy to the principle of poor-rates; and that it is only necessary to demonstrate that the rates must be paid, to insure a future facility of collecting them.

REPLY to the above:—*December 6, 1847.*

THE Commissioners approve of the course which has been pursued by the Board of Guardians, in inserting advertisements for collectors in the Dublin newspapers.

In the meanwhile the Commissioners are endeavouring to induce individuals who have been employed in the constabulary force, to offer themselves as candidates.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain WYNNE:—*December 8, 1847.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have applied to the Inspector-general of the constabulary, for the names and addresses of the late head and other constables who have been superannuated under favourable circumstances, with a view to their being offered the collection of poor-rates in Unions where their services can be made available. The addresses of two, named at foot, have been received to day; and the Commissioners request that you will notify to each your readiness to recommend them for appointment as collectors in the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, stating the poundage to be allowed, and the probable amount of rate which each would be authorised to collect, with the amount of security that would be required, and requesting an immediate communication from them.

Thomas Jennings, Kildysart, County Clare.
Daniel White, Kilmacthomas, County Waterford.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 9, 1847.*

I HAVE communicated with Messrs. F. Jennings and D. White, notifying to them my readiness to recommend their appointment to the office of collectors of poor-rates for the Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

I have also stated the amount which each would be authorised to collect under the warrants now prepared, together with the poundage that will be allowed.

I have also stated the security required, to be 500*l.*, and two sureties of 500*l.* each.

A question may be raised by the Guardians as to the solvency of the sureties offered, should they be resident in any distant part of the country and unknown to the Guardians; this and every other circumstance likely to cause delay should be guarded against, as the difficulty in the collection of the rates will increase as the tangible property of the rate-payers decreases. They are at present sending to market as fast as possible, and for this reason I think it would be advisable to appoint four collectors. Mr. Tottenham, who has been acting as district accountant under the Board of Works, has applied as a candidate. I think him well suited for the office, being active, energetic, and apparently determined to discharge the duties; he is a native of Wales, and in no way tied to this country longer than he is engaged in the discharge of his duties.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain WYNNE:—*December 10, 1847.*

THE Commissioners will be prepared to sanction the appointment of any four persons chosen by the Board of Guardians whom you may recommend to be employed as collectors.

A further list of superannuated constables of police, this day received from Colonel M'Gregor, is enclosed herewith.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 11, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that considerable improvement has taken place in the state of the funds of the Union, as also in the condition of the workhouse, although it is still far from what I could wish it.

With regard to the funds, up to this day rates have been paid in to the amount of 307*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* The Guardians have extended the time specified in the resolution, under which the above sum has been paid, to Saturday, the 18th instant; which, I have no doubt, will bring in a large sum.

The money already paid has enabled the Guardians to satisfy several urgent claims, and has, to a certain extent, re-established their credit, from the total loss of which it has been exceedingly difficult to procure supplies for the house from day to day. I trust, however, all difficulty on this score is now at an end.

With respect to the state of the house, discipline, order, and cleanliness do not progress so rapidly as I conceive they ought.

An ample supply of implements of all sorts has been furnished to the master, and there is ample scope to employ the able-bodied paupers usefully; and I hope, when they shall be fully employed, the master will not find the same difficulty in obtaining order that he now finds.

I have recommended him to organise a staff of assistants of both sexes, from the best conducted of the inmates of the house, in order that he may have more time to keep up his books, which are again in arrear. Heretofore, the relieving officers have thrown unnecessary labour on him, leaving him to obtain as best he might, that information which was necessary to make out his registry of admissions, and which it was their duty to have furnished him with.

I had, this day, the 101st and 102nd sections of the 1st and 2nd Vict., cap. 56, read in presence of the relieving and other officers of the establishment, and directions given to Mr. Peyton to proceed against the late rate collectors under the above section.

I this day called the attention of the Board of Guardians, to the necessity that exists for taking immediate steps to provide additional accommodation, not only for additional paupers of the first and second classes who have been heretofore excluded for want of funds, but also with a view to meet the case of able-bodied paupers presenting themselves, when it will be indispensably necessary to be able to offer them accommodation in the house.

In consequence of the large majority of the present inmates of the house having no habitation of their own, and there not being any building to be hired in any part of the Union where out-door relief could be afforded them, considerable difficulty will be found, in the event I have above mentioned, unless timely measures be adopted. I have strongly recommended the fitting up the sheds which have been already erected, and the erection of others in addition.

I also called the attention of the Guardians to another and a considerable cause of pressure on the workhouse, viz., *the desertion of children*. I have found many cases, one of which I brought this day before the Board. I myself found the two little children in question, in a ditch some miles from this town, apparently in a dying state. I had them brought to a house and taken care of; and on their recovering sufficiently to tell their story, I found they had been deserted by their parents. We have discovered their retreat, and a magistrate's warrant was issued against them.

I hope to be able to put the law in force rigorously, as I conceive it of the greatest importance to put an end to this practice, which exists to an alarming extent at present in this Union.

I have much pleasure in informing the Commissioners of my perfect satisfaction in respect to the proceedings of the Board of Guardians assembled to day. Any suggestion of mine was readily and promptly adopted; and the utmost anxiety was evinced to meet the wishes of the Commissioners, and to consult the interests of the destitute poor of the Union.

I hope to have the rationing of the children in attendance at the schools in the Union, in progress, to a considerable extent, next week. I have made arrangements to commence on Monday, in this town, and to extend daily to the several electoral divisions of the Union. According as the requisite preparations are reported to have been made by the local committees, or by the individuals who become responsible for the distribution of the food, I expect considerable relief will be afforded by these means.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—December 16, 1847.

I HAVE made inquiries into the matter referred to me in the letter of the Rev. Francis Kane to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, dated 11th December, 1847.

I cannot find any record of the circumstances stated in that letter, nor have the Board of Guardians any recollection of them.

It is not impossible that the M'Ranns alluded to, were refused admission previously to my arrival in the Union, but certainly not since, as I can state that no case of such a character has remained unredressed.

Previously to my arrival vast numbers were refused admittance, on the plea that "there were no funds at the disposal of the Guardians, to obtain the supplies necessary for the support of the house, nor could any provisions be

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non Union.

obtained on their credit." This plea, it would appear, was considered sufficient by all parties, as the paupers retired quietly till such time as the improved state of the funds would admit of their admission.

Without endeavouring to excuse the previous neglect or want of energy on the part of the Guardians, which undoubtedly led to the position in which I found them, "perfectly powerless to meet the urgent and immediate wants of the Union," still the circumstances in which they had placed themselves left them no choice till such time as, by increased exertion and energy they have been able to obtain funds.

In justice to the Board I beg to state, that 597 have, at my suggestion, been admitted, since my arrival although no funds were at the time available for two days' provision for the house, and we were obliged to procure food from day to day in the best way we could, and not without the greatest difficulty.

I am happy to be able to state, that the Guardians appear anxious to put the Poor Law really in operation for the relief of the Union, and it cannot be denied that great and peculiar difficulties will present themselves.

On Saturday next, we shall admit as many as we can find accommodation for in the house, but this number cannot be one-fifth of the legitimate claimants, or perhaps applicants, who will present themselves on that day.

I am getting the sheds at the workhouse prepared, and every other part of the establishment that may be properly converted into temporary accommodation, to meet the difficulty as far as possible.

This Union at present presents, I think, peculiar difficulties; vast numbers of families have been unhoused and their houses destroyed.

You cannot admit them to the workhouse, there is no room; you cannot give them out-door relief, they have no houses, nor does the Union afford any building or buildings that might be purchased or hired for that purpose. Temporary sheds (the only expedient that I can devise) will not exactly suit, for it is most probable these poor persons will remain a permanent burthen on the Union, as it is not likely that they will ever again regain a footing on the land.

I have already urged the Guardians to erect sheds of timber and asphalt, without delay, and I have reason to believe that no time will be lost in doing so.

I have read the Rev. Mr. Dawson's letter to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and make every allowance for the almost insupportable pressure on him and all those gentlemen similarly circumstanced; but there is reason to complain, that instead of trying the experiment, whether the Union is able to support its poor, (an experiment never yet tried,) and using their undoubted influence towards achieving the payment of the poor-rates, they do literally nothing but urge their own views, and will not render any assistance in carrying out any measures which do not exactly accord with those views.

I have to assure the Commissioners, that I never gave an opinion as to the wealth or poverty of this Union, or its ability or inability to support its poor, as stated in the Rev. Mr. Dawson's letter, but I did give an opinion, which I certainly conceive to be correct, "that I have met a greater amount of urgent and pressing destitution in this Union, than in any part of Ireland I have visited, as in addition to want of food, which exists to as great an extent as in any other part of Ireland, want of shelter from the inclemency of the seasons exists to a far greater extent than in any other part with which I am acquainted.

REPLY to the above:—*December 21, 1847.*

It appears, from your report, that the number of persons unhoused in the Union, and whose late homes have been destroyed, is considered to be much greater than the workhouse can receive, and even too numerous for the remaining habitations in the Union to receive, if provided with out-door maintenance; but it does not appear how or where these persons are now lodged, or whether they wander about the Union without shelter by day or night.

On the other hand, it appears that the law for relief of the poor has never been put in full force in this Union; and that no trial has yet been made of the extent to which the rateable property of the Union can provide for the support of the destitute poor.

The Commissioners trust that, under such circumstances, the Guardians will use the most strenuous and prompt exertions to put the law fully into force; and that, until the immediate pressure of destitution shall be met, the Board will assemble more frequently than once a-week, which the Commissioners hope can be done, without personal inconvenience, by an arrangement among the chairmen and principal Guardians for attending in succession.

MEMORIAL of the Rev. Mr. HESLIN, P.P., Drumshambo, to the Lord Lieutenant, referred to the Poor Law Commissioners.

To his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant-General and General-Governor of Ireland.

THAT there are more than 300 families in this district without any means of support; no relief from any source, the relief fund being now exhausted.

That there is no employment for the able-bodied, and the New Poor Law of no avail.

That, notwithstanding the privations and sufferings of the poor people, the law is respected and peace maintained.

Memorialist begs your Excellency's attention to the condition of his poor people (who must inevitably perish if not relieved), and order that some of the food in the Government Relief Depôts be afforded them. Memorialist, as in duty bound, will pray.

Drumshambo, 10th December, 1847.

COPY of OBSERVATIONS of Captain WYNNE, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, upon a communication from the Rev. Mr. HESLIN, Parish Priest of Drumshambo, of the 10th December.

THAT destitution prevails to a formidable extent in Mr. Heslin's parish, is too true, and that he has retarded the relief of that destitution, by leading the people to expect other means than those provided by the Poor Law, is equally true.

This expectation, which is certainly not discouraged, has induced the sufferers in many instances, and more particularly in the parish of which Mr. Heslin is Roman Catholic Priest, to abstain from claiming relief under the provisions of the Poor Law, till they have absolutely sunk under the pressure of hunger and other sufferings.

I regret to say, that in this Union there appears not only indifference, as regards the success of the Poor Law, but, in very many instances, considerable anxiety that it should prove a failure. This I attribute to a very general impression, that it alone stands between the people and a system of relief which would certainly be more palatable to all classes.

Mr. Heslin has applied to the Board of Guardians, not for such form of relief as they are authorized to afford under the provisions of the Poor Law, but that they should throw a quantity of the provisions now in the Government stores, into his locality, the distribution of which should be placed under local control and supervision. This is the universal demand.

This week, in Mr. Heslin's parish, 558 children have received rations.

Every exertion is being made to meet the exigencies of the suffering people, with promptitude and efficiency, but from want of coincidence of opinion amongst those persons whose assistance would be valuable in their respective localities, and from the absence of preparations which should have been heretofore made, delays, to a certain extent, must occur, and some time must elapse before a satisfactory working of the system can be established.

Since my arrival in this Union, the Guardians appear willing to adopt my suggestions, and no applicant, either from Mr. Heslin's parish, or from any other part of the Union, has been rejected by them (up to the present time), except where his admission would involve a breach of the law. Heretofore, we have been enabled to keep strictly within the law, and we are making every possible exertion to place ourselves in a position to continue to do so.

December 25, 1847.

EDWARD WYNNE.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 18, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have been employed for the past week, principally in perfecting my arrangements for the distribution of rations to the several schools in the Union, and in endeavouring to effect those alterations in the condition and interior economy of the workhouse which I consider of the greatest importance.

With regard to the former subject, I have nearly completed my arrangements, and should have been able to report that the relief was already in extensive operation, but for the delays and difficulties I have experienced in obtaining provisions from the Commissariat stores, having issued an order on Tuesday, and only this evening received the provisions.

I hope to be able next week, to ration 2500 children daily, with rye-meal bread baked in this town, and sent to the various schools in the Union.

It is my intention to confine my issue to bread, till I shall be able to effect such arrangements with the patrons, or other persons interested in the welfare of the schools, as will afford a reasonable prospect of success in the working and issuing of soup.

At present, the benefit would not be at all commensurate with the expense.

With regard to the condition, &c., of the workhouse, I have again to state, that I am by no means satisfied with the progress made towards the establishment of order, cleanliness, and discipline.

The master's books are again in arrear; and although the paupers have been set to work on all fine days during the week, and a good deal of improvement has been thereby effected, viz., cleansing sewers and removing nuisances, still there is a total want of system and discipline.

I fear the master will be found quite unequal to the task he has undertaken.

I felt it my duty to bring the subject before the Board of Guardians this day, and it was finally agreed, that "in consideration of the pressure on the master arising out of the large admissions that have lately taken place to the house, the insufficiency of the preparation for their reception, and the difficulty of establishing order and system for the first time amongst so large a number of persons rather difficult to be managed, he (the master) should be allowed an assistant for three weeks at 20s. per week, to enable him to put things into working order; but that if after that, any irregularities took place or any grounds for complaint were given, he must be considered incompetent, and steps taken to procure a person better suited to the situation."

I shall regret this necessity, as he is a most painstaking person and kind and humane to the inmates of the house.

An increase to the clerk's salary (from 40*l.* to 50*l.*) has been proposed, partly to enable him to procure an assistant occasionally, when extra business is put upon him, as in the present instance, and partly to evince the satisfaction of the Board of Guardians, at the manner in which he has heretofore, discharged his duties.

The Commissioners will perceive from the minutes of the proceedings of this day's meeting, that the election of collectors of Poor-rates did not take place, but that it has been postponed for a fortnight, viz., till Saturday the 1st of January, 1848; and further, that the privilege which the rate-payers have enjoyed for the past fortnight; should be extended to that day.

Not a single candidate came forward.

I had written to four of the persons whose names and addresses had been transmitted to me from your office, notifying my readiness to recommend their appointment, and stating amount of sureties, &c.

From No. 1, Thomas Jennings, I received for reply that he was a sufferer from rheumatic pains, and unfit for duty; from No. 2, William Abbot, that he was unable to procure sureties; from No. 3, that he was quite prepared to come but could not procure a conveyance across the country from Cavan to bring him in time for the election; from No. 4, I have not as yet received any reply.

I am of opinion, that if the proposed plan is to be carried out, viz., that of appointing to the office of poor-rate collectors from the superannuated constabulary list, it would be absolutely necessary to inspect the candidates previously to their presenting themselves at the election, in order to ascertain that they possessed the necessary qualifications, and of all things that they did not

labour under rheumatism or any other physical disability, as strength and constitution will be indispensably necessary for the discharge of their duties.

I would therefore propose, that previously to the 1st of January, I should, by letter, call the parties to Dublin on a certain day, and that either some competent person should be directed to inspect them or that I should go up to town for that purpose.

I feel anxious on this subject, as the success or the reverse of this plan will depend on a judicious selection of persons.

The Commissioners will perceive that we have got in a sum of 457*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* this week under the arrangement of allowing collectors' fees to the ratepayers.

This measure works well, and with the exception of the awkwardness of giving a receipt for a sum of which only seven-eighths have been paid, I can see no objection to it, and a great many beneficial results.

It undoubtedly effects a saving of one-eighth to the ratepayer, and thereby places him in a better position to meet the next call upon him.

I think also it will have the effect, to a certain extent, of removing opposition to the principle of payment of poor-rates, (where such exists,) as I should hope the example of the numbers who are coming forward and paying, voluntarily, would not fail to influence those persons who have heretofore opposed poor-rates on principle, more particularly if those who still continue defaulters, be hereafter coerced by a good selection of collectors.

I fear the non-appearance of our candidates will affect our receipts for the next fortnight, as I attribute a good deal of the anxiety on the part of the ratepayers to avail themselves of the temporary arrangement to the prospect of the collection being about to be placed in the hands of individuals perfectly free from any local influences.

To guard against such a result a strong resolution has been entered into by the Board of Guardians.

I have no doubt but that we shall receive a large sum between this and the day of election, such an amount as might probably influence a gentleman in his acceptance of the office, but the poundage on the residue will be more than sufficient remuneration for persons in the rank of superannuated constables, who will no doubt discharge the duties of the office at least as well as the gentlemen.

In conclusion, I beg to state that we were this day enabled to admit 143 paupers without being under the necessity of refusing any applicant, except on the grounds of nonconformity with the requirements of the law.

I hope we shall have some additional accommodation prepared by next Saturday. I am fitting up the sheds and every other spot that may afford any.

REPLY to the above :—*December 21, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have communicated with Sir Randolph Routh on the subject of the delay in the issue of supplies of provisions from the Commissariat stores.

With reference to the state of the workhouse, and the employment of an assistant to the workhouse master, I am to state that the Commissioners do not object to the temporary employment of an assistant to the master, and they are prepared to remove the master from his office unless he resigns whenever you report that such a step is necessary.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners will sanction the proposed increase of the clerk's salary temporarily, with a view to his procuring the necessary assistance, but they must withhold their sanction to a permanent increase of the clerk's salary until the Union accounts shall have been audited to the 29th September last.

As regards the proposed appointment of collectors of poor-rate, I am to state, that as the only person among those of the candidates from whom you have received replies, and who appears capable of going to the Union, expresses his unwillingness to go, and the others state their inability, the Commissioners consider that it will not be found necessary to summon the parties to Dublin, putting them to expense and inconvenience, but such as may offer to go to Carrick-on-Shannon, should be apprised that their employment will depend on their being found fit from bodily strength and capability to keep the accounts, as well as give security.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

The Commissioners recommend you to have a notice for candidates inserted in the "Weekly Advertiser," which will be published on *Friday* next.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 22, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, relative to my report of the 16th instant, on the Rev. Mr. Kane's letter to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, on the subject of the distress at present existing in this Union.

As some of the statements in my report alluded to in your letter, appear to require further explanation, I have this day taken such steps as enable me to give the following with confidence.

Upon a careful investigation made this day in the workhouse, in person, I find that of 916 individuals in the house at present, 49 heads of families, or 207 individuals still retain houses, having locked them up on entering the workhouse; the remaining 709 are houseless; 337 of the latter class have already been rejected on the grounds of their applications not being in conformity with the requirements of the law: these will no doubt present themselves on legal applications. Add to this number at least 1200, the number still wandering about the Union, which is under the calculation generally made, and you have 2246 without homes or houses where they could receive out-door maintenance.

With respect to the remaining habitations in the Union being insufficient to receive these poor persons, I would not be understood as having intended to convey this meaning; but I feel perfectly assured that the proprietors of those habitations, though they may give these wanderers a night's shelter from the storm in their stables or out-houses, will never allow them to become permanent lodgers, or in any other way to gain a footing on their premises; indeed, even if so disposed, they would not be permitted to do so.

With regard to the mode in which these poor persons are now lodged, I can state, from my own knowledge, that a large majority of them are entirely dependent on the resources above mentioned, which often fail them. Their cries may be heard all night in the streets of this town; and since my arrival here I have constantly been obliged to procure shelter in the stables in the neighbourhood for persons whom I have found perishing in the streets at 12 o'clock at night. The next day they have been received provisionally into the workhouse.

A considerable number of temporary huts may be seen erected against the backs of ditches on the road-side; and even these, I find, are rarely inhabited two consecutive weeks by the same family.

The Guardians do not appear at all inclined to oppose any plan that I may suggest to them to meet the difficulties; but most inconvenient delays take place in the execution of all their orders, partly from the scarcity of tradesmen, and partly from the unwillingness of the few that are here to work for employers who have not hitherto paid their debts.

It is my intention to bring before the Guardians, at our meeting to-morrow, the necessity that exists for immediately providing increased accommodation for the paupers already in the house, to enable us to apply the workhouse test to future applicants; and to direct their attention to the only building within the Union which I think can be made available for that purpose, viz., the Jamestown Mill, which, with a small outlay, would accommodate 500. It is at present the property of the Shannon Commissioners, and used partly as an implement store. The greater part is at present unoccupied. It is at such a distance as would render the exercise of control and supervision not difficult.

In conclusion, I beg to state that I have already forwarded the letter of the Rev. Mr. Kane to your office.

REPLY to the above:—*December 28, 1847.*

ADVERTING to your letter of the 22nd instant, in which you state that the cries of destitute persons may be heard in the streets of Carrick-on-Shannon all night, and that since your arrival at Carrick-on-Shannon you have constantly been obliged to provide shelter in the stables in the neighbourhood for persons

whom you have found perishing in the streets, the Commissioners desire to observe that the state of things disclosed in your report leads the Commissioners towards the conclusion that the time has now arrived when they should issue an order authorising out-door relief to the able-bodied, under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act; and they request you to report to them whether, in your opinion, there are any decided reasons why such order should not be issued forthwith.

The Commissioners request you to be so good as to give them an answer on this point by return of post; and with reference to the want of lodging for some of the destitute in the Union, the Commissioners request you to report whether you have any suggestion to make to the Commissioners on this subject.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 25, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have been employed for the last week principally in putting the rationing of the schools into operation, in ascertaining the amount of accommodation in the Union available for the reception of a portion of the present inmates of the workhouse, should it become necessary to remove them, in order to be in a position to apply the workhouse test to all future applicants for relief, and in endeavouring to establish order, cleanliness, and discipline in the house.

I am enabled to report considerable progress in the rationing of the schools, having issued 12,600 rations during the week to 38 schools.

The bread is much liked by the poor children; but it would appear from the majority of the communications which I have received in reply to my circulars, that uncooked food would be much more acceptable.

The Commissioners will perceive by the circulars which I enclose, that I am by no means unreasonable in my requirements; however, if I receive the co-operation I ask for, I expect to be able to carry out the rationing on any scale the Association may direct.

I am at present keeping within the numbers which may be accommodated in the school-rooms, not without considerable difficulty and much dissatisfaction at the limitation.

I shall forward to the Count de Strzelecki a report of the week's expenses, &c. &c.

As regards the accommodation before referred to, I cannot as yet find any so suitable as the Jamestown mills, which I have mentioned before.

The Guardians have made application to the Shannon Commissioners, with a view to ascertain if they would let them for a limited period, as also what would be the terms required.

I feel most anxious about the success of this application, as I have no doubt nothing but the power of applying the workhouse test will enable us to place any limits to the amount of relief which we shall be immediately called on to administer. Under any circumstances, out-door relief will become necessary immediately, and I have called a special meeting of the Guardians to take the necessary preliminary steps.

As regards the workhouse, I have again to state that, from the difficulty of having arrangements carried out by the present staff of officers, I was under the necessity of bringing the matter before the Board of Guardians on yesterday, and am of opinion that it will be necessary to appoint other persons to several offices, as such are the habits contracted by those who at present hold them, that I fear it will be exceedingly difficult to make them satisfactory officers.

The master's books are again in arrear, and there are other grounds of complaint, so that I think at the expiration of the period given him by the Guardians to have his books and other parts of his establishment in order, it will be found necessary to procure another.

It would be most desirable in such an event (if possible) to procure the services of a person who served the office before, as experience as well as energy will be required to bring the establishment into a proper state of discipline and order.

The Guardians have been enabled to pay some debts this week, and thereby to revive their credit, and quiet some of the most clamorous of their creditors.

Carriick-on-Shan-
non Union.

Considerable sums have been paid in this week by the rate-payers, but I fear the amount has been effected by the supposed difficulty of procuring collectors.

I have received replies from others of the constabulary to whom I had applied; as I anticipated, their principal difficulty appears to be that of obtaining the necessary sureties.

There is another obstacle which will no doubt militate against the acceptance of the office of collector of poor rates in this Union, viz., the necessity for collecting the entire rate within a given time, before the collector can become entitled to any part of his emoluments.

Now the fact is, in this Union, of the present liabilities of the rate-payers there is a sum of at least 3,500*l.*, which I do not think can be collected within the time specified, or during the period that the present occupants shall continue to hold the tenements rated; there being nothing tangible on their holdings at present, and it being only a question of time when they will be obliged to give them up; before which event I do not think it possible to collect the rates so circumstanced.

We have admitted a few applicants from time to time this week; the number at present in the house is 916.

REPLY to the above:—*December 28, 1847.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners recommend you to have advertisements for candidates published, stating the amount of rate uncollected, the poundage to be allowed, and the security to be given by each collector.

I am at the same time to state that, such arrears of rate as may remain due by insolvent occupiers giving up their holdings, will be transferred in the succeeding rate, as arrears to be paid by the new occupiers, who will be entitled to deduct the amount from the rent.

The Commissioners have communicated with the Shannon Commissioners, as regards the Jamestown mills, which you recommend should be procured for an auxiliary workhouse.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 29, 1847.*

I HAVE to state, in reference to your letter received this day, that I can see no reason why an order for out-door relief should not be issued forthwith; on the contrary I have endeavoured (I regret to say) in vain to bring the Guardians together for the purpose of applying for the sanction of the Commissioners to such a measure, and taking such steps as should appear necessary to carry it out with advantage to the destitute poor and the Union.

It is my intention on the next day of meeting, Saturday next, to require the appointment of a Committee of Guardians, who will attend daily in the Board-room for the purpose of putting into execution the arrangements entered into at the ordinary meetings, promptly and effectually, and lending their sanction to such measures as may become necessary to meet the various and urgent cases which arise daily in the present condition of our affairs.

I consider such an arrangement indispensable, as without their sanction I cannot take those steps which can alone enable us to save the people and the Union.

I find that in addition to the Jamestown mills, we may procure accommodation for 200 at Jamestown and 200 at Drumshambo, which I should hope would be quite as much as we should require; but pending the arrangements for obtaining these, which will be ultimately necessary, I should strongly recommend the distribution of bread rations at the workhouse and at Drumshambo, and perhaps Elphin, to all legitimate applicants for admission to the workhouse.

This arrangement would give us time to take such steps as would enable us to guard, in a great measure, against the evils of out-door relief; and I do not think abuses, to any great extent, would take place during the period it would be necessary to continue it.

A sufficient quantity of bread could easily be baked in this town for the

entire Union, as I have now two ovens at my disposal, in addition to the two employed in baking for the school.

I have endeavoured to comply with the directions of the Commissioners in replying by return of post, but not as I should have wished, as I have been particularly busy to-day at the workhouse, in consequence of the master and several of the other officers being confined to their beds with various ailments.

REPLY to the above:—*December 30, 1847.*

AN order will be issued to-morrow, in the form enclosed herewith, authorizing the Board of Guardians to afford out-door relief to the able-bodied.

I am at the same time to request with reference to your former reports, that you will be so good as to inform the Commissioners of the precise circumstances under which destitute persons at night, had no house or shelter in the Union.

For example, the Commissioners are anxious to know whether the parties alluded to in your previous reports, were ejected tenants, and if so, whether their cabins were pulled down, and how you would now propose to provide for them.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. FLANAGAN, Inspector, and Captain WYNNE:—
December 31, 1847.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith a copy of an order which they have this day issued, authorizing the Guardians of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, to afford out-door relief to the able-bodied.

I am at the same time, to enclose a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Guardians relative to the employment of the able-bodied persons who are to receive relief, and the Commissioners request that you will have the goodness to afford the Guardians all the advice and assistance in your power, to enable them to carry out the order with the most effect and advantage.

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Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 31, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 44413, requesting the precise circumstances under which the destitute persons referred to in my report were found to be, and in reply I beg to state, that in all cases they were families or remnants of families who had lost their cabins, some by ejectments, some by agreements with their landlords for a sum of money, or other consideration; in all cases, as far as I could obtain information, the cabins have been pulled down. In two instances, the parties had, upon application, been discharged from the workhouse some time previously. For instance, a case which came under my notice this morning: I was informed by my servant, that a woman named Catherine Little, who, with three children, had remained all night by the gaol wall, not being able to obtain shelter in the town. I immediately proceeded to the spot, and on investigation found the statement correct.

I need scarcely add that the group presented a spectacle truly deplorable and heartrending, and from the circumstances of the case, it is almost miraculous that they still live. This woman and children were discharged from the workhouse on the 3rd instant, on their own application. I have sent them back to the house this day; many similar cases have occurred, and I fear the numbers will increase, as this day 30 persons were, upon their application, discharged from the house, who, I am informed, have neither cabin to go to, nor any resource whatever to look to for subsistence but begging (now a most precarious one).

I must here add, that I fear the extent of destitution in this Union has never been fairly represented, it is perfectly frightful; accustomed as I am to scenes of misery in the western counties, I have never met with so extensive and almost hopeless destitution.

With regard to the mode in which I should propose to provide for the homeless of the Union, the case presents great difficulties. I should, however,

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at once place those of the present inmates of the house who have cabins on out-door relief in those cabins. I should also call upon them, where their family is small, to take another family, also small, as lodgers; this would provide for, I should hope, from 300 to 400.

By this means we should retain the power of applying the workhouse test to cases of able-bodied applicants, and at the same time make room for some of the homeless. For the remainder of this class, I should with all possible despatch provide bedding, &c., at Jamestown mills, or the other places already mentioned by me under the superintendence of a temporary master and staff. I should supply their establishments with bread and milk. Bread to be baked in this town till such time as a bakery could be erected at the workhouse.

I am aware that considerable difficulties will attend the details of this plan, but I cannot devise any other more suited to the present emergency.

In the meantime I would recommend all undoubted cases of destitution, properly brought forward by the relieving officers, to be placed on the out-door relief list, to receive bread rations forwarded from this town, to the most convenient place in each electoral division once a week, reserving the workhouse test for such cases as may not appear urgent.

REPLY to the above:—*January 4, 1848.*

IN reference to that part of your report in which you state that 30 persons were on the 3rd ultimo, discharged on their own application from the workhouse, who had neither cabin, you were informed, to go to, nor any resource whatever for subsistence except begging, the Commissioners request you to be so good as to state whether you can explain why the parties referred to left the workhouse.

With regard to your suggestions for remedying the want of proper shelter for the destitute in the Union, the Commissioners desire to express their concurrence in your views, and they request you to bring them under the notice of the Board of Guardians at their next meeting.

At the same time the Commissioners have to observe that they would readily sanction the erection of temporary sheds or buildings as a shelter for the houseless at this inclement season of the year, if the measures which you recommend should not be found adequate to the necessities of the case.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 1, 1848.*

I THIS day attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians, when much business was transacted. Upon the order of the Commissioners being read for out-door relief to the able-bodied, together with the printed letter containing directions to the Guardians for carrying out the same, the Board appeared unanimously resolved on forthwith tendering their resignations, and calling on the Commissioners to appoint paid Guardians, alleging as their reasons their utter inability to cope with the difficulties which presented themselves, in consequence of the vast extent of destitution prevailing in the Union, the inadequacy of the pecuniary means at their disposal, and the insufficiency of that portion of their time which they could spare from their ordinary occupations to apply those means with advantage, to the destitute poor and to the Union.

Much discussion took place; and upon my laying before them the details of the course which I should recommend for their adoption, and which in my opinion only requires energy, zeal, and activity in the execution, to insure its success, the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn their meeting to Monday the 3rd instant, and from day to day afterwards, whilst the necessity for daily meetings continues, in order to avoid delays which might otherwise arise in carrying out such measures as may become necessary from time to time, and which require the sanction of the Guardians.

I am anxious to work on with the present Board rather than be driven to the alternative of paid Guardians, although aware that the latter would considerably lighten my labours and responsibility; but so long as the former

continue to adopt all my suggestions, and do not oppose any proposition I make, I do not conceive I should allow those considerations to have any weight.

I regret to say that no candidate for the office of poor-rate collector appeared, notwithstanding that I had previously taken those steps recommended by the Commissioners in their letter of 28th ultimo.

It was necessary that I should write consecutively, to avoid undertaking to recommend a greater number of candidates than could be appointed.

I do not think we can expect to procure collectors from this source, viz., the superannuated constabulary, as the obtaining the necessary sureties, appears to be an insuperable obstacle.

You will perceive in the minutes of this day's proceedings, that a resolution has been passed, postponing the election to Saturday the 8th instant, and requesting my assistance in procuring fit and proper candidates.

I think it of the greatest importance that we should be able to procure suitable persons to bring forward on that day, as further delay must tend to increase the difficulty of enforcing the payment of the rates by diminishing the tangible property of the Union.

I may also add, that, as I anticipated, the anxiety of the ratepayers to avail themselves of their opportunity of saving 2s. 6d. in the pound, has considerably abated, in consequence of the non-appearance of the strangers with whom they were threatened for now three election days. This will appear from the amount paid to the treasurer for the last fortnight, which, although considerable, would have been much larger but for an opinion that prevails generally, that it will be difficult to induce strangers to come into the country.

Seeing then the necessity for despatch, as also that time will not admit an advertisement in the *Weekly Advertiser*, and feeling that a full explanation of the duties of the office of collector should be made to the candidates, together with many other necessary matters, previous to their offering themselves for election, I would propose that two gentlemen should be selected in Dublin, where the necessary explanation may be given them by such persons as the Commissioners may appoint; or should the Commissioners approve of my going to Dublin for that purpose, I have no doubt but that I should find little difficulty in procuring two suitable persons. I have already received a communication from a Mr. M'Cullagh, whose sureties are unexceptionable, but of his other qualifications I have no means of judging.

I have again to direct the attention of the Commissioners to the state of the workhouse, with the view of having Mr. Wilkinson's attention directed to it. It is utterly impossible that any master and staff can keep it clean, comfortable, and orderly, while it remains in its present state of repair. The windows and walls generally leak, so as to flood the rooms in wet weather. The pump is so unfortunately situated as to receive the water coming from the portion of the building situated above it, which fills the shaft, and, as the subsoil is porous, floods the portion of the building which lies below the level of the top of the shaft, constantly extinguishing the fire under the boilers, and producing inconveniences of various descriptions—I have no doubt affecting the health and comfort of the inmates of the house.

Great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a supply of clothes, which are badly wanted since the late large admissions to the house. The Guardians' orders have been refused by Dublin houses, notwithstanding that cash payment was promised.

One of the Guardians goes to Dublin on Monday, for the purpose of purchasing the articles required, for which purpose he has been furnished with a cheque for 200l.

The Commissioners will perceive that considerable sums have been paid this week, and credit proportionally revived. Our funds are still in a tolerable safe state.

Before the termination of the meeting we entered all legitimate claimants for admission to the house on the out-door relief list, and provided them forthwith with bread rations for the week. The majority of them were houseless, but we were enabled to obtain shelter for them till next Saturday, when I hope to have made some permanent arrangement for that purpose. A daily ration 20 ozs. of bread, rye meal and Indian meal in equal quantities, will cost 1½d.

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per day, or 8½d. per week. We expect a severe pressure upon us this week, as large numbers have held back heretofore in expectation of out-door relief. We shall, however, endeavour to apply the workhouse test to all applicants, but invariably to the able-bodied.

REPLY to the above :—*January 4, 1848.*

WITH reference to the difficulty experienced by the Board of Guardians in procuring the services of competent persons for the collection of the poor-rate, and the probability of your obtaining the services of two collectors in case you should proceed to Dublin, I am to state that, if by coming to Dublin you can procure the services of two collectors, the Commissioners do not object to this course, but they trust that you will give notice to the candidates, so as to ensure your immediately seeing them, and returning to the Union.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 5, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and in reply to that part which requests that I may state the reasons why 30 persons applied for their discharge, as stated by me in a former report, I have to state, that the reasons assigned by the persons alluded to when I remonstrated with them on the imprudence and impropriety of the step they were about to take, was, "that they wished to get their children on the list which was then being "rationed at the schools."

I of course informed them that I should disappoint their expectations, but could not dissuade them from leaving the house.

Many others have applied for their discharge this day, and will go, in despite of all can be said to them.

I made use of a strong argument, and a fearful one—I brought them to see a woman and three children, who had left the workhouse the day before stating that she had a house, and that she would go immediately to it, instead of which the unhappy wretch got intoxicated, lay down in an exposed place, and in a few hours after (half past eight) the four were lifeless corpses. The party consisted of two women and five children; two of the children have recovered with much difficulty, the surviving woman was insensible from the quantity she had drank, but in no other respects the worse.

I brought the applicants for discharge to view the remains of these unhappy creatures, as the strongest argument against their following the same course, but all in vain, they still persisted in leaving. I have given directions to have watchmen placed on the house, till the inmates retire and the doors are locked; but if they still continue wickedly bent on their own destruction, I cannot prevent them.

Since out-door relief has been mentioned, several who were prevented from leaving, not being able to show that they possessed houses, have scaled the walls and absconded with the Union clothes.

Every possible exertion is being made to meet the frightful extent of destitution, but such sad occurrences as I have now mentioned, which will take place in despite of any exertions, are most disheartening.

I have to add, that the unfortunate party above alluded to, received their breakfast and a week's rations on leaving the workhouse, with intimation that they should receive their future rations in the electoral division to which they belonged.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 9, 1848.*

As agreed upon by the resolution of this day week, the Board of Guardians met upon Monday last, and from day to day afterwards, transacting such business and sanctioning such measures as it became necessary to adopt, from time to time.

The first subject to which their attention was drawn was, the establishing out-door relief on such a footing as we conceived best calculated to guard against abuses.

We accordingly placed such of the inmates of the house as had cabins, or could procure lodgings in their respective electoral divisions, on the out-door relief lists, allowing them to leave the house, providing them with a week's rations, and directing them to proceed forthwith to their respective electoral divisions, where arrangements would be made for their future rationing, and apprizing them that in no other electoral division could they receive relief.

We directed the several relieving officers to furnish to the Board of Guardians two distinct lists, the one for out-door relief containing the names of all applicants who not being able-bodied had cabins, or were able to obtain lodging, and were in a state of undoubted destitution; the other containing the names of all able-bodied applicants, and such other paupers as were unable to procure shelter, and that those persons on the latter list should in all cases where practicable, present themselves at the workhouse for admission.

In consequence of inattention to these directions on the part of the relieving officers, large crowds attended this day at the workhouse, to whom sufficient explanation had not been made by the relieving officer, and who, being able-bodied, had been placed on the out-door relief list by the carelessness of that officer. We applied the workhouse test, and of the multitude in attendance only 48 entered the house. I need not say that this misconduct on the part of the relieving officers caused considerable embarrassment to the Guardians, and great inconvenience to the applicants, who in many cases had come a distance.

The misconduct of one of these officers, Mr. M'Donald, was especially conspicuous; and as I had strong grounds for finding fault with his conduct at every meeting of the Board since my arrival in the Union, I called for his instantaneous dismissal. None of the Guardians would move a resolution to this effect, although all concurred in the necessity for the step. I stated that I would relieve them from their embarrassment by recommending to the Commissioners the dismissal of this officer, which I hereby do, as well as any others who might in future follow the same course. I may add that these officers were originally badly chosen, and have fallen into very bad habits.

The out-door relief is going on satisfactorily; it is confined to baked bread, rye and Indian meal in equal quantities, sent to the several electoral divisions on fixed days.

As the number of recipients increase we shall require the assistance of the police, and perhaps the use of the police barrack, as in many localities no sufficiently secured house is to be found. To obtain this an order from Government will be necessary.

We have fixed upon the Elphin stores as an auxiliary workhouse, and only await the proprietor's final arrangement of terms to proceed with the necessary preparations: it is more secure from theft than the workhouse, being entirely surrounded by a high wall.

You will perceive that the election of poor-rate collectors has been again adjourned to Saturday next. Two candidates, Mr. M'Cullagh and Mr. Butler, accompanied me from Dublin; but in consequence of circumstances which came to his knowledge on his arrival, the latter gentleman declined to offer himself. Mr. M'Cullagh remains till next Saturday, when we will be able to judge of his competency to perform the duties required of him. I have written to the county of Clare to two young gentlemen, of whose competency I had ample opportunity of judging, whilst in charge of that county last winter. They served as assistant engineers, and under the trying circumstances of that county at that period displayed considerable zeal, ability, and intrepidity. They are just the men we want, and I have done everything in my power to induce them to come. Their names, Petty and Fitzgerald, C.E.

I dictate this from my bed, where I am laid up with a severe attack of influenza.

REPLY to the above:—*January 11, 1848.*

I AM to forward for your information a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Board of Guardians, in transmitting a copy of an order which has been issued dismissing Mr. W. M'Donald from the office of relieving officer in the Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

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I am at the same time, to draw your attention to the provisions of the 101st and 102nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, with regard to the penalties which may be enforced against Union officers disobeying orders of the Board of Guardians or Commissioners.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*January 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had under their consideration a report which they have received from the Inspector of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, in which he represents the inconvenience caused by the inattention of the relieving officers to the instructions of the Board of Guardians.

It appears from this report that the conduct of Mr. William M'Donald has been particularly reprehensible, and the Commissioners have deemed it right to mark their sense of it by issuing an order under seal for his dismissal.

The Commissioners trust that the Board of Guardians of Carrick-on-Shannon Union will not fail in the due discharge of their functions to act with promptness and decision in the removal of any inefficient or insubordinate officers of the Union, as it is manifest that the affairs of the Union cannot be effectually administered unless the Guardians enforce obedience to the orders which they give to the Union officers, or cause more efficient officers to be appointed in their room.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 15, 1848.*

I HAVE in the first instance to state that, notwithstanding the resolution of the Board of Guardians, adopted at their meeting of the 1st instant, to the effect that they would meet daily so long as the necessity for so doing should continue, no meeting took place for the last week till Saturday, the ordinary day of meeting.

I may observe that these meetings were peculiarly necessary this week, as I have been confined to bed with severe illness, and, therefore, unable to attend in person, to the carrying out of those measures for out-door relief, on the prompt execution of which the lives of hundreds depend. Notices had been posted throughout the Union, directing those poor persons whose names had been placed on the out-door relief lists, to attend on Monday last at certain places specified in said notices, in each relieving officer's district, where their weekly rations would be issued to them by the respective relieving officers.

Arrangements had also been made for sending out bread to the several appointed places, early on Monday morning. Upon sending on Monday at 11 A.M., to inquire if these arrangements had been carried out, I was informed that nothing had been done up to that hour, nor was anything likely to be done; no Guardians in attendance—the master ill in bed; so that, in fact, if I had been a shade worse than I was, the poor people would have remained all day in expectation of relief, and been disappointed after perhaps a long journey, when serious consequences might have occurred. With considerable difficulty, and through the exertions of persons unconnected with the administration of the Poor Laws, I succeeded in preventing any more serious consequences than a few hours' delay.

I mention these circumstances to show that, in the existing state of affairs, the executive duties are almost entirely thrown on me; and if not performed by me, or under my superintendence, are not performed at all.

I may be permitted to assure the Commissioners, that I do not in the least object to any additional labour thrown upon me; on the contrary, I conceive it to be my duty, as it is my anxious wish, to promote, by every exertion I am capable of, as well as by any means within my reach, the effectual carrying out of the Poor Law; but I am of opinion that the performance of duties, on the prompt and punctual discharge of which the lives of multitudes hang, should not be allowed to depend solely on the uncertain exertions of one individual; more especially under circumstances of exposure to infection, which greatly increase the chances of incapacity from illness.

I never expected active assistance and zealous co-operation from the Guardians; but finding them disposed to adopt every suggestion offered by me, as also to sanction all measures which I considered expedient, I was disposed to undertake many of the duties, and incur much of the responsibility, which properly should belong exclusively to them.

I need scarcely say that, in the present state of this Union, the exertions now made by the Guardians will not be found at all adequate to meet the difficulties of the case. Under ordinary circumstances, I should feel satisfied with the amount of assistance I receive; but in the extraordinary circumstances of this Union, nothing short of the constant and unremitting exertions of intelligent and efficient men, will be found equal to the task of righting the financial affairs of this Union, remodelling the staff of the workhouse, eradicating a system which has obtained for years, and which continues to impair the efficiency of the entire machinery; in fine, of uprooting the innumerable abuses which at present exist, and which are the consequence of past neglect and mismanagement.

I have to thank the Commissioners for their prompt attention to my recommendation, for the dismissal of Mr. M'Donald, relieving officer, a step which has produced the most beneficial results. The other relieving officers brought forward their books in a satisfactory state, much more so than I conceived they were capable of doing.

We have elected, in the room of Mr. M'Donald, a person who appears to me a very superior man; the only objection I could find to his appointment was that he held land. I think it desirable that an office of such responsibility and labour, should have the exclusive time and thoughts of the person discharging its duties. I may remark that generally, the persons filling these situations in this Union are not such as I should choose, but the country scarcely affords better. In a county like Leitrim, where the degrees of poverty and destitution are less defined than in any other part of Ireland I am acquainted with, and where the inhabitants have, from the experience of the last 15 months, acquired a proficiency in the art of deception and fraud that is quite surprising, the duties of relieving officers require a person of not only tolerably good education, but of natural shrewdness and sagacity as well as experience. These qualifications, however, have rarely, if ever, been taken into consideration in electing to the office.

We had to-day, a heavy pressure for both out-door and in-door relief. We placed about 625 on the out-door list, who were fit objects for such; 220, who are able-bodied, were rationed till Tuesday, when they were directed to return and enter the house. We intend drafting the boys to a building in the town on Monday, and thereby making room for the 220 able-bodied, in case they wish to enter the house, which I have no doubt they will for the most part decline.

We have been unable to procure the use of the Elphin stores, in consequence of there being no person in a position to negotiate with the Guardians as to the terms. They were the property of the late Rev. Mr. Lloyd.

There are two buildings in this town, which, as I fear we can get no better, we must at once take and fit up.

I think I have reason to be satisfied, on the whole, with the way in which the affairs of the Union are progressing. A large amount of relief is being administered, and I may add with advantage; and we have been able in all cases to act strictly according to law. When a case occurred to which the law did not apply with advantage, I applied the fund placed at my disposal by the British Relief Association. In fact, I believe all parties are now satisfied that every possible exertion is being made for the relief of the destitute poor; and I see no reason to doubt that, after a short time, when we shall have effected those alterations which I have before alluded to, the Poor Law will work in this Union not only efficiently but satisfactorily, which will appear from the current expenses of the Union at present, and which may be still considerably reduced by an improved system of management.

I find serious inconvenience from the unwillingness of the local magistrates to put the Vagrant Act in force, and shall take the earliest occasion to communicate with the Commissioners on this subject.

The election of poor-rate collectors has been again postponed till Saturday next. I expect one of the county Clare gentlemen, to whom I wrote on the subject; the other is employed.

We received 163*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* this week, and paid demands to the amount of 195*l.*, and still retain a balance of 298*l.*, together with 210*l.* in my hands, for payment of Mr. Cosgrave's bill for clothing, which has not yet arrived.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union,
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REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 19, 1848.*

I AM to state for your information, that the Commissioners have given directions for preparing an Order for the dissolution of the Carrick-on-Shannon Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners deem it right to make you acquainted with their intentions, but they do not wish you to communicate on the subject with any person in Carrick-on-Shannon Union until the order actually arrives.

The Commissioners propose to appoint the Vice-Guardians of Mohill Union to administer the affairs of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union also.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 19, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state for the information of the Commissioners, that I can no longer hope to get on with the present Board of Guardians, who appear to have completely deserted their post, and at a time when increased exertions and energy are required to meet the increasing difficulties consequent on the commencement and daily extension of out-door relief, and the execution of movements which become necessary almost daily, to enable us to test the applicants.

The Commissioners are aware that the Board of Guardians, on the 1st instant, passed a resolution to meet daily, while the necessity for so doing continued, in pursuance of which they did meet for the first week; during last week they did not meet except on the usual day, Saturday, when it was found impossible to get through one half the business, consequently it was agreed to meet on Monday and the following days, to transact business of the greatest importance; in addition to which they were bound to meet on Monday by the notice which I herewith enclose, and in consequence of which large numbers of rate-payers assembled at the workhouse. No meeting took place.

Tuesday was appointed to enter upon a scrutiny of the applicants for admission, which was postponed to that day, as the relieving officers would be engaged in administering out-door relief on Monday in their respective localities. These officers were all brought in on Tuesday, but no Guardians appeared. On this day also much business of a most urgent nature was to be transacted, which required the presence of the Board of Guardians, but none attended.

I would observe that I have been obliged to take upon myself much responsibility and many arduous duties that belong entirely to the Guardians, and which I do not conceive myself empowered by law to perform without at least the sanction of the Guardians; but I have taken this course to save the lives of the starving multitude, and under the promise of that assistance which I now feel assured I shall not receive from the present Board.

Under these circumstances I feel it my duty at once to recommend most strongly to the Commissioners the exercise of their powers under the 18th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act.

It is my wish to work with ordinary means as long as possible, and to have recourse to extraordinary means only when I can no longer indulge a hope of success with the ordinary.

Up to the present, with the assistance of the clerk to the Guardians, we have managed to administer relief on a large scale, without any other evil consequences, but some necessary and unavoidable delays in making up his books and accounts. But I clearly foresee that in the struggle to carry out the Poor Laws, and to give out-door relief to the extent required by the necessities of the Union, without the assistance of an efficient and zealous Board of Guardians, I shall find myself in a dilemma, and the affairs of the Union in a state of the most inextricable confusion.

I need scarcely remind the Commissioners, that the increased amount of relief, since my arrival here, has greatly increased the duties and difficulties of the several officers of the Poor Law establishment in this Union, and more especially for the last fortnight, during which time the paupers have been in a constant state of transition from in-door to out-door relief; the consequence is, that the staff, never efficient, is overpowered.

I must mention the clerk to the Guardians as an exception; he is most efficient and most zealous, but completely overworked.

I write in haste to save the post, as I consider despatch necessary.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

ENCLOSURE.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

THE Board of Guardians of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union hereby give notice to all rate-payers of this Union who have paid their rates to the former collectors, and who appear to have been still returned in arrear for said rates, that a meeting of a Committee of the Board will be convened on Monday, the 17th January, 1848, with a view of adopting ulterior measures for relieving all rate-payers so circumstanced, and proceeding against the defaulting collectors.

Persons coming forward will require to produce the receipts passed by the late collectors, otherwise the Committee will not entertain their cases.

Board Room, December 24, 1847.

By order,
JOHN CLARKE, Clerk of Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*January 21, 1848.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had under their consideration, a report from Captain Wynne, dated the 15th instant, relating to the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, in which amongst other things he states, that no meeting took place during the week commencing on the 8th instant, until Saturday, the ordinary day of meeting, notwithstanding the resolution of the Board of Guardians, adopted at their meeting of the 1st instant, to the effect that they would meet daily, so long as the necessity for so doing should continue.

Captain Wynne observes, that it was the more necessary to hold meetings during the week referred to, as he had been prevented by severe indisposition from attending in person, to carry into effect the measures for affording out-door relief, on the prompt execution of which the lives of numbers of the destitute poor of the Union then depended.

It appears that notices had been posted throughout the Union, directing the destitute persons whose names had been placed on the out-door relief lists, to attend on the Monday previous to the date of Captain Wynne's report, at certain specified places in each relief district, where their weekly rations were to be issued to them by the relieving officers; and arrangements had been made for sending out bread to the several appointed places early on Monday morning.

However, upon sending on Monday at 11 A.M., to inquire if these arrangements had been carried out, Captain Wynne was informed that nothing had been done up to that hour, and that nothing was likely to be done, no Guardians being in attendance.

By this serious failure of the Board of Guardians in the execution of their duties, the Commissioners are deprived of all reliance upon the Guardians for an effectual administration of relief to the poor of the Union.

The Commissioners have learned that in this painful emergency, Captain Wynne, with considerable difficulty, and through the exertions of persons unconnected with the administration of the Poor Laws, succeeded in preventing any more serious consequences than a few hours' delay.

This fortunate escape from the calamitous consequences which would otherwise have followed the neglect of the Guardians, does not alter the conclusion which it has fixed on the minds of the Commissioners. At an important juncture, the Guardians not only permitted the execution of their functions to depend upon the personal exertions of the Inspector of the Union, and of persons officially unconnected with the administration of the Poor Laws, but they did not even make an effort to discharge their duties by their presence and advice.

The Commissioners learn by a further report from Captain Wynne, that it was found impossible to get through half the business before the Guardians on Saturday, the 15th instant; and that the Guardians then agreed to meet on Monday and the following days, to transact business of great importance. Yet, notwithstanding this agreement, and though the Guardians had issued a notice,

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Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

in pursuance of which a large number of rate-payers assembled at Carrick-on-Shannon, on Monday, to meet the Board, no meeting was held, nor did any of the Guardians attend on the following Tuesday or Wednesday, although so well aware that business of an urgent nature required their attention.

The Commissioners find, by reference to the returns of the funds of the Union, that during the first six months of the last year, no more than 1,493*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* was collected in the Union, and only 1,533*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* during the last six months, although the net annual value of the rateable property in the Union is no less than 61,450*l.* It appears further, that the debts of the Union at the close of the year, amounted to upwards of 4000*l.*, and that several of the contractors have been compelled to resort to legal proceedings against the Guardians, to enforce payment of their just demands.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners are unable to avoid the conclusion, that the Carrick-on-Shannon Board of Guardians has failed to discharge its duties effectually, according to the intention of the Irish Poor Relief Acts. The Commissioners have, therefore, issued an Order, dissolving the Board of Guardians, and they will proceed forthwith to appoint paid officers to administer the affairs of the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain WYNNE :—*January 21, 1848.*

You will have been made aware of the Commissioners' intention to dissolve the Board of Guardians by the letter addressed to you on the 19th instant; and the Commissioners trust, that with the co-operation of the Vice-Guardians, you will be enabled to have the affairs of the Union satisfactorily administered, and relief effectually afforded to the destitute poor.

A copy of a letter which the Commissioners have this day addressed to the Clerk of the Union, announcing the dissolution of the Board, is enclosed herewith for your information.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to draw the attention of the Commissioners to a circumstance I mentioned in my report of Saturday last, viz., the difficulty which I find in having the Vagrant Act put in force in this Union, and in obtaining that vigorous exercise of magisterial authority which I conceive to be necessary, to the carrying out of the Poor Law with advantage.

In my report of the 30th of November last, I stated as my opinion, that the local magistracy would not render that active assistance which the existing circumstances of this country imperatively demand; and I regret that the experience of the interim which has since elapsed, has confirmed me in that opinion.

I have been in communication with the county inspector and sub-inspector of police on the subject, and they both coincide in the opinion I have already expressed.

I beg leave herewith to enclose a correspondence which I have had with Mr. Brown, county Inspector; and also to mention a case which I sent before a magistrate, Mr. La Touche, on Wednesday last.

Mary and Catherine Byrne, two paupers who had absconded from the work-house with the Union clothes, were delivered by me to the sergeant of police, and taken by him before the magistrate aforesaid, in order that they might be committed under the 4th section of the Vagrant Act, as the parties are most inveterate beggars.

I also sent in charge of the same constable, Michael Moolic and William Butler, who were present on the same day when one of our bread-carts was stopped, and the bread taken forcibly by parties known to the above-named persons, who were willing to swear informations to this effect.

The sergeant came to me in about an hour, and informed me that all four prisoners were discharged by the magistrate, without assigning any other reason than that the clerk would not draw the information without being paid beforehand.

I was unable to attend in person from illness.

See Fourth Series,
p. 114.

We expect to elect our collectors on Saturday next, and set them to work vigorously on the following Monday; and I would strongly urge the necessity of placing within our reach, such magisterial aid as will give confidence to the gentlemen engaged in these duties, and afford them protection in case of need.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

ENCLOSURES.

Captain WYNNE to Mr. BROWN, County Inspector Constabulary:—*January 8, 1848.*

I MUST again call your attention to the state of our streets, and to the 4th section of the Vagrant Act.

If some step be not taken to enforce this Act, it will be quite out of my power to prevent a recurrence of last Tuesday's scene, or even to issue bread from our bakery, which is so beset by beggars as to defy all efforts of my clerk and Mr. Costello to discharge their duties.

Mr. BROWN to Captain WYNNE:—*January 8, 1848.*

IN acknowledging your communication just put into my hand, allow me to assure you I did not lose a moment (after the favour of your call at this office) in pointing Sub-Inspector Fox's attention to the section of the Act which you have quoted, as well as to your desire that the constabulary should use every just and legitimate means of giving effect to the portion of said Act that bears reference to the duties devolving on the police. I shall take the earliest opportunity of conferring with you on the subject of a conversation which it appears Mr. Fox has had with the magistrates recently assembled at petty sessions here, touching the duties which you imagine to devolve upon constabulary.

Captain WYNNE to Mr. BROWN:—*January 10, 1848.*

MAY I request of you to detail to me the substance of the conversation between Mr. Fox, Sub-Inspector, and the magistrates at petty sessions, alluded to in your note of last Saturday, on the subject of the 4th section of the Vagrant Act. The state of this town to-day is really disgraceful; and should the objection which I understand to exist on the part of the magistrates to enforcing the provisions of the aforesaid Act still continue, I shall conceive it my duty to represent the matter to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, as I am clearly of opinion that without the strict enforcement of that Act, the provision made for the destitute under the Poor Laws must fail to meet the exigencies of the Union.

REPLY to the above:—*January 20, 1848.*

THE attention of the Government has been drawn to your report.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 4, 1848.*

WITH regard to the case of Michael Connor, deceased, as referred to me by your letter, No. 44,618, I have the honour to state that I have made all inquiries in my power, and cannot obtain any evidence to the effect that deceased had made application at the workhouse for admittance, or to any relieving officer for relief. No allegation to this effect has been made, that I am aware of.

It appears to be one of many cases that have occurred, and which I fear, cannot be prevented, so long as the unhappy but impracticable people, appear to run counter to every effort made for the purpose of mitigating their sufferings.

They will not apply to the workhouse till too late for human aid, as will clearly appear from the hundreds of absolute spectres who are at this moment inmates, and who, in my opinion, and that of the medical attendant, cannot recover.

Nor is it possible to persuade even these wretched persons to remain in. They are constantly demanding their discharge, and leaving the house in such a state of exhaustion as causes them to sink under a degree of cold, that would not affect persons in a state of ordinary health and strength.

This case applies also to those persons who, still clinging to their cabins, leave them occasionally to buy or beg their bread, and returning home sit down to rest themselves, and overcome by exhaustion and cold, rise no more. This is the immediate cause of, I believe, every case of death on which an inquest has been held in this country where the verdict has been death from

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starvation, and it is very difficult, if possible, to prevent it. Whilst there is the slightest prospect of any relief in their own cabins, where they have that combination of dirt, smoke, and warmth which they love, they will cling to them in many cases to the death, and more especially when they are certain that, immediately on their leaving them, those cabins will be destroyed.

It is a sad state of things, difficult to remedy, and especially so on account of the impracticability of the poor creatures themselves.

REPLY to the above:—*January 8, 1848.*

I AM to state that, deeply as the Commissioners lament the melancholy facts detailed by you in these reports, they approve of the course taken by you, and they are of opinion that you did all that you were justified in doing under the circumstances of the case.

The Rev. ROBERT KING to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 19, 1848.*

I BEG permission to acquaint you with the circumstance that numbers of famishing creatures holding under one rood of land, the remainder having none, hang on from day to day supplicators of the smallest succour, and prostrating themselves in thankful acknowledgment for such. Able and willing to work, yea, craving employment from any who are considered likely to afford it, even for "their bit," as they term it, and yet unable (owing to the sad lack of rightful exertion to supply employment on the part of proprietors in whom considerable accessions of land are now vested) to find any occupation, notwithstanding such offers; indeed, I am aware of tradesmen being found anxious to obtain work upon those terms, and yet failing to secure it.

The infected state of the poor-house intimidates many, I have reason to know, from seeking to enter into it as a shelter in their forlorn condition; and report states that above a dozen persons have been recently interred of a day in the poor-house of this Union, viz., Carrick-on-Shannon.

Under these circumstances, being from my professional position, and likewise connexion in the country, mainly applied to in every instance around me for succour and redress, occasioned the more through the absence and inattention of the more natural protectors of the temporal wants of their dependents, I beg leave to solicit from you instruction in the peculiarly embarrassing situation in which I am placed, and particularly as to whether, upon the perfect authentication of the above detail concerning the grievous position of the able-bodied in this district, out-door relief, without the test which they deem fearfully perilous, might not be extended to them under proper restrictions, equally as to the decrepid, during their certain inability to find employment.

For myself all I can say is, that any amount of assessment generally borne, would be a gratifying mitigation of overpowering daily assailment on the part of friendless and starving individuals, whom it is beyond the sphere of my capability to relieve. Perhaps such particulars might be deemed to afford warrant for present employment being extended, through means of the completion of the levelling of two hills remaining unfinished upon the principal roads situated within this district.

COPY of Captain WYNNE'S OBSERVATIONS on the foregoing LETTER:—
January 25, 1848.

IN Mr. King's parish, as in most parts of the Union, almost the entire of the able-bodied labourers are unemployed, and the most culpable neglect and indifference shown by those parties whose undoubted duty it is to give some assistance in remedying a state of things which they certainly have assisted in establishing. As Mr. King observes, hundreds of ejected tenants of the various land proprietors have been thrown on him for support, without any assistance on the part of their former landlords, not even the prompt payment of their liabilities under the Poor Law.

It is true the mortality in the workhouse is increasing, but most of the persons who have died have entered the house in a dying state, indeed, as I have before

observed, beyond human aid. Nothing can exceed the attention of our medical officer. The average mortality is about nine per week.

Mr. and Mrs. King have exerted themselves for the past year, and continue to do so, as much as any persons in Ireland. I have been myself witness of their extensive bounty, and the unenviable position they are living in—having their house surrounded from morning to night by hundreds of homeless, half-naked, famishing creatures, who, from my own conversation with them, I ascertained to have much stronger claims on others than on Mr. King.

Mr. King is a landed proprietor, and a good example to others.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the Rev. ROBERT KING :—*January 29, 1848.*

THE powers of the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, extend only to the relief of the poor in the manner provided by the Irish Poor Relief Acts; and the Commissioners trust that the Vice-Guardians, who have recently been appointed for the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, will use every means in their power to cause the effectual relief of the destitute poor in the Union, and to make and collect whatever rates are requisite for that purpose.

The Commissioners deeply deplore the condition of the poor as represented by you; but they do not feel warranted in preventing the Vice-Guardians to dispense with the application of the usual tests of the destitution of parties seeking relief; and it is not in their province, if even they deemed it to be expedient, to promote the resumption of the public works to which you refer.

It is manifestly desirable that the poor should be employed in the improvement of the landed property in the Union; but the Commissioners have no power to interfere in that respect.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain WYNNE :—*January 22, 1848.*

WITH reference to the proposed appointment of the Vice-Guardians of the Mohill Union to act also as paid Guardians for the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, I am to inform you that the order for the appointment of those gentlemen will be issued on Monday next.

I am at the same time to state, that the Vice-Guardians have been requested to proceed to Carrick-on-Shannon on that day.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 22, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to express to the Commissioners my best thanks for the prompt attention which they have given to my reports of the 15th and 19th instant, as also for the prospect which the result has opened to me, viz., the assistance of two such officers as the Vice-Guardians of the Mohill Union.

For the last week I have not received any assistance whatever from the late Board, and have consequently been obliged to exceed my functions in many instances, the result however has been satisfactory; I am enabled to report considerable improvement since last Saturday. The several officers of the workhouse, as well as the relieving officers, have been using their best exertions, and though still far from perfect, each department has improved perceptibly.

On inspecting the workhouse this day I found it remarkably clean and neat in consequence of the exertions of the matron for the last week; the appearance of the day-rooms was not so satisfactory, owing to a number of the inmates wearing their own clothes, our stock being heretofore very limited, and used principally for the purpose of having those of the newly-admitted paupers washed and cleansed.

When last in Dublin I purchased 200*l.* worth of clothes, which are at present on their way from Longford, and which will arrive here on Monday, when we shall put them into immediate use.

I have found it necessary to adopt every possible precaution to prevent the small stock of clothes which we have hitherto had from being made away with; a practice carried on to a ruinous extent for the last nine months, as will appear from the circumstance of upwards of 700*l.* having been expended on clothes during

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that period, three-fourths of which cannot be accounted for. I have placed watchmen round the house, and have not since discovered any case of theft.

In consequence of reports which reached me, I have visited the grounds and gone through the workhouse at 10 o'clock at night, but did not find anything objectionable, with the exception of the condition of the day-rooms; I have consequently given directions, that after the paupers retire to their dormitories, a squad told off for the purpose, and under the direction of one of the officers, should thoroughly cleanse and ventilate these apartments, and prepare them for the reception of the inmates on the following morning.

I have to observe that the summary dismissal of Mr. McDonald, ex-relieving officer, has been attended with the most beneficial results, as regards the discharge of their duties by the other relieving officers.

I lose no opportunity of impressing strongly on these officers the importance of the duties imposed on them, the heavy responsibility attaching to them, and the imperative obligation on their part to afford relief in every urgent case with all possible promptitude. I have also considered it of use to have the 102nd section of the Poor Relief Act read to them, with an assurance on my part that its provisions should be enforced.

There are at present in the workhouse 880 persons, which is as near the proper number as I am able to keep, pending the constant transition from in-door to out-door relief, in order to keep the test in our hands, which has enabled us up to the present time to avoid placing a single able-bodied applicant on the out-door relief list.

On Tuesday last, 220 able-bodied applicants appeared at the workhouse for relief; we were enabled to discharge 200 of the inmates, and admit the entire number of applicants. Those discharged were 1st and 2nd class paupers, and, of course, placed on the out-door list. The majority of those admitted have since demanded their discharge, and left the house; large numbers of able-bodied have refused to enter the house; the out-door relief list at present contains 116 names, all 1st and 2nd class paupers.

I was glad to observe on yesterday that the pressure was considerably less than on any previous Board day, which leads me to hope that the wants of the poor are, to a certain extent, satisfied.

The amount of relief distributed in the Union is now very large, as, in addition to that under the Poor Law, I am at present distributing upwards of 4000 rations daily to the schools.

I beg to assure the Commissioners that no case requiring relief has come to my knowledge that has not received it promptly from one or other source.

The four candidates for the office of poor-rate collectors appeared to-day, and will be elected to-morrow by the Vice-Guardians. I think them as good a selection as could possibly be made, and well worth waiting for, particularly as no inconvenience has arisen from the delay, as we have obtained ample funds for our current expenses by the mode of collection which I adopted, have paid debts to a considerable amount, and have now 573*l.* in hands, which I shall pay over to the Vice-Guardians, being under the necessity of acting as treasurer for the last 10 days, since the Dublin and London Bank has ceased to act in that capacity.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 29, 1848.*

I HAVE been occupied for the greater portion of the past week, in conjunction with the Vice-Guardians, in the correction or removal of errors in the past management of the workhouse, and in the introduction of a new and improved system for its future management. Such of the books as have been partially and imperfectly kept have been examined, and the errors contained therein pointed out; and such as have been heretofore altogether omitted or neglected, and at the same time required to be kept by the Commissioners' order, have been placed in the hands of the several officers. A short time will test the competency of these officers to discharge this important branch of their duties; they now will have a fair trial for the first time heretofore; they are entitled to some allowance, in consideration of the neglect or refusal on the part of the late Guardians to furnish them with the means of facilitating their labours.

The books of the relieving officers have also been examined, and every effort made to point out to them the course which it will be proper and necessary for

them to adopt in every possible case that may arise; they appear to find considerable difficulty in discriminating between such of the applicants as are able-bodied and those which might be fairly ranged under the 1st and 2nd classes.

I do not attribute those errors which they have committed under this head to incapacity or stupidity in all cases, and there may not be a repetition of them now that they thoroughly understand the terms on which they may expect to retain their office.

We shall turn our attention immediately to the subject of additional workhouse accommodation, without which we must soon lose the important test of the workhouse, as few of the 1st and 2nd class paupers at present in the house appear to have any prospect of obtaining shelter out of it; we shall, therefore, be under the necessity of giving out-door relief to the able-bodied, but shall be most careful that in all cases the necessary quantum of labour be rigidly exacted.

My presence in the workhouse will not now be required so constantly as heretofore, I shall, therefore, avail myself of every opportunity of visiting the several depôts, and seeing that the order of the Commissioners is rigorously carried out by the relieving officers and overseers.

The collectors have been elected, and their bonds filled and forwarded to the several parties named as sureties. I should recommend that the Commissioners should transmit their sanction of the appointments, in order that on the return of the bonds, duly perfected, the warrants may be at once handed to the collectors, and the collection proceeded with without loss of time.

I trust the omission of occupier's name will not be found any serious objection to the books.

Should the introduction of the arrears into the books after they were signed in any way affect our power of enforcing payment of the rates, we should set about remedying the error without loss of time.

I am most anxious to push forward the collection; the collectors, four educated, intelligent, and respectable persons, are now engaged making preparation for entering on their duties the moment their bonds arrive, they are at present ascertaining the names of the immediate lessors, and making themselves acquainted with the geography of their respective districts. I expect that this department of our establishment will be found most satisfactory.

The names of the gentlemen are James Edmond Scott, C.E., John Fitzgerald, C.E., Edward M'Cullagh, and Frederick Shaw.

Mr. Scott collects the electoral divisions of Gilstown, Kilglass, Elphin, and Creeve; Mr. Shaw, those of Tumna, Killukin, Aughrim, and Kilmore; Mr. M'Cullagh, Carrick-on-Shannon and Drumsna; and Mr. Fitzgerald, Drumreilly, Drumshambo, Kiltubbrid, Keshearrigan, and Leitrim. We have apportioned the Union into districts, according to the physical capabilities of the parties.

I regret to have to state that the mortality in the house has been considerably increased for the last fortnight; this I attribute altogether to the exhausted and diseased state in which the paupers enter the house, the cases being almost exclusively confined to recent admissions. I regret to observe that there is a decided change for the worse in the appearance of the several classes of applicants, which I attribute to their aversion to leave their cabins, knowing that they will be forthwith destroyed. I trust a well conducted system of out-door relief will remedy this evil.

I regret to be again obliged to call the attention of the Commissioners to the subject of my report of the 17th instant, relative to the difficulty of enforcing the Vagrant Act, as also to the evil consequences which arise daily therefrom.

I need not enumerate these consequences to the Commissioners; I shall mention one, which not only embarrasses all those engaged in the administration of the poor laws, but endangers human life, and defeats the most judicious arrangements we can make for the out-door relief of the destitute. It is this:—

On the days on which out-door relief, in form of weekly rations, is being distributed by the several relieving officers in their respective electoral divisions, those persons for whom it has been provided, and whose names are on the relieving officers' list, are to be found begging about the streets of this town, in some instances as far as 17 miles from where they should be, to enable them to receive their rations; the consequence is they do not receive any, and may be

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found sleeping in the open air in and about the town, as nobody will admit them into their houses. I have constantly represented this and other evil consequences to the magistrates, but in vain; our streets are in a worse state than ever.

I have represented that every case of destitution was provided for now; that relief was not denied or withheld from any person who applied in conformity with the law; and that instead of their being any cruelty in the enforcing of the Vagrant Act, it would be humanity, as essential to the efficient working of the Poor Law.

I find the reasons assigned on the part of the magistracy to be, that the gaol is already crowded, and that the expense of a prisoner is 3s. 6d. a-week on the county, whereas that of a pauper in the workhouse is 1s. 7d.

I brought 30 cases before Mr. Kelly, stipendiary magistrate, on the 15th; a conviction was had in each case, six were committed, some of the others were discharged for the reasons above given, and others on condition that they would go to the workhouse; the latter went to the workhouse, but demanded their discharge next day, and are ever since begging about the streets.

I have made arrangements for commencing the rationing of the schools in the Union of Boyle, on Monday next, and have taken steps to put the oven at the workhouse of that Union in requisition for the baking of the whole or part of the bread required; I hope to be able to extend it considerably in the course of the week. I am well pleased with the working of the school relief in this Union.

REPLY to the above:—*February 3, 1848.*

I AM to state that allowances may be made to the 1st and 2nd class of paupers at present in the workhouse, not only for food, but for fuel, clothing, and lodging.

I am at the same time to state, that, in accordance with your suggestion, the Commissioners have expressed their approval to the Vice-Guardians of the appointment of Messrs. Scott, Fitzgerald, M'Cullagh, and Shaw, as collectors of poor-rate in the Union.

The Commissioners have addressed the Vice-Guardians on the subject of the omission of the arrears of rate, and the names of occupiers in the rate-books.

The Commissioners have likewise communicated with the under Secretary for Ireland, as to the difficulty experienced in enforcing the Vagrant Act in the Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

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Major HALIDAY, Temporary Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS :—
December 9, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, communicating to me that the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland had found it necessary to issue an order for the dissolution of the Board of Guardians, which would be sent in time for the meeting of the Board this day, and transmitting a copy of the letter addressed to the Guardians on the occasion.

I attended this day at the Union workhouse, at the usual hour of meeting, but there was no Board held, only one *ex-officio* Guardian having appeared within an hour and a half after that time.

I shall transmit, in due course, my weekly report upon the state of the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major HALIDAY :—*December 10, 1847.*

I AM directed to inform you, that Messrs. R. A. Duncan and J. M. O'Reilly have been appointed by the Commissioners as paid officers to carry into execution the Acts relating to the Relief of the Poor in Mohill Union, and I am to enclose a copy of their appointment for your information.

Messrs. Duncan and O'Reilly will be at Mohill to-morrow, the 11th instant, to enter upon their duties.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 10, 1847.*

I YESTERDAY attended at the Board-room in the workhouse of this Union, at the usual hour of meeting of the Board, but only one *ex-officio* Guardian having appeared there within an hour and a half after the appointed time there was no meeting held; and your order dissolving the Board, and the letter accompanying the same, remain in the charge of the clerk to be handed over to the new Guardians. 4th Series, p. 229.

In consequence of the mode of procuring subsistence for each week, on which the workhouse has for a considerable time been dependent, it was necessary to provide for keeping the house open until the newly appointed Guardians should arrive; I therefore ascertained from the master that he had in the house sufficient food to maintain the present inmates for the ensuing 24 hours, and should it be necessary, I shall take on myself the responsibility of guaranteeing payment for such further supplies as may be requisite for that purpose, until the Guardians appointed by you can take up the charge.

On the preceding day I inspected the workhouse. In the infirmary I have the satisfaction to state, that I found no increase in the number of cases of fever; but in the rest of the establishment the grievous defects as to cleanliness, order, or repair, remain unaltered.

The apparently defective construction of the drains and water-courses, and the useless state of one pump, and of the boilers in the kitchen, put it out of the master's power at present to amend these, and they urgently need repair.

I beg leave to submit to your consideration, that the newly appointed Guardians, in addition to the onerous task of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the state of the affairs of this Union, and of transacting a variety of business which has been left unattended to, and which now forms a heavy amount of arrears, will labour under extreme difficulties in effecting any amendments in the state of the workhouse, or making due provision for the relief of the numerous cases of destitution that await their examination and decision, from the want of funds and the utter want of credit into which the Union has fallen. No tenders have been made, in reply to the advertisement of the Board of Guardians some weeks since, for contractors to supply the house with food for weekly payments; and unless the mere fact of the appointment of a

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paid Board create a degree of confidence not at present existing, it will be impossible for them, for a considerable time, to effect some of the most indispensable amendments in the state of the house, or to enable the relieving officers to provide for the most urgent cases of extreme want, while the requisite measures for obtaining and fitting up any extra accommodation will occupy some time.

With reference to the funds, I ascertained from the collector that the recovery of the arrears of rates during the last week, has made very little progress; and as the completion of the new rate-books, for the seven electoral divisions the valuation of which has been finished, has been delayed by his neglecting to furnish the statement of arrears in them to the clerk, according to the directions of the Board of Guardians, the new rate, even for those divisions, cannot be signed for several days.

Representations have been made to me from various quarters, which I have every reason to believe correct, of the extreme want and suffering at present endured by the many destitute individuals for whom the relieving officers have been unable to obtain admission to the workhouse; and I fear that some deplorable results may occur, unless some temporary assistance be given to the new Board of Guardians, while they are preparing themselves for a vigorous and determined effort to enforce the collection of rates.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major HALIDAY:—*December 14, 1847.*

I AM to state, for your information, that the Commissioners have obtained from the British Relief Association, a loan of the sum of 200*l.* to the Vice-Guardians to meet the present wants of the Union, to be repaid out of the rates when collected.

Mr. O'REILLY, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 11, 1847.*

ACCORDING to instructions I this day arrived here, where I met my colleague in office, Mr. Duncan, with whom I visited the workhouse, and have to report the following as the result of our observations:—

1st. We found the sanitary state of the workhouse totally neglected; a want of proper ventilation and a regard to cleanliness, both with reference to the persons of the paupers and the house itself.

2ndly. The accounts (from the slight examination we were able to make) have been allowed to get into a very confused state, not having been balanced for the two last half years.

3rdly. The general classification of the paupers is greatly neglected.

All this has, in our opinion, arisen from the low state of the funds of the Union, and we would respectfully suggest that, in order not only to keep the house open for the present, but to enable us to make it tolerably habitable for the inmates, a loan of at least 200*l.*, on the credit of the forthcoming rate, be made by the Commissioners to this Union.

We waited on Major Haliday, who kindly gave us all the information in his power, and with whose assistance we hope to be able to restore order into the house, in a short time.

REPLY to the above:—*December 15, 1847.*

I AM to state, for your information, that the Commissioners understand that 200*l.* has been advanced to meet the present wants of the Union, to be repaid out of the rates when collected.

RESOLUTIONS of VICE-GUARDIANS:—*December 16, 1847.*

Resolved,—That each rate collector be required to pay to the Treasurer the amount of his collection, within six months from the date he receives his warrant, with the exception of such sums as he may be able to show he had failed in collecting, by reason of their being no distrainable property, and after taking every measure which the law provides.

Resolved,—That Mr. John O'Brien, the present collector, be offered the collection of the present forthcoming rate of the Mohill, Esslin, and Tenagh electoral divisions; that he receive 2s. in the pound, fee, 1s. of which he is to give all rate-payers who make prompt payment, say within a month.

Resolved,—That Mr. James Spotten, of Newtongore, who with his sureties were approved of by former Board, have the collection of the Newtongore and Carrigallen electoral division: that he have 1s. 9d. per pound, fees, for all rates paid within the month, 6d. of which he is to allow rate-payers: that he have 1s. 6d. per pound for rates subsequently collected.

Resolved,—That rate collectors for the remaining electoral divisions be advertized for: that the terms proposed be similar to those offered Mr. O'Brien, and that tenders be received on this day week.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*December 29, 1847.*

IN reference to the mode of remuneration proposed, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they consider it objectionable, as calculated to defeat, rather than promote, the prompt collection of the rate, which was doubtless the object for which it was intended. It appears to the Commissioners that, under such an arrangement, it would be to the interest of the collector to defer his applications for payment of the rate until after the expiration of the first month, and so become entitled to the larger poundage.

Moreover, it appears to the Commissioners that the collector is entitled to the full amount of the poundage that may be agreed upon, for his remuneration, without deduction of any part for payment to the rate-payers; while repayment of any such portion to them, would, in fact, have the effect, practically, of foregoing a portion of the rate, for the whole of which they are legally liable; and the Commissioners think it essential that payment in full should be enforced wherever practicable.

An arrangement which has been adopted in many Unions, and is calculated to promote the prompt collection of the rates, is to give the collector a larger poundage on the amount collected and lodged in the first month, or two months, and a smaller poundage afterwards; or, to allow him the larger poundage on the sums first lodged, up to a given amount (say half the rate) provided it be lodged within a given time, and the smaller poundage on all sums lodged afterwards, the collector, being at the same time, required to collect the whole within a specified time. The above arrangement is calculated to make it the interest of the collector to collect and lodge the rate without delay, and is not open to the objections referred to in the first part of this letter.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 17, 1847.*

THE Vice-Guardians recently appointed by you to this Union arrived here on the 11th instant, and immediately proceeded to inspect the workhouse, and to take the necessary steps for the subsistence of the inmates, until they should be able to obtain contracts for regular supplies. They have since been occupied, for many hours every day, in the inspection of the establishment, the examination of the accumulated mass of letters, unpaid accounts, and other documents necessary for a full comprehension of the present state of this Union, and for an estimate of the repairs immediately required in the house, as well as the additional accommodation absolutely necessary, and the supplies of clothing, utensils, and articles of daily consumption, without which it would be quite impossible to restore order and discipline, or to improve the health of the inmates; and also in personally superintending the interior economy of the workhouse, in which the want of proper classification, and of method or arrangement, and (I must add) the inattention of the master and other officers to the details of their duties, allowed an extreme degree of disorder. Hitherto, the neglect or inability of the late Board of Guardians to furnish the officers of the house, with the most ordinary requisites which they have applied for; the want of a Visiting Committee, and the disheartening example of their general apathy and procrastination, and also the business (incompatible with his proper duties) imposed upon the master of purchasing the weekly supplies

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of food and other necessities, have operated to cause, as well as excuse, these irregularities, which, I trust, will now shortly be corrected.

The want of superintendence and arrangement has been particularly apparent in the serving of the meals, and, I fear, has amounted to great neglect as regards the younger children, whose emaciated and unhealthy appearance, and the disproportioned amount of sickness and mortality among them, I cannot but attribute to insufficient nourishment.

It is but justice to the Vice-Guardians, to express my sense of their pains-taking and zealous exertions to improve the condition of the inmates, and to stimulate the officers of the house in the performance of their duties, by personally instructing them in the details; and I look forward to a great and salutary change before long, notwithstanding the difficulties opposed by long-continued habits of indolence and relaxation of discipline.

On the 13th instant, I accompanied the Vice-Guardians in a thorough inspection of the whole workhouse, and advised with them as to the repairs immediately required in the roof and walls, the introduction of ventilators in the dormitories and the infirmary wards; and pointed out the offensive and unwholesome state of the yards and cesspools.

I have to report, that there were on that day 12 females lying in bed in the dormitories, most of whom were stated to be affected with fever, for whom there was no room in the infirmary wards.

For the reception of these cases, orders were given for the temporary appropriation, of one of the smaller dormitories for male adults, until a house can be procured outside for the purpose of the fever ward.

Yesterday, being the ordinary day of meeting, the Vice-Guardians held a formal Board, for the transaction of the routine business of the past fortnight, and for issuing orders as to tenders for contracts; and they received the reports of the several relieving officers. All these concurred in representing the pressure of want as very great. This was further confirmed by the testimony of two gentlemen of high character, who waited on the Board to represent the state of one of the distant electoral divisions, and exhibit a list of destitute heads of families, (upwards of 80 in number,) of those classes which can be legally relieved out of the workhouse, who have been up to the present time, maintained solely by daily supplies of food furnished from charitable subscriptions, and from private funds which are now completely exhausted.

As the workhouse already contains upwards of 700 inmates, it appeared dangerous to admit any more, and the Vice-Guardians resolved to furnish each of the relieving officers with a limited sum of money, to be expended in the purchase of food for the relief of such urgent cases of destitution among the classes referred to, as they should find requiring it.

I must express my conviction, formed from various sources of information, that the number of these cases will be found very great, and probably beyond the means of the Vice-Guardians to relieve, until the collection of the new rate is in active progress. As the rate-books cannot possibly be completed for several days, for even one-half of the electoral divisions, and as there must be some delay in getting persons to undertake the collection, and to have their bonds and securities completed, the assistance of the British Relief Association, I am satisfied, will be indispensable to a considerable extent, to enable the Vice-Guardians to ward off actual starvation. They will be also, for some time, unable to afford the means of supporting the temporary fever hospital, adjacent to the town, in which the Managing Committee are at present unable to receive patients, from want of funds, and the maintenance of which is highly essential to prevent the rapid spread of that disease.

REPLY to the above:—*December 23, 1847.*

THE Commissioners will apply to the British Association for a loan of money, in accordance with your suggestions, to enable the Guardians to relieve the destitute in the interval, before the rate-books are made out in the electoral divisions.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 22, 1847.*

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WE find that the relieving officers in some cases, in carrying out our order of last meeting, to afford provisional out-door relief to certain classes contemplated in the Commissioners' order, under section 1 of Relief Extension Act, have also afforded relief to persons within the classes contemplated in section 2, and to authorize relief to which the Commissioners' order has not yet been issued.

The workhouse being closed at present against admissions from infectious diseases prevailing in it, and the other causes adverted to in our report of 20th instant, although relief to the latter class is illegal we are not disposed to disallow it.

As the workhouse cannot be in a position to enable us to permit further admissions into it for another week, we feel ourselves constrained, guided by the representations of the relieving officers, to continue such relief, though irregular, for that time.

The relief in question given to the classes not yet authorized by the issue of the Commissioners' order, under section 2, is but trifling, not amounting to more than 3*l*., and that additional amount will probably be all which we will be necessitated to allow.

We desire to place this matter under the notice of the Commissioners, so that if they deem it necessary they may issue their orders under section 2.

We hope to have available space for the admission of 150 into workhouse in the course of one week.

REPLY to the above :—*December 23, 1847.*

THE Commissioners desire me to transmit herewith for your information a copy of an order authorizing relief to destitute widows with one child, to children whose parents are both dead, or to able-bodied men one or more members of whose families dependent on them for support are affected by severe sickness or serious accident: and I am to state that the Commissioners are prepared to issue such an order for Mohill Union, if, on full consideration, you should deem it necessary to recommend it; but the Commissioners enjoin you not to permit the relieving officers, without the authority of such an order, to give relief to classes not included in section 1.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 24, 1847.*

THE pressure of destitution throughout this Union continues steadily to increase; and although upwards of 120 cases have been supported during the past week, on out-door relief given through the relieving officers, in addition to the numbers in the workhouse, the most trustworthy information I can obtain represents the distress among the poor as extreme, their food consisting very much of the tops and refuse of turnips; and as that resource will shortly fail, the distress must rapidly increase. Fever is also very prevalent.

The Vice-Guardians have not been able to procure, in this miserable town, houses to hire at all adequate to the extent of additional accommodation required; and I fear the want of competent workmen will render it very difficult and tedious to erect sheds for that purpose.

Having, on the 21st instant, inspected the Union workhouse, I am enabled to report that the daily superintendence and vigilance of the Vice-Guardians have effected some improvement as to the hours and the regularity of the meals; but their advertisements having failed to procure any tenders for the removal of the accumulated soil from the cesspools and privies, it is found still impracticable to accomplish the requisite amendment as to cleanliness in the yards and premises. As this is a most important object, and it appears impossible to find in the country any person to undertake the office, I have recommended to the Vice-Guardians to write to Dublin for a contractor.

The repairs of the house are proceeding slowly. It is most difficult to obtain any competent masons, glaziers, or other mechanics; and disappointments constantly arise from parties who have undertaken such repairs abandoning them. Nothing, I am persuaded, will be omitted by the Vice-Guardians to complete

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this object, and to establish order and discipline in the workhouse; but they have to contend against these local obstacles, and also against the indolence and incapacity of the workhouse staff; some of them have already resigned.

A gross irregularity (if it do not prove worse) on the part of the master, has just been detected by the Vice-Guardians endeavouring to muster all the inmates.

It appears that the master has been habitually, for a length of time, returning in his weekly list, and provision account, and diet table, a much greater number of inmates than were actually in the house. As the numbers appearing from the result of the Vice-Guardians' muster of the different wards and rooms, and the present corrected return of the master differ considerably; and as the business of the regular Board yesterday occupied the entire day, this discrepancy is to be verified to-day; and the Vice-Guardians will make a special report to you on the case, forwarding such explanation as the master may have to offer.

I regret to have to state, that no persons whose qualifications and securities appeared sufficient, had yesterday tendered for the collection of the new rate, and I much fear that none such will be procured in the Union. It also appears that the valuator cannot complete the revision of the remaining electoral divisions for some weeks, as his presence and assistance is quite indispensable for certain corrections (required by changes of tenure or abandonments of tenements) in carrying on the arrears with the rate-books, without which great future confusion would ensue. I apprehend, therefore, that none of these can be completed for another week, and that the whole cannot be filled in and signed before the end of January.

REPLY to the above:—*December 27, 1847.*

THE Commissioners are informed that Count Strzelecki has authorized a remittance by the Commissariat Department of 300*l.*, from the funds of the British Association for the immediate purposes of relief in the Union, to be repaid by the Vice-Guardians out of the rates; and the Commissioners trust that every exertion will be made to place the Union in funds from the rates before that sum is exhausted.

The Commissioners have also directed an order to be prepared and issued, authorizing out-door relief for a limited period, to certain classes beyond those specified in sec. 1 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

With regard to the statement that fever is very prevalent, I am to call attention to the provisions of the 16th section of 6 and 7 Vic., c. 92, under which a house or houses may be hired by the Vice-Guardians in any part of the Union, where it may be necessary to do so.

The Commissioners await the further report proposed to be made, respecting the conduct of the master of the workhouse, in including in his accounts a greater number of inmates than were in the workhouse.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 25, 1847.*

REFERRING to your letter of 23rd instant, enclosing draft of order to permit relief under section 2 of Extension Act in the Mohill Union, we beg to inform you that after mature consideration we deem it advisable that such an order should be issued. We return herewith the copy of the order should you require it.

We trust the operations under such an order may be confined to a limited period, and that the opening of the workhouse for considerable admissions, the object at present of our best exertions, may dispel the necessity of affording relief to classes other than those contemplated in Section 1.

REPLY to the above:—*December 27, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have given directions for the issue of an order to authorize out-door relief under Section 2 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act to the classes specified, in the form of order already forwarded to you, and returned to the Commissioners with your letter above referred to.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 27, 1847.*

1. WE beg now to provide you with a second weekly report of our proceedings, in the discharge of our duties as Vice-Guardians of the Mohill Union.

The Workhouse.

2. The execution of the repairs which we consider necessary to make the house habitable, is fast approaching completion; the dietary has been amended; an improved standard of cleanliness attained; a general approach to obedience of the rules and regulations for the management of the establishment observable; and many of the leading defects we had occasion to notice in our first report remedied.

3. We have all but closed negotiations for the renting of a house at an annual tenantry, to form an auxiliary for the workhouse infirmary. To this place we shall at once remove all patients suffering from infectious diseases—much reduced in number within the last fortnight—and advance an important step towards our great object of making the workhouse speedily available for fresh admissions.

4. We regret all our efforts have not yet reduced the mortality to any extent, which still remains high; but the constitutions of many of the inmates had become so undermined by the defective arrangements of the establishment, that no amended treatment could remove the elements of death with which they had already become impregnated.

5. We are proceeding as fast as the means at command will permit in improving the clothing of the paupers, and have advertised for supplies of this and other articles to meet the requirements of further admissions; which we do not feel ourselves justified in making until we have the house cleared of fever, and such arrangements effected as will tend to the prevention of fresh outbursts of disease, when the number of inmates is again increased.

6. For the present we must despair of procuring additional accommodation for the children, apart from the workhouse, and it will likely be our course soon to suggest your assistance in enabling us to erect temporary shed buildings on the workhouse grounds, either for the children or the able-bodied.

7. In our visits through the house it struck us that the number of inmates appeared less than that exhibited by the books. After a personal enumeration we found that upwards of 100 were on the books, more than actually were in the house. The collective days (according to which the provisions and necessaries consumed were of course calculated) were based on this fictitious number shown by the admission and discharge book: thus entailing an actual loss to the Guardians of about 5% per week.

8. We have no evidence to show the master converted any of the extra quantity of provisions thus charged to private uses; it was in all probability weighed out to the paupers, and it may have been wasted or misapplied by them, in a similar way to all other descriptions of Union stores, in which there appears so great defalcation. How far the circumstances in which the master has been placed for the last eight or nine months—having repeated attacks of fever, and being left by the Guardians without control—justifies or excuses the heinous irregularities, waste and loss during that time, as in how far it should affect his continuance as an officer of the house, we do not venture to express an opinion, and should wish to be guided by your views in relation thereto.

9. The reasons which induced us in our last report to estimate the loss of Union property as there stated, are certainly magnified by our experience of the past week.

10. The weekly Relief list and abstract have not been kept regularly since March last; independent of other considerations, an important check on the system of recording workhouse transactions was thus wanting, indeed the accuracy of the accounts of this period can never be rendered anything but approximate.

11. We are trying to procure the assistance of a suitable person to assist, under our own direction, in bringing up the arrears in these clothing books, &c.; and until this is effected, we cannot feel satisfied in receiving stores or clothing into the house. Great labour will be required before the books can be brought into a proper state.

12. We have received the resignation of the matron and wardmaster, in consequence we believe of our insisting that they should use their exertions to correct the lax state of discipline, and perform their duties properly. Their leaving is a source of satisfaction to us.

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13. We now proceed to elect a matron, increasing the salary from 15*l.* (as formerly) to 20*l.*; an assistant matron at 8*l.*, whose attention shall be particularly directed to the effective employment of the women; and an assistant master, at a salary of 20*l.* per annum, in room of the wardmaster, whose services we think shall be most necessary, as auxiliary in all the important duties of the house. These officers have been advertised for.

14. The formation of contracts, and thus remedying the desultory manner in which supplies have been received; the deepening of the well; the procuring of a person from the house of industry, Dublin, to clear the cesspools; the surface draining of yards, and ventilating are in progress—the increased confidence possessed in us facilitating our measures.

15. We propose forthwith restoring decency in the burial of deceased paupers, by providing each with a coffin and shroud. We conceive that the mode of interment in operation here must have a degrading and brutalizing effect on the minds of the people; that it is antagonist to morality, inasmuch as a want of respect for the dead leads to a recklessness with regard to life, and (when this disrespect is carried to the extreme, which it has been here) precludes the likelihood of that solemn and humanizing train of feeling connected with futurity being produced, which funeral obsequies are apt to arouse in those of humble life, and indirectly tends to encourage that unhappy indifference to the taking away of human life characterizing the district. If one object of the workhouse is to afford an example which, from its prominence it is likely to do, we can easily feel the necessity of avoiding any course likely to produce moral and social deterioration.

Out-door Relief.

16. To meet the pressure caused by the closing of the workhouse, the relieving officers were obliged to dispense relief to classes not comprehended in those to which relief is authorized in section 1. Although this was contrary to the instructions which we had given these officers, we were not, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, disposed to disallow this relief. It has of course been necessary accordingly to apply to you for the issue of an order under section 2. We hope, however, that after we are enabled to open the workhouse, we may not for a considerable time be obliged to have recourse to the exercise of our power, of giving relief under section 2.

17. We appointed at last meeting a relieving officer for the vacant district of the Union. The complete organization of these officers, and their location in relieving houses at proper points in their district, shall form our immediate duty; for to them are we to look for most important aid in meeting the distress that will likely, during the coming season, press heavily upon us.

Rates.

18. A difficulty, unforeseen in its extent, has arisen in the introduction of the arrears of former rates into the present rate-books, which caused a delay in signing the rate-books. We have the revising valuator busily at work, whose assistance (from the circumstance of the numerous changes caused by the late revision rendering it difficult to identify the present holdings with the arrears) we found necessary in transferring and apportioning the arrears. We hope for no disappointment in having the books signed next meeting.

19. The collection of the arrears on the seven divisions still in Mr. O'Brien's hands is proceeding very slowly; he states that all of these have been collected which can be.

20. We have been (as we anticipated in our last report) unable to procure rate-collectors for the eight electoral divisions uncontracted for; any applicants who appeared were unsuited to the appointment. We have accordingly applied to you for men from the retired constabulary list for this service, and hope soon to have your answer.

21. Mr. O'Brien, our attorney, has issued writs against a number of the immediate lessors, by whom the large sum of 600*l.* is due. We mean to look to this especially, numerous considerations pointing out the expediency of our rigorously enforcing payment from this class, embracing many of the leading men of the country.

22. The completion of the revision of the valuation has been interfered with by our being obliged to withdraw the services of the valuator from that duty to the

arrangement of the arrears; but we shall hasten the revision as much as in our power.

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Funds.

23. We have so far not touched on the 200*l.* by the British Association. The balance in treasurer's hands, however, having been just expended, we will now be obliged to draw upon that resource which we are so fortunate in having. Until the new rate is put in collection, we can alone look to this fund to meet our requirements.

Fever Hospitals.

24. We have been in communication with the Board of Health regarding increased accommodation for fever patients at distant parts of the Union; but we could not undertake, in our present financial state, to participate in any measures attended with outlay for this purpose, although fully aware of their necessity.

25. We shall assist and aid with funds, so far as in our power, the Relief Committee in supporting the temporary hospital, when they think proper to apply to us on that behalf.

26. It is fortunate that we have a slight breathing time to perfect our arrangements before the pressure of destitution actually bursts upon us. We trust in a short time to have the Union in efficient and proper order; and if we can only succeed in collecting the rates, all will be well.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*December 29, 1847.*

IN reference to the accounts of the master of the workhouse, the Commissioners desire to state that his practice of charging in the provision accounts quantities sufficient for a larger number of paupers than were in the workhouse cannot be excused. He is either guilty of wilful fraud or gross negligence, as the daily roll-call required by the 14th article of the workhouse rules rendered necessary the keeping of lists by him for the purpose, which must have enabled him to know the precise number of each class in the workhouse. If a wilful defalcation can be proved, the Vice-Guardians should apply the 101st section of the 1 and 2 Vic., c. 56. If only negligence can be proved, the master should be required to resign or be suspended, with a view to dismissal by the Commissioners, as may appear to the Vice-Guardians to be most fitting.

As regards your proposal to appoint an assistant master and matron, I am to state that, in a small workhouse like that of Mohill Union, an assistant master or matron ought not to be requisite; and well-conducted paupers should be in charge of both men and women's wards.

The Commissioners approve of your directing a coffin and shroud to be provided in each case of the interment of workhouse inmates.

The Order authorizing out relief to certain classes for a limited time, under section 2 of 10 Vic., c. 31, will be transmitted by this night's post.

With respect to the issue of writs against a number of immediate lessors, by whom large amounts of rate are due, the Commissioners request your attention to the provisions of section 2 of 6 and 7 Vic., c. 92, in regard to arrears due from immediate lessors, a list should be forwarded to the Commissioners of those proposed to be sued by action in the Superior Courts, the Commissioners' consent to such mode of proceeding being necessary in each case, under the proviso at the end of that section.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 31, 1847.*

THE state and prospects of this Union have undergone no perceptible change since the date of my last report.

The increasing pressure of want is exhibited in the numbers taken on the list of out-door relief by the several relieving officers, and registered, now amounting to nearly 300, and which will necessarily rapidly increase, as the state of the workhouse, and the inability of the Vice-Guardians to procure extra accommodation to hire, forbid them to admit any more inmates at present, except in very peculiar cases not to be otherwise adequately provided for.

I am unable to report any material improvement in the interior of the workhouse, where the unremitting exertions of the Vice-Guardians appear to produce little more than a momentary observance of the regulations or main-

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tenance of discipline, but are totally unsupported by any zeal or activity on the part of the executive officers, whose daily duties they in a great measure perform.

As the charge affecting the master of the house, adverted to in my last report, appears fully established, and indeed admitted by him, the Vice-Guardians have no alternative but to suspend him. Meantime the clerk having been compelled by serious illness to relinquish his daily duties, the whole burden of carrying on the daily routine of the house devolves upon the Vice-Guardians, who are unable to find in this neighbourhood persons competent to fill even temporarily the situations now vacant.

The repairs of the house are advancing but slowly; and the offensive state of some of the yards and premises continues. These defects the Vice-Guardians have been unable to rectify, as the tardy and very inefficient masons and glaziers cannot be depended on for punctuality; and no tenders have been obtained for emptying the cesspools, although advertised for in the country and latterly also invited from Dublin.

A complete and thoroughly efficient staff of new officers for the workhouse appears to me the first and indispensable preliminary to any permanent amendment; and in the view of intended additional accommodation by building sheds, I should recommend an increase in their numbers until order and discipline be effectually established, and the acquired habits of the long resident pauper inmates eradicated by a firm authority, and strict and constant vigilance of inspection.

REPLY to the above:—*January 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the laws for relief of the poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 31st ultimo, relating to Mohill Union, for which I am to express the Commissioners' thanks.

The Commissioners desire me at the same time to state, that as an immediate appointment of workhouse officers is indispensable, notice for proposals should be inserted in more than one of the Dublin evening newspapers, in addition to the next weekly paper, and an early day fixed for the selection.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 31, 1847.*

OWING to the instant demands for supplies of several articles of clothing, provisions, repairs, &c., which are of every-day occurrence in this house, and the general want of contracts for their supply, we may be in several cases obliged to depart from 17, 18, 19 and the following articles of the Commissioners' General Regulations for Unions.

We would therefore wish to obtain the sanction of the Commissioners for our departing from those rules, should a necessity for so doing occur: of course the departure shall be the exception, and in all cases where time will be of little consequence, we shall adhere to the strict letter of the directions.

REPLY to the above:—*January 5, 1848.*

THE regulations referred to should be adhered to as closely as possible.

At the same time if, in the present very peculiar circumstances of the Union, it is found impracticable to obtain the requisite supplies in the manner provided for therein, the Vice-Guardians may resort to such other steps as may be necessary to obviate any inconvenience that would arise from the want of such supplies.

The Commissioners, however, rely upon the Vice-Guardians adhering to the regulations whenever practicable.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 31, 1847.*

As we find it impossible to obtain the proposed temporary accommodation for the reception of children, and thereby increase the space in the work-

house, we would feel obliged by your informing us, if the necessary funds for the erection of wooden sheds could be obtained through the Poor Law Commissioners; and if so, when we might expect to be able to commence these buildings.

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REPLY to the above:—*January 5, 1848.*

I AM to state that loans cannot be obtained for temporary buildings, and that the architect is of opinion it will be more advisable to erect sheds covered with thatch than wooden sheds. He suggests that in Mohill Union these sheds can be best constructed at the rear of the children's yard at each side, communicating with the male and female yards, but not inside the latter, which is very objectionable.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 31, 1847.*

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th instant, and in reply have to state, that with regard to the suspension of the master, we conceive it would be prejudicial to the interests of the establishment to require his leaving immediately, as owing to the illness of the clerk, the resignation of the matron, and the incompetency of many of the officers, even the services of Mr. Jenkins, the master, at this moment (great as has been his carelessness, and incompetent though he be,) would be a matter of serious inconvenience to us. We must, therefore, urge on the Commissioners the necessity of our retaining him yet awhile.

We have, however, required his resignation, and have informed him that he only retains his situation until we are enabled to provide a proper officer in his stead.

With reference to that part of your letter respecting the appointment of an assistant master and matron, we are of opinion that from the great amount of work which will be necessary to bring the establishment into a proper state,—the difficulty there will be in introducing improved habits amongst the paupers and providing for their due employment,—the increased duties which will arise from the additional numbers to be received when shed buildings are erected,—the fact of there not being five women in the house to whom the least charge could be entrusted,—the appointment of the officers in question is indispensable. An additional reason for the appointment is, that there already exists in this establishment a *paid* wardsman and wardswoman, whom we mean to get rid of, and it is intended that their duties should merge into those of the officers in contemplation.

With regard to the law proceedings being taken at present against defaulting rate-payers, and the necessity of our procuring the authority of the Commissioners previous to the commencement of an action in the superior Courts, we have to state, that the solicitor had been instructed to take such steps as appeared requisite for the recovery of arrears by the former Board, and we concluded they, or the solicitor, had acted in accordance with section 2 of 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 92. The requisite list shall now, however, be forwarded to you without delay for the Commissioners' consent.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 31, 1847.*

REFERRING to your letter of the 29th instant, from which it appears the Commissioners disapprove of our proposed arrangement with regard to the rate of fees to be allowed to collectors and the abatement to be made to rate-payers for prompt payment, we beg to submit some further views on the subject.

We may premise that our plan has been altered in some respects, so that it now presents perhaps, new features.

It simply is this, that each collector receive 2s. per pound fees for all he collects, and that he give to all persons who pay their rates to him within one fortnight from the day he gets his warrant, an abatement of 1s. in the pound out of his remuneration.

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The Commissioners urge as an objection to this plan, that the collector would be induced to defer his application for the payment of the rate until the time for giving the allowance had expired.

Now, our proposed mode of procedure is, to give public notice that the collector will, at some fixed place receive payment of rates, and make the abatement for sums paid within the fortnight. The failure of the collector to apply for payment will not therefore affect the measure; for its working is altogether independent of the collector's application.

The collectors already appointed consider that an offer of the kind proposed, will have a good effect in producing payments, and they are perfectly satisfied to give half their fees, or even more, to those who would pay them at once and give no trouble.

This cannot be considered as foregoing any part of the rate, for 2s. per pound is just the amount which will be paid by the Union, whether it passes into the hands of the rate payer or rate collector; and no inroad is made upon the rights of the rate collector when he voluntarily agrees to make the allowance to facilitate his duties.

The plan on a more extended scale has been tried with great success in other Unions, and we believe, from all we can learn, it would be attended with similar good results in this Union. As it may be considered by the Vice-Guardians in the light of a private arrangement of the rate collector, no illegality appears to them involved in the procedure.

From the difficulty in procuring rate collectors, we fear persons could not be procured who would bind themselves to pay any fixed sum of importance within one or two months, or forfeit part of their fees, at least without some extraordinary inducement, such as that now contemplated by the Vice-Guardians, being held out to the rate-payers to pay.

The Commissioners' suggestion would therefore be desirable concurrent with the bonus to the rate-payers. Without something of the latter kind we are hopeless as to the satisfactory collection of the rate, and the two collectors who have practical experience, share in a similar feeling.

REPLY to the above:—*January 5, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having fully considered your communication of the 31st ultimo (received on 4th instant), respecting the arrangement proposed by you in regard to the remuneration of the collectors, I am directed to state that the Commissioners must adhere to their objections to the proposed mode of payment, and recommend you to make some other arrangement more in accordance with the views expressed by the Commissioners in their letter to you of 29th ultimo.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 3, 1848.*

1. WE have this day succeeded in signing the rate-books of five electoral divisions, being the entire number but one, for which we have obtained collectors, and completed by the revising valuator. We expect in about a fortnight, that the progress of the valuator will enable us to sign the books of four more electoral divisions.

2. We trust to have the new books now signed in collection before the expiration of the week, having the necessary preparatory measures in course of speedy execution.

3. We have advertised for rate-collectors for the vacant districts (comprising seven electoral divisions) in the Dublin newspapers, and great difficulty appears in procuring proper persons to undertake this service, even at the high rate of remuneration offered.

4. Mr. O'Brien, rate-collector, is proceeding with the collection of the old rate in six electoral divisions, with perhaps as much success as under the circumstances could be expected.

5. Mr. O'Brien, the solicitor, has been instructed to prepare a list of the parties he is proceeding against by writ, to be laid before the Commissioners, so that their consent may be obtained. No further steps can be taken by him until next term.

6. We have called on the master to resign, and he is to leave on Thursday, the 20th January instant, it being desirable, from reasons already, stated, to retain him until then. We proceed to appoint a master on that day and purpose (if sanctioned by the Commissioners) offering 40% as the salary of the new officer. We are inclined to think 25%, the salary of the late master, with the meagre rations, too limited a remuneration, and that it would, if continued at that rate, interfere with our obtaining a proper man.

7. Interminable difficulties arise to us in the prosecution of our duties. The workmen of this place are the most worthless set possible, and can be got to do almost nothing; so that the execution of the repairs, &c., is proceeding but slowly. The illness of our clerk, the resignation of three other officers, and uselessness of all the rest, are sources of great discouragement.

8. Out-door relief is in full operation, relieving officers being employed in every district of the Union.

9. On reconsideration, we mean to devote part of our limited resources in co-operating with the Board of Health in providing means of hospital relief for fever patients, in certain parts of the Union. We will very soon be able to remove all infectious cases from the workhouse to the house, we have taken for that purpose.

10. Owing to the press of business on our hands this week, we are unable to make this report as full as we could have wished.

REPLY to the above :—*January 5, 1848.*

THE Commissioners sanction the proposed salary of 40% a-year for the master of the workhouse, to be appointed; and as an immediate appointment of new workhouse officers is indispensable, notices should be inserted, if not already done, in more than one of the Dublin Evening newspapers, in addition to the next weekly paper, and an early day fixed for the selection.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners do not object to the Vice-Guardians retaining the services of the present master, until his successor is appointed; but the appointment should be made as soon as practicable.

As regards the appointment of an assistant master and matron, the Commissioners must still object to permanent appointments of the kind; but they will sanction the provisional appointment of such assistants as the Vice-Guardians deem actually requisite in the present circumstances of the Union, trusting to the Vice-Guardians to dispense with these appointments, as soon as the workhouse shall have been brought into regular order.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*January 3, 1848.*

Resolved,—That the following rates be made on the electoral divisions stated, at a poundage of 3s. conjointly for purposes of Temporary Relief Act, and relief under ordinary Poor Law Acts.

			Amount of Rate thereon, at 3s. in the pound, and Arrears of former Rate.		
			£.	s.	d.
Electoral Divisions of	Eslin		435	16	3
"	"	Rynn	755	10	7
"	"	Annaduff	856	16	9
"	"	Carrigallen	826	3	11
"	"	Newtowngore	673	19	7

The rate-books were thereupon signed by the Vice-Guardians, having been previously certified by the clerk, and the rate duly made and declared.

THE COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*January 15, 1848.*

IN reference to the rate recently made in Mohill Union, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland request to be in-

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formed whether the collecting-books are yet ready for issue, or if only in course of preparation. They request that the Vice-Guardians will take steps for their immediate completion.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON :—*January 3, 1848.*

WITH reference to Head Constable Lodge's report, dated Ballinamore, 14th instant, transmitted to the Commissioners through the Chief Secretary's office, containing a copy of a verdict given at an inquest held on the body of Andrew M'Gourty, found dead at Derreen, county Leitrim, I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to state, for the information of his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant, that they caused inquiry to be made on the subject; and I am to enclose herewith a copy of a report from Major Haliday, Temporary Inspector of Mohill Union, on the subject, together with the minutes of evidence therein referred to. It having appeared that the deceased came from a part of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, the Commissioners also instructed Captain Wynne, the Temporary Inspector of that Union, to make further inquiry therein, and I am to enclose a copy of his report also.

I am at the same time to state, that it does not appear that application was made by or on behalf of the deceased to any of the Union officers for relief, either in Mohill or in Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

With reference to the last paragraph of Major Haliday's report, I am to state that it appears the Vice-Guardians of Mohill Union appointed a relieving officer for Ballinamore district on the 23rd instant; and the Commissioners understand the refusal of relief in the cases referred to in that paragraph by the late Board of Guardians to have been owing to the embarrassed state of the affairs of the Union, previous to the dissolution of the Board on the 8th instant, as already reported for his Excellency's information. The Commissioners trust that the affairs of the Union will have shortly been brought into a better condition by the present Vice-Guardians.

ENCLOSURE.

COPY of CONSTABULARY REPORT, referred to in the foregoing.

*County of Leitrim, Ballinamore,
December 14, 1847.*

I BEG to forward at foot hereof a copy of a verdict of a coroner's jury upon an inquest on the body of Andrew M'Gourty, found dead in a field at Derreen, in this district, on the 10th instant.

Verdict.

Found dead on the 10th instant, by starvation and want of food and nourishment, after being in fever for a length of time.

J. LODGE, 3rd S. I.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 23, 1847.*

I PROCEEDED on Monday, the 21st instant, to Ballinamore, in order to inquire into and ascertain the facts connected with the case of Andrew M'Gourty, who was found dead at Derreen, and on whose body an inquest was held.

I must premise that Derreen is a name common to a number of places quite remote from each other in this Union.

I proceeded from Ballinamore to the residence of the coroner, Alexander Percy, Esq., but that gentleman being absent at Belturbet, I was unable to see him.

I then endeavoured, but without success, to see the resident magistrate or the sub-inspector of constabulary, both those gentlemen being absent from the town.

The occurrence seemed not to be known in Ballinamore, but I met, after some inquiry, a farmer residing in Oughteragh division who had heard of the inquest, who informed me that he had known the deceased well, having frequently employed him as a day-labourer, and he described the deceased as having been a very industrious hard-working man, somewhat above 40 years of age, married, and having a family. He understood that he had gone out on the morning before his death to beg, having been previously much reduced by fever. This person stated that the residence of the deceased was not in Mohill Union, but in that of Carrick-on-Shannon, close to Aghacashel, parish of Kiltubbrid; and as the place indicated was so distant that I could not have reached it before night-fall, and there is no road within three-quarters of a mile of it, I did not attempt to proceed thither, but returned to Mohill, having first written to the coroner for further information.

I have this day seen the coroner, and obtained from him his minutes of the inquest and evidence taken, of which I have made extracts herewith annexed.

From his statement I find that the Derreen, where the deceased resided, is without but

adjacent to the boundary of the Mohill Union, and in that of Carrick-on-Shannon; that M'Gourty had been in England or Scotland during the harvest, and had subsequently had fever (as had also his family), and suffered from relapses; that he had gone out to beg or try to procure food, and on his way homewards was met by a neighbour who spoke to him, to whom he did not at first reply, but afterwards said "he was bad enough," and "feared he would not be able to reach home;" that in a few hours afterwards he was found dead on the ground about two fields distant from his cabin; and the opinion of the neighbours, who had known his condition, coincided with that of the surgeon who examined his corpse, that he died from the effects of cold and want of food on a frame enfeebled by previous disease.

I cannot entertain any doubt that such was the actual and immediate cause of his death.

I have further to report that I cannot find any trace of an application for relief having been made by the deceased to any Guardian or officer of this Union, nor is it to be supposed, considering his residence.

It is, however, to be observed that there has been no relieving officer for the district adjoining the residence of deceased, comprising the electoral divisions of Fenagh, Oughteragh, and Ballinamore, the appointment of the person elected by the late Board of Guardians (Mr. Kane) not having been confirmed; and it will be seen, by reference to my reports of the 5th and 19th November, and 3rd December, that on the Board days preceding those dates many applicants for relief at the workhouse had been refused without any inquiry into their cases, from the inability of the Board to relieve them.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACTS from the EVIDENCE taken before ALEX. PERCY, Esq., Coroner, at the Inquest held on the 13th December on the body of Andrew M'Gourty at Derreen, Agha Cashel, parish of Kiltubbrid, county Leitrim.

1. James Callum, of Agha Cashel, labourer, being duly sworn, saith, "I knew the deceased A. M'Gourty. The last time I saw him alone was on Friday evening last; he was then walking near his own house; I asked him how he did; he did not answer me for some time; he then said "he thought he would find it hard to get home; that he was bad enough." I was afraid to go near him for fear of the fever, and I thought he would get home without assistance, he was walking so stout. I know no more about the matter.

2. James Galagan, senior, of Derreen, farmer, being duly sworn, saith, "I knew the deceased right well this long time. I saw him last alive on Friday morning; he appeared to be very weak. I knew him and his family to be in a very bad state for a long time back.

On Friday last, about an hour or an hour and a half in the night, I found the deceased, M'Gourty, lying dead, with his mouth under, within about two fields of his own house. I knew the deceased and his family to have had fever for some time back. I have no doubt that the deceased came to his death from the effects of cold, and the want of enough to eat, after getting up out of the fever.

J. Roper Little, surgeon, &c., certifies, "I have examined the body of A. M'Gourty, and am of opinion that his death was caused by exhaustion and exposure to cold, after having had fever and no proper treatment or nourishment afterwards.

(Signed)

ALEX. PERCY, Coroner.

REPORT of Captain WYNN, Temporary Inspector of Carrick-on-Shannon Union:—
December 29, 1847.

I FIND that Derreen is in the Carrick-on-Shannon Union. I think it not improbable that Andrew M'Gourty died as stated "from the effects of fever and the exhaustion consequent on several relapses of the disease, together with want of nourishment afterwards, the immediate cause of death being the cold to which he was exposed in that state."

I find that no application has been made for admission to the workhouse by this poor man, nor could he have been admitted even if such had been made, as he appears to have held land, and is to be found as a rate-payer valued at 17. 16s. net.

It is much to be deplored that very many poor persons postpone application to the workhouse from various motives, till their condition is beyond all human aid. We have had many instances of this in the house for the last fortnight.

Amongst the most general causes may be enumerated "their aversion to give up their land, which appears to have been the case with this poor man. I may add, that the expectation of out-door relief, either by means of a Government grant or under the Poor Laws, acts most mischievously in producing this effect.

We have received several cases into the house lately, whose only complaint appears to be exhaustion. I have attended myself to the treatment of them, and saw, as far as in my power lay, that they received what was considered best suited to their cases: some have died, the remainder, I fear, will soon follow.

I cannot say that, in these cases, blame is fairly attributable to the Guardians, as it does not appear that applications had been previously made by these unhappy persons.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—January 7, 1848.

THE pressure upon us for out-door relief is becoming severe, accumulating in a manifold ratio. We, for so far, are able to afford workhouse relief to all not

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comprised in the classes to which we are empowered to extend out relief. We might stave off the extremity perhaps for a week longer, having still available workhouse space; but without officers, we regret to say, all the arrangements we ourselves are able to make do not secure us from an unpleasant feeling in making further admissions beyond a very limited number. We are, therefore, impelled to submit our application for the issue of your order to enable us to give extern relief to classes comprised in section 2, not already provided for by your order of 29th December, 1847.

We make this application not unguardedly. We feel that out relief to the able-bodied is the last resource; but their famishing state on the one hand, and the absence of workhouse accommodation on the other, leave but the one line of conduct.

The temporary difficulties which have arisen from causes beyond our control have produced the crisis, demanding out relief to the fullest extent, sooner than we expected. But when these are removed, we are not without hope that we might be in a position to suspend out relief to the able-bodied until a more advanced period of the year.

REPLY to the above:—*January 10, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have given directions, in accordance with your report, for the preparation of an order authorizing out-door relief in food in Mohill Union to the able-bodied, in addition to the classes for which such relief has been already authorized under section 2 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 7, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the state of this Union:—

1. The workhouse, which I inspected yesterday, can scarcely be considered at all advanced in point of cleanliness, order, or discipline. The closing of the apertures in the walls, which have been fitted with ventilating wooden tubes, according to the plan and directions of Mr. Wilkinson, has removed the appearance of dilapidation, and added to the comfort of the inmates in a considerable degree; but it appears to me that the position of these is such as to cause unnecessary cold, and not to attain the object of effective ventilation; and the broken glass in the windows is not yet repaired, in consequence of the tardiness of the contractor for glazing. The females in the day-rooms and nursery are therefore constantly found with small heaps of lighted turf in various places over the clay floors, and the utmost vigilance of the Vice-Guardians is unable to check or abate this irregularity. The meals appear to be served with greater order and regularity, and the improved aspect of the younger children bears a gratifying testimony to the effects of this amendment, and of the change of dietary lately adopted; but they are still very late in being cooked and served. The repairs of the roof and exterior of the workhouse are very partially complete; and the apertures in the infirmary walls not yet closed, in consequence of the difficulty in obtaining the services of a carpenter to construct ventilators on the plan proposed.

2. No tender whatever has been made for the removal of the soil from the cess-pools and privies; and in consequence the yards and premises in rear of the main building remain in the same revolting state of filth. The laundry is piled with layers of unwashed clothes; and it is quite manifest that the inmates, although quiet, and showing no disposition to resist orders, cannot at present be kept employed, or compelled to observe the regulations of the house, from the want of officers. The schoolmaster (at no time efficient) is ill with fever; the schoolmistress obliged to attempt the functions of the matron lately resigned; and the master who has resigned in order to avoid dismissal, is not likely now to exhibit the qualities of firmness, command, or vigilance, of which he gave so little evidence hitherto.

3. Although not strictly within the scope of my subject, I feel so strongly the importance for the restoration or establishment of discipline and order in this house, and all that may be similarly situated, of securing at once the services of a thoroughly competent and therefore experienced master and matron, that I cannot

avoid remarking on the difficulty of finding such persons to undertake the arduous duties for so small a salary as 40*l.*, the amount now proposed by the Vice-Guardians for the master. Possibly the formation of a training school for these officers may, at a future time, be thought deserving of attention, as the time of one entering upon these duties must be at first devoted to acquiring a knowledge of the details and the forms of accounts

4. Upwards of 50 applicants for relief were necessarily admitted into the house, notwithstanding the desire of the Vice-Guardians to avoid crowding it at present; and the increase on the books of the relieving officers has raised the out-door relief list to nearly 900. From the statements of these officers, several of whom are highly intelligent and active persons, it is evident that that number will be trebled before the end of this month; and that the able-bodied men who have hitherto abstained from pressing for relief, are now beginning to press their claims, and are undoubtedly in numerous cases utterly destitute. Under this alarming prospect, and considering the impracticability of finding in this Union buildings capable of being fitted as auxiliary workhouses, I have urged the immediate insertion of advertisements for tenders to erect an extensive range of sheds adjacent or attached to the workhouse; but it is scarcely possible for me to convey an adequate idea of the difficulty attending every project for improvement in this Union, which affords so few of the ordinary conveniences of civilized life, and to which it seems almost impossible to attract mechanics or workmen of energy or industry for the accomplishment of the most ordinary repairs, or execution of any contract within a reasonable length of time; and therefore although I am confident that nothing will be omitted which can be attained by the untiring assiduity of the Vice-Guardians, whose days are spent in the precincts of the workhouse, I am compelled to anticipate a large extension of out-door relief, as the only means left them of averting the miseries of unassisted destitution.

REPLY to the above:—*January 10, 1848.*

THE Commissioners trust that the Union will be brought into better condition by a continuance of your exertions, in conjunction with those of the Vice-Guardians.

The Commissioners desire at the same time to state, that they have given directions, in compliance with an application which they have received from the Vice-Guardians, for the preparation of an order authorizing out-door relief in food in the Union to the able-bodied, as well as the other classes for which it has been already authorized under section 2 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 8, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter received yesterday, relative to the operation of section 10 of Relief Extension Act, we beg to inform you that, out of applications for relief already recorded by the relieving officers (numbering nearly 1000), there has scarcely been an instance of an applicant, as far as these officers could learn, who was directly or indirectly in the possession of an extent of land disentitling them to relief under section 10. The great mass of the applicants are widows and orphans, who, on the removal of their protectors, principally by death, during the past year, relinquished their holdings.

A great change has taken place amongst the people with regard to the desire of having land. They have now no hesitation in giving up their little farms, and we are informed that any quantities of land could be obtained with good will for the asking.

We are not inclined to think that up to this period the tendency among the people to give up their patches of land results from the requirements of the Poor Law forming an inducement. Effects of this kind have yet to be felt.

From the feeling there exists of carelessness for retaining land amongst the class that will likely become applicants for out-door relief, we do not anticipate much difficulty as likely to arise from the section in question. When they are inclined to relinquish their land, impelled by no strong motive, they cannot be expected to linger much on the decision, when they understand it to be a barrier to the need of the relieving officers—their only hope of life.

Mohill Union.

Should any practical evil arise from the working of section 10 (which, of course, we shall preserve inviolate), it will be our duty to seek your advice on the point.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 10, 1848.*

WE have the honour to furnish herewith our serial report in reference to the transactions of the past week.

Rates.

2. The collectors' lodgments amount to only 31*l.* 12*s.*, leaving 1284*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* still outstanding of the rate made 24th December, 1846. Larger returns can scarcely be expected until the proceeds of the new rate become available. The collection of the old rate is now confined to four electoral divisions, the arrears of the remaining nine have been, or are, in course of being introduced into the new books, and their recovery of course suspended. In these four divisions the sums due by solvent parties have already been extracted; however, the results of the collector's efforts should not be less meagre, even with this contracted field, than heretofore, as his receipts must be dependent on the number of holdings he can visit, and distrains he can make, and four divisions afford sufficient comprehensive space in this service for one collector. It is only with the constant presence of the police that his measures can be accomplished.

3. The large proportion of the rate due by immediate lessors remains undiminished. The solicitor (Mr. O'Brien) entrusted with the conduct of the proceedings for the recovery of the amounts, has not attended to our repeated communications (we presume from absence) requiring him to afford us an interview, nor has he, that we are aware of, yet complied with our directions in taking the necessary preliminary steps of obtaining your consent to the proceedings against certain parties in the superior courts. Should a suitable explanation not be furnished to us with regard to his apparently negligent conduct, it shall be our duty to take into serious consideration the substitution of another person as solicitor to the Board.

4. We have this day, at an adjourned meeting, signed the warrant for the collection of the rate made the 3rd instant on the Newtown Gore and Carrigallen electoral divisions, amounting to 1500*l.*, (the total amount of rate made on that day being 3548*l.*) and Mr. Spotten, the collector, at once proceeds to the prompt execution of his duties, all the necessary preparations having been made. Mr. O'Brien having failed to perfect his bond, we have been unable to place the three divisions for which he was appointed collector, and of which the rate was signed, in a similarly advanced position, much to our regret. This defect will, we trust, be remedied before Thursday next. On that day it is our intention that Mr. O'Brien should lodge with treasurer the amount of money in his hands, and receive a cheque for his fees, which, we apprehend (pending the fortnightly examination of his accounts), balance each other. The light in which he may then appear with regard to his accounts, and the perfecting of security, will finally determine his eligibility or otherwise to be a future collector.

5. Thursday next we look to with anxiety, as involving our prospects of securing collectors for the vacant electoral divisions. The extreme poverty of the district, in which we regret to say it is retrograding still further each day,—every description of chattel property fast disappearing, its lawless state, the unusually high rates, and the previous irregular habits formed in meeting this species of demand, seem to deter proper persons from seeking the office, unallured by the extravagant rates of fees (2*s.* in the pound) we offer. If we fail in this second effort, our expedients are well nigh exhausted.

6. The valuator, of whose dilatory mode of procedure we have much reason to complain, will, we trust, have four more rate-books ready for signature at the time we stated in former report, next Monday; the remaining four shall, we fear, be the produce of many more days of his work, and from local peculiarities, he alone can be entrusted with their execution.

Workhouse.

7. The schoolmistress and porter being the only officers at our disposal, from the resignation and partial absence of master, and illness by fever of schoolmaster, the management of the house for past days was accomplished with increased difficulties; indeed, it has been by our assuming the duties of all the officials in every depart-

ment alone, that the operations of the house have been conducted. Even under these circumstances, we have reason to hope its state is better than when we last reported. We look forward to the appointment of the temporary assistant-master and matron on Thursday next, and a master and matron on the 20th instant, with no little satisfaction. The continued illness of the clerk has thrown much office work on us, so that by a combination of events our time has been unceasingly occupied for 10 or more hours each day, to the exclusion, we regret, of many important matters in other parts of the Union, though we have succeeded in arranging some business of this kind.

8. We have been pleased to observe a tendency to make contracts for supplies to the workhouse, and at last meeting we had proposals for all articles, almost, we had advertised for. Independent of the convenience this will create, it indicates a renewed feeling of confidence towards the administration of the Poor Law in this Union.

Additional Accommodation.

9. The house we have taken in Mohill is almost ready for the reception of the fever and other infectious cases of the workhouse. As our only resource to provide increased room is to devote part of our limited finances to the erecting of sheds or other suitable buildings, we shall carefully consider, with the least delay, the best and most economical mode of effecting our object, though we are rather doubtful whether we are altogether justified in such a course, taking into consideration the intention of the British Association in advancing the money, and the claims there may be upon it for other purposes, and should be glad to receive your guidance on the subject.

10. We are taking the necessary proceedings to carry out the intentions of the Board of Health, coincident with our own, regarding the temporary hospitals at Ballinamore and Carrigallen, in pursuance of their requisition, and hope soon to be in a position to afford hospital relief at the latter place, but delay must take place in effecting our purpose at the former.

Out-door Relief.

11. The pressure for relief is increasing beyond our immediate expectation. We have, therefore, been obliged to apply for an order to empower us to relieve all classes under section 2nd. No employment exists in the Union, and we cannot deny relief to those who have no other means of subsistence. We fear, with all the reductions of last year, still a numerous section, all the space in the workhouse we could make available for them would not be sufficient; removing, therefore, our dependence in this expedient. We estimate our expenses for out-relief will exceed 30*l.* in the week now commenced. The relieving officers are generally, we think, performing their duties efficiently. Relieving houses have been assigned to all the officers, and some of them have received our personal inspection, but we despair of being able to introduce cooked food for some time. In the absence of contracts, we are obliged to entrust money to the relieving officers for the purchase of provisions, a practice we will however alter as soon as practicable. We mean to make an early arrangement for transferring to extern relief all pauper inmates of the workhouse proper for such purpose. Upwards of 1000 are now receiving out-relief, at an average cost of about 7*d.* per head.

12. A multiplicity of disappointments develop themselves at every turn, thwarting and frustrating our efforts, and delaying us in establishing affairs in a satisfactory position—the object of all our toil and anxiety.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS in reply :—*January 14, 1848.*

In reply to your inquiry, with reference to the application of the advances made by the British Association, the Commissioners desire me to state that advances made from the funds of the British Association may be applied by you in the way you may deem the most useful and effectual in relieving the necessities of the destitute poor.

Mohill Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir W. SOMERVILLE, Bart.:—*January 11, 1848.*

WITH reference to a constabulary report received from your department on the 22nd ultimo, relative to the death of a man, name unknown, who is stated to have died from want of food and the inclemency of the weather, at Drumhanny, in Mohill Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they instructed the Temporary Inspector of the Union, Major Haliday, to make inquiry on the subject; and I am to transmit herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, copies of two reports, dated 31st ultimo, and 4th instant respectively, which the Commissioners have received from Major Haliday thereon, together with a copy of the depositions taken at inquest on the body of the poor person in question.

ENCLOSURES.

CONSTABULARY REPORT referred to in the foregoing.

*County of Leitrim.**Mohill, December 18, 1847.*

I BEG to forward the following copy of a verdict of a coroner's jury on view of the body of a man unknown.

W. WRAY, 3rd S. I.

The Inspector-General.

(Copy.)

"We find that a man unknown came by his death suddenly, on Monday the 13th instant, in the townland of Drumhanny, parish and barony of Mohill, and county of Leitrim, from want of food, and from the inclemency of the weather, and not from any violent cause whatsoever."

December 17th, 1847.

(Signed) A. PERCY, Coroner.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 31, 1847.*

I HAVE made inquiries into the facts connected with the death of a man (name unknown) on whose body the jury at the inquest returned a verdict "That the deceased died from want of food, and the inclemency of the weather, and not from any violent cause whatever."

I wrote to the coroner for a copy of the minutes taken at the inquest, which I have only this morning received; and I, meantime, examined such persons here as were capable of giving me information, and have also visited the place where the body was found, and inquired of several persons residing near it, and have to report the result as follows:—

It appears that, on Monday the 13th instant, between one and two o'clock in the day, the deceased, who is said to have appeared very wretched and feeble, was going on foot towards this town, and had gone into one or two of the cabins on the road-side to beg for food or lodging, but without obtaining anything but a raw turnip, which, with a few grains of wheat, was found in his hat; and that after leaving one of these, of a very miserable description, where he had rested for some time, he proceeded nearly half a mile further, and had then fallen on his face on the road-side close to a cottage, the woman residing in which, on looking out of her door about half an hour after the time he had left the first-mentioned cabin, saw him lying on the road, but states that she had not seen him fall—that she called for assistance, and two women and a man working near at hand lifted him up and found him then quite dead, with no appearance of injury except a slight mark on the face from the fall.

There was no medical man present, or examined at the inquest, which was held on the 17th instant; and the jury came to their verdict on the facts here stated, and on the appearance of the body, which (as stated by the coroner) was very much emaciated and wretched.

No trace has been since obtained as to the name or residence of the deceased, although it appears that a woman with two children (also unknown) had on the same day made inquiry of some people on the same road if they had seen a man, who is supposed to have been the deceased, but they went away in a different direction, and have not been seen since then.

There is no record of any person like the deceased having applied for admission to the workhouse of Mohill. The relieving officer of the electoral division states that none such had about that time applied to him; and it will be recollected that the Vice-Guardians arrived here to enter on their duties only in the course of the afternoon of the 11th instant; but it will be seen, on reference to my weekly reports, that during the five weeks preceding the date of this occurrence many applicants for relief had been sent away without inquiry, in consequence of the then state of the workhouse, and the inability of the Board of Guardians to obtain funds.

Under the circumstances of there having been no medical examination of the body, I cannot express a distinct opinion that want and exposure, and not some internal disease, was the cause of the man's death, but it is too probable that the opinion of the jury was substantially correct, and that want, if not the immediate cause of, at all events, accelerated that result.

REPLY to the above :—*January 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 31st ultimo, relating to the death of a man (name unknown) stated to have died from want of food, &c. ; and I am to request that the copy of the depositions taken at the inquest may be transmitted to the Commissioners, and that you will return to them the report of the inquest enclosed to you with the Commissioners' letter of the 24th ultimo.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant No. 131, January, 1848), on the part of the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, and in accordance with the instructions contained in it, transmit herewith the copy (in his own hand-writing) of the informations and depositions taken by the coroner, A. Percy, Esq., at the inquest held on the body of a man (name unknown) who died at Drumhanny in this Union, on the 13th December, 1847, together with the report of the inquest forwarded to me in the letter from the Commissioners.

Enclosure referred to in the foregoing.

County of Leitrim, } Informations taken and acknowledged before me at Drumhanny, in the
to wit. } parish and barony of Mohill, on the 17th day of December, 1847, on view
of the body of a man (name unknown) then lying dead at same place.

Informant Mary Colreary, of Finiscal, being duly sworn, saith: On Monday last, the 13th instant, the man who now lies dead on the road side near this, came into our house and asked charity and a lodging of me. I could not give lodging to him; deceased remained about half an hour in the house; I never saw the deceased before to know him from another; I do not know any more about the matter.

^{her}
Mary + Colreary,
mark.

Sworn before me,
ALEX. PERCY, Coroner.

Peter Reynolds saith: On Monday last, about half-past one o'clock, I saw the deceased walking slowly from Colreary's house, about 15 perches from where he now lies; he appeared very weak; about a quarter of an hour afterwards Mary Reynolds and Anne Moylan called me from where I was working in the bog; I went and saw the deceased lying dead on the road side, he was then quite dead; the deceased was lying with his mouth under; I turned him and washed the blood off his face.

^{his}
Peter + Reynolds,
mark.

Sworn before me,
ALEX. PERCY, Coroner.

Mary Reynolds saith: On Monday last, about one or two o'clock, on looking out of my own poor, I saw the deceased man lying on the road side, with his face under, about a perch from the door; I do not know whether he was then quite dead; I did not see any person near the place at the time; I called Anne Moylan up out of the bog; I do not know who the deceased man is.

^{her}
Mary + Reynolds,
mark.

Sworn before me,
ALEX. PERCY, Coroner.

The deceased, when viewed by the coroner and jury, appeared very much emaciated, and wretchedly clad; there were some grains of wheat and a raw turnip in his hat. I asked the jurors did they wish for the testimony of a medical witness as to the cause of death, and they said that they were quite satisfied that the deceased came to his death from the want of the common necessities of life, and exposure to the inclemency of the weather, and that many more would go the same way if they did not get employment or relief in some shape.

30th December, 1847.

ALEX. PERCY, Coroner.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 11, 1848.*

WE were on yesterday served with two writs at the suit of contractors to the former Board; one is for the sum of 250*l.* for clothing supplied to the house by Anne Gibbons and Son, and is taken in the Court of Queen's Bench; the other is by James Murphy, for supplies of soap and candles, and is a more expensive process, being in the Court of Exchequer for the sum of 50*l.*

Mohill Union.

We would feel obliged by your informing us how we are to act under these circumstances.

REPLY to the above:—*January 12, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are in communication with their solicitors, Messrs. Geale and Dwyer on the subject.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 14, 1848.*

THE state of the Mohill Union has undergone no change requiring to be brought under your notice since the date of my report of last week.

The Board of Vice-Guardians, at the meeting of which I was present yesterday, sat until seven o'clock, P.M., engaged in the transaction of a variety of indispensable business, which calls for no especial comment.

Although it has not been found requisite to give out-door relief to any able-bodied male persons,—and I would hope that the precaution which the Vice-Guardians will exercise as long as is possible, of maintaining in the workhouse room to receive all applicants for relief of that class, will obviate the necessity of doing so at least for a considerable time to come,—it is manifest that the expense of maintaining those classes at present on the out-door relief list will be very heavy. The number of those cases now amounts to almost 2000; and as the relief extended to many of this class by private charities ceases from the exhaustion of funds, a very considerable increase weekly to the lists of the relieving officers must be expected.

The difficulty in obtaining competent persons who can procure adequate securities for the collection of the new rate, still continues. As yet there are several electoral divisions for which no persons have tendered to collect; and it appears probable that the Vice-Guardians will have to accept the services of such as they can procure, rather than such as they would desire, or else submit to a delay in putting the rate (when signed) in process of collection, which for many reasons it is most desirable to avoid.

The repairs of the workhouse advance but slowly, from the want of energy and industry on the part of the contractor. When these shall be completed, and the establishment provided with competent officers to replace the present inefficient set of functionaries, there is reason to hope for a material improvement in cleanliness and order, stimulated and enforced by the exertions of the Vice-Guardians, who are at present obliged to superintend and carry out the details of the house, and also to keep the clerk's books, in consequence of the continued indisposition of that officer.

The revision of the valuation of the Union is not yet completed, and I can see no effectual means to expedite it. The valuator appears to be a slow but plodding man, who completely miscalculated the task he undertook; and as many of the obstacles that have delayed the collection of former rates in this Union arose from the imperfection or inaccuracy of the former valuation, it appears questionable if it would be expedient (if possible even) to enforce in him a more rapid, and therefore probably incorrect revision.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 14, 1848.*

REFERRING to your communication of 29th ultimo, requiring a list of the rate defaulters in this Union against whom proceedings are being taken in the superior Courts of Record in Dublin, we beg to transmit herewith such list, and thus comply with the provisions of the 2nd section of 6 and 7 Vic., c. 92.

The parties named in list, we believe, are not resident in the Union.

The Commissioners consent is sought to the proceedings.

ENCLOSURE.

Mohill Union.

LIST of PERSONS against whom proceedings have been instituted in the Court of Queen's Bench, by the directions of the Board of Guardians, in the Month of November last.

Names.	Amount.	Remarks.
	£. s. d.	
Robert Collins, M.D., Dublin .	12 10 4	Copies issued from Court of Queen's Bench returnable at this term, and in hands of process server.
Henry John Clements, County Cavan.	2 6 9	Copies issued, and in hands of process server, returnable the 15th instant.
William Acheson O'Brien, Fermanagh.	1 5 0	Like observation.
James Kierman, Fermanagh . .	2 8 2	Like observation as to proceedings.
Robert William Story	2 9 14	Like proceedings.
Robert Christopher Barber . .	4 3 7	"
George B. West, Esq.	4 0 0	"
William West, Esq.	1 18 2	"
Coote Nesbit Redfern, and John Geelan.	8 10 6	"

The several other parties returned in the list furnished me, many have paid, others are absentees, and more have their properties under the receivers of the Court of Chancery and Exchequer, against whom proceedings will be instituted.

January 11, 1848.

R. P. O'BRIEN.

REPLY to the above:—January 19, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to signify their consent to such proceedings being taken, under the above section, in the Court of Queen's Bench in Dublin.

I am at the same time to transmit a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from Dr. Collins, relative to the proceedings taken against him, and am to request that you will call on Mr. O'Brien to explain why, in this case, he did not make demand for payment from Dr. Collins before serving him with a writ.

ENCLOSURE.

Dr. COLLINS to the COMMISSIONERS:—January 17, 1848.

I BEG to state, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that a writ was issued against me on the 15th instant, from the Court of Queen's Bench, by a Mr. O'Brien, an attorney in Mohill, on behalf of the Poor Law Guardians of that Union, for the sum of 12*l.* 10*s.*, to which 3*l.* 10*s.* costs have been added.

I take the liberty of writing to the Commissioners to know by what authority this most discourteous and improper step has been taken, without having given me any previous notice whatever that the debt was due.

Such a measure I should think is unexampled, and I confidently appeal to the Commissioners to deprive Mr. O'Brien of the costs he has so unwarrantably attempted to gain.

Mr. O'Brien well knew that one line to me would have been sufficient to have the money paid by return of post.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—January 18, 1848.

1. WE have considered it expedient to postpone this our fifth weekly report for a day, so that some matters pending might be referred to more definitely than otherwise we would have been enabled to do.

Rates and Rate Collectors.

2. On the 15th instant, we made a rate on four additional electoral divisions, amounting to 3,098*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, which completes nine electoral divisions on which a rate has been signed and declared by us, amounting to the aggregate sum of 6,658*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* We hope the progress of the valuation revision will enable us, within the ensuing fortnight, to place the Mohill electoral division (being that in which the town of Mohill and the workhouse are situate) in a similar position. We are anxious with regard to this, as it of all the divisions should make the most satisfactory return to the appeal of the rate collector.

Mohill Union.

3. Mr. O'Brien's success in the collection of the old rate of the four electoral divisions for which he is still employed, was very meagre, only 9% having been collected and lodged in the official week, ending last Thursday. We understand he has lodged 63% this day, which is perhaps as much as under the circumstances, we could expect. We are not aware how much of this sum has been provided by immediate lessors, but we think it probable they have not contributed materially. From the return of proceedings against that class for the recovery of rates due by them, furnished to us by Mr. O'Brien, the Union solicitor, and a copy of which has been already forwarded to you, we have reason to be dissatisfied with that gentleman's management of our business. We have informed him so, and await a further explanation from him, prior to a final severance of our connexion. Indeed, his inattention alone, independently of his being affected by conflicting interests, we think renders that step necessary.

4. We have succeeded in placing only 1500% (the amount on two electoral divisions) of the new rate yet in collection; of this we have reason to expect a payment of at least 100% before the expiration of another week. We had anticipated having the rate of two more electoral divisions in collection ere this, but the repeated failures of the collector appointed (Mr. O'Brien), to satisfy us in regard to his security, created delays. He has now offered what we consider adequate sureties; and it only remains for him to have his bond perfected (for which we have fixed to-morrow), to permit those divisions being placed in collection. Should he fail to carry out this arrangement in reference to his bond, we at once relinquish all idea of his being a collector of the new rate.

5. Thursday last, the day we had advertised on which to receive proposals for rate collectors for the eight vacant electoral divisions, failed in producing offers from a class of men we could have desired for the service. No parties from a distance, despite all the newspaper advertising, presented themselves. We have, however, obtained collectors for all the electoral divisions but one; and after making every inquiry in our power, with regard to their proposed sureties, we are disposed to be satisfied therewith, excepting those of the person who offered as collector for the Cloon division. The collectors themselves are, perhaps, of as good a description as we could expect the locality to afford. Those whose security we approve of, shall be obliged to perfect their bonds at once. We will also make every exertion to secure the services of proper persons for the two divisions alluded to, which we trust soon to accomplish, the only preliminaries necessary to place in collection the rates of the nine electoral divisions already declared.

6. The collecting books are almost prepared for all the divisions of which the rate has been signed. The directions contained in your letter of 15th instant have, therefore, been complied with in anticipation.

Workhouse.

7. We regret that on last Thursday, the day appointed for the election of an assistant master or matron, no applicants appeared for the former office. We are disposed to attribute this disinclination to take advantage of such a situation, so eagerly sought after by competent persons in many parts of Ireland, to the circumstance of the Mohill Union being proclaimed, under the recent Act for the prevention of outrage, which possibly may excite fears in parties living at a distance (from which alone suitable candidates could be expected), and deter them from becoming residents in the neighbourhood. The same cause may also have operated in preventing persons offering themselves as rate collectors, referred to in the preceding paragraph. We engaged an assistant matron or wardswoman, from whose employment we expect good results.

8. We trust a similar indisposition to become workhouse officers may not affect our forthcoming election of a master and a matron. Any failure in this respect would be most discouraging to us, our plans of amelioration and improvement in the system of in-door relief, being so much dependent on proper persons for these offices being obtained.

9. We continue to bestow much attention on the minutiae of workhouse management; thus remedying, as far as in our power, the almost total absence of officers, which is at present experienced by the establishment.

10. The repairs of the house are approaching completion, with as much rapidity as the procrastinating habits of the workmen would lead us to expect, but much slower than we could wish. Indeed it is impossible to obtain mechanics in this neighbourhood, who will perform any service with celerity or satisfaction.

Additional Accommodation.

11. The house we have recently rented for the accommodation of the infectious cases of the workhouse will be in occupation before the end of the week, the repairs having been completed and other preliminaries arranged. We are about to advertise for the erection of temporary buildings, to be constructed in the manner suggested in your letter of the 5th instant, so that we may command space for 200 additional inmates.

Out-door Relief.

12. Up to last Saturday, the recipients of out-door relief numbered almost 2000. Before the close of this week, that number will probably be extended beyond 3000, and without including any able-bodied men, to whom we have been, and hope for some time longer to be able to afford workhouse relief—a satisfactory circumstance. Our expenses for out-door relief we may estimate, without making up the relieving officers' books, have amounted during the past week to 60%, and will probably exceed 70% in the week we have now entered upon.

13. We are anxious to organize some system of co-operation, on the part of a few respectable members of the late Relief Committees in the several districts, by which a useful surveillance might be placed on the relieving officers, and also assistance afforded them in detecting imposition, which increased means of local information would ensure. We have accordingly addressed a circular to the chairman of each Committee in furtherance of our object, a copy of which we append.

Temporary Fever Hospitals.

14. We have concluded an agreement for a house at Carrigallen, of large dimensions, most suitable, and at a moderate rent, 17*l.* 10*s.* per annum; nearly 100% having been paid formerly for it and a small house adjoining, when used as a military barracks. We are in hopes of soon having an arrangement completed for renting a house at Ballinamore. Concurrent with the procuring of houses, we are taking other measures, in fulfilment of the requirements of the Board of Health. Ere long we trust to have the hospitals at these places in operation, and thus have performed our part in providing against a recurrence of those melancholy scenes, which during the past season, came within your observation and inquiry, and called so loudly for protection against the victims of fever, expiring houseless and neglected.

15. Writs are pouring in on us from numerous contractors to the late Board, as they (the contractors), we presume, are under the impression that we have some means (other than the rates) to pay them. This idea we have endeavoured to remove; but yet, great inconvenience and even suffering would be the result, if the furniture and stores of the workhouse were seized under an execution. We therefore await with anxiety, the result of your communication with Messrs. Geale and Dwyer on the subject.

16. The hours we could abstract from our workhouse labours during the past week, we have devoted to visiting other and distant parts of the Union, in arranging about fever hospitals, inspecting relieving houses, inquiring relative to rate collector's sureties; and, generally, in making ourselves acquainted with the circumstances of the Union. Difficulties, we must confess, beset us, and require us not to relax in our exertions.

ENCLOSURE:—COPY of CIRCULAR addressed to CHAIRMEN of late Relief Committees, referred to in Report.

SIR,

Board Room, Mohill, January 18, 1848.

THE administration of out-door relief under the new Poor Law, is assuming such importance in this Union, from the excessive amount of destitution which must now be met, that we are anxious to secure the co-operation of those having local influence and information. A few

Mohill Union.

respectable members of the late Relief Committees in each district, if they would act, could afford the Vice-Guardians material assistance, and render an important service to themselves by preventing imposition, and thus securing economy—an important point in connexion with future rates.

The assistance we seek is of this kind, that two or three members should form themselves into a sort of auxiliary body, and as often as might be convenient, inspect the relieving officer's books, and keep an eye on their conduct in the discharge of their duties; and by these means ascertain, that while no person coming within classes which they are empowered to relieve, may arrive at the last stage of destitution, the feignedly destitute, or those not proper for relief, may be prevented becoming a burden on the rates.

We address you as Chairman of the late Committee, and should you coincide in our views, we will be happy to place ourselves in further communication with you, so that the system of co-operation we propose might be at once organised.

Waiting an early reply,

We have, &c.,

JAMES M. O'REILLY, }
R. A. DUNCAN, } *Vice-Guardians.*

REPLY to the above :—*February 2, 1848.*

IN reference to the circular addressed by you to the Chairman of the late Relief Committees in Mohill Union, proposing the formation of a Committee or auxiliary body to inspect the administration of out-door relief by the relieving officers, I am to state that the Commissioners will be obliged by your not issuing circulars on subjects connected with the Poor Laws until such circulars have been previously submitted to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners deem it right to point out that much inconvenience may arise from the appointment of these Committees, unless it is distinctly understood by all parties that the Committees have no authority whatever over the relieving officers, and that the functions of the Committees will chiefly be restricted to the supplying the relieving officers and the Vice-Guardians with accurate information on the circumstances of applicants for relief.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 21, 1848.*

I WAS present during the whole of the last two days (the 19th and 20th instant) at the Board-room of the Mohill workhouse, while the Vice-Guardians were engaged in examining the books of their relieving officers, and deciding upon the numerous cases of applicants there reported. It was found impossible to get through the books of more than three of these by seven o'clock on Wednesday evening, and the rest were resumed and completed before proceeding to the regular business of the Board yesterday. Having made inquiries in other quarters, as well as paid close attention to the replies of these officers to the examination by the Vice-Guardians, I am enabled to report very favourably of the zeal and qualifications of three of them—Messrs. Nicholson, Costello, and Duke. The others are less active and capable; but they shall be carefully observed and stimulated in the performance of their duties.

I am, however, convinced by the information I obtain elsewhere, as well as by the admissions of these officers themselves, that the extent of their districts, and the severity of the distress, at present prevents any of them from making the requisite inquiries into the circumstances of all the applicants.

Two of the most active and intelligent of these officers stated distinctly, that they had (each) upwards of 200 applications from persons whom they had not been able to visit nor inquire into their cases, and that they could hardly expect to be able to do so in the course of the ensuing week, even setting aside all fresh applications; and as they are now fully occupied two days in each week, one in dispensing the out-door relief allowances, and one in coming in to the Board and submitting their books, besides much work in filling these up at night, it is certainly out of their power adequately to perform their laborious duties.

I have recommended to the Vice-Guardians to employ, for the present, assistants to distribute the allowances of meal in the presence of these officers, until the subject can be laid before you, and to endeavour to contract with some of the bakers in the towns to supply coarse bread; and by furnishing the relieving officers with tickets to give to the persons on their list, entitling them to obtain at the bakers the assigned rations to expedite the dispensing of relief in food.

For the furtherance of this object, the completion of the proposed oven at the workhouse would be highly beneficial.

The number of names now on the out-door relief list exceeds 3000, and must be expected largely to increase for several weeks; but the relieving officers have been able hitherto to avoid taking on it any able-bodied males, by offering to applicants of this class admission to the workhouse, which is almost invariably declined.

They all concur in stating, that if any of these shall be relieved out of doors they will universally throw themselves on the list, and abandon such employment as they at present can at times obtain from the farmers or otherwise.

In my inspection of the workhouse this week I found little change to remark. The Vice-Guardians seem compelled to abandon the hope of attaining any substantial improvement until they shall have installed a new set of officers. The clerk and schoolmaster are still (from sickness) absent from their duties; and I have previously stated my opinion of the incompetency and want of energy of the present master. I would hope that the foundation has at length been laid for a reformation of the present defects. Yesterday, a tender (the first and only one in reply to the many advertisements and applications made) was given in for the clearing out of the cesspools and privies, without which preliminary step no exertions could have amended the state of the yards and premises, in which, as well as even in the house, the senses are revolted by the habitual violation of all decency. This tender was immediately accepted, and orders given to proceed with the work.

The Vice-Guardians also, yesterday, elected out of five or six candidates for the situation of master a Mr. Moran, at present filling the office of porter in the Roscommon workhouse. Of this appointment I fully approve, as the very high testimonials he produced, and the great intelligence and knowledge of the duties evinced by Mr. Moran in reply to the inquiries of the Vice-Guardians, afford ground to expect that he will prove a valuable officer; and it is only to be regretted that he cannot at once enter upon the duties, as the Vice-Guardians cannot dispense with his services at Roscommon for a fortnight. Mr. Jenkins has, consequently, been continued in office for that term.

No very eligible candidate for the office of matron having appeared, the Vice-Guardians decided not to fill up the situation, but to engage on trial the daughter of Mr. Moran, whose age (22 years) appears the principal objection.

With respect to the completion of the rate-books and the collection of the new rate, I have to state that, as yet, but nine of these books are ready; that I cannot suggest any means of compelling the valuator to greater expedition, as he appears to be at present daily at work; and the incompleteness and inaccuracy of the former valuation renders it highly inadvisable to sign a rate in any division, the revision of which is not finished, as any time apparently gained would be more than counterbalanced by subsequent difficulties and delays in the collection.

Within the last week, several persons, apparently eligible, have been named as likely to come forward, or have actually proposed, to collect the new rate; but the insufficiency of the securities offered, or the delay consequent in making the necessary inquiries as to their solvency, has prevented their appointment.

Much time has been consumed by Mr. O'Brien naming various persons, who proved to be insufficient securities; but as he has produced one that is satisfactory, and has promised to bring forward this day another, the Vice-Guardians are desirous of retaining his services; and I conceive that his experience and his knowledge of the divisions he is to undertake, will render him a very efficient collector under the form of Bond No. 6 (2). A son of Mr. O'Brien's is appointed collector for the division of Eslin, which, I have no doubt, he will execute satisfactorily.

Mr. O'Brien, the attorney to the Board, was examined as to his proceedings against immediate lessors; and explained with regard to the case of Dr. Collins, who complained that he had not been applied to for his rates previous to the commencement of an action for recovery.

With respect to this case, as well as very many others, of which I caused the collector to furnish a list in November, I may remark, that I received the collector's assurance, in reply to my inquiry into each and every case, that repeated applications had been made to all the lessors when resident in the kingdom, and when non-resident to the agents of the respective estates, but without success.

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I have no doubt that these applications were so made, and I trust that the enforcement of the claim by law, in a few instances, will induce the agents in general to pay the arrears due, as well as the new rates, when demanded.

As there is but one collector as yet engaged, it must be some time before any considerable amount can be obtained for the support of the increasing numbers of destitute.

I am happy to state that I have not heard of any increasing virulence of fever. The Vice-Guardians have obtained a suitable house for a temporary fever hospital near Carrigallen; but at Ballinamore there is much greater difficulty: one has been hired, of which the owner may be induced to let. For the fitting up of these I would venture to suggest, that, if there be any cast military bedding to be obtained, a grant of same would be well applied to this distressed Union, whose finances can ill bear any expenditure, and whose property is liable to be seized by creditors, whom there will be no possible means of paying for a long period.

REPLY to the above:—*February 4, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have expressed to the Vice-Guardians approval of the employment of Temporary Assistants to the relieving officers of Mohill Union, as recommended by you.

In reference to the fitting up of the temporary fever hospitals, I am to state that there is no cast military bedding now remaining at the disposal of the Commissioners.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 21, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter, enclosing copy of a communication from Dr. Collins, of Dublin, relative to proceedings instituted against him by the solicitor of this Union, for the recovery of rates due by him to the Mohill Board of Guardians, we beg leave to state that we have obtained from the solicitor to the Board the enclosed documents, explanatory of the course he has taken, and showing, we think satisfactorily, that Dr. Collins has no cause of complaint as regards want of notice; on the contrary, he had received notice as far back as the month of October last.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. O'BRIEN to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*January 20, 1848.*

I RECEIVED your communication with Dr. Collins's statement to the Commissioners, and in reply have to inform you and the Commissioners, that in October last I addressed a letter to Dr. Collins, which I enclosed under cover to his agent, Mr. Benison, of Ballyconnell, informing him that I was instructed by the Board of Guardians to proceed against him, and I got Mr. Benison's reply to that letter in November, complaining of not getting the particulars of the rates due by each occupier; and to oblige Dr. Collins and Mr. Benison, I applied for that information to the collector and was refused, and then wrote a second letter to Mr. Benison, informing him that the collector declined to give particulars, and again stating the necessity I was under of proceeding on my former letter to Dr. Collins, and got his answer to that letter in December. I then had a personal interview with Mr. Benison, when he stated he would send his bailiff to the collector to settle the account on the 14th December. I again met Mr. Benison in Dublin, on the 20th December, and repeated my application, when he promised again to have it settled, and that he instructed his bailiff to do so. I met the bailiff on the 2nd of January, and found he had done nothing, and I could not incur your censure longer, and if Mr. Benison did not forward my communications to his principal, but took on himself to reply to me, it was not my fault. Both Dr. Collins and Mr. Benison are gentlemen I have a respect for, and my proceedings was not to make costs, and lest they should suppose so, or that it would be imputed to me that I acted discourteously to any gentleman, I would take the costs out of pocket, and forego the rest on Dr. Collins paying his rates.

Mr. O'BRIEN to Dr. COLLINS:—*October 21, 1847.*

I HAVE received instructions from the Board of Guardians of Mohill Union, to apply to you, as the immediate lessor, for payment of the rates chargeable against you as such immediate lessor, on your property in the Union, and my instructions are to proceed for recovery of them if not immediately paid.

THE foregoing is the copy of the first letter sent Dr. Collins, under cover to his agent on 21st October last; and enclosed is the copy of another letter addressed to Dr. Collins,

through the same medium of his agent on the 29th November after, and his agent, Mr. Benison's reply, dated 3rd December last, so that on the whole I took very great pains to induce a payment from Dr. Collins before I proceeded, and not until I incurred great censure from the Board.

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Mr. O'BRIEN to Dr. COLLINS :—*November 29, 1847.*

THE Guardians of the Mohill Union have entered a resolution on their books that I should be removed as their solicitor, should I not forthwith proceed against you for payment of the sum of 12*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* due for poor-rates on the property you represent in the Union.

Mr. BENISON to Mr. O'BRIEN :—*December 3, 1847.*

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your's relative to the resolution of the Board of Guardians of the Mohill Union, and the penalty attached to a disobedience of orders.

I shall make no comment on the courtesy of the Guardians; the resolution speaks for itself.

Now, as regards the sum claimed, in my opinion the collector has made a great mistake, and although anxious to pay every shilling due by Dr. Collins, yet I feel it necessary to ascertain what is really chargeable on his property, and I am ready to meet the collector for that purpose, provided he gives me two or three days' notice, or in any other way enables me to satisfy myself that his claim is correct.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. COLLINS :—*January 24, 1848.*

ADVERTING to your communication of the 17th instant, relative to the legal proceedings taken against you by the solicitor to the Vice-Guardians of Mohill Union, for payment of rate due by you, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that the Commissioners have made inquiry on the subject, and they find that the solicitor, Mr. O'Brien, addressed you personally by letter, dated 21st October, demanding the rates, and again addressed your agent on the 29th November, stating that he was directed by the Board of Guardians to proceed for the recovery of the rates on pain of being dismissed from his employment as solicitor to the Board.

The agent appears to have disputed the amount and postponed settlement, and Mr. O'Brien, under pressure from the Vice-Guardians, appears to have issued writs in this and other cases, and the Vice-Guardians express their opinion that sufficient demand had been made, and ample notice given of the intention to proceed, before the writ was issued.

Mr. O'Brien, however, expresses his willingness to accept costs out of pocket, if the rates be paid, and the Commissioners recommend you to communicate with him accordingly.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*January 26, 1848.*

IN reference to recent communications, I am directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from Dr. Collins respecting the legal proceedings taken against him for recovery of poor-rates.

ENCLOSURE.

Dr. COLLINS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 25, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter of yesterday, I beg to state, in the most distinct terms, that it is totally incorrect to state that the solicitor, Mr. O'Brien, ever addressed me personally.

I informed the Commissioners in my statement that I had never received any notice whatever that the debt was due.

From what I have stated, the opinion of the Vice-Guardians, as to my having had sufficient notice, is most unjustifiable, and, I have no doubt, the Court of Queen's Bench would protect me from such proceedings.

I have to return the Commissioners my best thanks, and remain, &c.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 21, 1848.*

HAVING decided on providing increased accommodation by means of erections on the workhouse premises, we beg to submit to you a statement of our

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proposed mode of effecting this arrangement, and if you approve of it, to request the favour of your procuring for us from Mr. Wilkinson, the architect, the necessary working drawings and specifications, should that course appear to you desirable. On learning the result of this communication, we shall proceed at once to advertise for contracts for the undertaking.

We propose to raise another floor over the idiot wards, and to remove all the subdividing walls in the lower story. There is not a single idiot or lunatic inmate of the workhouse at present, nor from the number of that class heretofore inmates, is it likely they will become applicants to any extent in future, which would require special wards for their use. Accommodation for at least 50 beds, we think, could be provided by this means easily and inexpensively; and the increase in the proportion of sickness amongst workhouse inmates, beyond what was originally contemplated, renders increased space in this department specially desirable.

We propose further to erect thatched shed buildings, or such other description of building as Mr. Wilkinson might suggest, at rear of children's yards respectively, communicating with male and female yards, to suit for both day-room and dormitory purposes.

We desire altogether to provide space for 200 additional paupers; and our limited resources demand that the most rigid economy forms a leading feature in our design.

We would venture further to bring under your notice the desirability of having proper means of supervision extended to the construction of these buildings. Now that the building of the fever ward, (an important work,) the erection of the oven, and the execution of the repairs will be in progress simultaneously we are strongly impressed with the necessity there exists for a resident Clerk of Works. From the habits of the tradespeople in this locality we conceive, indisposed as we are to encourage expenditure, the real interests of the Union would be much promoted by the employment of such an officer.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 24, 1848.*

1. WE beg now to submit to you our usual weekly report on the affairs of the Mohill Union.

Rates and Rate-Collectors.

2. The lodgments of last week consist of 61*l.*, made by Mr. O'Brien, as alluded to in report of 18th instant, from his collection of the old rate. Part of this sum is arrears already introduced into new rate, but for the recovery of which proceedings had been pending at the time of the transfer of the arrears. In point of fact, therefore, Mr. O'Brien's collection in respect of this sum has extended beyond the four electoral divisions of which he was at the time collector; and this circumstance will require care in recording the transaction in the accounts.

3. Mr. O'Brien and his son (whom we have substituted in his stead for one division) having perfected their bonds for the collection of the fresh rate in two electoral divisions, we have been able to place in collection the additional sum of 1,191*l.*, making in all 2,691*l.* of the new rate, which is now in actual collection; and we are not without prospects of our finances soon being moderately recruited from this source.

4. Of the collectors we have appointed for six other electoral divisions, none have yet entered into the necessary security. One has resigned; but he was for a division upon which the rate is not yet made. Threats and entreaties have alike proved useless in producing promptitude on the part of these men. We have given them until Wednesday to perfect their bonds; and failing compliance on that day, we must of necessity annul their appointments, whatever be the consequences. We need not say how dispiriting to us are these constant disappointments; but they are characteristic of the people, and afford further evidence of the interminable difficulties that surround every act of our administration. For Cloone Division—the worst in the Union as regards poverty and lawlessness, the rate *never* having been there properly collected, and large arrears accumulated in consequence—we have not yet obtained a collector, although with many offers, but which are all inadequate. We are now satisfied that a suitable local person cannot be procured, and must act accordingly, at any sacrifice.

5. We are promised a payment this week from Mr. O'Brien, our solicitor, on account of arrears due by immediate lessors, with whom he is connected. Failing in this, he ceases to be our law agent the earliest moment we can accomplish the disruption. Next to the impoverished occupiers, the recovery of the arrears due from the immediate lessors of property in the courts, is the most hopeless, and a considerable portion of arrears comes under this description.

In-door Relief.

6. In pursuance of our system of alone relieving able-bodied men in the workhouse, and testing by reception therein all other cases which appeared of a doubtful character, we admitted upwards of 100 paupers during last week. This course has had excellent results in discriminating destitution. Although our arrangements do not yet permit us to make these fresh inmates as comfortable as we could wish, still we trust they are safely accommodated. Every effort is being used by us to put into use the requisites for the proper treatment of all the inmates.

7. We are anxious to make the removal of paupers from the workhouse to the care of the relieving officers the last expedient, for this reason, that it will more or less affect the efficacy of the workhouse test, as the acceptance of relief therein cannot be judged as a just criterion of destitution, when it apparently forms the channel to out-door relief. The privations of the workhouse will be suffered for a time, when out-relief cheers the prospect. The pressure from classes other than able-bodied men will thus likely become severe when we commence removing paupers from the workhouse. But this is better to be endured, we think, than commencing yet to relieve the labourers out of doors; and to preserve space for such and their families we will submit to pressure from other classes until by the provision of increased accommodation we can offer the true safeguard of workhouse relief to all.

8. We appointed at last meeting a master and matron, the former recommended to us by the highest testimonials; the matron, his daughter, who appears to us, perhaps, rather young, we take on trial; and her permanent appointment will, of course, depend on the manner she performs her duties during this probation. They both take charge on the 3rd February next.

9. We have put in occupation the auxiliary house in Mohill, which we have taken, and it will enable us to relieve the workhouse most beneficially of the sick labouring under infectious diseases. We await your reply to our application for plans for sheds, &c., to commence these buildings at once, (first advertising for tenders), and we are happy to find by a communication made to us this day, that facilities we did not expect may possibly offer for their construction.

Out-door Relief.

10. We placed upwards of 1000 on our register last week, making upwards of 3000 now receiving out-relief from us. We expect an increased number of applicants in the week we are now in. Impelled by the miserable aspect of such increasing destitution, we have allowed each relieving officer to employ an assistant at a small rate of remuneration, for whose conduct he is responsible. We urge continually the relieving officers to persevere in zeal and activity in their duties, and we are prepared to take whatever further measures may be necessary in the way of additional assistance, should that step appear necessary to arrest the further progress of famine.

11. Your increased confidence manifested in our recent appointment to manage the affairs of Carrick-on-Shannon Union we are most grateful for, and the duties there will not, we are sure, detract from the attention necessary to be bestowed at Mohill. Our extended sphere of action may, possibly, afford facilities for the transaction of business not hitherto possessed.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 27, 1848.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 26th instant, forwarding copy of a report from Mr. Wilkinson, your architect, relative to the additional buildings proposed to be erected at the Mohill Union workhouse, and also containing observations regarding the repairs of the present buildings.

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In reference thereto, we beg to state, that we cannot exactly infer from this communication that you approve of our proposed plans of raising a second floor on idiot wards, and constructing shed buildings, or that we may expect the working plans and specifications for same will be prepared by Mr. Wilkinson.

As we propose to advertise for tenders at once, for the execution of the undertaking, we shall be glad to learn if your sanction will be extended to it.

We shall attend to Mr. Wilkinson's suggestions regarding the repairs, and are much gratified at the prospect of having the services of a clerk of works, which we anticipate will be most important.

REPLY to the above :—*February 2, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' sanction of the additional buildings and alterations proposed; and am at the same time to state that Mr. Wilkinson will communicate with the clerk of works on the subject by this night's post.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 28, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to lay before you my weekly report upon the state of the Mohill Union.

I attended the meeting of the Vice-Guardians at the Board-room, on Wednesday and yesterday, which were protracted to a very late hour, especially yesterday, on which we did not leave the Board-room until past nine o'clock at night. The examination of the relieving officers' books occupied the greater part of both days, although the actual increase to the number of persons added to the relief lists has not been as great during the past week as I had anticipated, hardly exceeding 800.

I observe that the workhouse test, which the Vice-Guardians have as yet been enabled to maintain for the male able-bodied poor, and for doubtful cases of other classes, operates in this Union with great stringency, not only in consequence of the fear that all the houses left by those who enter the workhouse will be pulled down, and that the parties may be unable hereafter to obtain any habitation, but also from the very natural alarm with which the house is regarded in consequence of the extreme mortality within its walls last autumn. Its improved sanitary condition obviates any real danger, but will not overcome the repugnance of the many whose relatives died there. I conceive, however, that this must yield to the extremity of want now pressing severely on numbers; and it is much to be lamented that a variety of works projected under the "Land Improvement Act," and which would have employed the greater proportion of men of this class in various localities throughout the Union during this and the ensuing month (the period of greatest pressure), have been delayed, owing to various causes.

Three of the lately appointed collectors appeared on Wednesday, and perfected their bonds, and the securities for a fourth were also signed. They appear to be all competent persons, and I anticipate a much more earnest and vigorous collection than has hitherto been exercised; but the revised valuation for two of the electoral divisions assigned to one of these persons, is as yet unfinished, and there are also three divisions for which collectors have not yet been found. The Vice-Guardians hope to obtain these within another week or fortnight.

The attorney to the Board, whose non-payment of considerable arrears of rates on estates for which he is agent and receiver, I had brought especially before the notice of the late Board of Guardians, and had mentioned in my earlier reports, had last week promised to the Vice-Guardians that these (to the amount of 50*l.*) should be lodged with the collector, Mr. O'Brien, within the following week. It appears that this was not performed, and the Vice-Guardians resolved upon the step of dismissing him and employing another attorney, the necessity for which I had long before represented.

From the incompetency of the present officers the workhouse continues in nearly the same unsatisfactory state, with great irregularity and intermixture of classes in the day-rooms, little employment for the adults, and no education whatever for the children; the meals still unequally distributed, and (although three boilers are in use) the second meal of the day not over until seven or eight o'clock. Until the new master assumes office, and an able assistant be procured, I despair of seeing any amendment in these points.

As the clerk and schoolmaster continue sick, I have again advised the employ-

ment of temporary substitutes, who might, if qualified, succeed to these appointments, as the clerk is not likely to recover, and the schoolmaster is totally unfit for the situation.

It will be perceived that, although the foundation has been laid for an amended state of the Union affairs, I cannot report much visible change; but, in truth, the task undertaken by the Vice-Guardians is most arduous. As these gentlemen have now been appointed also to the same situation for Carrick-on-Shannon Union, I may remark that, in my opinion, the presence of one or other will be absolutely requisite at Mohill four days in the week; and that not less than three, for the transaction of regular business by both, will suffice for several weeks to come.

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The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 31, 1848.*

WE beg to lay before you our seventh report of our proceedings as paid officers of the Mohill Union.

We are happy in being able to state, that during the past week we have been more successful than the former in procuring rate collectors, five persons having perfected their bonds, thus enabling us to place in collection the following sums :—

Collectors.

Wm. O'Hara,	for {	Ballinamore	.	.	£1200
		Oughteragh	.	.	350
Samuel Johnson,		Aghavas	.	.	621
Farrell Kiernan,		Drumreilly	.	.	450
John O'Brien, jun.,		Eslin	.	.	435
John O'Brien, Esq.,		Rinn	.	.	755
Wm. Lander,		Annaduff	.	.	856

£4667

Making a total of 4667*l.*, which has been put in actual collection during the past week; and we now only await the revising valuator's movements, which are approaching completion, to place the entire Union in a similar position.

Owing to the impossibility of procuring the services of a proper person to collect the rate in the electoral divisions of Cloone and Annaghveagh, it is our intention to advertise for a person from some other locality to perform this service.

The lodgments this week, as appearing from the treasurer's book (14*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*), have not been as great as those preceding it, chiefly from the very severe weather having prevented the collectors from pursuing their calling. The coming week we hope will be more satisfactory in this respect.

Mr. O'Brien, solicitor to the Board, having failed in fulfilling his promise of paying in during the week several large sums due by immediate lessors whom he represents, has ceased to be our law agent, and we shall proceed on next Thursday to place our business in other hands.

We had, as before alluded to, rented a house in the town of Mohill, for the purpose of additional workhouse accommodation, and had removed to it all cases of infectious disease, numbering about 30; but having been waited on by a deputation of the townspeople, remonstrating against our introducing a fever hospital into the centre of their town, and offering us the use of the temporary fever hospital for the present, we at once accepted their offer, and immediately removed those persons whom we had just sent from the workhouse, from the town to the sheds. We had the house fumigated, and have since sent to it the infants, with their mothers, from the workhouse, thus affording us additional day-room and dormitory accommodation for about 50 women, and enabling us to keep the house as a test for the able-bodied men with wives, whom, had we not had this means of relieving, we should have been obliged to put on the out-door list, a course we have not yet been driven to pursue.

The amount of destitution is daily increasing, the out-door list exhibiting upwards of 4000 names, not one of which belong to the class able-bodied; and we shall continue to exert ourselves to the utmost by taking more houses in the town, if necessary, rather than be obliged, by want of space in the workhouse, to relieve one man who could be considered as coming under that objectionable class for out-door relief.

We have allowed each relieving officer to employ, at a small weekly stipend, an assistant, whose duty it will be to distribute (under the superintendence of the relieving officer) the rations to each applicant, and for whom the relieving officer

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becomes responsible to us; much time having been hitherto spent in the issuing of rations which might have been more advantageously employed in visiting cases and receiving fresh applications for relief.

We have every hope that next week will exhibit a great change for the better in the management of the workhouse, as from Thursday, the 3rd of February, the new master will commence his services; and from the increased cause of complaint, Mr. Jacking, the late master, has furnished us with (he not having kept one book properly during the past week), we have every cause to rejoice at having his situation, of so much consequence, filled by one on whom we can rely with confidence.

REPLY to the above:—*February 8, 1848.*

I AM to request you will send replies to queries respecting any collectors of poor rate in Mohill Union, whose appointments may not yet have received the Commissioners' sanction.

I am also to state that the Commissioners approve of your allowing each relieving officer to employ, at a small weekly remuneration, an assistant, for the purposes specified in your report.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 2, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report that the relieving officer formerly appointed under your sanction for the district comprising the electoral divisions of Newtown Gore, Drumreilly, and Carrigallen, having tendered his resignation, we have thought fit to accept it; and previous to proceeding to elect a successor, we beg permission to submit to you our opinion, that the extent of destitution at present existing renders it impossible for one individual to visit all the urgent cases, or effectively to perform the duties of that office; and we therefore request your sanction to our advertising for, and electing on the 17th instant two relieving officers, one for the Carrigallen electoral division, and one for the district comprising Drumreilly and Newtown Gore; to each of whom we should propose to assign a salary of 35l.

REPLY to the above:—*February 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to your suggestion that two relieving officers should be appointed for the above-mentioned divisions, in consequence of the inability of one person to perform effectually the duties of that office, I am to express the Commissioners' approval of the appointment of two relieving officers for these divisions, as proposed.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 4, 1848.*

IN submitting, for your information, my weekly report upon the state of the Mohill Union, I have but little change to remark from the aspect of affairs last week. The state of the workhouse is still in all respects unsatisfactory—the present master having been absent from, or neglected his duties, the master newly appointed not having arrived up to 8 o'clock last night, at which hour I left the Board-room.

A considerable number of admissions have been made during the past week; but the fever patients having been removed to the temporary fever hospital without the town, which has been handed over to the Vice-Guardians by the late Relief Committee, and about two-thirds of the infant children with their mothers or nurses placed in a house hired as extra accommodation in the town; there still remains some available space in the workhouse for the admission of male able-bodied destitute persons and their families, and out-door relief to that class has not yet been found necessary.

The increase to the numbers of other classes in the out-door relief list cannot be much short of 1000; but the exact number was not ascertained nor registered up to the hour at which I left, the mere examination of the relieving officers' books, and the decision on the applications, having occupied the greater part of Wednesday and yesterday up to a late hour.

One of the two relieving officers, respecting whose qualifications I lately expressed some doubts, yesterday tendered his resignation, at the same time stating that it

was impossible for him to get through a district of such extent, or to visit half the cases of application for relief; and he represented the extent of distress as extremely great. As he must continue in the office until a successor be appointed, I thought it necessary to warn him as to the necessity of using his utmost exertions, and of the heavy responsibility he would incur if any deaths occurred from destitution unrelieved among the applicants to him who had a legal claim to such relief.

A few cases were also exhibited by the other relieving officers of persons struck off the list (in consequence of later and more accurate information obtained in the course of their inquiries respecting their circumstances), who had obtained relief in the first instance by false statements, or the collusion of their neighbours as to their holding more than a quarter of an acre of land; many in this position are using every artifice to obtain out-door relief, and others preparing to make bargains for giving up their land.

During the present period of extreme pressure upon the relieving officers, whose whole time is not sufficient for the full performance of their duties of distribution, and of personal visits of inquiry, several such cases of mistake must be expected to occur; but these will be arrested as they become more intimately acquainted with their respective districts, and are of little importance as compared with the opposite danger, that any should be left unrelieved who are in extreme want, and legally entitled to assistance.

The most active and intelligent of these officers all mentioned the gratifying fact, that many of the most respectable of the ratepayers were now in the habit of coming forward and communicating to them valuable information as to the actual circumstances of the various applicants for relief, exhibiting both the humane anxiety that it should be extended liberally to those in actual want, and also the counterbalancing motive of prudent regard for their own interests, in keeping off the rates those who have other resources, or who retain land above the limit. The evoking of this salutary mixture of motives, and thus enlisting in the practical working of the law the co-operation of those most interested in its efficacy, appears to me an excellent augury for the future; and coupled with the very generally avowed dislike to see out-door relief given to any able-bodied persons, indicates a growing conviction of the justice of the principle upon which the Poor Law is founded.

Within the last week the bodies of three deceased persons were left exposed on the burying-ground adjacent to the workhouse, where they remained for two or three nights. These were subsequently interred without coffins by order of the Vice-Guardians; and as the law does not admit of providing coffins for the destitute who have not been relieved within the workhouse, it will be necessary to discourage in every possible way, the tendency manifested to throw upon its officers the task of interring those whose relatives are unable or unwilling to provide a decent burial.

The valuator makes very little progress in his revision: he has not yet completed any additional division; and I am sorry to find that there are some gross errors already detected in those he has finished. Some of these being misstatements as to the names of proprietors, immediate lessors, being only sources of confusion, but not invalidating the rate, I have directed the collector to note and correct in pencil for his own information, and to proceed at once to recover from the party properly chargeable.

Proposals have been made for the collection of another electoral division, and there is now only one for which no tender to collect has been received, but the delay in the revision will prevent the collection becoming general for some weeks. It will, I think, be pushed on vigorously for the divisions completed; and I trust that the Union will be enabled from this time to defray its current expenses, although a long time may elapse before the Vice-Guardians are possessed of funds to discharge the heavy outstanding debts.

REPLY to the above:—*February 10, 1848.*

IN reference to that part of your report which states that the valuator has committed errors as to the names of proprietors and immediate lessors, I am to observe, that where errors of this kind are made by the valuator they should not be carried into the rate-books, if discovered in time, but the party properly chargeable should be rated.

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ROSCOMMON UNION—*Dissolution of Board of Guardians.*

Captain EVANS, Temporary Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS:—
December 16, 1847.

I ARRIVED here on Tuesday last, and immediately waited on the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Guardians (in the absence of Lord Crofton). I then inspected the workhouse, and, from what I could hear, everything connected with the poor-house is in a deplorable state. The house has nearly 200 over the number for which it was built, and upwards of 100 fever patients in the body of it.

The house is in debt to the amount of 6222*l.*, out of which there is upwards of 3000*l.* due to the baker. He has just been with me, and has informed me that unless there is something done for him, he must discontinue the supply, which would close the house. After the meeting of the Board on Tuesday, I trust I shall be able to lay before you a correct statement of the Union. &c.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. FLANAGAN, Poor Law Inspector, on the foregoing:—
December 22, 1847.

THE fever patients referred to, are in wards separate from the other inmates of the house. Two of the long dormitories running at right angles to the main front are, and have been for months, appropriated to their use.

The new fever hospital is not yet (from want of beds, bedding, &c.) ready for their reception. In my opinion, the hospital accommodation in this Union is quite insufficient, as the new fever hospital will not accommodate more than about half the number of patients now in the house.

The CENTRAL BOARD of HEALTH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 10, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Central Board of Health to forward for the information of the Commissioners, the enclosed copy of a report from Dr. Shanley, medical officer of the temporary fever hospital at Strokestown, in Roscommon Union.

ENCLOSURE.

Dr. SHANLEY to the CENTRAL BOARD of HEALTH:—*December 8, 1847.*

I BEG leave to state, for your information, that disease and mortality consequent on privation and neglect are frightfully on the increase in this district, and if funds are not forthwith available even for the decent burial of the dead the consequence to the surviving portion of the population must be truly alarming. As many as five in, and within half a mile of this town have fallen victims to disease within the last few days, without any covering to protect their remains from public observation, save a few boards widely nailed together. A charitable donation of 10*l.* was some time since given by the chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Union, drawn in favour of Major Mahon, but in consequence of his sudden and barbarous assassination was forthwith returned. Almost all the resident gentry have left this neighbourhood, and the remaining few, from the number of Maguireite notices they are in the daily habit of receiving, are afraid to leave their own homes, or take a part in public business. All aid from English and other charitable societies is withdrawn, on the plea that they would "no longer continue support to murderers."

This doctrine, if universally acted on, I make no doubt will have the effect of quartering at least the well disposed of the lower orders, while the assassins can walk abroad with the most perfect impunity, shooting and getting rid of the wealth and intelligence of the land, that they may have the country to themselves, which is avowedly their object.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. FLANAGAN, Poor Law Inspector:—*December 16, 1847.*

THE representations of Dr. Shanley I fully believe; they accord with all the reports I have from time to time made upon the state of the Union. It is one of those which I do not think will ever work efficiently and well until paid Guardians be appointed. Much as I am opposed as a general rule to the appointment of those officers, the apathy and inactivity of the Board, will, I fear, compel the Commissioners to resort to that measure. I remember not very long ago when for three successive Board days (for two certainly) there was no meeting; the most active of the Guardians, Lord Crofton, has left the

country, and the Board is consequently deprived of his services, and the Commissioners of his aid, which he was ever most willing to lend in carrying out their views and suggestions.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Captain EVANS, Temporary Inspector :—
December 21, 1847.

I AM directed to forward herewith a copy of the observations of Mr. Flanagan, relative to the appointment of paid officers to perform the duties of the present Board of Guardians of the Roscommon Union, and I am to request that you will be so good as to furnish the Commissioners with your views on the subject.

Captain EVANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 22, 1847.*

IN answer to your letter of the 21st instant, enclosing me a copy of Mr. Flanagan's letter, relative to the appointment of paid officers, and requesting my observations on the subject, I beg leave to state, that yesterday being the Board day, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Flanagan; and the very first observation I made to him was, "I fear we must have a paid Board." I fully agree with Mr. Flanagan, the only active member has left the country, and nothing will be done.

In fact, the affairs of the Union are in such a state, that unless the most prompt and active steps are at once taken, the consequences will be very serious.

There appears to be no inclination on the part of the gentlemen or the Guardians, to attend to business, or look after their own interests; the county being in such a deplorable state, that the gentlemen who come in five, ten, and fifteen miles, are thinking more of returning home than anything else. Under these circumstances, no business can possibly be done.

Captain EVANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 23, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians on Tuesday. My main object was to call their attention to the state of their finances, for I regret to say that they have no funds in hands, and they are in debt nearly 7000*l*. The cause of this, it would appear, is, that the Guardians had appointed a revising officer, who was never qualified for the situation, and has never taken any pains or trouble about the revision: nor could they, till a week ago, get the rate-books from him, to enable them to sign the books and collect the rates. However, the books were signed and warrants issued, and I gave the collectors orders to collect the rates immediately; but unfortunately, the arrears were not included in the present warrant, and till they are, the warrants must stand over before they can be acted upon.

Mr. Flanagan wished to have an adjourned meeting, in two or three days; but the Chairman who had signed the warrants would not consent to do so till next Board day. He is an old gentleman, living five miles from this, and unable to come the distance; therefore the collection will necessarily be put off for a week; but I trust, I shall be able to make the collectors discharge their duties. I have given them to understand that the rates must be collected, and that without delay, and that if they could not do it, I must find others who could. I hope in the course of a month, a considerable sum may be collected. One of the Board proposed that, as a rate of 3*s*. in the pound had been struck, amounting to upwards of 13,000*l*., which would be immediately collected, and as the creditors, including the principal one on whose supply the house is supported, were becoming very troublesome, and in some instances, taking legal proceedings and putting them to unnecessary expense, he proposed to memorialize the Commissioners for a loan of 7000*l*., on the security of the rates, to pay off their liabilities, and commence on a different principle, as at present the working of the system is ruinous.

The paupers are fed on bread, at 1*l**d*. per 4*lb*. loaf, which in Longford is 5*d*.; and cash price here 7*d*. Milk, if such it can be called, at a most exorbitant charge, 9*d*. per gallon. In fact the contractors, knowing the position of the Guardians, can do and will do as they please. I thought the proposition a very good one, and the memorial was brought to me to forward, with any

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remarks I might have to make. I told the gentleman, a magistrate, that I could not conscientiously in the discharge of my duties, recommend the Commissioners to advance the required loan on these terms; but if the Board would pledge themselves to leave the sums that are now to be collected, in the hands of the treasurer untouched till the loan is liquidated, I would then have no objection to make the request; nor did I think, under the very trying circumstances, the Commissioners would refuse. From the little experience I have had I could not recommend the advance of money on the security of the rates, except in the manner I proposed; and I will undertake, if I am spared, that not a fraction of the new rate is touched till the amount of the loan is secure; and, rest assured, I will enforce a collection, as I am confident and am assured that there is ample means to meet the rates, except in some few cases. This matter is again to be brought before the Board on Tuesday next, and the memorial will be accordingly drawn up; and I would beg of the Commissioners to let me know if such a proposal would be entertained by them. Should the Commissioners comply, it will afford me an opportunity of extricating the Union out of a difficulty, and enable me to bring it in the course of a very short time to the order and discipline which the Commissioners have laid down in their instructions; but if not, I fear the result will be fatal.

The poor-house is in such a state of infection from fever, and the Guardians in the habit of daily sending paupers there to such an overcrowded house, that it is not safe for the officers or inmates to be among them, and with your sanction I would wish to put a stop to it. I spoke to the medical officer this day, and begged of him to look out for a couple of houses; and I now enclose a tender for one, 15*l.* per quarter, or 50*l.* a-year. One I purpose for the female children, and the other for the male, removing the schoolmaster and mistress with each; and I would suggest the removal of the fever patients to the new hospital, and the wards which were occupied by them to be whitewashed, and fumigated for one week. I shall then be able to receive the able-bodied applicants for relief, and thereby avoid the out-door relief, which, from experience, I will always discountenance.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. HARRISON to Captain EVANS:—*December 23, 1847.*

I PROPOSE giving you the use of the house of Coolmeen, and put it into repair, at 50*l.* per annum. I think it would accommodate about 200 persons, and in a very healthy situation.

REPLY to the above:—*December 27, 1847.*

I AM directed to state that the Commissioners approve of your taking the two houses referred to for the accommodation of children, and also of the steps taken by you as to the fever hospital.

I am, at the same time, directed to say, that the Commissioners have resolved to dissolve the Board of Guardians of the Roscommon Union; and the order for that purpose is issued this day.

The COMMISSIONERS to the GUARDIANS, with ORDER dissolving the Board:—
December 27, 1847.

THE COMMISSIONERS have had under consideration the state of the Roscommon Union, particularly with reference to its financial embarrassments, and the consequent inadequacy of the measures adopted by the Board of Guardians for affording relief to the destitute poor of the Union.

It appears that the Union is no less than 7000*l.* in debt, on account of its current expenses; that it owes 3000*l.* to its baker alone; that consequently the price of bread purchased by the Guardians is 4*d.* per loaf higher than the market price for ready money; and that the price of milk purchased by them is likewise exorbitantly high.

It further appears that, although the net annual value of the Union is 85,873*l.*, the Guardians have only collected 2625*l.* during eight months of the present year.

Moreover, the Commissioners are informed by their Inspector, Captain Evans, that the Guardians have signed the rate-books for a new rate, and have issued to the collectors their warrant for the collection of the new rate, without having included therein the arrears of the old rate.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners have felt themselves bound seriously to consider whether the Guardians have effectually discharged their

duty, and whether there is any reasonable prospect that the finances of the Union can be restored to a satisfactory state while the present system of management continues.

On the whole, the Commissioners have arrived at the conclusion that the Union could not have fallen into such a state of financial embarrassment without a serious default of duty on the part of the Guardians; and that there is no prospect of improvement for the future, unless the management of the affairs of the Union is transferred to different hands.

The Commissioners, therefore, transmit herewith a sealed order for the dissolution of the Roscommon Board of Guardians; and they will proceed forthwith to appoint paid officers to administer relief to the destitute poor in the Union, in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Acts.

Captain EVANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 28, 1847.*

I THIS day attended the Board of Guardians, when the order for their dissolution was read, and the Board dissolved. I trust the new officers will be soon sent down, as the distress is increasing daily, the creditors becoming clamorous, and the collectors unable to proceed with their collection, in consequence of not getting the warrants this day.

Captain EVANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 29, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging your letter of the 27th instant, approving of my taking the two houses for the children, and also the steps I proposed as to the fever hospital.

I have already taken one house, and will put it into thorough repair in the course of a few days, but I fear I shall have some difficulty in procuring another. I shall be in no hurry for the present, as the medical officer procured the loan last winter of two tents, which if erected close to the temporary fever hospital, with a few boards for flooring, it would answer well for the bad cases, and their supplies had from the hospital, and attended to by the nurses of the establishment. These tents are capable of accommodating at least 12 patients each, with the new fever hospital, the two tents, and the lunatic ward, which is at present used for fever patients, and which has a back door nearly adjoining the new fever hospital; and by fastening up the inner door and plastering it, the communication with the house would be shut out. By this means we might make room for at least 300 in the house, avoid out-door relief, and the expense of another house. The poorhouse has been so much neglected, that I find there are at present near 100 persons, who have recovered from fever and other diseases, confined to their beds for want of clothes, and upwards of 500 suffering from cough and chest affections for the want of sufficient clothing, &c.

The COMMISSIONERS to Count STRZELECKI :—*December 31, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a report which the Commissioners have received from Captain Evans, Temporary Inspector; and in reference thereto I am to state, that the Commissioners would feel much obliged if, under the circumstances therein stated, you would advance to them as a loan the sum of 300*l.*, to be placed at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians of the Roscommon Union, Messrs. Hugh O'Loughlin and Peter Quinn.

REPLY to the above :—*January 3, 1848.*

I HAVE authorized this day the Commissary-General to transmit to Captain H. Evans, Temporary Inspector of the Roscommon Union, the sum of 300*l.*, to be applied by him as directed in your letter, viz., that the sum is to be paid over by him to Messrs. Hugh O'Loughlin and Peter Quinn, Vice-Guardians of the Union.

I have advised Captain H. Evans of the above.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*January 5, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received a communication from Count Strzelecki, the Secretary of the British Relief Association, stating that he has

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authorized Commissary-General Sir R. Routh to transmit to Captain Evans, Temporary Inspector, the sum of 300*l.*, to be placed at your disposal for the use of the Roscommon Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 12, 1848.*

IN accordance with your instructions, we beg to submit the following report of the affairs of this Union on our taking charge of it on the 3rd instant:—

We found 1072 paupers in the house and temporary fever hospital, of whom 188 were in fever, 42 in dysentery, and 81 labouring under other diseases. Many of the fever patients were in the body of the house, in consequence of the deficiency of hospital accommodation. Owing to the want of clothing, we found many of the paupers wearing their own filthy and insufficient clothes, and thereby increasing the unhealthiness of the house. Upwards of 100 were in the convalescent wards, confined to their beds for want of wearing apparel; thus retarding their own recovery, and interfering with the order and cleanliness of the establishment. The absence of the master, and the indisposition of the matron, together with the crowded state of the house, account for the very disorderly and dirty state in which we found it. There has been no qualified person in charge of the boys' school for more than one year, which, as might be expected, exhibits all the appearance of neglect, numbers of them being nearly naked.

The dietary in use was a most expensive one; the cost for maintenance for the week ending the 1st January, was 2*s.* 4½*d.* each pauper. The new fever hospital had not been occupied, and was very deficient in accommodation, having no supply of water, no sewers, no water-closets or necessaries, no beds, bedding, or other requisites, and no boundary wall enclosing it or the poor-house.

With regard to the finances of the Union, we regret to state that nothing can be worse. A sum of upwards of 7000*l.* is due to the various contractors and suppliers, and although no funds were in the treasurer's hands, yet the Guardians issued cheques upon him in order to appease the parties to whom they were indebted, to the amount of about 4600*l.*; these cheques were taken as collateral security, and bills at two months' date discounted for the holders by the National Bank. Most of these bills have been renewed every two months, since they were drawn.

A rate was struck in December last, over the whole Union, the collecting-books made out and the collectors appointed, but no security named or taken. The arrears which had accrued since 1842 were not introduced, nor had any decision been come to as to what portion was recoverable. Several of the collectors of 1842 and 1844 are not to be found, nor are their accounts or collecting-books. According to a return which appears on the minute-book on the 23rd March, 1847, 759*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* is in this unsatisfactory state. In consequence of this and other irregularities, the ledger has not been posted up since March last.

Relieving officers had been appointed, but no security taken, nor any further steps adopted towards administering out-door relief.

We hope on Monday next, to be able to furnish you with a detail of those means which we have adopted, as most likely to insure the comfort and health of the inmates at the least possible cost, and to restore the credit of the Union.

Captain EVANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 13, 1848.*

IN acknowledging your letter of the 12th instant, enclosing a list of clothing in the Government stores, a portion of which you have intimated is for the use of this Union, allow me to assure you that nothing could be more acceptable at the present moment, as the paupers are nearly naked. An early order on the stores would ever oblige.

REPLY to the above:—*January 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received a communication from Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, stating that a portion of surplus clothing, &c., for the use of the Roscommon Union, has been forwarded to the depôt at Longford, where it may be obtained on arrival by the Vice-Guardians of the Union.

NEWCASTLE UNION.

The POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS to Captain MAXWELL, Temporary Inspector:—
November 22, 1847.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward, for your information, the enclosed copy of a letter which they have received, relative to the administration of out-door relief in the Newcastle Union, in which a complaint is made of the conduct of one of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. PRENDAVILL to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS:—*November 12, 1847.*

I BEG your attention to this letter, as a gentleman of feeling and justice to the poor, this being the case of Michael Kennelyavey, a labouring man, at present in distressed state; has seven in family destitute of any, or the least means of support, and holds not one perch of land from or under any person; is a native of the parish of Ardagh; holds the place of his bed from me, and setting quarter ground at ten and sometimes twelve pounds an acre in the neighbourhood, which failed him; as a cess-payer applied for relief for himself and family to a relieving officer in the parish of Ardagh, in the Union of Newcastle, whose name is Daniel Kennedy, which he refused; this Kennedy is a partial young man, of no feeling to the most distressed; guided by his friends and relations, who treat him in taverns to give relief to well-wishers, and unless this Kennedy be removed, and some man in his place that will have the fear and love of God, I am afraid it will turn this tranquil parish to a disturbed parish, as this is not the only complaint of this lad, but several others; for it is topic of the parish his being a drunkard. Many complaints would be made of this boy, but they would not be allowed to go into the Board of Guardians; the rich worldling inside starving the poor outside in the gutter, and while this will be the case, there will be no justice done the poor. We, the poor, do expect you'll take the matter of this into consideration, and many will pray.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. PRENDAVILL:—*November 22, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, in which you state that out-door relief has been refused in the Newcastle Union, to Michael Keenelyavey; and in reference thereto, I am to inform you that a copy of your letter has been forwarded to Captain Maxwell, the Temporary Inspector, in charge of the Union.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 25, 1847.*

WITH regard to your communication of the 22nd November, 1847, forwarding a complaint of the conduct of Daniel Kennedy, the relieving officer of Newcastle and Ardagh electoral divisions, I beg to state, that I have made every inquiry in my power, among the most respectable people in this locality, as to this man's character, and I find that he is considered sober and honest, and his appointment one of the best made by the Board of Guardians. This is fully corroborated by the head constable of the police force stationed here, who has known him for five years and a half. The writer of the complaint is not known in this neighbourhood.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 2, 1847.*

WITH respect to the annexed communication, I beg to state that, since my letter of the 26th November, reporting on the character of Daniel Kennedy, one of the relieving officers of this Union, I have succeeded in getting further information, and find that the writer of the complaint is a man of the name of Prendavill (not Brendwill), a farmer holding about 20 acres of land. Michael Keenelyavey is his son-in-law and reputed heir; he has constantly resided with him and assisted in tilling the farm. On these grounds the relieving officer refused to submit his name to the Board of Guardians for out-door relief. Keenelyavey refused to go to the poor-house, and says that "he got meal all last summer, and does not see why he should not get it now."

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He accuses the relieving officer of partiality, but he refused to give me any information on that head, or clue to get at the truth, and said "he dare not do so—that his life would not be safe if he did." I regret to state that, in my opinion, this feeling is universal.

The feeding of 40,000 persons, out of a population of 60,000 during last year, has been the cause of incredible mischief in this district.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. PRENDAVILL:—*December 9, 1847.*

ADVERTING to your letter of the 12th ultimo, in which you complain that the relieving officer in the parish of Ardagh, in the Newcastle Union, had refused out-door relief to Michael Keenelyavey, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you, that having communicated with their Inspector, Mr. Maxwell, they think that the relieving officer acted correctly in refusing out-door relief to Michael Keenelyavey, who, they understand, refused to go into the workhouse.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain MAXWELL:—*November 22, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of an order issued by them on the 1st instant, authorising relief out of the workhouse to the destitute able-bodied in the Newcastle Union; together with a copy of a report from Mr. Hancock, as to the manner in which that order has been carried out.

The Commissioners request that you will be good enough to inquire, and report at your earliest convenience, as to the manner in which the relieving officers have discharged their duties under that order, and generally in the administration of relief, especially with reference to the question of whether any of the parties relieved were of a class to whom relief is declared by the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act to be unlawful.

The Commissioners think that you should administratively call upon each relieving officer to explain the course which he has pursued, and that you should, if necessary, take the evidence on oath on the same subject of intelligent individuals who have witnessed the relieving officer's proceedings.

The Commissioners deem it of the highest importance that any relieving officer should be made personally responsible for any relief which he may have given contrary to law; and they are desirous that you should be particularly careful in bringing to light any instances of misconduct on this subject on their part.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 24, 1847.*

IN obedience to your instruction, I examined each relieving officer, and I find that none of them have acted up to their instructions. They have but in very few instances, visited the dwellings of the applicants for out-door relief. They have not made themselves personally acquainted, with the circumstances of each case in their district. At first, they contented themselves with admitting on their lists, every person recommended to them by the rate-payers; but latterly, considerable reductions have been made. Their books, except in one or two instances, are not kept in a satisfactory manner, nor properly initialed by the chairman of the Board of Guardians. They plead ignorance, and complain that their districts are so extensive, that they are unable to accomplish all the duties required of them; that they are required to attend three days in the week at the food depôts, and two other days at the Board of Guardians; and "that their lives are not safe, if they strike off, or refuse applicants for out-door relief." Previous to the 1st of November, they acknowledge having given out-door relief to persons having more than a quarter of an acre of land; since that period, they say that they have relieved none of that class.

Agreeably to your instructions, I informed them that they were responsible, as well as their securities, for any relief they had given, or might give, contrary to law; and that I should use every exertion in my power, to bring any instance of misconduct on their parts, under the notice of the Poor Law Commissioners. I also called their particular attention to their instructions.

The COMMISSIONERS to the RELIEVING OFFICERS of the Union :—
November 29, 1847.

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I AM directed by the Commissioners to inform you, that they have received a report from their Inspector, Captain Maxwell, relative to the administration of out-door relief in the Newcastle Union, in which he states that having, in pursuance of the Commissioners' instructions, examined each of the relieving officers, he finds that none of them have acted up to their instructions; that they have, but in very few instances, visited the dwellings of the applicants for out-door relief; that they have not made themselves perfectly acquainted with the circumstances of each case in their districts; that at first they put on their lists every person recommended to them by the rate-payers, though latterly considerable reductions have been made; and that their books, except in one or two instances, are not kept in a satisfactory manner, nor properly initialed by the chairman.

In reference to this report, I am directed by the Commissioners to state to you, that they are desirous of pointing out that you are only authorized to give relief on certain conditions, and that these conditions must be strictly complied with.

With regard to your fear as to striking off, or refusing applicants for relief, you must remember that the power of granting regular relief is vested solely in the Board of Guardians; and that your power, as relieving officer, is merely provisional, in reference to cases of sudden and urgent necessity.

You will particularly observe, that the mere fact of supposed distress would not justify you in giving provisional relief, under the 7th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act. In order to render such relief legal, the case of necessity must be sudden as well as urgent. Hence, it is extremely improbable that you will have grounds for giving provisional relief during any two successive weeks to the same individual; for although in the second week the necessity might be urgent, it would scarcely, in ordinary cases, be sudden. And the case should, in the meanwhile, be brought before the Board of Guardians for their decision.

The Commissioners again send to you a copy of the out-door relief order, defining your duties, and they caution you to adhere strictly to the course pointed out to you by the Commissioners in that order; and on no account whatever to give any relief to applicants, except as far as you are authorized by the 7th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and by the Commissioners' regulations.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 24, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union yesterday. The attendance was very small. The chairman, the vice-chairman, and Lord Devon's agent were absent.

The indiscriminate out-door relief given at first, in some of the electoral divisions in this Union, particularly Ballingarry, and the subsequent withdrawal of it, has caused very serious mischief. The members of the Board of Guardians and the relieving officers appear to me to be, more or less, labouring under intimidation; and I am afraid there will be considerable difficulty in getting them to discharge their duties, in a proper manner. Almost immediately after the commencement of business, a mob of about 300 persons from the Ballingarry electoral division, marched in a body, to the gate of the workhouse, demanding admittance in a most threatening manner, and apparently inclined to be very violent. The hall was occupied by a guard of an officer and 16 of the constabulary, and Mr. Smith, the resident magistrate, with a company of infantry and half a troop of Dragoons soon after came up and occupied the ground in front of the building. The mob soon became less violent, and a few of the most intelligent of them having been sent for by the Guardians, preferred a variety of complaints against their relieving officer for striking them, the poorer classes, off the lists, and keeping on tradesmen and others, in better circumstances. This, however, they either could not or would not prove; but retired, promising that a few of them (four or six) would return on the next day of meeting, and give the necessary information. The mob quietly dispersed, at about 4 o'clock, P.M.

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Soon after, the Guardians, one by one, retired, and it was with the greatest difficulty I could induce two members to remain and attend to the routine business of the Union, which was not concluded till after 6 o'clock, P.M.

It is to be hoped that a recurrence of this scene will not again happen, and I trust that the Board of Guardians will recover the proper feeling of confidence and determination, to enable them to meet their difficulties. No exertion shall be spared on my part, to accomplish this point, and put matters on a proper footing in the Union.

REPLY to the above :—*November 29, 1847.*

WITH reference to that part of your report which relates to the difficulty occasioned by the indiscriminate out-door relief given in the first instance, I am directed by the Commissioners to call your particular attention to the circumstance, that the relieving officer is only authorised to grant relief provisionally, under the 7th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, in cases of sudden and urgent necessity. It will thus be perceived, that distress would not in itself, justify the relieving officer in granting relief under that section: the necessity which alone can render such relief legal, ought to be sudden as well as urgent.

The Commissioners think, that, if the point is fully understood in the Union, it may tend to prevent improper applications to the relieving officers.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain MAXWELL :—*November 29, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed extract, from the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Newcastle Union, on the 23rd instant, relative to complaints which were made against the Ballingarry relieving officer, that he issued relief to persons who were not destitute, and refused relief to persons really destitute: I am to request that you will be so good as to furnish the Commissioners with your observations on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from the GUARDIANS' MINUTES, 23rd November, 1847.

COMPLAINTS were made of the Ballingarry relieving officer, who was in attendance, that he issued relief to persons who were not destitute, and refused relief to persons really destitute.

The relieving officer being questioned as to those statements, acknowledged that he relieved persons whom he considered at the time, proper objects for relief; but, on further inquiry, discovered they were not so, and immediately struck them off his books.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 1, 1847.*

I HAVE made every inquiry in my power, into the efficiency of the Ballingarry relieving officer, and I consider that he is not fit for his situation. He is an excessively stupid man; his books and accounts are in a most unsatisfactory state, and he is so intimidated, that he has not done his duty. His district is a very poor one, and inhabited by a most lawless set of people; and it was in this district that the wanton abuse of out-door relief (reported on by Mr. Hancock, 17th November, 1847,) was committed.

I am given to understand from the most respectable authority, that this relieving officer has a very large connexion in Ballingarry, and that he has not been acting with impartiality.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BARRY, Relieving Officer :—*December 4, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that, having seen by the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Newcastle Union, on the 23rd ultimo, that complaints were made that you issued relief to persons who were not destitute, and refused relief to persons really destitute, they requested their Inspector, Mr. Maxwell, to furnish them with his observations

on the subject, and they have now received a report of your general unfitness for the office of relieving officer, and of your not having kept the accounts, and relieving officers' books, properly.

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In reference to this complaint, and the subsequent report, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you, that the Commissioners have caused a sealed order to be prepared for your removal from your office, and that the order will be forthwith issued, unless the Commissioners receive from you a satisfactory explanation of your conduct.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 1, 1847.*

I BEG to report, with regard to the poor-house of this Union, that I have made several minute inspections of it during the week. I found every part of it clean, and particularly well ventilated ; no fever in it, and, apparently, every attention paid to their duties by the master and matron. I had occasion to make one or more unimportant suggestions, which were at once attended to.

There are two houses in the town, occupied by children of both sexes. In my opinion, they are crowded to excess. Both these houses are very old, and in very bad repair.

The clerk of the Union appears to be most attentive to his duties, and has examined personally, into the accounts of the collectors every week.

Two or three of the relieving officers appear to be exerting themselves to do their duty ; but I am afraid the majority are not fit for their situation ; they are so completely under intimidation that they are not acting strictly up to their instructions. Some of them state they are paying assistants, to enable them to get through their business. I have again called their special attention to their instructions, and read them your communication of 29th November.

I have consulted with some of the Guardians well acquainted with the individual, and, from their representations and my own observation, I beg to report that Mr. Barry, relieving officer for the Ballingarry electoral division, is totally unfit for his situation.

The Board of Guardians met yesterday at the usual hour, when there was a good attendance, and several *ex-officio* Guardians present. Having called their particular attention to your circular of 26th August, they resolved to hasten the completion of the idiot wards, which, when finished, would afford accommodation to 50 paupers or upwards. They also resolved to appoint a Committee, to procure additional accommodation, and to report thereon at the adjourned meeting, to be held on Saturday next.

The Board also resolved to meet again the day following, viz., Wednesday, 1st December, for the purpose of examining and revising the relieving officers' books.

No step has yet been taken to follow out your orders of the 1st November, with regard to "out-door relief being given in cooked food," nor has "a task of work during eight hours at least, of every day" been demanded.

The applicants for admission to the poor-house, and for out-door relief, were very numerous ; but they were not inclined to violence, or used any threats. There was no attendance of police or military required.

The collectors of the poor-rates are represented to me as active respectable men, and I believe they have been using every exertion to collect the rates.

I am informed, from the most respectable sources, that there exists no combination against the payment of rents in this district. The holders of small portions of land are giving up their land, in considerable numbers, in order to obtain out-door relief. I have particularly cautioned the relieving officers to ascertain, personally, each applicant's circumstances.

Several outrages have occurred in this neighbourhood : houses have been attacked, arms seized, cattle slaughtered ; and, on Monday night last, a conflict took place, in which one man was killed, another wounded and taken prisoner, and the head constable of police wounded by a bullet in the arm.

REPLY to the above :—*December 4, 1847.*

IN reference to your remarks regarding the crowded state of the house in the town, which have been hired by the Guardians, and which are occupied

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by the children from the workhouse, the Commissioners request you to direct your particular attention to these houses, and to name to the Commissioners the maximum number, which in your opinion, they ought to contain, as the Commissioners are fully prepared to affix a limit to the number by a sealed order.

In regard to the relieving officer of Ballingarry, the Commissioners have addressed him, acquainting him that they have received a report of his general unfitness for the office, and of his not having kept the accounts and relieving officers' books properly; and they have acquainted him that they have caused a sealed order to be prepared for his removal from his office; and that the Commissioners will issue the order forthwith, unless they receive from him a satisfactory explanation of his conduct.

The Commissioners will pursue a similar course with any of the relieving officers whom you may report to them as incompetent, or unfit for the office.

MR. BARRY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 6, 1847.*

WITH reference to your communication of the 4th instant, calling on me, under pain of removal, to furnish you with a satisfactory explanation of my conduct, in the execution of my duty as relieving officer of the district of Ballingarry, I have most respectfully to say, that this communication takes me by surprise, as I have always endeavoured to discharge my duty in that capacity faithfully and unexceptionally.

I admit that there had been a malicious complaint made to the Newcastle Board by persons to whom I had denied provisional relief; but I deny, in the strongest manner, that I have knowingly given any relief to persons not really destitute, or denied it to those who were really so; and because I had fearlessly denied relief to those whom I did not consider really destitute, and struck off others from the lists who imposed themselves as such, they have falsely forged a malicious libel against me, which, by your circular, appears to have been placed on the minutes of the Newcastle Board. Now I most solemnly aver, that that report is false and malicious; and that it has been placed on the minutes without due investigation; and that if I had not believed such report to be quashed as untenable, when presented to the Board, I would insist on its being duly investigated on oath; for I conscientiously believe that it could not, in any manner, be virtually sustained; and so far as this, I must say that I am very unjustly dealt with.

As to the report and relief lists not being, in some instances, duly filled up, I must say that if there are some defects, which I presume are few, particularly in those of which I have charge, because they have been adjudged unexceptionable by the Board, this is principally owing to want of time, as it is impossible for one individual to attend both to the due filling of books and investigation of the various calls of this wide and extensive district, which is as large as two, with an amount of distress as great.

As to the Commissioners having caused a sealed order to be prepared for my removal unless I could satisfactorily explain my conduct, I must say that I feel sorry that any spurious report, without due investigation, should force the Commissioners to this necessity; and that were I to have knowingly transgressed any law or rule which I was enjoined to observe, in the execution of my duty, or if I had shamefully, as was falsely reported, given relief to persons not really destitute, while I denied it to those who were really so, I would not wait to be ignominiously removed, but should be the first to notify my resignation; but I have never, to my knowledge, transgressed in any manner, and therefore this proceeding considerably pains me, not for the value of the troublesome and unprofitable situation I now hold, and which I am willing—even happy—at any moment to yield up; but because an opinion should be had of me, even by the Commissioners, so foreign to my feelings, and I must say, to common justice.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain MAXWELL:—*December 8, 1847.*

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WITH reference to your communication of the 1st instant, relative to the incapacity of the relieving officer for Ballingarry district, in Newcastle Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed communication, which they have received on the subject from Mr. Barry, the relieving officer in question; and I am to request that you will be so good as to report to the Commissioners, in detail thereon.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 11, 1847.*

IN compliance with your communication of December 8, requesting me to report on annexed letter of Mr. Barry, relieving officer of Ballingarry, I beg to observe, that many complaints were made to me of this man's incapacity and partiality in general, but I failed in getting any one to give me positive, direct information on the subject, complainants always saying that they were afraid to do so.

However, on consulting two persons of the most unquestionable respectability, who know Mr. Barry well, I was informed (under a promise not to reveal their names) that he was a most unfit man for his office; that, among other instances, he had given out-door relief to a mason and another man while in employment; and that he had a large connexion in the district, which militated against his acting with independence and impartiality.

The acting chairman of the Board of Guardians informed me, that on proceeding to initial his books, he found them so slovenly and in such a state of confusion, that he refused to do so. He since has made out entirely new relief lists. I had to call the attention of the Board of Guardians, at their last meeting, to the manner in which his Receipt and Expenditure Book was kept.

In some instances, Mr. Barry certainly did refuse to submit applicants for relief very properly, and the Board of Guardians confirmed his decisions; but in my opinion, he is a slow man, and has not the decision, requisite to fulfil his arduous duties. His district is very large, very populous, very poor, and inhabited by a most lawless people, and he is evidently labouring under intimidation.

The Board, at their last meeting, passed a resolution, to apply for the Commissioners' sanction to appoint a second relieving officer for the Ballingarry electoral division.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. HANCOCK on the Resolution of the Guardians to apply for sanction to the appointment of a second Relieving Officer for the Ballingarry district.

It appears to me the present relieving officer is not competent to discharge his duty; previous to a second being appointed, one good and efficient officer should be tried.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the GUARDIANS, Newcastle Union:—
December 13, 1847.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, for the information of the Board of Guardians of Newcastle Union, that they deemed it right to call upon Mr. Barry, relieving officer of the Ballingarry division, for an explanation in regard to the complaints made against him, as recorded in the Guardians minutes of the 23rd ultimo. They have received a reply from him which they did not consider satisfactory, and they have since communicated with Mr. Hancock and Mr. Maxwell on the subject; and under all the circumstances of the case, they deemed it right to remove Mr. Barry from his situation.

A copy of a letter this day addressed to him on the subject, is enclosed.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BARRY, Relieving Officer:—*December 13, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, explaining the manner

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At the same time, the Commissioners are far from intending to reflect on your moral character, and they regret to be obliged to take the step which they have now adopted. But the Commissioners cannot but feel that the interests of the public service are paramount to all personal considerations, and in the present state of the Newcastle Union, the Commissioners regard it as their bounden duty not to acquiesce in the continuance in office of an individual who is unequal to the emergencies of the occasion.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 6, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, 7th inst.

Having called their attention again to Mr. Hancock's report on the manner in which out-door relief, under the Commissioners' order of the 1st November, had been administered in this Union, and having inquired whether any steps had since been taken to comply with the conditions of that order, I was informed that the cost of superintendence and material had hitherto prevented their demanding a task of labour from the able-bodied; but that they were anxious to meet the wishes of the Commissioners as far as possible; and a resolution was passed to form a Committee to consider the subject.

With regard to relief being given in cooked food, it was stated that the distress was so great, and the districts so extensive, that this would be attended with very great expense; that it had been tried under the Relief Commission, and had failed.

I was also informed, that the Committee formed on the last day of meeting for that purpose, had not yet succeeded in obtaining extra workhouse accommodation; but they were making every exertion to accomplish that point.

The Guardians had also called on their contractor to complete the idiot wards as soon as possible, which would give considerable accommodation. He states they will be ready for occupation in a month.

I also called the attention of the Guardians to the subject that their out-door relief, last week, amounted to 580*l.*, whereas the collection of the rates was only 463*l.* Also that the numbers of out-door relief recipients was increasing, particularly in the Ballingarry electoral division. In the week ending 13th November, 1847, 3376 persons received 10 tons of meal. In the last week, ending Saturday, 4th December, 5176 persons received 8 tons 15 cwt.

I regret to find that, with one exception, in no part of this Union is there any employment for the labouring class.

REPLY to the above:—*December 13, 1847.*

As regards the requirements of the Commissioners' order of the 1st instant, that all relief under it be given in cooked food, and that every able-bodied male person relieved under it shall be set to perform a task of work, I am to state that the Commissioners think that the experience under the Temporary Relief Act, has shown clearly that cooked rations can be provided at a comparatively moderate expense, and at the same time are not so attractive to paupers as raw food. Under these circumstances, the providing cooked food should, in the Commissioners' opinion, be insisted on.

The Commissioners think also that there will be no difficulty in providing work for the able-bodied, if the Guardians are in earnest in endeavouring to provide it; and the weekly expense of the out-door relief, under the present system, is so great, that the Commissioners are convinced that it is peculiarly desirable that a labour-test should be enforced, in order to deter the indolent and careless from endeavouring to subsist on the labour of the honest and industrious rate-payers.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 15, 1847.*

I BEG to state that during the past week, I have caused the walls inside the workhouse to be thoroughly swept and whitewashed, and also that the

windows should be cleaned; and I have insisted on as much employment as possible being given to the able-bodied inmates of the house. I have given directions that stone-breaking, gravelling, and rolling walks, digging and raking grounds, weeding, &c. &c., be carried on, when the weather will admit.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, 14th inst., I called their attention to your communication of the 13th December, pointing out the very great expenditure of their present system of out-door relief; and I again urged on them the advantage of complying with your instructions on that head, and I am happy to say that a resolution was passed that cooked food should henceforward be issued to the able-bodied in the electoral divisions of Ballingarry and Abbeyfeale, and Committees were formed to that effect. In Ballingarry there are two boilers ready, but I understand that there are few, if any, in the other electoral divisions of the Union.

A Committee was also formed to clear the house of the impotent class, and widows with children, who had homes to go to, to make room for the admission of the able-bodied.

The Guardians have taken a house, about a quarter of a mile from the workhouse, at a rent of 40% per annum. This will accommodate, I am informed, 80 persons.

The Board expressed satisfaction at the inmates of the workhouse being much employed, and begged that I would obtain the sanction of the Commissioners, that they should be employed on an unfinished road close to the house. This road was commenced under the Labour Rate Act, and leads to the churchyard.

I again called the attention of the Guardians to the manner in which the relieving officer of the Ballingarry electoral division carried on his duties. By the returns sent in by that individual, it appears that in the week ending 27th November, 1847, 5176 persons received 8 tons, 15 cwt., 2 qrs. of meal, at a cost of 96% 6s. 1½d., and in the week ending the 4th December, 1847, 2868 persons received 8 tons, 19 cwt., 1 qr. of meal, at a cost of 98% 8s. 3½d.

On calling on Mr. Barry, the relieving officer, for an explanation, he could give none; he said that the latter number of persons (2868) was a mistake, and that he thought the other was also an error. This past week, ending 11th inst., he has given no return of number of persons at all. He stated that he had too much to do, and could not make up his books himself, but had employed a clerk. I likewise pointed out to the Guardians that the debtor and creditor sides of his receipt and expenditure book were not balanced. On this subject he appeared to be most ignorant. Before the close of the proceedings a letter was received from him, tendering his resignation to the Guardians.

The medical officer attended and stated, that in his opinion, the workhouse would not contain more than 615 persons, with a due regard to health. I annex a letter on the subject, received from that officer.

I have satisfaction in reporting that one of the Guardians came forward, in spite of the intimidation so prevalent in this country, and preferred a charge against Mr. Madigan, one of the relieving officers, for having on his relief lists 17 persons having land or employment, or other means of support. A Committee of the Board was formed to meet on Saturday next at 11 o'clock, to investigate into this case. I shall make a full report to the Commissioners on the subject. This relieving officer states, "that he has been repeatedly threatened, and that his life is not safe."

I beg to state that there is no Guardian for Rathronan or Mahoonah electoral division.

ENCLOSURE.

Dr. PEIRCE to, Captain MAXWELL:—December 14, 1847.

FEARING there may be any misconception about what I stated in the Board-room this day, relative to the present accommodation of workhouse, I take the liberty of re-stating my opinion to you.

On the 22nd July I wrote to the Commissioners, in answer to a letter No. 19857 D/47, stating that 600 was the number which I considered the house should contain. I did so after very fully ascertaining, by accurate measurements, the extent of the dormitories, &c., and I found that, after I had deducted from the 600, the numbers which the hospital and infirm wards should contain, that 472 would remain to be accommodated in the dormitories, and leave only a breadth of 2 feet 4½ inches to each individual. More than that number, I cannot be convinced, can be maintained in those rooms with a due regard to health.

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And the Commissioners, in a letter to me No. 21241 D/47, concurred in my views, and expressed their thanks for my communication. The only additional dormitory since given has been the shed in the men's yard, used in summer as a day-room, and now vacated, the men having got the boys' school-room as a day-room. This would give room for about 15 beds; it is about 12 feet shorter than the shed in the women's yard of same breadth, that contains 18 beds very crowded.

I therefore say, that the proper number to limit admissions to should be 615, and I feel convinced the Commissioners will concur in my opinion when they read this letter. Shortly the infirmary accommodation can be increased, the building over the idiot ward on one side, being nearly finished.

REPLY to the above:—*December 20, 1847.*

WITH reference to that part of your report in which you state that the Board requested you would obtain the sanction of the Commissioners, to employ the able-bodied inmates of the workhouse on an unfinished road close to the house I am to state, that the Commissioners do not recommend the employing the able-bodied paupers out of the workhouse premises, as this has been found by experience, to weaken materially the effectiveness of the workhouse test to the able-bodied men, and to lead likewise to numerous abuses.

The Commissioners take this opportunity of stating, that the order authorizing out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, in the Newcastle Union, will not continue in force after the 31st instant; and the Commissioners request you, therefore, to inquire, and report whether any further order of the same kind appears to you necessary; and, if so, for what period of time (if any) short of two months, you recommend the issuing of such an order.

The Commissioners will give due consideration to the views of the medical officer, as expressed in the letter which accompanied your report, in regard to the number of inmates the workhouse is calculated to contain, and they will take such steps as may be requisite in regard to the vacancies in the office of Guardians for the Rathronan and Mahoonah electoral divisions.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 18, 1847.*

I BEG to state, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I attended a Committee of the Poor Law Guardians, appointed to meet this day, for the purpose of investigating into a charge brought by one of the Guardians against Mr. Madigan, relieving officer of the Mahoonah electoral division, for keeping several persons on his lists who were not entitled to receive out-door relief.

Five cases were proved, and struck off, as having land, employment, &c.; 8 cases being doubtful, tradesmen having partial employment, &c., and others, a doubt existing as to their really having given up their holdings; were offered relief in the workhouse. These persons, with, perhaps, one or two exceptions, will not avail themselves of the offer. One charge was preferred against the relieving officer for having two females on his relief lists who are in service; this could not be proved at the time, but I have begged of the farmers with whom they lived, to attend at the next meeting of Guardians, and give evidence on the subject.

Another case was that of a man having two acres of land, a cow, oats, turnips, cabbage, &c., on the out-door relief lists; this man brought two better class farmers to prove such was not the case. These stated that he had no property whatever, and was utterly destitute, but being put on their oaths by me, acknowledged that the land was sold yesterday (to one of them), and the cow also; but he was still in possession of oats, turnips, vegetables, &c.

In most of the cases the relieving officer seems to have been satisfied with receiving a recommendation in writing, from the neighbours, and not making himself thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances of the parties. This young man, Madigan, is intelligent enough, and bears a good character; but he states, that he is under such intimidation that he dare not refuse to submit any applicant. He was warned by the Guardians to examine into these cases, and to strike them off his books, and on his non-compliance, the matter was to be brought under my notice and that of the Board of Guardians.

I am happy to say that a few of the Guardians are paying considerable attention to the subject of the out-door relief in the Union, and express the greatest anxiety to put a stop to the gross abuses that are existing. In the village of Ballingarry alone there are 1690 inhabitants, and no less than 1519 are now on the relief lists: of these, 126 are tradesmen.

I hope that, by establishing the cooked food system, administered daily, and exacting some labour in return for it, this number will be very considerably diminished.

After the conclusion of the investigation, the Committee proceeded to select a number of the inmates of the house, widows with children, &c., to receive relief outside.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. MADIGAN, Relieving Officer:—*December 21, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to inform you that they have received a report from their Temporary Inspector, Mr. Maxwell, in which he states that an investigation was instituted into a charge preferred against you, of keeping several persons on your lists who were not entitled to receive out-door relief in the Newcastle Union; that five cases were proved, and struck off, as having land; that eight were doubtful, as having partial employment, and who, with one or two exceptions, refused relief in the workhouse; that a charge was also preferred against you of having on the relief list, two females who are in service, as well as a man holding two acres of land, a cow, oats, and turnips; and that it was proved that this man had only sold his land and cow on the previous day, but that he is still in possession of the oats and turnips.

Mr. Maxwell also states that, in most cases, you are satisfied with a recommendation in writing, without making yourself thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances of each case to be relieved.

In reference to this report, I am to state that the Commissioners rely on your avoiding similar omissions of duty for the future; and, more especially, they request that you will comply strictly with the Commissioners' general order of the 2nd August last, by visiting applicants for relief at their own houses, in order to become thoroughly acquainted with all the circumstances of their case.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 5, 1848.*

At the meeting of the Board of Guardians, held yesterday, I again called the attention of the Guardians to the state of their collection, and pointed out to them, that their expenditure for the past week exceeded the collection by 309*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*; also, that the collection has been less since last meeting, when the collectors were called upon to make increased exertions. In obedience to orders, two of the collectors sent in returns of the 10 highest rate-payers, defaulters in each electoral division of their district. Orders were given that all these should be proceeded against at once. The third collector did not send in his account, nor list of defaulters.

In compliance with your instructions, I again called on the Guardians to comply with the conditions of the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied, upon which the Guardians expressed "their willingness to enforce the labour test, if they saw how that could be accomplished; they urged the enormous expense of setting 5000 or 6000 people to work scattered over this large Union—the danger to the peace of the country in bringing together large masses of people—the great scarcity of stones—their having no legal right to seek them in quarries or on the land, nor of breaking them on the roads or on the fields." And they still adhere to their resolution of 21st December, 1847, a copy of which was furnished me, and which I annex.

With regard to cooked food, a resolution was passed that an assistant be appointed for each depôt, at a salary of 7*s.* 6*d.* per week, for the purpose of issuing the meal, in a steeped state, three times in the week (instead of once only), and that the sanction of the Commissioners to this arrangement be requested.

To avoid delay the assistants were at once named.

Newcastle Union.

In obedience to your directions, I issued summons to the parties who were intimidated last Thursday. One of the Guardians informed me, that one of these men had since been severely beaten.

I am receiving daily anonymous letters complaining of the abuses committed, and connived at by the relieving officers of three or four districts. Their universal excuse is, "that their districts are too large, that they are imposed on, that it is impossible to attend to all their duties, &c." In my opinion they are, with a few exceptions, more or less labouring under intimidation, and are, therefore, incapable of acting with straightforward impartiality.

The Relief Lists for the electoral division of Ballingarry were not made up, through neglect on the part of the late relieving officer, Mr. Barry, and of the temporary one, Mr. Donovan. At my recommendation, an order was made that they should not be paid their salary until that duty had been done.

The Guardians have taken steps to hire a large dwelling-house, in the village of Ballingarry.

In consequence of the crowd outside the workhouse having been very turbulent and menacing yesterday, during the sitting of the Board, and one of the Guardians at the door of the workhouse having been refused leave to go home until the applicants were relieved, I suggested to the Chairman to apply in future to the civil power for a sufficient force of constabulary to keep order.

I regret to state that fever is on the increase in some parts of this Union, and that the country is in a very disturbed state. I am informed that while one of the Guardians was attending the Board on Tuesday the 28th ultimo, his house was attacked, and money demanded and taken, for the purpose of defending the prisoners to be tried at the Special Commission in Limerick.

ENCLOSURE.

RESOLVED,—That on full consideration of the suggestions of the Poor Law Commissioners, directing that the able-bodied labourers should be employed in stone-breaking as a test of destitution, we are of opinion that that mode of employment, in every instance, would not answer the purpose intended; that it would involve a vast deal of expense in the way of overseers, &c.; that we therefore call the attention of the Commissioners to the letters of two members of our Board, viz., William Cox, Esq., and Captain Shelton, forwarded to the Commissioners on the 7th October last,* as we approve of the suggestions of these gentlemen as to the mode of employing the able-bodied poor, or in the event of the Commissioners declining to adopt the mode of employment suggested in the letter alluded to, we are of opinion that the next best test is to employ the able-bodied poor on reproductive works on the farms on which they are at present located, the work to be approved of by an officer to be appointed by this Board, one-fourth of the cost of said work to be paid by the persons benefited by said work, to be lodged with the treasurer in aid of rates, to be disposed of in compliance with the directions of the Commissioners; and, we pledge ourselves, if either mode, or anything having a similar object, be sanctioned by the Commissioners, to co-operate with the local Inspector in making the labour test as effective as possible, as we are of opinion that without some such test the entire property of the Union will be absorbed in rates.

R. MAXWELL, T. P. L. I.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 5, 1848.*

I BEG to state that I urged the Guardians of this Union, by every argument in my power, to fully carry out the conditions of the out-door relief to the able-bodied order.

The difficulties attending the issue of cooked food were got over after some opposition, but to save expense, they beg the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners to the meal being merely steeped.

This, in my opinion, will be attended with good results, viz., in the prevention of barter, and the improved wholesomeness of the food, while none but the really destitute, will come a long distance three times per week for the rations in a moist state.

But I regret to state, that the Guardians pleaded their inability to carry out the labour test, according to the Commissioners' wishes, for several reasons, chiefly the expense and scarcity of stones, and the turbulence of the lower orders in this country.

This latter feeling I conceive is the principal one, and is founded on the

* This letter is inserted in the previous Series, p. 170.

scenes of outrage and insubordination, during the Public Relief Works last winter. Newcastle Union.

The Guardians state, that invariably whenever large bodies of the peasantry have been collected together, schemes of mischief, and combinations to intimidate, are formed; this I have reason to know is the case in other parts of Ireland.

In my opinion, this fear of the lower orders is prevalent throughout the whole of this country, and has long been so, and until confidence is restored matters will never improve in this Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—*January 10, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received a report from their Inspector, Captain Maxwell, in which he details objections which were urged by the Board of Guardians of the Newcastle Union, at their meeting on the 4th instant, to the employment of the paupers in stone-breaking, and in which he states, that the Guardians still adhered to their resolution of the 21st ultimo, a copy of which Captain Maxwell forwarded to the Commissioners. That resolution was as follows :—

“Resolved,—That on full consideration of the suggestion of the Poor Law Commissioners, directing that the able-bodied labourers should be employed in stone-breaking as a test of destitution, we are of opinion that that mode of employment in every instance would not answer the purpose intended; that it would involve a vast deal of expense in the way of overseers, &c.; that we therefore call the attention of the Commissioners to the letters of two members of our Board, viz., William Cox, Esq., and Captain Shelton, forwarded to the Commissioners on the 7th October last, as we approve of the suggestions of these gentlemen as to the mode of employing the able-bodied poor; or, in the event of the Commissioners declining to adopt the mode of employment suggested in the letter alluded to, we are of opinion that the next best test is to employ the able-bodied poor on reproductive works on the farms on which they are at present located; the work to be approved of by an officer appointed by this Board; one-fourth of the cost of said work to be paid by the persons benefitted by said work, to be lodged with the treasurer in aid of rates, to be disposed of in compliance with the directions of the Commissioners; and we pledge ourselves if either mode, or anything having a similar object, be sanctioned by the Commissioners, to co-operate with the local Inspector in making the labour-test as effective as possible, as we are of opinion that without some such test the entire properties of the Union will be absorbed in rates.”

In reference to that resolution the Commissioners desire to state, that in recommending stone-breaking as the kind of employment which should be offered to the destitute able-bodied poor in the first instance, the Commissioners did not contemplate the permanent employment of many thousands of individuals in nothing else but stone-breaking. The view which the Commissioners have taken of this subject has been that whereas all experience has shown that the granting relief to able-bodied men without some rigid test, is liable to great abuses; and whereas stone-breaking is less attractive, and more capable of effectual superintendence than any other kind of out-door labour on a large scale, it is advisable for Guardians to begin by offering stone-breaking to applicants, when there is no longer any vacant workhouse accommodation in the Union. In fact, the Guardians will perceive that the Commissioners, in their letter of the 8th October, carefully abstained from expressing any opinion as to the future employment of paupers in completing the unfinished roads, although they expressed their unwillingness that the question of adopting such a course should be raised at that time, before the experiment of stone-breaking to applicants had been tried.

Three months have now elapsed since the Commissioners wrote that letter to the Chairman of the Newcastle Board of Guardians, and although the Guardians have had authority since the 1st of November to grant out-door relief to destitute able-bodied men, and have given such relief accordingly, they have not apparently exacted any work from those by whom such relief was received.

The Commissioners now desire to state explicitly, that supposing no impediment is raised in any other quarters, they will not object to the employment hereafter of paupers in the Newcastle Union in completing unfinished roads, if the Guardians will, in the first instance, give a fair trial to the stone-breaking test, and if the test is not found to reduce materially the number of applicants for relief.

Newcastle Union.

With regard to the expense in paying overseers of work, the Commissioners have to express their thorough conviction that efficient superintendents of labour would save to the Union far more than the amount of their own salaries by preventing imposition and fraud. Similar objections were raised in England in 1834 to the expense of workhouses; but notwithstanding the immediate expense arising from the building of workhouses, and the salaries to workhouse officers, the total reduction of expense in the first year was in some Unions 20, 30, and even 50 per cent. In fact, it is to be borne in mind, that if any system of relief is attractive, one of the chief sources of expenses arises from the great number of improper objects to whom such relief is administered, and hence arrangements by which this abuse is checked are found in the long run to be really economical, although the system of management may be apparently expensive.

The Commissioners therefore request the Guardians to give a fair trial to the experiment of stone-breaking as a test of destitution in the Newcastle Union; and if the number of able-bodied men on the relief lists still remains the same as before, the Commissioners will endeavour to forward the views of the Guardians in reference to the completion of the unfinished roads.

The Commissioners have only to add, that they would not, under any circumstances or conditions, deem themselves justified in permitting the employment of paupers on private farms. It is an essential principle in any sound system of Poor Law administration that relief and wages should be kept totally distinct, and that a destitute able-bodied man should either be relieved wholly by the Union, or employed wholly by the party for whom he works. The Commissioners are convinced that the infringement of this principle would lead to pernicious consequences, and by making employers of labour suppose that they had a pecuniary interest in introducing a system of out-door relief to able-bodied men, it would eventually entail an enormous burden on the poor-rates which the property of the Union would be wholly unable to support.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain MAXWELL:—*January 10, 1848.*

I AM to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter which the Commissioners have this day addressed to the Board of Guardians.

I am at the same time to state, that the supposed difficulties of the Guardians, respecting the introduction of stone-breaking, will be found to vanish, if the Guardians will endeavour *bonâ fide* to surmount them.

The Guardians should contract with proper parties for the purchase of road metal, and should appoint overseers of the workhouse, under the name of assistant relieving officers, who should take care that each able-bodied man has a definite task of work every day, and is compelled, while receiving relief, to break stones to such smallness as will render it possible to pass each of them through a ring of a certain diameter. In order to prevent confusion, the system might be commenced with 40 or 50 men, and the number might be gradually increased. If this plan be fairly tried, without reducing materially the numbers on the Relief Lists, and if you certify that it has been carried into execution to your satisfaction, the Commissioners will be prepared to act on the accompanying letter to the Guardians.

The Commissioners have to add, that they cannot seriously suppose that the Guardians will experience any material difficulty in obtaining a yard or field on which the metal may be broken. If, however, there is any insurmountable difficulty on this head, the ground connected with the workhouse can be used for this purpose by the Guardians. The Commissioners, however, are aware that the use of the workhouse grounds is open to several objections, and they only suggest it as a last resource.

In conclusion, the Commissioners cannot too strongly impress upon your mind the importance of seeing that none but really efficient men, are appointed superintendents of labour. The value of the whole system depends on this point, and unless the superintendents of labour perform their duty with fearlessness and honesty, the arrangements for stone-breaking will degenerate into inextricable confusion and jobbing.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 9, 1848.*

I BEG to state that an adjourned meeting of the Board of Guardians was held yesterday, when four of the seven witnesses I had summoned attended.

Several charges were preferred against Mr. Madigan, relieving officer of the Mahoonagh electoral division.

CASE I.

Daniel Kelleher receiving rations for three instead of two.

The relieving officer allowed this to go on for 11 weeks — on the 25th December corrected the abuse. This was not till after the first complaints were made to me, against this relieving officer.

CASE II.

John Murphy receiving rations for three children instead of two.

The relieving officer never went to this man's house. Sworn evidence was produced that Murphy has three children.

CASE III.

John Riordan, a blacksmith, in partial employment, and receiving 2s. per week for the use of his house as relieving officer's station, receiving rations for himself, a journeyman, two apprentices, a servant woman, his wife, and six children, all living in the same house.

The whole of this charge was proved on oath. One respectable farmer states, on oath, that this man's forge is in constant employment, and that he paid him 19s. on Christmas-day for smith's work. Another evidence proved that Riordan has two cows. This abuse must have gone on under the observation and with the connivance of the relieving officer, in the very house he was frequenting on duty.

CASE IV.

Daniel Riordan, brother to the above named, receiving rations, though he has upwards of an acre of land.

The relieving officer allowed this abuse to go on for 10 weeks, but on the 19th December, (the day after the first investigation I held on his conduct,) this man's name was struck off.

CASE V.

William Long received relief in Mahoonagh electoral division, whereas he belongs to Druncallagher.

It was proved that William Long does reside in Mahoonagh.

CASE VI.

Pat. Hayes receiving rations though in possession of three acres of land.

The relieving officer allowed this abuse to go on for 10 weeks. He was struck off on the 1st January, 1848.

These cases were investigated with every attention and inquiry.

In my opinion, this man is unfit for the situation of relieving officer. He has been slurring over his duty, and acting under intimidation or under the orders of others; but in the case of Riordan, the blacksmith, I am of opinion that he is guilty of conniving at a gross job.

The Vice-Chairman thanked the rate-payers who had thus come forward to check abuse, and pointed out to them, that by such a straightforward, determined course alone could they save themselves from ruin.

I am in hopes this example will be followed—but before the meeting broke up, a farmer holding 25 acres came before the Board, and made a most pressing demand for out-door relief for his herdsman and labourer. This was of course refused, and I explained to him the rules laid down by the Poor Law Commissioners on that subject.

Newcastle Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the GUARDIANS, Newcastle Union:—
January 13, 1848.

THE Commissioners have received a report from Mr. Maxwell relative to the investigation held by him on the 8th instant, into certain charges preferred against Mr. Madigan, relieving officer of the Mahoonagh electoral division of the Newcastle Union.

It appears that it was proved, that Daniel Kelleher was allowed to receive rations for three instead of two for a period of 11 weeks. That in the case of John Murphy, in which it was alleged that rations were allowed for three children instead of two, the relieving officer never went to Murphy's house. That Daniel Riordan and Pat. Hayes were allowed by him to receive rations for a period of 10 weeks, although the former possesses one acre, and the latter three acres of land.

The case of John Riordan, however, is the one to which the Commissioners wish most especially to call the attention of the Board of Guardians.

It appears that this person is a blacksmith, in partial employment, that he has two cows, and was receiving 2s. a-week for the use of his house, as a relieving officer's station. The relieving officer must of course, have been frequently at the house of Riordan in the discharge of his duty, and must have been aware (even without making the inquiries which in the due discharge of his duty he was bound to do) of the circumstances of the family; and yet he allows him to continue in the receipt of rations for himself, a journeyman, two apprentices, a servant woman, his wife, and six children.

Mr. Maxwell expresses his opinion, that Mr. Madigan is unfit for his situation—that he has been slurring his duty, and acting under intimidation, or under the orders of others. The Commissioners think that this opinion is fully borne out, by the several cases above referred to; but the case of John Riordan is of so flagrant a character, that the Commissioners have felt bound to mark their sense of the relieving officer's conduct, by issuing a formal order removing him from his situation.

A copy of the order is herewith enclosed.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. MADIGAN:—January 13, 1848.

THE Commissioners have received Mr. Maxwell's report relative to the investigation held by him on the 8th instant, into certain charges preferred against you as relieving officer of Mahoonagh electoral division of Newcastle Union.

From the circumstances detailed in this report, the Commissioners have arrived at the conclusion, that you have grossly neglected your duty as relieving officer, and that you are unfit for the situation. The case of John Riordan, which is one of the cases above referred to, is one of so serious a nature, that the Commissioners cannot too strongly mark their sense of your conduct in regard to it. The allowance of rations to this man for himself, a journeyman, two apprentices, a servant woman, his wife, and six children—although he was in receipt of 2s. a-week for the use of his house as your station, was in partial employment, and was possessed of two cows—cannot be accounted for on any other supposition, than that you connived at the fraud which was practiced; for it is impossible to suppose, that you could attend at his house frequently in the discharge of your duties (even supposing you did not make special inquiry into his circumstances, as you were bound to do), without becoming sufficiently acquainted with his circumstances, to convince you that he ought not to be relieved from the poor-rates.

Under all the circumstances of the case, the Commissioners have deemed it their duty to issue a formal order, under seal, removing you from your situation.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—January 12, 1848.

I SHALL feel obliged by receiving instructions from the Commissioners, as to whether any of the implements lent by the Board of Works, may be used in the employment of the inmates of the workhouse and extra houses.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 14, 1848.*

Newcastle Union.

I AM to state, that the implements may be so used, and that, if you recommend it, the Commissioners will ask for an additional quantity specially for the workhouse.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 12, 1848.*

AT the meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union yesterday, I again pointed out to them the gradual increase in their expenditure, and the decrease in the weekly collection of the rates. In the week ending 8th January, they had exceeded their collection, by a sum of 358*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* I then read to them my instructions on the subject, and brought to the special notice of the Board, that six of their ex-officio, and two of their elected Guardians, were defaulters. I then read out their names and called on them to set a good example, by at once paying their own rates, and unflinchingly to institute legal proceedings against the highest rate-payers who are in arrear.

A resolution was then passed, that the collectors be allowed a fortnight to complete their collection, and in default thereof, their securities be proceeded against.

I then read the Commissioners' letter of the 10th January, and called on them to make an attempt at carrying the labour-test into effect. I pointed out to them, that though the expense might be great at first, a great saving would undoubtedly be effected in the end, and the idle vicious habits of the lower orders, who have now so long been used to be fed without work, would be broken through and corrected.

As on all previous occasions, great objections were made to the whole system, some of them saying, "surely you would not expect a man to break stones all day for one pound of meal," &c., &c. But a resolution was at length passed, that the Board do comply with the Commissioners' orders, and meet on Thursday next, to establish the system in every electoral division in the Union. Superintendents were at once named, and ordered to attend on that day to receive instructions. Of that meeting's proceedings I shall make a full report.

An estimate of the rates necessary to be struck was produced. On a rate of 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound being proposed in the Abbeyfeale electoral division, the Guardians stated that 2*s.* in the pound would be sufficient, as a landed proprietor had commenced drainage on a considerable scale, by which alone 1000 (rations) daily will be saved; and that a sum of 200*l.* subscribed under the Relief Act would now be handed over in aid of the rates. Several of the Guardians stated, that large sums had been applied for also in other divisions, and on these grounds, they requested the rates might be reduced from 4*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.* 9*d.*, to 3*s.* To these proposals there was the greatest opposition, and a great deal of clamour and confusion ensued. It ended in the subject being deferred to next regular day of meeting.

I brought under the notice of the Board, that their contractor, Mr. O'Donnell, had handed over his contract in one electoral division to another person, whereby meal, damaged and full of chaff, had been distributed. (This I ascertained personally.) Mr. O'Donnell, on being called before the Board, stated that he regretted the circumstance, and should immediately remedy the evil by sending a supply of the best meal to that dépôt.

Arrangements were made to remove from the house several women whose husbands have been discovered to be living outside; also, several persons who have been a month in the workhouse. This will make a considerable number of vacancies in the house.

REPLY to the above:—*January 14, 1848.*

IN reference to your remarks respecting the breach of contract on the part of the meal contractor, I am to request that you will be so good as to obtain a copy of the contract, and forward it to the Commissioners; and I am also to request, that you will take evidence upon oath as to the bad meal, and forward it to this office.

Newcastle Union.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS.

IN compliance with instructions contained in your communication of 14th January, 1848, I beg to enclose a copy of the contract entered into by Mr. O'Donnell, with the Board of Guardians of this Union, and annex evidence on oath, as to the quality of the meal distributed in the Drumcolloher and Killougholehane Electoral Divisions on the 8th instant.

It appears that Mr. O'Donnell gave over that part of his contract (unknown to the Board of Guardians) to a person of the name of Hannigan, and this person supplied meal of a very inferior quality.

Some of it was produced to me; I tasted it, and found it sour and unfit for food.

ENCLOSURES.

*Copy of Contract.**Newcastle, December 28, 1847.*

I HEREBY offer to supply with best Indian corn meal, for two months, from the 2nd January, 1848, to the 1st March, 1848, the different electoral districts of the Newcastle Union, and to give security for delivering same at the several depôts mentioned underneath, in any quantities that may be required by the Guardians, at the rate of 10*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* per ton; and to distribute it from depôts provided by myself.

PATRICK O'DONNELL.

Abbeyfeale, Athea, Newcastle, Ardagh, Ballingarry, Grenagh, Feenagh, Castletown, Drumcolloher, Mahoonagh, Clounagh, Fohenagh, Killilagh, Newchapel, Rathcahill, Raheenagh, Tournafulla, workhouse.

R. MAXWELL, *T. P. L. Inspector.**Newcastle, January 19, 1848.*

THOMAS KANE, distributor at Killougholehane, sworn, states:—"Last Saturday week, 8th instant, the meal was brought by Mr. Hannigan's horses to the depôt. It was not fit for human food; it was dirty, and full of bran and chaff. I saw three quarts of bran sifted from half a stone of meal."

Matthew O'Brien, distributor in Drumcolloher, sworn, states:—"On Friday, 7th instant, meal was brought from Carass; none of which was distributed. The postmaster, Mr. Hannigan, distributed meal from his own house in the village; I saw that meal; it was as bad as bad could be; it was sour, and full of chaff."

James Drew (on the relief lists), sworn:—"Received his allowance of meal in Killougholehane Electoral Division; it was very bad, so bad that I could not eat one quarter of my breakfast."

R. MAXWELL, *T. P. L. Inspector.*REPLY to the above:—*January 22, 1848.*

IF Mr. O'Donnell showed a sample to the Board of Guardians, the Commissioners think he might be convicted of one of the offences described in section 8 of the Baker's Act; but otherwise not; and I am to request that you will take proceedings against the contractor under that section, if a sample were produced.

It is presumed, that the Guardians were not parties to the alleged transfer of the contract to Hannigan; and if not, the delivery by Hannigan must be held to be a delivery for O'Donnell.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 15, 1848.*

A MEETING of the Guardians was held on Thursday the 13th instant, when measures were taken to issue the food in a steeped state, at each depôt.

One pound of dry meal was weighed, and when steeped, was accurately measured.

A contract was then made for a supply of measures of half pound, one pound, and two pound sizes.

The assistants were called in and received their instructions, as to steeping and measuring the food.

Tenders for tubs were ordered to be advertised for.

The quarries in each locality were then selected, and orders made to the clerk

to write to the several proprietors for permission to raise stone, and break it on the spot. Newcastle Union.

Instructions to the superintendents of labour were drawn up, and directions given that each have a copy in writing given to him. I beg to annex a copy.

ENCLOSURE.

To obtain from the relieving officer of his electoral division, the names of 50 able-bodied single male paupers over 15 years of age, who are suspected of having some means, or of being tradesmen.

When leave is obtained to work in the quarries, these persons are to be set to work raising stone, and breaking it so as to pass through a two-inch ring. Each man is to break seven cwt. of stones per day.

The superintendent is to measure the broken stone at least once a week. He is particularly cautioned against allowing the workmen to practise the fraud of getting him to measure the stones twice over.

He is to endeavour to dispose of the broken stone to the best advantage, but previous to his doing so, he is to consult the Guardian of his electoral division, and send in to the Board of Guardians a statement of the highest prices he can obtain in his neighbourhood, for "brown stone," and for "lime stone." Any person selected by the relieving officers for labour who does not at once go to work, is to be struck off the relief lists.

When any of the workmen fail in their attendance at the work, their names are to be sent to the food distributor, in order that their allowance be stopped.

The superintendent is held responsible for all tools, implements, &c., committed to his charge.

REPLY to the above:—*January 19, 1848.*

THE Commissioners see no objection to these instructions, except that the superintendents are authorized to dispose of the broken stones, which the Commissioners think the Guardians should do themselves.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 15, 1848.*

I WAS requested by the Guardians at their adjourned meeting on Thursday last, 13th instant, to submit the following question to the Poor Law Commissioners, viz.:—Whether a labourer getting an occasional day's employment is thereby disqualified from receiving out-door relief, or whether his rations should be stopped for that day only?

REPLY to the above:—*January 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners think that as a general rule, a labourer getting an occasional day's employment in a week is not a proper object for relief during such week, by a Board of Guardians. Still peculiar cases may occur which may be opposed to the strict letter of this rule, although not repugnant to its spirit; and it is to be remembered that a relieving officer is always bound to give relief, in any case of necessity which is urgent and sudden.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 19, 1848.*

AT the meeting of the Board of Guardians held yesterday, I called their attention to the subject of the collection of the rates; though there is an increase on last week of 170*l.*, yet their expenditure exceeded the collection by a sum of 207*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* I was then informed that their legal adviser had written to the principal defaulters, and that every exertion would be made to enforce the payment of the rates.

Collector Hannigan came before the Board, and stated that in the electoral divisions of Kilmeedy, Drumcallagher, and Mahoonagh, three seizures made by him for poor rates were rescued from him; that he swore to this fact before a magistrate, Mr. Massey, of Glenwilliam, and applied to him for the protection of the police, but was refused. He apprehends further difficulty if assistance be not afforded him.

The subject of the new rate was then reconsidered according to notice at last meeting, when it was carried by the chairman's casting vote, that the reduced

Newcastle Union. rate agreed on at last meeting should be struck, and not the rate estimated by the clerk; that in their opinion, it will be sufficient to meet their liabilities, owing to the prospect of employment in the country, and from their conviction that the system of labour and steeped food for the able-bodied will reduce their expenditure very considerably. From this opinion the other half of the Guardians dissented, and called to their recollection "last summer, when they "were in a state of insolvency, without money or credit," for want of a sufficient rate having been struck.

Letters from the owners of several quarries in the Union were produced. There were five consenting and five refusing to let the Guardians have the use of their quarries. Nine have not yet answered the applications made to them. I have made arrangements to give out on Thursday the 20th, a supply of implements to the overseers of those electoral divisions in which leave has been given to raise stone, and I hope I shall be able to report soon, that the labour system is being tried in several electoral divisions. I apprehend that there may be some difficulty in getting stone to break in some districts, but I am informed that there are quantities of large stones (quarried during the Relief Works) lying on the unfinished roads throughout the Union.

William Cox, Esq., ex-officio Guardian, proposed to the Board, that in order to avoid expense, the present food distributors (who are provided by the contractor) be made to issue the meal in a moist state, and that the appointment of the assistants be rescinded, with the sanction of the Commissioners; this was agreed to, and it was voted that the distributors be paid 1s. per week for that duty.

One of the relieving officers, Mr. Minahan, stated before the Board that he had received a notice "not to attempt to go a certain road again, for his life "would be taken if he did." At his request I examined one of the paupers in the house, who stated "that he heard the threat made use of by a man who "had been struck off the Relief lists (naming him), and that he was ready to "swear to it, if necessary."

I called on the chairman and Board of Guardians to take this matter up, so as to make an example in the country, and show a determination to put down intimidation. To this a cordial assent was given; and I gave directions to Mr. Minahan to go to a magistrate at once on the subject, and warned the pauper to be prepared to give his evidence when called on.

REPLY to the above :—*January 26, 1848.*

IN reference to your statement that the assistance of the police had been refused to collector Hannigan, from whom three distresses were rescued, I am to state that the Commissioners have been informed that Mr. L. C. Smyth, R.M., Abbeyfeale, has been instructed to communicate with the Guardians, and afford all the aid in his power to the collection of the rate.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners approve of the course taken in regard to the threat held out to Mr. Minahan, one of the relieving officers.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 26, 1848.*

I HAVE to report an improvement in the collection of the poor-rates this last week, it having amounted to 762*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*; but still I pointed out to the Guardians that their expenditure exceeded this sum by 7*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, that they were heavily in debt to their meal contractor, and there was a large arrear of rates still uncollected. I was then informed that the collectors were exerting themselves in every way, and had impounded a quantity of cattle; and that several of the highest rate-payers had expressed their intention of paying up immediately, I am in hopes that next week's collection will be a further increase.

The proprietor of a very large house in Ballingarry, capable of containing 400 or 500 persons, came before the Board and offered the house at a moderate rent per month. The chairman expressed his disapproval of taking a house at such a distance and entailing the expense of matron, master, porter, and establishment, on the Union. The subject was in consequence deferred.

The only real objection to this house, in my opinion, is, that a committee of

ex-officio and electoral Guardians could not be got to attend to it ; and yet it is in the poorest and most populous part of the Union. Newcastle Union.

On the Commissioners' letter being read, begging the Board to reconsider the rate resolved on on the 11th instant, the subject was discussed at great length, when the feeling of the Board was expressed, that "it would be impossible to collect more than 3s. in the pound; that if a higher rate was demanded the whole country would be in despair, and a systematic opposition to it take place." The result was, that a further reduction of the rate resolved upon the 11th instant was made; the arrears to be added, as a matter of course; and it was further resolved to apply to the Commissioners "not to ask for the advances under the Temporary Relief Act till after next harvest, but to express their full intention of paying up all their liabilities."

In my opinion, this system of "putting off the evil day" is objectionable. The rates they have now resolved on will not carry them through four months.

The disinclination or determination not to give employment to the labouring class still exists. The feeling is, that unless all combine to do so, the few will not employ labourers and pay besides heavy rates for their neighbours' paupers.

A letter was read from Captain Kennedy, agent to the Devon estates, stating that he was ready to employ every able-bodied person in Ardagh electoral division, if all the other proprietors would do the same.

On inquiry from the relieving officers, the meal has not yet been moistened, they having waited for further instructions on that head; I accordingly gave directions to commence the system at once, and to issue no dry meal to the able-bodied class. Implements have been served out, and stone-breaking will be in operation in nearly every electoral division to-morrow, 27th instant.

There has been a great deal of delay and difficulty about quarries, several having been refused. In some localities the Guardians will have to purchase stone.

The Commissioners may rely on my doing all I can to get the steeped food and labour system into operation, but as yet I am meeting with delays, objections, and difficulties. I must say the severity of the weather has been against the commencement of the stone-breaking.

The country is still in a disturbed state; within a mile or two of this town houses have been attacked and robbed by armed gangs of men.

REPLY to the above:—*January 31, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are glad to perceive that there is an improvement in the collection of the poor-rate; but still the financial state of the Union must be regarded as unsatisfactory, unless the weekly receipts exceed, materially, the weekly expenses.

In regard to the objections made to hiring a house at Ballingarry as was proposed, I am to state, that the Commissioners think that it is a mistake to object to the hiring a house at Ballingarry, on the ground of the expenses of the staff. The expenses of the staff would be far more than compensated by the effect of the workhouse in preventing improper persons from receiving relief. In fact, a similar objection to the expense of a staff might be raised against the workhouse system of relief altogether, and yet it is well known that such a system is far more economical than any other, in reference to relief for able-bodied men.

The Commissioners would recommend you to endeavour to convince the chairman and Board of Guardians of the correctness of the views entertained by the Commissioners on the subject.

With reference to your observation as to the insufficiency of the rates now resolved on, to carry the Guardians through a period of four months, the Commissioners desire to refer you to the accompanying copy of a letter which they have addressed this day to the Board of Guardians on the subject.

The Commissioners also desire to observe, that there appears to be some mistake in regard to the letter from Captain Kennedy to which you refer. According to the letter as entered on the Guardians' minutes, Captain Kennedy's offer was, to employ every able-bodied labourer belonging to the Devon estate in the Ardagh district, provided other proprietors would each take charge of their own poor and keep them off the rates.

Newcastle Union.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the GUARDIANS :—*January 31, 1848.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had under consideration the resolution passed by the Newcastle Board of Guardians, on Tuesday the 25th instant, in which the Guardians set forth the rates which they finally propose to make in the several electoral divisions of Newcastle Union, and state that they have thought it expedient to limit the new rate to a maximum of 3s. in the pound.

The Commissioners are still of opinion that the original estimate submitted by the clerk was not excessive; and the Commissioners are apprehensive that the rates at present proposed will be inadequate to relieve the destitution of the Union, unless the new rates are collected with greater quickness than the rates which are shortly to be closed. Nevertheless, as the Commissioners cannot positively assume that this will not be the case, and as the Guardians have shown a disposition to make rates which, under ordinary circumstances, could not be regarded as low in amount, the Commissioners do not wish to interfere further with the discretion of the Guardians in reference to their rates for ordinary expenses.

In reference, however, to the repayment of advances under the Temporary Relief Act, the Commissioners have to observe that, until the loans under the Temporary Relief Act are repaid, the poor rates of each electoral division remain liable for the repayment of such loans. Now the Commissioners perceive that there are three divisions, viz., Abbeyfeale, Ardagh, and Newcastle, in which the Guardians propose to strike a less rate than the maximum of 3s. in the pound, and the Commissioners would suggest that the rates in each of those divisions should be raised to the same level as the rates in the other electoral divisions of the Union.

The Commissioners have only to add, that the due relief of the destitution in Newcastle Union will depend on the manner in which the new rates will be collected; and the Commissioners trust that the Guardians will make unusual exertions on this head, in order to compensate for their reduction of the amount in the pound originally proposed for those rates.

OLDCASTLE UNION.

MR. FLANAGAN, POOR LAW INSPECTOR, to the COMMISSIONERS—*Renewal of "Out-door Relief Order:—January 13, 1848.*

THE following summary will show the total number of paupers at present relieved in this Union under the 2nd section.

Number of cases 857, and number of persons 2522. The weekly expense in supporting that number is 82*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, a fraction under 8*d.* per head.

Out of the 13 electoral divisions into which the Union is divided, there are five, Crossakeel, Killallon, Loughcrew, Castlepollard, and Fore, where not a single able-bodied person has been relieved. The landlords and occupiers have, by their mutual co-operation, given labour and employment to all the destitute poor in their districts. I have every reason to believe that they will continue to do so, and so preserve their properties from heavy taxation, and maintain amongst the labouring classes that self-respect and reliance which is so surely endangered, if not lost wholly when recipients of public charity.

Out of the gross number of persons relieved, 1406, more than one-half of the whole, are from the electoral divisions of Virginia, Castlerahan, and Ballyjamesduff; and about one-fifth of the whole from the electoral division of Ballyjamesduff.

I believe, that except in the two divisions of Ballyjamesduff and Castlerahan, the number relieved has reached nearly, if not, entirely its maximum, and even in those divisions there is not much probability of any large increase to the number.

I endeavoured to obtain a return of the number of persons who had applied and been rejected, but have not been furnished with an accurate return, not more than 47 applicants appear to have been actually refused relief, many however did not apply to the Guardians, whose names had been taken down by the relieving officers.

My object in seeking for that return was to try the efficiency of the workhouse test, by comparison of the proportion of the numbers relieved to the gross number of applicants here and in the Unions of Mullingar and Mountmellick.

From the Mullingar Union I have obtained a return embracing five of the relief districts; in those five districts, the applications by heads of families were 2284, and the number relieved only 1359, or 3793 persons.

In the Mullingar Union the workhouse test was, until lately, very strictly enforced, and the actual number rejected bears a proportionally high ratio to the number of applicants.

I regret that I am unable to furnish more complete returns upon this, which would, I have no doubt, show the great efficacy and consequent necessity of applying the workhouse test.

Upon the whole, I would recommend the further renewal of the order under the 2nd section. It appears to me to have hitherto worked most efficiently, considering the great difficulty of organizing and bringing into action so novel and complicated a system.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to the Board of Guardians for their unremitting efforts to give full and unlimited efficacy to the law. The relieving officers have collectively and individually discharged their duties much to my satisfaction, and when the workhouse accommodation has been sufficiently enlarged by the erection of the new sheds, and full room is given for the application of the test, I have no doubt that the proportion of the numbers relieved under this Act to that under the Temporary Relief Act, will show strikingly the great superiority of the present system.

There is a section of the Board who have unfortunately taken up and acted upon most erroneous and dangerous views with respect to the nature of the work for the able-bodied. I shall attend in Oldcastle on Wednesday next, for the purpose of endeavouring to dissuade them from the course they have adopted, which, if persevered in, will necessarily pauperize all the labourers now supporting themselves upon their wages, and moreover open the door to the grossest jobbing and corruption.

Oldeastle Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*January* 15, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had under consideration a resolution of the Board of Guardians of the Oldeastle Union, on the 5th instant, in which they request that the order empowering them to grant out-door relief to able-bodied destitute poor, under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, may be renewed; the Commissioners have also had before them a report from their Inspector, Mr. Flanagan, on the subject, and in compliance with the Guardians' request, the Commissioners have resolved to issue an order renewing the former order for that purpose, for two months from the date of such order; and a copy of it is herewith enclosed.

LOUGHREA UNION:—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians.*

Mr. R. BOURKE, Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS:—
January 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, enclosing a communication from the Under Secretary's office relative to the death of a man named John Burke, in the Loughrea Union, and directing me to make inquiry into the circumstances of the case, and report the results to you, with reference especially to the question whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Board of Guardians of the Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

In reply I beg leave to inform you that from the evidence of head constable Phillips, it appears that on the morning of the 28th December, being informed that a person had been discovered dead in the woods at Marble-hill, he proceeded there in company with another man, and found the body of deceased, which was recognised by his companion as that of a person named John Burke, who resided with a relation named Martin, on the lands of Moyglass, in the electoral division of Ballynakill. The appearance of the man indicated great destitution; and it was the opinion of head constable Phillips, and of others who saw the body, that the man had died of want. On searching his person some grains of corn were found in his tobacco-box, and a note in his pocket from Mr. Redmond Burke, addressed to his brother, who is a Guardian, requesting him to procure him admission to the workhouse. This note was dated some days previously. The deceased's brother arrived at the spot some short time afterwards, and stated that he lived with his brother at Martin's, and supported himself by his labour, sharing what he got with his brother; that he knew his brother to be in great distress, and thought he had gone up on the day before to Marble-hill House to get charity; and that he felt much surprise at not seeing him return.

I cannot find any trace of Burke's having applied for relief to the Board of Guardians, the master of the workhouse, or the relieving officer. But it is right to state that the relieving officer was not appointed until the 18th December, and did not enter on his duties until the 3rd January.

I return the enclosure to your letter of the 6th.

ENCLOSURE.

County of Galway, E. R
Marble Hill, Loughrea, December 28, 1847.

THIS morning a poor man named John Burke was found dead in Marble-hill demesne. No inquest has as yet been held. It is the opinion of all who saw the body, that he died from want and destitution.

The Inspector-General,
 &c. &c.

GEORGE PHILLIPS, *Head Constable, 2nd Class.*

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*January 14, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire me to state, for the information of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, that it appears that the body of a poor man named John Burke, was found in the wood of Marble-hill demesne, on the 28th ultimo; and that on inquiry it has been ascertained that the person died of starvation. It further appears that there was found in his pocket a letter from Mr. Redmond Burke to a member of the Board of Guardians, recommending this destitute man as a fit object for relief.

The Commissioners have learned that the relieving officer for the district did not enter on his duties until the 3rd instant; and they cannot disguise from themselves the possibility that the death of John Burke might have been prevented if the Guardians had not so long delayed to comply with the Commissioners' order for the appointment of relieving officers.

The Commissioners however now only draw the attention of the Guardians to this calamitous occurrence in the hope that sufficient provision will be made for enabling the relieving officers to afford the aid which is authorized by law in all cases of urgent necessity, and that they will be held to a strict performance of the duties devolved on them.

Loughrea Union.

EXTRACT from GUARDIANS' MINUTES:—*January 22, 1848.*

IN reference to the Commissioners' letter of the 14th instant, the Guardians at their meeting of the 22nd January, stated in reply: That this man Burke, who was a tenant of Mr. Burke's of Moyglass, had been suffering from fever and dysentery, and objected to go into the poor-house, where he had been peatedly urged to go, so that if a relieving officer had been sooner appointed, it would have made no change in this poor man's case, as he absolutely refused to accompany his family into the poor-house, who at the time were receiving relief there, under the peculiar circumstance of the case, without the husband.

Mr. R. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 12, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 1st instant, forwarding a communication from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the death of a person named Michael Crevan, who is stated to have died of destitution and want at Borken, in the Loughrea Union, and directing me to make such inquiry into the circumstances, as would enable me to report the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief, either to the Board of Guardians, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers, I have now the honour to state to you that having examined a sub-constable, named James Baskerville, stationed at Borken, I am informed that on the evening of Sunday, the 26th December last, he saw the deceased lying in a bye road, about half a mile from the police barracks at Borken. He was surrounded by five or six men, who had brought him some straw to lie on, and had lighted a fire. The deceased appeared extremely feeble and emaciated, and complained of cramps in his legs, adding that he had eaten nothing for two days. The sub-constable bought him some bread at a neighbouring shop, and sent it to him; but in the morning when he passed again the man was dead, and the bread remained untouched at his side. The constable further states, that the deceased said he belonged to Athenry; but had been begging in the neighbourhood of the place where he died for a fortnight before his decease, and that he did not know where to get a ticket for the workhouse, and was moreover too feeble to go there. Some hours after he had seen him dead, the constable reported the circumstance to the relieving officer, whom he met at a neighbouring house. This officer, whose name is William Proctor, stated that no previous application had been made to him by the deceased, or on his behalf, for relief. That at the period of his death, he had not entered on his duties as relieving officer, having been appointed by the Guardians on the 18th December, and not confirmed till the 1st January, and that it was not till the 3rd of that month that he opened an office for receiving applications for relief.

Upon examination of the Application Books at the workhouse, I cannot find that any person of the name of Michael Crevan applied for admission, either to the Board of Guardians or the master. A person of that name appears as having been discharged on the 19th December, but from the account of himself given by the deceased, it could not have been him.

I cannot close this report without adverting to the possibility, that if relieving officers had been sooner appointed in Loughrea Union, this unfortunate man might have had some ascertained place to apply to for relief in the extremity of his distress.

REPLY to the above:—*January 17, 1848.*

I AM to state, with regard to your remarks as to the confirmation of the appointment of the relieving officer for the district in which this poor man died, that the answers to the usual queries relating to the relieving officer were received in this office on the 20th December, and were referred to you on that day; the Commissioners confirmed the appointment of the relieving officer on the 23rd December, which was the day on which the answers to the queries were received back from you.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*January 19, 1848.*

Loughrea Union.

ADVERTING to their letter of the 23rd ultimo, sanctioning the appointment of relieving officers for the Loughrea Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to draw the attention of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union to the enclosed copy of a communication which has been referred to the Commissioners from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a poor man named Michael Crevan, who, it is stated, died of destitution and want.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners have received a report from their Inspector, Mr. R. Bourke, on the subject, in which he states that he was informed by a sub-constable of police, named James Baskerville, stationed at Borken, that he saw the deceased on the evening of the 26th ultimo in a bye road, about half a mile from the police barracks at Borken, and that he was surrounded by five or six men who had brought him some straw to lie on, and had lighted a fire; that the deceased appeared extremely feeble and emaciated, and complained of cramps in his legs, adding that he had eaten nothing for two days; that the sub-constable bought him some bread at a neighbouring shop and sent it to him, but in the morning when he passed again the man was dead, and the bread remained untouched at his side.

Mr. Bourke further reports that the constable stated that the deceased said he belonged to Athenry, but had been begging in the neighbourhood of the place where he died, for a fortnight before his decease, and that he did not know where to get a ticket for the workhouse, and was moreover too feeble to go there; that some hours after he saw him dead, the constable reported the circumstance to the relieving officer, William Proctor, who stated that no previous application had been made to him by the deceased, or on his behalf, for relief; and that at the period of the death of the deceased he had not entered on his duties as relieving officer, and that it was not until the 3rd January that he opened an office for receiving applications for relief.

The Commissioners desire to observe, that as the relieving officer of the district did not enter on his duties until the 3rd January, this destitute person's death might also probably have been prevented, if the Guardians had not so long delayed to comply with the Commissioners' order for the appointment of relieving officers.

The Commissioners advert to the past, in order that it may be a warning for the future, and they rely on the Guardians for the adoption of all requisite means to give full effect to the powers which at present they possess, for affording relief either in the workhouse or out of doors through the relieving officers, in the cases which the law permits to be so relieved.

EXTRACT from GUARDIANS' MINUTES:—*January 24, 1848.*

IN reference to the Commissioners' letter of the 19th instant, relative to the death of Michael Crevan, the Guardians, at their meeting of the 24th January, state that he was an inmate of the house from the 10th July, 1847, to 19th December, 1847, when he voluntarily went out in consequence of his being prevented from smoking tobacco.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. R. BOURKE:—*February 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a letter which they have received from the Rev. P. Lyons, P. P., of Killmeen, relating to the distress existing in that portion of the Loughrea Union, and I am to request your immediate attention to the statements contained in that communication.

The Commissioners request you to report specifically whether up to the present time the Board of Guardians can be considered to have effectually discharged their duties; and the Commissioners beg that if such shall appear to you to be the case, you will make your report to that effect so explanatory as that it may warrant the Commissioners in withholding an order for the Board's dissolution, which otherwise the Commissioners will feel themselves bound to issue.

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Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS in reply:—*February 7, 1848.*

I BEG leave to lay before you my reasons for thinking that the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union cannot be considered to have effectually discharged the duties assigned to them by the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

Up to a very late period the Guardians opposed themselves to one of the principal features of this law, the appointment of relieving officers; and though the subject was repeatedly brought under their notice, it was not till the 17th December last that they proceeded to the discharge of this duty; the motive assigned for this delay being, that the Guardians considered these officers to be required for the administration of out-door relief alone, and that they were determined to defer this mode of relief as long as possible. In pursuance of this resolution the Guardians engaged a house for the reception of the pauper children, and entered into some negotiations for additional buildings to accommodate the increasing number of applicants; but as these latter were not successful, and during their course the Guardians continued to admit all persons applying for relief, the numbers in the house soon swelled to a dangerous extent, and deaths rapidly increased. Their number was enlarged by the fact, that from a general dislike among the people to enter into any workhouse, and the particular horror felt with regard to Loughrea, from an idea of the fatal effects of disease there, applicants were withheld from seeking admission, until privations and hardship had so exhausted their strength that they died immediately after their entrance.

On Saturday last, the 5th instant, I attended the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians. The number of inmates then in the house was 1136, being 236 persons more than the house was calculated to contain, and 120 fresh cases were brought forward by the relieving officers. Of those in the house 165 had been provisionally admitted by the relieving officers during the week, but partly in consequence of the want of room in the house, and partly because there were no clothes in which they could be dressed, they had been kept in the two male probationary wards, where they were most dangerously crowded, with nothing to sleep upon but a heap of straw, for several days before the meeting. On this occasion a letter was read from your Board calling on the Guardians to provide for the increasing number of applicants, by discharging on out-door allowances such persons as could thus be legally relieved by the Guardians; but no order was made upon it, and nothing further was done, than to give provisional relief to the whole number of 285 persons until accommodation could be provided for them. Such persons as lived in the neighbourhood were consequently given a week's supply of food and sent away, and the rest were kept until the several relieving officers could supply them in their own districts; all being desired to return on the following Board day, and be admitted to the workhouse.

The condition of the workhouse itself was not more satisfactory than the arrangements for the relief of the poor. The damage done to the roof by the storm which occurred at the end of November is still unrepaired. The clothing of the women and female children is still insufficient; and the boys' and girls' schools totally unsupplied with the necessary requisites for affording instruction, though repeated applications have been made for them.

The condition of the poor of the Union is admitted by all persons, whether Guardians or not, to be most miserable, and several deaths have lately occurred from destitution; and though in many instances it has appeared that the parties were offered admission into the workhouse, it is not wonderful, considering the mortality which has occurred there, fever and dysentery being prevalent, that persons have been found who prefer the chance of death by the road-side to that of death by disease in the workhouse, which since October last has carried off upwards of 200 persons in Loughrea.

Whilst thus giving my opinion of the manner in which relief has, to the present time, been administered in this Union, I feel it my duty to state that the representations in the letter of the Rev. Mr. Lyons appear to me much exaggerated, and that the evidence alleged to have been given by the medical officer is distinctly denied by him.

Dr. PHELAN, Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 9, 1848.* Loughrea Union

I HAVE the honour of informing you that I carefully inspected the Loughrea workhouse, accompanied by the medical officer, on the 3rd and 4th instant, and that I attended the Board of Guardians' meeting on the 5th.

The house contained 1127 paupers, 12 of which were in the idiot cells, 76 in the fever sheds, 58 in the infirmary, 60 in the male and female aged and infirm dormitories, and 28 in three other dormitories. All these, making a total of 234, were on the sick list. The patients in the fever sheds were cases of fever and of dysentery—the latter, as last year, often supervening on the former, and frequently with fatal effect. But there was not a case of typhus fever in them; all the patients of that class being only slightly affected, except when dysentery or diarrhoea had set in. Here, as in many other Unions which I have lately visited, fever as an epidemic, has in great measure ceased.

The remaining sick were chronic cases, many of them also having in addition dysentery or diarrhoea, or they were patients affected with the latter diseases only. The medical officer has been very careful not to overcrowd his infirmary and other wards in which there are sick paupers; and on this account, and from this large number of sick, the aged and infirm dormitories have been entirely appropriated to that class, as also portions of the upper dormitories.

As there is some spare accommodation in the idiots' portions and in the fever sheds, I advised the medical officer to remove all the 28 cases in the upper dormitories, so as to have them entirely free from sickness; and as the premises, now nearly ready for occupation will soon displace, perhaps, 160 paupers to them, I suggested that, on their removal, the dormitories of the aged and infirm be also emptied; and this class, after proper whitewashing has taken place, restored to them, it being very desirable, if possible, to have them in their proper places.

The medical officer is extremely attentive to his duties, to which he devotes more time than any other that I am acquainted with.

This house is in a very unsatisfactory condition. A considerable number of the boys and girls are very badly clad, even those who have house clothing. The adult females and the aged and infirm are too lightly clad; besides a very large number have only their own filthy clothes. The dietary of the adults has been insufficient and of bad quality. I examined milk on two successive days, which must have contained a considerable proportion of water, but the supply even of this article is very small, not even sufficient for the sick and the young, and aged and infirm. The breakfast hitherto has been 7 oz. Indian meal for adults, and $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. treacle; 14 oz. brown bread for dinner, with a pint of cocoa. This cocoa is sweetened with treacle, and only contains two gallons of milk for several hundred persons. The junior classes have been better fed. At their breakfast more than half the boys and girls had no spoons: a large proportion of them look very badly, evidently in a reduced condition, although not actually affected with any disease. These, I may observe, are such as have been admitted within the last two or three months: they are stated to have been then in the most wretched condition; and the contrast between them and those that have been some months in the house is very considerable—the latter being far more healthy and muscular, although in those respects, inferior to the same class in most other houses.

To improve the condition of all I advised a better dietary, to which I requested the attention of the Board of Guardians, by which a minute was made that it be acted on; but I confess my doubts that such will be the case, although I attribute it more to want of habits of business than to any intention to evade it. I feel these doubts, partly, because the suggestions I formerly made on the same subjects, and in respect to ventilation, have not been in the slightest degree attended to. The ventilation of the infirmary and of all parts of the workhouse remains in the same defective state as that in which I before described it.

I found the privies in the most filthy and disgusting state. There were 38 men in the lower male probationary ward, all of whom had slept in the upper on the previous night. On going into their proper yard, that connected with the lower ward, I found a considerable quantity of dung, ashes, &c., outside the door, and the floor of the privy was covered with fæces, some evidently of more than a day's continuance. In the lower female probationary ward there were 75 women and 48 girls and young children. These 123 had slept, on the previous night, in the upper probationary ward, in which there should not be more than about 24 to 30, at most, put. All—men, women, &c., wore their own clothes, and presented an

Loughrea Union.

appearance of the most wretched description; want in the case of all, starvation in that of most, was too evident. Many of them were ill, and some were selected by the medical officer, at my request, for removal to the infirmary or fever sheds. I have no doubt that the congregation of so many in these wards must produce disease in no small proportion of them. At the female side, 50 cubic feet of air was about the amount which the room averaged for each; but when the disgusting and filthy clothes of the parties are considered, and the unclean state of those miserable creatures perceived, were the space four times as much it would not have been sufficient for them.

The yard and privy at the female side were still more disgracefully dirty than at the male side. The sight was sufficient to sicken any person, the stench almost sure to do so.

I brought the porter and the master to view those yards and privies, and I informed the former that his conduct was so reprehensible, in neglecting to keep those places in a more cleanly state, at a time when cleanliness was more especially required, that I should feel it my duty to suggest his dismissal to the Poor Law Commissioners and to the Board of Guardians, to which I spoke on the subject, but without any result that I am aware of. An example of this kind appears to me to be required.

Although not my particular duty, I feel it right to observe that, on looking through the boys' schoolroom, I was informed by the schoolmaster that he has been three months in office then, and that he has not yet got any one article of school materials; consequently he has not given any school instruction, except teaching Catechism. He has repeatedly asked for the necessary supplies, and has made written requisitions for them. The same is the case in the girls' school, except that there happens to be a few books there; but, in fact, no means of instruction are placed at the disposal of either.

The monotony occasioned by this want of instruction must be injurious to these boys and girls, and is highly discreditable to the department.

Nearly every part of the house is black from want of whitewashing. No peasant's hut could be more so than the nursery, which smoked so as to render it difficult to remain many minutes in it, yet it contained 36 women and 36 infants. Of course it was an unhealthy place for either, especially for the latter. In the day-room there were 133 adults when I went through, several were aged and infirm. All sat on the floor, there was not a form in the room, nor one in the nursery. This also, and the female aged and infirm dormitory (the latter especially) were black from smoke; and as no means of improving the ventilation had been adopted, not even the simple and inexpensive one of opening the windows, the atmosphere of course was impure.

Matters were not quite so bad, but not much less so, at the male side, in the aged and infirm dormitory of which there were 28 patients, none of whom had got any breakfast at 12 o'clock, when I was going through.

The house is admirably located, the site an excellent one; there is no nuisance from want of drainage, nor from any other cause that I could perceive. Heaps of dung and other offensive matter are immediately outside the gates. These I before advised to be deposited at the far part of the ground.

The average weekly cost per head for the healthy classes in this house has latterly been about 1s. 4½d., for the sick, 2s. 3½d., for all, 1s. 6½d.

The nurse-tending and hospital assistance are not satisfactory, although improved since my last visit. The medical portions of the houses are however the best.

This house contained only 207 paupers on the 29th September, 1846. In the subsequent year, 3121 were admitted, and if the returns be correct, 920 died, or about 28 per cent.

The reduced condition in which a large proportion of the paupers were admitted, latterly at least, will be perceived from the following return which I have extracted from the register. From the 1st of October last to the 4th of February 1730 paupers were admitted; 753 of these went out discharged, and 210 died, giving in 4 months a mortality of 12 per cent. in the house on these paupers, independent of such mortality as may have taken place after they had been discharged. Judging from the wretched appearance of those who applied for relief on the last Board-day, as well as from that of those who had been provisionally admitted, and who were, as above described, in the probationary wards, and from observations and inquiries otherwise made by me, I cannot hesitate to express my

great apprehensions that these paupers only represent the condition of a large portion of the Union population, amongst whom, I can scarcely doubt, that very great destitution extensively prevails.

Impressed with this apprehension, I anxiously observed the proceedings of the Board of Guardians, which, up to that day, had given no relief outside the workhouse. I remarked to them on the number that was sick, and informed them that, considering the extent of sickness in the house, although not of a very bad contagious character, the reduced condition of the paupers generally, and the want of proper clothing by many, it was my opinion that none of those in the probationary wards ought to be admitted on that day, nor until more room and more clothing should be obtained. The disposition to admit was, notwithstanding, apparent; and I then showed that of the 1730 admitted since October, 210 died, and I commented on that fact, and stated my apprehensions that much injury must arise from any further admissions; and I added that I could not doubt that there must be many outside, aged and infirm, temporary ill, and widows having children, as well as able-bodied, who are very destitute. This was not denied, but the Guardians stated that all who applied to them were admitted, and thus inferred that all who wished for relief got it, at least, that none were refused it. I am satisfied that in this Union there is much fallacy, the Guardians perhaps not perceiving it.

On much discussion, in which Mr. Bourke, who soon came to the Board-room, took a judicious part, it was admitted that a vast amount of destitution exists in portions of the Union, an amount which the workhouse accommodation is totally inadequate to meet; yet the Guardians would, I doubt not, have put the paupers in the probationary wards into the house, as well as a considerable number that day applying, had not Mr. Bourke and myself strongly pointed out the danger that must arise from such overcrowding. I handed in a paper which explained this, and stated that it was my particular duty, when able to have the honour of waiting on a Board of Guardians, to point out the danger of such overcrowding as I then saw. Mr. Bourke was also very decided, and at length the Guardians, at our suggestion, gave relief outside for a week to such of those applicants as the medical officer thought able to return home.

I beg to observe that, throughout, the Guardians were extremely courteous, and that they received these suggestions in the kindest manner, whilst it was evident their wishes were to put more into the house, and to give no relief outside.

I feel it my duty to conclude by informing you, that when thus pressed, and when ordering out relief for those paupers, some of the more influential and wealthy Guardians declared that if out-door relief be given, they will at once discharge their labourers, except those usually employed by them; and from this, and the several circumstances above enumerated, I am strongly impressed with the conviction that the Board of Guardians will not carry out the law, so as to give in-door and out-door relief to the fit objects which are in need of it. I wish to be understood as meaning rather that the Guardians do not appear to be impressed with the necessity of fulfilling the duties which devolve upon them, rather than that they are unwilling to fulfil them. But of their want of intention to do so I have little doubt.

On coming through the Portumna portion of the Union my inquiries confirmed the foregoing views.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*February 12, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their serious consideration reports from their Inspectors, Mr. Bourke and Mr. Phelan, respecting the condition of Loughrea workhouse, and the administration of relief in Loughrea Union.

Mr. Bourke states that on Saturday, the 29th ultimo, he attended the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians, when the number of inmates in the workhouse exceeded by 236 persons the number that the house was calculated to contain.

He further states, that 120 fresh cases were on that day brought forward by the relieving officers, and that of the inmates of the workhouse 165 had been provisionally admitted during the week; but that partly in consequence of the want of room in the house, and partly because there were no clothes in which they could be dressed, they had been kept in the two small probationary wards,

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where they were most dangerously crowded for several days before the Guardians' meeting, with nothing to sleep upon but a sheaf of straw.

Mr. Bourke, adverting further to the condition of the workhouse, observes that the damage done to the roof by a storm which occurred in November last is unrepaired, that the clothing of the women and female children is insufficient, and that the boys' and girls' schools are totally unprovided with the necessary requisites for affording instruction, though repeated applications have been made to the Board of Guardians for them.

Mr. Bourke's observations on the condition of the workhouse are strongly corroborated by Mr. Phelan, from whose report the following passages are extracts :—

"This house is in a very unsatisfactory condition. A considerable number of the boys and girls are very badly clad, even those who have house clothing. The adult females and the aged and infirm are too lightly clad ; besides a very large number have only their own filthy clothes.

"There were 38 men in the lower male probationary ward, all of whom had slept in the upper on the previous night. On going into their proper yard, that connected with the lower yard, I found a considerable quantity of dung, ashes, &c., outside the door ; and the floor of the privy was covered with fæces, some evidently of more than a day's continuance.

"In the lower female probationary ward there were 75 women, and 48 girls and young children. These 123 had slept on the previous night in the upper probationary ward, in which there should not be more than about 24 to 30 at most put. All,—men, women, &c., wore their own clothes, and presented an appearance of the most wretched description.

"I have no doubt that the congregation of so many in these wards must produce disease in no small proportion of them. At the female side, 50 cubic feet of air was about the amount which the room averaged for each ; but when the disgusting and filthy clothes of the party are considered, and the unclean state of these miserable creatures perceived, were the space four times as much, it would not have been sufficient for them.

"The yard and privy at the female side were still more disgracefully dirty than at the male side ; the sight was sufficient to sicken any person, the stench almost sure to do so."

While such is the condition of the workhouse, there seems to be no doubt that much destitution exists in the Union ; and it appears that persons have been found who prefer to run the chance of death by the road-side, rather than to become inmates of the Union workhouse ; a result which may reasonably be expected under the present system of management.

In connexion with the state of things as above described, and as partly accounting for them, the Commissioners must advert to the fact that the Guardians did not obey the law in reference to the appointment of relieving officers until the 17th of last December ; and, notwithstanding the instructions and remonstrances of the Commissioners on the subject, the Guardians have not yet given any relief to the impotent poor out of the workhouse, under the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners are of opinion that the Loughrea Board of Guardians have signally failed to discharge their duties duly and effectually, according to the intention of the Legislature. The Commissioners therefore transmit herewith a formal order for the dissolution of the Board, and they will proceed with the least possible delay to appoint paid officers to manage the affairs of the Union.

EXTRACTS from GUARDIANS' MINUTES at an adjourned Meeting held on the 14th February, 1848.

Resolved,—That being now informed that this Board was dissolved by the Poor Law Commissioners on Saturday last, without their making any communication to this Board, we consider this step upon the part of the Commissioners as discourteous, offensive, and unwarrantable ; because we have afforded relief to all who have applied for it, procured houses for the reception of 1200 additional paupers, imposed a 3s. rate, collected a great portion of it, and were now prepared to afford extensively relief to the really destitute, though opposed to indiscriminate out-door relief. This arbitrary proceeding upon the part of the Commissioners

against this Board of Guardians, who are composed of men deeply interested for the Union, its poor, and its rate-payers, and who, when the rates could not be collected, advanced funds to sustain the workhouse, is calculated to diminish any confidence which the right-minded and well-disposed might have heretofore placed in the administration of the Poor Law.

Resolved,—That having now read the reasons given by the Commissioners for the dissolution of this Board, we are confirmed in our opinion as expressed in the foregoing resolution.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 20, 1848.*

HAVING entered upon the discharge of the duties of paid Guardians of the Union of Loughrea, by virtue of the authority conveyed to us by your sealed order of the 16th of February, 1848, we have now the honour to submit our first report on the state of the above Union, in obedience to the instructions contained in your communication of the 18th instant.

Our first duty on arriving here was to visit the workhouse; and we can scarcely convey an idea of the total absence of any thing at all approaching to order or decency in which we found almost every department; the Board-room did not appear as if it had been cleansed since the last meeting of the old Board of Guardians, which took place a week previously; the floor was in a perfect float of water; the rate and other books of the Union were lying scattered about the floor in all directions; the clerk's office was in a very filthy condition, the floor saturated with wet, and the papers strewn about; the probation wards, adjoining the Board-room, and into one of which the late Guardians have recently opened a communication from the Board-room, were in a very disreputable state, wet and filthy in the extreme; a heap of dirty straw piled up in one corner; several panes of glass broken in the windows, and their places supplied by pledgets of straw.

On proceeding to the main body of the house at *eleven o'clock, A.M.*, we found the adult paupers at breakfast. The Indian meal stirabout with which they were supplied was *thin*, much burned, and otherwise infamously cooked. Many of the paupers were served with sour porter or beer (in lieu of milk) to take with their porridge; and on our inquiring the cause, were informed, that it had been sent by the milk contractor as his supply of milk was short. We of course ordered this practice to be at once discontinued, and directed the master to serve notice on the contractor, that milk should be purchased elsewhere at his expense, unless he supplied the full quantity, and of the quality required, for the portion of liquid (called milk) which he did supply, was in our opinion more than half water.

We found the kitchen department in a most unsatisfactory state; the boilers were in a disgraceful state of *rust*, totally unfit for culinary purposes; one boiler, which was being prepared for use, had the furnace heated before any water was put into the vessel, and the almost certain danger of bursting the metal created thereby. The grates of all the furnaces were out of order; the curbing torn up, and the flues in several places broken out in large holes.

We next proceeded to the female school, and found it totally bereft of *any requisite* save a few forms, a table, and old desk; there was no school roll in existence, no books for instruction, and as well as we could ascertain there were about 125 children, perfectly idle, sitting on the cold floor with very slender covering, and all (except one child) had no shoes or stockings; no kind of industrial instruction has ever been imparted; only about 20 of the number were represented to us as being able to sew, and not one was reported as understanding how to knit.

The entire body of paupers appear to us as if they had been long inured to habits of idleness, no one kind of industrial training having been ever inculcated. The whole establishment at both sides idle. Crowds of women in the day-rooms crouched in masses together round the walls, endeavouring to obtain warmth from the close contact with each other; and only 20 women out of the entire number in the house were employed at needlework. Not one was engaged in knitting, though few of the paupers had a stocking of any kind to wear.

The dormitories were in a most irregular condition; the floors disgracefully disfigured, and in many places we fear approaching to decay, from the effects of urinal and other discharges continually taking place, and no abatement of the nuisance appears to have been even attempted. We cannot too strongly reprobate

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the conduct of the officers in permitting such brutal practices; and we regret to observe that these remarks are equally applicable to the male as to the female side of the house.

The state of the privies (to which the report of your Inspector, Dr. Phelan, had special reference) were in much the same condition as when that report was furnished, with this difference, that since the Inspector's report the paupers at the female side have been permitted to avail themselves of the LAUNDRY yard for the same purposes, the floor of which we found covered over with human excrement in every quarter.

The clothing of the house appears in a very neglected state; and so defective, that notwithstanding our other pressing duties, we will proceed to take stock tomorrow, and advertise for a supply to enable us to meet the extreme pressure which we apprehend will be made on us during the ensuing week. We have also advertised for tenders for repairing the windows; and in our next report we trust to be able to render some satisfactory information on those points most essential to the comfort and health of the wretched inmates of the workhouse.

The classification of the paupers seems to have been altogether broken up, if indeed it was ever observed. The male and female paupers were dispersed through the several wards and apartments indiscriminately, and did not appear to us as if they considered they were infringing on any rule, or acting in any way wrong.

We have made a close inspection of two additional establishments, taken by the late Board as increased workhouse accommodation. One of these houses (the late brewery) will, when completed, form a most valuable and requisite additional workhouse; is well situate, perfect ventilation, and well enclosed, and will accommodate all that we calculate will avail themselves of workhouse relief in the Union. But we do not consider that the person with whom the late Board contracted to put the premises into repair has made that progress which he should have done, and which the exigencies of the present time so imperatively demand. We shall use our most strenuous exertions to have the work speedily completed; and we shall then be in a position to meet any demand that may be made upon us.

Of the second house taken by the late Board and appropriated to a boys' school, day-room, and dormitories, we regret to say that we consider it to be a concern *which should never* have been engaged at all. We are informed that it belonged to a Mr. Smith, the Deputy Vice-Chairman of the late Board: but it is manifestly unsuited to the purpose for which it is at present used. There is no ventilation whatever, no proper means of heating the day-room, no effectual privy accommodation, and, in fine, we anticipate that much malignant contagion will in a short period be engendered, unless we are able to remove the pauper inmates from a situation totally unfit to receive them, and which, in our opinion, should never have been occupied by them.

The fever sheds have been erected immediately adjoining the idiot wards and infirmary, and in our judgment, in a very unsatisfactory and dangerous position. They appear, however, to be well managed, under the inspection of the medical officer, who devotes much of his time to the discharge of his workhouse duties.

We cannot as yet form any decided opinion as to the conduct or capability of *any* of the workhouse officers, from our being so short a period in our present offices; but we shall give them a fair trial, and every assistance in our power; and if they do not in every particular change from what they are at present, and what they must have been for a long time hitherto, we shall not hesitate to apply for further instructions respecting them. Of one of these officers (the porter) we have already received your directions, and shall not fail to act accordingly.

The pumps of the house are altogether out of order, and the pipes broken or otherwise destroyed; and the water required for the purposes of the house is carried in buckets from the lake by some of the female paupers, who were, when we first saw them, almost in a state of nudity.

In reference to the most important subject connected with our duties, that of the collection of the rate, we have to state, that it appears a rate of 3s. in the pound, conjointly for ordinary expenses, and the repayment of advances under the Temporary Relief Act, was made on the first of January last by the late Board of Guardians; that the ordinary notice that a rate *had* been made was duly posted, BUT no notice seems to have been posted *previous* to the striking of the rate, to the effect that a rate was about to be made. The new rate so struck, has been in course of collection for the last fortnight, and a considerable sum has been lodged

to the credit of the Union. However, from the short time we have been on duty here, we are not as yet in a position to form an accurate opinion on the state of the finances. We have been unable to see the several rate collectors, and have caused the clerk to notice them to meet us on Monday next at 10 o'clock, after which we shall submit a special report on this subject.

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We have been led to trespass at considerable length upon your attention, for which we respectfully beg to apologize; and shall have the honour of submitting a weekly report of our proceedings, in conformity with your instructions.

REPLY to the above :—*February 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners approve generally of the preliminary measures which you have adopted with regard to the proper arrangement of the affairs of the Union.

The Commissioners are afraid that some time must elapse, and constant attention will be required before the workhouse can be brought into a satisfactory condition, but they rely on you, that no exertion will be wanting on your part.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners await your report on the collection of the rates.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Captain GILBERT, Temporary Inspector of the Sligo Union :—*January 12, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to forward to you herewith, a copy of a resolution passed at the meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Manorhamilton Union on the 6th instant; and in reference thereto, I am to request that you will have the goodness to proceed to Manorhamilton, and inquire and report to the Commissioners, with the least possible delay, as to the necessity of granting out-door relief to the able-bodied in that Union.

I am at the same time, to request your special attention to the point, whether the Guardians have acted on the Commissioners' circular letter of the 26th August last, in reference to granting out-door relief to persons entitled to such relief, under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act

A copy of a letter, which has this day been addressed to the Board of Guardians of the Manorhamilton Union, is enclosed for your information.

ENCLOSURES.

EXTRACT from GUARDIANS' MINUTES of 6th January, 1848.

RESOLVED,—That the Commissioners be requested to order out-door relief for able-bodied persons in this Union, as there is not accommodation in the house for the vast numbers of that class applying for relief.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS of the Manorhamilton Union :—*January 12, 1848.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had under their consideration, the resolution passed at the meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Manorhamilton Union on the 6th instant, requesting the Commissioners to issue an order authorizing the Board of Guardians to give out-door relief to the able-bodied poor in the Union.

In reference thereto, I am directed to state that the Commissioners have instructed Captain Gilbert, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, to inquire and report to them, with the least possible delay, as to the necessity for granting out-door relief to the able-bodied in the Manorhamilton Union.

In the mean time, the Commissioners have issued an order authorizing the Guardians to give out-door relief, under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, to widows with one child, and to children both of whose parents are dead.

By affording out-door relief to all the persons coming within the provisions of the 1st section of the Extension Act, as well as to the persons coming within the terms of the Commissioners' order of this date, the Commissioners trust that the Board of Guardians will be able to make room in the workhouse to relieve, and to test the destitution of able-bodied applicants for relief.

The Commissioners, at the same time, recommend the Guardians to endeavour to obtain some buildings in which they may place some of the children now in the workhouse, as much additional accommodation might be provided thereby for able-bodied persons.

Copies of the Commissioners' circular letters of the 14th and 26th August last are enclosed herewith, and I am to request the attention of the Guardians to the views of the Commissioners as expressed in those communications.

EXTRACT from GUARDIANS' MINUTES :—*January 13, 1848.*

READ letter 12th January, in reference to the resolution of the last Board, requesting the Commissioners to issue an order for out-door relief to able-bodied paupers.

The Board have to state that the resolution was passed under the apprehension, that the measure must ultimately be resorted to, from the multitudes that were then pressing for relief, and for which there could not be room in the house under any enlargement which it might undergo. But they certainly had no design to act upon the order except under the most pressing necessity. The individuals composing the Board feel as deep an interest in protecting the

Union as any others concerned, but they wished to be prepared for any emergency that might occur.

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Notice in writing from N. S. Tottenham, Esq., was read, that on this day fortnight, he will propose that the resolution of the last Board, requesting the Commissioners to issue an order for granting out-door relief to able-bodied paupers, be rescinded.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 18, 1848.*

IN accordance with the instructions conveyed to me in communication, dated 12th instant, I ordered the clerk of the Union to assemble the Guardians to meet me here yesterday, and I also desired the attendance of the relieving officers.

The poorhouse contains at present 669, its full number; there are besides in a house hired for the purpose, 30 of the 1st class specified in the Act, and in the district fever hospital, 43, making altogether 739.

There are in the house of the 1st and 2nd classes, for which orders from the Commissioners have been received to be placed on out-door relief, 130. If this number were discharged, room sufficient for the present admission of the able-bodied can be made available, as of that class there are at present on the relieving officer's books only 134. But to this mode of proceeding the Guardians object, as they consider it uncharitable to send the orphan children amongst strangers, and injurious to the interest of the country by allowing such a number of young paupers to grow up amid the population, and being also in some degree more expensive, as those children from their entire friendlessness must be kept constantly clothed as well as fed at the expense of the Union. To meet this determination on their part, I proposed that those orphans should be disposed of in the same manner as in Sligo, by hiring a separate house and placing them under proper care therein. I accordingly visited a vacant house in the vicinity, capable when fitted up of accommodating 150 children, and recommended that the Guardians should hire it at once for that purpose, subject to the sanction of the Commissioners.

I also recommend the erection of two sheds on the same plan and specification of those at the Sligo Union Workhouse, a copy of which I propose sending to the clerk this day. By this means the present school-rooms would be converted into dormitories to hold about 140 paupers.

Another mode of increasing the accommodation is the finishing of a building commenced in August last, as a second story over the sheds in the upper yard, sufficient to hold 130. The contractor, who has not fulfilled his engagement, should be forced to do so by the Guardians; and I would suggest to the Commissioners the necessity of urging this on the Board in their next communication.

In no case, however, does it appear requisite or expedient to issue an order for the out-door relief of the able-bodied at present. By discharging the 30 persons of the 1st class entitled to relief out of the workhouse, which I have ordered to be done immediately, and by removing the orphan children, upwards of 100, according to the Commissioners' order, vacancies can be obtained for all the present applicants; and by the erection of sheds on a cheap and commodious scale, and the completion of the building now in progress, sufficient room can soon be commanded for the additional claimants.

There are at present of the 1st class relieved out of the workhouse, 450.

The number of cases of sickness in the house is very great in proportion to its inmates—90 cases of fever, and 64 of dysentery—one-fifth of the whole. This arises in a great measure from the very bad and uncomfortable accommodation in the house; the schoolrooms and nursery, as well as the whole ground-floor, require boarding to keep out the damp and cold. There is no convalescent ward for persons recovering from fever, so that the patients are sent at once from the hospital, on recovery, to the body of the house, and thereby spreading the infection. To remedy this serious evil I would recommend the erection of a fever shed; and for this purpose, the obtaining of a sum of 353*l.*, balance of 100*l.* allowed by the Commissioners for building purposes in this Union, which balance remains in their hands, and was ordered by them to be disposed of in additional hospital accommodation.

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Except the collection of the rates is much better enforced than at present the Guardians must find great difficulty in building accommodation to meet any future pressure. The instalment of the rate ordered to be collected for the present quarter amounts for the whole Union to 6460*l.*, of which there is not one-fifth lodged by the collectors.

EXTRACT FROM GUARDIANS' MINUTES:—*January 20, 1848.*

RESOLVED,—That the Board at its rising do adjourn to Monday next, in order to take steps immediately to provide additional accommodation on the workhouse site, for the children in the workhouse, or to hire a house for that purpose, if it can be obtained; and to remove for out-door relief, all those persons in the workhouse who are fit cases to receive the same.

MR. OTWAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 23, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the Manorhamilton Board of Guardians on last Thursday; and in reference to the state of that Union, and the question as to the issuing an order under the 2nd section of the Poor Relief Extension Act for the granting out-door relief to the destitute able-bodied, I have to state that I do not consider it advisable at present to issue that order, and I concur with the views expressed on this subject in Captain Gilbert's report of the 18th instant. I have, however, arrived at this conclusion, on the supposition that the Guardians will at once take steps to place on out-door relief all the persons in the workhouse entitled to it under the 1st section of the Act, and under the extended order you issued, and to provide additional accommodation for the children, so that the workhouse may be kept, as far as possible, as a test for the able-bodied that apply for relief.

The Guardians were occupied, on last Thursday, in going over the relieving officer's books, and they gave out-door relief freely to all the proper cases that were brought before them, offering relief in the workhouse to the able-bodied that applied, some of whom refused to accept admittance on its being granted, and the Board was adjourned until to-morrow in order to take steps immediately to provide additional accommodation in the workhouse site for the children, or hiring a house, or both, if necessary, and to remove, on out-door relief, all the persons in the workhouse who are fit objects to receive it; I had urged these steps on the Guardians so far back as the 25th of November, but I think they now see the necessity of so acting immediately, and that it will be done. See minutes of last Thursday.

I had also an interview with the contractor for enlarging the hospital range, and he has undertaken to have one side finished in a fortnight, and the whole within four weeks from last Thursday.

If I am able I will attend at Manorhamilton again on to-morrow.

I had interviews with two rate collectors on last Thursday, and I have urged forward the collection as much as I could; there was a considerable improvement in the collection the week before last, and I have reason to hope it will continue.

I have urged and will urge the Guardians to try and adopt steps to improve the sanitary state of the workhouse, but the first step is to remove all those that can be removed on out-door relief and to lessen the numbers in the workhouse. Owing to the illness of some of the officers the house has fallen off very much in its management since my last visit, but I trust to have this evil speedily remedied. A new master and matron is to be elected on Thursday week, the present having resigned from bad health.

THE COMMISSIONERS to Major FITZGERALD, Temporary Inspector of Manorhamilton Union:—*January 27, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a report which they have received from Mr. Otway, Poor Law Inspector, relating to the proposed issue of an order under the 2nd section

of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, for the relief of the destitute able-bodied Poor in the Manorhamilton Union; and I am to state that the Commissioners will be glad to receive a report from you as to the progress made by the Board of Guardians in the several matters referred to in Mr. Otway's report, at your early convenience.

A copy of the report of Captain Gilbert, referred to by Mr. Otway, is also enclosed herewith.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 3, 1848.*

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 27th January, 1848, I have the honour to report upon the matters referred to in Mr. Otway's report on the Manorhamilton Union, dated January 23, 1848.

In accordance with Mr. Otway's views, as to the proper means for avoiding the necessity of out-door relief to the able-bodied, the Guardians have carried out the principle of transferring from in-door to out-door relief certain of the classes entitled to the latter, and of reserving the workhouse, as a test of destitution for able-bodied applicants, several of which class have this day, though eager to obtain out-door relief, refused admittance to the workhouse when offered to them.

With respect to the extra accommodation for pauper inmates, recommended also by Mr. Otway, I have to report that it has not yet become available. The contractor has not fulfilled his engagement (stated by Mr. Otway) to have one side of the addition to the hospital range completed this day. The Guardians, satisfied with the explanation given by him of the delay, have extended the period for completion of one side to Wednesday next, 9th February.

The Guardians had likewise decided upon hiring a house in the vicinity (referred to in Captain Gilbert's report, dated 18th January, which accompanies Mr. Otway's), for the purpose of sending the school children to it, and thereby making room in the workhouse; but as this resolution has not been carried into practical effect, they have agreed, at my suggestion, to appoint a Sub-Committee of their body to meet me here on Monday, when I hope we shall be able to conclude the proposed arrangement, which it is, I think, of great importance to effect.

The sanitary condition of the workhouse, to which Mr. Otway refers, requires great improvement. The cold, damp, earthen floors of the school-rooms contribute much at this inclement season to the increase of dysentery, the sufferers from which disease are chiefly from the school-rooms. These ought, in my opinion, either to be boarded or supplied with straw mats, by the making of which some of the paupers might be usefully employed.

The medical officer likewise reports to me that fever has been much increased in the workhouse by the overcrowding of the probationary wards, one of the causes of which is the want of a sufficient supply of pauper clothing to dress the inmates approved for admission, a point to which the Guardians have properly directed their attention on this day with a view to a remedy. However, the sanitary condition of the workhouse can never be in the state it ought to be until the contemplated increase of accommodation shall have been carried into practical effect.

The only other topic referred to by Mr. Otway which it remains for me to report upon is the collection of rates. I regret to say that this all-important matter is in a very unsatisfactory state. Out of a rate of 6460*l.*, the sum of 4687*l.* still remains due; the last week 260*l.* only has been paid in; a smaller sum than in the same space of time has been paid away in cashing cheques by the treasurer. With an out-door relief list (in spite of, I believe, very praiseworthy vigilance on the part of the Guardians to prevent imposture) increasing at a fearful rate, and with the necessity of expenditure for increased in-door accommodation, it is needless to say that more active efforts must be made to provide for the expenses of the Union. The Guardians state to me that some of the collectors do their duty very well, and some very ill; but it does not appear to me that sufficiently stringent steps have been taken with regard to the latter. I am also obliged to remark to the Guardians this day, that the due attendance of the collectors has not been enforced in conformity with the rules laid down by the Commissioners, and that they have not been obliged to produce the whole of the forms of accounts required by your regulations.

Manorhamilton
Union.

The Board of Guardians this day elected a master and matron, as Mr. Otway states in his report they intended to do; and were most of the rest of the day occupied in selecting from the applicants the proper objects for in-door and out-door relief; a duty which they appeared to me to have performed with due discretion and judgment.

I cannot conclude this, my tenth report, after meeting the Board of Guardians of the Manorhamilton Union without stating my conviction that it would be very advisable, at least for some time, to have two days of meeting at the Board-room in the week instead of one. It will be, I fear, inconvenient to some of the members who have to come a considerable distance; but I cannot see how otherwise it will be possible to get through the increasing work which is before us.

REPLY to the above:—*February 9, 1848.*

As the children will probably be removed from the workhouse without delay, it would not be advisable to make any change in the flooring of the schools.

I am at the same time to state, that the floors are the same in all workhouses, and have been always as at present since the houses were opened; so that the sickness prevalent at present would appear to proceed from other causes than that pointed to.

With reference to the increase of fever in the workhouse, which you state has arisen from the overcrowding of the probationary wards, and from the want of a sufficient supply of pauper clothing to dress the poor when admitted to the workhouse, I am directed to state, that the practice of detaining paupers in the probationary wards permanently, which has, as might be expected, led to the increase of fever, should immediately be discontinued; and that the paupers there may be provided temporarily with clothing by placing paupers already within the body of the workhouse in their own clothes, where found available, and then having the workhouse dress now worn by them prepared for the newly-admitted paupers until their own can be cleaned.

I am at the same time to state, that the Guardians should immediately provide enlarged supplies of new clothing, and thus provide for the reception of paupers.

The Commissioners consider the collection of the rate in the Manorhamilton Union as being in a very unsatisfactory state, requiring very strenuous exertions on the part of the Guardians and their collectors. Lists of persons owing considerable amounts should be prepared, and the collectors be required to press for the rates, in these cases especially, as well as generally within their districts.

The Commissioners still trust that the Guardians, by their example in paying rates which may be due from themselves, and by their personal exertions at the Board, as well as by their local influence, will endeavour to provide the speedy collection of the very large sums now outstanding, and thus provide funds for enabling them effectually to administer relief according to the intention of the Poor Relief Acts.

With a view to the prompt discharge of the Guardians' duties, I am to state that the Commissioners concur in your opinion, that it would be advisable that they should meet on two days in each week; and the Commissioners therefore recommend such an arrangement for the consideration of the Manorhamilton Board of Guardians.

BANTRY UNION.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 8, 1847.*

IN calling attention to the minutes of the Vice-Guardians of this day and yesterday, I have to remark that, upon my own responsibility, I suggested to the Vice-Guardians the desirability of accepting a fresh tender from Mr. John O'Sullivan, for the three western divisions, at 1s. in the pound, instead of Mr. Downing's; and the rate is consequently in course of collection, his securities being good.

To-morrow Mr. Evanson's bonds will be made out for the Durruss and Kilcrohane Divisions (in consequence of no other tenders), and I regret to say at a high rate of poundage, as our case is pressing. However, the Commissioners will be able to judge as to the case, since it of course is open to their approval.

Clothing has been ordered, and additional accommodation is found for from 300 to 400 additional paupers, making the in-door relief available for from 1,100 to 1,200 paupers.

The children will first be moved out, and room thus afforded, most happily, for the able-bodied men and their families. Under these circumstances, I may say a decided improvement in the affairs of the Union has taken place, and now that the children are receiving food in the schools, I think we shall get on well; however, in January we must strike another rate, in consequence of the debts.

An increased poundage has been advertised for, for Bantry and Kilmocnogue (the only divisions not provided for), which I trust will meet the approval of the Commissioners, and I think that I might recommend 2s. 6d. in the pound for these divisions, as there is some underhand work going on.

The relieving officers begin to understand their duties better.

The schools take off a great pressure, and afford general satisfaction.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 9, 1847.*

I HAVE now further to inform you that we have a good and solvent tender, with securities from Mr. Richard O'Donovan, J.P., one of the late Board of Guardians. This tender has been accepted, and his bond will be perfected on Saturday, the 11th instant.

I have deemed it advisable, in consequence of your communication, received this day, not to take Mr. Evanson's tender, and have suggested to the Vice-Guardians, the necessity of advertising for collectors at an increased rate of poundage, for the electoral divisions of Bantry, Kilmoconogue, and Durruss, and I have no doubt with success.

The objection of the late parties was not to the time (now quite unnecessary in consequence of the late sealed order), but to the form of the bond, which they wanted to be allowed to alter, to suit their convenience.

I am pleased with the state of the Union, and if it was not for the debt, all would be well. The schools are in full operation, and although I was at first opposed to them, yet I now approve of them highly, and they keep off a great pressure.

I have passed over a great extent of country this day, and find, as I have before reported, that the people are exerting themselves far more than last year, collecting sea-weed, and manuring their land, although I am sorry to say principally for the potato.

The weather is most unpropitious for the fisherman; it has been blowing these days past a gale of wind.

Could it be possible for the curing stations to purchase sprats as well as other fish? since the fisherman complain they can get no sale for them, and it would further assist us.

The school ration is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a lb. of the best wheaten meal bread, and costs, including everything, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a penny.

Bantry Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 14, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have expressed approval of the acceptance of Mr. John O'Sullivan's proposal for the collection of the rate in the district for which Mr. John Downing had been appointed, and of the rate of remuneration proposed to be allowed to Mr. O'Donovan.

I am at the same time to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which the Commissioners addressed to the Vice-Guardians on the 11th instant.

The Commissioners trust that the unremitting attention of the Vice-Guardians will be directed to the collection of the rates.

An extract from your report of the 9th instant, relating to the purchase of sprats at the curing stations, has been forwarded to the Commissioners of Fisheries.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS of the Bantry Union:—
December 11, 1847.

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had before them minutes of proceedings of the Vice-Guardians of the Bantry Union on the 7th instant, together with the resolutions passed at a public meeting held on the 6th instant, and with reference to the resolution stating the inability of the Vice-Guardians to comply with the demand which has been made upon them, for an extension of the out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Act 10 Vict., cap. 31, in consequence of the limited resources at their command, I am directed to state that the Commissioners are aware of the difficulties the Vice-Guardians must have to contend with, but they have been appointed in the expectation that they would use the most strenuous exertions to surmount difficulties, and provide, to the utmost capability of the local resources, for the relief of the destitute poor.

When the Act 10 Vict., cap. 31, was passed, the Legislature must be presumed to have contemplated the necessity for affording relief in every way sanctioned by it, and wherever the necessity may unfortunately arise the Guardians must labour to provide for it. The Commissioners cannot authorize any Board to determine that relief, which is actually necessary and strictly lawful, may be withheld if the means appear to be inadequate. The Guardians are responsible for making the means adequate to the necessity, and the Commissioners recommend them to avail themselves of the favourable state of the public feeling manifested by the resolutions forwarded with their minutes in pressing on the collection of the rate.

The Commissioners will be prepared to issue an order for out-door relief when the Guardians report it to be necessary; and in the meantime they request the attention of the Vice-Guardians to the enclosed copies of the two orders issued in some Unions where such relief is now required for classes not described in the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, but they desire to observe that the Bantry Union, like Ballinrobe, Castlebar, and Westport Unions, may be found to require the more extended order at once.

The Commissioners take this opportunity of apprising the paid Guardians, that in Kanturk Union, its Board of Vice-Guardians have obtained a loan of 1000*l.* from the National Bank, acting as their treasurer, and also acting for Bantry Union, the Commissioners having guaranteed the interest for three months or any less term. If a similar arrangement can be made for Bantry Union, the Commissioners are prepared to do all in their power to place themselves in a position for giving the requisite guarantee for payment of the interest on the temporary loan.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 13, 1847.*

By a minute of the Vice-Guardians it will be seen that the fever sheds at Castletown were blown away, and the sale of the outbuilding will barely pay the salary of the person who was left in charge of them.

With respect to the sheds here, one end is blown away, but now that they are in the hands of the Vice-Guardians they will be forthwith repaired, and be made available as day-rooms for the children, until the permanent building is finished for their reception on each side of the infirmary.

The plan and specification for the latter have not yet been returned from Dublin, and the Vice-Guardians are awaiting its arrival to commence this essential work.

By the end of the week, the children will be moved out of the house to sleep in the two stores taken in the town, and additional accommodation will be thus immediately given to about 250 additional able-bodied men and their families; and, when that arrangement is completed, it is intended, if more room is required, to move out the bed-ridden patients, giving room for 100 more.

This day the house was not full, wanting upwards of 40 to complete the 800: it will, however, most likely be filled to-morrow.

I trust that another paid Guardian may soon be ordered down, since the duties of Mr. Clarke are very arduous at present, as he has very properly sanctioned out-door relief to the three classes until the 23rd December, and, consequently, before that day it is necessary for him to see all the parties to renew it.

In consequence of my fears respecting not being able to procure collectors, I was under the necessity of applying for a loan of 300*l.* from the British Association, in order to prevent the Vice-Guardians being placed in an awkward position; however, my fears, I am happy to say, are at an end, and the rate has begun to be paid in. The sum has, consequently, been returned to Dublin, to the Commissary-General's office, to the credit of the agent of the British Association.

The Vice-Guardians will have tenders on Wednesday for the four remaining divisions, at, I trust, a low poundage, comparatively speaking; say 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.

I consider that affairs are improving, and am in hopes our additional accommodation will be sufficient to meet the able-bodied classes, especially, as I hope Lord Bantry will at once take his paupers out of the house.

Upon the subject of out-door relief to the second class I will report to-morrow, as it is indeed too serious a step to be passed over.

REPLY to the above:—*December 16, 1847.*

THE plans for providing additional workhouse accommodation to which you advert, were referred to Mr. Wilkinson on the 7th instant, the day on which they reached this office, and were forwarded to Mr. Crawford on the 13th instant, after receipt of Mr. Wilkinson's observations, with a request that he would at once communicate the Commissioners' views with respect to the plans to the Vice-Guardians, which the Commissioners are this day informed by Mr. Crawford that he has done.

Mr. Willis, the gentleman who has been appointed Vice-Guardian of the Union in room of Mr. Gallwey, left Dublin on Monday the 18th instant, the day on which he received his appointment.

The Commissioners have read, with much satisfaction, the favourable account which you give of the financial prospects of the Union.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 14, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to refer, in accordance with my communication of the 13th instant, to the minutes of the Vice-Guardians, and particularly the one in answer to the Commissioners' communication respecting out-door relief.

If the Guardians had any amount of funds, they could not recommend the measure, since the relieving officers have not got through the three first classes entitled to it, although they are doing in most cases, as much as can be expected from them.

Arrangements are made for repairing the fever sheds, and rendering them available as school-rooms for the children.

Mr. Hutchinson, J.P., has tendered to collect the rates in the four divisions not provided for; and I have no doubt that we shall receive many under at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.

Mr. Clarke will appoint to-morrow (subject to your approval), and the rate will be in full collection.

I go to Castletown to-morrow, and on my return, intend visiting Mr. Marshall at Skibbereen.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 17, 1847.*

THE more I see of this district, the more I am convinced that there will be no necessity for any sealed order for out-door relief, taking into consideration an increased workhouse accommodation.

The relieving officers have quite sufficient to do in attending to the three classes now receiving relief, which, with the assistance of feeding the children, does infinite good.

Bantry Union.

The people are stirring themselves, not only manuring the land, but commencing to dig and further to prepare it for potatoes.

The Priests have all promised to assist the collectors, and from the altar insist upon all parties paying the rates; and the poor classes say, "The minister had his driver, the landlord has his, and now we have ours."

It has been blowing a gale of wind for a considerable number of days; and on my arrival here (Castletown Berehaven) on the 15th, I found there was but a very small supply of provisions.

By the last minutes of the Vice-Guardians, it will be seen that they have ordered all outstanding claims to be laid before them.

In consequence of Dr. Willis not having arrived, the warrant for collecting the rates in the two divisions to which Mr. C. O'Donovan was appointed cannot be signed, nor can any money be drawn from the bank.

Lord Berehaven has applied for 4000*l.* more, under the Land Improvement Act in this locality, and I need not impress upon you the necessity of the projects being at once reported upon, as well as his application for Bere Island, and also the other memorial forwarded from the Union since. With Lord Bantry's employment about to commence, the greatest part of our pressure will be taken off, and leave us plenty of room in the house.

If the sealed order were issued, I am sure all this employment would at once cease.

I take the opportunity of offering a suggestion, with respect to the sealed order for your consideration, and which might be taken advantage of to check abuses in those Unions where it may be necessary to issue one.

I would recommend in every case, that the sealed order be restricted to the present inmates of the house, or a portion of them, who should be all taken out, and a second order should not be issued until the house was again filled, and so on. I do not think any Union would require even a second, certainly not a third order.

I trust an answer from the Board of Works may soon be received with respect to the tools, since we are much in want of them.

REPLY to the above:—*December 21, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have communicated with the Board of Works, with reference to the completion of the arrangements, preliminary to the granting of loans for the improvement of property in the Union.

I am at the same time to state, as regards your suggestion relative to the issue of orders for providing out-door relief for the destitute poor, that a Board of Guardians has full power, without a special order, to carry such an arrangement as that which you suggest into effect, in a case where an order for out-door relief, under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, has been issued; I am further to state that the reception of able-bodied persons into the workhouse has been suggested by the Commissioners as a means of testing their destitution where out-door relief to the able-bodied has been authorized.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 21, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to state that every applicant for the workhouse was admitted this day, and room remains in the house for more; indeed for upwards of 200, if we only had the clothing which was ordered long since.

I would call attention to the minute respecting the publication of the parties receiving out-door relief, since we may detect many abuses thereby.

Collectors are found for every division now, and the rate is coming in; and I am in hopes in another month, in those divisions where there is no employment given, exertion will be made to have another rate struck.

I go to Skibbereen to-morrow to see Mr. Marshall, and next week by Kenmare to Castletown, as I am anxious to see Captain Ommanney.

I shall be able to manage at Castletown without any other assistance. The person required there is a representative of property.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*December 28, 1847.*

Bantry Union.

THE Commissioners have received the minutes of proceedings of the Vice-Guardians on the 21st instant, to which you refer, and they do not object to the publication of the names of the persons to whom the Vice-Guardians are affording out-door relief as proposed by the resolution of the Guardians.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 5, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state that I was principally engaged last week in visiting the different parts of my district, and seeing if the relieving officers were doing their duty, and I may, with one exception, give a more favourable report of them than last week.

The rate is coming in, but I regret to say much confusion arises in consequence of the revisor not having altered the rate-books prior to the clerk's making out the rate, and he in reply states, that he was not aware of the lands having changed hands.

A great deal of my time is taken up in the schools, and attending to their general superintendence.

This week I was engaged, both Monday and yesterday, at the workhouse discharging paupers and scrutinizing the inmates, which will take my entire time for some days longer.

I have now so arranged it that from five divisions we shall not have a pauper in the house, and in one of the four remaining there is only 11, so that almost the entire workhouse establishment is left available for the three remaining divisions, viz., Bantry, Kilcrohane, and West Durrus, and I hope soon to arrange about them, but I am obliged, with pain, to state, that neither Lord Kenmare or Mr. Robert White have as yet done anything, and they might indeed lay out money to advantage in their divisions, Bantry (I wrote on my arrival to both, neither of whom answered my letters), and by so doing avoid another heavy rate that will fall upon them, as well as ensuring for themselves not only their rent next year (which will otherwise go in rates) but also the permanent improvement of their properties.

I trust the Commissioners will not restrict our house accommodation to 600, but issue their sealed order for 800 (including the infirmary and fever hospital), as it has been long since sanctioned and found quite capable of containing that number, under reports of the medical officers; besides this we have additional accommodation for 300, making in all 1100.

We have but about 750 occupying this at present, principally from Bantry and Kilcrohane; from the latter division, yesterday, we had a family of a man, his wife, and 10 children, and two over 15.

I regret to say that the parties discharged show a great disposition not to work, and some even try to come back to the house, where they will not be readmitted; however they will be taught they must work, and that properly, to earn their daily bread.

As we get on, the out-door relief will diminish, since all the able-bodied widows with children must be employed, but everything cannot be done at once.

A slight increase to the paupers' diet has been recommended, preparatory to their being worked well, and they will find the workhouse no place for idleness.

I cannot conclude my report this week without expressing to the Commissioners that my thanks are due to the Vice-Guardians, Mr. Clarke and Dr. Willis, whose exertions are indefatigable, being often at the house at eight and nine o'clock at night, using every endeavour to check abuses, and carry out the law.

The Board of Works require an immediate payment for their implements. I have latterly understood that it only needs an application from the Poor Law Commissioners to secure the tools required as a loan, provided they are for Poor Law purposes, I need not recommend that the Vice-Guardians would take every care of them.

REPLY to the above :—*January 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have communicated with the Board of Works with reference to the payment required for the working implements supplied to the Board of Guardians.

Bantry Union.

I am at the same time to state, with reference to your observations as to the number of persons for whom you consider there is accommodation in the workhouse, and additional buildings, that the subject will receive the attention of the Commissioners.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to refer to the minutes of this day's proceedings, by which it will appear that the Vice-Guardians were compelled to issue certain instructions to the master, relative to parties admitted into the house provisionally.

The relieving officers do not attend to their duty as they should do (I allude particularly to Messrs. Eccles and Power), and this places the Guardians in, at times, an awkward position.

This day, our door was surrounded by a mob of over 500 persons, and principally by those never expecting to be admitted.

The work test is our safety; and although we have many inmates, yet we have room *for more*, and will give them the test to the utmost of our ability.

It must be satisfactory to the Commissioners to know that our house has only to meet the destitute of four divisions, and one of these has only 11 paupers.

Mr. Timothy O'Donovan is about to make an application for Kilcrohane, under the Land Improvement Act.

I trust and hope that the loan to Mr. O'Sullivan, of Carrigunass, and to Lord Berehaven, for Bere Island, may soon be sanctioned under the Land Improvement Act; and also that the Board of Works will order the immediate inspection of Lord Berehaven's application for drainage in Kilcatherin and Kilnamanagh, and which, from their kind co-operation, I am sure they have already done.

I would call particular attention to the idleness of those discharged for work, many of whom try to return to the house, sooner than take task-work. This, of course, is not permitted.

The duties of the master are very great, and this may be seen by reference to the discharges and admissions; and I may say, if this last week were taken as a criterion, it would be discouraging enough. However I think that many, when they are well worked, will demand their discharges, as some did this day; and I certainly never contemplate out-door relief under the second section, since the workhouse accommodation, capable of meeting 1100, has only to meet the destitution of, I may say, three divisions.

The present pressure is evidently an attempt that never will be yielded to, if half the town of Bantry had to be taken for additional accommodation.

I am to see Mr. O'Sullivan, the rate-collector, to-morrow, and will take care that he is more active, or I shall take measures that will not please him. A reference to him is also made in the minutes.

I have advertised for a site for a workhouse at Castletown, and the Guardians have complied with the recommendations of the Commissioners. I will not at present offer any remarks upon this important matter.

In conclusion, I would refer to the conduct of Mr. Payne, J. P., Lord Bantry's agent, and Captain Reed, of the Berehaven mines, who appear both willing and anxious to co-operate with me, and save the country from destitution and ruin.

REPLY to the above :—*January 15, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will report specially as to the conduct of any of the officers of the Union who do not obey the directions of the Vice-Guardians and the orders of the Commissioners, with a view to their dismissal by an order under seal, and to the appointment of more efficient officers in their room.

An extract from your report, with regard to the loans applied for by Mr. O'Sullivan, of Carrigunass, and Lord Berehaven, will be forwarded to the Board of Works.

The minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians, on the 11th instant, have not been received yet by the Commissioners.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 14, 1848.*

Bantry Union.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I saw Mr. John O'Sullivan, the rate-collector for the three divisions comprising the Castletown district, and after explaining to him that neither the Vice-Guardians nor myself were satisfied at the progress he was making, he promised that he would lodge a large sum next week, over I trust 200*l.*, exclusive of the arrears (if an instalment is paid).

The immediate lessors are very difficult to arrive at, and I am anxious to know whether the collector or the Vice-Guardians, should be the party to make an application to the Court when the property is in Chancery, as that of the representatives of John O'Sullivan.

The difficulties are very great, since a very extensive tract of country, up to a short time ago, was undivided, and the late Mr. Hedges Eyre left his portion $\frac{1}{4}$ to Lord Berehaven, the other proprietors being Mr. Puxley, Mr. Hutchins, and Mr. Herbert. This land was again underlet, and has caused great confusion; as, although the partition has been agreed to, the occupier refuses to give possession.

I have given Mr. O'Sullivan specific directions to go upon, and as far as the occupier is concerned, have further said that I am ready at any time, to accompany him if he expects opposition.

I cannot detail the points at issue, but will name one which appears extraordinary.

Mr. Eugene O'Sullivan holds land in the electoral division of Kilnarnagh, on a lease under Mr. Puxley; by the partition, Mr. Puxley takes land in the electoral division of Kilcathreen instead, and extraordinary to say, in consequence, Mr. E. O'Sullivan is ordered to move his tenure to Kilcathreen, as the land he holds falls to Lord Berehaven; but this he refuses to do. Who, then, is the immediate lessor? If Mr. E. O'Sullivan, who is the lessor where Mr. O'Sullivan ought to be?

I have decided that Mr. O'Sullivan shall pay where he holds possession, and Mr. Puxley for the property that Mr. O'Sullivan has refused to take.

P.S. I enclose a letter from the revisor.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. STAVELEY to Captain GORDON:—*January 14, 1848.*

I HAVE to state that a large portion of this Union situated in Berehaven, and comprising the electoral divisions of Kilcathreen and Kilnarnagh, and a portion of Killaconenagh, is at present in a situation of peculiar difficulty as regards the striking of a rate.

The proprietors hold those *jointly* in the following proportions:—

Lord Berehaven	.	.	.	.	11/21
Samuel Hutchins	.	.	.	.	4/21
John L. Puxley	.	.	.	.	4/21
Rev. Edward Herbert	.	.	.	.	2/21

The present difficulty is, that a Commission which was held for the purpose of dividing those lands has ended, and that the decree of the Chancellor has issued, allotting to each his own separate lands; that on going on the lands to get possession this order was resisted by the tenants in being, who refused possession, and who are served with notices to quit on next 25th March. Under those circumstances, there is great difficulty in finding out who is the right person to rate. I have now to request instructions preparatory to a revision of the same; and I have to add that those lands being mostly let in small lots, which throws the bulk of the rate on the *immediate lessors*, increases the difficulty.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain GORDON:—*January 21, 1848.*

IN pursuance of an order made by the Court of Chancery on the 12th November, 1845, and another by the Court of Exchequer dated 22nd May, 1846, where the payment of rates devolves exclusively on the landlord, it is to be made, if the property be in the Courts, by the receiver, guardian, committee, or sequestrator; and therefore the collector should apply accordingly.

I am at the same time to state, that in the case of the newly partitioned property of the late Mr. Hedges Eyre, where the immediate lessor is liable for the rate, the party who stood in that relation to the occupiers when the rate was

Bantry Union.

made, should be applied to, and that in any future rate the party who shall at the time of making it stand in the same relation must be regarded so liable: but the Commissioners desire to observe that in making a rate, it is not necessary to name the immediate lessors where any doubt exists, as the Act 6 & 7 Vict., c. 92, in such case authorizes the words "*the immediate lessors*" to be inserted, without any name or further addition.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, that on Saturday (yesterday) afternoon, we had 1164 in the house. This rapid increase has taken place from this division, and is evidently an attempt made to force an order for out-door relief. In this case I was determined to counteract it, and made arrangements with Dr. Willis to admit 1600, if necessary, since we have plenty of accommodation.

The parties admitted were principally fine healthy-looking men.

I have made arrangements with Mr. Payne, Lord Bantry's agent, whose services I cannot too highly value, and he will take out for drainage, to-morrow, 100, and next day another 100, if necessary. The first 100 will take with their families over 400. Three stewards have been hired to commence to-morrow morning, and we will give our inmates plenty of work, and that of a remunerative nature for the Union.

REPLY to the above:—*January 19, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are prepared, if you recommend it, to issue an order, authorising the Vice-Guardians to give out-door relief, under the second section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, to widows with one child, and children, both of whose parents are dead.

By the discharge of these classes much additional workhouse accommodation would probably be at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain GORDON:—*January 18, 1848.*

I AM directed to forward herewith, for your information, the enclosed copy of a letter which the Commissioners have received from the Board of Works, relative to Lord Berehaven's application for a loan of 4000*l*.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. WALKER, Secretary to the Board of Works, to Mr. STANLEY:—*January 14, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 20th ultimo, forwarding an extract from the report of Captain Gordon, Temporary Poor Law Inspector of Bantry Union, relative to Lord Berehaven's application for loan of 4,000*l*. I am directed to inform you that the memorial from Lord Berehaven for 4000*l*. has not yet been received, but at Captain Gordon's request, Mr. Hussey, (the Board's Inspector), has been instructed to report on it, in anticipation of the receipt of the memorial.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 18, 1848.*

I AM anxious to correct an error in my report of last week, since instead of Mr. Eugene O'Sullivan holding land, in the case alluded to, under Mr. Puxley, it should be under Lord Berehaven; and that another party gets Lord Berehaven's portion, which Mr. E. O'Sullivan had and still retains possession of.

In this day's minutes some other curious details respecting the tenure of land appear; and I trust the Commissioners will approve of the opinion expressed.

Next week we shall have in a large amount of rate.

On Thursday next I attend at petty sessions to support the rate collector in some seizures he has made, and where the cattle were rescued. The parties must be convicted, although the case is a hard one. In consequence of the fences being down, the cattle strayed into some waste lands and were taken. They belong to the poorest classes, some of whom showed no opposition.

Several petty thefts have also been committed, and some of the parties detected.

I trust the Commissioners will also approve of the steps taken respecting the employment of the paupers. The women are made to break stones.

It was found necessary, pending your decision, to assist the relieving officer of this district (who may improve). I shall act upon the Commissioners' instructions in this matter, and recommend, in cases of incompetency, the dismissal of the party.

All the relieving officers settled their accounts this day.

The clerk explains respecting the non-arrival of the minutes, that he posted them in time on Thursday. I trust they have since reached.

The Vice-Guardians were employed all yesterday discharging some 300 paupers from the house for work, and thus the numbers are again reduced in the house, and we have room. Many go out of their own accord.

At a late hour last evening Mr. Anthony Nicholson, one of the relieving officers, brought up 171 paupers from Kilcatherin, a distance of over 30 miles. The Vice-Guardians cautioned him upon the subject, as will be seen by the minutes, and explained that they could not suppose that such a number could become suddenly destitute, although they would be prepared to take them in, but would not permit their coming in mobs. The minutes of last week also refer to this subject. The entire number were admitted and discharged this day for work and sent down in charge of the relieving officer.

I consider the affairs of the Union going on favourably, and next week I propose testing our out-door relief lists, by giving tickets of admission to the house, and so reducing the numbers.

I have addressed a communication to the Count Strzelecki this day about the schools, since they are open to great abuse, and I have proposed, in my opinion, a way to check this, and at the same time prevent any kind of proselytism by means of food. At present, in spite of all my orders, the poorest classes are the least cared for.

I am anxious to have the lists made out under my superintendence, and made the relief assist us in our work.

I am sure by this means I can reduce the numbers and expenses, instead of being at present pressed on all sides to increase; and education would be better attended to.

I hope the Commissioners will recommend it to the favourable consideration of the Count.

P.S.—I hope soon to have employment in Kilcrohane, and have received a note from Mr. O'Donovan, J. P., saying that the rate-payers were about to check the out-door relief lists.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 29, 1848.*

WITH respect to the employment of women in stone-breaking, I am to request your attention to the enclosed copy of a letter which they addressed in 1846 to the Board of Guardians of the North Dublin Union.

The Commissioners are convinced that the Vice-Guardians, in requiring the female paupers to break stones, had no intention of exercising any unnecessary severity towards that class of destitute persons; but still the Commissioners are desirous that the Vice-Guardians should, in accordance with the views expressed in that letter, make arrangements for the employment of the females in the workhouse in some other manner.

The Commissioners have approved the appointment of three overseers of work in the workhouse, so long as their services may be required, in addition to the ordinary workhouse officers; and they have addressed the Vice-Guardians on the subject of the rating of certain hereditaments to which you advert in your Report.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS of the North Dublin Union :—
October 27, 1846.

THE Poor Law Commissioners observe from the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the North Dublin Union, on the 21st instant, that the Guardians have had under their consideration the propriety of employing female paupers of the workhouse in breaking stones, and that they have negatived a proposition for imperatively forbidding the practice.

The Commissioners are well aware of the difficulty frequently experienced by Boards of

Bantry Union.

Guardians in finding suitable employment for female paupers in workhouses, and they would be unwilling to do anything which might needlessly embarrass the Board of Guardians of North Dublin Union in this respect.

At the same time as the Commissioners have a decided objection to the employment of female paupers in breaking stones, they deem it right to communicate their views on this practice to the Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners regard it as highly desirable that every pauper in the workhouse should be set to work in a manner suited to his sex, age, and strength; and this rule applies to females as well as to males. But they are of opinion that the employment of breaking stones is not suitable to a woman. By common usage men only are employed in this kind of labour; and if in some instances it has been extended to women, it has been the result of peculiar circumstances, and could scarcely be regarded as an exception to the rule for their exemption which prevails generally, as the Commissioners believe, in all the countries of Europe.

In reference to resorting to this kind of employment, as what is called a test of destitution for able-bodied women, the Commissioners desire to state that the object of a workhouse is to give relief to the really destitute, and as it is demoralizing to maintain able-bodied persons in idleness, all such inmates should be set to work.

At the same time the Commissioners do not think that this, which is a mere incident of relief in the workhouse, should be made use of as an instrument for deterring applicants from accepting it. The attempt to convert employment to this purpose would tend to invest relief in a workhouse with somewhat of a penal character, and would thus be contrary to the mild and benevolent intentions of the Legislature in passing the Irish Poor Relief Act.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire to state that they communicated the above views some months ago to a Board of Guardians which had introduced the employment solely as a mode of punishment for violent and ill-conducted women, and the Commissioners had then occasion to ascertain that no such employment or punishment was permitted in any of the prisons in Ireland. The Board of Guardians referred to immediately discontinued the practice on receiving the above information; and the Commissioners request the North Dublin Board of Guardians to be good enough to reconsider the subject in reference to the foregoing exposition of the views of the Commissioners.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 22, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 19th instant; and in reply, I have to inform you that, as will have been seen by my report of the 18th January, the pressure upon the workhouse is over, and in fact we have plenty of accommodation and are prepared to meet any emergency.

The orphans are certainly numerous, but I do not think it would be advisable to turn them out, since many are of a very tender age.

The widows with two children, I hope, will also soon be employed in their districts, where work is going on, and thus be struck off the out-door list.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 23, 1848.*

I AM anxious to ask your advice in the following matter, and to know if I am correct in my views upon the subject.

I consider that every pauper who is admitted into the house has no means whatever, and further surrenders his cabin, (which is generally pulled down) having no longer a place of residence.

I am further of opinion that if work is found for him in his division or adjacent to it, that the Guardians are empowered to discharge such pauper and his family from the workhouse, and he must locate himself near the work, but if he chooses to lodge at a distance, I do not consider it an affair of the Guardians.

I may be wrong in my idea of the case, but come to this conclusion, since otherwise large public and private works would not in many districts find labourers, such as reclamation of waste lands; and on those occasions I think the labourer must follow his work as the navigator does in England.

I think the matter a very serious and important one and well worthy of attention.

REPLY to the above:—*January 29, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are not aware of any practical difficulty that the Vice-Guardians of the Bantry Union should have in the case stated, if they merely discharge the pauper from the workhouse, and apprise him where employment can be obtained. They have no power to interfere further; and in all such cases they are best capable of determining what is fit to be done.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain GORDON:—*January 31, 1848.*

Bantry Union.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a child (named Honora Shea) who is supposed to have died from destitution; and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief, either to the Vice-Guardians of the Bantry Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

*County Cork, W. R.,
Castletown, January 21, 1848.*

A CHILD named Honora Shea, of Iris, in the parish of Kilcathreen, and barony of Bere, aged two years and a half, is reported to have died of destitution on the 16th instant. Its mother died of fever a short time ago, and the father emigrated to America about the same time. An inquest is to be held.

H. MORGAN, *Sub-Inspector, 3rd Class.*

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, in answer to your communication of the 31st ultimo, that I had on the 19th January made inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of the child Honora Shea, and enclose the statement of the relieving officer in answer to my queries, which I consider quite frees him from any neglect.

ENCLOSURE.

Queries for Anthony Nicholson, relieving officer, Kilcathreen.

Did the late Honora Shea, of Iris, aged two and a half years, or any of her family, apply to you for relief?

If so, what steps did you take, and what was the date of the application to you?

Have you given provisional relief to the child of the same family who is said to be in want.

If not, why?

Captain Gordon desires that Mr. Nicholson will immediately inquire into the circumstances of the case, saying whether the child died of want?

And also, whether there was no one to look after it?

Mr. Nicholson will see by his instructions that there is a way to meet every case, and no one need starve or perish from famine. In the case of the child in question, after giving it immediate relief, when he heard of the want of the family, he might have had the child and young sister conveyed to the workhouse here.

(Signed) H. GORDON,
Captain, 59th Regiment.

Bantry, January 19, 1848.

Answers for the information of Captain Gordon in reply to the queries proposed.

Her sister, Mary Shea, aged 17 years, applied for relief on behalf of a junior brother and three sisters.

Received application in due form, and gave one stone of meal, provisional relief, on the 11th December.

Yes, on 11th December and 19th January.

It appears that the child suffered from want, but she was for many months, since the decease of her mother, in a most delicate state of health.

Yes, Mary, the eldest member of the family, and her aunt.

On the 17th December the case was brought before the notice of the Vice-Guardians who refused a continuance of out-door relief. A ticket to the workhouse was then offered, and subsequently to the decease of the child, which was on both occasions peremptorily refused.

(Signed) ANTHONY NICHOLSON,
*Relieving Officer,
Kilcathreen.*

True Copies,

H. GORDON, *Captain, 59th Regiment.*

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 27, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that everything is going on favourably, although many attempts are made to embarrass the Vice-Guardians and myself in our proceedings.

The amount collected may appear small, but since the banker's account was received, and prior to the ending of the week, John O'Donovan has lodged

Bantry Union.

146*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, and Mr. O'Sullivan 310*l.*, and I hope a further increase next week.

I consider it necessary to recommend, that unless Mr. Eccles, the relieving officer for Kilmocomogue, resigns, that he be suspended in his appointment, since nothing can justify his non-compliance with the instructions; and although willing, yet he is not competent to fill the situation.

On Thursday last I attended at the petty sessions, and informations were taken against the parties who made the rescue from the collectors.

On Saturday Dr. Willis and myself counted the house, and made the numbers 845 instead of 940 that the master returned; and in consequence of this, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Crawford attended on Sunday, and we called the names from the relief list, but although we were at work until after dark, yet we only got through 400 names, and on counting the parties remaining, made the number the same as Saturday.

I can easily understand how such an error occurred, since many parties must have absconded, and been discharged without entering their names. I acquit the master of all attempts at fraud, and he is a hard-working man. The causes of this irregularity will be inquired into and rectified as soon as it possibly can.

In some cases women who were deserted by their husbands were receiving outdoor relief, but not being entitled under the first section of the Act, the relieving officers were ordered to discontinue it, and give tickets to the house instead.

The disinclination to work continues, and Mr. Payne has great difficulty in getting labourers.

During our meeting yesterday we were interrupted by the abrupt entrance of the Rev. C. Freeman, R.C.C., who exclaimed,—“Captain Gordon, I have to state “to you that a child has just died at my door, being the third within these last few “days; and it can no longer be concealed that the people are starving.” I was quite astonished at this statement, since neither the sub-inspector of police, the relieving officer, or myself, had heard or have since heard of anything of the kind.

The Rev. Mr. Freeman further stated that he had brought the body to the house, and I directed the relieving officer's attention to the case. Hearing, however, a great noise, I went out, and hearing Mr. Freeman exclaiming about a post-mortem examination, I demanded who brought the parties to the house with such a crowd. Mr. Freeman stepped forward and said, “I did;” and on my remarking that it would have been better if he had sent for the relieving officer, he exclaimed that such officers could not be found (although at the workhouse), and abruptly left the room as he had entered.

(I need not at this time remark upon the necessity of not allowing dead bodies to be brought to the house, since every one who died of any disease would be brought there to be interred.)

On examining the poor child in question, I found it exhibited a very pallid appearance, and observed that it was *not* dead; and on calling the attention of the medical officers of the house to the case, it was at once attended to; and although their subsequent certificate showed that it was suffering from want, yet at the same time it had a violent attack of dysentery.

Mr. Power (the relieving officer) informed the Board that neither parents had applied to him for relief until Monday, or he would have attended to it, and even on that day the case did not appear a pressing one. The family were entitled to out-door relief under the first section of the Act.

The Rev. Mr. Freeman, after leaving the house, went down and brought up Dr. M'Carthy to make, I suppose, a post-mortem examination, since they proceeded to the dead-house; but subsequently, Mr. Freeman had the presumption to bring Dr. M'Carthy into the hospital, and he examined the child, although it was under the charge of our medical attendants, Drs. Jagoe and Leckey. This would not have occurred if we had known it in time; and on hearing the facts of the case, we requested Rev. James Barry, P.P. Union chaplain (who is most attentive), to give us his attendance, and explained to him we could not allow such interference in future; and at the same time requested him to demand from Mr. Freeman the names of the two other children alluded to by him as dying at his door. We have not yet got them, but I will report when we can ascertain particulars.

I have strictly investigated into the matter, and cannot learn of any one dying or having died of famine.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 28, 1848.*

Bantry Union.

WITH reference to your observations respecting Mr. W. Eccles, one of the relieving officers in the Union, I am to request that you will report the circumstances under which Mr. Eccles has failed to comply with the orders of the Vice-Guardians or the Commissioners; and on receipt of your report they will immediately take the subject into consideration, with a view to his removal from office if requisite.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 26, 1848.*

WITH reference to my report of this day's date, I have the honour further to inform the Commissioners that the Rev. C. Freeman did not furnish the names of the children who he alleges died of starvation at his door.

I have made inquiry, and can hear of no one having died of starvation.

With the minutes of this day a letter is sent from the relieving officer, stating, that the parents of the party in question (who is out of all danger) never applied to him or any other relieving officer for relief.

Mr. Eccles, relieving officer, has resigned, and so there is no necessity for his dismissal.

I am well pleased with the way we are going on; many are demanding their discharge in consequence of the work.

P.S.—My report this morning should be dated 26th instead of 27th January.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 30, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward another complaint of the Rev. C. Freeman, R. C. C.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. R. POWER, Sub-Inspector, to Captain GORDON:—*January 30, 1848.*

I HAVE to inform you that just this moment I received a note from the Rev. Mr. Freeman, stating that a child belonging to a man named Thomas Foley, residing on Blackrock-road, had died of starvation. May I take the liberty of calling your's and the relieving officer's attention to this case, and will feel obliged for a report on the subject, as to whether application was made for relief for this child.

P.S.—I beg to send you Mr. Freeman's communication on the subject.

Rev. C. FREEMAN, R. C. C., to Mr. POWER:—*January 30, 1848.*

BEARER, Thomas Foley, now living in Blackrock-road, has a child dead. I have made inquiries as to the cause of death, and in my opinion this unfortunate child died from the effects of starvation. You, of course, will act in this case as you deem fit.

Captain GORDON to RELIEVING OFFICER.

Queries.

Thomas Foley, of Blackrock-road, is reported to have a child dead from starvation.

The relieving officer is requested to state whether Thomas Foley applied to him for relief.

Date of application.

Mode of disposing of it.

The name and age of the child.

Further particulars.

January 30, 1848.

Answers.

I have made inquiries, and find that the child in question died about Christmas-Day, having, as the mother informed me, been ill for a week previously of a bowel complaint.

No application was made to me for relief by the parents, who are strangers in Bantry, from another district.

I regret such reports should be made without any inquiry previously as to the facts.

January 30, 1848.

Captain GORDON to Mr. POWER:—*January 30, 1848.*

IN answer to your communication of this day's date, and enclosing a note from the Rev. C. Freeman, stating that Thomas Foley had a child dead, and saying in his opinion it died from the effects of starvation, I have to inform you that the child in question died so long ago as Christmas-Day, and, from all inquiries that can be made, it appears from dysentery.

Bantry Union.

Mr. Freeman made a report on last Tuesday, the 25th, that he has not yet accounted for, since he stated to the Vice-Guardians and myself, that two children had died of want at his door, and he had brought with him the body of a third, which was still living and taken into hospital, the father never having made any application to the relieving officer. He was called upon to name the other two, and, failing to do so, I consider his report without foundation.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 31, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report with respect to the workhouse at Castletown, after having well considered the proposal, I am induced to think that such a building could never be properly conducted or controlled in that unhappy district, such is the present state of society.

I am also of opinion that the present workhouse is sufficient for the Union.

However, a good site is to be found, and I shall have the proper tenders in a day or two.

Some building is necessary there; and I would strongly recommend a permanent hospital, since the district has nothing of the kind to meet any epidemic; and in that particular we are almost as badly off here.

REPLY to the above :—*February 3, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have fully considered the question of whether it is desirable to have a workhouse at Berehaven; and they have decided the question in the affirmative.

They think on general grounds that the requiring destitute able-bodied persons to go from Berehaven to the workhouse at Bantry amounts practically in some instances to a denial of relief.

The Commissioners are sensible that there will be great difficulty in securing a good Board of Guardians for the new workhouse and the new Union; but it is to be remembered that the Commissioners have it always in their power to dissolve a Board of Guardians which fails to discharge its duties duly and effectually.

CASTLAREA UNION.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 28, 1847.*

I BEG to send you a statement of the condition I found this Union in. Yesterday was the first meeting I had with the Board of Guardians; there was a full meeting, as I sent a circular to each of them to attend. The collectors have got till next Board day to return the names of all defaulters. The Guardians struck a rate of 2s. 11d. in the pound, and afterwards passed a resolution that only one-half was to be collected at first; nearly three months have passed over, and all the money paid in by the collectors is about 2500l. But for this resolution, I am informed a large sum would have been paid in. The collectors are now taking steps to collect the rate. I found the master and matron of the workhouse most attentive, and the upper part of the house very clean; the yards in a shocking state of dirt, the grass growing in the yards, the windows broken. The paupers can get over the walls as they please. I wanted the Guardians to grant money to raise them, but they refused. They have given an order that a quantity of implements should be bought from the Board of Works; when I get them I shall soon have the place in order. I found most of the children in rags, many of the men without shirts, and not the half of them in the workhouse dress yesterday. Some of the paupers did not get their breakfasts till half-past 1 o'clock, for want of fires. There are five girls sleeping in some of the beds, and four boys in others. No room to class the children, from the crowded state of the house; all the sewers about the house choked up. Shall I order the solicitor to attend the Board, to take proceedings against the large rate-payers? I am told that the collectors find it hardest to get them to pay. No paupers admitted yesterday.

REPLY to the above:—*December 3, 1847.*

THE Commissioners do not approve the receipt of any instalment of the rates now due; and they request that you will recommend the Guardians to press forward the collection.

With regard to the proceedings for enforcing payment of the arrears of rate in the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners do not consider it necessary that the Guardians should incur the expense of having their solicitor in attendance to receive oral directions. They recommend lists to be made for him, of the rate-payers to be proceeded against by civil bill, or by action in the superior courts; and they will be prepared to sanction the latter proceeding, on receiving the list of the immediate lessors, who may be so proceeded against, in which list the residence of each lessor should be stated.

With respect to the state of the workhouse, I am to request that you will have a list made of the articles and quantities of clothing and bedding required, and that you will ascertain what course the Guardians propose to take for providing the supplies, which you will be so good as to report, at the same time annexing a list of the requisites wanting.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 5, 1847.*

I BEG to inform you that the affairs of this Union are getting into a better state than they were the week previous. The rate collectors have lodged 150l. more than they did the former week; but there is still a great neglect on their part. I am going to the petty sessions on Tuesday, to see that every person is decreed, whom they have summoned. I have to report that the workhouse premises are getting into some state of order, the Guardians have given an order for clothing for the paupers, and all necessaries required.

Castlereagh Union.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 12, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for your information, the business I have had on hand for the last week. I have attended at the workhouse with some of the Guardians, and have been revising the lists of the paupers in the house. As far as I have gone, I find there are numbers of people in it holders of land; as an instance, one person is a 10*l.* freeholder of the county. I am in hopes by the end of next week, to have completed a thorough revision of the entire house, and am certain we shall reduce the numbers by 300. I read out to the Guardians, as far as I got the returns, the names of all immediate lessors who are defaulters; they have ordered application to be made to them for payment. I would suggest to the Commissioners, that the present rate-collectors should be changed. From what I see of them, they never will do their duty in collecting the rate; some from intimidation, others from being in the hands of the Guardians and magistrates. I think there ought to be a person sent down to reside in this town to collect the entire rates of the Union, with full power to have the stipendiary magistrate, and the police to assist him. I regret to state that this part of the country is in a very bad state; the magistrates are afraid to act; in fact, no man's life is safe that has any dealing with the country people.

 Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 15, 1847.*

MAY I request you will inform me how I am to act? Numbers of the most wretched creatures are brought to the workhouse door in fever; the Guardians, from kind motives, order them to be admitted; the doctor opposes it as much as possible, on the grounds that there are too many in the hospital. I should be much obliged by your giving me instructions against next Board day. I send you the master's report.

 REPLY to the above:—*December 17, 1847.*

As it appears there have been five temporary hospitals established in the Castlereagh Union, under the Act 10 Vic. c. 22, it would be advisable to render these available; and if they are not at present in use, the Relief Committees should be called upon to re-open them, in which case they would have to be supported by the Guardians, as pointed out in the 15th section of the Act; but that if the Committees will not act, there should be an application made to the Board of Health, for a requisition to the Board of Guardians, which will enable them to charge the support of the hospitals to the Union, under the 6th section of the Act 9 Vic. c. 6; or in case of abandonment of the hospitals and refusals of the Committees to act, the Guardians may take possession of them as fever wards to be provided for under the 6 and 7 Vic. c. 92; in which case, however, the Union medical officer would require assistance, and it would be more advisable to have the hospitals managed under the 9 Vic., c. 6, if the first course cannot be adopted.

 The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. AUCHMUTY:—*December 20, 1847.*

I AM to forward to you herewith, a communication which the Commissioners have received from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a man named Michael Cunnawn, who is stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body, to have come by his death from starvation, and I am to request that you will have the goodness to make such inquiry into the circumstances, as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Board of Guardians, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

 Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply:—*December 26, 1847.*

I BEG to state for your information, that I went myself to make inquiries as to the cause of Michael Cunnawn's death; there is no doubt but that he died from starvation. From every inquiry I made at the workhouse, he never made

application for admittance; the relieving officer states that the family are on his register since the 8th of this month.

Castlerea Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. AUCHMUTY:—*December 28, 1847.*

WITH reference to the statement of the relieving officer, that the names of Cunnawn's family had been on his register since the 8th instant, I am to request that the Commissioners may be informed whether relief had been afforded to the family previous to the decease of Michael Cunnawn.

The object of the Commissioners in making inquiry into the circumstances of the case is, to ascertain whether the death occurred from the neglect of the Board of Guardians or any of their officers; and the Commissioners are desirous that you should direct your inquiries with a view to elicit information on that point.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS in reply:—*December 31, 1847.*

I BEG to state that I made inquiry from Patt Cunnawn, the father of Michael Cunnawn deceased, and he states that he never applied to any of the Guardians for relief; the master states that he never applied to him to be admitted into the workhouse; he has not been receiving relief since the Temporary Relief Act ceased.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. AUCHMUTY:—*January 7, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will have the goodness to furnish the Commissioners with further particulars with regard to the fact that the family of Michael Cunnawn were on the relieving officer's register since the 8th ultimo.

It does not appear from your reports whether the relieving officer or the Board of Guardians are answerable for neglecting to afford relief to this family.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS in reply:—*January 9, 1848.*

Mr. EKANS, the relieving officer, states that Patt Cunnawn's family were on his relief list since the 8th of December; but Michael Cunnawn died two days before they were put on. The relieving officer stated to me that he went on hearing of the distress the family were in, and registered their names himself, as the family never made application to him; he had no funds available to give them any relief.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. AUCHMUTY:—*January 7, 1848.*

I AM to forward to you herewith, a communication which the Commissioners have received from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a man named Mark Granville, who is stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body, to have died from want; and I am to request that you will have the goodness to make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Board of Guardians of the Castle-rea Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply:—*January 9, 1848.*

I BEG to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I made every inquiry from the Board of Guardians yesterday, and from the master and every person connected with the workhouse, and they state that Mark Granville never made application to be admitted into the workhouse. Mr. John Tighe, the relieving officer, had Granville's name on his registry a week before his death; he states that Granville was an old man, and had been in bad health for some time. The relieving officer had no funds available to give him relief.

Castlereagh Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. AUCHMUTY:—*January 10, 1848.*

I AM to state that as Mark Granville died on the 30th ultimo, and the relieving officer had his name on the registry a *week* previously, there must have been a meeting of Guardians during that time; and the Commissioners consider a further explanation necessary, showing why some provision was not at such meeting made for this poor man.

The Commissioners are also desirous to know precisely what provision is made weekly for the destitute persons on the out-door relief lists; and further, whether you are satisfied that sufficient exertions are being made by the Guardians to enforce activity in the collection of the rate, and proceedings against defaulters.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply:—*January 11, 1848.*

THE Guardians of this Union have never ordered out-door relief to be given out. The Treasurer last week was in advance 240*l.* 17*s.* to the Guardians. Cosgrave, a creditor, was paid 200*l.* lately. Mrs. Neale claims 369*l.* for blankets, which must be paid before the 1st of next month. Mr. Daniel also insists on being paid 20*l.* due to him since 1846. There was only 145*l.* paid in by the collectors last week, not much more than would support the house. The rate-collectors are doing their duty, *in nearly every instance*. If the immediate lessors are not made to pay, it will be impossible to get the small ratepayers to pay. There is not a collector in the Union that has not numbers of decrees out against them, but without the assistance of the police they cannot act. I am going to the Petty Sessions to-morrow to see that the rate collector decrees every person he has summoned. I send the number of applications for the Loughlin division, where Mark Granville died: able-bodied, 292—infirm, 230—destitute, 30.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*January 14, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having been apprised that the rate collected in Castlereagh Union during the last week, amounted only to 145*l.* they desire to draw the attention of the Board of Guardians to the very critical state in which the destitute poor of the Union are placed, by the insufficiency of the funds collected at once to meet the urgent liabilities of the Guardians, and provide for the extent of relief which they should be prepared to afford.

The amount remaining uncollected on the 31st ultimo, appears to have been 12,848*l.*; and the Commissioners must believe that at least a large portion of this sum could be promptly collected, if more strenuous exertions be made, as the ratepayers who may be expected to be at any time capable of paying the sums due, ought in the ordinary course of affairs to be at this period of the year in possession of means of payment.

The Guardians and the ratepayers generally cannot now require to be made aware that the present support of the destitute poor is dependent on the rates to be collected.

The Commissioners lament to have been informed that already cases of death have occurred in the Union, through want of timely relief to families in a state of destitution; and there is no avoiding the conclusion that such deaths are ascribable to the inadequacy of the means of relief which the Guardians have as yet provided.

The Commissioners feel under such painful circumstances imperatively called upon to remind the Guardians of their responsibility to provide fully for the relief of all destitute persons in the Union, and see that the relief is duly given: failing in which they will compel the Commissioners to consider their own responsibility under the 18th section of the Act 10th Vict. chap. 31, for the dissolution of any Board of Guardians, the duties of which shall not be duly and effectually discharged.

The Commissioners are informed that considerable arrears of rate are due by immediate lessors; they therefore beg to refer the Guardians to the provisions for recovery of such arrears contained in the 2nd section of the Act 6th and 7th Vict., chap. 92; and should the Guardians consider it to be necessary in any of such

cases to proceed by action in the superior courts, the Commissioners will be prepared to give their sanction for that object on being supplied with a list of the immediate lessors so to be sued, stating their places of abode, and the amount due by each.

Castlereagh Union.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 9, 1848.*

I BEG to send you the proceedings of the Board of Guardians yesterday. There were 14 members present. They are most anxious that the ovens should be erected at once, as the distress throughout the entire Union is dreadful. I made application to the Guardians to give shoes for all the children in the house; but they would not grant them. There are nearly 400 persons ill in the house, principally from dysentery, and the doctor states it is for want of warm clothing and shoes. The Guardians have agreed to take Wills' Grove, three miles from this, as additional accommodation for paupers; it will contain about 500, and is in good repair. Mr. Wills wants 75*l.* a-year for it; it is the only house that can be procured. The Guardians have dismissed all the nurses, and intend only to have a head nurse at a salary of 12*l.* a-year and rations; the present ones have been found dishonest. The Guardians propose taking a field at the back of the workhouse, containing about eight acres, to employ the men on. There is a part to be let off for a burying-ground, as the present one inside the walls, is quite full of graves. I read out the names of some of the immediate lessors who are defaulters; the Guardians ordered that they should be made to pay in every case. Shall I send up all the names to the Commissioners, so that Mr. Dillon should apply to them at once? I had the rate collectors before the Board; they have all a number of decrees taken out, but they cannot execute them without the assistance of the police.

Number of paupers in the house this week, 1124.—Died, 18. Amount of money collected, 145*l.*

REPLY to the above :—*January 12, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will communicate with you in a few days, with respect to the erection of an oven at the workhouse.

As regards the want of clothing and shoes for the workhouse inmates to which you refer, I am to state that a portion of some clothing which has been placed at the Commissioners' disposal, has been allotted to the Castlereagh Union; this supply may not, however, be sufficient to meet the demand in the Castlereagh workhouse, and the Commissioners request that you will bring the subject under the notice of the Guardians at their next meeting, and report specially what steps are taken on the subject.

The Commissioners approve of the proposed occupation of the building at Wills' Grove to which you refer, and they request that you will state what class or classes the Guardians propose to send to that building, and what provision they propose to make for the superintendence of the establishment.

The Commissioners trust that by the occupation of that building, and by affording out-door relief to all the classes under the first section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, the Guardians will be enabled to provide room in the workhouse, for the relief of the able-bodied.

The Commissioners approve of the proposal to take an additional piece of ground, to afford employment for the able-bodied men and boys in the workhouse, a portion to be used as a cemetery; I am at the same time to observe, that the total quantity of ground which the Guardians can occupy is 15 acres, exclusive of the land which the workhouse buildings actually occupy; and I am to request that you will report the particulars of the terms upon which the Guardians will be able to obtain the land.

In cases in which the collectors require assistance, they should make application in the ordinary manner, to the stipendiary magistrate.

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Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 16, 1848.*

I BEG to state, for the information of the Commissioners, the difficult position the rate collectors are placed in. There has not been a petty sessions held in most parts of this Union for some time past; the stipendiary magistrate, from press of business, was unable to attend, and the local magistrates rarely attend at petty sessions. The collectors have a number of decrees taken out for poor-rates; but they cannot execute them without the assistance of the police, and they cannot act without the stipendiary magistrate being present. I send you two letters from collectors, that were submitted to the Guardians yesterday. I am making out a list for the Commissioners, of all immediate lessors who are defaulters.

ENCLOSURES.

STATEMENT of the Amount of POOR-RATE collected, and the Amount uncollected, in Mr. Michael Connell's District.

Templetogether Electoral Division.

Date on which the warrants for the collection were handed to the collector, on the 27th September, 1847.

	£.	s.	d.
Total amount of warrants for the district . . .	759	2	0
Total amount collected down to the 13th instant . . .	175	17	5
Amount remaining uncollected to the 13th instant* . . .	583	4	7

* An explanation of the cause of the above amount of rate being uncollected is to be entered *hereunder*.

Mr. MICHAEL CONNELL, Collector, to the BOARD of GUARDIANS of the Castlereagh Union:—
January 13, 1848.

I BEG to state that the great cause of my collection being so backward is poverty. Some of the people are well inclined to pay, but they have not the means. The persons who have means to meet my demands their stock and corn is under seizure by the landlords. My district is a rural one, no gentlemen living in it. I also require either the military or the police to assist me in collecting the rates of some of my district, the people of which say that they will not allow me to make a distress.

Mr. MICHAEL WALDRON, Collector, to the BOARD of GUARDIANS of the Castlereagh Union:—
January 15, 1848.

I MOST respectfully take leave to state, that I have attended at Ballinrobe quarter sessions, to prosecute several persons who have rescued me in the execution of my duty as poor-rate collector.

The result of my proceedings was, that my bills were found true, and the trials were adjourned to the ensuing sessions of Clarendon. Gentlemen, I have to observe that the result of this stay of execution has made an impression on the minds of the cess-payers in my district, so that I apprehend I will meet with violent opposition henceforth, and I trust that, under these circumstances, you will please to authorize me to call in an *armed force*.

I have three townlands in my district, where I could not attempt doing any duty unless protected by an armed force.

I have also to remind you that I have no assistance to get or expect by way of an advice or otherwise, from any Guardian or Magistrate except from the Stipendiary Magistrate, who was not at Ballyhaunis petty sessions this month past, so I am obliged to prepare informations to have them sworn before him on this day, as I have no other remedy left to prevent them, save putting them under bail. I have to state that I have above 60 decrees obtained, and am sure that if I attempt to execute them, my life would be endangered.

REPLY to the above:—*January 18, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have communicated with the Chief Secretary on the subject of the obstruction offered to two of the collectors of poor-rate in the Castlereagh Union, and they have reason to believe that steps will be taken to remedy the evils complained of by you.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 16, 1848.*

I BEG to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that, from the experience I have had lately, the Guardians here never will carry out the Poor Law; from some of the electoral divisions they hardly ever attend on the Board

day. I spoke to the Chairman, Mr. Wills, yesterday, and to some others of the Guardians, and they are of opinion that there ought to be a paid Board sent down here at once.

Some of the Guardians state to me that they will not attend any more, for this reason: the poor blame them for not giving out-door relief, and from the state this country is in, it puts them in a very dangerous position. The Guardians *did not meet yesterday till two o'clock, and broke up at four*; most of them are afraid to be out after that hour.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 17, 1848.*

THE Commissioners request that you will be so good as to refer to the 18th section of the Act 10 Vict., cap. 31, by which you will observe that a Board of Guardians can only be dissolved when regular meetings shall not be held at the times appointed, by the orders of the Commissioners, or when, through default of the Guardians, the duties of the Board shall not be duly and effectually discharged.

The Commissioners will be prepared to consider their responsibility under that enactment, whenever you can show that the regular weekly meetings are not held by the Guardians of the Castlereagh Union, or that the laws for the relief of the poor are not duly carried into effect, by the Guardians neglecting to provide for the proper support and management of the workhouse, or the adequate and legal relief of all destitute persons applying for it, by in-door maintenance, or where the applicants may be of any of the three classes specified in the 1st section of 10 Vict., cap. 31, by an out-door allowance sufficient for their subsistence.

The Commissioners wish you to understand, however, that they will be ready to dissolve the Board of Guardians of the Castlereagh Union, when a statement of the default of the Guardians to discharge their duties has been placed on record, and proved to the Commissioners' satisfaction.

As, in order to the affording of relief where requisite, the Guardians are responsible for the collection of sufficient funds, as far as practicable, they must also be considered to have failed in carrying the law into effect whenever you can show, that they have not properly and actively used the means at their disposal, for having the rates collected or enforced.

MR. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 19, 1848.*

HONOR BOLAND, a child and an orphan, three and a half years of age, was left at the workhouse door by John Carty, of Clondahara, and then went away, refusing to take her with him. He states that he gave the mother a few nights' lodging; she died in his house, and that he does not know where she came from. I have admitted her into the house, as the child would have died. I should like to have the Commissioners' opinion *how* I am to act, by the next Board day.

REPLY to the above:—*January 21, 1848.*

THE Commissioners consider that the course to be adopted in the case of desertion described by you, must depend on the result of a local inquiry through the constabulary, or otherwise as found necessary, to ascertain whether the child Honor Boland is really the orphan of a woman who died while lodging in the house of John Carty, who left the child at the workhouse, and is not the child or grandchild of Carty, who would, in the latter case, be liable to punishment, under section 2 of the Act 10 and 11 Vict., cap. 84.

MR. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 23, 1848.*

THE master of the workhouse still continues in fever, with very little hopes of his recovery, the schoolmaster is in charge, and has the establishment in most regular order. Mr. O'Connor, a magistrate of this county, ordered the police to attend James Finerty, one of the collectors, and in two days he col-

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lected 172*l.*, which will appear in his next account. Finerty states that the people had their cattle locked up in many places, when they saw the police approach, and in many other cases there was nothing to distrain. The sheriff of the county came yesterday, while the Guardians were sitting, and seized everything in the house at the suit of Gunn and Cameron. The debt was only 36*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* The Guardians have got till next Saturday to pay it. The Guardians are going on Saturday, to sell all the manure on the workhouse premises; this will be very conducive to the health of the inmates of the house, as it has been accumulating since the house has been opened. Mrs. Loughlin was appointed head nurse yesterday, at a salary of 12*l.* a-year and rations; there was only one Guardian opposed her election. I have further to state that nothing has been done by the stipendiary magistrate, to give the collectors the assistance of the police; he states to me that his time is taken up in granting licences for holding arms. I would suggest to the Commissioners to apply to get the Sub-Inspectors in each district, to attend with the police to protect the collectors.

REPLY to the above:—*January 27, 1848.*

THE attention of Her Majesty's Government has been drawn to your recommendation, with regard to the assistance required by the collectors of poor rate in the discharge of their duties.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 6, 1848.*

I BEG to state, for the information of the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, that the master of the workhouse is recovered from fever, and is now able to attend to his duty. I would suggest that there ought to be tradesmen employed to teach the boys different trades, the expenses of tailoring, shoemaking, and carpenter-work is a large item in the expenditure of the establishment. I had an interview with Mr. Kincard, the agent to Daniel Farrell, he refuses to pay the poor-rate due by him. I have further to state that Mr. Flanagan and I are of opinion that nothing will save this Union except a paid Board; yesterday the Guardians did very little business. This is a very large Union, none of the landed gentry ever attend the Board, the only two gentlemen that attend are Mr. Wills, and sometimes Mr. Strickland, they are only agents. I regret to state that distress is daily on the increase.

Mr. FLANAGAN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 7, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, on Saturday, the 5th instant, I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union.

I regret having to report that the present Board of Guardians is wholly unequal to the discharge of the duties which the law has imposed upon them, namely, relieving the destitute poor of the Union, and providing funds for that purpose.

The extent of destitution may be conceived from this fact: there are (as I am informed by Mr. Auchmuty) at least 10,000 names on the Application and Report Books of the different relieving officers, and of this number Mr. Auchmuty estimates that about 8000 are proper objects for relief, and destitute within the meaning of the Act.

The adequacy of the relief provided is easily stated. Of the 8000 (and in my opinion they form but a small portion of those who will be, or ought to be, ultimately upon the relief lists), not one single person of either of the classes coming under the 1st or 2nd sections of the Act is receiving out-door relief.

Of the efforts made, to provide means for affording relief to those persons, the following return of the state of the collection will furnish a test.

On the 21st August, 1847, the last rate, amounting to 17,456*l.* 8*s.* 10½*d.*, was struck. The collecting books were not given out until from the 18th to the 30th of September. Since that time, during a period of four months and a half, about one-third only of that rate has been collected; the present arrear being

11,471*l.* 12*s.* 7½*d.* Progressing in the same ratio, the entire rate would not be collected for a period of eight months more; and recollecting that the months of October, November, and December, are by far the best in the whole year for collection, the probability is that the rate would not be collected even within that time, and, in fact, the collection for last week was only 256*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

By the last monthly return of the state of the funds, it will appear that the liabilities on the 31st of December, were 4150*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* Several actions have been brought against the Board by different creditors, and unless some more vigorous and effective means be taken to enforce the collection than have hitherto been adopted, the affairs of this Union will become inextricably embarrassed, and the poor be wholly unrelieved.

Estimating the average cost of a pauper at 7*d.* per head per week (and the estimate is a very low one), the necessary expenditure for out-door relief only will, for the 8000, amount to nearly 350*l.* a-week; adding to that the ordinary work-house expenditure, the sum required every week will amount to nearly 500*l.*, a sum very nearly double that collected in the course of last week.

When it is considered that several members of the Board of Guardians are defaulters, it cannot be a subject of wonder that they do not adopt vigorous means for enforcing the collection of the rate. Amongst others, the following Guardians have been returned to me as defaulters in the electoral division of Began:—

Richard O'Grady, Esq., of Carabeg, amount due, 10*l.* 16*s.* 7½*d.*

Hugh Burke, Esq., of Holywell, 20*l.* 11*s.* 6½*d.*

Ballyhannis electoral division, Robert B. Power, of Ballyhannis, 3*l.* 9*s.* 10½*d.*

Very many names have been returned to me of Guardians who have paid a moiety only of their rates; as they have promised to pay the rest in a short time, I do not think it necessary to bring, at present, their names under the notice of the Commissioners.

I trust the above statement of the destitution in this Union, the utter want of relief, and of exertions for procuring the means to provide it, will induce the Commissioners to exercise the powers vested in them, and to dissolve forthwith this most negligent and inefficient Board.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the CASTLEREA UNION—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians:—February 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration reports which they have received from their Inspectors, Mr. Flanagan and Mr. Auchmuty, in reference to the administration of relief in the Castlereagh Union.

The Commissioners learn from these reports, that there are at least 10,000 names on the Application and Report Books of the several relieving officers of the Union, of whom there is reason to believe that 8000 persons are proper objects for relief. The Commissioners, however, only regard this statement as an estimate; but they must consider that, even if the actual number destitute was found to be much less, still the inadequacy of the relief afforded by the Board of Guardians is made sufficiently apparent by such a fact; considering, too, that the workhouse has been for some time full, that not one person is as yet receiving out-door relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and that the Guardians have made no representation to the Commissioners of any necessity for affording relief, under the 2nd section of the Act in the Union.

The exertions made by the Board of Guardians, to provide funds for affording relief to the destitute poor seem to have been, in like manner, inadequate to the emergency. It appears that, on the 31st of August, 1847, a rate was made, amounting to 17,456*l.* 8*s.* 10½*d.*, on a valuation amounting to 114,349*l.*

The collecting books were not, however, given out until between the 18th and 30th of September, since which time about one-third only of the rate has been collected, the present arrear being 11,471*l.*

As the collection of the rates has been thus slackly pressed forward, the Commissioners are not surprised to ascertain, from the last monthly return of the state of the Union funds, that the liabilities of the Board of Guardians amounted, on the 31st of December, to 4150*l.* It further appears that several actions have been brought against the Board of Guardians by different creditors, and unless some more vigorous and effective means are taken to enforce payment of the rates, the

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affairs of the Union must become inextricably embarrassed, and the destitute poor be wholly unrelieved.

The Commissioners find that several members of the Board of Guardians have not paid any rate, and that other members have paid only a portion of the rates due by them.

The Commissioners also find that the majority of the landed gentry who are Guardians never attend the Board.

Taking into consideration the extent of destitution in the Union, the absence of any adequate effort on the part of the Board of Guardians to afford relief to the destitute, and the want of exertion on their part to provide the funds requisite for the purpose, the Commissioners feel that they cannot longer refrain from the exercise of their powers under the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, in the Castlereagh Union.

The Commissioners have accordingly resolved to issue an order, dissolving the present Board of Guardians, and they will immediately proceed to the appointment of paid officers to administer the affairs of the Union.

WESTPORT UNION.

Mr. LYNCH, Temporary Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 17, 1847.*

SINCE my last communication, I have visited the electoral divisions of Kilmeena, Kilmaclasser, and part of Aughagower for the purpose of making the necessary inquiry as to the number of children attending the several schools, to enable me to make up the return required by the Committee of the British Association; this return I forwarded to the Count Strzelecki on the 13th instant.

I attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, and though the house is not yet quite full, they deemed it advisable to allow 42 persons, being widows and their children, to leave the house, giving them a *weekly* allowance of Indian meal, 7 lbs. for persons above nine years of age, and for those under nine half this quantity, or 3½ lbs., being the same allowed throughout this Union under the Temporary Relief Act 10 Vict., cap. 7. The Vice-Guardians adopted this course, as they considered it unsafe to increase the number of inmates under existing circumstances, fever being, I am sorry to say, very much on the increase, and the supply of clothes, &c., at present at their disposal, far short of the quantity required, while the number of applicants for admission was much larger than usual.

Mr. Valentine Hines arrived last night, and attended at the Board this day, but not having produced his bond of security, and Mr. Londen consenting to undertake the collection of the rate in the electoral divisions of Westport, Louisburgh, Clare Island, Aughagower, Kilmeena, Kilmaclasser, and Islandeady, the Vice-Guardians, with my full concurrence, signed the several warrants authorizing him to collect the rate in these several divisions, appointing Sir Richard O'Donnell, Bart., to the remaining three divisions, being Westport, Achill, and Ballycroy.

REPLY to the above:—*November 19, 1847.*

THE Commissioners will communicate with the Vice-Guardians with respect to Mr. Hines, whom it was heretofore proposed to employ as a collector of the poor-rate in the Union, and the Commissioners will inform you of the communication made to the Vice-Guardians.

Mr. Hines has been requested to return to Dublin.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 17, 1847.*

OUT of the rate of 2s. 6d. in the pound, struck in February last, on the electoral division of Westport, a sum of only about 300*l.* has been collected. A large sum appears due by the Marquis of Sligo, but previous to the rate-books being made out, he advanced in cash, a sum larger than the rate charged against him for the maintenance of the house, which should have been otherwise closed for want of funds; this advance the Vice-Guardians consider should be allowed to Lord Sligo, and consequently he has not been pressed for the 2s. 6d. rate. The arrears due by all other parties, have been regularly transferred for collection, to the new rate-book, and added to the rate of 5s. in the pound, struck on the 1st of November instant.

The balance remaining in the hands of the collector, who is now re-appointed by the Vice-Guardians, is no more than about 16*l.*, and I have directed him to pay it in forthwith, to the credit of the Union.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 24, 1847.*

SINCE my last communication, I visited the electoral division of Louisburgh, and am sorry I cannot represent the condition of the poor people in that district as anything better than in any of the other electoral divisions in the Union of Westport. Turnips appear to be the principal food, and the crop is now nearly exhausted; but with all this destitution, it is pleasing to observe the great industry exhibited in the preparation of the land for next year's crop. Had half as much

Westport Union. attention been paid last season, there would be very little distress at the present time.

The state of the Union workhouse is, altogether, very satisfactory; fever is not increasing, and all the new cases which have occurred within the last three weeks, were in the probationary wards, where the paupers were detained for several days, for want of a sufficient supply of clothing, but measures have been taken to supply this deficiency.

The collectors have perfected their bonds of security, and have received the warrants to collect the rates for the entire Union; and I have every reason to expect that a considerable sum will be paid into the treasurer, before the end of the year.

I have been anxiously employed, in carrying out the benevolent instructions of the Committee of the British Association. The two principal schools in Westport, numbering over 600 children, were this day supplied with a most excellent meal, consisting of rye bread and broth, and in the course of next week, I hope to have the system extended to several other schools throughout the Union, thus affording most seasonable relief to from 2000 to 3000 of the poorest children in my district.

MR. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 1, 1847.*

WITHIN the last two days, I visited the remote district of Ballycroy, where I regret to say, the greatest distress prevails, and where there is not one resident proprietor, nor any employment, either public or private. The turnip crop is exhausted, and a large portion of the population is literally in a state of starvation; the same may be said of a considerable part of Burrishoole, or Newport, as well as Achill, and the island of Clare and Innisturk.

I attended the weekly meeting of the Vice-Guardians this day; the number of applicants exceeded 300, principally from the districts above alluded to, and no words can describe the misery they exhibited, some of them having travelled on foot over 30 miles. The utmost number the Vice-Guardians could receive into the house was 120, refusing admittance to nearly 200, who have no means on earth wherewith to support themselves, and, being generally many miles from home, will thus be thrown as an additional burthen, on the charitable inhabitants of Westport and its neighbourhood. Under these circumstances, I would most respectfully submit that the time has arrived, when the Vice-Guardians should be authorized to extend out-door relief to others than those described in the 1st section of 10th Vic., cap. 31.

The state of health in the workhouse is very satisfactory; the inmates are all employed, and the strictest attention is paid to cleanliness and regularity; the food supplied is of an excellent quality, and the poor people appear satisfied and resigned.

THE COMMISSIONERS to MR. LYNCH:—*December 6, 1847.*

AN order will be issued to morrow, authorizing the Vice-Guardians to administer out-door relief in accordance with the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

A copy of a similar order issued in another Union, is enclosed herewith for your information.

MR. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 8, 1847.*

AT the meeting of the Board of Vice-Guardians held here this day, at which I attended, there were about 400 applications for admission into the workhouse; of these 117 were admitted, 108 being "old," "infirm," or "widows" with two or more children, were ordered to be placed on the list for out-door relief, and for want of sufficient room in the workhouse, the Vice-Guardians were most reluctantly compelled to refuse admission to the remaining number.

The Vice-Guardians received the sealed order authorizing them to grant out-door relief, according to the 2nd section of the Act of 10th Vict. c. 31; and have directed advertisements, stating that on Tuesday next, the 14th, they will proceed to the appointment of competent persons to assist in carrying out the contemplated relief.

Mr. John Large, clerk to the Union, tendered his resignation, which was accepted by the Vice-Guardians, and they have directed an advertisement to be issued, stating that they will elect a person in his place on Wednesday the 22nd instant. I perceive the Commissioners have determined that a sum of money shall be borrowed for the purpose of enlarging the workhouse; I would suggest that this addition should be made, by erecting two separate houses for the accommodation of the children, one for the boys, the other for the girls; say to give accommodation to 150 to 200 in each, and convert the present school-rooms into day-rooms for the men on one side, and for the women on the other; these new houses I would raise two or three stories, and so provide sleeping apartments for the children, as well as school-rooms.

I respectfully take leave to suggest the propriety of employing a steady intelligent person as steward or overseer, to take charge of the able-bodied paupers, and enforce regular work; such a person could I think be had for about 10*l.* per annum with rations, and should live in the house, and make himself generally useful in assisting the master.

REPLY to the above:—*December 11, 1847.*

WITH regard to the refusal of relief to a number of persons for whom there was not room in the workhouse, I am to inquire whether the means of accommodating them might not have been provided, by discharging some of the persons in the workhouse, and affording them out-door relief. It was also in the power of the Vice-Guardians to have afforded out-door relief under the Commissioners' order of the 7th instant, to any class of persons in the workhouse, if considered advisable to confine relief at present to persons whose destitution may have been thus tested; and, on the other hand, such relief might have been legally given under the order to any class of destitute persons who were then applying.

With respect to your observations relating to the money to be expended in making an addition to the workhouse, I am to state that the funds from which a loan for that purpose may be obtained, have been placed at the Commissioners' disposal solely for the purpose of providing accommodation for fever patients, and that the sum to be expended in the Westport Union is to be appropriated to the erection of a permanent fever ward to the workhouse, or partly to the erection of temporary sheds for the reception of fever patients, if the latter course is found to be necessary.

The Commissioners have no objection to the employment of an overseer of works by the Vice-Guardians, if on due consideration, they consider such an officer to be requisite.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*Dated December 11, received December 15, 1847.*

EVERY exertion in their power, was made by the Vice-Guardians, to increase the accommodation in the workhouse. They discharged all the infirm and disabled, as well as widows having two legitimate children, and put them on out-door relief; they also extended out-door relief to all of that class who applied on Wednesday, the 8th instant; but notwithstanding, they were obliged to refuse admission to 170 persons, who did not come under the class described in the 1st section of 10th Vic. cap. 31.

The order of the Commissioners, dated 7th December, was not received in time to act upon it, further than to advertise for assistant relieving officers (the letters are not delivered in Westport till after 4 o'clock); the selection is to be made to-morrow, and on Wednesday next relief will, no doubt, be ordered to all destitute persons, for whom accommodation cannot be provided in the workhouse.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 15, 1847.*

OWING to the great number of destitute persons who applied this day to the Vice-Guardians for relief, they were under the necessity of adjourning the Board till to-morrow. Messrs. Cary and Thomas will attend to-morrow at Ballinrobe, while Mr. Lecky remains here to finish the business of the Westport Union. He sat yesterday for six hours; to-day for eight, and still there are three large electoral divisions, the applications from which have not as yet been disposed of. I am, therefore, obliged to postpone my weekly report till to-morrow evening.

Westport Union.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 15, 1847.*

WITH reference to the disposal of a supply of naval clothing and purser's stores for the use of the poor, I am requested by the Vice-Guardians of this Union, to state to the Poor Law Commissioners how thankful they will feel for any portion which it may be in their power to allocate to Westport Union; for it is with great difficulty, and at very considerable expense, that they are enabled to provide clothing sufficiently fast for the vast number of men and boys who are seeking admission into the workhouse.

If not irregular, I would suggest that, as these clothes will be a *free grant* to the Union, the Vice-Guardians might be allowed to dispose of a small quantity of them to the most distressed able-bodied men about to be employed under the order for out-door relief.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 16, 1847.*

ON Tuesday, the 14th instant, the Vice Guardians held a meeting of the creditors of the Westport Union, to whom the proposition already sanctioned by the Commissioners, of paying out of the present rate, 10s. in the pound on each debt, was made and cheerfully accepted by all the creditors present, thus settling the many claims left unpaid by the late Board of Guardians.

The Vice-Guardians then proceeded to the election of one assistant relieving officer for each electoral division, and after a patient and careful examination into the fitness of the many applicants, they selected 10 individuals, who, I trust, will so conduct themselves as to secure the proper administration of the out-door relief; and while on this subject, I would take leave to suggest the necessity of appointing two additional assistants for the electoral division of Clare Island, which consists of three separate islands in the Atlantic Ocean, containing a most impoverished population of over 4000 souls, each island being fully nine or ten miles distant from the other, and in stormy weather frequently shut out for two or three weeks at a time, from all communication with the main land.

The Vice-Guardians held their ordinary weekly meeting yesterday, and as it was generally known that they were about commencing to give out-door relief, the number of applicants was considerably greater than usual; the Vice-Guardians were prepared for this increased demand for assistance, and had allowed 110 persons to leave the house on the out-door allowance, thus leaving room in the workhouse to admit those who were fitter objects for such an asylum, and offering admission to others of whose real destitution they had any doubt. In this manner, they were enabled to deal with all the cases which came before them yesterday, and to-day they admitted 124 into the house; they offered admission to about 100 who refused to come in, and they entered 285 for out-door relief, making arrangements to put all the able-bodied males to work at stone-breaking, in the respective electoral divisions.

I regret to be obliged to report, that from all I can learn the distress in this Union continues to increase daily; the turnips, on which a large portion of the people has been living, are now nearly consumed, and large numbers of the people are absolutely without food; and amongst this number are many who, being holders of land, are not entitled to relief under the Poor Law.

In consequence of the increased business to be transacted by the Board, occasioned by the extension of out-door relief, the Vice-Guardians have determined to devote two days in each week to the Westport Union; and for the future, they will transact the business of the Board on Tuesdays, as well as on Wednesdays; and to relieve the destitute poor of the electoral divisions of Achill and Ballycroy, which are distant 30 to 40 miles from Westport, they have determined to sit every alternate Tuesday at the village of Mulranny, to determine on the applications from these two divisions. Mr. Lecky and I have arranged to meet at Mulranny on Tuesday next, the 21st instant, while Captain Cary and Mr. Thomas will proceed with some of the other divisions in Westport, all four meeting as usual on Wednesday; these arrangements will, I trust, meet with the approbation of the Commissioners.

REPLY to the above:—*December 20, 1847.*

THE Commissioners approve of the proposal of the Vice-Guardians to meet on two days in each week, for the transaction of the business of the Board. They also approve of the appointment of assistant relieving officers.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 22, 1847.*

Westport Union.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that, according to arrangements, Mr. Lecky, Chairman of the Board of Vice-Guardians, attended with me, on yesterday, at the village of Mulrannay, for the purpose of ruling the books of the relieving officer of the electoral divisions of Achill and Ballycroy. The number of applicants did not exceed 300, and of these, 188 were put on the out-door relief list, a few were directed to proceed to the workhouse, and the remaining number were refused relief principally on the grounds that they held more than a quarter of an acre of land. There is a very large number of the most destitute persons holding from one to three acres of poor mountain land, but who are excluded from relief under the 10th section of the 10th Vict., cap. 31; this class is to be found in these two electoral divisions, as well as in the islands of Clare and Innisturk, and if some exception be not made in their favour, or if relief is not afforded to them from some other source, I have the most serious apprehension that their existence cannot be prolonged beyond a few months.

I attended this day at the Board-room in Westport, where we were occupied to a very late hour in deciding on the cases left over since yesterday, and such was the sad picture of destitution presented, that we considered it necessary to extend either in-door or out-door relief to the great majority of applicants, of course rejecting the claims of those whose real distress was not made apparent to the Vice-Guardians. The result of the two days was, that in the whole Union 1395 persons were put on the out-door relief, and 239 were admitted into the workhouse; nothing can be more satisfactory than the arrangements made by the Vice-Guardians for the supply of the meal to the out-door recipients, contracts having been entered into in almost all the electoral divisions with most respectable parties at 9s. 6d. and 10s. per 112 lbs. for Indian meal, the cost for the food of each adult being thus kept under 8d. per week. Notwithstanding all this has been done by the Vice-Guardians, as well as by the Committee of the British Association, who are now feeding daily near 4000 children, I regret to be obliged to report that the destitution of this Union is rapidly increasing, and the Commissioners must be prepared to see a most serious increase to the number on the lists for out-door relief.

The collectors of rate appear slow in getting in money. I have spoken to them, and they tell me they have been very busy in serving notices, and furnishing statements of particulars to immediate lessors; next week I hope to be able to report more favourably on their success.

REPLY to the above :—*December 30, 1847.*

WITH reference to the number of poor persons holding from one to three acres of land, whose existence you apprehend cannot be prolonged beyond a few months unless relief be afforded to them, I am to state that in the administration of relief, the Board of Guardians are wholly precluded by law from granting relief out of the poor-rate, to persons holding more than a quarter of an acre of land, which should be made known to the applicants for relief.

The Commissioners recommend that inquiry be made of the Society of Friends (Fleet Street, Dublin,) to ascertain whether relief is in contemplation for the fishing, or other population of the Achill and Ballycroy electoral divisions, and the islands of Clare and Innisturk.

The Commissioners trust that the relief through the schools under the British Association, can be applied as extensively in these divisions as in other parts of the Union.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 29, 1847.*

I REGRET to say the amount of destitution throughout the Union appears to increase. The Vice-Guardians met here yesterday, and to-day the number of cases brought before them exceeded 2200; of these, 224 were received into the workhouse, 1923 were put upon the out-door relief list, and over 50 refused to accept of the relief offered to them in the house. Nothing could exceed the misery and wretchedness exhibited by these poor people; their very appearance was enough to convince the Vice-Guardians that they were fit objects for relief;

Westport Union.

their cases were, however, most satisfactorily reported by the several relieving officers, who appear to use great diligence in the discharge of their very arduous duties.

Much inconvenience is experienced by the want of a supply of the necessary implements to keep the able-bodied at work; and, I fear, if habits of idleness and insubordination are now formed, there may be much difficulty in setting matters right when the labourers become more numerous, and it is therefore most important to have the order for the implements forwarded from the office of Public Works with the least possible delay.

Fever and dysentery are, I regret to say, much on the increase in the workhouse, owing, I think, in a great measure, to the increased number of admissions within the last three weeks; almost all the fresh cases occurring amongst those recently admitted into the house.

The Vice-Guardians this day elected Mr. John Egan as clerk of the Union, and propose that he should receive a salary of 80*l.* a year, which I do not consider unreasonable, when the increased labours of the office are taken into account. Mr. Egan states he is willing to devote his entire time to the business of the Union, and, as far as I am able to judge, I consider him, in every respect, fully competent to discharge his duties.

REPLY to the above:—*January 1, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have communicated with the Board of Works, with reference to the implements required to keep the able-bodied at work, who are in receipt of out-door relief.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 5, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I spent two days this week in the electoral division of Achill, where, I regret to say, the greatest destitution prevails, with the least local means of relief; for there is but very little difference between the lowest cottier and the most extensive holder of land, they appear all reduced to the same level. Mr. Nixon, the relieving officer, has been very active within the last week in investigating the claims made to him for assistance, and on Tuesday (yesterday), 700 persons from this electoral division were put on the out-door relief at Mulranny, in addition to about 300 who were before receiving it. This I trust will in some degree lessen the pressure, and put a check to the extensive peculation which has hitherto existed in the island.

I attended the Board of Vice-Guardians this day; there were about 3000 applications laid before them in addition to the 700 disposed of at Mulranny, yesterday; out of these about 2800 were rated for out-door relief, and 92 were admitted into the workhouse, making the total number *now* receiving relief out of the house, 7778, and to supply these persons, it requires 20 tons of Indian meal per week, at a cost of about 200*l.*, in addition to the expense of relieving officers and their assistants. Hitherto, the Vice-Guardians have been enabled to pay the weekly expenditure out of the incoming rates, but unless the collectors are more active in their several districts, it is quite clear the Vice-Guardians will have to come to a stand-still. I have directed the collectors to furnish me with a list of all the individuals whose rate exceeds 5*l.*, and who have neglected to pay, that they may be handed over to the solicitor of the Board for recovery, and thus, I trust, funds will be provided to continue the *cash* payments of the Union for some weeks longer; but when it is recollected that the Vice-Guardians have agreed to allocate half the incoming rate to the payment of the debts contracted by the late Board of Guardians, it is quite apparent that the funds of the Union will not long be adequate to the relief required.

I have again to call the attention of the Commissioners, to the necessity of urging the Board of Public Works to send down the order for the delivery of the implements, required to put the able-bodied paupers to some useful employment.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 10, 1848.*

WITH reference to the proceedings which you propose to have adopted against defaulters whose rate exceeds 5*l.*, I am to state that a solicitor should only be employed for cases in which the Guardians must proceed against occupiers by civil bill, or against immediate lessors by civil bill, or by action in the superior courts; or in some other case of special necessity for professional legal assistance.

I am at the same time to observe, that every exertion which the collectors can make by summary proceedings, should be now promptly used to enforce the payment of the rates outstanding; and I am to request your attention especially to section 73 and 78 of Act 1 and 2 Vict., c. 56, and sec. 2 of Act 6 and 7 Vict., cap. 92.

The Commissioners have again communicated with the Board of Works, as regards the implements required to set the able-bodied paupers to work.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LYNCH—*Memorandum for Papers and Inquiry:—*
January 11, 1848.

I.—Inquiry on 5th of January into charges against the relieving officer for Newport district, for corrupt conduct in the administration of out-door relief.

II.—Practice in this Union, except on the estate of the Marquess of Sligo, to require the occupiers of cabins and land to throw down the former before obtaining relief.

III.—Catherine Murray, a widow with six children, applied on the 29th December for relief, after travelling 13 miles, and had to return without relief, not being able to get a hearing. There was a sleet storm when she was travelling home.

Applied again on the 5th January with the like result, except that she got a hearing, and complained of having had to bury her child Bridget without a coffin on Christmas eve or night; and when she returned home on the 5th, after Mr. Leckey had rejected her complaint on the evidence of the relieving officer, against whom she made it, her son Michael died of hunger, which is known to the clergymen of both religions there, as well as the physician and police officer.

As there do not appear to be any reports or minutes from Westport Union which contain references to these cases, the Commissioners request Mr. Lynch to report on the facts, and in the first case to give the name of the relieving officer, and the result of the inquiry.

ENCLOSURE referred to Mr. LYNCH with foregoing.

Westport Union—Newport Electoral Division.

COMPLAINTS made against Mr. WILLIAM NIXON, Relieving Officer, *January 5, 1848.*

I.—Henry Phillips, of Glenamo, a barger or water-bailiff to William Nixon, relieving officer, gets three stone meal weekly; has land, more than one rood, a cow, and a year-old heifer and calf; put on relief on 22nd December, 1847.

II.—James Nixon, water-bailiff to William Nixon, relieving officer, gets meal; walking about.

III.—John Moran, aged 14, grandson to Winifred Gallagher, Rossgaliff; said John Moran being the legitimate son of Michael Moran, of Westport, who keeps jaunting-cars, all with the knowledge of the relieving officer.

(Signed)

JAMES HILLES,
5th Jan., 1848.

I.—It appears that Henry Phillips is a very poor person, with eight or nine children; had been a mountain herd, and received from Mr. William Nixon, the relieving officer, the sum of 1*l.*, for looking after the river near which he lives, for the quarter ending Christmas last; has no land, and no cattle.

II.—Was once in Mr. Nixon's employment at 2*l.* per annum, looking after his river; is very destitute, and has a wife and young children; not able to work, as he has lost one hand.

III.—On inquiry it appears that John Moran was put on the list as one of Widow Gallagher's family; the relieving officer states positively that he was imposed on, and the Vice-Guardians acquit him of blame; the boy is since struck off the list.

RICHARD M. LYNCH.

Westport, Jan. 14, 1848.

(Copy.)

JOHN EGAN, Clerk.

Westport Union.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS, in Reply:—*January 14, 1848.*

I.—On 5th January, Mr. James Hilles brought three charges, in writing, before the Vice-Guardians against Mr. William Nixon, relieving officer for the electoral division of Newport. I annex a copy of the charges (which were written), together with the explanation given by Mr. Nixon, which appeared quite satisfactory to the Vice-Guardians.

II.—It is the practice with some landlords and agents in this Union to require their tenants to throw down their cabins before they take up possession of their holdings. The relieving officers cannot report them for relief till they give up their land; but the relieving officers are no parties to the throwing down of the houses.

III.—I have made inquiry into the case of Catherine Murray, a widow. She does not appear to have come up to Westport on the 29th December; she applied about this time to the relieving officer, who visited her house, and found she held $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, and consequently did not report her case to the Vice-Guardians, though she was wretchedly destitute. He advised her to give up her land. She afterwards came to him a second time; and, to satisfy her and Mr. Hilles, he reported her case, and several others similarly circumstanced, on the 5th January, and they were refused by Mr. Leckey, as they held more than a quarter acre of land. On the 10th January she applied a third time, and stated she had given up her land: this was also reported to Mr. Nixon by some other parties, and her case was brought before the Board on the 12th instant, when she was ordered one week's relief till her case is further inquired into.

REPLY to the above:—*January 18, 1848,*

THE explanation with respect to the relief given to Henry Phillips and James Nixon by the relieving officer, William Nixon, is not satisfactory.

The first would appear to have been his water-bailiff at the time; and the smallness of the recompense allowed does not appear to justify the relief which, in such a case, can only be regarded as relief in aid of wages.

It is presumed that some of the children of Henry Phillips obtain the school relief.

As from the present time forward, for some months, the water-bailiff's duties in watching the river, to prevent salmon from being taken by poachers, should be actively performed, the Commissioners wish to be informed whether either of these men be now employed in that capacity, or be on the relief lists. Mr. Lynch will be so good as to make this inquiry.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 27, 1848.*

ON further inquiry, I find that Henry Phillips was in the employment of Mr. Nixon for the quarter ending 1st January, and was put on the out-door relief on the 22nd December. I also find he had a cow and two heifers, which he sold on the 6th January; but the price of them went to pay debts contracted for food during the last year. None of his children receive relief at the schools, and it is admitted that he is in a most destitute condition.

James Nixon was not employed by the relieving officer since November, 1846, as water-bailiff.

Both these men are still on the relief lists for the out-door relief.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LYNCH:—*January 19, 1848.*

Mr. LYNCH is requested to inquire and report upon the circumstances referred to in the accompanying communication.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. HILLES to Mr. REDINGTON:—*January 7, 1848.*

I BEG to call your attention to the annexed statement, in which you will perceive two persons have lost their lives (and I wish I could confine myself to two) in consequence of the conduct of the relieving officer and his son, Thomas Nixon, his assistant. I am aware that

such conduct in England would be at once visited with legal inquiry and punishment; and will thank you to say if I am to take any steps in law, and the mode you may deem advisable under the circumstances.

Westport Union.

Complaint against Mr. William Nixon, Sub-Agent of Colonel Gore, and Relief Officer of Electoral Division, Newport, in Westport Union, made before R. Lecky, Esq., paid Guardian, at Board-room, Wednesday, 5th January, 1848.

1st. That Henry Phillips, Glenmase, a barger or water-bailiff of the relieving officer, gets three stones of meal weekly; has land more than one rood; has a cow, a two-year-old heifer, and a calf.

2nd. That James Nixon, water-bailiff to relief officer, gets meal, and is walking about.

3rd. That John Moran, aged 14 years, the grandson of Winifred Gallagher, Rossgaliff, is getting meal; the said John Moran being the legitimate son of a man of the name of Moran, living in Westport, keeping jaunting cars; all of which in the knowledge of the relief officer.

Three cases selected out of a vast number of extreme destitution ejected:—

1st. Catherine Murray, widow, had six children; applied frequently to relief officer; went to obtain a hearing at Board-room on the 27th December, going and returning a distance of 27 miles in sleet, storm, and rain; failed to get a hearing; went through the same painful ordeal with a like result on the 5th January, when her case was brought before the chairman by an ex-officio Guardian, who mentioned the fact of her having buried her child Bridget without a coffin, on Christmas Eve or night, unassisted, in a snow-storm, who died of hunger, and that her family must perish if rejected. The chairman refused all evidence though tendered, and would act only on the simple assertion of the relief officer, against whom he had just then heard the foregoing complaints. I may here add that this poor widow could only reach home, when she found her son Michael dead from hunger on the following day, aged 12 years. This child was seen by the Protestant and Catholic clergymen, the doctor, and officer of police; and they can affirm a more frightful, humiliating spectacle of hunger and suffering never yet has been surpassed in Mayo. The relieving officer was here again called upon by the said ex-officio Guardian to administer to the urgent wants of the survivors, the dead boy on its sister's back before him, and his reply was, "I won't."

2nd. Francis M'Namara applied often, and for the last time on the 1st January to relief officer, at his (the officer's) house, from whence he wandered forth to the open field, where he laid down his body to the land and laws, and soul to the Judge of all.

The coroner held an inquest on this man, and the facts are sickening, in which it appears his family, except one, died for want of food.

3rd. Daniel Ruane, Rosskeane, a cripple, in extreme destitution, with wife and two children, went through the form of application to the relief officers on the 1st January, and after attended the Board on the 5th January; going and returning (not being the owner of jaunting cars), though miserably disabled, a distance of 30 miles—got no hearing or relief.

The machinery of the Poor Law, and its working and effects here are—that the driver on all estates (except Lord Sligo's) refuses to give a certificate to the relief officer until the applicants first throw down their cabins. The relief officers, being always under the control of the landlords, or being (as in the case of Newport electoral division) an agent or head bailiff, refuses to put on the applicant's name without such certificate unless coerced, which occurred at the meeting on the 5th instant; and then he asserts that they have land, which assertion the paid chairman takes as conclusive, and refuses to listen to any evidence to the contrary. Therefore the result is, the paid chairman, relieving officer, and driver, form one of the most arbitrary, life-destroying courts of ejectment (from which there is no appeal) ever yet established in Ireland.

January 7, 1848.

J. HILLES, Maryland, Co. Mayo.

REPLY to the above:—January 27, 1848.

1. It appears that Catherine Murray applied frequently to the relieving officer, Mr. W. Nixon, for relief, but was refused, on the ground that she held land. I examined several witnesses, and am now of opinion that this poor woman did not hold more than 20 perches of land since the month of March last; but I find that the bailiff of Sir R. Palmer, on whose estate she resided, informed the relieving officer, Mr. Nixon, that she held 2½ acres. I find that this woman and two of her children were admitted into the workhouse in September last, but only remained in it five days, leaving it at her own request. There appears no doubt that the child died of want, and I cannot exonerate the relieving officer of blame.

2. In the case of Francis M'Namara, who also died from want, there is no evidence that he applied to Mr. Nixon. Mr. Nixon states positively that he did not.

3. In the case of Daniel Ruane, there is not evidence that he applied at Mr. Nixon's house, though directed to do so by Mr. Nixon.

Westport Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*January 31, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration observations which they have received from Mr. Lynch, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, relating to the conduct of Mr. William Nixon, relieving officer for the Newport district of the Westport Union, from which it appears that he placed his river keeper, or fish protector, on the relief list upon the 22nd December, at a time when that man had in his possession a cow and two heifers.

In reference thereto I am directed to state, that after such a violation of the relieving officer's trust, and the evidence of his neglect in the case of Catherine Murray, the Commissioners must request the Vice-Guardians to appoint a person in his room, and the Commissioners will immediately issue an order for his dismissal.

MR. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 12, 1848.*

IN making my weekly report to the Poor Law Commissioners, I regret to have to inform them of the death of Mr. Henry Roe, the master of the Union workhouse. He died on Sunday, the 9th instant, from the effects of fever, after an illness of 14 days. His loss will be seriously felt in the present state of the Union. The Vice-Guardians have fixed the 26th instant for the election of his successor, and have given directions to have the usual advertisements published.

I attended the Board of Vice-Guardians yesterday and to-day. The number of cases brought before them was much smaller than usual, as the relieving officers had received directions at the former meeting, to devote their time more to the revision of the lists, with a view of removing any parties who might have been improperly entered for out-door relief, than in investigating the claims of new applicants; this the relieving officers appear to have done most satisfactorily. Several persons have been removed from the list, while others of the really destitute class have been put on. The lists have in this way, been increased by about 600, the total number now on the out-door relief being 8400. The number admitted into the house this week, does not exceed 60, and of these, 16 were admitted provisionally after the meeting of the Board. Care shall be taken to fill the house, before any further addition is made to the out-door list; but in consequence of the death of the master, there has been some confusion in the house, and the Vice-Guardians considered it more prudent not to add to the embarrassment, by admitting a very large number of paupers on one day. There are vacancies at present for about 120.

Mr. John Londen, the collector for seven of the ten electoral divisions of this Union, attended with his books, &c., on Monday last. They were all most carefully examined by the clerk, and found quite correct. The only fault I have to find with him is that he is slow in getting in the money. He promises to use every exertion in his power, and I hope by the end of the month, he will be able to have a large sum put to the credit of the Vice-Guardians.

Sir Richard O'Donnell, who is the collector for the other three electoral divisions, neither attended nor sent in his books.

In my last report, I referred to the financial state of this Union. I am now requested by the Vice-Guardians, to point out the particular position in which they are placed before the Commissioners. Rates have been struck, which, with arrears due, amount to 8386*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; out of this the Vice-Guardians have bound themselves to allocate 2400*l.* towards the payment of the debts contracted by the late Board. The expense of the Union, since the Vice-Guardians have taken the charge of it, amounts to 2665*l.* Of this, 1216*l.* still remains due. The weekly expense exceeds 300*l.*, while the amount of the rate collected comes to little more than half this sum. The Vice-Guardians at this moment are in debt over 1200*l.*; and if they do not receive some assistance, either from the Government or from the British Association, before their next meeting on the 18th instant, they will be compelled to discontinue the out-door relief altogether. I write fully, by this post, to the Agent of the British Association on the subject.

Mr. R. M. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 19, 1848.*

Westport Union.

YESTERDAY Mr. Thomas, one of the Vice-Guardians, attended with me at the village of Mulraney, for the purpose of revising the relieving officers' books for the electoral divisions of Achill and Ballycroy. The applications continue very numerous, especially from Achill, where the poor people are abandoning their houses and land, for the purpose of availing themselves of the relief afforded under the existing law; they have, in fact, no provisions, and very few have the means to purchase food. In Ballycroy, the destitution does not appear so general, and the relieving officer reports to us, that the total number to be relieved in this division will not be more than 700 or 800; the population of 1841 was 3,611; but in Achill he can form no estimate; and he reports, that he finds much difficulty in enforcing the labour-test. We were obliged to strike off from the list over 700 persons, who had received relief the previous week, and who refused or neglected to attend the place of work fixed on by the assistant relieving officer. This example will, I have no doubt, have a very salutary effect.

To-day, I attended the meeting of the Board of Vice-Guardians in Westport, where the applicants were also very numerous; but as there were several vacancies in the house, they were enabled to give in-door relief to 150. They were also obliged to add 1,966 to the out-door list, including those put on yesterday, from Ballycroy and Achill.

The state of the house appears improved; the officers are more attentive to their several duties; the inmates are, generally speaking, kept at work; and though the number in the hospital exceeds 130, the sanitary condition of the house is, on the whole, tolerably good.

Last night's post brought me a letter from Assistant Commissary-General Cameron, enclosing a bank letter of credit for 300*l.*, which I lodged to the credit of the Vice-Guardians, for the relief of destitution in this Union, and handed their treasurer's receipt to the clerk. This sum, together with the rates collected during the week by Mr. Londen and Sir Richard O'Donnell, enabled the Vice-Guardians to discharge debts exceeding 1,000*l.*; of this sum checks were drawn for 515*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, to pay the contractors for meal delivered for the out-door relief. There is still a sum of about 60*l.* due to one of the contractors, who did not furnish his account; and on this day, the Vice-Guardians had to issue orders for over 25 tons of Indian meal, value 250*l.*, to keep up the out-door supply for the ensuing week; and as they will have to pay 2,400*l.* out of the current rate towards the liquidation of the old debts of the Union, and will have to support the house, and pay the salaries of the officers, &c., I do not think that they will be enabled to apply any portion of the incoming rates, to the payment of the contractors who supply the meal for the out-door recipients: it would, therefore, be well if the Vice-Guardians were informed whether they may calculate upon a continuance of assistance, from the Committee of the British Association.

The rate collectors have been more active since my last report; they have lodged over 700*l.* within the last week, and having served all the notices, and furnished several of the landlords with statements of their liabilities, as immediate lessors, there is every reason to expect a good collection during the next few weeks. The Marquess of Sligo has paid in his own rate, and a considerable sum on account of rate for which he is liable as landlord, without waiting for the bill of particulars, which is being made out by Mr. Londen; and his lordship has expressed himself most anxious, both by example and by every other means in his power, to secure the collection of the rates in this Union. Sir Richard O'Donnell is also very anxious to have the rate paid in; he has lodged nearly 200*l.* of his own rate, and has also collected 80*l.* from the poorer class of rate-payers, and would have attended on last Monday week, as required by the Vice-Guardians, but was called suddenly on business to Dublin. On Monday next both collectors are to attend with their books, when I trust they will be able to show that they have used due diligence in the collection of the rates, and the Commissioners may be assured that I shall do every thing in my power, to enforce the payment of every shilling that it is possible to collect.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 22, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are desirous of being informed whether you are able to certify, that the rate-payers of the Union will not be able to meet their liabilities, and that they are making such exertion as can reasonably be expected from them.

The Commissioners also request, that you will be so good as to report specially on the following points:—

1st. What is the sum total of the poor-rates paid in the Westport Union, since the Vice-Guardians were appointed, and to how many shillings in the pound on the net annual value, does it amount?

2nd. What is the obstacle for the rate being collected? Is it that there is negligence or dishonesty in the collectors or rate-payers? Is it that the crops have failed? Are the means of the proprietors and occupiers exhausted, or likely soon to be exhausted? And if so, how is this proved?

MR. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 27, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and in reply I beg leave to state, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I am of opinion that the great majority of the rate-payers of this Union will be able to pay the present rate. I have further to add, that I think the collectors are making as much exertion as can reasonably be expected from them.

The sum total of poor rate paid in the Union of Westport, since the appointment of the Vice-Guardians is 1834*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, and this amounts to nearly one shilling in the pound on the net annual value of the rateable property in the Union.

There does not appear to me to be any obstacle to the collection of the rate; but, as there are but two collectors for this very extensive Union, there is of necessity some delay, and considerable difficulty in collecting a sum which is very large, as compared with the poverty of the district.

I attended the meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians on the 25th and 26th; the number of applicants for relief still continue to be very numerous, and of a class who exhibit the greatest destitution; and amongst them I am sorry to find several persons who had hitherto been holders of small quantities of land, but who have been compelled to give it up, to entitle themselves and their families to relief; of this class we had a large number from Clare Island. The number admitted this week into the workhouse was 80, and the number put on the out-door relief list amounted to 3294.

The expenses of the Union are daily increasing, and it is quite impossible that the rates can be collected fast enough to meet the demands on the Vice-Guardians; it therefore becomes absolutely necessary that further assistance should be afforded to them, for in the present embarrassed state of the Union, it cannot be expected that the contractors for food will be willing to give credit to any large amount. The Vice-Guardians had no funds at their disposal this week, to pay for the meal given to those on the out-door relief, being obliged to allocate the small sum in their treasurer's hands to the payment of some of the old debts, in pursuance of the agreement entered into with the creditors.

Yesterday was the day fixed on for the election of a master in the place of the late Mr. Henry Roe; only two candidates appeared, and as neither appeared qualified for the situation, the election was postponed to Wednesday next, the 2nd February.

REPLY to the above:—*January 31, 1848.*

UNDER the circumstances stated by you, the Commissioners have applied for the advance of another sum of 300*l.* to Westport Union.

At the same time, the Commissioners are anxious to draw your attention to the second series of questions contained in the Commissioners' letter of the 22nd instant, namely—

What is the obstacle to the rate being collected? Is it that there is negligence or dishonesty in collectors or rate-payers? Is it that the crops have failed? Are the means of the proprietors and occupiers exhausted, or likely soon to be exhausted? And if so, how is this proved?

Before the Commissioners enter on a course of advance to any Union, they are anxious that these questions should *be fully and distinctly answered*.

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They observe that, in your opinion the number of collectors in the Union is too small. This will be a material point for consideration when a new rate is to be struck; but the Commissioners are still desirous of calling your special attention to all the other questions contained in their letter of the 22nd instant.

The Commissioners are much gratified by the support which the Marquess of Sligo has given to the collection of the rates in Westport Union, both by his example and influence. But independently of the rates paid by his lordship and Sir R. O'Donnell, no less a sum than 655*l.* remains uncollected; and the Commissioners wish to know who are the parties owing that rate, whether they are chiefly occupiers or immediate lessors, and why it is that either the one or the other parties have not paid the sums due from them.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. R. M. LYNCH on a communication from the Rev. Thomas Hardiman, R. C. Pastor, Killmeena, relating to the cases of poor persons in the Westport Union, whose landlords refuse to receive possession of their holdings without they also surrender their cabins:—*January 28, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians are guided in all cases by the report made to them by the relieving officer, as to whether the applicant for relief is in the occupation of more than a quarter of an acre of land or not, but the relieving officer is often placed in a difficult position by finding the applicant in possession of the house, and being told by the applicant that he has surrendered the land; in such cases the relieving officer requires the evidence of the landlord or his agent, that such is the fact, and the landlords and agents very seldom take up the land without at the same time getting possession of the house.

THE COMMISSIONERS to Mr. R. M. LYNCH:—*February 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to your observations on a communication from the Rev. Thomas Hardiman, relating to the case of poor persons in the Westport Union whose landlords refuse to receive possession of their holdings without they also surrender their cabins, I am to state that the Commissioners have informed the Vice-Guardians that according to the Commissioners' views of the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, it is merely the occupation or non-occupation of a quarter of an acre of land which is made a criterion of destitution, provided that an applicant for relief may otherwise be deemed entitled to it.

Hence the Vice-Guardians, as far as that clause is concerned, are warranted in relieving anybody who is not in such occupation; and they are not bound to investigate title at all, or to ascertain whether the tenant's interest has been legally determined by surrender or otherwise.

MR. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS: *February 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st January, in which you state that the Poor Law Commissioners are anxious to draw my attention to the 2nd series of questions contained in their letter of the 22nd January, and in reply to those questions I have to make the following answers:—

There is no *insuperable* obstacle to the rate being collected.

There does not appear to be negligence or dishonesty in collectors.

There appears to be some negligence on the part of the rate-payers, who are able, and who have not as yet paid their rate. The collectors have summoned several hundreds of them, and will, I have no doubt, enforce the payment, but the course of law is generally tedious.

I do not think that the failure of the crops can be relied on as an excuse for non-payment.

The means of the proprietors and occupiers are not, generally speaking, exhausted, or likely soon to be exhausted.

The collectors are using every means in their power to collect the rate; they have summoned several hundreds of defaulters; and in most cases which have

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been heard they have obtained decrees. There has been some delay in making out and furnishing the several landlords with the particulars for which they are liable as the immediate lessors; and I have directed the collectors to use every effort in their power to obtain the rate by the *ordinary* powers of the law, before they apply to the Vice-Guardians for advice. Sir Richard O'Donnell reported to me to-day that there are but two individuals, viz., James Hillas, esq., J.P., and Charles M'Donnell, esq., whose rate exceeds 5*l.*, and who have not paid. He states that he will *at once* take legal proceedings against these two gentlemen. In Mr. Londen's district, there is a sum of about 1600*l.* still due in large sums. He is directed to serve the regular notice on the defaulters, and if the sum due by them are not immediately paid, legal proceedings will be taken against them by the collector, or the circumstances of their refusal placed before the Board of Vice-Guardians for their special advice. The collectors have lodged since this day week a sum of 550*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*; and the Commissioners may rest satisfied that every effort shall be made to enforce the collection throughout the Union.

This evening's post brought me a remittance of 300*l.* for the credit of the Vice-Guardians, being the amount of a grant from the British Association, which, added to the 550*l.* collected during the last week, enabled the Vice-Guardians to discharge debts to the amount of 847*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* Of this sum, 515*l.* 14*s.* was paid on account of the old debts of the late Board of Guardians, and 331*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* on account of the current expenses of the Union. They still owe a large sum, and will require a *weekly remittance* to enable them to meet the heavy expenses of the in-door and out-door relief. Had the Vice-Guardians not been called on to give out-door relief; they would have been able to defray the expenses of the workhouse, and pay off a considerable portion of the old debt out of the incoming rate; but the out-door relief has quadrupled their estimated expenditure, and it is therefore that they are obliged to look to other sources to meet the present liabilities of the Union.

The applications for relief continue numerous. Yesterday and to-day the Vice-Guardians put 2390 additional names on the out-door list, admitting 21 only into the house; and they had to issue orders on the contractors for 40½ tons of Indian meal, value over 400*l.* In proportion to the population, the number from Newport, Achill, and Clare Island, appears much greater than from any other district in the Union. The relieving officers for these divisions have reported to the Vice-Guardians that several of the small landholders have been obliged to give up their land to entitle themselves to relief.

I beg leave to remind the Commissioners that the order for out-door relief in this Union will expire on the 7th instant, it will therefore be necessary to issue a fresh authority for its continuance, before the next meeting of the Board on the 8th instant.

REPLY to the above:—*February 5, 1848.*

AN application has been made to Count Strzelecki for a further advance of 200*l.*, to enable the Vice-Guardians to continue the relief of the destitute poor in the Union.

I am at the same time to state, that previous to the receipt of your report, instructions had been given for the renewal of the out-door relief order in the Westport Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 2, 1848.*

WE have the honour to inform you that since our last Board-day, 26th of January last, the sum of 550*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* has been lodged by the collectors to our credit, as paid officers of this Union; and we have received from Mr. Lynch, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, 300*l.*, as a grant from the British Association, in aid of the relief of the destitute poor in this Union; out of which sums we have paid 515*l.* 14*s.* in liquidation of a part of the old debts and 331*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* towards the current expenses of the Union. We have reason to believe that the collection would have been much larger from the northern electoral divisions, but for the subjoined statement of facts.

Sir Richard O'Donnell, one of our collectors, this day stated to us that he had

200 cases against defaulting ratepayers entered for adjudication at the petty sessions held yesterday at Newport; but that when the first case was called on, Mr. Hillas, one of the magistrates in attendance, delayed the proceedings by objections and harangues for about three hours; and then, taking out his watch, said the hour was then too late to proceed, and adjourned the Court for a fortnight. It would appear that the object of this gentleman was to delay, if not defeat, the ends of justice; the more particularly, as we have been informed, he has not paid his own rates, and has given the collector much opposition and annoyance. We therefore take the liberty of submitting for your consideration, whether it may not be desirable to secure the attendance of the stipendiary magistrate at the adjourned sessions. We requested Sir Richard O'Donnell to lay a statement in writing before the Board; but whilst engaged in doing so, he had to hasten to lodge the amount of his collection before the bank closed, and did not afterwards finish his report; but the chairman has written to request that he will transmit it to you.

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We also take the liberty to state, that your order for out-door relief in this Union will expire on the 7th instant.

REPLY to the above:—*February 4, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will communicate with the Government with regard to your suggestion, that a stipendiary magistrate should attend at the petty sessions at Newport.

I am at the same time to request, that you will have the goodness to report to the Commissioners, as to the reasons why the proceedings against the magistrate to whom you refer, with a view to the enforcement of the payment of the rate due by him, has not been successful, and what proceedings are now pending to enforce obedience to the law in this instance.

Instructions have already been given for the renewal of the order authorizing you to afford out-door relief to the able-bodied poor in the Westport Union.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 16, 1847.*

SINCE my last report on the proceedings of the Tralee Board of Guardians, I have the honour to inform you that several extraordinary meetings have been held, for the purpose of examining into the case of the applicants for out-door relief.

The pressure on the Board was so severe, that they were compelled to meet on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, besides Tuesday, their ordinary day of meeting, and on each of these days they divided themselves into committees, and sat in different parts of the house; but, notwithstanding this energetic mode of endeavouring to meet the destitution, the applicants only of 6 out of 18 electoral divisions, have been fully heard, and their cases decided upon.

I have not yet had time to ascertain how many persons in each electoral division, have been ordered out-door relief, nor the proportion which they bear to the population; but as soon as I have compiled this statistical information, I will not fail to acquaint you with the result.

This extraordinary pressure of duty which has thus fallen on the Board of Guardians, and their inability, as yet, to contend with it, have naturally turned their attention to the best mode of relieving themselves of so heavy a burden, and a considerable feeling exists that this Union is double the size which it should be, and that it would be desirable to have it divided, and another workhouse established at Dingle.

Colonel Stokes, an active and intelligent member of the Board, has given notice of his intention to bring forward a resolution to that effect. Any remark which I may have to make, I will reserve until the matter has been discussed; but in the mean time, I may bear witness to the extreme hardship in compelling the inhabitants of Dunquin, Dunorlen, and Ventry, to travel to Tralee, a distance of 35 miles, with the hope, that possibly there may be room for them in the workhouse, but most probably only to be disappointed, with the same distance to return in their exhausted condition.

The Commissioners will perceive, by another resolution, that the Board are desirous of hiring a house for the accommodation of the children in the workhouse. If they should succeed in being able to procure one, it will prove a considerable relief to the pressure; but I feel satisfied that further accommodation will yet be required.

The attention of the Board was also drawn to the collection of the rates, and the names of several of the highest defaulters were laid before the Board; and the Board directed the collectors, in the most peremptory manner, to collect their rates, and further passed a resolution, that on the 24th of February, that they would require that the whole of the present rates should be collected, and that the collectors should be held responsible.

The attention of the Board was also drawn to the accounts of each electoral division, with the view of ascertaining weekly, whether such division was in debt, or in credit, with the house, and the clerk was directed to furnish accounts in such a manner.

On this day the proceedings were again interrupted by a large mob, armed with bludgeons, who broke into the house, notwithstanding the resistance of six policemen. Fortunately a large number of the Guardians were present, and went to the assistance of the police, and secured the ringleaders. It was, however, deemed advisable to send for the military, and a further resolution was passed, requiring their presence on every Board-day.

In giving this account of the past week's proceedings, I must bear witness to the excellent manner in which the Guardians are endeavouring to do their duty.

The Commissioners will see that even Sunday gave them no relief from their labours; and their moral firmness in forcing on the collection of the rates, and personal courage in assisting the police on this day, deserve high commendation.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*November 20, 1847.*

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IN regard to the proposal to establish another workhouse at Dingle, I am to forward to you the accompanying correspondence which took place last year on the subject, from which you will perceive that the project of providing a workhouse at Dingle has been favourably entertained by the Commissioners, but that it was abandoned by the Guardians owing to the financial embarrassments under which the Union at that time laboured.

You will be good enough to return the correspondence when perused.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 18, 1847.*

THE Tralee Board of Guardians have already made an application to you that two districts may be formed under the 6th section 10 Vict., cap. 31, the one at Dingle, and the other at Castleisland, for the more effectual relief of the destitute in these parts.

My attention has in the meantime, been directed as to the manner in which these Committees are to perform their duty, and I have been making inquiries as to the probable results of this measure, from the most respectable residents in those parts.

The people of Dingle, and of the electoral divisions which are to form that district, are represented to me to be in the most deplorable condition, quiet and resigned to their apparently helpless fate.

The elected Guardians who are to form the Committee of that district are represented not at all capable of the burden about to be thrown upon them, and extremely likely to prevent the relief about to be sent there, from its legitimate end. It has been represented to me that it would be advisable to have paid Guardians to do their work, to which, however, I would not listen.

Thus it appears that the great difficulty is not in relieving the people of that district, but in providing a body of men as a medium through whom the relief is to be given; and if the Guardians of that district are to be compelled to do their duty, compelled by being formed into a Committee, and the poor thrown immediately upon them, it appears to me advisable that some stringent regulations should be drawn up for their guidance, which would prevent them squandering either the funds of the Union or the relief which the British Association may ultimately entrust them with; and although it may be said that such a Committee could not act independently of the Board of Guardians to whom they must resort, yet the Board of Guardians, sitting 35 miles off, although perfectly persuaded abuses are going on, would find it almost impossible efficiently to check them.

The line of policy which I would adopt with these Committees would be as follows, provided it met your sanction :—

The clerk of the Union should submit a statement weekly, of the available funds of each electoral division, reserving sufficient to pay its share of the expenses of the house.

A copy of this weekly statement should be forwarded to the Committee, with an intimation that the Board of Guardians would in no case, encounter liabilities beyond that amount for any electoral division.

When that sum of money had been expended, and the whole of the present rate collected, a fresh rate should be struck; and until such rate had been struck, the British Association should not grant relief.

The British Association to grant a weekly allowance for a limited time to such electoral division, until the proceeds of the new rate could be brought into operation.

The Commissioners will see that the end of these proposed regulations is to clearly show to each Committee that the funds of each electoral division cannot be overdrawn, for I see nothing but confusion if these Committees were to be allowed to be under the impression that the Union was bound, even for a limited period, to advance them money or rather incur liabilities beyond their balances for their wants.

I think we must trust to the pressure of public opinion, that such relief, limited, and scanty as it will be, is devoted only to the really destitute.

I beg to apologize for the liberty I am taking in submitting these propositions

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to you, but I feel it so important that these Committees should be placed on a proper footing, that I thought it best to acquaint you immediately, with my views on the subject rather than to incur delay.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*November 20, 1847.*

THE Commissioners desire to call your special attention to the fact that the Committees, under the 6th section, have no power to order relief. Their functions are merely “to receive, applications of poor persons requiring relief in their district, to examine into the cases of such poor persons, and to report to the Guardians thereon.”

With regard to the proposal respecting the finances of the electoral divisions of the Dingle district, the Commissioners wish to remark that it is contrary to the policy of the law, the object of which is to give the whole Board of Guardians a direct interest in compelling the rate-payers of each electoral division to pay their rates. If destitute persons in an electoral division were not relieved by the Guardians, because there were no funds forthcoming from that electoral division, the tendency of such a course would be to make the Guardians of the rest of the Union comparatively indifferent as to whether the rates were collected for that division. Whereas now they have all a direct interest that every division of the Union without exception, should do its duty in this respect.

The Commissioners wish you to attend the Committee at Dingle, as often as is compatible with your other arrangements.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 23, 1847.*

THE Board of Guardians held their usual meeting on this day at the workhouse, and the presence of a large mob of unemployed labourers forced upon them the necessity of taking steps to enlarge their house.

During the latter part of the preceding week I had, with that view, made a careful examination of the workhouse, and the measures which I recommended them to adopt, subject to your sanction, were as follows:—

- 1st. The hiring of a house for the children, upwards of 500 in number.
- 2nd. The converting the present day-rooms into dormitories, and converting the present school-rooms into day-rooms.

Remarks.—The present day-rooms are not large enough, but the two school-rooms would make very superior day-rooms.

- 3rd. The building up of the virandahs at the back of the hospital, and forming them into two dormitories; the increased size of the new day-rooms renders these virandahs less required than formerly.
- 4th. Foreseeing a further demand for accommodation, I recommended the Board to apply for permission, to convert the present hospital into a portion of the workhouse, and hire a building for a new hospital.

Remarks.—It is right that I should mention, that the medical officer disapproves of this arrangement, but I cannot understand on what grounds; I have frequently seen military hospitals at a considerable distance from the barracks, and during last summer I never heard of any case of fever being aggravated by the removal of the sufferer, perhaps for some miles to the fever hospital.

There are two probationary wards which are never used, the other two having been found ample; these I proposed to use in case of any sudden infectious illness, separating immediately the sufferer from the other inmates until he could be removed to the hospital.

- 5th. Further, I proposed hiring a house calculated to hold about 500 adults, and moving, if necessary, all the women from the house and placing them therein.

My object in proposing this, was to keep up the discipline of the workhouse on the men, and reserving the workhouse for them would dispense with the entire female staff, which could be transferred with the women, to the new

establishment; whereas if the new establishment were to hold men and women, a great deal of difficulty would arise in separating them, and a double staff, both male and female, would be required.

I calculate the *workhouse* thus appropriated, would hold about 1200 adults, who would be all able-bodied labourers, their wives and children being in hired houses.

I can assure the Commissioners, that the pressure is becoming so severe as to require these energetic steps; 40,000 rations were issued in this Union under the Temporary Relief Act; and supposing that we can accommodate 3000 in buildings, and distribute relief to 7000 infirm and widows, still our relief would only be one-quarter of what it was last spring.

A select Committee was appointed to take these proposals into consideration, and they were to report to the Board next Saturday.

May I, therefore, request an answer *by return of post*, which will reach me in time for their meeting.

An order exists limiting this workhouse to 1000 persons; but if the Commissioners approve of the above arrangements that order would be annulled.

The other resolutions of the Board require no further explanation.

REPLY to the above:—*November 25, 1847.*

THE Commissioners approve generally, of your recommendations in reference to the extension of the workhouse accommodation in the Tralee Union, which are fully in accordance with the views expressed in the Commissioners' Circular of the 26th August last, and they will give the Guardians every assistance in their power, in carrying your recommendations into effect.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 28, 1847.*

THE various reports which I have had the honour of forwarding to you, will have shown you the increasing pressure of destitution in this Union; and I am sorry to say that I see no reason to believe that it will not yet increase in a greater ratio, as the winter season advances.

I have thought it therefore my duty to consider, beforehand, the different measures which we should adopt consecutively to meet this evil, and to lay them before you in order to obtain your approval, so that if they proved necessary there should be no delay.

You have already approved generally of our plans, for making the workhouse test as available as possible, by using the workhouse and the hospital for able-bodied men only, and hiring separate buildings for the women and children.

I have had a careful measurement made of the house and hospital, and find that they would hold about 1180 able-bodied men, without decreasing the number of cubic feet of air, which each individual would have had according to the original plan of the workhouse.

We may consider therefore, that hired buildings to hold about 1800 women and children will be required.

On a careful estimate of the expense of hiring and altering the buildings, fitting them with cooking apparatus, buying increased bedding and clothing, and increased staff, I do not think the additional expense of their outfit will be under 25s. a-head for each individual so accommodated, or about 2,300% of immediate outlay, irrespective of the daily sustenance of the increased numbers.

I should doubt if it were wise to carry this system any further, or if the finances of the Union would at all bear it; and if it were determined to carry it further, buildings must be hired to hold the men as well as their families, and the difficulty in such cases of separating the sexes, and preserving proper discipline in buildings never intended for such a purpose, seems to me almost insuperable; and it is quite obvious unless the proper discipline is kept up, and order and cleanliness enforced, these hired buildings will not only fail as workhouse tests, but become seats of disorder, profligacy, and disease.

In the correspondence on the subject of making the Dingle district into a separate Union, which you did me the honour of sending for my perusal, I

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perceive Mr. Hancock sees the same objections in hiring buildings for independent workhouses.

Supposing then that we limited our workhouse accommodation to 1,180 able-bodied in the house, and provided for their wives, families, and sick outside, and still fresh applicants pressed upon us, which I consider very probable, I don't know on what ground the Board of Guardians or I, would be justified in delaying to represent, that the necessity has arisen for out-door relief to the able-bodied.

Yet I am satisfied that no measure could be more ruinous to the Union, or to the poor themselves that this. The pressure on the relieving officers, severe as it now is, would become such that it would be impossible for them even to endeavour to do their duty. All the available funds would be squandered instantly, and the present relief within the house, scanty as it may be, yet sure, and given to the really destitute, would be in a moment brought to an end.

I do not think anything could induce me to recommend such a course.

The difficulties of the subject forcing themselves on the attention of the Board of Guardians, induced them to recommend public works being resumed.

I need scarcely say my former experience of them, as an Inspecting officer, under the Board of Works, would make me a decided opponent of such a measure.

Yet I confess I have considered whether in the most distressed electoral divisions, meal could not be supplied by the British Association, through a different machinery than the relieving officers (they having already more to do than they can manage), to the destitute able-bodied, who should be compelled to work five or six hours a day in completing some of the unfinished public works. I saw this system pursued, under an energetic Secretary of a Relief Committee with great advantage, in Wicklow.

Yet its disadvantages are obvious, as it prevents the landowners and holders from seeing the necessity of giving employment themselves. It requires men of great firmness and energy to carry out, and unless rigidly carried out, it is apt to degenerate into a farce; and if it becomes a farce, it draws the people away from their legitimate pursuits, the fisherman from fishing, and the husbandman from cultivating, and merely at a great expense, staves off the evil of this year to the next.

The British Association have commenced a very admirable system of relief, in feeding the children who attend schools, between the ages of 6 and 14. 200*l.* has been sent down to me for that purpose, and I enclose a copy of the regulations under which this relief is given.

On a careful examination of the census of these counties, I find one quarter of the whole population is between the ages of 6 and 15. Thus it is clear we have the means of increasing this mode of relief in distressed districts, to a very large extent.

Children are already, on hearing of this, flocking into the schools, so that I shall have serious difficulty in preventing them from being over-crowded.

I would, beg, therefore, to submit to the attention of Her Majesty's Government that in distressed districts, the number of National schools should be immediately increased. I have no doubt many public rooms could be obtained free of all cost, or if not, chapels and churches would be willingly lent on week days. Children who chose to attend should, during the winter season, be fed by the British Association.

I repeat, I consider in distressed districts we should feed certainly one-sixth of the population; we should not only not interfere with the Poor Law, but act auxiliary to it, by indirectly relieving the pressure which threatens to crush it.

We should still compel the landlords and landholders to employ the able-bodied, or that they should be fed at their expense, and still compel the able-bodied willingly to seek for employment, and at the same time afford relief to almost every poor family in a district, and in proportion to the number in that family, and rescue the weakest and most unoffending portion of the population from the fate which at present threatens to overwhelm them, and make them useful and intelligent members of society.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing:—*November 26, 1847.*

Tralee Union.

THE delay attendant upon the building of ovens and procuring rye-meal, in order to make rye bread, has induced the British Association to sanction the use of Indian meal stirabout in the school of this Union.

Arrangements are in progress, by which I trust, that relief may be speedily afforded; but it must be understood that it can only be on the following conditions, which the British Association have prescribed:—

1. That the bounty of the Association is not to be perverted into a means of proselytism.

2. That each child shall receive the prescribed ration, on condition that he or she attends the school regularly, and remains during school-hours.

3. That a registry of attendance, and of the duration of the attendance of the children each day, be kept by the schoolmaster or schoolmistress, and a return of the same forwarded to me.

4. That the rations, each consisting of three quarters of a pound of meal made into stirabout, and divided into two or three meals as most convenient, shall only be allowed to male children, between the ages of 6 and 12 years, and female children between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

5. That a trough of water, and towels and combs, be provided in a convenient place; and that each child shall be required to wash its face and hands before partaking of the ration.

6. That on no account shall any child be permitted to take any food from the school.

7. That the female children be employed in knitting, and the boys in making nets, as often as their scholastic duties will permit.

8. That the elder children shall be employed in making the stirabout, under the superintendence of the schoolmaster and schoolmistress.

You will understand that the above regulations are imposed by the British Association, as the conditions on which relief should be afforded; and that if any of them require, in your opinion, modification, it will be your duty to obtain my sanction for their change; and that any infringement of them which may not have been sanctioned by me, will cause the withdrawal of further aid from the Association.

The following are the arrangements by which the above relief will be carried out:—

1. Only one week's consumption of meal will be supplied at a time. The week will commence on Monday inclusive, and end on the following Sunday.

2. At the commencement of the first week, you will send either to me or to Mr. Dee, Inspector of Schools (as will be explained hereafter), an estimate of the number of rations required for your school, for the ensuing week. Books of estimates, with counter parts to be retained by you, will be supplied for that purpose by me.

3. On my receiving the estimate and approving of it, an order for the required amount of Indian meal will be transmitted to you, on any of the undermentioned merchants or storekeepers, whom you may name in your estimate. These arrangements are not completed at present, but five depôts will be established in this Union; on your presenting, or having the above order presented, the quantity of Indian meal named therein will be given to you.

4. No charge for the carriage of meal to the school will be allowed; the stores have been named in the most convenient parts of the Union, and it is conceived that a little management on your part, would enable it to be brought to you by the farmers, on going or returning from market, free of all cost.

5. No charge will be allowed for the purchase of a boiler; as it is presumed that the boilers at present in the hands of the several committees or charitable associations would, on your application, be placed at your disposal.

6. The sum of 2*l.* will be placed in your hands to liquidate the expense of setting the boilers up, and purchasing, if necessary, the usual cooking utensils, the trough for water, and the towels before mentioned. Any surplus which may be over, to be employed in purchasing fuel and in postage; and when the money is expended, an account of the expenditure to be tendered to me.

7. On your commencing to issue the rations, the daily register before alluded

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to must be kept. The register will show the hours each child attended per diem, and the number of rations supplied to it per week. The total number of rations supplied to all the children per week, will be obtained by addition, which will show the actual weekly expenditure of meal. Forms for this purpose will be supplied to you.

8. On your forwarding the estimate for the second week, the register of the first must also accompany it; so that before receiving an order for any additional quantity, the quantity already supplied will have to be accounted for.

9. The estimates for each week, with the corresponding register of the first, should be forwarded by post on Saturday, and on Monday you may expect the required order; an intelligent boy from each school, should be sent with and for the requisite letters.

10. The forms for the estimates and registry of attendance, will be forwarded to you as early as possible; full instructions for their use will be printed upon them.

11. I have further to request of you, that you allow the school, in no case to be overcrowded, so as either to render disease liable to be engendered, or to prevent the usual regularity or discipline. Amongst the numerous applicants which you may have, I have to request that the preference may be given to the poor orphan, or to those whose parents are known to be unable to prevent them from starving.

12. The estimates, registry, and other documents connected with this charity are to be considered as public, and should be laid before any visitor entering the school.

13. The master or managers of the national schools will forward all estimates and documents of all kinds to Mr. Dee, Inspector of Schools, who has been kind enough to say that he will examine them before they come into my hands; and the masters and managers of all other schools will forward their reports direct to me.

14. Finally, it must be distinctly understood that the means placed at my disposal, are exceedingly limited, and that those schools which are situated in the most distressed districts will always obtain a preference. The task of apportioning the relief amongst numerous applicants, all of them distressed, though in different degrees, must be invidious and seldom can give satisfaction; but while I shall be ready at all times to hear the different claims of the different schools and localities, and to decide according to the best of my judgment, I trust they will remember that in such cases there must be an arbitrator, and as long as he endeavours to perform his duty, it is equally their duty to support him and to respect the decision he may arrive at.

REPLY to the above:—*December 4, 1847.*

IN reference to that part of your report which relates to the relief afforded by the British Association to children attending schools in the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners are desirous that relief should be given to the utmost reasonable extent to children in the Union, in the manner pointed out by you; but at the same time, as the expenditure of the funds is not under the control of the Guardians, the Commissioners do not deem it within their province, as a public Board, to offer any opinion on the regulations as long as they do not interfere with the proper working of the new Irish Poor Law.

The Commissioners deem it desirable that you should communicate direct with Count Strzelecki respecting the increasing the number of the schools. At the same time, in order to prevent loss of time, the Commissioners have forwarded to the Count a copy of your remarks on the subject.

In reference to your remarks on the difficulties which will attend the administration of out-door relief to the able-bodied in your Union, the Commissioners desire to state that they are fully sensible that those difficulties are of no common magnitude; but at the same time, they may be in some degree surmounted by energy and intelligence on the part of the Guardians. The Commissioners do not contemplate the granting any out-relief to able-bodied men, without some test; and the Commissioners forward for your information a copy of the conditions on which alone such relief is to be given. At the same time the Commissioners will be fully prepared to increase the number of relieving officers to any extent which you may recommend; and by thus uniting close inspection with a test of destitution, as much will be done as the inherent difficulties of granting out-relief to able-bodied men will permit.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 30, 1847.*

Tralee Union.

THE usual meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union took place, this day.

Colonel Stokes brought forward the resolution he had given notice of, for dividing the Union into two, which after considerable discussion was agreed to.

The furnishing of funds to build a workhouse at Dingle, is the real difficulty of this question.

The Guardians are in hopes, that the Government may entertain a favourable view of their case and grant them pecuniary aid, and involved as they are in enormous expenses, with the uncertainty hanging over them as to the intentions of the Government about the repayment of the advances under the Temporary Relief Act, I should doubt very much the prudence of their involving themselves in so heavy an expenditure, however necessary such an expenditure might be.

I also doubt the possibility of their obtaining any large loans from private bodies or individuals, under their present circumstances.

It would be also absurd their thinking of borrowing from the Government, as they have not paid off any of the original loans for building their house.

Under these circumstances, I recommend this case to the favourable consideration of the Government.

A workhouse at Dingle is positively necessary ; humanity and the notorious insufficiency of the present accommodation require it. It is also necessary that the Union should be divided, as it is perfectly impossible for the Board of Guardians at Tralee to get through all the work on their hands. I may mention that to-day, although we had a very efficient Chairman, we were compelled to separate without examining or signing a single relieving officer's Application Book ; and we cannot expect that Guardians, sometimes farmers, or men in trade, will spare time to come in 36 miles to attend to their Poor Law duties.

I think if the Government would, in such a case, grant an equal sum to that advanced by the Guardians, they would render considerable encouragement to Unions desirous of performing their duty.

We had, as usual, a large mob outside the house, who threw several stones through the windows, and when I left the house they had not dispersed.

The Board then adjourned until to-morrow, in order, finally, to make arrangements for the hire of a large building to be formed into an auxiliary workhouse, capable of holding 800 persons ; Mr. Wilkinson has examined it, and given us his valuable advice.

Two thousand and two hundred persons were returned from 12 electoral divisions as receiving out-door relief, and as returns from six others had not come in, we may estimate the number in the whole Union at 3100, or about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole population.

I am requested by the Board of Guardians, to accept your offer of a French hand-mill to grind corn.

REPLY to the above :—*December 4, 1847.*

THE Commissioners are in communication with the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury respecting the erection of a workhouse at Dingle.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 4, 1847,*

WITH reference to the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31, section 2, I should be obliged to you if you would inform me whether you consider the responsibility devolves upon me or upon the Board of Guardians, of making the report (if requisite) "that adequate accommodation cannot be afforded to the destitute "by reason of want of room in the workhouse," with a view that out-door relief to the able-bodied may be sanctioned.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 6, 1847.*

I AM to inform you that it is your duty, as well as that of the Board of Guardians, to make the report to which you advert, when it becomes necessary to do so.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 7, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the ordinary meeting of the Poor Law Guardians this day. The minutes of the proceedings will show the business done. The appointment of a Finance Committee generally to superintend the accounts connected with the out-door relief, was made at my suggestion.

Although I believe that this will be found to be a good measure, yet a great deal of difficulty will still exist on that head.

Some of the relieving officers' districts are 30 miles off, and it is all the officers can do to arrive at the workhouse at 12 o'clock on the Board-day; nevertheless the accounts of all their electoral divisions (18 in number) have to be audited before night, in the midst of all the confusion.

These relieving officers are compelled to lose two days in the week, in travelling to and from the Board, a third day in attending the Committee of Guardians in their district, and have only three days left to issue the weekly allowances to paupers, and receive and examine into all cases of application.

The extreme size of this Union renders their duties very severe, and puts them to considerable expense. Two are threatening to resign.

A case was reported to-day of the able-bodied in one district, seizing the supplies intended for the infirm and widows. The Board have, therefore, thought it more prudent that the relieving officers should give checks for meal on the contractors, rather than run the risk of a breach of the peace in distributing it themselves.

I do not know that there was more confusion to-day than on any former day, but as usual there was a great deal. The attention of the Guardians is also constantly diverted from the relief of the poor, by appeals and complaints of different parties about their rates being collected. To-day, we had a case of land let in such an intricate manner, that it occupied much time in ascertaining who was liable to pay the poor-rate, and this is not uncommon.

The building, which was hired in the preceding week, was so far advanced in fittings as to be able to receive the women from the workhouse. The verandahs also at the back of the hospital have been converted into dormitories; we were thus enabled to offer additional accommodation to about 300 persons.

This, however, proved nothing to what was required.

It is almost impossible to give the Commissioners an idea of the struggle which takes place, to get admission into the workhouse, or the efforts made by the several Guardians, that their electoral divisions obtain a fair share of the boon.

The buildings recently hired, when finished, will contain about 400 more, making a total workhouse accommodation for about 1800, without crowding.

The number of persons receiving out-door relief may be estimated at about 5000. The number of children fed in schools by the British Association may be estimated at 2300.

Total number fed gratuitously will be about 9100.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 12, 1847.*

ON our last Board day the collector of poor-rates in the Dingle district stated that a large amount of rates was irrecoverable, in consequence of many of the tenantry having omitted to sow their lands this year (through poverty), and having nothing whatever which he could distrain.

I recommended the Board of Guardians not to receive any more verbal statements of that nature, but to desire the collector to make a written report of each individual case in which he could not collect the rates which were due.

I beg, however, to ask the question, supposing that his statement is true, who becomes liable for the rates on such land?

REPLY to the foregoing :—*December 18, 1847.*

THE occupier continues liable, and the rate can be recovered from him at any time subsequently, when there is a distress on the premises; the rate may likewise be recovered from any subsequent occupier, provided it is duly carried forward as arrear.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 12, 1847.*

I BEG to request information on the following question :—

Mr. Walpole, a Poor Law Guardian and tenant farmer, is about to bring forward a resolution that it is necessary to have a re-valuation of the whole Union.

His argument is, that the rates have increased so much since the original valuation, that the net annual value of all property has diminished in a similar ratio (1 and 2 Vict. cap. 56, sec. 64).

His real reason is, that supposing the rents to remain the same, whilst the Poor Law valuation has fallen, the tenant under the same Act, section 74, would be enabled to deduct so much more from the rent of the landlord.

I believe that the landlords and agents will oppose a re-valuation for the same reasons exactly, as Mr. Walpole is anxious that a re-valuation should take place.

Mr. Roach, the valuator, is a respectable man, but a tenant farmer I believe; or certainly closely connected with the tenants in this Union. He has expressed publicly before me a strong opinion that a re-valuation should take place, and also as distinctly said, that he would reduce the valuation in proportion to the increase of poor-rates.

I should propose recommending the landlord section of the Board of Guardians to consent to a re-valuation, if a strong number of the tenant farmers thought it just.

I should recommend them to apply to the Poor Law Commissioners to appoint a valuator, in lieu of Mr. Roach, disqualified from having expressed an opinion on the subject, from holding land in the Union, and being closely connected in family with the class of tenant farmers. I should also state, that I thought it extremely desirable, if another valuation must take place, that Mr. Roach's valuation (the only one existing of this Union) should be checked by another valuator.

I should then point out to the tenant farmers, that the present valuation being generally lower than the rents paid to the most liberal landlords, it might be possible that another valuator would raise instead of lower it; and then ask them whether it is wise, at a heavy expense, to disturb the existing order of things.

I have so little experience on this most difficult subject that I am anxious to have the advice of the Commissioners as to my line of conduct.

The same arguments which Mr. Walpole has advanced must have been advanced by other parties in different parts of Ireland, and as the subject cannot be new to the Commissioners, I should be obliged to them for any information which they could afford.

REPLY to the above :—*December 18, 1847.*

THE Commissioners concur in the views expressed in your communication, and they will be prepared to take on themselves the appointment of a valuator, under the 7th section of 6 and 7 Vict. cap. 92, in the event of the Guardians making application for a re-valuation of the Union.

You are at liberty to inform the Guardians, should you see fit, that the Commissioners are prepared to take this course, as the one which is most likely to be satisfactory and to reconcile conflicting interests.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 14, 1847.*

THE Board met punctually at 12 o'clock this day, and formed two Committees, whilst the ordinary routine duties were carried on as usual by the remaining members present, who formed the Board.

The Finance Committee undertook the examination of the bills presented for payment, and the books and accounts of the relieving officers.

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Three relieving officers had their books in proper order, whilst the rest differed in a degree, varying from very bad to indifferent.

This was the first meeting of the Finance Committee under the new system, and the result will soon show a material improvement in the keeping of the books and accounts.

The other Committee examined and admitted fresh applicants for out-door relief.

The Board, in the mean time, proceeded to admit paupers into the house. There were 120 vacancies chiefly caused by the newly hired buildings receiving more of the children of the house, and here followed a scene of confusion seldom witnessed.

The paupers themselves strove in every way to rush in, whilst the Guardians made use of all their vehemence and eloquence to get as many in from their own districts as they could.

The day was far spent when this matter was arranged, and after conversation and resolutions, which appear on the minutes, the Board adjourned till to-morrow.

The principal event of the past week is the fast increasing destitution; whole districts of the country seem to have become masses of paupers. The relieving officers in two instances were plundered of their meal, and, in others, had to give some to able-bodied men to be a guard, and protect the remainder; and one relieving officer, frightened at his duty, has resigned.

I cannot conceal from myself that out-door relief to the able-bodied should be no longer delayed, but I would rather that the Commissioners delayed issuing the order for a limited period longer, in order to allow the Poor Law Guardians, who really are well inclined, to take the initiative in reporting it themselves.

In the meantime, the relief now going on is exceedingly extensive. The Guardians, in and out of the house, cannot be feeding less than 7000; and the British Association, through me, are feeding in schools 3,000. Thus 10,000 are receiving relief in a population of 90,000, but yet that really seems to have no effect.

This day I opposed the establishment of a branch house at Dingle. The Guardians have recently hired a building at Tralee, capable of holding 800, and admirably adapted in every respect for the purpose for which it is required; yet extensive alterations and repairs are necessary, and notwithstanding my daily presence, urging on the workmen, seconded by Captain Fairfield, a most active Guardian, 14 days have elapsed, and the building is only half occupied, and another 14 must elapse before the remainder will be ready for use. The expense of fitting it up and buying the necessary clothes and bedding will not be under 1000*l*.

No house at Dingle could be so favourably circumstanced, and none so closely watched by me and the Board, and if one were hired a new and untrained staff must be provided; yet these arrangements could not be completed under two months, and a vast sum of the available funds of the house would be spent on an expensive establishment.

It would be better for us to go on hiring buildings at Tralee than commence again elsewhere. My great fear in the out-of-door relief to the able-bodied, is lest the Guardians, compelled by fear, or driven on by charitable motives, should throw so much duty on the relieving officers as to crush these officers at once.

If it were legal, I would suggest that the Commissioners should limit their permission to give out-of-door relief to the able-bodied to the present inmates of the house. The effect of which would be that we should clear the house of all at present in it, and offer the house again to all applicants. If necessary, this order could again be renewed, and out-of-door relief to the able-bodied creep on, I think, in a safe and gradual manner.

We have every difficulty to contend with in carrying out the Poor Law, but chiefly the size and shape of the Union, and, secondly, the incapacity of the relieving officers; and although the Commissioners might allow us to increase their numbers, it is efficient men, and not increased numbers which we require. Then the system of Committees sitting at Dingle and Castleisland, and reporting to the Board, works but indifferently, and on the Board-days the confusion is overwhelming, so that it is almost impossible to get through business.

The collectors with their accounts, the relieving officers with theirs, the master and his accounts, deputations of clergymen and others, all crowded in a building large enough for its original purpose, but too small for this, with a mob outside, really can be more easily imagined than described.

I can assure the Commissioners my belief is, that in a Union of this kind there must be one or more paid Guardians, not to supersede the elected, but to work in conjunction with them (the same as paid magistrates sit on the same bench as unpaid), and whilst the pressure continues, to form a Board-day every day in the week; there is really work for a Board every day, and no unpaid men, having other duties, can be expected to give up the necessary time. The peculiar situation I hold as Inspector prevents me from taking an active part. My duties are limited to inspect, advise, and report. But one paid Guardian, having the confidence of the Board, and able between their sittings to hold, with their concurrence, all their power, is the person now required. The Commissioners may, however, rely on my doing all that I can to assist.

REPLY to the above:—*December 18, 1847.*

WITH reference to the division of the Board into Committees, one of which Committees undertook the examination of the relieving officers' books, I am to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter addressed to the Board of Guardians of the Tipperary Union, which contains the Commissioners' views in regard to the appointment of such Committees.

In reference to your statement of the destitution at present existing in the Union, the Commissioners have deemed it right to issue an Order, authorizing out-door relief in food to the following classes:—

1. Widows with one child dependent on them respectively.
2. Children whose parents are both dead.
3. Able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families, dependent on them for support, are affected by severe sickness or serious accident.

As regards your suggestion, that there should be one or more paid Guardians, not to supersede, but to work in conjunction with the present Board, I am to state that the proposition could not be carried into effect in the present state of the law.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS:—*October 8, 1847.*

WITH reference to the proceedings at the adjourned meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Tipperary Union, on the 27th ultimo, at which it was deemed expedient to appoint Sub-Committees to examine the lists of the different relieving officers, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that, as a general rule, they deem it undesirable that a Board of Guardians should be subdivided into Committees for the purposes of deciding on applications for relief, inasmuch as fewer abuses are likely to arise, if the cases are decided on by the whole Board.

At the same time, the Commissioners are aware that the amount of labour thrown on the Guardians may be so great as to render it necessary, for the due despatch of public business, that a division or even divisions of the Board should take place.

There is one suggestion, however, which the Commissioners desire to make on the subject, which they recommend the Guardians strictly to act on, viz., that in all divisions or Sub-Committees of the Board, one Guardian at least should be associated who is not of the particular district from which the applicants come whose cases are to be investigated by such divisions or Sub-Committees respectively.

The Commissioners have to add that no such Sub-Committee or division should consist of less than three members.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 15, 1847.*

THE only thing of importance which took place at our adjourned meeting was the re-affirmation of the desire of the Guardians, to establish a branch workhouse at Dingle.

I have very serious doubts as to the practical working of this measure; I doubt our obtaining a store-house large enough for any useful purpose; I doubt its being made available in time to prevent out-door relief; and, above all, I doubt the character of the Guardians, on whom the working of this measure must devolve.

But the Guardians having twice unanimously carried it, I deemed it my

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duty to inform them that they had full power to act, without forwarding or rather waiting an answer to their resolution.

They, however, resolved on doing nothing until they heard from the Commissioners.

The Commissioners will remember that the Guardians have desired that this Union shall be divided.

In taking this temporary accommodation, would the Commissioners wish me to consider it as the basis of the new Union?

In the event of our meeting with a factory, or some old house which with some alteration could be turned into a permanent workhouse, would the Commissioners allow the alterations and arrangements to be immediately commenced with that ultimate view?

And in arranging the staff, shall we commence with temporary appointments, with a view of making them permanent, if the persons prove competent to perform their duty?

Foreseeing that the present workhouse accommodation would be insufficient for some years in Tralee, I have persuaded the Guardians to rent the building they have hired for at least seven years, and to alter it with a view to its permanent occupation. When it is completed it will be very perfect with sleeping accommodation, day-school, and dining-rooms for 800 or 900, and with infirmary, master's rooms, porter's rooms, probationary ward, and offices complete; boys' and girls' yard enclosed by a high stone wall.

The expense of this has been heavy, but it will be worth it; and if the Commissioners would wish buildings on the same complete scale and plan to be taken at Dingle, of course I could try to obtain them; but if it is to be considered as a temporary arrangement, I could not recommend the Guardians to lay out so much money.

REPLY to the above:—*December 18, 1847.*

IN the opinion of the Commissioners, the circumstance that the distance of Dingle from Tralee workhouse is so great, is paramount to all other considerations, and counterbalances the weighty objections which you have adduced to the establishment of a workhouse at Dingle.

The course which the Commissioners would recommend the Guardians to adopt, is to take measures for erecting a new workhouse at Dingle. The erection of such a workhouse would be an essential condition to the Commissioners entertaining the proposition of dividing the Tralee Union into two Unions, for they could not deem it right to form a separate Union with Dingle for a centre, if such Union, when formed, were to be without workhouse accommodation.

The Commissioners will thank you, therefore, to communicate the above views to the Tralee Guardians, and to recommend them to take into their serious consideration the propriety of building a new workhouse at Dingle, capable of containing as many inmates as could be relieved in it from the district of which Dingle is the natural centre.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you that I attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day.

The first statement of importance which came before them was made by me.

I reminded the Board that two months ago, on my arrival at Tralee, great destitution prevailed in the Union; that the meetings of the Board were invariably interrupted by large mobs of distressed people seeking for admissions into the house, that the house was full; that the relieving officers had been appointed, but were utterly untrained, and nothing was done towards bringing out-of-door relief into operation; and that under these circumstances, and foreseeing the enormous mass of business which must fall upon them, I had determined in every way in my power to assist them.

That we had, since that period, cleared the house of all infirm persons, and widows with two or more legitimate children, and filled their places with

able-bodied; that we had hired and were fitting up a building calculated to hold 900 persons; that the verandahs in the old workhouse had been enclosed, fever sheds since rendered secure, the dormitories measured, and the numbers each was to hold painted on the door, to prevent over-crowding; that the children had been turned out of the house, and fresh alterations made calculated to increase the accommodation; that the clothes and utensils of the house had been examined, and a general repair taken place in the store, and other departments generally; and that, finally, the out-of-door relief was brought into operation, and that the relieving officers had commenced in some degree to understand their duties.

I then reminded them that, in carrying into effect these alterations, I had acted more as if I was a paid Guardian than an Inspector only; and that the result has been that a considerable misapprehension as to the nature of the duties I had to perform had gone abroad.

I then pointed out that my instructions in no case authorized me to release the Board of Guardians from any part of their legitimate functions, and that the Board were in no case authorized to yield them up to me, or to any one else; and that seeing the state of the country was such that the Board of Guardians would be enabled to manage their own affairs, I had come to the determination that I was not justified in co-operating with them so actively as I had done, and that the time was now coming when they must be prepared to take the whole burden on their own shoulders.

I hope the Commissioners will agree in the general view I have taken of my own position here. My first object was, to force relief into operation as rapidly as I could; and my object now is, to make the Board take it on their own hands.

I have so often reported upon the extraordinary press of business which there always is on a Board day, and on the difficulty that there is in carrying out out-of-door relief in so large a Union, that the Commissioners must not conceive that I believe a Board of Guardians in Ireland capable of managing such a system on so large a scale, without some directing or controlling assistance; but when the law did not authorize any assistance of that nature, I felt that I was no longer justified in offering it, when the extraordinary cause which had required it had ceased. For instance, to take the relieving officer of Ventry, which is 33 miles from Tralee. He travels to Tralee on Monday, to pass his accounts. Tuesday, he waits the orders of the Board. Wednesday, he returns. Thursday, distributes relief. Friday, attends Committee of Guardians at Dingle. Saturday, receives applications, visits houses of applicants, and investigates their cases.

When we consider the discretion which should actuate a relieving officer in his decisions, we must allow that we are not likely to attain that if we give him so much bodily work.

For another example, to show how bad these large Unions are, the Commissioners will remember that I have reported that the pressure for in-door relief has been diminishing, and again to-day, although all our vacancies were readily filled up, yet we had not a great many to send off.

Co-existing with this, the destitution in the distant divisions is increasing. If we had a workhouse at Dingle capable of holding 1500, it would be filled in a day; but it is never worth while for this 1500 to travel into Tralee for the chance of admission, to return again if refused.

Another feature in the present out-of-door relief, is the constantly increasing numbers.

REPLY to the above:—*January 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement regarding the part which you have hitherto taken in the administration of relief in the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners agree in your general views on the subject, and they think that you should on no account undertake to discharge the duties which are devolved by the Legislature upon Boards of Guardians.

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Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that I attended the Board of Guardians this day.

I am sorry to state, that the number of applicants for in-door relief had increased very seriously. The Board, however, were able to receive 100; but very many had to return again to their homes.

The Board have determined to prosecute Mr. Manning, Poor Law Guardian, for being concerned in supplying meal of a bad and deleterious description for out-of-door relief at Dingle.

The serious business of the day was the consideration of the out-of-door relief. Captain Fairfield, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, made a long and able report to the Board, which was ordered to be printed, and a copy of which I will send to you.

Our real difficulty was the Dingle district. The relieving officer of Ballinacourty was there, with his Application Book full of names; but there was no district Guardian who knew anything of the cases. He stated that in the Dingle district, the out-of-door relief to the able-bodied was in operation; and because he would not give to any one who was not initialed, his life had been threatened.

Charges were brought against the relieving officer of the Dingle district, and proved: 1st, that persons were in receipt of relief who held land; 2nd, that women were returned as widows who were not; 3rd, that some families received relief three or four times over, under different names; and, 4th, that he had allowed the contractors at Dingle to supply bad meal to the paupers, without reporting it to the Board. On finding himself thus hard pressed, he resigned his situation.

Meantime, the Dingle books were half uninitialed, and no one at the Board who knew the district appeared ready to examine them.

The Commissioners' letter on the subject of building a workhouse at Dingle, naturally brought the question fully before the Board.

Mr. Guy, a Dingle Guardian, brought forward a resolution to have paid Guardians at Dingle; Mr. Hussey mentioned to me that he had communicated since the morning with several persons holding property, and that they were in favour of it.

I then told the Board the plan which I had laid before the Commissioners—of immediately dividing the Union, with paid Guardians at Dingle. I added that I considered paid Guardians essential for Dingle at present, inasmuch as it was a very serious affair starting a Union in these times with only hired houses, and with all the officers to teach; and because a heavy expenditure in purchasing the necessary outfit was immediately necessary; and I did not think the Board, while prosecuting one Guardian for fraud, and having a grave case of suspicion against another, would like to spend their money entirely on their recommendation.

The whole of these observations was assented to, and the only remark was that the Castlegregory electoral division should belong to the Dingle Union, and not to Tralee, on the ground that the Dingle Union would have an establishment to support on too few electoral divisions, to which I urged that although Castlegregory was exactly half-way between Dingle and Tralee, it was nearer Tralee, as there was a high mountain which divided it from Dingle; and as Tralee had now workhouse accommodation for 2000, and would have for 2400, while Dingle would only have for 600, the bulk of the population should be thrown on Tralee; but I think the question is one which the Commissioners had better consider.

On the whole, the Board requested me to communicate fully and openly with the Commissioners for them, stating that I was as fully aware of their situation and difficulties as they were themselves, and that they would delay taking any steps about signing the required document to procure them a loan of money to build the Dingle house, until the wishes of the Commissioners were more fully expressed.

The Board would then wish to know, 1st. What the Commissioners will do about dividing the Union?

2nd. In the event of its being divided, will the Dingle Union be responsible for the money for their house, if the Tralee remains responsible for theirs?

3rd. Or will the sum spent on both houses be charged evenly on both Unions, according to valuation?

4th. In the event of the Union not being divided, how will the establishment charges of the new house be apportioned?

5th. If the Guardians sign it in its present state, will it remain a charge on the entire Union?

As my communication of January 7, which I requested the Commissioners to consider "confidential," has been publicly acknowledged to be true, the Commissioners can make any use they please of it; and I forward a letter from Mr. Chute, agent to Lord Ventry, to Captain Fairfield, narrating the proceedings at Dingle, which I request the Commissioners will return to me after perusal.

REPLY to the above:—*January 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have applied to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for permission to appoint a special Inspector at Dingle; and they trust that such an appointment, together with the exposure of the proceedings of the Committee which has taken place, and the prosecution which the Board have determined to institute against Mr. Manning, a Guardian, for being concerned in supplying meal for out-door relief at Dingle, will have a salutary effect, and tend to produce a more correct course of proceeding in future.

As regards the out-door relief, the Commissioners await the report of Captain Fairfield, of which you state you will forward a copy.

With reference to the case of the Dingle relieving officer, the Commissioners will feel obliged by your informing them whether you consider that the charges against him were proved, and whether, in your opinion, his resignation should be accepted, or the Commissioners should mark their sense of his conduct, by issuing a formal order for his dismissal.

Mr. Chute's letter to Captain Fairfield, which accompanied your report, is herewith returned in accordance with your request.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 15, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I arrived at Dingle from Tralee on the 13th instant; and, in continuation of my reports of the 7th and 11th instant, I beg to give the following particulars:—

Mr. Richard Chute waited upon me, and put into my hands the accompanying document, marked No. 1. The only remark which I have to make upon it is, that it was drawn out by a farmer, who was afraid to give up his name; but the writing, and the manner in which it is arranged, prove that, under a better order of things, Poor Law Guardians could be obtained even in these districts.

Mr. Richard Chute reiterated his complaints against the Dingle Committee of Guardians, charging them with general inefficiency, misappropriation of the relief, and costing the electoral division a large sum of money.

The Rev. M. Devine, the intelligent parish priest of the district, waited upon me, and repeated Mr. Chute's assertion, and, without my hinting that I have reported in favour of paid Guardians, earnestly requested me to obtain them.

Lord Ventry, and Mr. Hussey, a gentleman of property, expressed their desire to have paid Guardians, for the same reason.

I attended the Committee on this day, and repeated what had been charged against them; no one denied that abuses of a grave nature had taken place, but urged in extenuation the difficulty of carrying out the system of relief, using the same arguments which I advanced to the Commissioners in my letter of the 4th instant.

I watched the mode of doing business, and nothing could exceed the irregularity. Putting aside any dishonest motive which some parties may have had in screening these abuses, I do not think that the Committee have business-like habits enough, or energy to contend with their extraordinary difficulties. I may say

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that the personal attendance of paupers who required relief was no longer required; a scrap of paper, signed by any farmer, certifying that the applicant was in distress, was sufficient; names were entered down on the books without the date of the order, or duration of relief being mentioned; and relief administered in that manner, without the sanction of the Tralee Board of Guardians.

I should not, in these times, and under the peculiar difficulties of this Union, have been over severe at any digression from the strict letter of the law, provided such became necessary, and was done with an honest intention; but when I went outside, and saw people *dying* at the door, and knew that the relief was jobbed away inside, it certainly filled me with indignation.

Three women were laying down exhausted, with death on their countenances; so much so, that, instead of relief, the dispensary medical officer was sent for.

I directed provisional relief to be administered immediately to several, including able-bodied, to save their lives, and then we commenced the usual routine business, conducting it myself; and in a short time the Committee were compelled to acknowledge that more had been done in one hour by me than they could have done in four themselves.

The miserable state of many of the poor in their district, the acknowledgment of abuses, the knowledge that public feeling will assuredly, at some time or other, call them to account, and a feeling of their own inefficiency, weighed with them; and, after a short debate, they passed the accompanying resolution, marked No. 2.

The Commissioners may now rest assured that the *immediate* division of the Union, and the appointment of paid Guardians at Dingle, would be the most wished-for consummation that would be desired; and I have ascertained that two stores, capable of holding 300 paupers each, could be immediately hired, pending the erection of a workhouse. I know that the money given by the Board of Guardians for these divisions is superabundant for their necessities; but if it is not differently administered the consequences will be too apparent.

Although I have been compelled to censure in the strongest manner this Committee, I must allow their difficulties have been unequalled; but nothing can excuse dishonest intentions: and, although I have said that several severe cases of distress came before us, I am bound to report that the health of the general population, as one sees in the streets, has improved; and Mr. Herbert, the member for the county, who travelled with me, and went to the western districts of Ventry, Drumlin, and Drumquin, reports that, though the people seemed sunk in abject poverty, such as he never witnessed before, they had not a *remarkable* unhealthy appearance.

There is no gentleman in Ireland whose opinions I would sooner take on these or any other points than Mr. Herbert's.

ENCLOSURES.

No. 1.

A LIST of PERSONS having Land and Stock, and drawing False Tickets under Fictitious Names, and all in consequence of the mismanagement of the Relieving Officer, Edward Moriarty,

Denomination.	Names.	Observations.
Doonshean . .	John Minihan . . .	Holding the grass of two cows.
	Thomas Leehy . . .	Holding the grass of two cows.
	John Quin . . .	Holding the grass of two cows.
	Dennis Currane . .	Is worth money; and three tickets every week under false names.
Beenbawn . .	Michael Connor . .	Is getting a ticket every week for meal, and also, his wife is drawing meal under the name of widow.
	John Nelligan . . .	Is also, himself and wife doing same.
	Michael Nelligan . .	There are three of this family drawing meal on three tickets.
	Widow Griffin . . .	This woman's family is getting three tickets every week.
Ballinvouny . .	Mary Brosnehan, widow.	Is getting four tickets every week for four in family; drawing twelve stone of meal.
Ballybowler . .	Patrick Kennedy . .	Has land and stock. Gets a ticket for himself from Ballybowler, and also another ticket for himself from Ballyristeen.

A List of Persons having Land and Stock, and drawing False Tickets—*continued*.

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Denomination.	Names.	Observations.
	Johanna Lynch, widow .	Is also getting a ticket from Ballybowler, and another from Greenlane every week.
	James Conner . . .	Has land and stock, and is drawing meal.
	Patrick Sullivan . .	Has grass of a cow, and is getting meal.
Reenbee . . .	Mary Kellehen . . .	This woman's family is drawing four tickets.
Caumbowler . .	Widow Hanifin . . .	This woman is also drawing three tickets.
Beenbawn . . .	Thomas Sullivan . .	This man holds the grass of three cows, having only two in family and drawing meal.
	Corney Sullivan . .	This man holds the grass of three cows; he is a single man, and is drawing meal for his servants.
	Dennis Nelligan . .	Sold two cows, and ten pounds worth of corn this year, and is drawing meal.

There are several other cases of this description which we have brought before the Committee and relieving officer, and got no hearing, and they refused to investigate the matter; unless speedily stopped, the entire barony will be ultimately ruined.

No. 2.

Proposed by Michael Gallwey, Esq., seconded by Patrick Hannifin.

Resolved,—That we, as much as we are of opinion that the Guardians of this Committee are not inclined as a body to attend to their duties as Poor Law Guardians, and to carry out the Poor Relief Act, we are of opinion that this Committee should be dissolved, and the duties thereof placed in the hands of Government.

January 14, 1848.

JOHN HICKSON, *Chairman*.

REPLY to the above :—January 18, 1848.

I AM to refer you to the Commissioners' letter of the 15th instant, which, of course, had not reached you when your report was written.

I am at the same time to state that the immediate appointment of paid Guardians in a new Union, to be called Dingle Union, would be impracticable, inasmuch as the Union must first be divided; then there must be an election of Guardians for Dingle Union, and sufficient time must then elapse to show that the new Board of Guardians for the new Union had not discharged their duties properly, inasmuch as the Commissioners could only appoint paid officers for Dingle Union on the default of the Guardians of Dingle Union.

The Commissioners have again to state that the Tralee Board of Guardians are responsible for the proper administration of relief at Dingle, and that it is impossible, under the present system of Poor Laws, to make any legal distinction between the Guardians for Dingle and its neighbourhood, and the Guardians for the rest of the Union.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—January 17, 1848.

I BEG to enclose you Captain Fairfield's report, as requested.

I have no doubt that an Inspector may put a stop to disgraceful abuses, and see that the food supplied to the paupers is of a proper quality; but the great evil connected with those districts is the enormous amount of extra travelling which is thrown upon the relieving officers, occupying the greater part of their valuable time.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, they are coming into Tralee, and leaving Tralee; Friday attending the Dingle Committee of Guardians; leaving only Thursday and Saturday to issue relief, receive applications, and visit the houses of the applicants, which they can hardly attempt now. This travelling, besides occupying their time, entails upon them a most serious expense, which, being deducted from their salary, really makes their situation hardly worth having. These are facts which no Inspector at Dingle can grapple with.

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I am not insensible to the necessity of having a proper Union workhouse; but the accompanying document shows out-of-door relief is what we must grapple with; and I have already reported that two temporary workhouses, enclosed and walled, can be procured at Dingle, in which cleanliness and discipline can be enforced.

I hope I may be excused in urging this matter, but, wherever I am, I am anxious, for my own credit, that public affairs should go on well; and I really am afraid I can never get the relieving officers' duties properly done, unless we allow them, inexperienced, and, in many cases, stupid as they are, full and ample time.

ENCLOSURE.

Captain FAIRFIELD, Vice-Chairman, to the BOARD of GUARDIANS of the Tralee Union:—
January 8, 1848.

IN performance of the duties which have lately devolved upon me, as a member of your Finance and Select Committees, I have had the fullest opportunities of making myself acquainted with your financial affairs, and with the management of the relief administered to the poor throughout this extensive Union.

As you have recently done me the honour to elect me to fill an important post at your Board, I feel justified in submitting to you the following statement of the affairs of the Union; a statement which, I believe, will cause considerable surprise and apprehension amongst the rate-payers generally:—

ACCOUNTS OF THE TRALEE UNION, January 1, 1848.

Creditor.

	£.	s.	d.
By amount remaining in treasurer's hands, as per Abstract, January 1	5,643	15	10
By amount of rates uncollected, as per account submitted this day	6,310	14	6½
Total creditor this day	11,954	10	4½

Debtor.

By collectors' poundage	£2,000
By rates which cannot be collected, say	500
By sundries, bills, and salaries, as per annexed return,	1,300
	3,800 0 0
Balance creditor of Union, January 1, 1848	£ 8,154 10 4½

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES.

Amount of furniture, fittings, clothing, and bedding, &c., to be purchased previous to the occupation of the hospital and other additional buildings, now nearly completed, on the old workhouse site	500	0	0
Ditto at the new house at Ballymullen	300	0	0
	£ 800	0	0

Note.—I do not estimate the cost of completing the permanent building at a cost of 1400*l.*, as the money will be advanced by the Commissioners in the first instance, and only repaid by instalments.

This sum, deducted from the balance as above, leaves a sum in the hands of the Guardians, available for all purposes, amounting to 7354*l.* 10*s.* 4½*d.*

ESTIMATED EXPENSES of the WORKHOUSE EXPENSES for 28 Days, STAFF, &c. &c.

	£.	s.	d.
28 days' maintenance, clothing, fuel, &c. &c., of 2000 paupers, at 2 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> each per week	933	6	8
28 days' establishment charges and relieving officers	133	2	0
28 days' vaccination, revising, funerals, &c. &c.	9	5	0
28 days' rent of buildings and ground	12	0	0
28 days' expenses of fever hospitals in Dingle, Castleisland, and patients in County Hospital*	30	0	0
Total expenses for 28 days	£ 1,117	13	8

The cost of maintaining the two houses for five months, up to the 1st of June next, will thus amount to the sum of 5588*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a balance of 1766*l.* 2*s.* 0½*d.* only for the purposes

* Understated.

of out-door relief, without estimating the increased expenses which will ensue when the new buildings in the main house are occupied.

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The expenses for out-door relief, up to the present time, have been as follow:—

	£.
Week ending October 30	..
„ November 6	..
„ November 13	86
„ November 20	105
„ November 27	133
„ December 4	141
„ December 11	216
„ December 18	206
„ December 25	287
„ January 1	370

We have thus expended the sum of 1,544*l.* in eight weeks. The sum estimated for the week ending the 7th of January is, I observe, 383*l.*;* and from the vast number of new names which are every day placed on the relieving officers' books, the same steady ratio of increase must be expected to go on for some time, if not checked.

If this lavish expenditure is kept up, it is quite obvious that the limited balance available will be totally exhausted, at no very distant period of time: the house must be closed, and relief to the really destitute must in fact stop altogether. I am satisfied that the Guardians and the rate-payers generally, will contemplate such a result with the liveliest alarm.

Unless, then, a more firm and equitable mode for the distribution of relief is adopted at once, the rate-payers will be reduced to bankruptcy, and the miserable poor will die of starvation.

I will appeal, gentlemen, to your experience of the working of out-door relief in Ireland in the past year—a system of relief which has been so full of difficulties, and which has proved so pregnant of abuses, that all the efforts of a powerful Government could not cope with the evil. On referring to the Treasury Minute of March 11, 1847, I find these words:—"We feel that as long as the number of destitute continues to increase as it has done, at the rate of 20,600 per week, all effectual constraint has for the present been lost;" and further, the Lords of the Treasury direct that notice be given, that from Saturday, March 20, the number of persons on the relief works shall be reduced by not less than 20 per cent. The Government found it impossible to check the steadily increasing demand for relief, without having recourse to the most stringent measures. When the system of issuing rations commenced, the same pressure for relief occurred—daily progressing and increasing:—"Regulations," "Admonitions," "Orders," were alike disregarded, until at length the Relief Commissioners were constrained to reduce the numbers on the lists, by a peremptory order for curtailment, which admitted of no evasion.

By a document lying on your table I observe, that 51,043 persons were receiving rations in this Union in the week ending 4th of July last, out of a population of 91,000—more than one-half. It will be admitted, I believe, that vast numbers were receiving relief at that time, who were not proper objects; and as the law now stands, a great proportion of those persons are disentitled from getting anything.

22,000 persons (including the school children who are so generously fed by the British Association) are at this time getting rations daily within this Union!

This number of rations, I verily believe, if properly distributed, would prevent the possibility of any deaths occurring from starvation; but I am constrained to say, that I believe it to be quite impossible to check the malappropriation of the relief—the closest investigation will be unavailing—all limitations by certain classes allowed by law will be, as they are now, evaded. The vast numbers on the lists preclude the hope of making them what they ought to be; and, from the intimidation which is constantly manifested towards the relieving officers, it is vain to expect that they will give any effectual assistance in reducing the numbers of applicants. It is now evident that no reliance can be placed on that local information which it was expected the district Committees would have afforded.

The district of Dingle is a direct example of that: in that locality one-half of the entire population is receiving relief, and yet we are told, and I myself believe it, that many persons are actually dying of hunger there—the natural result of neglect and malversation. Your duties, as a Board of Guardians, gentlemen, are of a most painful nature. Feeling, as I know you all do, for the miseries of the poor, commiserating their sufferings, and inclined to carry out the most liberal measures for their relief, you will now find yourselves called upon, as guardians of the property of the Union, to control your expenditure with a firm and unflinching hand.

I before stated that the total sum available for the purposes of out-door relief amounted to 1,766*l.* 2*s.* only. At the rate you are now proceeding, this sum will be totally exhausted in less than five weeks from this date; and it is with a view of fixing your attention upon the awful position in which you will shortly be placed that I am induced to trespass at such length upon your valuable time.

After a careful and anxious consideration of the difficulties in which your Union is placed, I can see no possible way of averting a calamity which is so much to be dreaded, but by adopting a reduced scale of expenditure, gradually diminishing after the termination of the present week, until it is finally discontinued on the 1st of June next; when we may hope that the accommo-

* The actual sum is 403*l.*

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dation then disposable within the houses, will be sufficient to meet the distress likely to prevail at that period—an anticipation which, humanly speaking, we may be allowed to indulge in.

In suggesting a scheme for the progressive reduction of your expenditure, I feel that I am asking you to accede to a measure which will expose you to obloquy and misrepresentation; but, gentlemen, unless you determine to act regardless of every other consideration, but that of doing your duty to all classes, you will be the instruments of unmeasured evil.

Gentlemen, if you determine on a scale of relief as follows, and resolve to fix the out-door relief at

£350	per week for January,
300	„ for February,
250	„ for March,
200	„ for April,
150	„ for May,

you will still require over 5000*l.* to meet this demand for the five months, up to the 1st of June, which will leave you in debt on that day in the sum of 3,234*l.* 0*s.* 0½*d.* As I said before, if you continue your present course, you will be out of funds in five weeks.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I would recommend you to appoint a special Committee of three of your members, who should undertake to apportion the expenditure by electoral divisions, according to the amount of poverty and destitution prevailing in the different localities.

But above all, gentlemen, I would recommend you to make an earnest appeal to the assistance of the Government and the British Association, giving them an assurance that you will endeavour, by every means in your power, to distribute any aid they may give you, faithfully and impartially, according to the distress prevailing in the several electoral divisions, to the best judgment of the Select Committee, as above named, with the assistance and advice of the Government inspector; and, gentlemen, you will, I am sure, have no hesitation in pledging yourselves to strike new rates, as soon after the making up of your accounts on the 25th of March next, as circumstances will permit.

On reading this report, the following resolution, proposed by John Hurly, Esq., and seconded by Edward Hussey, Esq., was unanimously adopted:—

“That the statement laid before the Board this day by Mr. Fairfield, with respect to the financial state of this Union, be laid on the table and be printed, for the purpose of circulation; and that the further consideration of it be deferred until the next meeting of the Board.

(Signed) “WILLIAM DENNY, *Chairman.*”

REPLY to the above:—*January 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are desirous of knowing by what time, in your opinion, the proposed temporary workhouse at Dingle could be properly fitted up and furnished, and provided with bedding and clothing, and be otherwise fit for the reception of paupers.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 18, 1848.*

THE only subject of importance which was discussed on this day at the meeting of the Guardians of this Union, was Captain Fairfield's financial report, a copy of which I forwarded to you last post.

Mr. Stokes, a Guardian, condemned it on its illegality, and stated that the Board were bound to relieve all destitute persons, and find funds accordingly.

Captain Fairfield allowed that to be the law, and stated that his report did not propose so much a reduction as the thinning out of the lists, of persons who should not have been entered on it at all.

The line of argument which I held was, that no one must starve; and destitute persons must be relieved; that under the present system it was notorious that persons did starve, and that all destitute persons were not relieved. That this was to be attributed, in some cases, to corrupt motives, and in others to the extent of the duties of the relieving officers. That I was of opinion, that the amount of relief proposed to be given during January, or 350*l.* per week, was sufficient, but that it must be properly applied. That I thought the appointment of a committee to superintend the out-of-door relief important. That I thought it would be the duty of such committee, in case they consider any electoral division was receiving too much money, to represent the necessity of a revision of the lists. That Guardians, by holding meetings of farmers in the several electoral divisions, and reading out the names of persons receiving relief, might obtain more accurate information; and that possibly such a course might be stimulated by a reduction in the money allowed, but that no person must be allowed to starve.

We had many more applicants for in-door relief than we had room for.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 22, 1848.*

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THE Commissioners observe by the Guardians' minutes which they have since received, that the Guardians have appointed a select committee to carry into effect the general recommendations of the report, and they feel bound, therefore, to object to the scheme proposed for the progressive reduction of expenditure, by determining on a scale of relief, and fixing the amount of out-door relief at a certain sum each week; inasmuch as the Guardians are by law responsible, for the due relief of the destitution in their Union, and have not the power of deciding that no more than a specified sum shall be expended in the Union in any one week.

It will give the Commissioners great satisfaction if it should turn out that no greater sum than the sum estimated in the report will be required by the Guardians for the effectual discharge of their duties; but it must be borne in mind, that the main point to be looked to is, whether the destitute poor of the Union are duly relieved, and questions of expense must be regarded as secondary to that paramount consideration.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 18, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that on the 12th instant I proceeded to Dingle, for the purpose of ascertaining an eligible site for a workhouse, in accordance with your letter of the 8th instant.

On the ensuing morning, the Hon. D. Mullins, the eldest son of Lord Ventry, Mr. R. Chute, Lord Ventry's agent, and Mr. Hussey, called upon me, and I thought it advisable to request Mr. M. Galway's presence, inasmuch as he had previously suggested that a workhouse should be built on the commons.

I then informed them that my inquiries would be limited to the uninclosed commons, and proceeded in their company to view them.

The present commons of Ballinaboly consist of the top and the sides of a high hill, whose altitude is marked on the Ordnance map at 752 feet above the level of the sea. The top and sides are stony, and the latter steep; but as the ground falls, the steepness diminishes until it extends to the grounds now under cultivation.

The proximity to Dingle being our principal object, my inquiry was chiefly confined to the angular part of the commons, between the townlands of Fannauffaherty and Ballinaboly. Such a site, moreover, would have the advantage of a southern aspect. A reference to the Ordnance map will clearly show the spot I allude to.

After an attentive consideration, I was of opinion that there was a site on which a house could be built; but even there the ground must be a good deal levelled, and most probably, the several yards must rise like terraces, one above the other; and the foundation of the back buildings would be on a higher level than the front. This circumstance, however, in moderation, I did not consider a disadvantage.

The advantages of building on this site, may be considered as follows :—

1. Vicinity to the town.
2. Ground rent-free.
3. Good fall for sewerage; situation healthy.
4. Saving of future expense in the vicinity of a turf bog belonging to the commons, whereby the fuel of the workhouse could be cut by the paupers themselves.
5. This bog could also be worked profitably to the establishment. Turf in Dingle is very dear.
6. Employment of the paupers in reclaiming land. I consider with an unlimited supply of labour, perhaps 50 acres might be recovered, and set at a rental of 1*l.* per acre.
7. Even if the land should not turn out so valuable, having abundance of healthy employment for the paupers is desirable.
8. The stone all round the premises would cause a great diminution in expense in building.

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Its disadvantages are as follows:—

1. Its exposed position. Its height is marked on the map at about 260 feet above the level of the sea. This however is to a certain extent modified, by its being sheltered from the north-west, and even partially from the east, but towards the south it is wholly open.
2. Water is abundant on the hill, but not in that spot. I should think, however, a well might be sunk with effect.

The Ordnance map clearly shows the way in which the house would communicate with the existing roads; and it must be observed, that although placed in an elevated situation, it is only 100 feet above the existing high road, and a greater ascent might be easily made.

The view from the proposed site is one of the finest I ever saw. The bay of Dingle lay below us, with the further mountains of Kerry, and the islands of Valentia, and the Skelligs in the distance. But it must be remembered, that its commanding situation, which, in a calm fine day, causes beauty, renders it the more exposed in winter, to the fury of the storm.

On leaving the ground on our return home, we received a message from Lord Ventry, offering us a particular field rent-free for a site, something between the proposed site on the commons, and the town. Unfortunately the field of his Lordship was too small for the required purpose; it had moreover the disadvantage of removing us from the lands in which we were to work, and the turf bog.

Understanding that the intermediate fields were part of the Ventry trust estate, to which Mr. Mullins, who accompanied me, will succeed after the death of his father, but over which neither he nor his father have any control at present, I suggested that an exchange might perhaps be effected between the lands offered to us, and a field adjoining the commons; or else, that perhaps the trustees of the Ventry trust estate, might, perhaps, be inclined to make a grant of land for the purpose, in lieu of the land at present offered by Lord Ventry, if Mr. Mullins, the future possessor of the property, should offer no objection.

With that view I obtained the signature of Lord Ventry, and his son, to papers which I now enclose; and I have consulted the agent in charge here, Mr. Stokes.

Mr. Stokes offered every assistance in his power, but he was afraid that the lands which we required, which are those next to the commons, were already under lease. However, he said he would be in Dublin, at 3, Upper Gloucester-place, on or about Monday the 31st instant, when the Commissioners could send their law agent to communicate with him on the subject.

On the whole, I beg to report, that weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed site on the commons, I am induced to report, that I think the site might be rendered available. And that, further, if a field adjoining the commons, but lower down, could be procured, such a site while it would be more sheltered, would unite all the advantages derived from the commons, and in every respect be most desirable.

I think it desirable now, that the Commissioners should send Mr. Wilkinson down to view the ground in question, and guided by his report, they would then decide whether it is necessary to negotiate for the lands of the Ventry trust estate; if it was decided that it was advisable, they would have an opportunity of doing so, when Mr. Stokes was in Dublin on the 31st.

The gentlemen who attended me generally concurred in these opinions, and I thought it desirable that as they were Guardians, they should forward to me a report on the subject. This report which I have appended, was drawn up by Mr. Galway, and read at the Committee meeting the ensuing day, and signed by the Chairman. It was however felt by all, that Mr. Galway had been too enthusiastic in stating the advantages of the site on the commons.

I do not think it advisable to take any further steps until I receive further directions from the Commissioners.

ENCLOSURES.

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I do hereby certify, that having heard that Captain Hotham had come to Dingle to look out for an eligible site for a workhouse, I accompanied him in his examination of the commons of Dingle, and subsequently was authorized by my father Lord Ventry, to offer for a site, one field between the town of Dingle and the commons, and having again proceeded with Captain Hotham to examine the field, and Captain Hotham having stated that it would have been desirable if the said field had been adjoining the commons, in order that the paupers might be employed in reclaiming and improving that land, and having understood that a portion of the Ventry trust estate which will descend to me hereafter, adjoins the commons and would form a convenient site, I do approve, and will hereafter urge no objection to an exchange being effected between such portions of the estate, as may be eligible for a site for the proposed workhouse, and that field which my father, Lord Ventry, would have given up for the purpose, in order that Lord Ventry may have it in his power to give a more convenient site than the one he has offered at present; or should that prove inexpedient in law, that I would make no objection, now or hereafter, to the trustees of the Ventry estate making a free grant of a plot of land adapted for the purpose, either by a lease for ever at a nominal rent, or by a sale at a nominal price, in lieu of the land at present proposed to be given by my father.

Dated at Dingle, this 13th January, 1838.

D. B. MULLINS.

Witness,

CHARLES HAWKEY, Lieut., R. N.

EDWARD HUSSEY

I do hereby certify, that having heard that Captain Hotham had come to Dingle to look out for an eligible site for a workhouse, and being anxious that the public should be accommodated, that I offered to him one field between the town and the commons of Dingle, either as a grant, or at a nominal rent for ever, according as I might hereafter determine.

Dated this 13th day of January, 1848.

VENTRY.

Witness,

EDWARD HUSSEY.

CHARLES HAWKEY, Lieut. R.N.

The REPORT of the POOR LAW GUARDIANS of DINGLE, in the County of Kerry, on the proposed Site for a Workhouse on the Commons of Dingle.

That the Commons of Dingle were granted by charter, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the late corporation of Dingle, for the benefit of the people.

That they contain an immense tract of land, some miles in circumference, portions of which are contiguous to the town of Dingle, and several hundred of acres thereof can be easily reclaimed, the soil being deep and stones easily removed.

That the portion adjoining the town is a southern aspect, and the situation most healthy and dry, and in our opinion best suited for the building of a workhouse.

That any quantity of land required can be brought into cultivation for the use of the inmates, and thereby after some time make it a self supporting establishment, and save the Union from poor rates.

That there are several quarries on said commons, some of which have been used from time immemorial for the building the houses of the town.

That there is also an extensive turf bog thereon, containing several hundreds of acres, which would supply fuel for the use of the workhouse, besides which large quantities of said turf could be cut and saved annually by the inmates, and sold at a considerable profit to the people of the town and applied for the support of said workhouse.

That at present there is no road to said turf bog, but the paupers could be usefully employed in making one through said commons, which road would be also useful with a view to reclaim other portions of said commons, which are at present of little value for want of a road thereto.

That a large expenditure for milk could be saved, as by having a dairy attached to said workhouse, milch cows could even at present be pastured on said commons.

That there is very fine water close to said commons, and though no springs appear on the proposed site for said workhouse, still from the contiguity of said springs to said site, there is no doubt by sinking for same that water would be found near the surface.

That under the existing law, said commons are now vested in the Poor Law Guardians of this Union, who are entitled to apply the profits thereof towards the reduction of the poor-rates.

That in consequence of the great extent of destitution in this barony, it being calculated that there are 11,000 persons (some of those on the poor list) without food or employment, it is therefore impossible that the entire property of the barony can support its paupers.

That we therefore deem it incumbent on us, in order to relieve the district from even a portion of its taxation, to request of the Poor Law Commissioners to erect this proposed workhouse on these commons, as in the course of time hundreds of its acres can be reclaimed by the inmates, the cultivation of which will accomplish many useful ends. First—by giving useful employment and active habits to the people, and, under an intelligent agriculturist, affording them a practical knowledge of farming; secondly—in place of supporting the inmates in idleness, (as is at present the practice in workhouses,) and at great expense, the paupers can by

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their labour reclaim a sufficient quantity of land for their support; thirdly—the saving of rent or purchase money to the ratepayers, and also effecting a saving in the building of the workhouse by having materials on the spot; fourthly—the saving of fuel by means of said turf bog, and the source of profit by the sale of said turf; fifthly—the saving of the purchase of milk, as cows can at present be pastured on said commons; and also the profit by letting out said commons for grazing, said commons being at present used by the people for the grazing of thousands of sheep and cattle, free; sixthly—the income by way of rent, to be derived in future years by the letting of such portions of said commons, as shall be hereafter reclaimed, beyond what will be required for the support of said poorhouse; and lastly—the strong test this workhouse will afford, because the knowledge of the fact of the inmates being obliged to work and cultivate the soil, will prevent the able-bodied from seeking relief, unless compelled from dire necessity to do so.

That for the foregoing reasons, we confidently hope the Poor Law Commissioners will not allow private interests to operate with them, and thereby be induced to take any other land for a workhouse, because the barony being at present over-taxed cannot bear any additional burden. The renting or purchase of any other land cannot be had without great expense, and without many of the advantages to be derived from the commons.

That the estate of Lord Ventry adjoins a portion of said commons, and it appearing to the Guardians, that it would be important in order to procure a level site for said proposed workhouse, that said portion of said estate of Lord Ventry should be procured for said purpose; and we deem it our duty to inform the Commissioners, that his Lordship has in the handsomest manner, voluntarily offered the portion of his said estate so required, at a nominal rent for the purpose aforesaid.

Approved,

JOHN HICKSON, *Chairman.*

REPLY to the above:—*January 22, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners will forward your communication to Mr. Wilkinson for his report.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. WILKINSON:—*January 22, 1848.*

I AM directed to forward to you the enclosed report which they have received from their Inspector, Captain Hotham, relative to a site for a workhouse at Dingle; and I am to request that you will be so good as to furnish the Commissioners with your report on the subject.

I am at the same time, to call your attention to the circumstance that it is desirable that the Commissioners should, if possible, be in a condition to enter if necessary, into negotiation with Mr. Stokes, on his arrival in Dublin on the 31st instant; should it become necessary to endeavour to effect the exchange which Captain Hotham refers to.

Mr. WILKINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 22, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the above date, directing my attention to a report of Captain Hotham, on some sites proposed to be taken for the poor-house intended to be built at Dingle. It will, doubtless, be difficult to find a site possessing every requisite, but the most important, perhaps, is a good supply of water; and secondly, if the water be a running small stream, which is capable of being conveyed through the premises. It is then of the next importance to get a fall of ground, and such outlet for the drainage as will not hereafter be objected to, on the ground of its contaminating a water-course, or being otherwise offensive to any persons whose property may adjoin it; for sites possessing great natural advantages in this respect, have been often ultimately found no better than others, where the soil had originally to be conveyed to manure pits.

Unless there is a running stream of water as above, it will not be possible to convey away the soil from the house, and the outlet for the drainage will then have to be considered only with reference to the waste water from the kitchen, wash-house, and yards. In the course of time, I have no doubt but that the latter drainage, or rather the overflow and waste water only, will be all that it will be considered advisable to allow off the premises, whatever the complaints may in the meantime be, arising from neglect of manure and soil pits; and at the present time, they are greatly neglected in many of the poor-houses.

As Mr. M'Mullen, assistant architect, will be in the neighbourhood of Tralee

next week, and as he is very competent to form a good opinion of the sites offered, I think it may perhaps be considered sufficient by your Board for him to be directed to visit Dingle, to examine and report before the 30th instant, on the sites offered; in such case I would communicate with him accordingly, and hereafter I could proceed to Dingle, and finally examine the sites now proposed, or any others that may in the meantime, be thought suitable.

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REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 25, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will inform Captain Hotham, Temporary Inspector, of Mr. M'Mullen's visit to Tralee.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain HOTHAM :—*January 26, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request that you will be so good as to report to the Commissioners the precise line of division of the Tralee Union which you would recommend. The Commissioners are aware that in your report of the 7th instant you made a specific recommendation on this subject; but as the matter has since been discussed at the Board of Guardians, the Commissioners are desirous of knowing whether you still recommend the division suggested in that report, or whether you consider any modification of it desirable.

The Commissioners also request that you will ascertain and report to them, in accordance with the 16th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, the proportionate value to any and every townland affected by the alteration of any property held or taken for or relinquished by the Union in its altered state, and the proportionate amount chargeable on every townland in respect of all the liabilities of the Union existing at the time of the alteration.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply to the above :—
January 28, 1848.

CONCEIVING that the general feeling amongst the rate-payers is that Castlegregory should belong to Dingle, and knowing that it can make but very little difference to the poor of that district to which Union they belong, as both work-houses would be equally distant from them, I beg to modify the proposition which I made on the 7th instant, and I recommend that the Tralee Union consist of—

1. Tralee electoral division.
2. Castleisland.
3. Brosna.
4. Ballincussane.
5. Bally M'Elvigot.
6. Castlemaine.
7. Kilgarrylander.
8. Kilgoblin.

And the Dingle Union to consist of—

1. Ballinoshee electoral division.
2. Ballinacourty.
3. Minard.
4. Castlegregory.
5. Balliduff.
6. Dingle.
7. Kilquane.
8. Ventry.
9. Dunorlin.
10. Dunquin.

In reference to the concluding paragraph of your communication, I have the honour to request that you will procure for me from the Relief Commissioners a return of the liabilities of the Union at large, and of the several electoral divisions, on account of advances made to the Finance Committee under the Temporary Relief Act, specifying for what electoral divisions such advances were intended.

I have the honour also to remind you that I could not send up any final return of the liabilities of the Union, by which you could ascertain the exact balance

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remaining or to be paid by either parties of the Union, until all the paupers belonging to the Dingle Union are removed from the Tralee workhouse,—for until that is done, a current account with all the electoral divisions of the present Union must be kept up; and with a view of closing the accounts at the most convenient period both for the Tralee Union and the Dingle Union, I would suggest the following arrangement:—

1. On the Union being divided, the Dingle Union should take upon itself at once the management of the out-of-door relief, which the Tralee Board cannot control at so great a distance.

2. The Dingle Board should immediately hire temporary buildings, and get them ready for reception by the 10th of March, providing by that time the necessary staff.

3. The Tralee Board should discharge all the Dingle paupers by detachments from their workhouse between the 10th and 25th of March, and the Dingle Board receive them in their hired buildings.

4. Finally, on the 25th of March, when the Union accounts are closed, the Dingle electoral divisions should be released from all charges, establishment or otherwise, of the Tralee workhouse, and their accounts be then made up, and a final settlement effected.

Should the Commissioners approve of this arrangement, it will be necessary that a sum of money be advanced to the Dingle Board, to be repaid when their exact balance at the Tralee workhouse is known.

It would also then be desirable that the returns called for by the 16th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act should not be made out until after that date (March 25th).

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 26, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians on the 25th instant.

I do not think there was anything which occurred worthy of special mention, except that the consent which was required to be signed prior to the Treasury advancing 7000*l.* for building the Dingle workhouse was considered; and, to my surprise, it was decided that it should not be signed, by a majority of one out of 29 present.

I remonstrated very strongly on the subject against such a decision, but in vain.

However, I have ascertained that it is probable that the Board of Guardians, or that a majority of the Guardians, may reverse this decision; and as some have already commenced to sign it, I think that if under the present circumstances of the Dingle district (I refer to later communications from the Commissioners), they should deem it advisable that it should be signed by the Tralee Board, a remonstrance from them to that Board might have some effect.

REPLY to the above :—*January 29, 1848.*

I AM to express the regret of the Commissioners at this refusal of the Board of Guardians to sign the consent; but I am at the same time to inform you, that it is not absolutely necessary that the Board of Guardians should give their consent by a formal vote of the majority at any particular meeting. All that is essential is, that a majority of the Guardians, including the ex-officio Guardians, should signify their consent *in writing*, whether that consent is signified either at a meeting of the Board, or at the houses of the individual Guardians.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 27, 1848.*

MR. PHELAN, in his report dated January 18, 1848, writes as follows :—

“My time did not permit me to inspect the body of the house; but I should not consider the master or matron to be fully competent persons; and, so far as I observed, the order and discipline which should be carried out, was not enforced.”

In reference to which I beg to acquaint you, that I consider not only the master and matron to be inefficient, but the assistant matron and assistant master likewise, and almost all the relieving officers.

I regret to state that this arises, in my opinion, from the Guardians of the Union

appointing friends and relatives of their own to these situations, without either knowing or caring whether they were competent to perform their duties.

When we have an appointment to fill up the Guardians attend in a crowd; when it is filled up, however important may be the business going forward, they leave the Board, while the few zealous and hard-working men which there are, are left to work the Poor Law with the incompetent men which others have thrust upon them.

I think this is a heavy and serious discouragement to the carrying out of the law, and really tends to disgust those who wish well to the measure.

I mention these particulars because I have often thought that it would be advantageous if Guardians should not have a vote for any appointment with a salary attached to it, unless they had paid their own rates, and attended one-third of the meetings of the Board held in the preceding six months.

This would throw all appointments in the hands of those who were anxious to carry out the law.

As it is, I have not thought it advisable to take any further steps than regularly to expose the incompetence of the persons whom the Board have appointed, and the waste of the public money which they cause, hoping that these facts, together with the heavy taxation, will induce the rate-payers of the Union to be more careful as to the persons whom they may select as Poor Law Guardians.

REPLY to the above :—*February 1, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement, as to the general incompetency of persons filling situations under the Board of Guardians of the Tralee Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that if any officer of the Union appears to you be incompetent or unfit for the duties connected with his office, they would suggest to you the propriety of drawing up a formal report on the subject, setting forth the grounds on which you have arrived at that conclusion.

The Commissioners would then consider your report, and would be in a position, if they thought fit, to remove such officer from his situation.

At the same time the Commissioners would observe, that by communicating with the Board of Guardians you might convince them of the incompetency of the officers referred to.

The Commissioners would refer you to their Rules and Regulations for the grounds on which they would regard an officer as incompetent or unfit for his office. Any general or habitual violation of any of those Rules and Regulations by an officer whom they concern, would form a ground for his removal from his office.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 30, 1848.*

I took the liberty of detaining Mr. M'Mullen, on my arrival here last night, in order to have his opinion as to the probable expense of fitting up the proposed temporary workhouse at Dingle, as also to examine the site recommended by Captain Hotham for a new workhouse. With respect to the latter, I believe he agrees with me that it would be premature to determine finally upon any particular site, because there has not been sufficient time for inquiry and examination of other places in the vicinity of the town. There is, however, one place (part of the Ventry trust property), about half a mile due west of the spot offered by Lord Ventry, which appears in every respect more eligible than either the commons or any of the others which have been already under consideration, but which, until I have seen his lordship's agent, I cannot say if it is attainable or not; it possesses the advantage of a good road from the town, not requiring a shilling outlay for repair; a good and cheerful aspect, tolerably well sheltered, not being within 100 feet as high as the "commons" site, and having from 20 to 30 acres which may be rented or purchased by the Guardians, an object, in my mind, of paramount importance, as calculated to give reproductive employment to the paupers; besides which, it adjoins the commons, some part of which might be reclaimed by spade labour. With reference to the store in Dingle, which it was proposed to fit up for a temporary workhouse, Mr. M'Mullen and myself made a careful inspection of it, and we find that, with an outlay of about 150*l.*, it would be capable of accommodating about 200 paupers only, a master, porter, and matron, &c. I did not inquire what rent would be charged, as, for obvious reasons (there being no other

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place), I discouraged the idea of taking it at all; but I hope to have a meeting of the Guardians to-morrow, and talking the matter over, as also forming some plan of operations for revising the list of paupers, which, notwithstanding that there is great destitution, I have reason to believe can be reduced very considerably, as, from the manner of admission which I witnessed this day (individual Guardians giving tickets), and which I mean to reform, I have no doubt great abuses will be found to exist in this respect alone.

I take no share in the responsibility of recommending a division of the Union, because, as in this case, by so doing you separate the rich from the poorer parts, and throw the whole burden of supporting the poor upon the poorer part; but, if to be divided, the sooner the better, as the closing of the financial year is at hand, and this Union should be ready at that period to assume its duties. I was given to understand at Tralee that the funds of the 10 electoral divisions which are to form this Union will be entirely exhausted by the 25th of March, whilst there will be a considerable balance in hand in favour of the Tralee divisions. If this be so, it will be my duty, I presume, to apply to the Commissioners for an advance to fit up the temporary workhouse, purchase clothing, furniture, &c.; but I will bring all these matters before the Guardians to-morrow, and will let you know the result.

REPLY to the above:—*February 3, 1848.*

THE Commissioners await a further communication from you, after you have conferred with the Guardians.

With reference to that part of your letter in which you state that you take no share of the responsibility of recommending a division of the Union, because, as in this case, by so doing you separate the rich from the poorer parts, and throw the whole burden of supporting the poor upon the poorer part, I am to state that the Commissioners have already given the subject their fullest consideration, and have given directions for the immediate division of the Union, as recommended by Captain Hotham. The main ground on which the Commissioners have arrived at this decision was, that from the great size of the Union, and the distance of the Dingle district from the workhouse, the relief of the destitute poor in that district, in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Acts, is either practically denied, or must be administered without any efficient control by the Board of Guardians at Tralee.

THE COMMISSIONERS to Captain HOTHAM:—*February 2, 1848.*

THE Commissioners propose to divide the Union, in accordance with your suggestions, and they will issue an order accordingly, as well as an order providing for the election of Guardians in each Union; and I am to request that you will be so good as to recommend a returning officer for the election of Guardians for Dingle Union with the least possible delay.

THE COMMISSIONERS to Captain HOTHAM:—*February 3, 1848.*

I AM to forward, for your information, the enclosed copy of a memorandum giving instructions for the orders which will explain to you the course the Commissioners propose to pursue.

ENCLOSURE.

1. An order dividing the Union, as recommended by Captain Hotham, reciting the formation of the Tralee Union, and that it is expedient to alter the said Union by separating from it certain townlands, and to form the said townlands into a new Union under the name of the Dingle Union. Then state the townlands in the usual way, and declare the new Union, and the old Union to be hereafter as now altered. Preserve in both the present electoral divisions. This order to take effect from 25th March, or as soon as Guardians elected.

2. An order reciting the above, and providing for election of Guardians in each Union.

3. A returning officer for Dingle must also be appointed.

MILFORD UNION.

Mr. HORSLEY, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS :—
November 29, 1847.

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Milford Board of Guardians this day. There was a pretty full attendance of Guardians.

The internal economy of the house has of late, been much neglected, but the Guardians are now sensibly alive to the necessity of looking more narrowly into it in future.

On Wednesday, I inspected every part of the house, and found it in a very improved condition, as far as regards cleanliness, since my former visit.

With the additions to day, the house now contains 434 inmates, chiefly women and children.

On next Board day, there is to be a revision of the registry book, and the relieving officers are to be in attendance. Destitution is fast increasing, and out-door relief will have to be resorted to soon, in some of the west electorates.

The collectors have not yet received their books for the collection of the new rate, but the clerk has been ordered to procure additional assistance, and he expects to have both rate and collectors' books completed by Monday next.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 6, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day.

Previous to the ordinary hour of meeting, the Visiting Committee inspected the house, and having reported, verbally, on its condition to the Board, arrangements were made for putting it in a proper state of repair; and also for procuring a sufficient supply of clothing, and of those utensils in which it appeared, to be deficient.

The rate-books and collectors-books are now completed, the latter only requiring the signatures of the Guardians.

I have constantly urged on the Board, the expediency of getting out these books as speedily as possible; and to-day told them that all over the Union, I saw the haggards were being fast emptied of their contents; and that unless they (the Guardians) forthwith got out the rate-books, all tangible security for the collection of the rate would soon be removed, and that any delay or dilatoriness on their part, besides perilling the realization of the rate, is extremely unfair to the collectors.

The Board assured me the collectors' books should be perfected on Monday next. The collectors are ordered to be in attendance on that day.

The relieving officers were in attendance, it having been supposed that in some of the electorates, out-door relief would have to be given this week. The medical officer, however, having reported that the house can safely, in the absence of epidemic disease, afford accommodation for 500 inmates, out-door relief may be staved off for another week, or perhaps, a fortnight to come.

With the admissions to day, the house now contains 469 paupers.

The Board investigated a series of charges preferred to-day by Biddy Gallagher, against the master and matron. Those charges will be forwarded, together with the minutes of the proceedings, to your office, by the clerk of the Union.

I need only say with reference to them, that the master admitted, generally, the truth of the charges preferred against himself, pleading ignorance of his duties in palliation. The matron followed the same course. Both he and she are, as you are aware, newly appointed officers, and seem, on entering office, to have adopted the lax system pursued by their predecessors.

You will see from the minutes, how the Board of Guardians dealt with the foregoing matter.

Milford Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 11, 1847.*

THE Commissioners fully concur in your views, as to the great importance of commencing the collection of the new rate without delay.

As regards the commencement of out-door relief, I am to state that the Commissioners' architect has expressed an opinion that not more than 440 can be properly accommodated, in the existing workhouse buildings; and the Commissioners fear that 500 would be too great a number. At any rate, the Commissioners cannot think it prudent to defer the commencement of out-door relief, until the workhouse is so full that no more can be received into it; and the Commissioners think you should press this view upon the Board of Guardians, and urge them to commence the administration of relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

With reference to the charges against the master, the Commissioners will take such notice of the circumstance as may seem necessary, when they have the minutes of the Guardians' meeting of Monday last, before them.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 13, 1847.*

I ATTENDED a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, and beg to annex the following report with regard to their proceedings.

After the Board had gone through the ordinary routine business, the medical officer came before the Guardians, and represented that sickness was on the increase in the house, there being no less than 64 patients under treatment in the hospital and the fever-sheds, and that unless some steps were immediately taken for improving ventilation throughout the house, he feared great mortality would ensue.

I laid before the Board your architect's report on ventilation, sewerage, &c., and, together with the medical officer, offered some suggestions on these important points, for the consideration of the Guardians. Upon which, they agreed to receive from competent tradesmen, estimates of the probable cost of making the necessary alterations, improvements, and repairs required in the house, and to have them put in hand as speedily as possible. They also agreed to enter into annual contracts with the several tradesmen, to keep the house henceforth, in a proper state of repair.

The rate collectors were then brought into the Board-room, and it having been ascertained that their bonds were according to form, and that the sureties in each case were alive, solvent, and in the country, the new books were handed to the collectors, and those officers were instructed by the Board to set actively about the collection of the rate.

The Board next proceeded to elect a medical officer for the electorates of Carigart and Meevagh, and after examining the papers and testimonials of the only two candidates, they selected Dr. Samuel Johnston, ten Guardians having voted for him, and three having voted for the other candidate.

Dr. Johnston's testimonials and diplomas were of a very high order, and I think the Guardians exercised a sound discretion in appointing him, in preference to the other candidate. The Board next examined the applications for admission to the house, admitting 48 and rejecting 44. On Saturday last, the house contained 458 inmates; with the admissions to-day there are now in it 506 souls.

Of the 44 rejected, many had a long distance to travel after dark, to their wretched homes.

The Guardians seemed unprepared for the rush made to the poor-house to-day, although, ever since my arrival in this Union, I have not ceased to urge upon them the necessity for abandoning a hopeless struggle against out-door relief, and that it was mere false economy to defer the salaries of the relieving officers, when, for weeks past, those officers might have been usefully employed, in ascertaining the actual condition of the population in the respective districts; in preparing to meet the claims of the really destitute, and in overthrowing the schemes of the designing and fraudulent. The Board instructed the clerk to write to each Guardian, requesting his attendance on the next day of meeting, to assist in carrying out the necessary measures for affording out-door relief. The relieving officers are to be in attendance on that day, to receive full instructions, &c.

The Guardians seem determined to act energetically now, but they have been somewhat dilatory, and I can only trust that no loss of life amongst the poor, may result from the attempt to stave off the system of out-door relief.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 20, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day. There was a full attendance of Guardians.

After the transaction of the ordinary routine business, the relieving officers were called before the Board, and informed that their respective salaries were to date from the 1st of the present month; and they were instructed to inform themselves on all points connected with their duties, and to ascertain as speedily as possible the condition of the necessitous families within their districts.

To enable them to do this, they were handed the duplicate Relief lists in use under the Temporary Relief Act, and advised to consult the members of the former Relief Committees under that Act, and were further instructed to confine provisional relief to parties legally entitled thereto, to give no assistance outside the workhouse to the able-bodied class, unless in cases of sickness or inability to work, owing to accidents or temporary disablement; and further, to take every precaution to prevent imposition being practised against them by persons holding more land than a quarter of an acre.

The medical officer reported to the Board that the house was too full, especially as sickness, in the shapes of fever and diarrhoea, was rapidly increasing within it.

I urged on the Guardians the necessity of immediately reducing the numbers in the house, by handing over to the relieving officers a portion, at any rate, of those classes who are eligible to out-door relief, without application being made to the Commissioners.

Accordingly, the registry book was gone over, and 105 paupers are to be discharged from the poor-house to-morrow.

On Monday next I hope to effect a further reduction.

Indian meal will be furnished to-morrow to the relieving officers, to distribute food (when practicable in a cooked form) to the out-door paupers.

The rate collectors were called in, and ordered to attend the clerk on Friday next with their collecting books, receipt check books, and receipt abstract books.

During the last week the collectors have got in a very trifling sum, owing to their having been engaged in executing levy warrants, granted for the collection of arrears on the previous rate, prior to the making of the present one. The collectors met with considerable obstruction in this matter, and unless vigorous measures are taken to enforce the collection of the present rate, and proper assistance afforded to the collectors, I much fear there will be great difficulty in realizing sufficient funds to carry on the ordinary in-door expenditure of the Union, to say nothing of that which will be required for out-door relief.

With the admissions to-day, 485 souls will sleep in the workhouse to-night, but, as I have stated above, 105 paupers are to be discharged to-morrow morning.

REPLY to the above:—*December 27, 1847.*

I AM to remind you that, except in cases provided for by the 7th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, viz., cases which are sudden as well as urgent, the ordering of relief rests solely with the Board of Guardians, the duties of the relieving officers being confined, except as regards the class abovementioned, to inquiring into the cases of applicants for relief, reporting to the Board of Guardians thereon, and afterwards dispensing the relief which may be ordered by the Board.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 27, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, and beg to submit the following report thereon.

The routine business having been disposed of, the Board, in compliance with a few suggestions offered by myself, agreed to take immediate steps for organizing a system of industrial occupation amongst the inmates of the house.

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Hitherto, nothing whatever has been done in the way of affording industrial employment to the paupers within the house, and the day-rooms have consequently been crowded with idlers cowering round the fires, fighting for the best places, consuming the livelong day in idle talk, acquiring no moral or decent habits, and consuming an unlimited quantity of coals to keep circulation, unstimulated by exertion, from stagnation.

The consumption of coals in the Milford Union workhouse during the few weeks I have been here, has averaged from 9 to 10 tons per week; whereas in other workhouses of the same size (Letterkenny house for instance), from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 tons have been found sufficient.

I called the attention of the Guardians to this, among other extravagant items of expenditure, at the second meeting of the Board which I attended, and have on every Board-day since insisted on the proper remedy being applied.

At last, as you will observe from the minutes of to-day's proceedings, the Guardians have determined to check reckless expenditure, and, at the same time, have taken initiatory steps to provide useful and wholesome occupation for the pauper inmates of the house.

The Board next agreed that the hour of meeting should be changed from 12 o'clock to 11 o'clock, subject, of course, to the approval of the Commissioners, and I think the earlier hour of the two would be preferable, inasmuch as a great variety of business has to be transacted at the Board meetings, which cannot be overtaken after the present hour of meeting without compelling the Guardians to travel home after dark, over roads to which, comparatively, nullahs would be easy and safe.

There would be a better attendance of Guardians from the distant electorates if they saw any chance of reaching home before nightfall. As it is now, they seldom come, and they represent the most destitute districts within the Union.

The collectors (by their own account) were actively engaged during the past week in endeavouring to obtain payment of the present rate, but their success has been anything but great. The whole sum realized by them only amounted to 95*l.*, and some odd shillings. One collector obtained nothing, another only 13*s.* 6*d.* They told me they seldom "take much by the first call." I instructed them to call on the immediate lessors first, as the Guardians must be put in funds as speedily as possible; and in this Union the large amount of rate has to be paid by immediate lessors.

The relieving officers were in attendance with their books, and several parties coming within the provisions of the 1st section of Act 10 Vict. cap. 31, who could not be admitted to the workhouse in consequence of its crowded state, were handed over to the relieving officers as fit subjects for out-door relief.

Destitution is frightfully on the increase. There is no employment for the able-bodied poor, and I fear it will be necessary for the Commissioners to authorize, very shortly, out-door relief to that class. Numbers of them have given up their small holdings to the landlords, and their houses have been in very many instances thrown down. Indeed, the classes eligible to out-door relief under the 1st section of the Act, cannot be turned out of the house to make room for the able-bodied, as they have no place to go to for shelter from the winds of heaven. Within the last three months almost every landlord or occupier has, on the admission of such parties to the workhouse, instantly levelled their wretched hovels with the ground; thus making permanent paupers of these classes. It would not be affirming too much to say there has been a race to get these classes into the workhouse, for the purpose of clearing the particular lands of them.

The law of residence, as defined by Act 10 Vict. cap. 31, is not taken into consideration by the Milford Board of Guardians when making paupers chargeable to electorates, or the Union at large. They (the Guardians) have an understanding among themselves on this point, but I am humbly of opinion that, unless the law be put in practice, the unhousing of the population (except in the workhouse) will lead to a sacrifice of life. Were the law put in force, three-fourths of the paupers of this Union would be chargeable to it at large, as they are, and have been, from childhood, a wandering mendicant race, and it would be difficult to find a family who had resided 30 months out of the last 36 in any one electorate.

Let the law of residence be properly enforced, and the inducement to immediately clearing lands of paupers would be in some measure removed. Time would be afforded for devising and carrying out improvements in agriculture and husbandry, and those who are now being rendered houseless outcasts and permanent paupers, might be rendered capable of supporting themselves, and of adding to the prosperity of the landlord and tenant.

The medical officer (Dr. Molloy) spoke to me to-day in reference to your letter to the Board of Guardians, disallowing the increased dietary to the women engaged in the laundry, and asked me to state that he considers the increased dietary ordered at his suggestion to be given to the night nurses in the infirmary and fever sheds perfectly necessary for the preservation of their health amid contagion, and therefore hopes you will not apply the rule of disallowing the increased rations to them.

I may mention, that out of 410 inmates of the house, 78 are at this moment in the infirmary and fever sheds. The former department is overcrowded, and the medical officer wishes to be allowed to remove the old infirm people who have no epidemic disease, or any, indeed, except that arising from a decay of nature, to the infirm wards in the body of the house, if you will sanction his doing so.

Should you do so, he is of opinion the general health of the house would be benefited thereby.

A very painful matter was mentioned at the Board to-day. A widow and two children were discharged on Tuesday last to go to Carronkeel to receive out-door relief, the mother having been given a ticket to the relieving officer. She set out on her journey, was not strong, and going into a waste house, laid down and died. The coroner held an inquest on the body to-day. I have not heard what the verdict was, but I distinctly told the Guardians they should not discharge any but those who had homes to go to, and who were in a condition to reach them before night-fall. I will communicate further on this matter when I am in possession of the particulars.

REPLY to the above:—*December 30, 1847.*

WITH reference to that part of your report which relates to the industrial employment of the workhouse inmates, the Commissioners request that you will be so good as to furnish them with the details of the suggestions made by you to the Board of Guardians on this subject. The Commissioners merely make the request with a view to their own information; they desire, however, to add, that the subject is not referred to in the Guardians' minutes of Monday last.

As regards the collection of the rate, the Commissioners rely upon your adopting every means in your power to stimulate the collectors, and to ensure a prompt and efficient collection of the rate; and on this head the Commissioners desire to call your especial attention to their circular letter of the 26th October last.

With reference to your statement, that the classes eligible for out-door relief, under the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, cannot be turned out of the house to make room for the able-bodied, as they have no place to go to for shelter, the Commissioners desire to remind you that the Guardians have full power to grant sufficient out-door allowances to these classes, for lodging, clothing, and fuel, as well as food; and the Commissioners are of opinion that such allowances ought to be given where necessary, and that under the present circumstances of Milford Union, it will be found more economical to give them, and thus to keep the workhouse available, as a test for the able-bodied applicants for relief, than to allow the classes to whom out-door allowances might legally be given under the 1st section, to remain in the workhouse, and thereby render it absolutely necessary, owing to the want of workhouse accommodation for the able-bodied, to authorize out-door relief to that class, under the 2nd section.

With reference to your observations in regard to the Guardians' neglect of the law of residence, as affecting the chargeability of paupers, and the importance of putting that law in force, I am to request you will be so good as to state in what respect, and in what way, the law is departed from, and what is the understanding on the subject, which you state the Guardians have among themselves.

With regard to the increased dietary to certain inmates of the workhouse, the Commissioners desire to state, that although as a general rule, departures from the established dietary, in favour of particular paupers, are objectionable, the Commissioners do not think that the rule is applicable to the case of the paupers who are employed as night nurses in the infirmary and fever sheds; and if the medical officer is of opinion that extra allowances beyond the ordinary diet, are necessary, in order to preserve the paupers so employed in health, such allowances may properly be given.

As to the wish of the medical officer to be allowed to remove the old infirm people from the infirmary wards to the body of the house, the Commissioners

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would suggest the propriety of granting out-door relief to the individuals referred to, taking care that such allowances are sufficient to secure them from suffering by either cold or hunger.

The Commissioners will be glad to receive the particulars relating to the case of the woman referred to in your report, as having been discharged from the workhouse, for the purpose of receiving out-door relief, and who died on her way home.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 27, 1847.*

I BEG to report that the Milford Board of Guardians will gratefully avail themselves of the offer of Government to erect an oven on the workhouse premises for the purpose of baking bread for the support of those requiring out-door relief within the Union.

The grounds around the workhouse are not enclosed, and the Guardians are of opinion that the best place for erecting the oven will be at the back of what is now used as the coal-cellar. There is ample room, a chimney into which the flues could be conducted—a supply of water close by—and the bread when baked, could be put into the carts at the back gate for delivery to the several relieving officers.

It would be necessary to build up the present coal-cellar door, and to strike a fresh one out at the gable end of the building.

How are the Guardians to proceed? Will an officer be sent to look at the proposed site, and report thereon?

The sooner the oven can be erected, and brought into operation, the sooner the Guardians will be able to grapple with the difficulties of out-door relief.

The present system of giving dry meal is highly objectionable, and yet if an oven is to be put up, capable of baking a sufficient quantity of bread for the wants of the Union, it would be injudicious to enter into expensive arrangements for storing provisions in dangerous localities, and organizing a staff for cooking and administering stirabout.

The Guardians could take contracts for having the bread carted to the several relieving officers, and as Milford is very central to the Union, there could be no difficulty in having it delivered during daylight to them.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 31, 1848.*

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 30th December, 1847, and to submit the following report, with reference to the points on which you desire information.

The details of the suggestions offered by me to the Board of Guardians, with relation to industrial employment in the house, were in substance as annexed. I told the Board it was painful to observe the inmates of the house engaged in no useful occupation whatever, and that it appeared to me that much might be done by the Board, to remedy such a state of matters; that they, the Board, might purchase flax, two or three sets of hackles, a few spinning wheels, and even two or three looms, and thus find work for both sexes of all ages; that they might purchase wool, skins, and carding-brushes, with a similar view; that they might instruct the master to find out what useful trades the different inmates had at any time pursued, shoemaking and tailoring, for instance, and then set such parties to work at their respective trades, and make them instruct others; that in like manner, basket-making, and mat-making, and various other branches of industry might be introduced. That pauper women who could cut out and shape materials for clothing, should be made to do so, and that the schoolmistress should be instructed to select the best sempstresses to make it up. In short, that where at all practicable, everything, whether clothing or other articles required for the use of the house, should be in some measure produced by the labour of those who are clothed, fed, and housed at the expense of the rate-payers. That a habit of industry should be kept alive among the destitute, and where that habit did not exist, it should be inculcated and enforced in practice. That of course the Board of Guardians should not think of making pauper inmates produce articles for the market; but that they were fully justified in making the paupers obviate, as far as possible, the necessity of the Guardians going to market. I moreover suggested to the Board,

that were they to cut down extravagant items of expenditure, coals especially, the saving affected in such items, would enable them to accomplish the first outlay necessary for organizing an industrial system within the house.

With reference to that part of your communication which bears on the power of the Guardians to find lodging, clothing, and fuel for the recipients of out-door relief, I beg to state that at every meeting of the Board, I not only told them they had such power, but that they were bound to execute it, whenever and wherever the necessity for so doing should arise; but notwithstanding more than one Guardian (being agents) told me they had thrown down, and would continue to throw down the hovels of paupers finding admission to the workhouse. The effect of such a system, is to make the proprietors who have no paupers on their land, pay in an unfair ratio for those of their less scrupulous neighbours, in addition to the risk which such proprietors run, of having pauper lodgers fixed on their properties by the Board of Guardians and the relieving officers.

With regard to the law of residence, I have to repeat that the Milford Board of Guardians do not carry out the 12th section of the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31; were they to do so, three-fourths of the paupers now chargeable in single electorates, ought to be transferred to the Union at large, that is, if paupers who cannot establish a residence of 30 months in any one electorate, out of the 30 months previous to their application for relief, be eligible to any assistance.

The Milford Board of Guardians pursue the old system of charging a pauper to the same electoral division, as that to which at any previous occasion he was made chargeable, and in cases where a pauper now entered the house for the first time; they charge him to that electorate in which he may have been resident for the last 12 months, or more, previous to his admission; or to that one to which his vagrant visits may have been most frequent.

As long as the Guardians pursue this system, vagrancy and mendicity will prevail, for there is neither a sufficient police force, nor sufficient energy among the better classes of society to put them down.

If I am right in supposing that paupers who cannot establish a claim of residence on a single electorate, are chargeable to the Union at large, and if the rate were to be enforced, self-interest would soon operate with those who would have to bear the tax, and induce them to confine paupers to the districts to which they properly belong.

Till this is done the Vagrant Act will remain a dead letter, and the monster evil of the country remain unremedied.

With regard to the death of the poor woman, Margaret Haggerty, who died on her way to her home, in Tanet, I have to report that I have it from chief constable Cassidy, stationed at Ramelton, that he was present at an inquest held on the body, and that the poor woman never got farther on her way home than half a mile beyond Milford. She had her four children with her; it appears she slept in Milford on the Tuesday night on which she was discharged from the poor-house, and set out on her way home on the following morning, but feeling unable to proceed more than half a mile, lay down under a hedge, where she was found by a man who pointed out a waste house near, and she having crept into it, he furnished her with straw for bedding, and some turf for fuel. The poor woman sent her eldest son, a mere lad, with the ticket given her by the relieving officer, at Tamny, describing her situation, and begging to be sent for; on the evening of the same day (Wednesday), she sent her second son on a similar errand, having heard nothing from the eldest; on the following morning (Thursday), she was found dead in the empty house, and her remaining two children asleep by her side. From Tuesday night to Thursday morning, the poor creature was within half a mile from the relieving officer of Milford, who would have attended to the case, had any one informed him of it. The jury brought in a verdict of "died of cold, and want of sufficient nourishment."

On the Tuesday alluded to (December 21), a great number of paupers were discharged from the poor-house to receive out-door relief, and this poor woman amongst them. A great part of the day was occupied in taking the workhouse clothes from them, and restoring their own, and thus it was the evening before Margaret Haggerty was discharged. The fact is, had she been discharged in the morning, she was not fit to undertake the journey she had to go, and if the master had had any discretion, he should either have retained her in the house, or sent her in a cart to her destination. Still it is strange that no one mentioned the case to the relieving officer at Milford, for it was known to many on Tuesday evening.

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The Guardians were much shocked at the dreadful termination of this case, and will take care in future, that infirm paupers shall be conveyed to their homes.

The two children who were found with their mother, were taken into the workhouse, I have not as yet learned whether the other two reached the relieving officer at Tamny, but will report to you as soon as I have seen him, and ascertained what he knows of the case.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 6, 1848.*

THE Commissioners propose to address the Board of Guardians at their next meeting, on the subject of that part of your report, which relates to the law of residence as defined by the 12th section of the 10th Vict., cap. 31.

With reference to the case of Margaret Herraghty, who died on her way home, after being discharged from the workhouse, the Commissioners think that the matter should be fully investigated by you.

It appears from your statement, that the woman was discharged from the workhouse on Tuesday evening, that she was not then in a fit state to undertake the journey she had to go; that she slept in Milford on Tuesday night, and commenced her journey on the following morning; that although her case was known to many in Milford on Tuesday evening, it never came to the knowledge of the relieving officer; that when she found herself unable to proceed, she sent two of her children at different times of the day to the relieving officer, describing her situation, and begging to be sent for: it does not, however, appear whether either of the children reached the relieving officer, but on the following morning the poor woman was found dead in a waste house, with her two youngest children asleep by her side, the two whom she had sent to the relieving officer not having returned.

On this statement of the facts of the case, the Commissioners think that there are several points which require explanation. It should be ascertained whether the master was or was not aware of the state in which Margaret Herraghty was, when he discharged her, and whether her state was known to the Board of Guardians, when her discharge was ordered. It should also be ascertained whether the children found the relieving officer to whom they were sent, and if so, why he did not attend to the case, or if not, whether there was any difficulty, which prevented their making the case known to him, and which any other arrangement than those existing would have obviated; and generally it should be also ascertained, whether any blame is, or is not to be attributed to any party charged with the administration of relief to the destitute in Milford Union.

With this view the Commissioners request you will be so good as to take evidence on oath on the circumstances connected with the case, and report specially to the Commissioners respecting it.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report of the proceedings at the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday.

After disposing of the ordinary routine business, the Guardians examined the Application and Report Books, and the Receipt and Expenditure Books of the relieving officers, and were engaged for a considerable time in deciding upon the claims of the applicants for relief, and in determining upon the nature, amount, and duration of the relief to be afforded.

Destitution is daily increasing throughout the Union, and the number of candidates for admission to the workhouse yesterday was so large, that the Guardians could not possibly see one-half of them. All they could do was to have the able-bodied class selected from the crowd, and taken into the workhouse. The other classes were handed over to the relieving officers, with instructions to afford them provisional relief until next Board day.

The Guardians determined to adjourn the meeting to Thursday next, at 11 o'clock, for the purpose of having all classes coming under the 1st section of the Act, 10th Vict., cap. 31, discharged from the workhouse, and conveyed to their respective localities, to receive out-door relief; thus hoping to make sufficient room for the reception of the able-bodied class; but I much fear it will be found, that a poor-house, double the size of the Milford one, could not contain the paupers

of that class within the Union; and that your order for extending out-door relief to it, will very shortly have to be issued in order to save life.

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The collection of the rate goes on very slowly, and the collectors must be compelled to serve the legal notices on the rate-payers, and proceed against them before the magistrates, or the Guardians will not long have the means for meeting the support of those who must receive out-door relief.

In two or three of the worst electorates, the whole rate, if collected, would not, I am convinced, suffice for the support of the destitute within them, for a longer period than six weeks.

The Board of Guardians are forced to take the rate, as it is collected, to meet the exigencies of out-door relief, and there is danger that the contractors for the house, to whom they are largely in debt, will refuse to extend credit to them much longer.

The rate collectors were summoned to attend the meeting of the Board on Monday week.

You will observe from the minutes, that the state of the poor-house, as regards cleanliness, and other matters affecting discipline, is far from satisfactory; and I fear the master is deficient in energy, and has but little aptitude for performing his duties, with that degree of method and system, so necessary to the proper regulation of the internal economy of the workhouse. His only excuse is, that hitherto he has not been supplied with all the requisite matters for having the house put into a thoroughly clean state.

On this account, and because his dismissal just now would occasion great inconvenience and confusion, I (and Mr. Otway takes the same view as myself) abstain from recommending it.

The Guardians have given him one last chance of holding his situation.

What I have reported with regard to the master, applies equally to the matron.

I beg now to put you in possession of all the further particulars which I have been able to learn with reference to the death of Margaret Herraghty, since I reported to you on her case on December 31, 1847.

I cross-questioned Mr. White, the relieving officer, as to whether either of the poor woman's sons whom she sent to him, on the Wednesday morning, had reached him, and he told me he never heard of the poor woman till after her death, and that neither of the sons had applied to him. In this he was corroborated by the poor woman's eldest son, now in the poor-house. He (the son) told me he went to an uncle, instead of to Mr. White, thinking his uncle would send a cart to take his mother home. The second son did not go to Mr. White, and his present residence is unknown. He is probably wandering about from house to house. The master states most positively that, in accordance with the instructions given him, he discharged the woman at 12 o'clock noon on the Tuesday, and not in the evening as alleged; but that he was aware she lingered about the house outside for some time, being unwilling to leave it, and being dissatisfied with her own clothes, which had been returned to her.

REPLY to the above:—*January 8, 1848.*

IN reference to your observations as to the increasing destitution in the Union, and the prospect of its being necessary for the Commissioners to issue their order, authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied; I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that when all persons entitled to out-door relief, have been removed from the workhouse on out-door allowances, in order to make room for able-bodied men; and when the workhouse is, notwithstanding full, the Commissioners will be prepared, on your recommendation, to issue an order, authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men. In the meanwhile, the Commissioners issue a limited out-door relief order, a copy of which is inclosed, and they trust, that by acting on its provisions, the necessity for a further order will not immediately arise.

As regards the collection of the rate, the Commissioners desire to observe that the Legislature has given complete and ample powers for the enforcement of the collection; and the Commissioners rely on your using every means in your power to stimulate the collectors, and to compel them to take such steps as may be necessary, with a view to a prompt and efficient collection. The case of any

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collector who fails in his duty in this respect, should be reported specially to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners, by the Guardians' minutes of the 3rd instant, observe that the case of the master and matron is to be again brought under the notice of the Guardians on the 17th instant, and the Commissioners will therefore defer taking any step in the matter until after that date.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 7, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the adjourned meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, and have the honour to report on the proceedings as follows:—

The Board went carefully over the Registry Book, and selected therefrom the names of 68 adults and children eligible to receive out-door relief; and having determined on the amount of relief in food and lodging money to be administered in each case by the relieving officers, instructed the master to discharge the said paupers after breakfast this morning; ordering him at the same time to provide for the conveyance of the infirm to their respective localities, and in no case, to discharge a pauper whom he believed to be in an unfit state to bear the fatigue of removal without first consulting the medical officer.

The Board appeared to be much indisposed to grant relief, in any other shape than food, having a not unreasonable dread of being called upon to give money for lodging and fuel in the *majority* of out-door relief cases.

I am humbly of opinion that it would be wiser and more economical for the Guardians, to order a *liberal allowance of food* to be supplied to the recipients of out-door relief, than to place *money* at their disposal.

The relations and friends of such recipients would in most cases, gladly give them shelter, provided they were able to throw a liberal supply of food into the common stock; but if a *bare* allowance of food be given, together with a small weekly payment of money, I apprehend the money will not be properly applied by the recipients. Instead of procuring lodging and fuel therewith, from my knowledge of the improvident habits of the people, I have no hesitation in asserting that they would expend it on tea, tobacco, and other articles not necessities. Payment in money for lodging and fuel, would be found to terminate in *mere promises to pay*.

The Board also determined to provide increased accommodation at the workhouse, by the erection of a shed in the girls' yard, to be used as a schoolroom and dormitory; and to-morrow, I am to meet the contractor for the erection of the fever hospital at the workhouse, with a view to obtaining from him a rough plan of such a shed whereon contractors who tender, may be enabled to base their estimates.

If the shed in the girls' yard be found to answer its intended end, and the pressure on the workhouse should continue or increase, a similar one will be erected in the boys' yard.

By the above means, the Board of Guardians hope to be able to keep the workhouse as a test, in the first instance, for all classes, whether they be able-bodied or otherwise.

REPLY to the above:—*January 13, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report, in which you state, that the Guardians appear indisposed to grant out-door relief in any other shape than food, I am to state that the Commissioners consider it to be a question within the discretion of the Guardians, to give out-door relief to the impotent poor, either in money or food; and the Commissioners have laid down no regulation on the subject.

At the same time, the Commissioners deem it of the highest importance, in every Union wherein out-door relief to the able-bodied may become necessary, that, as far as possible, all the workhouse inmates entitled to relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, should be put on the out-door Relief Lists. If this can be done by giving allowances of food only, the Commissioners do not raise any objections. If, however, the granting allowances in food only is made a reason for not granting out-relief to the impotent poor, and widows with two legitimate children, the Commissioners then deem it necessary to inter-

pose; for then a point, in itself subordinate, is raised into such importance as to counteract the main policy of the Commissioners, as to making the workhouses almost exclusively available, for the relief of able-bodied men and their families.

The Commissioners, therefore, think, that one of the greatest mistakes which a Board of Guardians can commit in a distressed Union is, to retain in the workhouse, persons entitled to relief under the 1st section of the Extension Act, for any reasons connected with supposed abuses which may arise from money allowances.

In your letter of the 27th ultimo, you observed that the classes eligible for relief under the 8th section, could not be turned out of the house to make room for the able-bodied, because they had no place to go to for shelter. Now, in such a case, it appears to the Commissioners unreasonable merely to offer food to those who have no shelter; and the Commissioners, therefore, deemed it right to remark that the Guardians had sufficient power to grant out-door allowances for lodging, clothing, and fuel, as well as food.

With regard to meeting such cases by what is termed a *liberal* allowance of food, this would only be effectual on the supposition, either that the paupers converted part of their food into money, and then, with such money, provided themselves with lodging, fuel, and clothing; or that they bartered their food for lodging, fuel, and clothing. But the Commissioners think that both these alternatives are uneconomical, and otherwise objectionable.

The Commissioners rely on your carrying out the Commissioners' views on this head, and on your recommending the Guardians to consider the question of whether out-relief to the impotent should be granted in money or food, as altogether secondary at the present time, to the principle of making the workhouse available to the utmost possible extent, for the able-bodied.

With regard to the erection of the shed in the girls' yard to which you advert, I am directed by the Commissioners to request that you will be so good as to inform them whether the same shed is intended to be used as a dormitory and school-house. The Commissioners think that such an arrangement would be objectionable.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 10, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, and have the honour to submit the following report of the proceedings thereat.

After transacting a portion of the ordinary routine business, the Board, in accordance with a determination come to by them on the previous day of meeting, proceeded to examine the applicants for admission to the workhouse. The relieving officers were present, and took down the names of all applicants eligible to out-door relief under the 1st section of the Act, and your extended order of the 8th instant. There could not have been less than 300 applicants in all. Many of them would not stand the workhouse test; and this showed the Guardians the necessity for straining every nerve to keep the house as a test.

The pressure of applications for admission on Board days is excessive, as the persons applying do not go in the first instance to the relieving officers; and even where they do, they also present themselves at the workhouse. The relieving officers were instructed by me to prevent, as far as possible, any but able-bodied persons applying at the workhouse for relief, as the Guardians should have to deal with the classes at present eligible to out-door relief, through the several relieving officers only.

The pressure of destitution is such, that I recommended the Board to take advantage of the 6th section of the Act, and appoint a Committee of their members in the distant districts, to receive applications from poor persons within them, and report thereon to the Board.

Several hours were consumed in examining into the cases of the applicants for relief to-day, and there can be no doubt that a rush is being made on the poor-house, for the purpose of forcing a general system of out-door relief upon the Guardians.

That great destitution now prevails, and is increasing daily within the Union, there can be no doubt, and unless auxiliary accommodation at the workhouse is obtained, that afforded by it at present will not serve much longer, in the way of offering a test to the able-bodied. I therefore trust the Commissioners will sanction

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the proposal of the Guardians to run up sheds in the school-yards, for the purpose of providing dormitories and school-rooms for the children.

I also think it would be expedient to have some limit as to the age at which a pauper may be looked upon as *able-bodied*; numerous persons over 60 years of age and under 75 years, are returned by the relieving officers as able-bodied, and have to be received into the workhouse. Now, I am humbly of opinion, that after a person has reached 60 years of age, he or she cannot be expected to be sufficiently able-bodied to earn enough for the support of a family by manual labour; and that to such persons it would be good policy to extend a modified amount of assistance in the shape of out-door relief, in aid of what their diminishing strength enables them to earn; and thus to keep the house as a test for the young, strong, and healthy able-bodied classes alone.

The rate collectors were present, and you will see by the minutes that the Board of Guardians have (at my suggestion) called upon them to put the powers afforded them by the law into force.

During the course of last week, the collectors served the six days' notice on numerous rate-payers, and I beg to say I should have compelled them to do this sooner, had it not been that I was left in ignorance with regard to the actual state of the law.

Agents have been in the habit of giving separate receipts to joint occupiers for small sums (and that where no lease exists), the names of such occupiers being merely bracketed in the rate-books, without any reference to the immediate lessor.

How is the collector to levy in such a case? Is he to proceed against any one name, or all names jointly within the bracket?

In those cases where the property of immediate lessors is in Chancery, can the collector serve a notice of six days, or of fifteen days for payment of rates, on the receiver appointed by the Court?

One such receiver has refused to pay the rates.

The Board of Guardians adjourned till Wednesday next, when they intend to create as much vacant room as possible in the house, by ordering the discharge of all the paupers eligible to out-door relief, who may be in a fit state to be removed with safety, and for the transaction of business not overtaken to-day.

REPLY to the above :—*January 15, 1848.*

IN reference to the proposal to erect sheds in the children's yards, for the purpose of providing school-rooms and dormitories for the children, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they will raise no objection to the proposal, provided it is understood that the same sheds are not to be used both as day-rooms and dormitories; but they could not sanction the occupation of the same apartments by the children by day as well as by night, as they consider that such an occupation of them would be prejudicial to the health of the children. At the same time, the Commissioners think that it would be preferable to obtain some suitable building detached from the workhouse, to which the whole of the children might be removed under the charge of the schoolmaster and schoolmistress.

As regards your suggestion, that there should be some limit as to the age at which a pauper may be looked upon as able-bodied, and that it would be good policy to extend a modified amount of assistance in the shape of out-door relief, in aid of what the diminished strength of persons beyond that age may be enabled to earn, and thus to keep the house as a test for the young, strong, and healthy able-bodied classes alone, I am to state that the Commissioners are not prepared to lay down any general rule regarding the age at which a man may be considered to cease to be able-bodied. In England, it is usually considered that a man ceases to be able-bodied at the age mentioned by you (60); but at the same time there are many exceptions to this rule, for while on the one hand it frequently happens that men cease to be able-bodied before they attain the age of 60 years, on the other hand, there are many instances in which men retain their physical powers almost wholly unimpaired long after that age.

With reference to the suggestion, that a modified amount of assistance should be given in the shape of out-door relief to the partially disabled, in aid of what their diminished strength may enable them to earn, the Commissioners desire to state that such a course would be absolutely illegal, unless the Commissioners were to issue an order under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and that

the principle involved in granting relief to persons in the receipt of earnings, (whether such persons are able-bodied or partially disabled) is fraught with dangerous consequences, and would, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be seriously injurious to the permanent welfare of the Milford Union.

With reference to your statement, that you would have caused the collectors to serve the usual six days' notice for payment of the rate, had it not been that you were left in ignorance of the actual state of the law, the Commissioners desire to observe, that the words in the collectors' warrant to which you allude, relate only to his own proceedings under his own warrant, and have no reference whatever to proceedings before the justice. You will see by reference to the 73rd section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, and the 152nd section of the Grand Jury Act, that the collector is authorized to proceed as soon as he shall have received his warrant; the sections referred to will be found at pages 53 and 130 of the compendium of Irish Poor Law, a copy of which has already been forwarded to you.

The Commissioners will feel obliged to you to procure from the clerk, and forward to them an exact copy of the entries in the rate book, in the cases upon which you wish to have the opinion of the Commissioners for the guidance of the collectors, and the Commissioners will then give the subject their consideration.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 12, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that no Guardians attended the adjourned meeting of the Milford Board to-day, and consequently the business untouched on Monday last, is still in arrear. A number of cases on the relieving officer's books are not yet adjudicated upon; and the workhouse is not cleared of all persons eligible to receive out-door relief, under the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and your extended order of the 8th instant.

The non-attendance of the Guardians to-day, is perhaps attributable to the practice of adjourning from one day to a second in the same week, having only been introduced last week.

As there is to be a road sessions meeting on Monday next at Letterkenny, to which most of the influential Guardians will probably go, I intend taking steps to have a special meeting of the Board of Guardians summoned for as early a day as possible after that day; when I trust, there will be a full attendance of Guardians, especially of the most influential ones, to dispose of the present arrear of business.

It is matter for regret, that some of the influential Guardians have not of late been so regular in their attendance at the meetings of the Board, as could be desired.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. HORSLEY:—*January 17, 1848.*

THE Commissioners rely upon your taking every opportunity of impressing upon the Board of Guardians the great importance at this particular period, of duly and punctually attending for the discharge of their duties in relieving the destitute poor in the Milford Union.

I am at the same time, to state that if you think it desirable, the Commissioners will write to the several Guardians individually on the subject.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 12, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the evidence taken on oath by me with reference to Margaret Herraghty's case, and also a copy of the evidence taken at the inquest on the body.

I beg to report that, from the evidence given before me, it would appear that neither the Guardians nor the officers of the house were aware of Margaret Herraghty's infirm state of health when she was discharged from the workhouse; that she was given a ticket to the relieving officer of her district, authorizing him to supply her and her family with the same allowances as other paupers receiving out-door relief; that, in consequence of 71 paupers having to be discharged from the workhouse on Tuesday, the 21st of December last, she did not leave the workhouse until 2 o'clock, or thereabouts, on that day; that she did not complain

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to the officers of the workhouse, or to any pauper within it, of being unwell or unable to reach her home; that after she was taken ill, and went into the waste house at Drumberne, no one told either the relieving officer at Milford, or the relieving officer of her own district, at Tamny, of her condition; that neither she, nor any one on her behalf, applied between Tuesday, the 21st December, and Sunday, the 26th (on which day she died), for her re-admission to the workhouse; that her son, Brian Herraghty, never applied to the relieving officer at Tamny; that his (Brian's) uncle was made aware by him of his mother's state, but took no steps to render her any assistance.

I referred to the medical officer's Report Book and found that Margaret Herraghty had been discharged as "relieved" from the workhouse infirmary on November 16, 1847, upwards of a month previous to her discharge from the workhouse; and Dr. Molloy deposed to this fact at the inquest.

Looking to all the circumstances attending the case, I am inclined to think that Margaret Herraghty's death was produced by natural causes rather than by "exposure to cold and want of nourishment;" and that, in all human probability, the event would not have been deferred had she remained in the workhouse. Perhaps the very circumstance for which she "thanked God," namely, the drying up of the ulcer in her back, may have been the proximate cause of her death—especially as she complained to Susan M'Bride (who gave evidence at the inquest) of being "*bad with a dizziness in her head.*"

There seems to have been no harshness used towards Margaret Herraghty, either by the Guardians or the officers of the workhouse, in so far as I could discover; and her case appears to have been of that unfortunate kind in which blame is imputed to parties without strong grounds for so doing, but which, nevertheless, requires investigation.

ENCLOSURE.

EVIDENCE taken on Oath with reference to the Death of MARGARET HERRAGHTY, at an Inquiry held by Samuel Horsley, Union Inspector, at the Milford Union Workhouse, on Monday and Tuesday, the 10th and 11th of January, 1848.

Milford Union Workhouse, January 10, 1848.

Evidence of *Mr. George White*, Relieving Officer for the Electorates of Carrowkeel, Greenfort, and Glinsk.

First heard of the death of Margaret Herraghty on Sunday, the 26th of December, or on Monday, the 27th of December, 1847; not sure on which day. Neither received a list containing her name, nor a ticket authorizing him to afford out-door relief to her and her family. Was in his district all the preceding week. Heard that an inquest was held on Margaret Herraghty's body, on Monday, the 27th of December, 1847, but knows nothing further of the case.

G. WHITE.

Mr. George Buchanan, Relieving Officer for Milford.

* [Qy. 26th?]

Heard of Margaret Herraghty's death on Sunday night, the 27th* of December, 1847. Did not know till then that she had been discharged from the workhouse. Was not told by any one of Margaret Herraghty's being in his district and unwell. No application was made to him on her behalf. Made inquiries after her death, and was told by some persons, who were examined at the inquest, that they knew of deceased being in a waste house for a few days previous to her death.

JOHN BUCHANAN.

Milford Union Workhouse, January 11, 1848.

Thomas Alcorn, Master of Milford Union Workhouse.

Discharged from the workhouse on Tuesday, the 21st of December, 1847, Margaret Herraghty, and her four children. Discharged her by the order of Robert Patten, Esq., Guardian of the Woman's Electorate, who had been requested to point out to the master persons to be discharged for the purpose of receiving out-door relief. Desired Margaret Herraghty to go to the probationary ward before 1 o'clock, P.M., in order to give up the workhouse clothes and receive her own. Margaret Herraghty made no objection to leaving the workhouse, and did not complain of any mistake being made about her clothes, to the best of his recollection. Did not particularly observe her condition, but knew that she had been discharged, as relieved from the infirmary by the medical officer. Believes she got a ticket to the relieving officer; but in consequence of he (the master) having to discharge 71 paupers on Tuesday, the 21st of December, 1847, the schoolmaster assisted him in making out the tickets, and he cannot, therefore, positively say whether he or the schoolmaster wrote the ticket for Margaret Herraghty; but he is confident no pauper left the house without being given one. Cannot

recollect any circumstance which would lead him to suppose that either the deceased, or any one on her behalf, made application for her re-admission to the workhouse. First heard of the woman's death on the day of the inquest. Never heard on any day previous that she was lying ill in any house.

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THOS. ALCORN.

Miss M'Clure, Matron of Milford Workhouse.

I knew of Margaret Herraghty's having to be discharged from the workhouse by the order of the Board of Guardians. Saw her on the day of her discharge taking off the workhouse clothes, about 12 o'clock noon, and putting on her own; also saw her children engaged in a similar way. Saw her clothes aired at the fire. Did not think Margaret Herraghty in an unfit state of health to leave the house. Did not hear of any application being made either by Margaret Herraghty, or by any one else on her behalf, for re-admission to the workhouse. Did not hear Margaret Herraghty express any unwillingness to leave the workhouse.

SARAH M'CLURE.

Samuel Ellison, Porter of Milford Workhouse.

Recollects Margaret Herraghty and her children being discharged from the workhouse. Does not recollect at what hour of the day they were discharged, in consequence of his being engaged in finding the clothes of the numerous paupers who were discharged on that day, and Nathaniel Taylor kept the front door, whilst he (the porter) was so engaged.

SAMUEL ELLISON.

Nathaniel Taylor, Pauper in Milford Workhouse.

Remembers keeping the front door of the workhouse on Tuesday, the 21st December, 1847; recollects seeing Margaret Herraghty leave the workhouse on that day, about 2 o'clock, P.M.; saw her little boy fetch some stirabout for her and her family a short time previous to her quitting the workhouse.

NATHANIEL TAYLOR.

Jane Duffy, Pauper in Milford Workhouse.

Recollects Margaret Herraghty being discharged from the workhouse on Tuesday, December 21, 1847; remembers to have seen the said Margaret Herraghty's clothes aired at the fire in the probationary ward on that day, and, to the best of her recollection, Margaret Herraghty was given stirabout about two o'clock on said day; Margaret Herraghty did not complain, in her hearing, of being too ill to leave the workhouse.

her
JANE X DUFFY.
mark.

Mary Noonan, Pauper in Milford Workhouse.

I recollect Margaret Herraghty being discharged from the workhouse on Tuesday, the 21st December, 1847, and think Margaret Herraghty got her own clothes about twelve or one o'clock on that day; saw her little boy bring down two tins of stirabout a little before two o'clock, and saw her and her children eating the same; shook hands with Margaret Herraghty before she left the house; she did not complain of being ill.

her
MARY X NOONAN.
mark.

Brian Herraghty, Pauper in Milford Workhouse, and eldest son of the deceased Margaret Herraghty.

Brian Herraghty deposes that he went out of the Milford workhouse with his mother on Tuesday, the 21st December, 1847; that he remained all night with his mother at Pat M'Colgan's, at Farquhar; that on Wednesday morning following his mother desired him to go to Bunnaton, to his uncle "old Herraghty," to get a car and beast to take her down to Fannet, as she was unable to travel; that he accordingly went to his uncle, told him his mother's state, and the uncle said he would send a beast and car the next day, but did not do so; that his mother also gave him a ticket to take to Mr. White, the relieving officer at Tamny; that he did not take the ticket to Mr. White, having met Mr. White's brother-in-law (whose name he does not know), who said that Mr. White had bought, at his own cost, 400 cwt. of meal, and that it was all given away, and for that reason he did go to Mr. White; that he never sent any message either to his mother or the relieving officer; that he never saw his mother again, having remained at his uncle's till after her death, when he came to Milford, and was re-admitted to the workhouse; that he, his mother, and the three other children, got their breakfasts on the day of their discharge from the workhouse, and also a small quantity (one Irish pint) of stirabout about two o'clock, before they left the house; thinks it was about three o'clock before they left the house, as they were detained waiting for a ticket to the relieving officer; the sun had set before they reached Pat M'Colgan's house, distant about a quarter of a mile from the workhouse.

his
BRIAN X HERRAGHTY.
mark.

SAMUEL HORSLEY, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

Milford Union.

County of Donegal, } Informations of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on
 Division of Kilmacrenan, } behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, touching the death of
 (to wit.) } Margaret Herraghty, otherwise M'Grory, at the Constabulary
 Barrack, known as the Barrack, in the townland of Milford, parish of Tullyaughnish, barony
 of Kilmacrenan, and county of Donegal, on Monday, the 27th day of December, in the
 11th year of the reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria, before Charles H. Swiney, gentleman,
 one of the coroners for said county, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body
 of the said Margaret Herraghty, otherwise M'Grory, then in Drumberne, lying dead.

Names of the Jury.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. James Lavens, F.M. | 7. Andrew Elliott. |
| 2. Patrick M'Gettigan. | 8. Matthew Baxter. |
| 3. Patrick Fegan. | 9. William Love. |
| 4. Alexander Russel, jun. | 10. William Hay. |
| 5. Frederick M'Mahon. | 11. Thomas Thompson. |
| 6. John Love. | 12. Alexander Russel, sen. |

*[q. Parsons?]

Lawrence Pearson,* late policeman, sworn—Lives in Drumberne; saw deceased woman first on Wednesday evening last; she had three children with her, and called at my father-in-law's house, and wanted lodging for the night. From the appearance of the woman being so like that of one having fever, she could nowhere procure lodging. Deceased complained greatly of cold, said her children were cold, and complained to deponent of being put out of the Milford poor-house at night on the day before; told deponent that she was very weak, unable to walk, but did not complain of hunger at that time, although she remarked that on the day before she did not get any dinner on leaving the poor-house. Deceased then went into and lit a fire in a waste house in Drumberne; deponent did not go to see deceased while in this house, but she previously told deponent that while in the poor-house she had had an ulcer in her back, and had been treated by the doctor, and that the ulcer or running was now, she thanked God, dried up. Knows nothing more until Sunday evening, the 26th instant, when he heard that the woman in the waste-house was dead, and immediately reported the same to the constabulary in Milford. This deponent saith no further.

†[q. Pearson?]

LAWRENCE PARSONS.†

Susan M'Bride sworn.—Deposeth that she lives in Drumberne; deceased, Margaret Herraghty, came to my house and wanted lodging; I was afraid to let her in; thought she had the fever. On Friday morning last made some stirabout for deceased; does not know whether deceased eat the stirabout or not; sent her some bread same night; sent her some broth on Saturday evening; heard the children of deceased crying about three o'clock on Sunday evening; they said they wanted a drink, and stated that their mother was asleep. Deponent then went into the house and found the woman dead, and immediately reported the same to her neighbours. The children were about three and five years old. The eldest boy was away at the time of his mother's death. Deceased further told deponent that she *was bad with a dizziness* in her head, and said she had not eaten anything for a long time, but did not complain of hunger, although she was thirsty and drank some milk. One of the children told deponent that its mother had taken the broth.

her
 SUSAN X M'BRIDE.
 mark.

Nelly Sweeny sworn.—I live with my uncle, Pat M'Colgan, at the end of the town of Milford. On Tuesday evening last a woman, having four children with her, came to the house and asked lodgings; said she was weak, and could go no further; it was at that time nearly dark, and the woman told deponent that she had asked leave to remain in the poor-house all night, and would not be allowed. Deceased was lodged in Pat M'Colgan's house that night, and complained that her clothes when given back to her previous to leaving the poor-house were damp, and that she was cold; does not recollect hearing deceased complain of hunger; deceased left the house about nine o'clock next morning; deceased was very delicate looking, but did not complain of being unwell.

her
 NELLY X SWEENY.
 mark.

William Molloy, M.D., sworn.—I am dispensary doctor of Kilmacrenan and Milford, and live in Milford; I have examined the body of deceased woman, and have found no external marks of violence. From the appearance of the body and the evidence I have heard, I have no doubt that deceased is a woman who was under my care in the hospital of Milford poor-house, and was discharged from hospital not cured but relieved. I believe that deceased died from exposure to cold and want of proper food.

W. H. MOLLOY, M.D.

We find that the deceased Margaret Herraghty, otherwise M'Grory, died at Drumberne on Sunday, the 26th day of December, 1847, from exposure to cold and hunger.

Milford Union.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 19, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I attended the adjourned meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day. There was a full attendance of Guardians, and I took the opportunity of remonstrating with them on the impolicy and impropriety of long supineness on their part, in the present crisis; showing them that regular attendance, and careful and energetic attention to business on every Board day, were absolutely required, both to meet the general clamour for relief now raised by the labouring classes, and to enable the Guardians to resist it successfully in every case where they had reasonable grounds for coming to the conclusion, that it was either ill-founded or fraudulently preferred. The Board acquiesced in the general justice of my statements, and proceeded to dispose of the following business, which I sketched out for their consideration.

First. The collection of the rate.

Second. The clearance of the workhouse of all paupers at present eligible to receive out-door relief.

Third. Auxiliary accommodation either at the workhouse, or in its neighbourhood.

Fourth. The scrupulous examination of the relieving officers' Application and Report Books.

With reference to the collection of the rate, I called the attention of the Board to the fact, that although the collectors had been in possession of their books, &c., for more than a month, only 230% out of a rate amounting to 3180%, had been collected; and therefore summary proceedings must be adopted to enforce its payment. A resolution with a view to effect this, was placed on the minute book.

In order that the house might be clear of paupers eligible to receive out-door relief at present, the Guardians and relieving officers of the several districts went through the house, and selected such paupers, the master subsequently receiving the order of the Board to discharge them to-morrow.

The question of auxiliary accommodation, either at the workhouse or in its neighbourhood, was fully discussed; and the Guardians having agreed that no house or building of sufficient size to answer the end desired, could be obtained within the Union, determined on receiving from contractors, tenders for the erection of two sheds in the girls' yard, each to be 40 feet by 15, and to have the work commenced and finished, with all possible despatch.

On Monday last, the relieving officers' books had been partially examined, but there still remains a large arrear of cases to be investigated; unfortunately two of the relieving officers are in fever, caught in the execution of their duties, and consequently their books, &c., could not be satisfactorily gone into to-day. This is the more distressing, because those relieving officers' districts comprise that portion of the Union in which the greatest comparative amount of destitution prevails.

The Board of Guardians to-day displayed a much greater amount of energy, and of determination to *do business*, than has marked their proceedings on any previous occasion, since my coming to the Union; and I have great hopes they will continue to work zealously and untiringly in future.

Had they only, in compliance with my repeated solicitations, adopted the right course sooner, I am of opinion they would have been enabled to resist for a long period, any attempt on the part of the able-bodied classes to force on a general system of out-door relief. They may still, however oppose it for some time; and I shall not think of recommending an order for out-door relief to able-bodied paupers, to be issued by your Board, until it shall appear to me to be imperatively demanded for the preservation of life.

REPLY to the above:—*January 25, 1848.*

THE Commissioners presume that the Guardians have made provision for the discharge of the duties of the two relieving officers who are in fever.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 24, 1848.*

Milford Union.

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day, and have the honour to submit the following report relative to their proceedings.

There was a tolerably full attendance of Guardians, and a considerable arrear of business was satisfactorily disposed of.

All the cases on the relieving officers' application and report books were gone into and adjudicated upon.

The rate collectors were called before the Board, and instructed to procure summonses against every rate-payer on whom the six days' notice had been served, unless he shall pay his rate on or before the 29th instant; and they were, moreover, ordered to go on serving the six days' notice against all defaulters without distinction.

This course, I doubt not, will ensure the speedy collection of a large amount of the rate.

The Board accepted Mr. Isaac Henderson's proposal to complete the sheds in the girls' yard for a sum of 220*l.*; and he (Mr. H.) undertakes to have them ready for the reception of the children in two months' time from this day's date.

The sheds are to be substantially constructed and slated, so as to render them permanently available as auxiliary accommodation in connexion with the work-house.

I was requested by the Board to endeavour to procure your sanction for the appointment of a second Guardian for the electoral division of Oughterlin at the election in March next.

The population of Oughterlin is only 1593, but the area of the division contains 9140 statute acres.

The Rathmullen division, containing a population of 2199, within an area of only 4423 statute acres, has two elective Guardians and one *ex-officio*, whilst Oughterlin is represented by one elective Guardian only.

There appears to me to be but one objection to the appointment of second Guardian for Oughterlin,—it would give a preponderating influence to a party representing the wealthiest and best conditioned section of the Union at the Board; but this objection might be obviated by your ordering the appointment of an additional Guardian for either the Carrigart or Carrowkeel division.

Should the Board of Guardians continue to act as energetically and zealously for the time to come as they have done on the last two days of meeting, there is every reason to hope that they will be able to overtake the management and necessities of the Union satisfactorily.

There is a point on which I am extremely desirous of obtaining your opinion and advice. I annex the circumstances out of which it arises in as brief a shape as possible.

At the close of the operations under the Relief Commission, four electoral divisions had considerable sums remaining to their credit with the Finance Committee, and those sums were paid to the respective treasurers of said electorates.

It so happens that those four electorates have large balances at their credit with the Union, and the old Relief Committees are averse to expending the balances of their relief funds until the sums at the credit of their divisions with the Union shall have been eaten up: their credit with the Union is only *on paper*, as the money has been taken to meet the exigencies of the Union.

Would the Board of Guardians be justified in refusing to make provision for out-door relief in those divisions where there are Relief Commission balances still available? And might they throw any responsibility attaching to the refusal of relief on those parties who object to applying the charitable funds themselves, and yet will not pay them over to the treasurer of the Union to be administered by the Board of Guardians?

The Relief Committees and the rate-payers would at once undertake the responsibility of relieving the classes eligible to out-door relief in their electorates, provided they had any guarantee that, when a fresh rate comes to be struck, the balances at their credit with the Union would be taken into account.

Can I, as your officer, give any assurance to the parties interested that they would be thus dealt with?

Milford Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 29, 1848.*

WITH reference to the Guardians' request to have a second Guardian elected for the Oughterlin electoral division, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they will give the subject their consideration.

With regard to the balances remaining in the hands of the treasurers of Relief Committees, the Commissioners desire to observe, that those balances should be paid over to the Board of Guardians, to the credit of the electoral divisions to which they belong, provided there are no fever hospitals for such divisions, to the maintenance of which such balances would be applicable according to the provisions of the Temporary Fever Acts. If paid over to the Board of Guardians, the electoral divisions to which the balances belong will be credited, and the next rate made on such electoral divisions will be proportionably less. But in any case the Boards of Guardians are solely responsible for making due provision for the relief of the destitute poor in all the electoral divisions of the Union, and they cannot divest themselves of this responsibility or throw any portion of it on the old Relief Committees or on any other parties.

LISTOWEL UNION.

Listowel Union.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 2, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that at the meeting of the Poor Law Guardians held this day, the proceedings of the Workhouse Extension Committee were approved of, and the suggestions of Mr. Wilkinson, the Architect, who on Tuesday visited the newly-rented premises, agreed to be acted upon. It is proposed to place therein about 400 children under the schoolmaster and mistress, and thus make room in the poor-house to that extent, for the able-bodied; but it will not be possible to have the premises ready to be occupied until the second week in January next, and no other premises could be had that would answer.

In the mean time, the pressure of deplorably destitute applicants for admission or relief is so great, that the Board have come to a resolution to apply to the Poor Law Commissioners for an order to allow, provisionally, out-door relief to the able-bodied; and they deeply lament the necessity, which might have been for the present avoided, had they earlier taken the active measures to provide more workhouse accommodation, and to set the collectors and relieving officers to work, which they have done lately, since my coming amongst them.

It is my duty to state that the necessity is urgent, arising from the great extent of the distress already existing throughout the Union, and more particularly along the western coast. Robberies, particularly of food, are beginning to be frequent; and outrages have commenced by persons in disguise breaking into houses and forcibly seizing arms.

It has been resolved to remove such of the inmates, disabled paupers, widows and children, as can be removed out of the workhouse, and have houses to go to, that they may be relieved at home, to the number of about 100, to make room for able-bodied paupers; but this step cannot yet be taken, for although most of the relieving officers have entered into securities, received the books and instructions, and are preparing to give out-door relief to classes entitled to it, the Guardians are nearly without funds, the balance in the Treasurer's hands, deducting needful payments made this day, being scarcely 150*l*. The collector's rate-book for the new rate of 3*s*. in the pound, will not be ready for signature until next week.

The reply of the Commissioners to the inquiry in my letter of the 29th, having reference to the duty of the relieving officer to receive all applications, came to my hands at the meeting to-day, but previous to its arrival, and my laying the same before the Guardians, a resolution had been passed, in effect to limit those officers to receive applications from, and enter on their list only such destitute persons as may be found by them, after due enquiry, to be legally entitled to relief. It was urged that overwhelming numbers would otherwise make it utterly impossible that these officers could act, and that the Board of Guardians could not have time weekly to go through the "application," and "report book," and decide on the large number of cases that would come before them.

A working and finance Committee was appointed at my suggestion originally, to examine into and report upon all matters whatever, connected with the expenditure and accounts of the Union. It was resolved that this Committee should also decide on the cases of all applicants for relief, brought before the Board weekly by the relieving officers.

I beg to state that, in my opinion, this Committee, with the latter heavy duty added to the former, will not be found to act well; the business of it will be thrown on two or three gentlemen, residents in or near the town of Listowel, who already complain of the great weight of work thrown upon them by the general absence of Guardians resident at a distance.

I strenuously recommended that district Committees should be appointed to aid the relieving officers, and decide on the claims of applicants, but this was objected to; yet in a Union of such great extent and large destitute population, I do not believe the duties will be carried on with regularity and precision without them.

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In concluding this necessarily hurried report, I beg to state that the Board adjourned to meet again to-morrow, and from day to day, for the despatch of the pressing business before them.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 7, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have received the resolution of the Board of Guardians to which you refer, requesting authority from the Commissioners to administer out-door relief to the able-bodied; and the Commissioners have issued an order authorizing out-door relief accordingly for a period of two months.

A copy of the order is enclosed, together with a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Board of Guardians on the subject.

As regards the appointment of a Committee to decide on applications for relief which may be brought before the Board by the relieving officers, and your recommendation that district Committees should be formed to aid the relieving officers, the Commissioners desire to state, that such district Committees should only be appointed in accordance with the 6th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and their functions should be confined to the performance of the duties contemplated by that section, viz., to receive applications for relief, to examine into the cases of the applicants, and to report to the Guardians thereon.

The general views of the Commissioners in regard to the appointment of Committees for assisting in the administration of out-door relief, otherwise than as provided by the 6th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, are set forth in the accompanying letters addressed by them to the South Dublin Board of Guardians, and to the Tipperary Board of Guardians respectively. The draft letters are forwarded for your information, and should be returned when perused.

ENCLOSURES in the foregoing LETTER.

ORDER AUTHORIZING OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

To the Paid Officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the Listowel Union; to the Clerk and other officers of the said Union, and to all other persons whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it has been shown to our satisfaction, that, by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the said Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded therein to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled, or destitute poor persons disabled by sickness or accident, or destitute poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, and it is expedient to authorize and empower the paid officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the said Union, to administer relief out of the workhouse to such destitute poor persons, for a limited time as hereinafter mentioned.

Now therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the said paid officers to administer relief out of the workhouse, in food, to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect, and not being persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, and thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, whom they are liable by law to maintain, and not being poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, for two months next ensuing after the date of this order.

And we do hereby make the following rules and regulations as to the granting, ordering, and giving of relief to all persons who shall be relieved by the said paid officers, under the authority of this order, that is to say:—

1. Every person relieved under the authority of this order, shall be relieved in food only, and such food shall, as far as is practicable, be cooked food.
2. Every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of this order shall, so far as is practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives such relief.
3. No able-bodied person who shall be in employment, nor any part of his or her family, shall receive relief as a destitute person under the authority of this order.

And for the more effectual administration of relief under this order, we do hereby authorize and direct the said paid officers to appoint so many relieving officers as shall be found sufficient from time to time, to superintend the labour of such persons as shall be set to work, in pursuance of the regulations in this order contained, and otherwise to assist in the administration of relief under this order, as the said paid officers, subject to our approval, shall direct.

Sealed with our seal, this seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

(L.S.)

(Signed

E. T. B. TWISLETON.
T. N. REDINGTON.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS, Listowel Union :—*December 7, 1847.* Listowel Union.

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration the resolution passed by the Board of Guardians of Listowel Union, on the 2nd instant, to the effect that from the extreme destitution which prevails in the Union, and inasmuch as the workhouse is at present crowded, and the auxiliary workhouse under repair cannot be occupied before the 10th of January, the Commissioners be requested to issue their order, authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied.

The Commissioners have also had before them a report from their Temporary Inspector, Captain Spark, in which he states that the necessity for such an order is urgent.

The Commissioners have accordingly issued an order authorizing out-door relief, under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, for the period of two months from the date of the order.

The Guardians will observe that no relief under this order can be legally given to persons in employment; that such relief must be in food only, and that no able-bodied man should receive relief except in return for work.

With regard to the nature of the work which should be offered to able-bodied men, the Commissioners recommend the setting able-bodied men to stone-breaking by taskwork, as a condition of relief; and as much will depend on the knowledge, firmness, and discretion, of those who may be appointed to superintend the stone-breaking, the Commissioners cannot too strongly urge the Guardians to be peculiarly careful in permitting themselves to be influenced by no other consideration than those of personal fitness, in selecting candidates for that highly important office.

The Commissioners will take this opportunity of observing that, in specifying the period of eight hours at least, in the day, during which every able-bodied pauper should be required to work, they have made allowance for the present season of the year, and for the possible circumstance that some of the able-bodied paupers may come to the stone-breaking from a considerable distance. It is not, however, by any means intended to prevent the Guardians from requiring work during a still longer period of time. The period of eight hours is, in fact, merely the minimum space of time in the day, during which every able-bodied pauper should give the value of his labour to the Union.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire to remind the Guardians that the order is merely temporary; and they should in the mean time use every possible exertion to render the additional workhouse accommodation which is in preparation, available at the earliest possible period, so that the children may be removed, and the existing workhouse made available, almost exclusively, for the relief of able-bodied men.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS, South Dublin Union :—
October 20, 1847.

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had under consideration, the explanation of the Board of Guardians of South Dublin Union, respecting the appointment in each electoral division of a Sub-Committee under the Board, to superintend the relieving officers in the discharge of their duties under the Irish Relief Extension Act.

The Commissioners have likewise had under consideration, a report from their Inspector, Captain Huband, on the subject.

As the principle involved in the existence of these Committees, is of considerable importance for evil or for good; as the system of out-relief and of relieving officers is wholly new in Ireland; and as the effects of a course similar to that on which the Guardians are now entering have been fully experienced elsewhere, the Commissioners deem it right to express their opinion on the subject at the present time.

The Commissioners entertain no doubt that the appointment of these Committees is contrary to the spirit of the Irish Poor Relief Acts; and however excellent the intentions of those who are in favour of such bodies may be, the Commissioners are convinced, by extensive experience, that the existence of them will lead to pernicious consequences.

The system of out-relief established in Ireland by the Legislature is to be carried on by Guardians, acting as a Board, with paid officers under them. When a poor person applies for relief, the undivided responsibility of becoming thoroughly acquainted with all the circumstances of the applicant rests with the relieving officer of the district to which such applicant belongs; on the other hand, the undivided responsibility (except in cases of sudden and urgent necessity) of deciding whether the applicant shall or shall not be relieved at all, and whether the relief to be given shall be in the workhouse or out of it, rests solely with the Board of Guardians.

To render ordinary relief legal, it must be sanctioned by a majority of the Board of Guardians, and authenticated by the initials of the presiding chairman. The correct mode of proceeding, when an application is brought before the Board, is for the chairman to call upon the relieving officer to state everything which he knows respecting the case. When the relieving officer has concluded his statement, if any Guardian is aware of any material circumstance which has been omitted by the relieving officer, he should communicate the additional information to the whole Board; and the Board being thus put in possession of all the facts, should pronounce its final decision.

Neither the Irish Relief Extension Act, however, nor the regulations of the Commissioners,

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recognise any authority whatever in individual Guardians, or in any local body other than the Board of Guardians, to control the relieving officers, or to make an order for relief; and the Commissioners strongly recommend the Board of Guardians of South Dublin Union to be careful in keeping their own undoubted power in their own hands, and under no pretence whatever to recognise any authority in this respect, either directly or indirectly, in any individual Guardian or Committee.

The plea which has been usually advanced for a departure from the course above recommended by the Commissioners is, that individual Guardians or a Committee, who belong to the peculiar locality of an applicant for relief, are likely to know more of the case than the Board of Guardians. It will be found, however, that this plea involves a fallacy of reasoning as to time. It is perfectly true that before an application for relief is brought formally under the consideration of the Board of Guardians, an individual Guardian, or a Committee, is likely to know more of the case than the whole Board collectively. When, however, the Board of Guardians has assembled; when the relieving officer has stated everything which he knows respecting the case; and when the individual Guardian supplies whatever has been omitted by the relieving officer, the Board of Guardians ought to know as much as the Committee or the individual Guardian, when he first entered the Board-room, and they will frequently know much more. On the other hand, it is obvious that when the facts of the case are once fully known, the Board of Guardians is likely, in the majority of instances, to decide on the course to be pursued, in giving or refusing relief, with greater coolness of judgment and freedom from misleading prejudices than any individual Guardian, however excellent his intentions may be.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS, Tipperary Union:—*October 8, 1847.*

WITH reference to the proceedings at the adjourned meeting of the Board of Guardians of Tipperary Union, on the 27th ultimo, at which it was deemed expedient to appoint Sub-Committees to examine the lists of the different relieving officers, I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to state that as a general rule they deem it undesirable that a Board of Guardians should be subdivided into Committees for the purpose of deciding on applications for relief, inasmuch as fewer abuses are likely to arise, if the cases are decided on by the whole Board.

At the same time, the Commissioners are aware that the amount of labour thrown on the Guardians may be so great as to render it necessary, for the due despatch of public business, that a division, or even divisions, of the Board should take place.

There is one suggestion, however, which the Commissioners desire to make on the subject, which they recommend the Guardians strictly to act on, viz., that in all divisions or Sub-Committees of the Board, one Guardian, at least, should be associated who is not of the particular district from which the applicants come, whose cases are to be investigated by such divisions or Sub-Committees respectively.

The Commissioners have to add that no such Sub-Committee or division should consist of less than three members.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 4, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that, at the meeting of the Guardians held yesterday by adjournment, the following was the most important business transacted.

The medical officers' report having represented that there was a great increase of disease in the infirmary, no less than 29 cases of fever, 27 of measles, and of small-pox 3, recommending that these should be immediately removed, I called the Guardians' attention to the necessity for it being done, and that not a moment should be lost to prevent a direful spread of disease among the inmates of the workhouse. There is a Temporary Fever Hospital Committee appointed, who have hired one small house, now getting ready, and others are being negotiated for; but some time must elapse before the patients can be removed. These premises are to be used only until the new fever hospital is ready; but I must call the Commissioners' attention to the circumstance, that the contractor is obliged to stop this most needed work for want of money, and that the sum of 200*l.* is requested to be furnished by the Poor Law Commissioners, which the advanced state of the building it is represented to me warrants the Guardians in applying for. It will be found noticed in the minutes of the meeting.

The Application and Report Books of six of the relieving officers were gone through, and the cases therein of such as are entitled to receive out-door relief under the Act 10 Vict., cap. 31, section 1, decided upon; and checks for money, to the extent of 10*l.* each, were supplied them to enable them to purchase and commence the distribution of Indian meal in the quantity of one pound to adults, and of half a pound to children under nine years.

In consequence of the low state of the funds of the Board, the clerk was

ordered to apply to the treasurer to permit that the balance in his hands should be overdrawn to the extent of 250*l.*, to meet present exigencies, and until part of the new rate be gathered and paid in, to repay it.

I beg to report that contractors for supplies to the workhouse have, heretofore, not been called upon to enter into any bond for the fulfilment of their engagements, and contracts have consequently been broken, to the prejudice of the Union, and causing suffering and disease among the pauper inmates; the contractor for milk has failed to supply that article to the amount of 50 gallons daily, unnoticed; a resolution is now on the minutes to enforce the observance of the law on this head. The Guardians adjourned, after a lengthened meeting, until Thursday next, the day for the ordinary assembly of the Board.

I wish to state that it is my intention, so soon as the relieving officers are fully at work, to go frequently round amongst them, and see that they perform their duty honestly.

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REPLY to the above :—*December 7, 1847.*

WITH reference to your observations that the contractor for erecting the fever hospital is obliged to stop the work for want of money, and that he is entitled to the sum of 200*l.* on account of his contract, which the Commissioners are requested to furnish, I am to state that the Commissioners received no application for this payment previously to the receipt of your report on yesterday, they, however, at once referred your communication to their architect, and have now received his recommendation that the money be paid, and they have accordingly given directions for an immediate remittance of the sum of 200*l.*

I am at the same time to state that, the Commissioners approve of your proposal to go round amongst the relieving officers, and see that they perform their duty honestly.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 9, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, the following as the principal business transacted at the ordinary meeting of the Board of Guardians held this day.

The Rate Books were duly signed, and a rate made on all the electoral divisions of the Union, and the warrants or Collecting Books were also signed and delivered to the collectors, who will at once proceed to collect.

The Finance Committee examined into some accounts and claims for payment, and made their report, and the clerk was ordered to obtain all outstanding unpaid bills.

I laid before the Board the order for out-door relief, which was received with thankfulness for the promptitude the Poor Law Commissioners have shewn in complying with their wishes; but such is the low state of credit in which the Union stands, or rather the Board of Guardians, through mismanagement and neglect of its affairs, that the treasurer has refused to advance them the trifling sum of 250*l.*, and to day it has been resolved to apply to the old Relief Committees, lately under 10 Vic. cap. 7, to advance them money which they have still in hand, to enable them to carry into effect the out-door relief so urgently called for, to save from positive starvation thousands of the destitute population, who, in the western districts particularly, are living on turnips alone, and seaweed, and such potatoes as after repeated diggings, may be found left in the fields.

Tenders having been advertised for supplying Indian meal to the depôts, only one man offered, and that at about 4*l.* per ton above the price it could be obtained for. This again is the result of the bad odour in which the Guardians are held as paymasters.

The medical officer's report showed the alarming state of the house; but I regret to say that with every effort made, it has not been possible to obtain premises for temporary fever wards. The Committee are promised that in two days hence they shall have possession of tenements that will hold about 50 parties.

Above 200 applicants for admission into the workhouse were necessarily

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rejected, after coming some of them twenty miles with their miserable families, many of them in a famishing state; and the Guardians very humanely ordered them a meal of bread to sustain them to endure their journey home. Their names were entered in the Application and Report Books of the relieving officers present, several of which were submitted to the Board for examination and decision of the cases, which caused the meeting to be a very lengthened one, and it was adjourned for to-morrow at 10 A.M., the proceedings of which I will report.

The medical officer reports "that there are 276 patients under medical and "surgical treatment in the workhouse hospitals, being more than one-third the "present number in the house. Of this number there are 45 in fever, "2 deaths, and 6 discharged convalescent since last Board's meeting, leaving "now 37 in fever, 82 in measles, 4 in small-pox, 31 dysentery, one of whom "has died; there are 120 in other diseases."

The medical officer states "that there are 211 in the infirmary alone, which "properly cannot accommodate more than 60 patients."

P.S.—I beg to remark that in the teeth of this report the rural Guardians urged strenuously that further admissions should be granted from the crowd of applicants clamouring outside, which I insisted most positively against, on the ground of humanity even, and I carried my point.

REPLY to the above:—*December 14, 1847.*

THE Commissioners trust that, as the collectors' warrants have been signed, no exertions will be spared to realize some of the rate immediately, and thus enable the Guardians to administer relief to the destitute efficiently. The Commissioners request you will be so good as to direct your special attention to this point, and they request also that you will confer especially with the Board of Guardians on the subject of the medical officers' report, and urge them to adopt every means in their power to render the sanitary state of the house more satisfactory than at present.

The Commissioners trust that the additional tenements to which you allude as sufficient to accommodate 50 patients, may be obtained without delay.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 11, 1847.*

I BEG to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that at the adjourned meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union yesterday, the only business was the following:—

The remainder of the relieving officers' Application and Report Books were gone through, and the cases decided on.

And a resolution was come to that the relieving officers should be directed to offer to all applicants a ticket of admission into the workhouse, and that such as refused to receive the same should be reported to the Board.

It appeared to be considered, that this being refused would be a fair proof that the applicant could not be in a state of destitution, but it is obvious that when the house is full, all will say they are ready to accept it, and that as a test it will fail.

Out-door relief was commenced this day, to be given to the able-bodied in the Listowel district.

REPLY to the above:—*December 14, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that it is of course proper and desirable to apply the workhouse test as far as practicable, and while there is any considerable amount of workhouse accommodation available, the Commissioners think that out-relief ought not, under any circumstances, to be given to the able-bodied; at the same time they think, that if the Guardians and the relieving officers adhere strictly to the terms of the order, and are careful that the relief afforded is given in cooked food only, and that a task of work is required to be performed by each able-bodied person receiving such relief, they will find that these regulations afford, to a certain limited extent, a test

of destitution, although such test is undoubtedly far less efficient than the test of a workhouse.

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Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 13, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to return herewith the letter addressed to the Board of Guardians of the Tipperary Union, and the other papers sent me for perusal, containing the valuable opinion and suggestions of the Poor Law Commissioners, and the views of Captain Huband on the subject of sub-committees, and I fully concur in the same; but I beg to take the liberty to state my impression, that a staff of only 10 relieving officers in this extensive Union, containing a population of upwards of 70,000 souls, two-thirds of whom are in reality paupers, and will all be clamorous applicants for relief, if not legally entitled to it, is totally inadequate and cannot work. I believe it to be impossible that these officers can each week receive the names of all applicants, go to the houses and inquire carefully into the circumstances of each, take charge of the dépôts for food, and weigh out and distribute it, keep the books and accounts, attend the clerk at his office one day in the week, with the same for examination, and on another the Board of Guardians, coming, and having to return, many of them a distance of 10 or 15 miles.

I have expressed this opinion to the Guardians, and shall, after further experience, be prepared to propose, with the concurrence of the Commissioners, that there shall be appointed an increase of relieving officers, and of assistants also, if found necessary, properly to carry out the law.

At the full meeting of the Board of Guardians on Thursday last, the press of business prevented the consideration of appointing overseers for labour to be performed by paupers receiving out-door relief, but at the next meeting on Thursday next I will take care to bring the subject before them. These overseers might assist the relieving officers to distribute the rations.

REPLY to the above :—*December 14, 1847.*

THE Commissioners deem it undesirable that the relieving officers in the Listowel Union should have anything to do with the management of the dépôts; and that if the Guardians see this matter in the same light, the labour of the relieving officers will be materially lightened.

The Commissioners do not object to any moderate remuneration for those who are in charge of the dépôts.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 16, 1847.*

AT a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, a reply was received to the application made to the old Relief Committee for Listowel, under the Lord Lieutenant's order, for the loan of a portion of the fund still remaining in the hands of its Treasurer, in the form of a resolution unanimously agreed to by that Committee, at a meeting held yesterday, of which the following is a copy: "Resolved, that the secretary be required to inform the clerk of the Union in reply to his Circular of the 11th instant, that this Committee has authorised its treasurer to hand to the Board of Guardians a sum of 500*l.* as a loan, under the circumstances stated, and subject to the conditions specified in that letter; and provided, also, that the Board will take immediate steps to relieve the poor, and appoint at once such additional relieving officers as authorised and directed by the Poor Law Commissioners' sealed order of the 17th instant, and obtain the sanction of the said Commissioners to their receiving, and the Board of Guardians repaying the aforesaid sum out of the rates about to be collected, on the understanding that the Committee requires no interest nor remuneration of any kind for the use of the same."

And I am requested by the Board of Guardians to solicit the Commissioners' sanction, that the said loan of 500*l.* may be accepted upon the liberal sums offered by the said Committee.

P.S. I beg to state that I have not time to transmit a report of this day's

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proceedings, and save the post, which leaves this place at an early hour in the morning. I can merely state, that the necessary steps were taken at my request, to carry out strictly the order for out-door relief, with the exception of giving cooked food, which was deemed impracticable. The meeting sat late, occupied with the relieving officers' heavy lists of applicants, and adjourned to assemble again to-morrow morning at 10.

I will do myself the honour to report to the Commissioners by the next post.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 18, 1847.*

THE Commissioners will readily sanction the receiving and repaying the money on the terms proposed.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 18, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners, the proceedings of the Poor Law Guardians of this Union, at their ordinary meeting on the 16th instant, and the adjourned meeting held yesterday.

At the commencement of the proceedings I called the attention of the Board to the obligation it was under to afford relief to the able-bodied only, in accordance with the provisions set forth in the order under seal of the Commissioners, dated the 7th instant.

After considerable discussion, tending to show that in the present circumstances of the Union to provide cooked food was impracticable, a resolution to that effect was inserted on the minutes, and unanimously agreed to; but that able-bodied paupers should be set to task-work as soon as possible—to consist in collecting and breaking stones on the several unfinished roads, commenced under the Labour-rate Act, in fencing or other public works required in the several electoral divisions; and that a sufficient staff should be appointed to superintend such labour.

That the Guardians of the different electoral divisions be authorized to give effect to this resolution, by selecting the particular works, and to name stewards or overseers to superintend the same, subject to the Board's approval; and taking care that all such works shall, in accordance with the Commissioners' order, be task or piece work.

The proposed loan of 500*l.* from the Listowel old Relief Committee was thankfully received; and I was requested to ask the Commissioners' sanction, as stated in my letter of the 16th.

On the medical officer's report being read, I forcibly called the attention of the Board to the great spread of disease within the house, and the necessity for vigorous steps being immediately taken with regard to the same. A resolution was accordingly come to, that a further change of diet to one more nourishing should be adopted, by the introduction of bread and soup for dinner. And the Sanitary Committee was appointed with full powers to inquire into the causes of the great increase of sickness in the house, and to take such steps to arrest the progress of disease as they may consider proper.

The medical officer's report gave the following:—

Cases of fever	.	.	.	48
Measles	.	.	..	88
Small-pox	.	.	.	3
Dysentery	.	.	..	36
Other diseases	.	.	.	112

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About 40 fever patients have been and are being removed to two temporary fever hospital wards; and another house hired for the purpose, will be ready in a few days.

Tenders for Indian meal and oatmeal were received and accepted for six months, at a much lower rate than previously offered; and after a prolonged sitting, devoted to a revision of the Relieving Officers' Application and Report Books, the Board adjourned until yesterday, at 10 A.M., to complete the whole, when five Guardians only assembled, including the Vice-Chairman.

I laid before the Board the Commissioners' letter of the 14th, in reply to mine of the 13th instant, in which I am informed that they deem it undesirable that the relieving officers should have anything to do with the management of the depôts, but that the Commissioners do not object to any moderate remuneration for those who are in charge of them.

Whereupon it was resolved, that the Guardians of the several districts should select proper persons to take charge of the depôts, and assist the relieving officers in dispensing relief; and report to the Board their proceedings thereupon at the next ordinary meeting.

In consequence of the absence of the Guardians for Kiltomy, Ballyheigue, Kilflyn, Kilmoily, and Ballylongford, the Board came to a resolution not to take upon itself the responsibility to decide upon the cases in the Application and Report Books of the relieving officers of those districts, until those gentlemen (the Guardians) attend to afford the necessary information.

The Board adjourned until Monday next, then to receive the report of the Sanitary Committee.

With reference to the resolutions above mentioned, come to by the Board of Guardians, to carry out the measure of out-door relief in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Commissioners in their order dated the 7th instant, to my letter of the 13th, and the reply to it dated the 14th, I beg leave to request that I may be informed what additional staff, and what rate of remuneration to each person employed, the Poor Law Commissioners deem necessary in order fully and efficiently to fulfil the said conditions, consistently with due economy; for although I have had some experience as Government inspector, under 10 Vict. c. 7, my ideas may not meet the Commissioners' views upon this subject, and I am not disposed to suggest anything, or to permit any step to be taken by the Board of Guardians, contrary to the latter.

I beg to report that there are already on the lists for out-door relief, about 3,500 heads of families and adults, and in the whole from 12,000 to 14,000 individuals, after scrutiny by the Board.

The collectors are out, and at the end of this week now closing, will have paid into the hands of the treasurer, it is supposed, about 250*l*. I have not failed to stimulate those gentlemen to use their utmost efforts to gather the rate, to meet the greatly increasing want in the Union.

REPLY to the above:—*December 21, 1847.*

WITH reference to the resolution of the Board of Guardians to which you refer, affirming that under the present circumstances of the Union, it is impracticable to provide relief in cooked food, I am to request you will be so good as to state, for the information of the Commissioners, the grounds on which the Guardians arrived at this conclusion. The Commissioners will be glad at the same time, to learn your own views on the subject.

With reference to your request for information as to what additional staff, and what rate of remuneration to each person employed, the Commissioners deem necessary, in order fully and efficiently to fulfil the conditions of the order of the 7th instant, I am to state that this depends to a certain extent upon local circumstances, and the Commissioners would recommend you to ascertain the rate of remuneration in the Listowel Union to similar officers under the Temporary Relief Act. When you have obtained information on this head, the Commissioners trust that you will not experience any material difficulty in making a specific recommendation on the subject.

In regard to your statement that, in consequence of the absence of the Guardians for certain electoral divisions, the Board came to a resolution not to take upon itself the responsibility to decide upon the cases in the Application and Report Books of the relieving officers of those divisions until the Guardians attend, I am to state that this is a course entirely contrary to the Irish Relief Acts, and that the responsibility of relieving the destitute in those divisions rests solely with the Guardians as a Board, and not merely with the Guardians of the electoral divisions.

Listowel Union.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 21, 1847.*

IN reference to the great increase of fever and disease in the workhouse of this Union, as represented by the medical officer in his reports laid before the Board of Guardians on the 9th and 16th instant, the Sanitary Committee appointed to investigate the causes of the same, and to take steps to prevent the further spread of disease, have with myself, found reason to believe that great irregularities and abuses exist in the conduct of that department, and it is desirable that an investigation of the same should take place immediately, by competent medical authority; and I am requested to solicit the Poor Law Commissioners to permit Dr. Phelan, the Medical Inspector, to visit Listowel, to aid the Committee and myself in the investigation required. Should Dr. Phelan be absent from Dublin, and so far away from it as to render his early presence here impossible, I beg to request the Commissioners' sanction that some other medical person or persons may be called on by the Committee, for the purpose mentioned.

The COMMISSIONERS to MR. PHELAN :—*December 24, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of a report which they have received from their Temporary Inspector, Captain Spark, relative to the conduct of the medical department of the workhouse of Listowel Union; and I am to request that you will be so good as to proceed to Listowel, and institute the investigation suggested by Captain Spark, and report to the Commissioners thereon.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 23, 1847.*

AT a meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union, held this day, the resolution subjoined was proposed by a legal gentleman, a member of the Board, Mr. Maurice Leonard, the Vice-Chairman, which was negatived, and an amendment adopted, that the question contained in it should be referred to the Poor Law Commissioners; and I am requested to lay the same before them, that a legal decision may be furnished to settle this point.

I beg to state that it is my opinion that such holders of more than a quarter of an acre are not entitled to relief under the Act 10 Vic., c. 31, s. 10: and I read to the Board the interpretation of the word occupier, upon which I grounded that opinion.

"That on considering the 10th section of the Irish Poor Law Extension Act, 10 Vic., c. 31, this Board is of opinion that its provisions are not referable to "score or con-acre tenants, and that persons having such holdings are entitled "to relief."

REPLY to the above :—*January 21, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have now received the opinion of counsel on the point, as to whether the provisions of the 10th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, are referable to score or con-acre tenants, and whether persons having such holdings are entitled to relief, and they are advised that, although the question is by no means free from doubt, the Judges have been inclined to hold, in those cases in which the point has been discussed in the Irish Courts, that from the peculiar nature of the contract, the party taking con-acre acquired a kind of easement and a right to farm in a particular manner a portion of land, the occupation of which was still retained by the landowner; and counsel is of opinion that the provisions of the Act referred to, would not be considered applicable to persons having con-acre. Something however might, he thinks, depend upon the custom in the particular locality.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 24, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report the proceedings of the Guardians at their ordinary meeting yesterday, the 23rd instant.

After the general business had been gone through, Mr. Leonard proposed the

resolution relating to the score or con-acre holders, which I had the honour to lay before the Commissioners for their decision, in my letter of yesterday.

To carry out the order for out-door relief, 14 persons were appointed, at a salary of 7s. a-week, as store or depôt keepers, each under a bond and securities for 50*l.*, being one storekeeper to each depôt; and 21 persons, one for every electoral division, were appointed to be overseers, at a pay of 1s. 6*d.* for each working day, to superintend and measure the task-work of able-bodied paupers; and the Guardians of the several electoral divisions were authorized to hire, when necessary, horses and carts of indigent persons to draw stones and materials for the work selected.

I trust the Commissioners will approve of these appointments, and the rate of remuneration.

The medical officer's report was read, and exhibited a decrease of disease. Cases on the books: of fever 54, generally mild in its character; these have all been removed to the temporary fever hospitals: of measles 72, principally children: of dysentery 43: other diseases 97—total 266. There have died during the past week—of measles 5 children, of dysentery 3 persons, of other diseases, old age and infirmity 3—total 11.

It is my duty to report to the Commissioners that, it appears to be believed by several of the respectable members of the Board, that many paupers have been entered on the medical officer's books, and kept thereon; first, in order to make a show of numbers, and to give him a claim to an advance of salary; and secondly, to favour particular individuals, favourite inmates of the house, to whom, being on the sick list, he has ordered a higher diet.

These views have been supported by the facts that a notice has been given for an increase of salary to be moved for Dr. Rice, which no doubt his great increase of labour, at this time, fully warrants; and that many paupers are on his books, and are enjoying the best diet, who are apparently in good health, and not in the infirmary. On examination of the books, I find some of these have been on the sick list for upwards of twelve months.

It is true some jealousy and party feeling prevail amongst the Guardians here as elsewhere, yet there certainly do exist irregularities and abuses, and great want of economy in this department, that demand investigation by a competent medical man, unbiassed, and not of the neighbourhood; and I therefore recommended the request of the Sanitary Committee, made in my letter of the 21st instant, that Dr. Phelan should come to Listowel for that purpose.

At this meeting, several of the Application and Report Books, and accounts of the relieving officers were gone through, and the Board adjourned at 6, P.M., to meet again at 11 this day, when the remainder of the relieving officers' books were finished, and they were supplied with funds to commence generally the out-door relief.

A resolution was placed on the minutes, to be decided at next meeting, having reference to the great number of sick, and the prevalence of disease still in the house and fever hospitals, and stating the necessity for an additional medical attendant, who should be employed for a period of one month, or for a longer period if required. And the following is the copy of a resolution carried unanimously, the object of which the Board of Guardians hope, will meet the approval and support of the Poor Law Commissioners:—

“That the attention of the Commissioners of the Board of Works be immediately called to the several applications made for loans under the
“ from the baronies of Irraghticonnor and Clanmaurice, comprising this Union; from which, in many of the cases, no benefit has yet
“ resulted, in consequence of the grants not having been issued, although most
“ of the applications were made a very considerable time ago.

“The non-issue of those grants has greatly augmented the difficulties and
“ distress of the labouring classes, who might, and in the opinion of this Board
“ would, in several districts, be now in full employment, had the applications
“ referred to received that prompt attention which it is considered they justly
“ demand in the present circumstances of the country; surrounded as we are
“ with difficulties unprecedented, from the want of employment amongst the
“ labouring classes, which we consider the Act referred to was specially framed
“ to meet.”

Listowel Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. PHELAN:—*December 28, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the accompanying extracts from a report which they have received from Captain Spark, relative to the medical department of the workhouse of Listowel Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD OF WORKS:—*December 31, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you, to be laid before the Board of Works, the accompanying extract from a report which the Commissioners have received from their Temporary Inspector, Captain Spark, relative to applications made by the Board of Guardians of the Listowel Union for loans.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 24, 1847.*

IN reply to your letter, dated the 21st instant, in which I am requested to state the *grounds* on which the Guardians of this Union arrived at the conclusion that it is impracticable, under the present circumstances, to provide relief in *cooked* food, and to state my own views also on this subject; I have the honour to inform you that the Guardians so concluded because of the vast numbers of destitute, the necessity for *immediate* relief being given, and the totally unprovided state of the several very extensive relief districts of this Union for such a measure.

There are no boilers, nor are they to be had in sufficient numbers to feed many thousands of people, without very great delay, and expense also, as well for the boilers as the materials for, and cost of, setting them. The obtainment of cooking-houses, &c., for this Union could not, and did not, accomplish the distribution of *cooked* food during the late relief measures.

My own opinion is, that under the pressing circumstances of the moment—the people in many parts dying from want and clamouring for relief—that the Guardians have acted wisely and humanely in adopting the most prompt mode of meeting their wants, as otherwise outrages against persons and property would certainly have soon been manifested.

As regards my statement alluded to, that in consequence of the absence of the Guardians of certain electoral divisions, the Board came to a resolution not to take upon it the responsibility to decide upon the cases in the Application and Relief Books of the relieving officers of those divisions until the Guardians attend, I beg to observe, that the words “to afford the necessary information” should have been added; which will be found in the resolution on the minutes to which I referred, and beg leave now to refer—when it will be seen, I trust, that the course taken was not contrary to the Irish Relief Acts, there being no question as to the responsibility of the Board, as a Board, to give relief to the destitute. The members of it present considered they were using only a sound discretion in requiring the presence of those Guardians who chose to absent themselves when their presence was most needed at the Board to give the information required of them.

REPLY to the above:—*December 28, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that the reasons stated in your letter may account for its having been impracticable to give relief in cooked food immediately on the receipt of the out-door relief order, but they do not justify the omission to make arrangements for introducing the use of cooked food at the earliest opportunity.

The expense of boilers does not seem to the Commissioners a valid objection, inasmuch as any expense for boilers would be far more than compensated by the greater effectiveness of cooked food, as a test of destitution.

In reference to your statement, that the people in many parts are dying from want of food, the Commissioners request you to be so good as to explain how this can be the case now, when the Guardians have full power to grant relief to able-bodied persons out of the workhouse; and the Commissioners particularly desire to be informed, whether you can speak of such cases from your

own knowledge, and if so, the Commissioners are anxious to receive the details of all such cases.

Listowel Union.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 30, 1847.*

IN my letter dated the 24th instant, whilst I gave the reasons of the Guardians for the assumed impracticability of giving cooked food *immediately*, I did not advance those reasons at all as justifying them in an omission to make arrangements for introducing it. I have already pressed the subject strongly on the Board's attention, and shall again at the next meeting. The Board have been occupied in revising the lists of the relieving officers and other matters, so as to preclude my insisting on it at the late meetings; I might have done so to-day, but I was obliged to absent myself early, being afflicted with influenza.

And in regard to my observation in the same letter, that in many parts the people were "dying for want," that observation, as the Commissioners will find if they do me the honour to re-read it, could only have reference to the misery and destitution prevailing *previous* to the distribution of out-door relief. It is within my own knowledge that many of the people *were* existing on turnips and seaweed; and it will be believed that on such food they could not be otherwise than in a dying state, as their looks, poor creatures, too plainly evidenced.

The Rev. E. M'CARTHY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 19, 1847.*

IN your letter of the 30th ultimo you are pleased to state that "the Commissioners trust that the steps taken on the 18th by the Guardians (Listowel Union) will be found effective in relieving the destitute in Listowel Union."

There is as yet no relief for the poor of these three parishes—Rattoo, Ballyheigue, and Killeery. In the latter some widows and poor had gotten something about 10 or 11 days ago. Everybody remarks "it is Providence alone is keeping the poor alive."

In September last there was a list taken by the now relieving officer of 977 who had no means whatever of support at that time, and that list been given by persons on oath to give a list of the poor, each in his own farm, and that list was for Killeery alone. There were then, at least, as many more for Rattoo and Ballyheigue, *i. e.* a total of entirely destitute in these three parishes of about 4000 souls in September last; the number must be now 2000 more, and no relief.

In my letter of the 13th, through the Under-Secretary's office, I had committed a mistake in stating that the Rattoo poor were relieved; I have been since assured they had not.

I am quite convinced that the Poor Law Commissioners and the Government have the best wishes for the relief of the poor; but in those remote districts, the Government and Commissioners can know nothing of us. Some of our Guardians are absentees, and had long since left their poor to do for themselves.

If the Commissioners were pleased to send a trustworthy person of their own, who, without favour or affection, or irrespective of the smiles or frowns of the Guardians, either rural or ex-officio, would visit all the hovels of the destitute in this district, and take a list of the starving inmates and report on all the different cases, what an appalling catalogue of wretched sufferers would be laid before them.

I would presume on imploring of the Commissioners to do something for those thousands of poor here, who are daily pining away by a slow and lingering death.

REPLY to the above:—*December 21, 1847.*

THE Commissioners will communicate with Captain Spark, the Inspector specially in charge of the Union, and will address you again on receiving his observations.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 24, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the Commissioners, dated the 21st instant, transmitting a letter of the Rev. E. M'Carthy,

Listowel Union.

P.P., relating to the existence of distress in parts of the Listowel Union (herewith returned), and requesting my observations on the statements it contains. And I beg to observe that, although there may be some excess in the reverend gentleman's representation as to the numbers, I consider the distress in those parishes to be very great indeed, as it is also in other parts of this Union, and particularly along the whole of the western coasts. I believe there is no part of Ireland where destitution and wretchedness prevail more. There is no employment in prospect, nor at present afforded by the proprietors and farmers in the districts to which I allude.

The measures to afford out-door relief in this Union are, however, now organized, (not a moment having been lost since the arrival of the order,) and I trust in time, to save the poor from the calamities to which their destitute state would otherwise subject them, during the present winter; yet I fear the extent of destitution will greatly exceed any local or legal power of relief the Board of Guardians can command to meet it, unless all the *large* landed proprietors *at once* come forward to aid the poor labouring classes, by affording them employment under the Acts of Parliament passed for that benevolent purpose by the Legislature.

The Rev. E. M'CARTHY to His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT, referred to the Commissioners:—*December 20, 1847.*

THE destitute poor who had been in attendance at Ballyden yesterday have requested me, as chairman, to forward the accompanying memorial setting forth their grievances.

I take the liberty of assuring your Excellency that it is not possible to give any idea of the state of suffering of, at least, 1000 wretched families in these three parishes of Rattoo, Killeery, and Ballyheigue.

ENCLOSURE.

To his Excellency the Earl of Clarendon, Lord Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland.

The Memorial of the truly destitute and impoverished inhabitants of the united parishes of Ballyheigue, Killeery, and Rattoo, of the Listowel Union,

Humbly sheweth,—That in consequence of the total failure of their potato crop in the year 1846, they were unable to cultivate the small gardens which they held in the spring of 1847, which now leaves them totally destitute of any means of support.

That memorialists are informed by the relieving officers, that they are not entitled to any relief under the extended Poor Law Act if they possess over one rood of land, unless they surrender their *entire* holding.

That if this law should be strictly carried out, your unfortunate memorialists will be driven into the open air without shelter, like beasts of the field; that in addition memorialists are informed they will be called on to give *eight hours' work* in the day as an equivalent for any food they may receive, and that this is in consequence of directions received by the Board of Guardians from the Poor Law Commissioners, the relieving officer having stated on this day that he should *see us on the roads at work* before he could give us relief.

That your poor memorialists most earnestly, but humbly, entreat your Excellency to give directions that they may receive relief without being obliged to surrender their holdings, as in the event of their doing so they will be left perfectly houseless, and lose all prospect of ever being able to support themselves or their families by their honest industry; and further to direct the Poor Law Commissioners to withdraw the directions as to labour in return for food, as, in fact, from their very destitute state they are not able to work, nor could they in this inclement season with their miserable clothing stand out.

That your memorialists earnestly look forward to the approaching spring, as they hope under a paternal Government works of a remunerative character will be carried on in their localities, and by that means they may be able to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow.

That your memorialists are and ever have been peaceable and loyal subjects, and are determined to continue so, and most earnestly pray that relief may be extended to them in some form that will not oblige them to part with their miserable cabins, or oblige them to look for support by means at which they shudder, namely, the taking of their neighbours' goods.

That from your Excellency's general character, memorialists confidently expect you will give such directions, so as they may obtain relief for the present without being obliged to give up their holdings, and by that means lose all prospect of future support for their helpless families.

And memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Ballyduff Causeway, December 19, 1847.

Captain SPARK'S Observations on the foregoing.

WITH reference to the distress in those parishes, and the measures now in operation to afford relief under the Poor Law, I beg to refer to my letter of the

24th instant, containing also my observations upon the statements made by the Rev. E. M'Carthy, P.P., in his letter addressed to the Poor Law Commissioners, dated the 19th instant.

I believe the distress of many of the holders of upwards of a quarter of an acre to be as great as that of those who are occupiers of smaller allotments, and who are therefore entitled to relief, which the former are by law shut out from. The demand of eight hours' labour each day is in accordance with the Poor Law Commissioners' directions; but I see great difficulties in the way of exacting it, particularly at this season of the year. I believe a modification of this regulation to be necessary; at the same time I would most earnestly recommend that *some* degree of labour should be required, perhaps *four* hours is as much as can be expected at this season from half-clad people, on one pound of Indian meal per diem as food to sustain them.

THOMAS SPARK, *Temporary Inspector.*

December 25, 1847.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain SPARK :—*December 30, 1847.*

IN reference to your remarks as to the amount of daily labour required from each able-bodied pauper, I am to acquaint you at the present season of the year the Commissioners would not object to the period for a meal in the course of the day being included in the eight hours; but the Commissioners think that, otherwise, eight hours' work should be strictly exacted from every able-bodied man as a test of destitution.

The COMMISSIONERS to the Rev. E. M'CARTHY :—*December 31, 1847.*

ADVERTING to your letter of the 19th instant, on the subject of distress existing in certain parts of the Listowel Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have now received Captain Spark's report on your letter, and also on the memorial from the parishes of Ballyheigue, Killeery, and Rattoo, which you forwarded to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

The Commissioners are assured by Captain Spark that the measures for affording out-door relief are fully organized; and the Commissioners entertain a confident hope that these measures, in conjunction with such employment as may be given by the landed proprietors in the Listowel Union, will be found adequate to save the poor of the district from the calamities to which the present pressure of severe distress would otherwise subject them.

With reference to the two points urged in the memorial, viz., the refusal of the relief to persons occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land, and as regards the requiring a task of work from the able-bodied as a condition of their receiving relief, the Commissioners desire to observe that the law is imperative in prohibiting relief to persons holding more than a quarter of an acre of land; and as regards the requiring a task of work from the able-bodied recipients of relief, the Commissioners have given the subject their fullest and most anxious consideration, and they do not think that this test of destitution could properly be dispensed with.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain SPARK :—*December 28, 1847.*

I AM directed to forward to you the enclosed extract from minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Listowel Union, on the 16th instant, relative to the mode of employing able-bodied labourers, in order to afford them out-door relief; and in reference thereto, I am to request that you will be so good as to report whether the work professed to be given to the paupers is *bonâ fide* laborious, so as to be a test of destitution.

The Commissioners desire especially to call your attention to the resolution respecting cleaning streets. The impression of the Commissioners is, that such an occupation of paupers is likely to become a mere cloak for idleness.

ENCLOSURE.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes of the 20th December, 1847.

IN pursuance of a resolution of this Board, at their meeting on the 16th instant, authorizing the Guardians of the several electoral divisions in the Union to select the particular works on

Listowel Union. which to employ the able-bodied labourers, in order to afford them out-door relief, in accordance with the Commissioners' order, Mr. Leonard handed in the report of the Committee of Guardians of the Listowel electoral division on the works selected by them, and it was ordered that the report be inserted in full on the minutes, viz.,

Meeting of Guardians of Listowel electoral division. Works selected for paupers:—

1st. Breaking stones, public property, on the public road near Finnige, for the new road from Finnige to Billerough.

2nd. Fencing and forming that part of the Billerough road which is in the parish of Finnige.

3rd. Renewing the fencing of the new road from Kilereen to Dirrah.

4th. Scraping and clearing the streets of Listowel.

5th. Collecting and breaking stones for the Coolatoosonane road.

6th. Forming and fencing that part of the new road from Coolatoosonane to Keilbee which has only been lickspitted.

For carrying out the proposed works the following stewards were appointed, under the name of relieving officers:

Michael Maher for the Keilbee and Coolatoosonane road, at 1s. 6d. per day.

Dillane for the town and Greenville, at 1s. 6d. per diem; Patrick Carrol for Finnige, at 1s. per diem.

It is the opinion of this Committee that it will be necessary to issue food to the paupers before calling on them to work, but they must commence to work immediately after getting food; and if they refuse to work, they shall be struck off the relief lists, and shall receive no further supply of food.

Hammers are to be provided by the Board for breaking stones, and the stewards to be held responsible that none of them are lost; spades and shovels to be provided by the paupers themselves.

End of Committee's Report.

(Signed) WILLIAM SANDES, *Chairman.*

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 30, 1847.*

THE work resolved upon has been breaking stones, fencing, and other public useful work on the roads, sufficiently laborious for a test of destitution.

And with respect to cleaning streets, which refers to Listowel, I have to observe that the electoral division of Listowel is comprised principally in the town, and has a great number of able-bodied paupers to employ. The cleaning is necessary, previous to stoning. If this is made a cloak for idleness, it will be the fault of the overseers, and I shall recommend them to be dismissed.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 8, 1848.*

HAVING, through extreme illness, been obliged to absent myself from the ordinary meeting of Guardians on the 6th instant, I requested Mr. Phelan, the temporary Medical Inspector, to impress upon the Board the necessity for their complying strictly with the terms of the Commissioners' sealed order, by giving out-door relief to the able-bodied in cooked food only, and in return for eight hours labour per day from each individual.

As I am unable to report upon the proceedings of the meeting, I beg leave to be allowed to refer the Commissioners to the minutes this day transmitted, for what took place thereupon.

It will be seen that the storekeeper's assistants to the relieving officers were voted to be unnecessary beyond the next fortnight, when the pressure on the relieving officers will be less, when it is expected few cases entitled to relief will be left uninquied into, and the general store at Tarbert will be in full operation.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 12, 1848.*

THE following question and observation have been forwarded to me by Mr. Crosbie, of Ardferf Abbey, a gentleman of large landed property, who is availing himself of the Act of Parliament to improve his estates and afford employment; and I beg to request the Commissioners will be pleased to afford me their opinion.

"Whether works carried on under the Landed Property Improvement Act, 10 Vic. cap. 32, can be performed by paupers, the proprietor paying the Board of Guardians for the labour done by them?"

"A great advantage would be acquired by the employment of the paupers on beneficial and reproductive work, and thus enable the Board of Guardians to relieve their funds to a considerable extent."

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 15, 1848.*

Listowel Union.

THE Commissioners do not deem themselves justified in permitting the employment of paupers on private labour. They are of opinion that the strongest possible line should be drawn between relief and wages; it being an essential principle in any sound system of Poor Law administration, that relief and wages should be kept totally distinct, and that a destitute able-bodied man should be relieved wholly by the Union, or employed wholly by the party for whom he works.

The Commissioners are convinced that the infringement of this principle would lead to pernicious consequences; and by making employers of labour suppose that they had a pecuniary interest in introducing a system of out-door relief to able-bodied men, it would eventually entail an enormous burthen on the poor rates, which the property of the Union would be wholly unable to support.

The following additional objections to the employment of the recipients of relief on the property of private individuals may also be stated:—Firstly, such a system tends to absorb the general stock of employment, and so to bring more labourers on the poor-rates.

Secondly, It tends to lower the market value of labour, to the great injury of the self-relying labourer, since the occupier of land will not contract for the employment of pauper instead of independent labour, unless he can obtain some advantage in the rate of wages.

Thirdly, It tends to spoil the industry and habits of the labourer, who will not work with the same energy in return for relief, as when he has a bargain with a private employer to work for wages; the continuance of his employment, and the amount of his receipts depending in one case on his industry and the value of his work, and in the other case, on the necessities of himself and those dependent on him for support.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 14, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that at a meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, after the ordinary business, for which I beg to refer to the minutes, Mr. Leonard, the vice-chairman, gave notice for next Thursday of the following motions:—

First—"That the Poor Law Commissioners be requested to authorize the Guardians of this Union to administer Relief out of the workhouse, to destitute able-bodied persons for one calendar month, from the 7th of February, the day on which the existing order will expire."

Second—"That a Committee consisting of five Guardians, be appointed to inquire generally into the financial affairs of the Union, with a view to ascertaining how long the rate now in progress is likely to meet the present weekly expenditure, which exceeds 600%; and if the Committee should find from the depressed state of the Union, and the deplorable amount of destitution in which it is sunk, that it would be either impolitic or impracticable to levy a new rate equal to the emergency, then that the Committee should prepare a memorial calling on the Government to aid, as promised by the Secretary for the Home Department, in his place in Parliament."

With respect to the first intended motion, I beg to observe that it appears to me premature and uncalled for. During the course of next week, the building for the poorhouse extension will be ready to receive between three and four hundred boys and girls; and thus room will be made for so many able-bodied paupers in the workhouse.

And this test rigidly applied in accordance with the motion agreed to at the meeting on the 6th instant, will have a great tendency to reduce the amount of out-door relief, and should at any rate, be tried previously to any such motion being made as that intended by Mr. Leonard.

In reference to the second intended motion, I have to observe that there is already a Finance Committee, whose functions will enable them to embrace the inquiry contemplated. The rate of 3s. in the pound at present in collection, appears to come in very fairly, and even in sufficient amount to meet the present heavy demands. The collectors I have not failed to stimulate to exertion; they are active, willing, and able. Not one-sixth of the rate has as yet been

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expended; and, therefore, to consider at this time, of a memorial to Government for the purpose stated, appears another premature proceeding, and at present wholly uncalled for.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 18, 1848.*

IN reference to the notices of motion to be brought forward at the meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Listowel Union, on the 20th instant, in regard to the continuance of the out-door relief order, and the financial affairs of the Union, the Commissioners fully concur in the views stated by you, and they do not doubt that you will bring those views strongly before the Board of Guardians, when the questions come on for discussion. The Commissioners, however, do not propose addressing the Guardians on the subject unless the motions should be adopted by the Board, inasmuch as they regard notices of motion, as expressing only the opinion of the individual member of the Board; and as a general rule, therefore, they avoid expressing any opinion upon such notices, except under special circumstances.

Adverting to the work at present exacted from able-bodied paupers as a condition of their receiving relief, the Commissioners are particularly desirous of stating that stone-breaking should be given to as many of them as possible, in the first instance, and that any other mode of employment should be regarded as altogether secondary to stone-breaking. The advantages of stone-breaking consist in its admitting of exact measurement by task-work, and of its being less attractive than any other kind of out-door labour, which it is practicable to carry out on a large scale.

Still, even stone-breaking is very inferior to the workhouse as an effective test of destitution, and it will give great satisfaction to the Commissioners, if at the end of the month, the renewal of the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men will not be found necessary.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 21, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that at the meeting of the Guardians on the 20th instant, Mr. Leonard withdrew his motion for the further extension of the order for out-door relief. I had strongly made known my views as regards it previously; but Mr. Leonard stated that on reading over the returns of the numbers relieved under the Commissioners' sealed Order of the 7th of December, he found the same so far to exceed anything he could have an idea of that he *therefore* withdrew his motion, and would leave it to some other gentleman to propose a like motion when necessary. And as regards his second motion for appointing a committee to consider the financial condition of the Union, and thereupon to memorialize Government to aid its funds, he postponed the same, until the next meeting of the Guardians on the 27th instant.

A meeting of the Workhouse Extension Committee took place on the 19th, at which I was present, with Mr. Phelan, Poor Law Inspector. The clerk of the works reported that the premises would be perfectly ready to receive the children on Saturday, the 22nd; but on examination, it was found that the lower floors of the back buildings, comprising the dining and schoolrooms, were not in a fit state, being wet and damp. Mr. Phelan was fully of that opinion, and orders were given in consequence by the Committee that drains should be constructed around the same immediately. The Committee recommended that the boys from the workhouse should, however, be removed to be lodged for the present in the front of the buildings, the same being in good order and perfectly dry. The Committee's report was adopted by the Board of Guardians on the 20th instant; and the boys, to the amount of about 140, under the schoolmaster, will be removed on Monday next, the 24th instant, to make room for able-bodied paupers within the workhouse. During my late illness, I have been unable to look into the progress of the work, or I should have taken steps to have had the premises perfectly ready to receive the girls also by this time.

I have to report that a *replevin* has been issued by the sheriff in a case where

a horse was distrained for the poor-rate in Mr. Sandes' district, the collector, who brought the same before the Board, and who stated that if a replevin would lie, the greatest difficulty would be experienced by the collectors. He stated also that a legal opinion had been given that a replevin would not lie in a case where distraint had been made for county cess, and requested my opinion as regards this point. I am unable to offer an opinion, and I see no notice of the point in any portion of the Poor Law Act, or in my instructions. I shall be glad if the Commissioners will be pleased to afford me information on the subject. The Guardians directed that their solicitor should take the necessary steps to defend the action.

It appears that a great number of appeals were made at the late quarter sessions, against the poor-rate; but such appeals are to stand over until next sessions, that a revision of these particular cases may in the meantime be made by the Board.

It was resolved, that from the urgent necessity that exists, not only from the number of appeals which the Guardians have had to defend, but from the confusion that generally prevails throughout the Union, arising from changes of tenancy, &c., that the Commissioners be earnestly requested to appoint without delay, a fit and proper person to revise the valuation of the Union. But I beg to observe, that should a general valuation of the Union be entered upon at this time, it would seriously obstruct the collection of the present rate, as every man would be holding back under the plea of being about to appeal.

The following notice was given by Mr. Crosbie, of Ardfert Abbey, having relation to this subject:

That a memorial be adopted, and forwarded to the Poor Law Commissioners, requesting them to exercise their authority under the 18th section of the Poor Law Act, with the view of reducing the area of taxation for the purposes of that Act.

A resolution was come to, directing the clerk to forward to the Board of Works a copy of a resolution of the Board of Guardians, come to on the 24th of December last, regarding the non-issue of grants under the Land Improvement Act, and to request the Board of Works to favour the Guardians with its decision on the subject.

The business brought before the Board occupied so much time that an adjournment took place until this day, at which the ordinary business was finished; and I read the communications made on the subject of the ovens offered to be erected by the Government, to afford facilities in giving cooked food for out-door relief, which offer the Guardians thankfully accepted, and they are desirous the same may be undertaken without delay.

REPLY to the above:—*January 25, 1848.*

IN reference to your remarks regarding the withdrawal of the notice of motion for the continuance of the out-door relief order, I am to request that you will be so good as to report to the Commissioners your opinion as to the necessity of continuing the order, which expires on the 7th of February, for any, and if any what, further period beyond that date; or whether any modification of the order limiting the relief after that date, to certain classes (which you should specify in your report) would be desirable.

As regards the ovens there appears to have been some misapprehension, as the Commissioners are not aware that it is the intention of Government to erect ovens in the Listowel Union.

The Commissioners will bear your observations in mind relative to a revision of the valuation, and will address the Guardians on the subject when the resolution comes before them.

With reference to the replevin, the Commissioners desire to observe that they believe the question, whether cattle taken by distress for poor rate can be replevined, has not been decided in any court of law, and the question appears to be open to considerable doubt. The Commissioners think the Guardians have acted correctly in instructing their solicitor to defend the action; and they direct me to forward for your information, the papers which relate to the only case of this nature which has come before them, which they request you will be so good as to carefully peruse and return to this office.

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As to your observations regarding the appeals, I am to state that the Guardians cannot alter the rate; and I am to refer you to the 110th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, which provides, that notwithstanding any such appeal or notice thereof, every rate shall be payable, and shall be levied as if no appeal had been made, until such rate shall be actually quashed or amended.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 25, 1848.*

ON looking over the draft of my report dated the 21st instant, I find that I have made an observation, that "should a general re-valuation of the Union be entered upon at this time, it would seriously obstruct the collection of the present rate, as every man would be holding back under the plea of 'being about to appeal.'"

I beg leave to withdraw the observation as therein expressed. It should have been applied, and had reference, to the great number of appeals mentioned in the preceding paragraph, as the probable effect of the revision of so many cases undertaken by the Board of Guardians.

REPLY to the above:—*January 28, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have already addressed the Board of Guardians on this subject.

The Guardians could not make a revision that would affect the present rate, which can only be altered on appeal, in the manner pointed out by the 106th and subsequent sections of the Irish Poor Relief Act; and 110th section provides, that notwithstanding any appeal or notice thereof, any rate shall be payable and shall be levied as if no appeal had been made, until such rate shall be actually quashed or amended.

Mr. PHELAN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 20, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour of informing you that I have more than once gone through the several parts of the Listowel workhouse lately, accompanied by the medical officer and master, and I have to make the following report thereon.

1. The house, yards, and grounds are in a very uncleanly state; the latter, at the rear and sides, are impassable on foot, from mud and water lodged along the passages. The drainage of the land is much required. The master states that he cannot get stones to be broken by the paupers, and with which the passages could be covered; and he alleges that the work going on at the fever hospital keeps the passages in a broken state; but the same want of attention is exhibited in other parts, even within the walls.

2. The ventilation has not been improved, and is yet insufficient. I have pointed out to Captain Spark how and where it should be done, and have given him written suggestions respecting it, which he promised to have carried out.

I do not, however, believe that any injury has yet arisen from want of ventilation, as the dormitories are not overcrowded.

The inmates are moderately clean. The straw in the beds of several of the aged and infirm class was insufficient, as the master stated, from a scarcity of that article. The diet of several of this class is higher than in other workhouses, as they are on medical diet by the medical officer's order.

The proper nursing and care of infants is, I think, more or less unsatisfactory in most workhouses, particularly in the west and south. It is the same here, which I would partly attribute to the want of energy on the part of the matron, who appears to me to want the necessary qualities of mind and body to be an efficient one, although I believe well disposed, and a person of integrity. In this, as in other houses in the district, several of the infant class are unhealthy and not likely to thrive. Here they are not particularly unclean.

3. The medical officer's attendance is regular; I shall have to report specially in respect to him, I should hope, in a couple of days.

The infirmary is not in a satisfactory state; it is too much crowded, in my opinion unnecessarily so. For instance, cases of itch, scald head, and others of a chronic nature, for which room could be elsewhere made, are put there, and are mixed in it. For some time past, a house has been at the disposal of the medical

officer, into which male fever cases might be put, but he has not thought it necessary to occupy it. The male idiot portion of the workhouse also is unoccupied. I suggested that the latter be made use of for those itch or skin cases, and thereby so far thin the infirmary, so that it shall not contain more than it can safely accommodate.

Small-pox and measles have for some time prevailed in the house; the number of the former has not been considerable; the medical officer does vaccinate those who are said to require it. Small-pox will be introduced and kept up in workhouses, in consequence of the indisposition of many of the mothers of the children to have them vaccinated. And it is certain, that under certain circumstances, as when a child is in a very reduced state, or when it is much affected with itch or other skin diseases, vaccination does not succeed. Hence, the introduction of small-pox is facilitated, and the subjects for it remain unprotected.

The cases of fever, 26 in number, are in two detached farm-houses, only three are of a marked character or of a serious nature, the remainder are convalescent or only slightly febrile; most are boys and girls, who become convalescent very soon. In fact, influenza and fibracula constitute the majority of them.

4. It appears to me that the dietary is unnecessarily expensive: each pauper above two years gets 3 ozs. of rice, with more or less of Indian meal, for breakfast. I have suggested that the proportion of rice be reduced to one-fourth of the meal used; that is, to make the stirabout of three parts of Indian meal and one part of rice: as the latter is 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ per ton, the former only 9 $\frac{1}{2}$, the increased expense must be considerable. The medical diets also appeared to require some alterations, which I have suggested, and which Captain Spark promised to induce the Board of Guardians to adopt, with the concurrence, I advised, of the medical officer.

5. This officer has been in the habit of ordering medical diets for paupers not in hospital, but who are in the infirm wards and in other parts of the house, and who are apparently not ill. I have suggested that this practice be discontinued, but that the doctor be at liberty to order such diet as he considers necessary for parties not in hospital, if there be no room for them in it, until the Guardians meet, then to report the case to them, that they may be informed of his motives for ordering medical or higher diets for persons not apparently ill, or much ill, nor in hospital.

The provisions appeared to be good.

6. The discipline of the house is very imperfect: the master is very young, and has not been long in office; the matron, as I before observed, appears to be physically and mentally incapable, although I know anxious to do her duty, at least so far as her slow motions go. Both have succeeded others, under whose management the house was very badly conducted, and by whom, perhaps, the foundation for the present defective working was laid. The master, I should admit, has capacity, but I doubt that under both the house will be well managed.

7. I inspected the premises which the Board of Guardians are preparing for the reception of paupers, being accompanied by Captain Spark and a Committee of the Guardians. They are partly composed of two houses fronting the street, which are dry, and in a fit condition for dormitories. These houses will accommodate about 100; there are back premises which are yet in an unfinished state. I found the workmen boarding a room in them (intended as the girls' school-room), whilst the intervals between the joists were nearly filled with water, which exudes from the ground outside, and passes through to this room. I stated it to be my opinion that, even when boarded, this room in such a state must be unfit for the purpose, as the under moisture will render it very unwholesome; and, acting on my suggestion, the boarding was directed to be discontinued, in order that proper drainage shall be made outside the walls and through the premises, so that this moisture be got rid of. I also advised that proper dry stuff be put between the joists to render the room dry.

This part of the premises will not be ready for the accommodation of paupers for probably two or three weeks. The intention is to send the boys and girls to these premises—the latter to the front portion, the boys to the rear. But as an enormous amount of out-door relief is being given, and as no workhouse test, to a sufficient extent, is now enforced for want of accommodation, I suggested that the schoolboys and schoolmaster be immediately transferred to this front portion, so as to give room, so far, in the workhouse to apply the test. Captain Spark and the

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Committee appeared to approve of the suggestion, which they will submit to the Board of Guardians this day.

8. I understand that it is not the practice with this Board to insist on one of the heads of such families as the relieving officer enters in his Application Book, and recommends to the Guardians as fit objects for out-door relief, being brought before them to obtain such information as they may deem necessary to satisfy themselves if that officer's account be correct. I apprehend that it is impossible for these officers to visit the residences of all the applicants, and to make the necessary inquiries within the week, or at any time; and that he must, therefore, be often ignorant of their actual condition, and liable to be imposed on. The attendance of the father or mother, to be interrogated by the Board, is insisted on when practicable, and with good effect, by the Kilkenny and other Boards. In Listowel the relieving officer and the Guardian or Guardians of the electoral division are entrusted with the case. I should say that I consider the other mode a far better one. This leaves it too much in the power of the officer and local Guardians to give through favouritism, and to withhold from fit objects.

P.S.—I beg to add that fever of the ordinary kind, such as is considered to be contagious and dangerous as to its results, is not prevalent in the Union: so far as I can learn, influenza is the prevailing epidemic at present; measles have been so in the workhouse, but they are subsiding much, and not now severe.

OBSERVATIONS of Captain SPARK on the foregoing:—*January 28, 1848.*

1. I HAVE to observe that the workhouse of this Union is most disadvantageously placed, being built on boggy land; and the floors of the building, instead of being elevated above the damp soil, are so low, that most of the yards are on a level with them; in fact, some are even higher. The house is therefore always, in moist weather, in a wet and dirty state, in spite of every effort to keep it clean and dry, as are the paupers also. When Mr. Phelan, with the medical officer, visited the house at the times referred to I was sick, with the exception of his last visit, when I accompanied him. Having been severely ill for nearly three weeks, I found that during the unavoidable suspension of my visits the master and matron had grown neglectful. Both appear to want energy; but they are new in office, and I think will mend.

I can, however, state that, under measures I have taken, the discipline and management of the house are rapidly improving. Assistants to both master and matron are much needed in so large an establishment. I have induced the Board of Guardians to agree to appoint an assistant matron, and there is good economy in it.

2. The ventilation is about being accomplished as recommended; at this cold season there appears little need of it.

3. I have directed the medical officer to place immediately all cases of skin diseases in a temporary hospital—a house hired at his suggestion, and a month since ready, but which he has not thought proper, up to this time, to make use of. The spare idiot ward will be occupied by other patients, to make room in the infirmary.

4. I yesterday proposed to the Board of Guardians, a dietary I had drawn up in accordance with Mr. Phelan's suggestion, as a substitute for that at present in use, as also, (with the medical officer's concurrence,) one for *hospital* diet: both were adopted by the Board, and will cause a great saving of expense.

5. I also proposed a regulation which was adopted:—

“That no class of paupers in the body of the house be put upon medical diet without the sanction of the Board; but that in case of exigency, and until there be room in the infirmary, the medical officer shall have power to order such diet as he considers necessary until the next meeting of the Guardians, then to report the case to the Board, that they may be informed of his reasons for the same.”

This will be a great check on the irregularities of the medical officer as regards the dieting, and the great expense in his department that has been so justly complained of.

6. See observations above.—Observation 1.

7. The front premises referred to are now temporarily occupied by about 130 children (boys), who are very comfortably lodged. The drainage has been com-

pleted, and the floors of the back premises are now dry. The whole will be ready for occupation in about a week from this time.

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8. The Board of Guardians have not considered it necessary to examine personally any paupers requiring relief, but such as are provisionally sent to the workhouse by the relieving officers, as objects to be received, or who came before the Board after having received an order for the workhouse, as a test. To bring many thousands of heads of families, applicants for out-door relief, from a distance, some of them, of 20 miles, to be perhaps ultimately rejected, is a very serious thing, however justly desirable on the ground stated by Mr. Phelan. The regulations laid down for Guardians and relieving officers in the Commissioners' general order for the administration of out-door relief, do not direct this course to be followed; but if the Commissioners require it to be acted upon, I will do my utmost to enforce it.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 1, 1848.*

THE Commissioners approve generally of the steps taken by you on Mr. Phelan's report.

With reference to your remarks as to the house being disadvantageously placed, the Commissioners desire to observe, that it has been found in other cases where the workhouse officers have endeavoured on similar grounds to excuse the house and yards being in a dirty state, that the real cause of their being in that state has proceeded rather from the want of proper arrangements on the part of the master than from any natural dampness or defect in the site. The Commissioners have communicated with their architect on this subject, and they forward for your information and guidance, a copy of his observations.

The Commissioners will not raise any objections to the appointment of an assistant master, and assistant matron, especially as the house is likely now to contain a much larger proportion of the able-bodied class than formerly; but at the same time they are of opinion that, the want of energy and general efficiency in the chief officers of the establishment can never be compensated by the appointment of assistants; and they rely upon your keeping a strict watch over those officers, and specially reporting on the subject to the Commissioners, if the discipline and general management of the house does not improve.

As regards the practice of requiring the father or mother of the family to appear before the Board, when the family is recommended for out-door relief by the relieving officers, the Commissioners think, that where practicable, it should be adopted, and may be productive of advantage; but considering the size of the Listowel Union, the Commissioners are not prepared to require it as a general rule; and provided it is distinctly understood that the final adjudication on each case rests with the Board of Guardians, the Commissioners do not think that any insuperable objection can be raised to their deciding the case on information supplied by the relieving officers and by individual Guardians.

ENCLOSURE.

OBSERVATIONS on the remarks of Captain SPARK on the drainage and alleged damp state of the ground on which the Poorhouse of the Listowel Union is built:—*February 1, 1848.*

THE statement of Captain Spark, as to the damp and undrained surface of the ground around the workhouse site, is correct; but the cause is entirely different, in my opinion, to that advanced by Captain Spark. Whenever any neglect occurs, there is, unfortunately, too ready a disposition to ascribe it to any than the right cause, and any excuse is sought. So far from the site being, as would be inferred, it is placed on high table-land, within perhaps less than 100 yards of the large river Feale, on the north bank of which it is placed at a level of 30 or 40 feet over the highest flood; and moreover, a large main drain has been built to run through the site, and discharge into the river Feale. No site, therefore, can possess more favourable circumstances for rendering it a dry one. When I last saw it, the ground was, great part of it, untilld; and the surface of it here and there, from being level, was covered with shallow pools of water, which only require those general surface and land drains that the paupers are the proper persons to employ upon. The chief if not the only cause of the dampness may therefore be readily understood; and when instead of leaving some of the ground in the neglected and springy state it has been since the house was built, the master gives the paupers employment in tilling and surface-draining it, I apprehend that the site will be found free from the objections advanced against it, and in other respects a very desirable one.

GEO. WILKINSON.

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MEMORIAL from EDMOND WARE to His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT.

The Memorial of the destitute and starving poor of the town of Ballylongford in the county of Kerry.

Humbly sheweth,—

That they beg to submit for the consideration of your Excellency's kind, humane, and charitable feelings, as your distressed and indigent memorialists are in a state of actual starvation, dropping with famine, in consequence of getting no justice, nor any part of the relief meal which Her Majesty's Government was kind enough to grant unto the poor distressed people of this country; and being also deprived of any employment that may be a means of giving them an existence, your humble memorialists most sincerely implore that Her Majesty's Government may, from out of the abundance of munificent commiseration, be graciously pleased to grant unto your destitute poor and indigent people, some relief or assistance that may be a means of keeping them alive, as coffins can be scarcely purchased for the numbers that are dropping with famine and distress, for which extension of your Excellency's administration poor memorialists would ever pray.

OBSERVATIONS of Captain SPARK on the foregoing:—*February 2, 1848.*

I YESTERDAY proceeded to the town or village of Ballylongford, and made strict inquiry in reference to the statements of this memorial, signed by Edmond Ware, of the state of absolute starvation existing there, and of the great number of deaths said to be occurring daily in consequence; all which I find to be utterly untrue.

I first went to the house of the Roman Catholic priest, the Rev. Mr. D. M'Carthy, and there met that gentleman, his curate, the Rev. Mr. Mahony, and the dispensary doctor: all concurred in assuring me that the statements in this memorial, which they believed to have emanated from Edmond Ware himself, were wholly false; that the relieving officer was doing his duty carefully but well, and that the deaths in this whole district were, and had been for some time past, positively much less in number than ordinary. It appears that in the town of Ballylongford, only three or four deaths have occurred since Christmas, two only of these were poor persons, aged, and they were receiving relief, and were on the relieving officer's books when they died, and had been on the list from the commencement of that officer's services.

I had the like testimony to the entire falsehood of these statements made by Edmond Ware, from the Poor Law Guardian, Mr. Scanlon, from another Guardian, Stephen Sandes, Esq., who resides close by, and from St. John Blacker, Esq., to whom Mr. Sandes is agent, a gentleman of considerable property here, who is most praiseworthily employing the poor at this season in works of improvement on his estate. These all, and many others asserted that so far from starvation existing from want of food and employment, as is stated in the memorial, that there is difficulty found in obtaining men to work; they prefer idleness, and shun labour under any plea, in order to get the out-door relief, most of them plead sickness, and thus hope to be excused from the labour test. Many able-bodied men have been struck off the relief list of the Ballylongford division, by the Board of Guardians, for refusing the work offered, and amongst them is this Edmond Ware. He is now, and has been since that, in the employ of Mr. Blacker.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 28, 1848.*

At the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, the letter, dated 25th instant, on the subject of appeals against the poor's-rate was read. It appears that none of the numerous cases could be successfully defended by the Board. A compromise was therefore come to in Court by the Board's solicitor, on the understanding that a revision or inquiry with a view to an adjustment in these cases should take place before the next sessions, which are held in April. The letter addressed to the Commissioners by the Board, which will accompany the minutes, will give the needful explanation.

And in reply to the letter of the Commissioners of the same date, recommending the Guardians to delay the revision of the valuation of the Union, until

a greater portion of the rate be collected, and asking the Board's suggestions, it was resolved in reference thereto, "that the Board is of opinion that no delay should take place in the appointment of a revisor. That the Board and collectors already possess abundant information as to the errors of the present valuation; and the Board beg to suggest that a revision be made as extensive as possible."

A new dietary equally nourishing, but less expensive than that which has been abolished, was adopted by the Board at my recommendation, and in accordance with Mr. Phelan's suggestions; as was also a regulation to restrict the medical officer from giving high diet to paupers in the body of the house. The Board also agreed to appoint an assistant master, to aid the master whose duties and responsibilities have greatly increased since the extension of the establishment. I have noticed these matters in my observations on Mr. Phelan's Report. I beg to state here that a salary of 20*l.* per annum is to be given to the assistant master, but that 10*l.* of this will be taken from the present master, who offered to give up this sum to induce the Guardians to appoint an assistant. I consider the acceptance of this offer as unworthy of the Board, and not just to the man under the circumstances. If the duties have so increased as to require an assistant, the master's responsibilities having increased also, as stated above, it appears to me that the Guardians should themselves pay the whole salary of 20*l.* All the gentlemen of consideration present were of this opinion.

Mr. Crosbie's motion to memorialize the Commissioners to lessen the area of taxation within the Union, was then discussed at some length; and the county member, Mr. Herbert, who was present, addressed the Guardians, with the Board's consent, in favour of the views set forth in the memorial proposed, and which will be forwarded with the minutes. The principal arguments used were that the change solicited would occasion much more employment to be afforded to the mass of the population, both by farmers and landholders, who would have a stronger interest in keeping the poor off the rates; and that however much employment was given by a landlord under the existing mode of taxation, it in no sensible degree lessened his portion of the tax. Great terror appears to exist in the minds of all that the present and coming difficulties will overwhelm them. I must remark an error that appeared in the memorial. It stated that whilst the number on the books for relief at present was upwards of 21,000, that the number of *destitute* of these was 4848. These are the helpless and widows, the whole 21,000 and upwards are destitute, or are believed to be so.

On the motion of Captain Home it was resolved that application be made to the Poor Law Commissioners to extend the power of granting out-door relief to the able-bodied paupers for another month, from the date of the expiration of the last order on this subject.

With reference to this matter, I am directed by the Commissioners to report my opinion as to the necessity of continuing the order (which expires on the 7th February next) for any, and if any, for what further period beyond that date; or whether any modification of the order limiting the relief after that date to certain classes (to be specified) would be desirable.

I am of opinion that to withhold the out-door relief immediately after the 7th of February, would cause serious evils to the destitute population, at this trying season of the year, and might produce disorders and outrages in the Union which is at present in a peaceable state. It is proposed to continue it one month longer, and I see no reason to doubt the necessity for the measure being continued for that time; at that period there will be a little spring employment, more particularly if it be dry fair weather that the land may be worked; but whether sufficient to justify, even then, an entire suspension of the order I am not in a condition to offer an opinion, but I would certainly withhold it after that, and even before that date, if circumstances permit, from all single able-bodied paupers, and from such as are married having one child or perhaps two children. These classes could, I suppose, find employment from the farmers.

With reference to any present modification in the order, limiting the relief to certain classes, I beg to state, as will be inferred from my observations above, that I do not see that to any class it can *now* be dispensed with, for there has been no change of circumstances in favour of the poor and destitute, to justify the recommendation.

Listowel Union.

REPLY to the above:—*February 1, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will refer to the former correspondence, and communicate with the Guardians on the subject of the appeal cases and the revision of the valuation.

As regards the memorial on the subject of the area of taxation, the Commissioners will address the Guardians at their next meeting on the subject.

With regard to the supposed error in the memorial, the Commissioners find on reference to the copy which they have received from the clerk, that the statement is that only 4848, including their children, are returned as HELPLESS destitute.

The Commissioners will give directions for the preparation of an order, extending the period during which out-relief may be administered to the able-bodied for one month beyond the 7th instant.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 3, 1848.*

IN reference to the return called for from the clerk of the Union of the number of able-bodied persons receiving relief, of the number employed, and the nature of the employment, I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that in this return there will appear to be employed in most of the electoral divisions far less than the number of able-bodied receiving out-door relief; and one great cause of this is the want of the implements I had promised to obtain from the Board of Works, and which has prevented others being purchased by the Board of Guardians; but I have not yet received the order on the barrackmaster at Tralee, instead of the storekeeper at Listowel, as applied for in my letter of the 17th ultimo.

Every scheme is adopted by the people to avoid work; and it requires the Guardians of the districts to act with more vigour and determination to carry out the Board's directions to cut off from relief such as avoid it.

In the district of Kilmoily and Ballyheige there has been great neglect of this—the Guardian of the former division seldom attends the Board, or, it appears, to any other duty; and the relieving officer is a person who has shown himself far from competent to fulfil his duties as he ought. In the minutes of to-day's meeting of the Guardians, upon which I shall have the honour to report to-morrow, it will be seen by the Commissioners that he was justly reprimanded by the Board for misconduct. I recommended his immediate dismissal—the Board took a milder course, and determined on giving him another trial.

Numbers are excused from work on account of sickness, real or assumed, and other causes, which the clerk of the Union has directions to explain on the face of the return.

I would wish to add, that I went through a long range of country yesterday, through Gunsborough, Lisselton, Ratoo, Drumkeen, and Kiltomy electoral divisions, and everywhere saw paupers at work, but principally *fencing* the public roads; there was not so much stone-breaking as there would have been for want of hammers. I trust, therefore, the Board of Works will be again moved upon the subject of the orders on the store at Tralee, for the large quantity of implements I have demanded for the use of this Union.

REPLY to the above:—*February 9, 1848.*

IN reference to your remarks as to the want of implements for getting the able-bodied paupers to work, I am to state that the Commissioners forwarded to you on the 3rd instant the amended orders for such implements which they had received from the Board of Works. These orders probably reached you shortly after your letter was written.

In regard to the case of the relieving officer for the Kilmoily district, who you state, has shown himself far from competent to fulfil his duties, and who was reprimanded for misconduct by the Board at their last meeting, I am to request you will be so good as to report specially to the Commissioners on his case, stating fully the circumstances which induced you to recommend the Board to dismiss him, and the Commissioners will then be in a position to act officially on the case, accordingly as circumstances may require.

BALLINROBE UNION.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 30, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of a return of the children and schools in this Union, and of my letter to Count Strzelecki, the agent of the British Relief Association, relating to the feeding and clothing of the children.

ENCLOSURES.

BALLINROBE UNION. Dr. JAMES DEMPSTER, Inspector.

Places.	Children.		Accommodation for.	Remarks.
	Male.	Female.		
Claremorris	60	40	180	
Muerreen Claremorris.	36	16	..	No return as to accommodation.
Culliboe Claremorris .	27	11	..	Idem.
Garristown Robeen . .	..	54	70	Industrial.
Kilmaine	18	7	100	
Holly Mount	80	44	160	
Shrule	72	56	140	
Cong	25	27	..	School held in Roman Catholic chapel.
Cross Cong	30	27	80	
Balla Holly Mount . .	43	39	200	
Ballinrobe	40	15	60	Kept by Mr. Thomas Kenny, private teacher.
Ballinrobe	40	15	90	Ditto Mr. Williams, ditto.
Ballinrobe	21	..	60	Mr. Rooney, = classical teacher.
Carrowkeel Ross . . .	104	101	206	Average of daily attendance varies, National.
Ross Hill Ross	40	25	65	Lady Elizabeth Clements, patroness.
Cloughbrack Ross. . .	39	36	80	Private subscription.
Finny Ross	26	20	60	Ditto.
Ballindine	80	75	200	
Partry	..	..	600	Ample attendance by feeding the children.
Ballybarron	..	..		
Gortymore.	..	..		
Port Royal	..	..		
Tourmakeady, <i>alias</i> } Cappaduff	28	46	200	
Castlekerke, <i>alias</i> Doon } Ross	60	87	300	An admirably conducted school under Captain and Mrs. Blake, of Doon.
Total	869	741	2851	

JAMES DEMPSTER, M.D.

Dr. DEMPSTER to Count STRZELECKI :—*November 30, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a list of places where schools are held, in the Union of Ballinrobe, with the number of children in attendance, as also stating, as nearly as I can ascertain, the accommodation.

When explaining to the poor people the advantages their children would enjoy through the humane interposition of the British Relief Association, they were quite happy at the prospect of their being so kindly dealt by; and all stated that, whilst the children got any food, they themselves would do all in their power to earn a subsistence, however precarious or scanty, rather than go to the workhouse, or even to ask for out-door relief.

The circumstances of this Union at present are not, in my opinion, such as would allow of giving soup generally, as proposed, although it could be done in some instances; but I would venture to recommend a large proportion of bread, as the children already receiving it at Doon (the school under the superintendence of Captain Blake), in many instances come a distance of five miles daily, to obtain instruction and the ration, small as it is, and are content.

I here take the opportunity of observing that, although the National system of education is not sanctioned in the diocese, by orders of the Roman Catholic archbishop, and consequently discountenanced by the respective parish priests, yet the people themselves evince a great anxiety on the subject, and many send their children, irrespectively of this opposition, to school.

The children are almost in all cases, most wretchedly clothed, and I anticipate great benefit and comparative comfort to the poor creatures by the donation of clothes; but it will be a good plan to have all of the same materials, different, of course, for the sexes, and branded so as to prevent an improper use being made of them.

Such funds as you may consider proper to send in the first instance, I shall dispose of myself; and when I become better acquainted with the neighbourhood, I can then instruct them as I see best likely, to carry out the object in view.

Ballinrobe Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS of Ballinrobe Union to the COMMISSIONERS:—
December 13, 1847.

WE have the honour of informing you that on our arrival at Ballinrobe, on Thursday morning, we found, at least, 1000 individuals at the door of the workhouse claiming admittance, and a more wretched or desolate group it would be difficult to imagine; the rain was descending in torrents, accompanied by a fierce wind, both sufficient to destroy the whole body, if left long exposed to their influence. Fortunately some influential persons were in the Board-room, whose assistance we engaged in urging the crowd to depart to their homes, with an assurance that they should receive immediate relief, and also that every properly qualified person should be placed on the relieving officer's lists for out-door relief. It was a most harrowing exhibition, and many and great efforts were required to pacify their clamorous appeals, and persuade them to depart. Having attained this object, we proceeded to the election of the assistant relieving officers, and out of about 70 candidates whom we subjected to an individual examination, selected 14 of the most promising and best recommended. We read to them your instructions, and exhorted them to a faithful discharge of their duties, by affording information to the relieving officers, and duly and strictly superintending the constant employment of the able-bodied men under their charge; and finally, we gave to each man a book to be kept as a diary, and in which should be entered the names of the persons about to be put under their charge, and on the opposite page the work at which they employed them. We then examined the relieving officers' books, and, after a careful scrutiny, found that about 1500 was the total of those to be placed on the lists. This is a fearful beginning, and yet may be viewed as only the first symptom of the dire malady which pervades the Union. Dr. Dempster, we believe, had prevented a great number from coming from the southern electoral divisions. On our next Board day, we hope to succeed in discharging from the house most of the infirm inmates, on the usual allowance of Indian meal and a weekly stipend of about 6d. for lodging money. We have succeeded in making contracts for one month, with respectable persons, at fair market prices, for the distribution of the rations in ten electoral divisions, and expect to have contractors for the other four on next Board day. The supply of those last mentioned has been forwarded by the Ballinrobe contractor.

The appointed meeting of the creditors was held on Friday, the terms of liquidation explained, and a unanimous agreement required; and this last as a *sine quâ non* of the bargain. The parties seem satisfied, and those present agreed to sign. We left the papers with Dr. Dempster to get the signatures.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—December 16, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your communication of the 13th instant, with enclosure from Mr. Redington, herewith returned, relative to the circumstance of a man being found dead near Kilmain, in this Union, on the night of the 8th instant.

The master of the workhouse states that no application was made to him by such a person for relief, and the relieving officer also says he was not applied to; I beg to transmit his report to me.

I never heard of the master till informed by your letter, although I was at Kilmain on the 14th instant for several hours, and until I made the inquiry, as directed, no report of the second death was made.

I have desired the relieving officers in all similar cases to report to me at once, and have requested the coroner likewise to intimate same, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, which he has promised to do.

The severity of the weather for some time back, especially on the 6th, 7th, and 8th instant, was such, that I am astonished we have not had more such deaths to record in this locality.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. BINDON, Sub-Inspector, to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL:—December 8, 1847.

I TAKE care to report that I, this day, attended an inquest, held on view of the body of a man (name unknown) found dead on the side of the road at an early hour this morning, about a quarter of a mile from Kilmain, on the lands of Tawansagh.

His remains were that of a beggar about 22 years of age, and was not known to any of the people in the neighbourhood. Ballinrobe Union.

Verdict of the jury, "that deceased died from destitution and being exposed to the inclemency of the night."

Mr. CHARLES T. CARR, Relieving Officer, to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*December 16, 1847.*

WITH reference to your inquiry as to the cause of the death of a man found dead on the morning of the 8th instant, within a quarter of a mile of Kilmain, I have to state, as the relieving officer of the district, that I understand he was a beggar, proceeding from the fair of Ballinrobe to Galway, and that he died in consequence of the awful inclemency of the weather.

There was an inquest held on the 8th instant, and he was buried that night without a coffin as I have been told.

I have also to report that on Monday morning, the 13th instant, another man was found dead in a field near the road, midway between Kilmain and Shrue, at a place called Kille; there were no marks of violence on his person, and a sack of wheat was found lying near him.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 25, 1847.*

HAVING received the accompanying letter from the Rev. Mr. Phew, P.P. of Shrue, I went to Cross to inquire into the circumstances stated by the reverend gentleman, and certainly witnessed great destitution and misery. The only thing I had to do was to direct the poor creatures to attend at the relieving officer's quarters, and get placed on the lists for provisional relief; which was done.

On Thursday and yesterday, the scenes of abject want and poverty that presented at the workhouse, asking for food for themselves and families, were most distressing. The awful state of the weather added much to the suffering of the unfortunate creatures. The workhouse grounds had the appearance of a fair, such crowds were congregated, and most of the children were carried in panniers on asses, others in cars. How to meet all this wretchedness, and to see that they get what has been allotted to them honestly by the contractors, will require constant and unremitting attention on the part of every one connected with the Union. I consider it will be absolutely necessary to establish a food depôt in the vicinity of Maam for that district and the people at the Killeries; it would be impossible for them to walk to Clonbar, a distance of at least 20 Irish miles, for their allowance, especially in their present debilitated and worn-out state; but the greatest difficulty I see we have to encounter is the finding a trustworthy superintendent, for, from what I see and learn of the country, it will not be easy to do so.

I have advertised for bakers, on account of the schools to be fed from the grants from the British Relief Association, and hope next week to have some in operation.

I arranged with Mr. Lynch to withdraw his appeal against the rates, and he has left to my arbitration the settlement of the matter, which I considered much better than going to the quarter sessions, as all we require is what is legally due from the rate-payers, and I shall try to enforce what should be collected from those entitled by law to pay the rates. Having heard of this matter, I directed the relieving officer to report.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. CHARLES T. CARR, Relieving Officer, to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*December 18, 1847.*

ON Wednesday, the 15th instant, the sub-sheriff, at the instance of Lord Kilmaine, dispossessed several persons of their houses and holdings of land in the village of Ballywalter, in the electoral division of Kilmolara, and on being informed of it I took the application of as many of the people as applied to me, and they are now receiving out-door relief.

The Rev. Mr. PHEW, P.P., to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*December 17, 1847.*

I BEG to inform you, that on my way home on yesterday evening, after attending a meeting of the Vice-Guardians, held at the Ballinrobe Union workhouse, I witnessed at Cross (a little village in the electoral division of Cong) a scene more painful to my feelings than all the cases of destitution which I went yesterday to represent to the Guardians; it was, to see the destitute inhabitants of about 12 or 15 cabins in that village squatted about little fires here and there, by the side of the road, without even a screen over them, opposite the cabins they hitherto inhabited, which, indeed, presented a melancholy sight, being all that evening unroofed. *En passant*, I asked the poor things, "What has happened?" "Oh, Sir, the

Ballinrobe Union. — — sheriff has levelled our little houses, at the request of Sir Richard O'Donnell." If it were not inconvenient to you, I would be thankful to you to drive up at your earliest time to see what I have only badly portrayed. I would like to know what efforts have been made by the poor-rate collectors to collect from that gentleman something to enable the Guardians to support in the poor-house the number of families he has thrown on that institution. I also beg officially to call your attention to the destitute poor of this electoral division. I have called and waited to a very late hour in the Guardians' office, to represent the wants of my destitute poor. I have received all courtesy from you and the Guardians, for which I am grateful. I have presented lists of starving families to the Chairman, which was more the immediate duty of the relieving officer to take, and because the relieving officer having more duties to attend than he can actually attend to, having the electoral divisions of Shrulue, Kilmain, and Kilmolara. All these containing 4000 families, and perhaps more, how can one man adequately represent to the Guardians the number of destitute families in these electoral divisions? As for my part, I feel assured that it will not do. I have been for the last week, in addition to my duties as a clergyman, trying to satisfy the poor creatures by saying I would have their names put on the out-door relief list. I have taken that trouble, a pleasing one, indeed, if it had the desired effect, but after presenting that list to the Guardians, I was told it should come through the relieving officer, who can only afford to spend one or two hours on certain days in the week in Kilmain and Kilmolara, but none at all in Shrulue.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*January 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to state that it has been reported that in the Castlemagarrett district of the Ballinrobe Union houses have been levelled in the absence of the occupiers, who had proceeded to the workhouse for relief; and I am to request that you will have the goodness to inquire into the circumstances referred to, and report thereon to the Commissioners.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 3, 1848.*

I CAN, from my own observation, bear testimony to the truth of much of the contents of the annexed letter, but cannot go to the extent the reverend gentleman does as regards the landlords. In many instances the wretched creatures, after having yielded possession of their lands and cabins, have been unable for many days to procure food under the out-door relief system; and where, or how they sheltered themselves from the inclemency of the weather I cannot conceive.

I beg to suggest to the Poor Law Commissioners that it is absolutely necessary in order to save the people from perishing, that the Vice-Guardians should contribute a few pence weekly to each family similarly circumstanced as those described by the Rev. Mr. Phew, to enable them to pay for lodging—two or three pence, I understand, would be sufficient for the purpose; and also that means should be adopted by which those who are almost in a state of nudity should obtain some description of clothing: food alone will not suffice. On my way to Maam, a short time ago, a woman rushed out of a cabin on the shore of Lough Corrib, asking for charity, in a state of utter destitution; all the clothing she had on was an old red petticoat, which she had over her shoulders, and it only covered her to the middle of the thigh. I could only give her the price of a stone of meal, and ordered her case to be investigated by the relieving officer.

In an interview which I had with my Lord Oranmore on Tuesday last, he expressed his intention, wherever any tenants of his, holding more than a quarter of an acre, surrendered their holdings in order to seek Union relief, of giving them back possession of their cabins and a quarter of an acre of his land, so as they might be in a position to receive out-door relief, and at the same time have a roof to shelter them. This intention of his lordship is a humane one, and it would be well if it were adopted by other landed proprietors.

His lordship, by taking the land into his own possession, will be able to cultivate it, which the tenants are not; and in doing so will afford employment, as labourers, to those people, and, it is to be hoped, eventually relieve the Union of their support.

Persons holding as high as eight and ten acres of land have expressed their intention of surrendering their holdings, and becoming paupers: this is a sad proof of the complete loss of that independent feeling which, though never very extensive, yet was hitherto mainly instrumental in preventing this class of persons from seeking for public charity under any privation.

I much fear there is no means of relief provided for those poor persons who,

holding more than a quarter of an acre, refuse to yield possession of the cabin built thereon, it being part and parcel of the premises which they are obliged to surrender to the landlord, under the 10th section of the Irish Poor Law Extension Act, before they can become recipients of relief.

Ballinrobe Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 5, 1848.*

WITH reference to your proposal that able-bodied destitute poor who are ejected from their cabins should, in addition to rations, be allowed 2d. or 3d. per week for lodgings, and be also supplied with clothing, I am directed to state that such a proceeding would be directly contrary to the 2nd section of the Extension Act, which directs that relief shall be given in food only; and although cases of sudden and urgent necessity, referred to in another clause, are excepted, these latter cases can only be of rare occurrence and of a temporary nature, and the powers of the relieving officer to give relief would cease at the meeting of the Guardians next after so granting it; but no permanent or continuing relief to able-bodied persons out of the workhouse appears to be allowable except that given in food.

The Commissioners recommend that sheds, to be covered with thatch, should be speedily constructed on the workhouse site, but not within the yards, to afford accommodation for able-bodied persons who have not cabins, and are without relations with whom they could reside while compelled to subsist as paupers.

The Commissioners at the same time desire to observe that persons holding more than a quarter of an acre of land who actually give up possession, and are subsequently allowed by the landlord to occupy their cabins, may receive out-door relief; but great care will be necessary to prevent evasion of the law under the pretence of having surrendered the holding.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 6, 1848.*

I BEG to forward a copy of a letter which I this day addressed to the Vice-Guardians of this Union.

ENCLOSURE.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the VICE-GUARDIANS.

Ballinrobe Union.

As it will not be in my power to attend your meeting to-day, not being yet sufficiently recovered to admit of my leaving my office, I am desirous of calling your attention, through the medium of this communication, to the very unsatisfactory state of the collection of poor-rates in this Union, with a view to having the necessary steps taken under the statute, to enforce a more zealous discharge of their duties by the collectors.

I find that the last rate, amounting, with arrears of previous rate, to 14,126l. 18s. 4½d., was made so far back as the 15th day of October last, since which time, a period of nearly three months has elapsed; and within which, the entire sum lodged by the collectors, who have had their books very nigh two months, amounts to only 1118l., or about a fourteenth part of the entire sum to be collected. There ought to be at least 3000l. collected and lodged by this time; and according to the pace the collectors have been heretofore moving, it will take many months before the entire rate is collected. As the sum of 560l. per month bears only a small proportion to the expense of the Union within the same period, you will see the necessity of at once adopting stringent measures against the collectors, to oblige them to perform their duties.

Many of the landlords in the Union have been permitted by the collectors to postpone the payment of their rates, which (as the landlords have now got in almost all the rents they are likely to get this season) every day's postponement jeopardize more or less.

I beg to suggest to you the propriety of passing a resolution at your meeting to-day, authorizing proceedings against those collectors you may deem most remiss; and I will take care that such proceedings are vigorously followed up.

REPLY to the above :—*January 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners fully concur with you in thinking, that it is of the utmost importance to press forward, by all the means in the power of the Vice-Guardians, the immediate collection of the rate, and the Commissioners are very desirous that your continued attention should be directed to this point.

I am at the same time, to request that you will have the goodness to obtain

Ballinrobe Union.

from the collectors and forward to the Commissioners, a statement of the names of the several immediate lessors who are defaulters; showing the sum due by each, and the steps which have been taken to obtain payment of the rate in each case.

It will be desirable that the collectors should receive specific instructions to serve the 15 days' notice, under the second section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, in every case in which the immediate lessor is accessible to them, preparatory to their taking steps to summon the defaulters before the magistrates.

Forms for the returns are sent herewith.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 4, 1848.*

REFERRING to a former report, wherein I stated my suspicions that the meal contractors, engaged by the Vice-Guardians to supply the out-door rations to the poor people of these districts, were not honestly fulfilling their duties, I have the honour to annex, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, a report received last evening from one of the sub-relieving officers, Myles Nally, for Robeen electoral division, corroborating my suspicions; and I feel satisfied a like practice is being carried on in the other electoral divisions.

On my way to Claremorris, on the 28th ultimo, I called on Nally, and gave him instructions to weigh the meal delivered to some of the unfortunate creatures, and to let me know the result.

I think the contractor could be indicted for fraud; and I respectfully request the case may be laid before the law officers, as I should like to make an example of such persons, who rob the poor of their allowance and defraud the Union.

ENCLOSURE.

I, MYLES NALLY, assistant relieving officer for the electoral division of Robeen, do hereby certify that I weighed the meal of the following persons on Sunday, the 2nd instant, and found them to be short as follows:—

No.			lbs.	oz.
No. 3	on Relief list, Mary Giles, Carranore	short	3	8
„ 52,	entitled to 24½ lbs., Peter Grady, do.	do.	2	13
„ 61 and 62,	Mary Boyle and Pat Stanton, Shirlough, do.	do.	1	12
„ 96,	Richard Gaven, Girlough	do.	2	0
„ 73,	24½ lbs., Biddy Little, Brackford	do.	2	0
„ 68,	14 lbs., Mary Mohan, do.	do.	1	0
„ 86,	14 lbs., Mary Kerns, Carrabrine	do.	1	0
„ 74,	10½ lbs., Mary Kerns, Cloonchina	do.	1	4
„ 85,	14 lbs., Thady Golam, Cloonagh	do.	1	4

The above to be short can be proved by me and them. Given under my hand this 3rd day of January, 1848,

MYLES NALLY, A. R. O., Robeen.

Many others were also short.

M. N.

This account of matters is from instructions I gave Nally on Tuesday, 28th ult., having a strong suspicion of the integrity of the meal contractors.

January 3.

J. D.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*January 7, 1848.*

I AM to state that the contract should be terminated at once, and another made; after which the Commissioner's will be prepared to sanction proceedings under the 92nd section of the 1st and 2nd Vic., c. 56, on being more fully apprised of the evidence of fraud which can be adduced.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 10, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, relative to the collection of poor-rates in this Union, and I beg to inform the Commissioners that I shall, without loss of time, endeavour to procure from the collectors the statement which they require.

I shall not fail to instruct the collectors relative to the service forthwith of

the 15 days' notice, under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Amendment Act, in every case in which the immediate lessor is accessible to them; but I have reason to fear that there will be considerable difficulty in getting Messrs. Fair and Walsh to act, as they have expressed their intention of resigning their office. If they should be at liberty to do so, now that the difficult portion of the collectors' duties are about to commence, I fear that serious consequences will be the result, owing to the delay that would be likely to ensue in obtaining other collectors, and the consequent stoppage of the funds necessary for carrying out the provisions of the law.

It would appear from the enclosed letter which I have received from Mr. Fair, that he is not under bond, and I understand Mr. Walsh is similarly situated. Under these circumstances, I am in doubt as to the proper course to pursue on Thursday next, in the event of their declining to execute bonds, and tendering their resignations, and I respectfully request the Commissioners' instructions on that day, for my guidance.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. FAIR to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*January 8, 1848.*

MR. CARROLL has just called on me with a bond to have perfected for the collection of poor-rates.

From the reasons I stated to you on Thursday last, I believe Mr. Walsh and also myself are of opinion that we could not continue to hold the situations of poor-rate collectors, as from what has already occurred we are afraid we could not give satisfaction in the collection to the Guardians; however I will call on them on Thursday, and have this matter finally settled either one way or the other.

REPLY to the above:—*January 12, 1848.*

I AM to state that it is perfectly competent to the Guardians to decline to accept the resignation of a collector of poor-rates, and to compel him to discharge the duties of his office in accordance with the obligations of his bond.

It will be for the Vice-Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union to consider whether they will accept Mr. Fair's resignation, or require him to complete the collection according to his agreement.

As regards your apprehension as to the bonds of Messrs. Fair and Walsh, I am to state, that it appears by a letter from Mr. Leckey and the late Mr. Cary, dated the 26th November last, that at the time, there was no instance of a collector in either of the Unions under their charge, not having perfected the necessary bond.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 14, 1848.*

A THOROUGH understanding was had with Messrs. Fair and Walsh, poor-rate collectors, yesterday, which is perfectly satisfactory to all parties. Mr. Bourke was present; and I have the satisfaction of stating that, my letter has proved of benefit for (as per margin,) these two collectors have lodged to the credit of their several electoral divisions, the sum of 733*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* *this day.*

E. Divisions.			
	£.	s.	d.
Ballinrobe . . .	101	7	3½
Cong	60	1	0½
Robeen	163	10	3½
Burriscaarra . . .	110	19	0½
Mayo	68	12	7½
	506	11	0½
Mr. Walsh.			
Hollymount . . .	64	5	4
Kilmaln	133	16	4
Shrill	9	10	11½
	226	13	7½
Mr. Fair.			

The Rev. Mr. PHEW to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 8, 1848.*

I BEG to state for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that the poor starving people of this electoral division are almost neglected by the Vice-Guardians of this Union. About three or four hundred of the most destitute families of this division have crawled to Ballinrobe (a distance of 10 or 12 miles) every Friday for the last month, seeking admission to the workhouse or out-door relief. This I can certify, for I have accompanied the poor creatures thither in order to represent their wants to the Guardians; and yet, though they remained each day until night, standing in wet and cold at the workhouse door, craving for admission into the house, they have got no relief and I do now most solemnly assure you that, but for a few shillings which I used to distribute to buy bread to enable their poor families to return home, very many of them would have died by the road-side whilst returning from Ballinrobe. Six poor creatures who have been dragged to Ballinrobe in this

Ballinrobe Union.

manner, have died in this electoral division this week, and I am greatly afraid that treble that number will meet the same awful death before this day week.

I also beg to call the Commissioners' particular attention to the fact that there is no relieving officer resident in this electoral division. The gentleman, Mr. Charles T. Carr, who is the relieving officer for this division, has also upon his shoulders two other electoral divisions, viz., Kilmain and Kilmolara, and resides not in any one of the three electoral divisions, but in Ballinrobe; he is not even allowed to spend one hour in each week in this electoral division. So far from visiting the residences of the applicants for relief, not a single cabin has he visited since his appointment, save the cabin where a coroner's inquest had been held on the body of John Toole, who was found dead by the road side on his return from the Ballinrobe Union workhouse, whither he had gone on Friday, the 31st December, to seek admission to the workhouse or out-door relief, and died same night. This plainly shows the necessity of a resident relieving officer in each electoral division. Mr. Carr is not to blame; he has as much duty imposed on him as six could not adequately attend to; besides, it is no saving whatever to the Union; on the contrary, because, when the relieving officer is not resident, and goes not to visit the residences of the applicants for relief, there is no check on imposition. I have been informed that two families from the Galway Union have imposed on him, by stating they were from this electoral division, and have been rationed and received rations.

The COMMISSIONERS to the Rev. Mr. PHEW:—*January 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners beg to state, in reference to your letter of the 8th instant, already acknowledged, that a considerable number of destitute persons appears to be receiving out-door relief in the Shruil electoral division of Ballinrobe Union, as well as in the other two divisions mentioned by you as requiring attention. The Commissioners will, however, address the Poor Law Inspector of the Union in relation to the arrangements for receiving applications and dispensing relief.

OBSERVATIONS of Dr. DEMPSTER on Rev. Mr. PHEW's Letter:—
January 15, 1848.

I THINK the best refutation of the letter of the Rev Mr. Phew that I can offer to the Commissioners, is the return received from the Vice-Guardians as to the state of the out-door relief granted in the districts alluded to by the reverend gentleman, on the day complained of, and also the explanation of the relieving officer, who I can state is zealous and efficient; but I fear the Vice-Guardians must, with the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners, appoint a relieving officer for each electoral division of this Union, independently of the assistants already appointed. The duties are more than one man can attend to, and the constant imposition these officers are subjected to not only by the parties asking for relief, but by certain gentlemen who consider that, if their word or recommendation is not at once acted upon by the relieving officers and Guardians, all is wrong.

ENCLOSURES.

RETURN for the day alluded to by the Rev. Mr. PHEW.

Numbers put on out-door relief, week ending 25th December, 1847:—

Carr's District,	{ Kilmolara . . .	256 Adults,	62 Children.
	{ Kilmain, . . .	254 " . . .	58 " . . .
	{ Shruil . . .	340 " . . .	82 " . . .
		850	202

Total 1,052 adults and children.

Received from Vice-Guardians, 13th January, 1848.

Mr. CARR to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*January 13, 1848.*

Ballinrobe Union.

IN reply to your enquiry as to the state of the poor in the electoral division of Shruil, I have to inform you that, to the best of my opinion, the most pressing cases of destitution in the entire division are now relieved by being placed on the out-door relief list. The population of the Shruil electoral division appears to be by the census return of 1841, 5,087—an entirely agricultural people. Of that number there are at present receiving out-door relief 1,439, or one in every three and a half of the whole population.

I am aware that there are many more in great distress, but excluded from any relief by the 10th section of the Irish Relief Act.

I have also to inform you, that I have the names of 226 families on my Application and Report Book, which I submitted to the Vice-Guardians on the 7th instant; and on the names of the applicants being repeatedly called over, only 15 families or 69 individuals answered, all of whom were placed on the out-door relief list, and those who did not answer are marked on my book “no appearance.”

There are numbers of persons applying to me for relief, who have tendered their land to their landlords, but the landlords will not accept of it unless they give up their cabins also. Those people are thus still in possession of their land and excluded by the 10th section of the Relief Act from any relief, and my firm and unbending adherence to that section has earned for me the anger of parties from whom better ought to be expected.

Another thing, my insisting on certificates from either the landlord or his known agent, that the applicants have given up possession of their land, instead of taking their own words, has also increased their anger.

I, Sir, seek the strictest scrutiny into my conduct since my appointment, and will satisfactorily prove, that I have been unceasing in my endeavours to carry out fully the “benevolent purposes of the Irish Relief Acts,” consistently with my duty as laid down by the general order of 1847 (2nd August).

I certainly have not visited the houses of all the applicants, though I have of some, and for this reason, that it was utterly impossible to do so up to the present, unless I allowed, I solemnly believe, hundreds to die of starvation, the numbers in immediate and pressing want being so very great; but the pressure being now greatly abated, I am enabled to visit the houses, and have since Monday last strictly visited the house of every applicant, and the houses of those paupers already receiving out-door relief and living in the neighbourhood in which I went, and am thus revising the relief list.

I also beg leave to inform you of the manner in which my time is occupied. On Monday, I am in Shruil receiving applications for relief; on Tuesday, in Kilmain; on Wednesday, in Kilmolara for the same purpose; on Thursday and Friday in the Board-room in attendance on the Vice-Guardians; on Saturday, in the Clerk of the Union's office, registering the names of those placed on the out-door relief list; on Sunday, making up my accounts and writing tickets to give out the rations for the three following days.

REPLY to the above:—*January 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners state that they will be prepared to sanction the appointment of as many additional relieving officers as you and the Vice-Guardians of Ballinrobe Union consider necessary.

The Commissioners, however, request that each officer now or hereafter to be appointed, may be assigned the sole charge of a district for which he will be accountable; and should it be necessary to appoint two for any electoral division during the pressure of distress, a defined district must still be assigned to each officer.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 13, 1848.*

ENCLOSED I beg to forward two returns of defaulting rate-payers handed to me by Mr. Brannick, rate-collector for Ballindine and Claremorris. From his activity, I am certain a considerable sum of money will be lodged to the credit of the Union within one month.

He requires some notices—six days—to serve on persons in his neighbourhood.

This day he lodged to the credit of the Union 256*l.*, as per margin.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. BRANNICK to Mr. DEMPSTER:—*January 13, 1848.*

I BEG leave to inform you that I have just lodged 256*l.* with the treasurer of the Ballinrobe Union, and that I have promises from persons to pay their rates within the next fortnight that I have no doubt of. I also have furnished the Vice-Guardians with returns of those who I fear must be sued in the higher courts.

E. Division.	
Ballindine .	£173
Claremorris .	83
	£256

372 PAPERS RELATING TO THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS,

Ballinrobe Union.

BALLINDALE ELECTORAL DIVISION.

RETURN of POOR RATE uncollected, made by Mr. PETER BRANNICK, Collector for the above Division, this 13th day of January, 1848.

No. in Rate-book.	Street or Place, or Name of Property Rated.	Person from whom the Rate is due.	Amount of Rate due.			Observations as to Cause of Non-collection, &c.
			Due for last Rate made.	Arrears of previous Rate due.	Total.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
272 250 112	Woodstock Carrow or Lawface	Michael P. Browne, Esq.	30 8 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	30 8 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	I have forwarded his account to his residence in Galway, and as yet have not received his answer.
320 354 907	Bobyhoy Waste holding Crumlin	Jas. S. Lambert, Esq.	36 17 8	..	36 17 8	
	Kelvin	D. W. Rutledge, Esq.	41 19 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	41 19 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	I have forwarded his account to Dublin to him, and have no doubt but he will pay without trouble.
		Total	..	..	109 5 8	I am unable to give a correct account of the arrears due, as the former Rate Collector gave several receipts and did not give credit for them in his books.

PETER BRANNICK, Collector.

CLAREMORRIS ELECTORAL DIVISION.

RETURN of POOR RATE uncollected, made by Mr. PETER BRANNICK, Collector for the above Division, this 13th day of January, 1848.

No. in Rate-book.	Street or Place, or Name of Property Rated.	Person from whom the Rate is due.	Amount of Rate due.			Observations as to Cause of Non-collection, &c.
			Due for last Rate made.	Arrears of previous Rate due.	Total.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
44 545 568 591 302 316 507 913 920 939	Monsen, North Man, Upper . . Man, Lower Man, Middle Cloonmoore, Lower Curraun Cullitor Ballimphal Ballybrackney, South. Townsethard	Isadore Burke, Esq.	..	..	..	I have written to Mr. Burke to his residence in Dublin, and received an answer that he was not liable for all the rate. I am led to understand that his contract with the tenants on his property was to pay all rates and taxes. I understand he is now in the country, and will wait upon him without delay.
272 250 112	LEVIN'S.		184 13 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 14 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	245 8 1	
1143 26 907 813 698 38 638	Clare Ballinamahon Drummin, South Kilbeg Lisduff Roorkeybeg Gorthgoure . .	James Browne, Esq., Royal Hotel, Kings- town.	134 8 5	..	134 8 5	I have had several interviews with Mr. Browne's Agent, and have written to him also. I do not see any chance of recovering rates off his property except by taking law proceedings in the Courts in Dublin. There are other ratepayers in this division who will pay within one month.
		Total	..	..	379 16 6	

PETER BRANNICK, Collector.

REPLY to the above:—January 18, 1848.

I AM to return herewith the list of rate-payers, who are defaulters in the Ballindine and Claremorris electoral divisions of the Ballinrobe Union, and

I am to request that you will lay the list before the Vice-Guardians at their next meeting, in order that the collector may receive directions to proceed to enforce payment of the rate from the parties who may not yet have paid.

Ballinrobe Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER :—*January 14, 1848.*

I AM directed to forward to you herewith a communication which they have received from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a poor man named P. Maguire, who is stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body to have died from cold and starvation; and I am to request that you will have the goodness to make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners the facts of the case; and especially as to the cause of the deceased leaving the workhouse, and whether he made application for out-door relief either to the Vice-Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union, or to any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

*County of Galway, W. R.,
Headford, January 5, 1848.*

A WANDERING beggar, who left Ballinrobe Union workhouse, named P. Maguire, died on the 3rd instant in a shed. Copy of verdict—"We find that the deceased came to his death from cold and starvation."

*The Inspector-General,
&c. &c.*

GEO. WRIGHT, 2nd Sub-Inspector.

REPLY to the above :—*January 15, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 14th instant, with the communication received from the Under Secretary's office relating to the decease of a poor man named P. Maguire at Headford, county Galway. I beg to forward the report of the clerk of this Union on the subject for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, by which it will be seen that no man of the name left the Ballinrobe workhouse, as stated to the Inspector-General of Constabulary; nor did he make any application at the workhouse, or to any of the relieving officers for out-door relief.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. CARROLL, Clerk of Ballinrobe Union, to Dr. DEMPSTER :—*January 15, 1848.*

IN answer to your inquiry relative to P. Maguire, on whom the inquest was held at Headford, in the county of Galway, I beg to state that I examined the workhouse register very carefully, and could find no person of the name of Maguire on the book except a Martin Maguire, who died in the workhouse on the 31st October, 1847. I am perfectly convinced that the person on whom the inquest was held was never an inmate of the Ballinrobe workhouse.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER :—*January 21, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith a copy of a communication which they have received from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a man named Martin Bourke, who is stated by the jury, on the inquest held on his body, to have died from starvation; and I am to request that you will have the goodness to make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief, either to the Vice-Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

5/43. *County of Clare.*

*Ennistymon and Ballinrobe Unions,
Ballyvaughan, January 14, 1848.*

MARY GLEESON, and her daughter, aged 16, were begging about six weeks ago in the parish of Kilcorney, and being in a sickly state were refused lodging, and had to remain

Ballinrobe Union. behind a wall; the relieving officer took them to the fever hospital; but not being in fever they were not admitted. The mother died on the 9th instant, and the daughter has been taken into a house and receives out-door relief. The coroner does not think it necessary to hold an inquest.

ROBERT ROSS, 2nd Head Const.

The Inspector-General,
&c. &c.

21/24, County of Mayo.

Ballinrobe, January 13, 1848.

AN inquest was held this day on the body of Martin Bourke, found dead on Tuesday in a pool of water.

Copy of Verdict.

THAT deceased, from being too feeble and exhausted from hunger, fell into the pool and was drowned.

JOHN R. BINDON, Sub. Insp. 1st Class.

The Inspector-General,
&c. &c.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 22, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to return, by desire of the Vice-Guardians, the copy of a verdict of a jury on the body of a man, named "Martin Burke," who was found dead in a pool of water at Kilmain, in this Union, with the report of the relieving officer for that electoral division, also that of the master of the workhouse, and likewise of the clerk of the Union.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. CARR, Relieving Officer, to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*January 22, 1848.*

I BEG leave to state in answer to your inquiry, that Martin Burke, upon whose body an inquest was held near Kilmain, never applied to me for relief.

Mr KILGARRY, Acting-Master Ballinrobe Union Workhouse, to Dr. DEMPSTER:—
January 22, 1848.

No person of the name of Martin Burke applied at the workhouse for relief.

UNDER directions of the Vice-Guardians, I have examined the House Application and Report Book from 18th November to the 14th of January, and cannot find the name of Martin Burke on it, as having made any application for admittance.

M. W. CARROLL, Clerk of Ballinrobe Union.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 24, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, a return of the number of persons on out-door relief on the 21st instant, and regret to state that on next Board-day, the number will be greatly increased. The destitution and misery we daily witness is frightful, and I can see no limitation to it.

It is truly lamentable to observe, that there is little or no preparation for spring sowing, no tillage going on; in fact, no out-door work whatsoever, of course I mean among the smaller classes of farmers. All industry is at an end, and if some remedial measures are not speedily adopted, there will be almost no corn in this Union next harvest. All is waste; the people have no seed, and if they had, I fear there is little inclination on their parts to labour; every one running to the relieving officers to be placed on the books.

How to cover the enormous expense of this Union is to me a source of great anxiety. Although the rate collectors are now exerting themselves, yet there are great difficulties in consequence of the deeply embarrassed state of almost every landed proprietor here.

The rate collectors having applied to me last week, for protection in the discharge of their duties; I had the necessary affidavits prepared, but owing to the absence, on leave, of the resident magistrate, the collectors could not get them sworn; however, at Petty Sessions here this day, I trust the preliminary steps will be perfected, and thus enable us to proceed with vigour in the col-

I am to request that you will be good as to furnish the Commissioners with a detailed report, as to the arrangements for the employment of paupers receiving out-door relief in the Ballinrobe Union; with a statement of the numbers so employed, the amount of labour exacted from each, the rate of remuneration to each, and the kind of work (if any) in addition to stone-breaking, on which such paupers are employed.

Ballinrobe Union.

In consequence of having been very severely attacked with the prevailing epidemic, I was unable for the last three weeks to leave my office; but I now purpose to make a tour of observation through the Union, of the result of which I shall have the honour to communicate to the Commissioners.

ENCLOSURE.

NUMBER of PERSONS receiving Out-door Relief, January, 1848.

Electoral Division.	15th January.	21st January.	Total.	Remarks.
Ballinrobe	1,745	429	2,174	Exactly half the population.
Partry	837	80	917	
Ross	1,287	256	1,543	
Ballagholla	142	22	164	
Mayo	1,126	174	1,300	
Burriscarra	560	54	614	
Cong	3,800	261	4,061	
Kilmain	1,314	403	1,717	
Shruil	1,801	390	2,191	
Kilmolara	781	50	831	
Hollymount	1,540	366	1,906	
Claremorris	2,182	530	2,712	
Ballindine	1,220	712	1,932	
Robeen	1,313	44	1,357	
			23,419	

23,419 on Out-door Relief 21st January, 1848.

JAMES DEMPSTER, M.D.

REPLY to the above:—*January 26, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will be good as to furnish the Commissioners with a detailed report, as to the arrangements for the employment of paupers receiving out-door relief in the Ballinrobe Union; with a statement of the numbers so employed, the amount of labour exacted from each, the rate of remuneration to each, and the kind of work (if any) in addition to stone-breaking, on which such paupers are employed.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 24, 1848.*

SOME of the rate collectors have made distresses of cattle and sheep, for the poor-rates, belonging to gentlemen in this neighbourhood. The sale day has been adjourned by consent till 2nd proximo, to give time to make up the money. However, in event of the sale going on, which is not improbable, I fear no purchasers will come forward; in such a case, I beg to be informed what steps should be adopted to prevent the auction, viz., a mockery, which would damage the collection of the rates for the future. Two or three determined examples will much facilitate the collection; as an impression had gone abroad that the Government would forgive all the demands.

REPLY to the above:—*January 26, 1848.*

I AM to state that, failing other purchasers for the cattle distrained for non-payment of poor-rate, you might make application to the Commissariat officer to become a purchaser, or one of the Union officers might be requested to purchase the cattle.

The attention of the Government will be drawn to your communication.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 24, 1848.*

WE take the liberty of drawing your attention to the near approach of the time when your allowance for out-door relief in the Ballinrobe Union will expire, namely, the 2nd of February next; and as you will have been informed by the

Ballinrobe Union.

minutes of proceedings of our Board there on the 20th and 21st instant, of the numbers we have placed on the out-door relief lists up to this last date in the several electoral divisions of the Union, in addition to 800 pauper inmates in the workhouse, you will be able to arrive at a proper conclusion as to the propriety of continuing your sanction for a further defined period.

It may not be amiss at this time to point to the fact, that since the 2nd of December, the date of your sealed order sanctioning out-door relief to others than those recognised by the 1st section of the Extension Act, we have placed on the register 23,419 individuals, which, with the inmates of the workhouse, amount to about one in every $3\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole population of the Union; and taking into consideration the extraordinary sub-division of land in the county of Mayo, these numbers must afford satisfactory evidence that the great bulk of the properly qualified persons, consistent with the provisions of the 10th section of the said Act, have been provided for; doubtless under the great pressure in which we have been involved, and with a staff scarcely sufficient for the occasion, the relieving officers may have admitted on their books families which were not legally entitled to relief, and also that some who were qualified have been unintentionally passed over; yet still, with all allowances for cases of this nature, it is surprising to witness the crowds of applicants, which continue to assail the workhouse on Board-days, and press their claims with the greatest importunity, and the greater number of whom nothing but the intelligence and trustworthiness of the relieving officers would have enabled us to reject.

We think the time has arrived when we are called upon to make you more particularly acquainted with the position in which we stand with respect to funds. We take the liberty of reminding you, that the uniform rate of 3s. in the pound over the whole Union, which we adopted, was only estimated to meet the current expenditure of the workhouse when full, the salaries of officers, the liquidation of the outstanding debts of the Union, and any surplus to be applied to the discharge of the advances from the Treasury. With reference to the outstanding debts, on contemplating the expected difficulties of a renewed visitation of destitution, and the consequent calls upon all the resources of the Union, we were induced to request a meeting of the creditors, and detailing to them the state and prospects of the funds, to claim their forbearance, and their acceptance of an instalment of 50 per cent. out of the present rate, and the payment of the remainder out of the next succeeding rate, the payments to commence on the 1st of the present month. In justice to the parties, we feel bound to admit, that this offer was generally and freely accepted; but hitherto we have been unable to fulfil our part of the engagement, as all the surplus means which have come into our hands, after the current expenses of the Union and the discharge of a few of the old debts, have been absorbed by the large and increasing expenditure for the out-door relief, at present amounting to 533*l.* for the week. This outlay we have been hitherto enabled to sustain; but we scarcely expect, with all the urgency we can reasonably bring to bear on our collectors, that the next week's receipts will continue as in the same independent position towards our contractors, and all the time we suffer from the importunate demands of the creditors which we cannot meet, or hold out any hope of discharging, while the funds are exhausted by our present great and unthought of outlay, and which did it even stand alone, could not much longer be provided for.

As therefore the present limit for out-door relief in the Union rapidly approaches, and the contracts we have entered into with the merchants will simultaneously terminate, we deem it right to place the circumstances of our position before you, in order that you may advise us on the most fitting course to pursue.

REPLY to the above:—*January 27, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have made application to Count Strzelecki for an advance of 300*l.*, to enable you to continue the relief afforded to the destitute poor in the Union.

The Commissioners regret to find, that so much of the rate remains uncollected in the Union, and they request that they may be informed whether you are able to certify that the ratepayers of the Union will not be able to meet their liabilities, and that they are making such exertion as can reasonably be expected from them.

The Commissioners also request that you will be so good as to report specially on the following points:—

1st. What is the sum total of the poor rates paid in Ballinrobe Union since you were appointed, and to how many shillings in the pound on the net annual value does it amount?—

2ndly. What is the obstacle to the rate being collected? Is it that there is negligence or dishonesty in collectors or rate-payers?

Is it that the crops have failed? Are the means of the proprietors and occupiers exhausted or likely soon to be exhausted, and if so, how is this proved?

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 29, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that the rate collectors have lodged to the credit of the respective electoral divisions the sums as per margin this week, and are actively engaged in the collection.

Having maturely reflected on the state of the valuation of this Union, I considered it my duty to address a letter to the Vice-Guardians on the subject, and respectfully submit a copy.

I trust the Commissioners will concur in my view.

ENCLOSURE.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*January 27, 1848.*

I BEG to call your attention to the necessity that exists for having an immediate and complete revision of the valuation of this Union effected.

Owing to the number of persons who have surrendered their holdings in order to be placed on the relief lists, as well as the number that have lost them from various other causes, or parted with them since the last revision of this Union, it would be unjust to all parties to strike another rate upon the existing valuation; as the appeals against such rate by parties improperly rated would be endless, and would involve the Union in very considerable law expenses.

As it is probable that it will be necessary (in order to meet the expenses of the Union) to make another rate in a couple of months hence, I am desirous of bringing this question of a revision before you now, in order that we may have a perfect valuation when the time arrives for the making of such new rate; and not to be then obliged to postpone the striking for some months, until the revision shall be completed.

I beg therefore to suggest to you the propriety of having advertisements inserted in the local papers, inviting tenders from competent persons to revise the entire Union; the tender to state the sum for which the business will be performed, and which sum is to include all expenses consequent upon the revision, and also to state the time required for its due performance.

REPLY to the above :—*February 2, 1848.*

THE Commissioners approve of the communication which you addressed to the Vice-Guardians on the subject of a revision of the valuation of the Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 31, 1848.*

IN reply to the first paragraph of your letter of the 27th inst., we have to state, that the Temporary Poor Law Inspector handed us orders on the Commissariat store at Ballinrobe for the very seasonable supply of 300*l.* worth of Indian meal, which we have applied to the relief of the destitute poor in the Union.

To the second subject upon which you desire information, we beg to say, that although many rate-payers may be unable to meet their liabilities, yet we have good reason to expect that the far greater portion of the still uncollected rate will be paid in.

In answer to the other queries upon which you call for a special report, we have to inform you, that the sum of 3350*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* is the total amount paid in to the treasurer of the Union since our appointment, being about 9½*d.* in the pound on the net annual value; secondly, we do not think that there is either negligence or dishonesty on the part of our collectors. On the contrary, they show every diligence, and appear determined to compel payment by distress under the pro-

Mr. Walsh:—
 Burrisearra £69 9 4½
 Rabeen . . 6 12 7
 Mayo . . 12 5 6½
 Partry . . 83 9 10½
 Ballinrobe . 21 11 5
 Cong . . 8 12 5
 Kilmolara . 19 6 11

£223 3 6

Mr. Brannick:—
 Claranorris £46 6 11½
 Ballindine . 71 3 3½

£117 10 3

Mr. Fair:—
 Kilmolin . £85 13 4

£426 7 1

Ballinrobe Union.

tection of the civil authorities, if necessary; yet, with every exertion that we can fairly expect from them, we regret to say the rates are coming in slowly, which arises, we believe, from the general inability of the rate-payers, and the opposition the collectors occasionally meet with; but we cannot ascribe dishonesty either to the majority of the proprietors or respectable rate-payers of the Union. An instance of the rescue of sheep seized for the non-payment of rate, was reported to us on Thursday last, and we directed the collector to lodge an information before a magistrate, and have the parties made amenable to the law.

We cannot report any failure of the crops beyond a very partial loss of potatoes, of which, however, a very small breadth was sown this season. The corn crops, as far as came under our observation, were extensive and luxuriant; but, owing to negligence on the part of the owners, great losses must have been sustained by the ravages of storms and inclemency of weather.

We believe many of the landed proprietors find much difficulty in meeting their engagements, owing to the non-payment of rents; but we do not feel justified in stating that their means, or those of the extensive occupiers, are exhausted. With respect to smaller occupiers, of which there is a numerous class, we know that a very large proportion of them is not only totally unable to pay their rate, but that a great number of them is at present either on the register as destitute poor receiving relief, having surrendered their holdings, and been permitted by their landlords to re-occupy their houses as caretakers or lodgers, or have been admitted to the workhouse as paupers, having totally abandoned them.

Upon a full consideration of the general condition of the people of the Union, and the wide-spread destitution which prevails over its almost entire extent, the consequences of which are felt by every class in society, we feel satisfied that we have come to a just conclusion in stating that it will require some forbearance to arrive at a successful collection of the residue of the rates; and whilst we will not relax in our efforts to attain this very desirable end, we would strongly recommend that a reasonable moderation be observed in the matter. The adoption of a more urgent and peremptory management, certainly productive of much exasperation and probable destruction of many now struggling with their difficulties, and who might eventually surmount them, would only gain an end which a more considerate course would as surely and more creditably accomplish. We would not, however, have you infer that we have suggested or permitted any temporizing on the part of the collectors; but we are aware that some individuals have asked them for as much forbearance as their duty would allow.

REPLY to the above:—*February 2, 1848.*

In reply to your observations with regard to the collection of the arrears of rate in this Union, I am directed to state, that the Commissioners are unwilling to urge you to do anything which is unnecessarily harsh; but the Commissioners are bound to state, that they are unable to concur with you in the course to be adopted towards the defaulting rate-payers of the Ballinrobe Union; and the Commissioners recommend that stringent measures should be resorted to, in order to compel payment of the rates with the least possible delay.

At the same time, the Commissioners will transmit a further sum of 200*l.* to you from the British Association.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 1, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a letter from Mr. Brannick, poor-rate collector for the electoral divisions of Claremorris and Ballindine, for the information of the Commissioners, requesting that the Commissariat may be directed to become purchasers of farm produce seized by him for rates.

From the circumstances of *this* case, a safe must be had as an example in that part of the Union; I therefore respectfully request instructions, being determined by every exertion in our power to get in the rates.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. BRANNICK to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*January 29, 1848.*

I beg leave to inform you that I attended this day to sell by auction farm produce on

the lands of Lawan, seized by me, for poor-rates. There being no purchasers obliged me to postpone the sale to Tuesday, the 1st of February next. May I take the liberty of suggesting to you the necessity of the Commissary being in attendance to purchase on that day, as his doing so will produce the most beneficial results in the collection of the rates hereafter.

N.B.—The distress consists of hay and corn in stack. Amount of rate due, 21*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*

Arranged to postpone till Monday, 7th February.

J. D.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 4, 1848.*

I AM to state, for your information, that the Commissioners have reason to know that a communication on the subject of your letter has been made to the resident magistrate, and they do not anticipate that you will find any further difficulty in the matter.

The Commissioners concur with you in thinking it of great importance that the payment of the rates should be effected as speedily as possible, by every means at the disposal of the collectors and the Vice-Guardians.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 5, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, who came here on a tour of inspection, having reported to me a case of very great apparent hardship which he was witness to "*en route*" from Maam—that of a man being compelled to level his cabin, and in fact, from the man's story to him, set fire to it, before a surrender of his land would be accepted by his landlord, and thus become eligible for out-door relief—I proceeded to the district to ascertain the facts.

The man's name is Patrick Philton. He and his family had been receiving provisional relief; but when it was investigated by the Guardians, that he was holding more land than is allowed by the Act, he was struck off. He lived on the lands of Doughty, belonging to Sir Richard O'Donnell; but held the cabin and acre of land he occupied from a co-partnership of tenants, to whom he would pay no rent for several years; and being withal a very bad character, living by plundering his neighbours, they compelled him to leave the neighbourhood, and gave him the timbers of the cabin, which he was removing at the moment Mr. Dobree was passing, and to whom he told his *own tale*. I saw the relieving officer of the district of Cong, and had his name placed on the list for relief. This man is the husband of the woman mentioned by me in my report 1st January, whom I saw almost in a state of nudity on the road; and I have since learned she was in the constant practice of so doing when strangers passed, to extort charity.

From the great distances some of the poor people of Joyce's country have to come to get the rations of meal, in many instances 15 miles, Mr. Dobree and I agreed to recommend that the police station at Maam might be sanctioned as a dépôt, and the constable in charge should be appointed distributor, for I can find no person in that part of the country to whom I would entrust the provisions. Constable Flynn was so employed under the Relief Act last year, and gave great satisfaction to all concerned.

I beg to state that a further adjournment of the sale of stock was granted at the earnest solicitation of the owners; and as I am anxious, if possible, to prevent public exposure, I concurred with the rate collectors as to granting the time asked for, they having proper security for the forthcoming of the stock, or to pay the money *themselves*.

In the electoral division of Mayo, Mr. Walsh and his assistants were deforced and rescued on the 3rd instant. Informations were this day taken by the resident magistrate at the Petty Sessions of Hollymount, and the necessary steps have been taken to bring the parties to justice.

The amount of rates lodged for the week is as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Higgins	25	2	0
Mr. Walsh (and 60 <i>l.</i> too late for treasurer)	148	1	9
Mr. Brannick	54	6	10
	227	10	7

A very inconsiderable amount when the number on Relief List is taken into consideration. I beg to annex a return of the out-door relief to this date.

3 C 2

Ballinrobe Union.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of an order for 200*l.* worth of provisions from the British Relief Association, and which I handed to the Vice-Guardians for their disposal.

ENCLOSURE.

RETURN of PERSONS on Out-door Relief, February 4, 1848.

Electoral Divisions.	January 21.	February 4.
Ballinrobe	2,174	2,718
Partry	917	1,051
Ross	1,543	1,674
Ballagholla	164	171
Mayo	1,300	1,472
Burriscarra	614	656
Cong	4,061	4,416
Kilmain	1,717	2,026
Shruil	2,191	2,422
Kilmolara	831	1,072
Hollymount	1,906	2,143
Claremorris	2,712	3,436
Ballindine	1,932	2,843
Robeen	1,857	1,448
Total	23,419	27,548
Increase	4,129	

JAMES DEMPSTER, M.D.

REPLY to the above :—*February 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your weekly report to the 5th instant, in which you refer to a further adjournment of a sale of stock, at the request of the owners, of which you approved, from a desire to prevent public exposure, and as the collectors had taken proper security.

The Commissioners presume that this adjourned sale has been the cause of the release of stock impounded, of which the Vice-Guardians complain in a report of the 7th instant, this day referred for your observations.

The Commissioners are not at present prepared to say that arrangements of this kind should not be sanctioned under any circumstances, where the parties owing rate hold back until seizures are actually made. The expediency of sanctioning the collectors giving up seizures, without actual payment of the rates due, is however very questionable; and the Commissioners consider that in such cases the collectors should be left to act solely on their own responsibility. They also think that looking to the difficulty of collecting the rates, and the necessity of making examples, as well as of dealing equally with all classes, no compromise should be assented to from a desire to avoid exposure of the defaulters.

KILRUSH UNION.

Kilrush Union.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 25, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Kilrush Board of Guardians yesterday, and have the honour to refer you to the minutes forwarded by the clerk, for their proceedings.

There was a serious press of applicants (many of them removed from want), owing to some popular misapprehension about out-door relief. An offer of the workhouse dispersed them. There were several notoriously bad and turbulent characters among the crowd, whom I observed counselling and inciting the others to clamour for out-door relief and public works.

I have not in any part of the country seen so great a repugnance to enter the workhouse; and the great majority of those who avail themselves of it are evidently in an advanced stage of starvation.

There has been a general scrutiny of the house during the week, when upwards of 100 of classes 1 and 3 were selected to go out; the greater number expressed their willingness to do so, on receiving the amount of food prescribed by the late Relief Act weekly. I found several persons who should never have gained admission, wives of men earning a livelihood, &c.; the Guardians have, at my suggestion, directed the husbands to be made amenable to the law.

The house has improved during the week, in general cleanliness and discipline, and an increased number of men and boys put to work. The assistant master and matron are zealous and efficient; but the master is undoubtedly wanting in many essential requisites for such a calling.

The school is undoubtedly neglected—a mere farce. The master utterly unfit for that or any other calling; attending his school is a pure waste of time. I propose bringing the matter under the notice of the Guardians.

Premises have been taken for a temporary fever hospital, and the patients will be removed from the workhouse in a few days; there is however delay and difficulty in carrying out any detail for want of ready money.

When the fever patients are removed, I calculate upon accommodation for 1200 in the house during the winter season.

The Kilrush workhouse labours under great disadvantages from the obvious want of hospital accommodation in so large a district; the house is, in consequence, to a great extent converted into an infirmary for chronic cases, which ought to be provided for and treated elsewhere. The county hospital adjoining the workhouse, should be given up to the Guardians or enlarged by the county. Its present accommodation is altogether insufficient at any time.

I have visited and walked through a large portion of the Union during the week. The general destitution is undoubted, and the people patient under their privations. Their usually wretched state of living accounts for this apparent apathy. I have gone from house to house, where I was quite unknown, and judged from personal observation.

The north and west of the Union, including the divisions of Kilmurry, Kilmacduane, Killard, Kilkee, and a part of Moyarta, are in a most lamentable state. The parts on the coast are most densely populated, with a turf-digging, seaweed-gathering, fish-catching, amphibious population; as bad fishermen as they are agriculturists. They have no regular mode of gaining a livelihood. They are inert, improvident, and utterly without foresight. Lavish and constant expenditure may keep them from starvation, but it will require years of good management and well-devised measures to make them independent or self-supporting. A few acres of reclaimed bog planted with potatoes has heretofore supplied their wants, and rendered them content on the lowest possible scale of existence. While westerly gales prevail during the winter, large numbers eke out a wretched existence gathering seaweed, which they carry and sell further inland for manure.

The villages of Mullagh, Doonbeg, Bealaha, and Kilkee, are wretched nests of filth, famine, and disease; Carrigaholt and Burrin no better; Kilmekil division is also very miserable, without a single resident who has sufficient means to expend 5% in employment.

Kilrush Union.

The district seems swept of food. The small farmers are realizing their produce, which they are afraid to keep.

In the district I have remarked upon, I believe one-third of the population will be utterly without food at Christmas, two-thirds starving before February, and the whole devoid of food or money before May.

I cannot doubt that all holding over 10 acres (though a small class) are much better off than they appear or are willing to admit. I have no fears for them. In many cases they have withheld both rent and produce from the landlord; living in a state of unwholesome expectancy of some great social or political change.

They are, however, ploughing and preparing their land at this early period, intending, I presume, to pay their rent, where they cannot help it.

That many of the properties in this district, are grossly mismanaged and shamelessly neglected cannot be denied; yet there are several cheering exceptions which strike the most casual observers.

An immense number of small landholders are under ejectment, or notice to quit, even where the rents have been paid up.

The universal and minute subdivision of land may have rendered this a matter of necessity and good policy, but its immediate effect cannot fail to prove most disastrous, a great majority being determined to overhold if they can, and are in the mean time deterred from doing anything to the land.

Such wholesale proceedings must, I fear, also affect the peace of the district.

I have been successful in impressing a better spirit among the rate-collectors, assuring them of countenance and support; and I am happy to say the collection goes on satisfactorily.

Intimidation paralyses all from high to low; and to such an extent, that I feel confident had local and constant support been much longer deferred in this Union, collectors would not have dared to act, nor the Guardians force them to do so. Many who refused to pay their rates before my arrival here, have since done so, from the conviction that immediate and energetic steps would be taken to compel them.

The Guardians generally, and the Chairman in particular, are actuated by a very proper spirit.

I have no doubt I shall be enabled to carry out the views of the Commissioners, without serious opposition.

REPLY to the above:—*November 29, 1847.*

WITH reference to that part of your report which relates to the state of the schools, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that the Commissioners have, as you will perceive by the enclosed papers, urged upon the Board of Guardians, on several occasions, the propriety of endeavouring to secure the services of more efficient individuals for the situations of schoolmaster and schoolmistress, by offering larger salaries than are at present paid to those officers.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 1, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of No. 39,235, D. 47, and accompanying minutes herewith returned.

I will not fail to press the Commissioners' views upon the Board of Guardians and will report the result.

The school (boys) is at present a mere mockery.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of Commissioners' report on the training of pauper children, which will enable me to form an opinion on this head, and bring so important a matter before the Guardians.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 1, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 29th December (November), enclosing a copy of a letter forwarded to the

Kilrush Board of Guardians, in reference to the employment of pauper children (female) in a lace factory.

Kilrush Union.

I will bring the matter under the immediate notice of the Guardians, and represent the proceeding as opposed to the Commissioners' orders and views.

I would beg to observe that this practice is one of long standing, commenced before I had charge of the Union, and which, I presume, had not the sanction of the Commissioners.

I will report the result of my communication with the Guardians.

REPLY to the above:—*December 4, 1847.*

THE Commissioners were not aware that any of the workhouse children were employed in the lace factory until they saw some reference to the subject in the Guardians' minutes of the 17th ultimo.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 1, 1847.*

IN reference to the copy of a letter from the Agent of the British Relief Association, dated 4th November, and the information therein called for, I have the honour to state, that I think the proposed relief should not be deferred beyond 25th December. Destitution is so rapidly on the increase, that I am undoubtedly of opinion that out-door relief must be given to other classes than those at present receiving it. The Guardians are exerting themselves laudably and strictly according to law. The prospects of the Union may be gathered from my weekly reports.

I am not aware of the extent of assistance proposed by the Association.

I think a less number than 10 ovens would not afford the necessary relief.

I would propose for their sites,—Carrigaholt, Kilkee, Kilrush, Doonbeg, Cooraclare, Mullagh, Kilmihil, Kilmurry, McMahon, Labasheeda, Kildycut.

Ovens to bake 1600 lbs. of bread per diem (in two batches) may be erected with all necessary appurtenances for 12*l.* each.

They should be adapted for turf-fuel solely.

I shall be ready to afford any more detailed information which may be required.

REPLY to the above:—*December 3, 1847.*

I AM to acquaint you that the Commissioners have forwarded a copy of your communication to Commissary-General Sir R. Routh.

With reference to your statement, that you are of opinion that out-door relief must be given to other classes than those at present receiving it, I am to request that you will be so good as to bring the question of the propriety of issuing a sealed order, authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men, under the special consideration of the Guardians.

At the same time, the Commissioners forward a copy of the two descriptions of orders sent to Unions for which workhouse relief is insufficient, in order that you may be fully aware of the two alternatives which will present themselves, and may be prepared to make such recommendation as the circumstances of the case may seem to demand.

ENCLOSURE.

Union.

To the PAID OFFICERS acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the UNION; to the Clerk and other Officers of the said Union, and to all other persons whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it has been shown to our satisfaction, that, by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the said Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded therein to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled, or destitute poor persons disabled by sickness or accident, or destitute poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, and it is expedient to authorize and empower the paid officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the said Union to administer relief out of the workhouse to such destitute poor persons, for a limited time as hereinafter mentioned.

Now therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in

Kilrush Union.

Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the said paid officers to administer relief out of the workhouse, in food, to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect, and not being persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, and thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, whom they are liable by law to maintain, and not being poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, for two months next ensuing after the date of this order.

And we do hereby make the following rules and regulations as to the granting, ordering, and giving of relief to all persons who shall be relieved by the said paid officers, under the authority of this order, that is to say:—

1. Every person relieved under the authority of this order shall be relieved in food only, and such food shall, as far as is practicable, be cooked food.
2. Every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of this order shall, so far as is practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives such relief.
3. No able-bodied person who shall be in employment, nor any part of his or her family, shall receive relief as a destitute person under the authority of this order.

And for the more effectual administration of relief under this order, we do hereby authorize and direct the said paid officers to appoint so many relieving officers as shall be found sufficient from time to time, to superintend the labours of such persons as shall be set to work, in pursuance of the regulations in this order contained, and otherwise to assist in the administration of relief under this order, as the said paid officers, subject to our approval, shall direct.

Sealed with our seal, this _____ day of _____
in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-seven.

(Signed) E. T. B. TWISLETON.
T. N. REDINGTON.

Union.

To the GUARDIANS of the POOR of the _____ UNION; to the Clerk or Clerks to the Justices of the Petty Sessions, held for the Division or Divisions in which the Townlands and Places comprised within the said Union are situated, and to all others whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it has been shown to our satisfaction, that, by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the _____ Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded to destitute poor persons, being widows with one child dependent on them respectively, or to destitute poor persons, being children whose parents are both dead, or to destitute poor persons, being able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families dependent on them for support are affected by severe sickness or accident.

Now therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the Guardians of the said Union, for the period of two months from the date of this order, to administer relief out of the workhouse, in food, to such destitute persons as aforesaid, being widows with one child dependent on them respectively, or being children whose parents are both dead, or being able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families dependent on them for support are affected by severe sickness or accident.

Sealed with our seal this _____ day of _____
in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-seven.

(Countersigned)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

* (Signed) E. T. B. TWISLETON.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—December 2, 1847.

I ATTENDED the meeting of Guardians yesterday, and have the honour to refer you to the usual minutes for their proceedings.

The number of admissions amounted to about 360, making in all about 1300, in the house this morning.

Of the 300 admitted yesterday, 60 or 70 have already claimed their discharge; and I have no doubt 100 more will leave the house this day. Many of them acknowledged to me this day, that they came in solely for the purpose of extorting "out-door relief," and had no intention whatever of remaining in the house.

The number on the out-door relief list I cannot accurately state, but will do so as soon as they are registered. These, however, are strictly of Classes 1, 2,

and 3; the number on this head must be expected to increase rapidly as their relief was too long deferred.

The clamour and pressure for "out-door relief" is so excessive, that the Guardians have resolved upon testing all cases admitting of a doubt. The lying deceit, and utter absence of truth and shame, render this apparently harsh measure necessary; due discrimination is however used.

Notwithstanding a full explanation of the Commissioners' views, and the expression of my own strong opinion, "out-door relief" is confined to food alone. The Guardians are almost unanimously of opinion, that owing to the density of the population, and number of habitations, all will find a shelter with friends or relatives, if they have means of subsistence, without any addition of money; and that any relief in the latter form would prove so attractive as to overwhelm them with applicants. I neither coincide in this opinion or conclusion.

Sixty or seventy more of Classes 1 and 3 have been selected and discharged during the week.

The temporary fever hospital is in a state of forwardness; there are 280 in the house under medical treatment, which materially interferes with its proper and efficient working.

Fever is on the decrease, but other ailments consequent upon bad and insufficient food, are on the increase.

The house has improved in order and cleanliness, but I apprehend no permanent improvement can result under the present master. He is, I have no doubt, trustworthy and well intentioned, but wanting in all other qualifications for such a calling, and unfit for the head of any establishment. The assistant master is active and intelligent and well qualified, vastly superior to the master in all essentials.

There is a want of clothing, which I have no doubt will be remedied on my representation.

There is a lamentable absence of industrial employment or training, which I will represent and hope to see remedied.

I have visited and revisited during the week those parts of the Union where I have been led to expect the greatest want or difficulty. Kilkee division, taken as a whole, is in a wretched state. That portion of Moyarta lying between the Ferry and Carrigaholt, including Querin and Boonoha, is a fearful example of the misery and demoralization which may be induced by bad management; the subdivision, subletting, extravagant rents, density of population, and consequent misery, exceed anything I have ever seen or heard of. There are holdings under lease, valued at 1*l.* per annum.

This neighbourhood only wants a faithful chronicle to furnish horrors and misery; equal to anything I have heard of elsewhere.

Many of the habitations are no better than a fox earth, and the inmates, in their appearance, clothing, and mode of living, hardly human.

I need not detail miseries I have seen and taken steps to relieve. This class are comparatively content and uncomplaining.

Their mode of scratching the land does not deserve the name of cultivation. Their attempts are inferior to that I have seen among North American Indians.

This division contains upwards of 10,000 inhabitants upon 13,000 acres, and the net annual value under 5000*l.* Without potatoes, it is a permanent pauper colony; the swarms of children incredible.

The division of Kilballyowen* adjoining it is comparatively comfortable; the people have better houses, are better clad, and there are as fine potatoes as I have ever seen for 6*d.* per stone, while they bring 9*d.* in Kilrush.

The properties here have been better managed, and a spirit of improvement and industry is observable among all classes.

Kilmactuane, north of Cooraclara, is very wretched, and I anticipate some loss of rate here, many of the rate-payers being absolutely destitute.

The north part of Kilrush and the east is not much better.

I have fears for the possibility of collecting another rate or instalment this year, a great mass of the small rate-payers will be destitute ere summer.

The rate so far, is being most satisfactorily collected and without any serious resistance, though I am given to understand such will be counselled in some divisions, unless out-door relief (that is to the able-bodied) be immediately given.

Kilrush Union.

There are a few mischievous advisers, with sufficient influence to impede and obstruct, and I only hope they may not adopt such a course.

I see no reason to modify the opinion expressed in my last weekly report, on the prospects of the Union, daily observation, I regret to say, confirms me in it.

The workhouse is now over-crowded, and though a few days may enable the removal of fever hospitals from the house, the accommodation so obtained will not suffice for another day's admission. I would beg the Commissioners' instructions on this emergency.

I would propose other and additional premises being rented.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 4, 1847.*

IN reference to your remarks regarding the crowded state of the workhouse, I am to refer you to the Commissioners' letter of yesterday, in which they request you to bring the question of the propriety of issuing a sealed order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men under the special consideration of the Guardians.

I am at the same time to add that when the Guardians have thoroughly considered the question, and have recorded their views respecting it, and the Commissioners have likewise received your own recommendations, the Commissioners will be prepared to issue an order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men under the second section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, if such order appears absolutely necessary.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 2, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to submit a report of the following occurrences for the information of the Commissioners. On my arrival at the workhouse at 11 o'clock, A.M. yesterday, I found about 1000 persons assembled in the neighbourhood, and evidently bent upon some general move. I was not long kept in suspense. A few minutes only elapsed when a general cry for out-door relief was set up, accompanied by unmistakeable symptoms of turbulence and riot; a plentiful crop of blackthorn sticks appearing above the heads of all. I addressed the mob upon the impropriety and impolicy of their proceedings at a time when the Guardians were doing their utmost for them, and acting most efficiently. When I ceased, a simultaneous rush was made to force the outer gate, while numbers at the same moment scaled the walls in all directions. While I was in the act of assisting the officers to bolt the gate, one of the ring-leaders struck at me with a stick; I dragged him in, shut the gate, disarmed him, and put him in the lock-up.

This had an instantaneous effect in checking the mob, and eight or nine others were subsequently taken.

At this time a continuous stream of people was observed approaching from the Kilkee district. Colonel Vandeleur, the Chairman of the Guardians, and the Sub-Inspector of Police, had gone to Kilkee on magisterial business, but meeting such crowds heading to Kilrush, and learning their object, he prudently returned with the Sub-Inspector. Seeing the complexion of matters at the workhouse, where the mob had increased to about 3000, he ordered up the police, and subsequently the detachment of troops quartered here.

The leaders of the mob seeing that measures were taken to repress any attempt at violence, left the miserable and really destitute to gain admission, after being nearly trampled to death. The sufferings of the aged and infirm women and infants, trampled upon and trodden down, were really heartrending. About 300 were subsequently admitted.

Colonel Vandeleur's return was most providential, as I fear no other magistrate (though another was present) could have been found to act; and the consequences of any success on the part of such a mob, would have been most disastrous. Colonel Vandeleur's conduct was prompt and energetic, and had the best result.

From the spirit displayed by some of the people's guides, I see little prospect of law and order being preserved here, without the presence of a paid magistrate in the Union or district. The very few magistrates within reach,

may be quite equal to routine duty; but without offering the slightest reflection upon their general efficiency and attention, I must add my honest opinion, that Colonel Vandeleur is the only one who can be reckoned upon, on an emergency. I feel confident that but for his opportune arrival yesterday, the workhouse would have been sacked before another magistrate could have been found to act.

The police conducted themselves admirably, and remained to a late hour, when the mob dispersed.

The fact that only about 300 out of 3000 applied to come into the house, denotes the object of the demonstration.

The prompt measures taken to repress outrage will, I am sure, save all parties future trouble.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 12, 1847.*

THE Kilrush Board of Guardians have resolved to rent a house immediately adjoining the workhouse, for the accommodation of some classes of the children. They are at the same time desirous of renting some land belonging to it which also adjoins the workhouse walls. The farm contains about 12 or 14 acres; would the Commissioners sanction this?

The land at present in their occupation is well managed and productive; but by no means sufficient in extent to employ the able-bodied inmates of the house.

REPLY to the above:—*December 18, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, in which you inquire whether they would sanction the renting by the Board of Guardians of Kilrush Union of 12 or 14 acres of land adjoining the workhouse; and in reference thereto, I am to state that a greater quantity than 15 statute acres, exclusive of the ground actually covered by the workhouse buildings, cannot legally be held with any workhouse, and that of the 15 acres, 12 must be actually attached to, or as the expression of the Act of Parliament is, occupied with the workhouse. The Commissioners will readily give their sanction to the taking land annexed to the workhouse, and the hired house of Kilrush Union, not exceeding in the whole 15 acres.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 16, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to refer you to the usual minutes for the proceedings of the Kilrush Board of Guardians, whose weekly meeting I attended yesterday.

The necessity for applying for a sealed order to authorize out-door relief to the able-bodied was unanimously concurred in. I unhesitatingly state my opinion that it is a measure of absolute necessity, and one which it would be imprudent and impolitic to defer. A good deal of management has been necessary, to render the workhouse available so long. The necessary relief may be gradually given, and if possible obviate the evil of a popular rush, which is no trifling consideration where such a lawless and reckless mass of destitute is to be dealt with.

I would beg any instructions as to the rules and regulations under which out-door relief to able-bodied will be issued.

The workhouse and extra accommodation hired contained this morning, 1708 souls. I was present with three Guardians till a late hour last night, admitting paupers, the majority of them being in such a lamentable state, that they could not have been refused admission but with the certainty of starvation.

About 130 will be discharged to-day, who may (by a stretch) be considered as aged or infirm with helpless dependents. There is sufficient dormitory room, and by day I keep the men working out of doors in gangs, under a paid superintendent. I regret to see a marked disinclination to labour, and the superintendent with difficulty obtains any fair amount of work from them.

Kilrush Union.

I have at length procured the removal of the fever patients from the workhouse to other premises which have been comfortably fitted up. The difficulty I experienced in accomplishing this act of common sense and common prudence is incredible. I had the active obstruction of some and the apathy of all to contend with. I was obliged to see the carts' load of suffering creatures loaded and unloaded, and actually obliged to give them personal assistance off the carts, as I could not procure a man to aid them and the nurses were in some cases unequal to it.

The premises for the accommodation of a number of children are in a state of forwardness, and will be ready for their reception in a day or two.

By the adoption of these measures, the workhouse will be rendered extensively available for the testing of the able-bodied, and I would desire even more extended accommodation for this purpose, if possible.

The attempted fraud and imposture, with a view to getting out-door relief, are most disgusting and discouraging, and the efforts to evade the clause forbidding relief to landholders increasing.

They are too often assisted in these attempts by persons laying claim to respectability, after having squeezed their last farthing as rent.

I have taken every precaution to defeat such attempts.

There is an utter absence of employment of any kind, and the idea seems to be abandoned by the poor themselves. A few days since a large number of spades were required for the paupers trenching the workhouse ground; and on inquiry I ascertained that any number up to some hundreds, could be obtained second hand (but good as new) from pawnbrokers and others in the town for 7d. each. Sold or pawned by their indolent or despairing owners.

A reference to the minutes will show how satisfactorily the rate is being collected from a population little above the class of paupers. Knowing the importance the Commissioners attach to this branch of my duty, I spare no effort, personal or otherwise, to accomplish it. I keep myself in constant personal communication with the "collectors," and have succeeded with many recusants, after a quiet remonstrance, accompanied by an assurance that the law would be enforced.

The tide of destitution is rolling steadily on; those who are evicted, or whose stock is exhausted, dropping in daily. The number of utterly destitute in spring will include a very large proportion of the population. The amount of food and funds required will be large, but beyond this it will only require hard work and unflinching firmness and decision to keep matters straight. I can, however, see no prospect of a speedy amendment; a great breadth of the land is in stubble, and this they have no capital or manure to crop, and worse still, no energy.

Fever is, I regret to say, again upon the increase, and small-pox prevails to a very considerable extent.

REPLY to the above:—*December 21, 1847.*

I AM to state that in accordance with the request of the Board of Guardians as conveyed in your report, and your recommendation thereon, the Commissioners have issued an order authorizing out-door relief, under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, for a period of two months.

With reference to your request for instructions as to the rules and regulations under which out-door relief to the able-bodied will be issued, I am to forward to you a copy of the order, and to draw your especial attention to the three regulations prescribed therein:—

1. That the relief which according to the Act can only be given in food, shall, as far as practicable, be in cooked food.
2. That every able-bodied male person relieved shall, as far as practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives relief.
3. That no able-bodied person who shall be in employment, nor any part of his family, shall receive relief under the order.

For your further information on this subject, I am to enclose a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Board of Guardians in forwarding the order to them.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—
December 20, 1847.

Kilrush Union
 —

THE Commissioners have received a communication from their Inspector, Captain Kennedy, in which he states that the necessity for applying for a sealed order to authorize out-door relief to able-bodied, was unanimously concurred in by the Guardians of Kilrush Union at their weekly meeting on Wednesday last.

The Commissioners have accordingly issued an order, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, authorizing out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, for the period of two months from the date of the order.

The Guardians will observe that no relief under this order can be legally given to persons in employment; that such relief must be in food only, and that no able-bodied man should receive relief, except in return for work.

With regard to the nature of the work which should be offered to able-bodied men, the Commissioners desire to recommend the setting able-bodied men to stone-breaking by task-work, as a condition of relief; and as much will depend on the knowledge, firmness, and discretion of those who may be appointed to superintend the stone-breaking, the Commissioners cannot too strongly urge the Guardians to be particularly careful in permitting themselves to be influenced by no other considerations than those of personal fitness in selecting candidates for that highly important office.

The Commissioners will take this opportunity of observing that in specifying the period of eight hours at least in the day, during which every able-bodied pauper should be required to work, they have made allowance for the present season of the year, and for the possible circumstance that some of the able-bodied paupers may come to the stone-breaking from a considerable distance. It is not, however, by any means intended to prevent the Guardians from requiring work during a still longer period of time. The period of eight hours is, in fact, the minimum space of time in the day, during which every able-bodied pauper should give the value of his labour to his Union.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire to remind the Guardians that the out-door relief order is merely temporary, and that they should in the meanwhile use every possible exertion to obtain additional workhouse accommodation.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 16, 1847.*

In a former report I stated my apprehension that the clause forbidding relief to holders of land, would be extensively evaded in this Union; and I have now the honour to acknowledge the Commissioners' remarks and instructions thereon.

The system of evasion attempted is as follows:—The land in occupation of four or five persons is conveyed, *pro tem.*, to one of the party; while the remainder, for a season, enter the workhouse. I regret to say, that there are people of standing and influence who give their countenance to this system, and give certificates and "declarations," such as those I enclose, to "relieving officers."

ENCLOSURES.

PATT DOWNS, of Ballaha, makes and declares, if necessary on oath, that his mother, widow John Downs, of said Ballaha, has no land or property, and that she is in great want and destitution.

Declared before me this 14th December, 1847.

JONAS STUDDART.

MICHAEL TIM DOWNS makes and declares, if necessary on oath, on behalf of his mother, Widow Thaid Downs, that she surrendered her land to himself and deponent, and that she has no land, and is in need of charity.

Declared before me this 14th of December, 1847.

JONAS STUDDART.

Kilrush Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 20, 1847.*

IN reference to the attempted evasion of the provisions of the 10th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and describing the course adopted in attempting such evasions, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that the words of the 10th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act are very general; and the Commissioners believe that precise provisions as to what would constitute the ceasing to occupy land under that section, were advisedly omitted in the Act, from the extreme difficulty of laying down definite rules on the subject.

It appears clear to the Commissioners, that an individual may cease to occupy land *colourably*, while in fact he does occupy it. In such case the Guardians should act upon the reality, and not on the pretence, however specious it may be; but the application of this principle, in each particular case, must depend on the discrimination of the administrators of relief.

In the particular cases which you have specified, the Commissioners observe, that the declarations are made respectively by Patt Downs and Tim Downs, on behalf of their mother; and the latter states that his mother surrendered her land to himself. In this case, therefore, it is worthy of consideration, whether the provisions of the 57th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act should not be resorted to. That section provides, that when any poor person through old age, infirmity, or defect, shall be unable to support himself, every child of such poor person shall be liable, according to his ability, to support, or contribute to support such poor person; and that in case relief shall be given to such poor person, two justices, on the application of the Board of Guardians, may direct a sum not exceeding the cost price of the relief, to be paid by such child to the Guardians; and also to direct what weekly or other periodical payment shall be made by such child to the Guardians in respect of subsequent relief to such poor person: the sum so directed to be paid, to be recoverable in the same manner as penalties are recoverable under the Act.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 23, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, and have the honour to refer you to the minutes of their proceedings; which, however, convey but an imperfect representation.

The number in the workhouse this day is about 1250: 140 fever patients in the temporary hospital are included in this number; 150 children will be removed to separate premises, on this day or to-morrow.

The number receiving "out-door relief" is, in round numbers, 7000: this number does not include any who are not considered as belonging to Classes 1, 2, and 3.

No relief has yet been afforded to the "able-bodied" out-doors; though the Guardians are in possession of the "sealed order" authorizing such relief, it will not for the present be resorted to. I have satisfactorily demonstrated the necessity of testing this class, from the results of the last fortnight.

On this day week (*vide* last report) the inmates numbered 1708, and this day only 1250; the reduction has been for the most part voluntary since the able-bodied were put to work under a paid superintendent, and made acquainted with the fact that additional land had been hired to employ them upon.

On the 20th instant, when I visited the workhouse, I found about 200 men congregated in the day-room with a blazing fire. I inquired why they were not at work, and was answered by a universal clamour, that they were unable. I sent for the medical officer, and had them individually inspected: about 13 only of the whole number were passed by him as infirm. The remainder I ordered to be put to work in the yard, breaking stones, under gangsmen; remaining till I saw it in operation; at the same time, explaining that their rations would be stopped, if a fair amount of work were not done. The result was, that of these men and their families, to the number of 100, demanded their discharge that evening, and 121 more on the following day.

I fully ascertained that these persons came into the house without any necessity or intention of staying, but in the expectation of being discharged on "out-

door relief." When the house became crowded many of them candidly avowed it.

I have no doubt that an organized plan to swamp the house in this manner has been suggested to the people, and was for the first time attempted on the 5th instant, (*vide* my report of that date), and was only defeated by the energetic measures adopted.

Many come into the house, who, on being searched, possess sums of money varying from 1s. to 8s. and 10s., and one inmate of the workhouse not many days ago, laid a complaint of having been robbed of 25s. in the house.

A woman was found to have a quantity of dried mackerel bandaged round her waist, and 2s. tied up in her hair! She was brought to me by the matron, and being questioned, said, "It was just to keep the children in the house till "her husband got out-door relief!"

A man came to the hotel where I lodged on Tuesday last, and attracted a crowd by his lamentations and pitiable tale; begging I would "get him the "relief" to save him from starving. He asseverated, in the most solemn manner, that one of his children was lying at home "dead of starvation," and that the others were little removed from it, and "declared to his God he had "not tasted food for 24 hours." I doubted his overdrawn picture, and brought him to the workhouse promising relief; arrived there, I had him searched, and found 1s. 7d. in his pocket! the Chairman of the Guardians and the Roman Catholic chaplain were present. I exposed him to a multitude of applicants at the door, who seemed to sympathize at the failure of his disgraceful fraud.

This gross and wholesale imposture on the one hand, and the mass of undoubted and daily increasing destitution on the other, are most perplexing, consuming an incredible amount of time, and frequently delaying relief to real objects.

I intend suggesting the hiring of further accommodation to test the able-bodied, as soon as we are more pressed. I however find a difficulty in getting anything done till it is actually required; foresight and arrangement are not characteristics of the Board of Guardians, and I have daily evidence of the necessity of resisting out-door relief to this class.

The rates are being collected most satisfactorily; 200% were collected by one collector in a rural district in 10 days. I still give this matter my utmost attention. I find personal supervision does wonders in getting money in districts where I was, "assured, on the best authority, that no rate could be collected."

The relieving officers are, with one exception, working fairly; those who act conscientiously have a most arduous task. I will bring the one I consider unfit under the notice of the Guardians. He is a worn-out old man incapable of keeping any book of account.

The schools are broken up till the 3rd January, when I intend commencing the relief to children attending them, who are destitute.

In a recent visit to the division of Kilmacduane, Kilmurry, and Killard, I was really scared by the extent of misery and destitution.

The fishermen are particularly to be commiserated, the gaining a livelihood with them is dependent upon the weather, and they are sometimes for days without food; their nets and tackle pawned, or worn out, and they themselves half naked; they are a peaceable, patient, and well disposed class, though not exempt from the general failing of indolence and want of energy.

Fever is on the increase though of a mild type; and dysentery is making considerable ravages.

The house is ill regulated and the master incompetent.

REPLY to the above:—December 27, 1847.

THE Commissioners have issued an order by this evening's post, removing the master of the workhouse from his office; and they trust that this will have, to a certain extent, the effect of enabling the Guardians to make the workhouse a more efficient test of destitution, and to counteract the attempts which may be made to fill it by applicants for relief, who have means at their disposal for their own maintenance.

Kilrush Union.

The Commissioners rely on your using every effort to impress upon the Guardians the importance of their selecting an efficient successor to the present master.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 24, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 22nd instant, enclosing the copy of a report of Mr. Channer, sub-inspector of a constabulary, relative to the death of "John Reidy," of the parish of Kilmacduane, in this Union; and whose death, it is alleged, was caused by starvation.

Before I enter into the details of this case, I must correct Mr. Channer in, I am sure, an unintentional error. Mr. Channer states,—“the circumstance has been reported to Colonel Vandeleur and Captain Kennedy, Poor Law Inspector of this Union, who remarked, that the said John Lillis (relieving officer) was very culpable in neglecting deceased's application.” I had no communication with Mr. Channer on the subject, and never entertained nor expressed the opinion attributed to me.

The circumstances of the case are as follows:—On Monday night, the 13th instant, Reidy's wife met John Lillis, the relieving officer, at 7 o'clock, P. M., returning from the Kilrush poor-house, and applied for relief; stating that her husband was unable to attend at Cooraclave in person, owing to his delicate state of health. Lillis immediately took down her application, and alleges (*vide* letter marked A,) that he gave her 4d. Reidy died suddenly that night, and the following day the inquest was held which has given rise to this inquiry.

I proceeded to the neighbourhood and made every inquiry, and ascertained that Reidy had, in addition to great destitution, been long ailing, or what is termed here, “a delicate man,” which means any kind or any stage of internal ailment. He died, as stated, suddenly; the coroner was very alert, and on the opinion of a very young medical practitioner, brought in the verdict stated, but without any *post-mortem* examination having been made.

The deceased was destitute, as thousands are, without any visible means of living, but neither Reidy or any other proper object has been refused admission to the workhouse, or out-door relief as the case might justify.

I conscientiously believe that Reidy's death was caused by disease, more than probably aggravated by want.

With regard to any degree of blame which may attach to the relieving officer, I have only to observe, that the wholesale imposture and misrepresentation resorted to, oblige these officers to be most careful in taking applications, and render each case a species of trial, before the truth can be arrived at.

I mentioned a case in my last weekly report, where a man alleged that one of his children was lying dead of starvation, and the others on the verge of it, and that he had not tasted food for 24 hours, and complained of the relieving officer. I doubted his tale, searched him and found 1s. 7d. in his pocket!

These are daily, hourly occurrences, and no shame is betrayed on detection. The Catholic chaplain and the Chairman of Guardians were present.

I enclose the relieving officer's explanation and I do not consider him justly blameable.

ENCLOSURE.

(A.)

HONOURED SIR,

Workhouse, Kilrush, December 18, 1847.

I ATTEND on all Mondays in Cooraclave, in my district, to receive applications. On the night of Monday, the 13th instant, at so late an hour as 7 o'clock, on my way home, I met the wife of John Reidy, of Calinquinie, (who is alleged died by starvation,) and I went into the next house and received her application. She stated to me that her husband was a delicate man and unable to come to Cooraclave to make his application before that time. She also said she was at my house some time before, and that I was gone to Kilmikil, my other district. It was impossible for me to be able to ascertain that Reidy was in a very bad state, as the time was so limited, having but the one day between her application and the Board day; besides, Calinquinie is a long distance from me, and having as many bad calls in my district as I

could attend to on Tuesday, Reidy was returned on the last Board day, and I gave his wife an order for meal on Thursday last.

Kilrush Union.

JOHN LILLIS, *Relieving Overseer*.

N.B. I believe Reidy died on Monday night, and that evening I gave his wife 4d.

COPY of CONSTABULARY REPORT referred to in the foregoing Report.

December 17, 1847.

I HAVE to report that on the 12th instant, about 12 o'clock noon, John Reidy, aged 50 years, died suddenly at Acres.

He was by trade a labourer, but had not received any employment since the termination of public works in this district, and had no land or other means of subsistence; he had a wife and three children, and applied twice during the last fortnight for relief or admission into the poor-house, to John Lillis relieving officer for the parish of Kilmacduane, who it appears neglected his application, the consequence of which was, that he died from want.

An inquest was held on view of the body, 14th instant, by John Lucas, Esq., coroner, when the following verdict was returned, viz.:—"That John Reidy came by his death at Acres on the 12th day of December, 1847, from starvation."

The circumstance has been reported to Colonel Vandeleur and Captain Kennedy, Poor Law Inspector of this Union, who remarked that said John Lillis was very culpable in neglecting deceased's application.

WILLIAM CHANNER.

1st Sub-Inspector.

The Inspector-General,
&c. &c. &c.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—December 30, 1847.

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, and for their proceedings have the honour to refer you to the usual minutes.

The medical officer and Committee, after due examination of the house and hired premises, consider them fitted to contain the following numbers:—The house, 1100; temporary fever hospital, 150; hired house, 80; making in all 1330. I consider this a very reasonable estimate, when the house is properly managed.

The total in the whole premises this day was 1222. About 20 able-bodied paupers, with their families, have claimed their discharge this day, which will reduce the number about 80.

These persons came in for the purpose of qualifying for out-door relief, and finding no immediate probability of succeeding in their object, left the house voluntarily, without it. A large number have quitted during the week from the same causes and on the same conditions. The being put to work, and obliged to observe personal cleanliness, are conditions they will not submit to, unless they are absolutely destitute.

Every day's experience convinces me of the danger of giving out-door relief to any of this class, and the necessity of resisting to the utmost limit which prudence or humanity will justify.

No out-door relief has yet been given to able-bodied in this Union, and as the house becomes crowded, I purpose, with the assistance of the Chairman and Committee, to discharge a few daily, as necessity may arise, and thus have the house available for all new applicants. This mode of dealing with the able-bodied class will prevent the general rush which would surely result, either from a closing of the house or their discharge in large number. It will also enable me to get on by degrees the undoubtedly destitute of the able-bodied class, instead of being at once swamped by numbers, as in some of the neighbouring Unions.

I had difficulty in inducing the Guardians to adopt this system; trouble to the officers, irregularity, danger of infection, &c., were urged against it. The results have, however, convinced my most stubborn opponents. They are in consequence, become more hopeful and act more efficiently.

Almost all the impotent (who are destitute) are now on the out-door relief list. There has been no serious increase of number since my last report. They receive relief in food only, and are quite content with their allowance of meal. Their habitually wretched scale of existence renders them content with anything, and fuel fortunately costs them nothing.

Kilrush Union.

While the expenditure is being kept right within reasonable bounds, I am straining every effort to get in the rates.

The rate-collectors are doing their duty most satisfactorily. At the audit on the 28th instant, 763*l.* had been collected in little more than a week, which I consider a very good collection in such a district.

The relieving officers are working fairly, but still improper objects get upon their lists. To rectify this, I have induced the Guardians to have printed lists of those receiving relief placarded in each district, with an invitation to the rate-payers to point out any improper cases to the relieving officer or clerk of Guardians. I anticipate this will act as a most wholesome check.

There is a growing and disgraceful tendency, on the part of children who have ample means, to throw their aged or helpless parents on public relief, frequently after the parents have given them up their land.

I have brought the matter under notice of the Guardians, who are determined to enforce the law in this respect.

I have received funds from the British Relief Association for the relief of destitute children attending the schools, and I hope to commence issuing rations as soon as the schools re-assemble after Christmas.

Fever and dysentery are on the increase, and are making extensive ravages. Two relieving officers, the matron, and assistant master of the workhouse, are all stricken down in fever. The illness of three officers under present circumstances, adds seriously to my labours.

I have been witness to some wretched scenes during the week, in the rural districts. Such is the popular terror of infection, that once attacked the helpless patients are deserted by their nearest kin in many instances. The utmost assistance they receive is some water and a scanty supply of food left at the door by their mis-called neighbours, till they are found by the relieving officers, when their case is all but hopeless.

I went into a house with a relieving officer a few days since, and found the mother and three children stricken in fever at one side of the cabin; the father, with a child who had been dead three days, at the other.

These horrors are too frequent, and almost impossible to prevent.

The mortality is certainly very great. On visiting the fever hospital a few days since, I found eight dead, the mortality of one night; the nurses, attendants, &c., are all scared, and are with difficulty induced to perform their duties. I fear we shall soon require further accommodation. I cannot conceal from myself that numbers must perish in spite of every effort; they linger on in their miserable unventilated hovels, till their cases are beyond hope, before they apply for relief or admission. The difficulty of ascertaining the truth also adds to suffering; for there are hundreds of cases simulated with a view to imposing upon relieving officers.

Funerals, which were formerly a popular pastime and re-union, are now hardly attended by relatives. Wakes are of rare occurrence. Fear of infection and want of novelty have reduced them to the number only sufficient to carry to the grave and bury their dead.

Some activity is being shown in agricultural matters, innumerable patches are preparing for potatoes, and I have no doubt they will plant this crop to the utmost extent of their ability. I expect also to see a large proportion of beans planted.

Much of the prevalent dysentery is, I am confident, induced by the use of half-cooked Indian meal. No effort or instruction will induce them to boil it, or steep it sufficiently. I found difficulty in making them do so, even in the workhouse.

We are collecting funds satisfactorily, and I trust and believe disbursing them judiciously, and with as much economy as such a deplorable state of things will permit.

I would beg to be put in communication with the proper authority to secure an efficient schoolmaster from the training school, which the Guardians have authorized me to do: 20*l.* per annum and rations are the terms offered.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 1, 1848.*

ON the other side is the copy of a notice found posted on Colonel Vandeleur's gate last night. It will no doubt reach the Commissioners through

another channel, and I deem it proper you should have the earliest intimation of it, as they have honoured me by a notice. It speaks for itself. I, of course, treat it with the most sincere contempt, and do not desire it to be noticed in any way; with me it is "all in the way of *business*," but with Colonel Vandeleur it is far different. He devotes his time *almost exclusively* to Union business in the most untiring manner, and certainly deserves a far different return from the cowardly vagabonds who have thus threatened his life. He has, since I came here, done his duty, as Chairman of the Guardians, conscientiously and fearlessly; *without* him the Board would fall to pieces.

As for myself I intend following the instructions laid down for me, and persevering in a conscientious performance of my duty; I heed their miserable threats as much as I despise their popularity, which is only to be gained by an abandonment of duty.

ENCLOSURE.

VERBATIM COPY of a NOTICE posted on Colonel Vandeleur's gate on the evening of 31st December, 1847.

TAKE NOTICE Crofton Vandeleure if you dont change your mind and give Relive to the Young as well as the Old, and not to put a stop to the Publicke Worke as you are, and also Captin Kenidy if ye dont be said by this Notice believe me I will do with you as I did with Pirce Carriage, so have your Wills made in time.

REPLY to the above:—*January 3, 1848.*

I AM to express the deepest regret of the Commissioners at learning that any attempt should have been made, by a threatening notice, to intimidate Colonel Vandeleur, the value of whose services, as Chairman of the Kilrush Board of Guardians, the Commissioners highly appreciate.

The Commissioners also regret that you yourself should have been exposed to a similar attempt at intimidation.

The Commissioners will send a copy of the notice and of your report to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, and with reference thereto beg to add the following particulars for the Commissioners' information.

Four persons, James Hearse, John McMahon, Michael Duggan, and Laurence Shanahan, were this day committed to Ennis Gaol to take their trial for posting a threatening notice, and conspiring to shoot C. M. Vandeleur, Esq., and myself. One of the party, Brooks, a pedlar, is still at large.

The evidence against them is a man named Curtin, corroborated by an elderly woman, a lodger in his house. The following is a summary of his evidence, as taken by Mr. Bell, R.M.

Curtin states Brooks and Duggan came to his house about a-week ago, and borrowed a pistol. Curtin asked for what purpose? they replied he would hear about it before long. On the night the notice was posted, Curtin took his donkey to drink at the river which runs by Mr. Vandeleur's gate, and while so occupied saw five men together close to the gate, three of whom went forward and posted a paper upon it.

On retiring they discovered Curtin, and one of the party, thinking they had been watched, pointed a pistol at him, when he was recognised by Duggan, and saved from violence on his declaring he had seen nothing.

Some hours after this the whole party went to Curtin's house, placed him on his knees and swore him, that he would never divulge what they supposed he had seen, threatening to shoot him if he did so. They then communicated their intention of shooting Mr. Vandeleur, if public work were not immediately given, as they believed he had stopped it; and also to shoot me if I did not give relief to young (*i. e.* able-bodied) as well as old. They were sure the country would be better without us both. Two of the party undertook to settle us, and the plan proposed was, as they knew Mr. Vandeleur and myself.

Kilrush Union.

never left the workhouse till seven or eight o'clock, P. M., on Board days, and generally came into the town together, one of their party was to watch us leaving and run before to tell the two who were to lay in wait for us.

Curtin's evidence is clear and circumstantial, and I entertain no doubt of the intention of these miserable miscreants.

Mr. Vandeleur has done Curtin a kindness in supporting his wife and family while he was long sick in hospital, and to this he probably owes his life.

I went into the Bridewell this morning and immediately recognised all four as persons who had applied for out-door relief; two of whom made themselves remarkable by being unusually importunate, and one, if not two, had left the workhouse voluntarily. They were all of the able-bodied class.

The fact of some neighbouring Unions giving out-door relief to able-bodied makes our position here more difficult. One sturdy vagabond applied to me the other day, I explained the law, and offered him the workhouse; he replied, "They all get the Government relief at Ennis, and if we had Father Shechan, (Roman Catholic curate, Ennis,) we would all soon have it here."

I may remark that no proper object has been refused relief either in or out of the workhouse.

I very much fear, that some persons are inducing the popular belief that Colonel Vandeleur and myself are the only obstacles to general and indiscriminate relief.

While the Commissioners approve of the line I have adopted, I am very indifferent to threats which I have no fear of being executed.

REPLY to the above:—*January 7, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will send a copy of your report to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 5, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians this day. The Chairman, C. M. Vandeleur, Esq., was absent for the first time since I came to the Union, being confined to the house by illness. The marked change in the demeanour of the Board was striking.

Much practical and most important business was left unattended to, and about 100 all but naked applicants left shivering in the cold, while tenant-right was being discussed.

Some stormy and threatening speeches relating to the removal of the workhouse master were indulged in, and one member of the Board (Mr. Gibson), called upon the reporter, who was present, to publish the names of all those members who differed from him on the subject of a proposed increase of salary to the medical officers.

Popular execration and intimidation are the two great engines here. Deprived of their chairman, the Board is entirely unmanageable, and unequal to the discharge of any public business; very few of them are even imperfectly acquainted with the law they are called upon to administer or the regulations they are to observe. A marked and senseless hostility to the Commissioners is evinced upon every opportunity.

After a day's violent brawling and speech-making, all took their departure, leaving two Guardians and myself till a late hour to do the business and admit the paupers.

The number in the house this day, amounted to 936; of this number 169 were in fever and 40 labouring under other diseases. The admissions were, I think, under 100; many of this number will probably leave to-morrow, having come in expecting "out-door relief."

Many complaints are preferred against the relieving officers, alleged with bitterness and defended with partiality. The difficulty of arriving at facts is incredible, and even those whose duty it is to inculcate truth and charity, are frequently wide of both.

The mortality in Killeard, Kilmurry, and Kilmacduane divisions is startling. Many alleged cases of starvation, and undoubted cases of coffinless burials stated.

Yet, I believe, the relieving officers of these divisions do their duty fairly, and offer the workhouse to those whom the law does not warrant them in relieving out of doors.

The mortality in the temporary hospital is also very serious, and, to me, unaccountable. I frequently see patients, who appear to be in a fair way of recovery in the afternoon, dead the following morning. Coffinless burials in the country are becoming daily more frequent, as well as a matter of greater indifference; and the law does not afford any means that I am aware of, to remedy the matter. Resident gentry and charity are scarce.

I find the greatest difficulty in preventing landholders from taking temporary shelter in the workhouse or getting out-door relief, as the case may be; and I can only prevent the relieving officers being influenced, by holding out a threat of immediate dismissal by the Commissioners in any case I can bring home to them.

The rates are still being satisfactorily collected, and without any general or serious opposition.

The suffering and privation the people will undergo, sooner than have recourse to the workhouse, are wonderful; cleanliness and discipline are less supportable than poverty. The destitution and suffering cannot be well over-rated; but still, while the workhouse is available, and none refused who apply for admission, I do not feel justified in recommending out-door relief to able-bodied, which the Guardians have the necessary authority to grant when required.

The poor of this Union suffer severely from want of clothing, particularly the fishermen and the convalescent fever patients. I would apply to the Society of Friends in their behalf, if the Commissioners approve of my so doing.

Every public officer of the Union is overtaxed, and several suffering from fever.

Nothing has been done with reference to the master, nor did I think it expedient to press it in the absence of the chairman. The duties are being carried on by his son, who is, I believe, intended by his friends and partisans to replace him; I, however, see some grave objections to this arrangement as a permanent one.

The present assistant-master is, in my opinion, a very eligible person, active, systematic, and well educated. He is, however, independent, has no friends, and would, I fear, be strenuously opposed. He has exposed some jobbing, and discovered overcharges in tradesmen's bills.

Very many of the Guardians are evidently intimidated, and two of the *ex-officios* threatened with being shot. They have done me a like favour, but without producing the desired result.

REPLY to the above:—*January 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report in which you state that the fishermen and convalescent patients suffer severely from want of clothing, and that you would apply to the Society of Friends in their behalf, if the Commissioners approve of your so doing, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have no objection to your making the application you propose.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners have instructed their Inspector, Mr. Phelan, to proceed to Kilrush at his earliest convenience, and to make a special inquiry and report to the Commissioners relative to the mortality in the temporary fever hospital, to which you advert.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. PHELAN:—*January 8, 1848.*

I AM directed to forward to you the enclosed extract from a report which they have received from Captain Kennedy, the Temporary Inspector in charge of the Kilrush Union, relative to mortality in the temporary fever hospital of the workhouse; and I am to request that you will be so good as to proceed to Kilrush at your earliest convenience, and make a special inquiry on this subject, and report the result to the Commissioners.

Kilrush Union.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 13, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, and I have the honour to refer you to the minutes of their proceedings.

The Chairman was absent; and a great portion of the time was consumed in the discussion of speculative and irrelevant matter, to the exclusion of necessary and practical business.

The number in the house yesterday was 995. It will be remembered, that the number of inmates on the "1st January" amounted to 1768. Since that period the able-bodied class have been gradually discharging themselves, some *additional* ground having been taken to employ them upon. It is most discouraging to see the deep-rooted habits of indolence chargeable to this class; their disinclination to work cannot be over-rated.

There has been no pressure this week for anything but "out-door relief;" but the Commissioners will observe that the order authorizing "out-door relief to "able-bodied" has not been acted on; and I consider the Guardians are acting wisely in deferring it as long as possible, as the lamentable want of truth and shame would render it a matter of great difficulty, to distinguish between the really destitute and the shameless beggar. The workhouse and hospital have never yet been closed against any applicant, and while these are available, I discourage and resist every suggestion for out-door relief.

I have no doubt whatever, that many of the able-bodied class have got themselves upon the infirm list for out-door relief. To remedy this, I propose having a scrutiny of each relief district, making all those in receipt of out-door relief attend at the workhouse for this purpose. On completing this scrutiny, I have suggested the expediency of having the relieving officers' lists made out afresh, and arranged by "*townlands*," which will greatly facilitate the duties of all parties, and enable *each* Guardian to scrutinize the *list of his own locality* at any time; for which purpose he must now examine a whole book. I anticipate much benefit from this measure, as it will act as a wholesome check upon the relieving officers, and show at a view the amount of pauperism in each locality, and upon each *property*.

Many of those who quit the workhouse voluntarily, suffer severely, but the Guardians cannot be held justly responsible.

Many of those also, who hold small portions of land are suffering deeply; they cling to them most tenaciously, though they can neither cultivate or live upon them, and I am confident that many will starve sooner than relinquish them.

The mortality is still very great, there being upwards of 70 deaths during the week, in the house and hospital. I visit the workhouse almost daily, and the hospital two or three times a-week, when I see and inquire of the patients, without, however, being able to account for this great mortality. Many, certainly, come in who appear to be almost beyond the reach of medical aid, but the hospital is comfortable and well ventilated.

There is absolutely no employment, and very little being yet done upon the land, with the exception of numerous *small patches* being prepared for potatoes. The apathy of all classes on this head is astounding; those who could afford to give employment, are more intent upon verifying their own predictions of the failure of the law, than ready to assist its working. Where employment is given, the remuneration is generally miserable. I have for some days watched a man turning up a field by task-work, and though hard working and industrious, I have calculated that he *cannot* earn more than 3*d.* per day. Very many give their labour for their food alone. There is a wide and most profitable field for improvement in this Union; but all classes seem afflicted with a hopeless blindness to their own interests. The land is not made half productive, while the population is wholly unemployed.

The people are beginning to understand the difference between the late "Relief Act" and the present law; and there is, in consequence, a daily improvement in the working of it.

The rates are still being satisfactorily collected.

The Guardians are very thankful for a donation of about 40 tons of Indian corn.

A handsome donation has been made by the British Association, to the Ladies' Society of Kilrush, of which Lady Grace Vandeleur is the zealous patroness.

These grants, together with the issue of rations to the children attending the schools, will, I trust, alleviate much suffering.

I have not been able to give that attention to the books and office part of the workhouse that I would wish, and I fear the late master has been far from regular or systematic.

I enclose a form of weekly abstract for relieving officers, which I propose to lay before the Guardians, for the purpose of showing, at a *view*, the expenditure of each electoral division and the numbers relieved; and this I think will have a beneficial effect in showing the Guardians what they have to provide for—which few of them have any idea of, at present.

The matron of the house is progressing towards convalescence; but the assistant-master, a very valuable officer, is still in a dangerous state.

ENCLOSURE.

RELIEVING OFFICERS' ABSTRACT.

For week ending Saturday,

, 1848.

Electoral Divisions of	Number of Families on Relief List.	Number of lbs. of Meal given out.	Increase on Week.	Decrease on Week.	Total Expended on Week.	OBSERVATIONS.

Signed

, Relieving Officer.

This Return must be sent in on every Saturday to the Clerk of the Guardians.

REPLY to the above:—*January 17, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement, that the time of the Board was consumed in the discussion of speculative and irrelevant matter, to the exclusion of necessary and practical business, the Commissioners having observed statements of a similar nature in some of your previous reports, now desire to state that if the Board of Guardians, as a body, do not properly discharge their duties, you should make a formal separate report on the subject, specifying the instances in which they have failed to carry out the intentions of the Legislature, and you should recommend the dissolution of the Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners have read your statement regarding the mortality in the workhouse with the deepest concern, and they have forwarded it to their Medical Inspector, Mr. Phelan, whom they have already instructed to inquire and report on the sanitary state of the workhouse.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain KENNEDY:—*January 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed Constabulary Report, which has been transmitted to them by the Under Secretary, relative to the death of Mary Browne, at Kilrush; and I am to request that you will be so good as to inquire and report thereon to the Commissioners, and return the enclosed document to this office.

ENCLOSURE.

County Clare, Kilrush, January 7, 1848.

SUB-INSPECTOR CHANNER reports that Mary Browne, aged 11 years, died suddenly at Kilrush, on the 6th instant. The verdict of the inquest was, "That Mary Browne came by her death from a fit of epilepsy, brought on by want of food."

Her father is a poor man with a wife and three children, and applied for relief to Michael O'Donnell, the Kilrush relieving officer, but was refused.

Inspector-General,
 &c. &c.

Kilrush Union.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, relative to the death of Mary Browne, together with the accompanying copy, which I have the honour to return.

The father of the deceased is a boatman, in constant employ; and deceased and her sister *were in regular employ* at the lace factory, earning 2s. 6d. a-week between them. If the father did apply for relief, he only did what seven-tenths of the population of Kilrush have done since I came here, and was, in my opinion and according to my instructions, properly refused.

The family does not come within any class legally relievable out of doors; *and they never were refused admission to the workhouse.* I do not believe them to be fit objects for either.

With every respect for the medical knowledge displayed by the coroner's jury, I am of opinion that "epilepsy" and "want of food" had nothing to say to the girl's death, as a medical gentleman who had an opportunity of judging, assures me the girl died from *worm* disease of long standing, though the termination was sudden.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 20, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Guardians yesterday, and have the honour to refer you to the minutes for their proceedings.

Owing to the absence of many at the Special Commission and Quarter Sessions, the attendance was small, and but little business was transacted.

The number in the workhouse yesterday was 948, and the applicants for admission were but few in number,—this number shows a decrease of 50 during the week, or since the date of my last report. Families numbering 55 have discharged themselves during that period,—almost all of the able-bodied class. Having ascertained that admission to the workhouse is by no means a sure passport to out-door relief, the great pressure from this class has ceased, and with judicious management, I do not anticipate any greater trouble than is necessarily attendant upon the relief of absolutely destitute, as the cases may arise.

The disinclination to labour is of the most marked description; and the able-bodied, when put to reasonable and moderate work, discharge themselves. Any well devised and well *superintended* system of labour will keep the relief list within moderate bounds. The knowledge that additional ground has been taken by the Guardians has worked wonders.

The fever hospital contains 179 patients, being an excess of 29 over the number sanctioned by the Commissioners—its accommodation was, in my opinion, *underrated*.

It is by *no means over crowded*, and the medical officer is of the like opinion. The mortality has decreased considerably; the deaths during week ending 15th instant being only 35. A re-arrangement of the hospital premises would afford more accommodation, and I will immediately take steps to do so should the necessity arise.

The rates are still being satisfactorily collected—but the expenses are daily increasing. The system pursued will, however, prevent anything like a general rush, and the necessities will be dealt with as they arise, without creating any popular sensation.

I contemplate suggesting the use of rye, instead of whole meal for the bread in the workhouse, which would effect a very great saving; I have had some baked, and would be well content with it for my own use.

I will commence rationing the school children on Monday next. I have had many local difficulties and differences to contend with; and deferred beginning till I could make a good start, and insure success in detail.

I fear I must recommend the removal of the relieving officers, to whom I have given another week's trial—they are unequal to the performance of the duties they have undertaken.

The assistant master and matron are recovering—the general state of the house has suffered by their absence.

I have been subjected to several written and practical insults, indicating both

cowardice and want of decency—I leave both unnoticed as being the most likely mode of defeating the intention of the writers and perpetrators.

All circumstances considered I am well satisfied with the progress I have made, and the general state of the Union.

Kilrush Union.

REPLY to the above :—*January 24, 1848.*

WITH regard to your remarks regarding the number of persons that can be accommodated in the fever hospital, I am to state that the Commissioners think that the number to which that building is limited by their sealed order, should not be exceeded.

If you think the building can properly contain a greater number than that specified in the order, the Commissioners will be prepared to take the subject into their consideration with the view of altering the order, on receiving a report from you on the subject, but while the existing order remains, the Commissioners must request you not to permit the number specified in it to be exceeded; as, however, Mr. Phelan is now engaged in an inquiry into the causes of the recent mortality in the workhouse, it may be advisable not to take any further step in the matter until his report shall have been received.

With reference to your observation regarding the relieving officers, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that, they will give their immediate attention to any report you may make on the subject of their fitness for their situations.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 29, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Kilrush Board of Guardians on the 26th instant. I was detained till so late an hour that I was unable to prepare my report.

The Board ordered an investigation of the circumstances attending the death of James Gallagher, a pauper, who died suddenly in the workhouse on the 10th instant, and whose death was reported on the minutes of the 12th instant, as having resulted from the ill treatment of the assistant master. Though I had the advantage of Dr. Phelan's assistance, this investigation occupied me the whole of the 27th and 28th, which, I trust, will offer a sufficient excuse for the delay in forwarding my weekly report.

The usual minutes will show the amount of business transacted at the weekly meeting of the Board.

Some letters, couched in very strong language, were read, relative to alleged denunciations and interference of the Roman Catholic clergyman with a Guardian and a relieving officer, which led to some stormy discussion, recrimination, and intemperate language. It was proposed to have these letters and rejoinders put on the minutes, and an investigation ordered. I resisted both, as being irrelevant and unnecessary, and the matter was left for settlement out of doors.

Dr. Phelan made a statement to the Board on the general state of the workhouse and hospital, the health and diet of the paupers, and offered many valuable suggestions for the better management of both, which I will consider it my duty to see carried out.

The election of a master for the workhouse was further postponed, pending the inquiry into Gallagher's death (reported on minutes of 12th instant), which it was thought might implicate the acting master, who is, I believe, the only candidate.

The schoolmaster sent from the Education Board was duly appointed, but had not arrived.

The numbers in the house have not varied much since my last report, being 958 on the 25th instant, and the admissions on the 26th were few. The fact is, I regret to say, no indication of the extent of real and undoubted destitution throughout the Union. I speak from my own personal observation when I say, it is fearful in extent, and appalling in character; yet, with 8500 persons receiving out-door relief, at an expenditure of over 300*l.* weekly, and the workhouse still available for 300 persons, I do not feel justified in recommending out-door relief to the able-bodied. Such a proceeding would, I think, be unjustifiable and ruinous, and I take every pains to overcome the prejudice and repugnance to the workhouse, as I know that many defer applying till their health and constitution are broken down beyond repair.

Kilrush Union.

An increase of destitution and consequent expenditure must be expected daily; and the Commissioners have now the data to calculate the duration of our funds. I inculcate the necessity of economy in every branch, and intend suggesting the use of rye meal bread, instead of whole flour, in the workhouse, which will make a saving of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per ton. I have established a bakery for the school children under Count Strzelecki's auspices; and I find the rye bread succeeds admirably. It is palatable and wholesome.

The mortality is but little decreased. I have been in daily communication with Dr. Phelan during the last week, inquiring and examining into this lamentable subject, and will see all his suggestions immediately carried out. He will of course report fully to the Commissioners, which obviates the necessity of my doing so. I may, however, remark, that the startling mortality is by no means confined to the workhouse and hospital. In the divisions of Killara, Kilmurry, and Kilnihil, it is beyond anything I have known or seen, though there is no means of accurately ascertaining its amount. It is, however, no longer a novelty, and elicits but little notice. I believe that equal numbers are buried without as with coffins. The corpses are wrapped in straw, and swathed round with a "sugawn" (straw rope). I met a wretched man, a few days since, carrying his two dead children to the grave in a cradle. He and all his family were receiving out-door relief, and he made no complaint of a want of food. I believe the mortality is attributable more to a protracted insufficiency of food than active disease. Want of clothing and long privation have broken down the constitution of the people, and made them an easy prey to the most trifling ailment.

I am painfully alive to the responsibility devolving upon me in relation to this subject. I always visit the hospital and examine the patients two or three times a week, and often daily, adopting any suggestion to save life and alleviate suffering.

I calculate the mortality at 29 per cent. upon the number of admissions, and I regret to say that Dr. Phelan rates it still higher.

About 170 are now in the hospital, and unless there be a speedy decrease in the numbers, I must suggest and provide more accommodation—a very difficult matter.

The collection of the rates is satisfactory, though, I regret to say, many immediate lessors and a few Guardians are in default. I forward a return of their names, and amount, by this post. I stated to the Board that I intended to suggest the publication of all defaulters' names after the 1st February.

During the last week there has been a move in preparing the land, but only to a trifling extent; and I fear those employed are only receiving "their bit" (diet) in return for their labour. Advantage is cruelly taken in many instances of the wretched labourers' circumstances to get his labour for nothing, and is frequently exacted for the rent of their miserable cabins.

Some idea of the poverty of the district may be formed from the fact, that numbers bring a horse-load of turf eight or nine miles, and sell it for 9 d . in Kilrush.

Want of discipline and irregularity prevail in the workhouse, and amendment is hopeless till an efficient master is appointed. I have represented it to the Guardians, and will report specially, if necessary, after their next meeting.

REPLY to the above:—*February 2, 1848.*

With reference to the investigation of the circumstances attending the death of James Gallagher, I am to state, that the Commissioners are desirous of receiving a copy of the evidence taken by you on the death of Gallagher.

With reference to that part of your report in which you state that an increase of destitution and consequent expenditure must be expected daily, and that the Commissioners have now the data to calculate the duration of the funds, I am to state that the Commissioners do not know to what you refer in this passage. If the expenditure must be expected to increase daily, the Commissioners have no means of calculating how long the funds of the Union, including the present uncollected rates, are likely to last.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 30, 1848.*

Kilrush Union.

WITH reference to the minutes of the Kilrush Guardians of the 12th instant, reporting the sudden death of James Gallagher, a pauper in the house, on the 10th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the Board ordered an investigation, which took place on the 27th and 28th instant.

I was assisted by Mr. Phelan, and took the evidence upon oath, which was sufficiently contradictory on many points.

The opinion arrived at is recorded as follows:—

“ We, the undersigned, having carefully considered the foregoing evidence, are
“ of opinion, 1st. That James Gallagher came by his death from natural causes ;
“ 2nd. That there is no evidence to show that deceased received any personal
“ injury or violence from the assistant master ; and that the assistant master is
“ completely exonerated from any blame imputed to him in the report laid before
“ the Guardians on the 12th instant.

“ DENIS PHELAN,
“ A. E. KENNEDY,
“ W. FOLEY, M.D.”

Colonel Vandeleur and Mr. Keane, J.P., were present.

REPLY to the above:—*February 3, 1848.*

I AM to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the result of the investigation ; but I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners are desirous of having a copy of the evidence taken, and they will feel obliged to you to cause a copy to be forwarded to them accordingly.

ATHLONE UNION.

Mr. S. W. FLANAGAN to the COMMISSIONERS—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians:—January 16, 1848.*

At a meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union, held yesterday, the 15th, a resolution was passed by a majority of ten to four, calling upon the Commissioners to accept their resignation, and alleging as a reason for it their inability to collect the rates.

This resolution has put beyond all doubt the incapacity of this Board, and the necessity which I have already pressed upon the Commissioners, of dissolving it.

A reference to the returns furnished to the Commissioners will show, that out of a gross rate little exceeding 8000*l.*, upwards of 6000*l.* were uncollected in the month of December; that, while the current expenditure of the Union during the month of December, amounted to nearly 600*l.*, the amount of rate lodged with the Treasurer did not amount to 300*l.*

A reference to the minutes of this Board will likewise show that, upon the 11th of December, a resolution was (at my instance) passed, calling upon the collectors to furnish lists of all defaulters owing more than a certain amount of rate, with a view of compelling the collectors to do their duty, and of exposing several members of the Board whose names would have appeared in the list.

From that day to the present, no such list has been furnished; and the collectors' books will still show the names of several of the Guardians (amongst others, one if not two of the four dissentients at yesterday's meeting) in arrears for their rate.

I have further to report, that several hundred unfortunate beings, apparently in most extreme destitution, pressed for admission to the workhouse yesterday; but from the want of ordinary foresight, and gross neglect of their duties by the Guardians, the greater number were obliged to return unrelieved, there being neither beds, bedding, or clothing ready for them.

I would most earnestly press upon the Commissioners the absolute necessity of dissolving forthwith this Board of Guardians, and entrusting the administration of the affairs of this Union to others willing and able to carry out the provisions of the law, and secure to the many distressed poor of the Union that relief to which they are legally entitled.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION —*January 22, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration a report from Mr. Flanagan, Poor Law Inspector, in which he draws their attention to a resolution passed at a meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Athlone Union on the 15th instant, by a large majority, calling upon the Commissioners to dissolve the Board.

In reference to that resolution the Commissioners have to observe, that the grounds upon which the Commissioners are empowered by the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, to dissolve a Board of Guardians are quite irrespective of a desire on the part of the Guardians to be released from their duties; still the resolution of the Guardians has led the Commissioners carefully to consider the present state of the Athlone Union, and the Commissioners have determined to dissolve the Board of Guardians on the ground, that the Guardians have failed to discharge effectually the duties which are devolved on them by the law. On this head, the Commissioners draw attention to their letters of the 10th and 31st December last, and of the 14th instant.

It appears by reference to the returns of the Union funds, that from the 5th December, 1846, on which day a rate of 8,955*l.* was made in the Athlone Union, the Guardians collected only 6,576*l.*, leaving arrears uncollected to the amount of 2,379*l.*, while at the same time, the debts of the Union amounted to no less than 3,948*l.* It also appears that, although a new rate was ultimately made on the 11th ultimo, amounting to 15,450*l.*, and although the net annual value of the Union is as much as 103,708*l.*, the Guardians caused to be collected and lodged with their treasurer during the month, only about one-half of the amount necessary to defray the current expenditure, on a scale of relief wholly inadequate to the extent of destitution which the Guardians are bound to relieve.

It further appears by the minutes of the Guardians' proceedings on the 11th December, that a resolution was passed calling upon the collectors to furnish lists of all defaulters owing more than a certain amount of rate, with a view of compelling the collectors to do their duty, and of exposing several rate-payers, including members of the Board of Guardians, whose names would have appeared on the list. No list has, however, been furnished in accordance with the resolution referred to, and Mr. Flanagan reports that the collectors' books will still show that several of the Guardians have not yet paid their rates.

Mr. Flanagan reports that several hundred persons, apparently in extreme destitution, pressed for admission into the workhouse on the 15th instant; but that from the want of ordinary foresight and palpable neglect of the duties of the Guardians, the greater number were obliged to return unrelieved, there being neither beds, bedding, or clothing ready for them.

The Commissioners feel, under such painful circumstances, that they should not be warranted in longer permitting the administration of relief to the destitute poor of the Athlone Union, to depend upon the present Board of Guardians; and they have accordingly resolved to issue an order for the dissolution of the Board, and they will proceed at once to appoint paid officers to administer the affairs of the Union.

COPIES of the COMMISSIONERS' LETTERS referred to in the foregoing, addressed to the CLERK of the UNION.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
December 10, 1847.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland desire to state to the Board of Guardians of the Athlone Union, that a memorial has been addressed to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, by inhabitants of the parishes of Saint Peter and Drum, in which it is represented that if relief be not speedily afforded, hundreds of persons in those parishes will die of starvation; that the poorhouse is full; and that the Guardians have no funds for administering out-door relief.

The Commissioners have ascertained that there is much destitution among the poorer classes of the Athlone Union; and they observe, that of the rate still in course of collection, which was made in December, 1846, there was outstanding on the 31st of October, a sum of 312*l.*, and that the debts of the Guardians at the same date amounted to 370*l.*

Under such circumstances, the Commissioners feel bound to call upon the Board of Guardians to proceed, without delay, to make a new rate; and whilst the books are in preparation, to urge on the collection of the rates outstanding; so that the amount of arrears to be carried forward to the new books, may be diminished as much as practicable, before they shall be in readiness for the insertion of the arrears.

The Commissioners trust, however, that in the preparation of the new books, there may be no further delay than is actually necessary, for making the requisite entries.

It is to be lamented that in the meantime, there is no fund available for enlarging the means of relief possessed by the Board of Guardians, now solely charged with the grave responsibility of providing for the support of the actually destitute poor of the Union, of which the Guardians can only acquit themselves by strenuous exertions for levying the requisite funds, and carefully superintending the administration of relief.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
December 31, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to state for the information of the Board of Guardians of the Athlone Union, that the Commissioners have received a letter from Collector Charles Kelly, in reply from one to this office, requiring him to account for the comparatively small amount collected by him out of rates amounting to 3102*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, made on the 5th December, 1846, of which there was still outstanding, on the 25th instant, 1188*l.*

The Commissioners consider the statement of Mr. Kelly to be very unsatisfactory.

They also regret to observe that the progress made in collecting the rates through the Union generally, denotes a want of due exertion, and an absence of that stimulus which should have been applied by the Guardians to render their officers' exertions commensurate with the necessities of the Union.

The total rates struck on the 5th December, 1846, amount to 8955*l.* 19*s.* 9½*d.*; of this sum there remained uncollected on the 30th ultimo, 2662*l.* 11*s.* 5½*d.*, and notwithstanding the increase of destitution, and the crippled state of the Union funds, the collectors brought in during the last month only 458*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*

The Guardians being responsible for the due collection of the rates and the providing of means of relief for the destitute poor of the Union, the Commissioners feel themselves now imperatively called upon to state, that if the legal provisions for these objects be not actively carried into effect by the Board of Guardians, the Commissioners will be bound to consider their own responsibility under the laws for the relief of the poor, more especially the 18th section of the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
January 14, 1848.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had under consideration, minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Athlone Union, on the 1st instant, containing a notice of motion to request the Commissioners to dissolve the Board, and appoint paid Guardians to manage the affairs of the Union; and I am directed to state that with a view of avoiding unnecessary discussion, the Commissioners desire, in reference to this notice of motion, to inform the Board of Guardians that the dissolution of a Board can only occur under some of the circumstances, and in the manner pointed out in the 18th section of the Act 10 Vic. cap. 31.

In reference to the application for a loan on the credit of the new rate, for the purpose of affording out-door relief to the 7th March, the Commissioners desire to state that there is no longer a fund out of which advances can be made on the credit of poor-rates.

The Commissioners recommend the Guardians to afford assistance to their clerk to enable him to complete the new rate and collection books with the least possible delay. It is also recommended, that when the books of one division can be completed, the collection should then be proceeded with, without waiting for the completion of all the books.

Preparatory to the collection, the Commissioners further recommend that only active and competent men, who will undertake to devote their whole time to the collection of the rates, and to conform strictly to the existing regulations, should be appointed as collectors.

The Commissioners must again remind the Guardians that they are legally responsible for having the rates collected, and that if they fail in this duty, on the effectual performance of which the support of the destitute poor now wholly depends, the Commissioners will be bound, as already stated in their letter of the 31st ultimo, to consider their own responsibility to see the law fulfilled, under the 18th section of the Act 10 Vic. cap. 31.

With respect to the proposal for letting a building in Mardyke-street, Athlone, as an auxiliary workhouse, the Commissioners desire to state, that they will be prepared to accept it in pursuance of their powers under the Act 1 and 2 Vic. cap. 56, on being supplied with the document, addressed to themselves as by law necessary, accompanied by a full statement of particulars as to the premises.

As regards the cheque for 120*l.* given to the workhouse master to purchase supplies, I am to state that the practice of issuing money to the master for purchasing supplies is very objectionable; and that supplies should be provided on contract.

The Commissioners request a reconsideration of the proposed change in the dietary, and of the medical officer's protest against the adoption of the same kind of diet, as proposed for every meal.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 28, 1848.*

HAVING been appointed under your seal to administer relief to the destitute poor of the above Union, we beg to lay before you this our first report.

Our first step on arrival was to ascertain the state of the house, which we have to report generally filthy and disgusting, and quite devoid of system and regularity; classification but ill observed, and many of the wards diverted from their original purposes. There was no place for provisional admissions, the probationary wards being occupied by tailors on one side, and filled with old pauper clothing on the other, above and below.

The kitchen, laundry, dining-hall, and nursery, presented nothing but filth and irregularity; the proper hours of meals unobserved, and the usual workhouse rules seemed quite suspended.

The dormitories were tolerably clean, but not at all ventilated. Nearly all the beds required straw, which we learned was on the premises; we therefore ordered its appropriation immediately.

In the infirmary we found a great many children crowded together, ill of various diseases, and lying together heads and points, four to six in the ordinary beds; and in some cases the beds were closed up together, forming one continuous couch, with 10, 15, or more occupants.

Ventilation was here quite neglected, as the stench too plainly told.

The schools were in good order, except the floors, which require to be re-made (as, indeed, do most of the floors of the house, particularly the nursery). There are no tablets, and scarcely any books. Education seems to have been but a secondary consideration. The children seemed healthy, well clad, and well cared for, particularly in the female school.

The boys' school has been removed to an auxiliary house hired by the Guardians, about half a mile distant, at a rent of 50*l.* for one year. 225 boys are located in it under the care of the schoolmaster; and we found those lodged in 54 beds, rather more than four in a bed, one-half of which was almost devoid of straw; and here, too, we had this want at once supplied, and a better disposition

of the sleeping wards made. In one room, not quite 10 feet square, we found 23 boys slept on loose straw. There was no window, and the door was locked nightly for 12 hours. Were it not for the fire-place, an inquest would doubtless have been necessary after the first night in this "black hole."

There is a good range of out-houses attached to this building, and, with little outlay in repairs, capable of affording ample accommodation, all of which are unoccupied; and here we have the same remark to make of several of the upper wards in the workhouse, while other portions are very inconveniently crowded.

The conversion of those out-buildings into dormitories and day-wards, will occupy our immediate attention.

The workhouse grounds, containing about four statute acres, are in a perfect state of waste, badly fenced on all sides, and perfectly fenceless on the north. The grounds, yards, and grave-yards exhibit sad neglect.

The house is remarkably free from fever, but three or four cases of a mild type existing. These are lodged in the idiot wards. (There does not appear to be any of the latter class in the house.) The physician informed us that the late Board would not admit any fever cases into the house, treating those only which arose amongst the inmates.

There is a new fever hospital built on the workhouse grounds, capable of containing 45 to 50 patients. It requires but furniture to render it available. Out-offices to it have been contracted for, but are not yet begun. The contractor's bonds only arrived this day. There were fever sheds in the town under the Relief Committee of last season, but they have been dismantled.

The paupers are all well clad. There seems to be an abundance of clothing, and clothing materials of the best description; but a sad deficiency in bed-ticks and beds. We learn that a contract has been made for bed-ticking, which was daily expected to be delivered.

The financial department of the Union next occupied our attention. We summoned the rate-collectors to attend, and ascertained from the books that there was an arrear of rate, in amount 2140*l.*, existing on the last levy, made 5th December, 1846, the total of which was 8955*l.*; of this account a very large amount is due by extensive proprietors for their tenants under 4*l.*, many of whom are resident, and some absentees. Several of the late Guardians are defaulters for considerable sums.

The rate-collectors' books present a mass of error and confusion. Some have paid in much beyond what appears collected in their books, whilst others are defaulters to a considerable amount. One has been criminally proceeded against; and those who have paid off, or nearly so, complained they had not been paid any poundage these two years. In no instance has the order of the Commissioners, with regard to their books, been complied with.

The liabilities of the Union amount to 3949*l.*, of which 925*l.* is due to the treasurer of the National Bank; and cheques have been issued, but remain unpaid, to the extent of 2185*l.*

Law proceedings against the Guardians had been instituted some time back, and pleas of confession given in three cases; and we have this day received notice that executions are pending for upwards of 400*l.*, and the solicitor threatening sale of the furniture, &c.

Under these circumstances, we did not hesitate to seek a further loan from our treasurer, and have therefore addressed him a note to that effect, for a sum of from 600*l.* to 800*l.* on the security of the rates; which request he promised to forward to the Board of Directors in London without delay.

An uniform rate of 3*s.* in the pound was declared by the late Board on the 11th September last, and the arrears have been added by the clerk. Sixteen of those books are now ready for signature, and the remainder are in progress, and only retarded by the state of one of the collector's books, who held a fourth of the Union, and is seriously in arrear.

We found the Union divided into seven collecting districts. Two of the collectors held nine divisions out of 19, and those the largest in point of value and population, comprising more than half the Union. We deemed it necessary to curtail those districts, and increase the number of collectors. We therefore advertised for collectors for each division of the Union, and will select 10 of the most eligible that offer; having divided the entire into 10 nearly equal districts, an arrangement which, we trust, will facilitate the collection of the rate, and give greater security against fraud or neglect.

Athlone Union.
—

The relieving officers, 10 in number, were elected last September, but never called into action. We had them before us; and having ascertained from our contractor, the possibility of obtaining a supply of Indian meal on credit, for distribution in out-door relief, we did not hesitate to place the books in their hands, with strict injunctions to insert only the most destitute, until we were in funds to warrant further relief.

Two of the relief districts are vacant, one from death, and one from resignation; we have therefore advertised for those districts anew, and will proceed to elect next week.

Of the amount of destitution existing in the Union we are scarcely yet in a position to speak, but it is evidently very great. At our first meeting numbers presented themselves for admission, but we were not, unhappily, in any position to relieve them.

Two inquests have been held within the last week, and verdicts of "death from starvation" returned. We have been waited on by several Roman Catholic clergymen, whose representations of the state of the poor were most harrowing, deaths from want being of common occurrence; but our perfect want of funds, and the disorganized state of the affairs of the Union generally, rendered refusal on our part, for the present, but too painful a duty.

In conclusion we can only add, that our predecessors have left us but a legacy of debt and destitution, that will demand our utmost energy to surmount. However, the Commissioners may rest assured that no amount of exertion shall be spared by us to correct the abuses and alleviate the miseries of the poor.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 2, 1848.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have read with much interest your very explanatory report on the state of the workhouse of the Athlone Union, when you took charge as Vice-Guardians; as well as on the collection of the rates, the liabilities of the late Board, and the extent of destitution existing in the Union.

The Commissioners approve of the step taken towards obtaining a loan from the treasurer, to meet the urgent creditors of the late Board; also your arrangements for collecting the rates and arrears, and calling into action the services of the relieving officers.

The Commissioners have full reliance on your proceeding to carry into execution all your powers as Guardians, with energy and discretion.

CAVAN UNION.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 6, 1848.*

WE had, this day, information sworn against one of the late rate collectors; to-morrow we intend proceeding against another for gross frauds committed against the rates of the Union. We trust this prompt proceeding under the advice of a respectable solicitor, and with the concurrence of the resident magistrate (Mr. Wilcox), will prevent similar dishonesty hereafter, and show the rate-payers we are determined to protect their property.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 11, 1848.*

HAVING in our last report laid before you the state of the Union on our arrival, and the measures adopted by us for remedying the existing evils, we now proceed, as briefly as possible, to report progress.

The balances in the hands of the late rate-collectors, appearing on our first examination of their accounts, have all been paid in; but, as it has since been discovered that three of the collectors returned arrears which they had received and applied to their own purposes, we have had informations given, in order to arrest them and make them amenable to justice.

The collection of the present rate is progressing satisfactorily, and already 4184*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* has been lodged with the treasurer.

The collectors do not anticipate any serious difficulty in obtaining the remainder within the given time.

We have paid all the liabilities of the Union up to the 31st December, 1847.

The necessary arrangements for fitting up the house at Butlersbridge having been completed, we, on the 22nd ultimo, detached 85 children out of the poor-house, there to remain till further orders, under charge of a wardsman; and the outhouses having since been fitted up, we, yesterday, added 80 more of the children to that number. Accommodation has also been provided for 100 girls, in the immediate vicinity of the workhouse, under the charge of the school-mistress. Both these detachments are regular, clean, and healthy.

We have also removed 30 fever patients to the large store, prepared in the neighbourhood of Cavan for that purpose.

The medical officer has reported that those cases of fever remaining in the poor-house, will be convalescent in five or six days.

We have, accordingly, directed that all fresh cases of fever are to be immediately removed to our temporary hospital, and thereby hope, in a very short time, to be entirely free from it in the workhouse, the effects of which have been most disastrous, not only to the paupers, but likewise to the officers, as we have to record the death of our matron, who died on the 5th instant, being the third who has fallen a victim to the disease within the last 12 months.

The trades we proposed in our last report for giving employment to the boys in the house, are now in progress under qualified masters.

We have forwarded to the Commissioners, for their approval, a report on the imperfect state of the sewers and ventilation of the workhouse, with plans and estimates for remedying the same, which, on being returned, will receive our immediate attention.

We also forward a report, which we called for from our medical officer, relative to an alteration in the dietary, by the use of a larger quantity of rice, which we have no doubt will tend both to economy and the health of the inmates.

The Vice-Guardians having reason to believe that the existing contracts were not on the most advantageous terms, gave due notice that some (with the exception of milk) would be discontinued; have advertised for, and accepted others, which will ensure a cheaper and better description of supplies in future.

We continue a minute scrutiny and revision of the relieving officers' books, and regret to be obliged to add that distress is greatly on the increase. Relief was given for the

Cavan Union.

Week ending 25th December last, viz.:—

814 families, representing 1673 persons, cost per head 7½d., amounting to 51l. 7s. 10d.

Week ending 1st January, 1848, viz.:—

1194 families, representing 2497 persons, cost 6½d. per head, amounting to 63l. 18s. 6½d.

We have lately been overwhelmed with applications from the able-bodied, and have given to this subject our most attentive and anxious consideration, with a view to discover if the distress was of so urgent a nature as to render it imperative on us to apply to the Commissioners, for an order to grant relief under the 2nd section of the Extension Act. We do not consider the necessity for such a step exists at present.

The relieving officers report that a great number of this class of applicants would not come into the workhouse, but merely demand relief, knowing that we have no room, in the hope of being allowed some provisionally, till next Board-day.

Finding, therefore, that the children and fever patients already removed out of the house insufficient to enable us to test the able-bodied applying, we, on the 4th instant, directed that all the paupers in the house who were entitled to out-door relief under the 1st section of the Act, should be forthwith discharged, and receive a weekly allowance from the relieving officer of their own district, of six pounds of meal and two-pence for lodging for adults; three pounds of meal and one penny for children per week. We have thus procured room for 130 more able-bodied in the house, and hope, by continuing this practice, we shall be able to admit such numbers of able-bodied as will deter any but the really destitute, from applying for relief.

Having received a certificate from the Board of Health as to the necessity of procuring temporary hospital accommodation for the electoral divisions of Arvagh and Ballinagh, we have caused a communication to be addressed to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, requesting an order to reimburse the two Committees of the aforesaid divisions, and select one Committee from the two, to manage the temporary fever hospital of that district.

We have succeeded in renting a house in a central position for that purpose, which will be prepared against Saturday-week, and which, we regret to state, is absolutely necessary from the many cases of fever in the district.

We have this day appointed a revising valuator, at an annual salary of 35l., whose duties will be to attend constantly on the Board, check the collectors' accounts, examine into and report on objections from rate-payers, which, we apprehend from the negligent manner in which the late revising valuator did his duty, will be most numerous.

We continue to receive the most cordial co-operation from all parties resident in the Union, who unanimously express their satisfaction at the measures adopted by us, to which they attribute the good effects already visible, and state their fervent hope that they may never again have to deal with a Board of local Guardians.

ENCLOSURE.

Dr. COYNE to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*January, 1848.*

IN reply to letter of the 6th ultimo, addressed to me as medical officer of the Cavan Union, I beg leave to offer the following suggestions:—

That, after a careful consideration of the present dietary of the Cavan Union workhouse, and after six years' experience of its results on the health of the inmates, I consider the introduction of rice a most decided improvement.

I would suggest the use of rice instead of Indian meal, in the following proportions, viz.,

Adults.

Breakfast—3½ ozs. oatmeal, half a pint mixed milk, with 1½ ozs. rice properly prepared and made into stirabout.

Dinner—1 lb. brown bread and half a pint mixed milk.

N.B.—The interval between breakfast and dinner I consider too short, and would consider that breakfast should be at 9, dinner at 4 o'clock.

Children 9 to 15 years of age.

Breakfast—2 ozs. oatmeal, 1 oz. rice, half a pint mixed milk.

Dinner—8 ozs. brown bread, half a pint mixed milk.

Supper—8 ozs. flummery boiled, 1 noggin new milk.

Children 2 to 9 years of age.

Breakfast—1½ oz. oatmeal, ¾ oz. rice, 1 noggin new milk.

Dinner—6 ozs. brown bread, 1 noggin new milk.

Supper—6 ozs. flummery, 1 noggin new milk.

Infants under 2 years of age.

Breakfast—1½ oz. oatmeal, ¾ oz. rice, 1 noggin new milk.

Dinner—4 ozs. white bread, 1 noggin new milk.

Supper—4 ozs. flummery, 1 noggin new milk.

The foregoing is what, I think, should be adopted as a dietary for the general house. It includes my answer to the second and third paragraphs of your letter of the 6th ultimo; I think it will be found to conduce to the general health of the house, particularly amongst the children, with whom I have found the former dietary very objectionable, the mixed milk and stirabout tending to increase the disposition to relaxed bowels in scrofulous habits, a disease very prevalent amongst the lower orders in this country.

With regard to the clothing:—

I have never considered the material now in use (fustians) for trowsers beneficial either as regards economy or comfort, and would feel inclined to recommend dark coloured cord, which never requires washing, and will be found a much more durable article; the bedding and bed clothing are deficient in quantity, but in quality good. As regards any suggestions of mine respecting any improvement tending to advance the general health of the inmates, I would observe that Mr. Hague's plan of altering the sewerage is most advisable, and that the system of ventilation recommended by Mr. Phelan on his last visit appears to be most essential.

P.S.—If possible I would prefer frieze trousers during the winter and spring months, and I understand it would not be more expensive than our present arrangements, but much more healthy, particularly amongst the old and ailing young.

REPLY to the above:—*January 17, 1848.*

I AM to transmit herewith a copy of a form of order, authorizing out-door relief to certain classes not included in section 1 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and to state that, should the accommodation now provided by you not be found sufficient, the Commissioners will be prepared to issue an order in this form, to enable you to make still more room in the workhouse, by relieving any persons now in it, who belong to the classes adverted to, by means of out-door relief.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*January 21, 1848.*

THE Commissioners perceiving from your recent reports on the Cavan Union, the improved state of the finances of that Union, and that you have paid nearly all the liabilities of the Union up to 31st December, 1847, I am directed to call your attention to the advance of 300*l.*, made by the British Relief Association, in December last, with a view to the repayment of the amount as soon as the funds in hand, from the collection of the rate, admit of such repayment.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*January 19, 1848.*

WITH reference to a constabulary report, dated 1st instant, transmitted to the Commissioners, relative to the death of a woman named Mary Clarke, on the 30th ultimo, in the Cavan Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to transmit, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a report, dated the 11th instant, of the Vice-Guardians of Cavan Union, to whom the Commissioners referred, on the subject.

CONSTABULARY REPORT referred to in the foregoing.

Ballyjamesduff, January 1, 1848.

I HAVE to report the death of Mary Clark on the 30th ultimo, when on her way to Cavan poorhouse.

The following is a copy of the verdict:—

We find that the deceased, Mary Clark, of Toher, a widow, aged 55, died from cholera produced by eating raw turnips, which might not have had the same effect had she not suffered from previous want, and we do acquit James Brady, relieving officer, of any neglect of duty towards deceased.

H. TROTTER,

Head Constable, 2nd Class.

The Inspector-General,
&c. &c.

Cavan Union.

VICE-GUARDIANS' REPORT above referred to :—*January 11, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, enclosing a copy of a verdict found on Mary Clark, and enquiring if any application had been made for relief on the part of the deceased, and we have to report, for the information of the Commissioners, the following circumstances:—

Mary Clark applied for relief on the 26th November, to the relieving officer, James Brady, who offered her a ticket for the workhouse, which she refused. On the 24th December she again applied for relief, stating her distress and her willingness then to enter the workhouse, on which the relieving officer gave her a ticket and 7lbs. of meal as provisional relief, for herself and her child, till the following Tuesday, which was three days.

She came on the following Monday to the workhouse, and was informed there would be no room till the next day (the regular Board-day); and on her way here on Tuesday, it appears, she fell ill and died. Part of the meal given by the relieving officer on the previous Friday was found in her house after her death.

From all enquiry we have made we do not consider that any blame can be attached to the relieving officer.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 19, 1848.*

THREE cases of rescue of cattle distrained by collectors have lately taken place in this Union. We forward the statement of the collectors herewith for the information of your Board.

In the case of Robert Buchanan, collector, we caused summonses to be issued for the petty sessions in Cavan, where one of the Vice-Guardians attended. The magistrates received informations in the case of Peter Coby; and in the case of Andrew Galligan allowed it to remain over until next court day, the 26th instant, on the application of the defendant.

In the case of Peter M'Donald, collector, he reports that the magistrates at sessions in Belturbet appeared desirous of giving time to the defendant, with a view to a compromise, which we consider a dangerous example, and likely to obstruct the collectors hereafter.

We then caused Buchanan, the collector, to swear informations, to ground an application to the magistrates to grant him the protection of the police in the discharge of his duty. We tendered them to the Bench; but the Court declined to interfere, or grant the aid required, referring us to the Government. We forward Buchanan's informations.

We submit the foregoing, and take leave to suggest to the Poor Law Commissioners to obtain from Government the aid required; also that the nearest resident magistrate be requested to attend on next Saturday at Belturbet, on which day many cases of parties being in arrear, and summoned by a collector of the name of Reilly, will be heard.

We regret to be obliged to add, that some of the magistrates are not desirous of giving to the collectors of the Poor Rate, that assistance in the discharge of their duty which they require.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. BUCHANAN to the VICE-GUARDIANS of the Cavan Union :—*January 17, 1848.*

I BEG leave to report that on Friday, the 14th day of January instant, I proceeded to the lands of Deumore, in said Union, and then and there seized upon a cow, the property of Mary Coby, of said Deumore, for the sum of 3*l.* poor rates; whereupon her son, Peter Coby, came forward in a most violent manner, armed with large stones, and then and there rescued the said cow from me, for which outrage I will this day apply to a magistrate for a warrant against the said Peter Coby.

And furthermore, I beg leave to report that on Saturday, the 15th day of January instant, I proceeded to the lands of Black Bull, in the said Cavan Union, and then and there ordered my man, James M'Mahon, to loose out a cow which was then tied in a byre; whereupon Andrew Galligan and his wife, of said Black Bull, came violently and struck the said James M'Mahon, and knocked him down twice; and said Andrew dragged myself, and would not let me drive off said cow for poor rates—amount 3*l.* 4*s.*

Mr. M'DONALD, Collector, to the VICE-GUARDIANS of the Cavan Union :—*January 17, 1848.*

I BEG leave to report that on Friday, the 14th instant, I went to the lands of Drumcro, and seized two cows for poor rate due off said lands, which cows were rescued from me by Phill. Fannon and others. The said Phill. Fannon I caused to be taken before the bench of magistrates at Belturbet on the 15th instant, and they postponed the case until the 22nd instant, that in the meantime the landlord would have it settled.

County of Cavan,] The information of Robert Buchanan, of Carrig, in the county of Cavan.
to wit. Informant saith, that in the month of December, 1847, he was appointed by the Vice-Guardians of Cavan Union, in said county of Cavan, collector for the electoral divisions of Denn and Kilnaleek, in said county, to collect such poor rates and arrears thereof as were then returned to him in a certain book now in informant's possession. Informant saith, amongst other persons returned therein as due and owing poor rate to the said Vice-Guardians is Mary Coby, as due and owing the sum of three pounds, out of the lands of Deumore, in said county. Informant further saith, that repeated applications for payment of same were made, but without effect. Informant saith, that on the 14th of January, 1848, he went to said lands of Deumore, so in possession of said Mary Coby, and distrained a cow, her property, for said sum of three pounds, being the amount of poor rate due and payable by her out of the said lands to the said Vice-Guardians of said Cavan Union; but on informant making said seizure, said cow was rescued by Peter Coby, the son of the said Mary, who threatened that if informant persisted in taking away said cow, he would inflict serious injury on him, he being at same time armed with stones, and used such threats and language as prevented this informant from completing said seizure, or discharging his duty towards the said Vice-Guardians. Informant further saith, that without the assistance of a police force he will be unable to levy the various amounts of rate to be by him collected, as informant has heard, and verily believes, every opposition will be given to the collection of same; and without such assistance informant's life will be endangered.

Cavan Union.

ROBERT BUCHANAN.

Sworn before us this 19th day of January, 1848.

THEOPHILUS THOMPSON, J.P., } *Justices of the Peace*
 R. ERSKINE, } *for the Co. Cavan.*

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS in reply to the above:—
January 21, 1848.

THE Commissioners having communicated with the Government, they are informed that Mr. Holmes has been written to, directing his attendance and aid at Belturbet, but it is feared he will not receive the letter in time.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 20, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 17th instant, enclosing a copy of a form of an order from the Commissioners, authorizing out-door relief to certain classes not included in section 1 of the Irish Extension Act, and stating that the Commissioners will be prepared to issue an order in that form to us, should we require it.

We have now to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that the accommodation provided by us in out-houses, and the numbers already discharged from the house, have proved insufficient to enable us to test the many able-bodied still applying for relief, and we have, therefore, to request that an order in the same form may be issued for this Union, which will enable us to make still more room in the workhouse, by relieving any persons now in it, who belong to the classes adverted to, by means of out-door relief.

COMMISSIONERS' ORDER for Out-door Relief under Section 2 of 10 Vic. c. 31.

To the Paid Officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the Cavan Union; to the Clerk or Clerks to the Justices of the Petty Sessions, held for the Division or Divisions in which the Townlands and Places comprised within the said Union are situated, and to all others whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it has been shown to our satisfaction, that, by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the Cavan Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded to destitute poor persons, being widows with one child dependent on them respectively; or to destitute poor persons, being children whose parents are both dead; or to destitute poor persons being able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families, dependent on them for support, are affected by severe sickness or serious accident.

Now therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the paid officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the said Union,

Cavan Union.

for the period of two months from the date of this order, to administer relief out of the workhouse in food to such destitute persons as aforesaid, being widows with one child dependent on them respectively; or being children whose parents are both dead; or being able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families, dependent on them for support, are affected by severe sickness or serious accident.

Sealed with our seal, this twenty-fifth day of January,
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight.

(Signed)

E. T. B. TWISLETON.

(Countersigned)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 24, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, calling our attention to an advance of 300*l.* made to this Union by the British Relief Association, and in reply, we beg to state that the financial affairs of the Union are so flourishing, that we have it in our power to repay the sum in question, and are prepared to do so on receiving instructions from you, as to the mode of making such repayment.

The COMMISSIONERS to Count STRZELECKI:—*February 14, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have received a communication from the clerk of the Cavan Union, in which he states that the Vice-Guardians have forwarded the sum of 300*l.* to Commissary-General, Sir R. J. Routh, in repayment of the loan made by the British Relief Association to that Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 13, 1848.*

WE beg to submit, for the information of the Commissioners, our report on the general progress of affairs in the Cavan Union since we last had the honour of addressing you.

The finances, we are happy to inform you, are in a most flourishing condition, upwards of 11,000*l.* of the new rate having been collected and lodged with the treasurer in the short space of six weeks. This has enabled us to pay off all liabilities, including a loan of 300*l.* from the British Relief Association; to meet the current expenses of a crowded workhouse; give out-door relief to 5300 daily, and there is now a balance to the credit of the Union of upwards of 4000*l.*

The unfortunate illness of our clerk from fever, the death of our matron, and the resignation of our master, have of late greatly increased our labours; but we have nevertheless every reason to be satisfied with the gradual improvement in the state of the house.

We are rigidly enforcing the strictest discipline and regularity in the classification and management of the paupers, according to the intentions of the Poor Law, which appears hitherto to have been in a great measure set at nought. This we trust will make the poor-house what it should be, a test of destitution, and none but the really destitute will wish to avail themselves of it.

We have procured ample supplies of clothing, in which articles the poor-house was lamentably deficient, so much so as to account, in a great measure, for the continuance and prevalence of disease; this will be readily understood when we inform you, that the inmates were allowed to remain on many occasions for a month and five weeks without a change of linen. The master, tradesmen, and paupers employed under them, assisted in making the clothing.

Three hundred and fifty paupers are at present accommodated in houses taken in the neighbourhood for that purpose, and you will be glad to learn that these establishments are well conducted and healthy.

The excellent plan for ventilation recommended by Mr. Wilkinson, has been

carried into effect since the removal of the fever patients to the temporary hospital in the vicinity ; and we have, since our last report, discovered that the imperfect sewerage was principally caused by the contractor for emptying the same, not properly performing his duty. Measures have been adopted for remedying this evil.

We now come to the subject of out-door relief, and have every reason to congratulate ourselves in having succeeded, after much anxiety and labour, in obtaining a most trustworthy and efficient staff of relieving officers, who are performing their arduous duties with the utmost zeal, activity, and firmness, under very trying circumstances. We are most particular in making a weekly examination of their Application Books, and in visiting the depôts as often as our more urgent duties will permit. We can safely state that the intentions of the Legislature are being carried out to their full and beneficial extent in this Union, and no person need now starve. Out-door relief was given for the month ending the 5th February to upwards of 5300 persons daily, coming under the 1st and a limited portion of the 2nd section of the Irish Extension Act, at a cost of 5½*d.* per head per week ; total cost of out-door relief for one month, 521*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*

So far our humble efforts have been crowned with success ; we cannot however conceal from ourselves the anxiety and apprehension with which we view the state of the able-bodied in this Union, and our prospects for the next four or five months.

The greatest possible distress prevails throughout the entire Union ; there is (except in a few praiseworthy instances) a total want of employment. The able-bodied who have hitherto supported themselves on the produce of their gardens, and on small patches of turnips and cabbages which they had raised, and who would submit to any privations to stop out of the poor-house, have exhausted their slender means, and have nothing now to look to but employment or the poor house. They daily offer themselves in numbers, and no greater proof can be adduced of the extreme distress, than the willingness with which many give up their holdings to entitle them to relief.

We have availed ourselves of every means in our power, to arrive at a true knowledge of the condition and resources of the Union ; it may not be out of place here to detail the result of our observations, and the causes which in our humble opinion, have led to such a lamentable state of destitution in so wealthy a Union, and one possessed of so many natural advantages.

The extent of the Union is 178,723 acres, the population 97,211 ; the net annual value 114,996*l.*

It will be perceived that the population is considerably over that of other Unions, as compared with the extent ; the land is subdivided to a frightful degree ; the number of holdings under one acre, 2200 ; over one acre, not exceeding five, 1661 ; over five, not exceeding ten, 2854. Fifty-acre farms, so common in adjoining counties, are rarely to be met with in this Union. Agriculture is notoriously backward ; the wretched system of taking potatoes and oats from the land till it will bear no longer, has been carried to its fullest extent, and the proper rotation of crops is altogether untried and unknown. Few Unions in Ireland present greater facilities for drainage, or are more in need of it, yet this important step has been almost entirely neglected ; a complete apathy seems to pervade all classes.

In such a Union as above described, what could be expected when the potatoes failed, but the misery and destitution which it has been our painful duty to relate. Even the agricultural society, formed some time back in this part of the country, has been allowed to fall to the ground from want of proper encouragement. What assistance it might now have afforded to the small classes of farmers had it continued in existence !

We have made and are still making, every exertion in our power to meet the applications from the able-bodied ; we have discharged from the house all those under the 1st section giving them out-door relief ; we have removed 350 of the children into houses taken in the neighbourhood, and endeavoured in every way to reserve the workhouse solely as a test for the able-bodied. All has proved insufficient to accommodate the number of this class of applicants, and we have this day taken another large house which will hold the remainder of the children, and make room for 500 more able-bodied in the workhouse.

If, however, the landowners and farmers of the Union do not immediately

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exert themselves, and co-operate with the Poor Law by giving ample employment, the means for which are now so advantageously offered by Parliament, though we may for a few weeks obviate the necessity of applying for an order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied, that expedient must ultimately be adopted.

Notwithstanding the distressing circumstances under which this country is labouring, we calculate if the co-operation alluded to were afforded, a rate of from 4s. to 5s. in the pound would meet the expenses of the Union for twelve months. Should it be withheld, one at least double that must be the consequence.

Deeply sensible of the sacred and important trust confided to us of providing for the support of the destitute, on the one hand, and of protecting the property of the rate-payers on the other, we submitted to the latter our views on this subject, in an address shortly after our arrival.

We called upon them to choose between supporting the poor in idleness or in profitable employment, and regret to say they have not as yet profited by our suggestions, humbly but earnestly offered; if they continue to disregard advice, the benefit of following which is so obviously to their own advantage, on themselves alone will rest the awful responsibility of the result.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BATES, Vice-Guardian:—*February 24, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to acknowledge the receipt of a report made by yourself and your late colleague, Mr. Robinson, as Vice-Guardians of the Cavan Union, on the 13th instant, and I am to express the Commissioners' satisfaction with the contents thereof, which, so far as they relate to the measures hitherto adopted by yourself and Mr. Robinson, satisfy the Commissioners that you have acted with the utmost prudence and propriety in the discharge of your difficult duties.

The Commissioners lament the existence of so much distress among the able-bodied poor in the Cavan Union, which your report shows to be increasing, in the absence of due employment, on the part of the proprietors and occupiers of land throughout the Union. Should the workhouse and additional workhouse become full in consequence, the Commissioners will be prepared to authorize relief to the able-bodied under the 2nd section of the Relief Extension Act, whenever that step may be shown to them to be necessary.

CASTLEBAR UNION.

Captain FARREN, Temporary Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS.

REPORT for the Week ended 21st November, 1847.

My attention has been directed, during the past week, to the accounts of the collector of the Union, and the progress made in collecting the rate.

Monday last was the day appointed for the examination of the accounts in question; but in consequence of the illness of Mr. Maley, the collector, the duty was postponed until Friday, upon which day he attended, and produced his books for inspection.

	£.	s.	d.
The total amount collected to that date (19th Nov.) was	369	17	6
Being for the electoral division of Castlebar	358	5	8½
Ditto ditto Turlough	11	11	9½

Leaving the following sums uncollected :—

	£.	s.	d.
Castlebar electoral division	2,328	2	1½
Turlough ditto	741	10	2
Addergoole ditto	889	12	1
Drum ditto	899	1	1
Ballintobber ditto	708	14	8½
Ballyhean ditto	749	17	7½
Breaffy ditto	465	7	6
Islandeady North, ditto	486	0	10½
Balla ditto	851	4	1½
Strade ditto	1,457	15	1½
Total uncollected	9,577	5	4½

None of the large proprietors have yet paid the rate. The collector has been engaged in making out the charges against them, and many of them have been served. Some of these gentlemen are disposed to meet their liabilities, and to facilitate matters. The collector has had interviews with several.

The collection commenced on the 27th October, and upwards of 600 notices have been served, principally in the electoral divisions of Addergoole, Turlough, Strade, and Castlebar.

I have arranged that the collectors' books and accounts shall be examined weekly, and that a list of the persons to whom application has been unsuccessfully made during the week, with the reasons given for non-payment in each case, shall at the same time be produced.

These lists will be returned for reference, and instructions given to the collector respecting each case. I have, at the same time, every reason to believe that the collector will perform his duty with energy and impartiality.

The course which it seems most advisable to pursue, is to induce the large proprietors (some of whom are fairly disposed) to meet their liability, and their example may influence other rate-payers who appear inclined to oppose a passive resistance; leaving harsh measures as a last resource, to be however used when necessary, and firmly enforced.

There is another class who are inclined to conform to the law, but unable to meet the whole of their liabilities at once.

With regard to the small holders of land in the rural districts (many of whom have never paid poor-rates), the collector will have many difficulties. Some are unable to pay the rates, and others I understand, are removing their produce to avoid seizure. Delays are also occasioned by the disputes respecting liability, arising from the subdivision of the land and the mode in which leases are held, and the fact of the rate having been struck upon an old valuation.

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The revising officer having retained the latest books in his possession, in consequence of the inability of the Guardians to pay him his salary, at the time the rate in question was in course of preparation, increases the difficulty.

These, however, are points which can be met, and I only mention them in explanation of the delays which may be expected to arise, in the collection of the rate, however zealously and vigorously the collector may act, in the execution of his duty.

It may not be out of place here to allude to the good feeling generally felt, towards the Vice-Guardians by all classes in the Union. On their arrival here, they were at first unpopular with some; but their straightforward business-like mode of conducting the affairs of the Union, and their courteous bearing, have gained the respect of all: a result satisfactory to themselves, and of great advantage to the public service.

The liabilities of the Union are very heavy; on the 31st October they amounted to £4,740 15 5

(Exclusive of sums due to Government for workhouse loan, or on account of advances made by Relief Commissioners, or any loan for building purposes), viz.:—

	£.	s.	d.
Due to the Union treasurer	1,790	8	11
Ditto contractors for provision, &c.	2,725	8	2
Ditto officers' salaries, including relieving officers	224	18	4
	4,740	15	5

And as legal proceedings have been threatened by some of the creditors (a subpoena having been served upon the clerk for a claim of 600*l.* in one instance, and a letter from the treasurer's attorney, calling for payment of a similar sum, having been received in another), it is proposed that an arrangement shall be entered into, by which 50 per cent. of the rate will be appropriated, as it is collected, to meet the debts of the Union, and the remainder reserved for the current expenses of the workhouse; and the treasurer, who it will be seen is the principal creditor, having stated his willingness to meet the views of the Vice-Guardians in the matter, an interview will take place between that gentleman and the Vice-Guardians on Wednesday, in order that the details may be arranged, when they will be submitted to the creditors generally.

The applications for admission to the workhouse continue to increase. The following was the state of the house yesterday morning (the 20th):—

Males 15 years and upwards	109
Females ditto	204
Boys under 15 years	172
Girls ditto	163
Children under 2 years	27
	675
Of the above in fever	32
Other cases	55
	87

Increase in fever cases, 5.

Seventy applicants were admitted, to make room for whom 34 individuals (infirm persons or widows with two or more children) were discharged and transferred to the out-door relief list.

The house in the town of Castlebar, the Guardians had in view for the accommodation of the children, is not yet available. The occupier has promised to give up possession of a portion within a fortnight (the house to which he will remove not being quite ready), when, if the agreement for hiring the premises be completed, the necessary alterations will be proceeded with.

Notwithstanding the attention paid by the medical officer, the number of fever cases has increased. Every effort to obtain a house for a fever hospital has failed, and no alternative remains but to press forward the temporary fever sheds now in course of erection, in the workhouse grounds, one of which, to contain 25 patients, is in a forward state, but the foundation of the other is not yet completed. In the mean time, no applicant suffering from fever is admitted to the workhouse. Such cases when duly authenticated, are entered on the out-door register, and relief administered by the relieving officer. The distress in this Union will be very great; many families at present have no other subsistence than the small crop of turnips, produced from the seed provided for them by the Government or charitable associations. The pressure will, I trust, be diminished by the aid the British Association are anxious to afford to the children attending the existing schools. I have endeavoured to obtain the necessary information respecting these schools, and have visited several of the electoral divisions during the week for the purpose. Returns from some of the districts have reached me, and I hope to obtain all during the ensuing week. The aid thus afforded will be the more valuable, as it will not be susceptible of much abuse, and will have a direct tendency to improve the moral and social condition of the district.

Fever, which prevailed extensively throughout the Union, has somewhat abated, and is not generally fatal in its effects.

Castlebar Union.

REPLY to the above:—*November 26, 1847.*

With regard to your suggestion that a less sum than 3s. in the pound might be demanded as an instalment of the rate, I am to state that the Commissioners do not feel warranted in authorizing by their sanction, the acceptance of any less amount, as an instalment of the rate due. The Commissioners rely upon the Vice-Guardians taking the most active and vigorous course which is open to them, for the speedy and effectual collection of the rates, from all classes throughout the Union, having regard only to the means of payment and the wants of the Union; and they have no doubt that the efforts of the Guardians will be continuously directed to this important point.

With regard to the course which the circumstances of the Union have obliged the Vice-Guardians to adopt, with regard to the debts of the late Board of Guardians, I am to enclose herewith for your information, a copy of a letter which was addressed to the Vice-Guardians on the 24th instant.

The Commissioners trust that the temporary sheds which are being erected on the workhouse premises, for the occupation of fever patients, will be speedily completed, as without an order of the Commissioners, under the 5th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, the relieving officer can only provide medical relief provisionally, under the 7th section; but ordinary relief in cases of destitution by sickness, may be afforded under the 1st section of the Act.

The VICE-GUARDIANS of BALLINROBE, CASTLEBAR, and WESTPORT UNIONS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 22, 1847.*

We have the honour to inform you that we have received a letter, signed H. A. Dillon, 87, Lower Gardiner-street, Dublin, stating that the writer had received instructions from A. and G. Clendinning to take proceedings against us, as Guardians of the Castlebar Union, for recovery of 668*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, due to them as treasurers. We deemed it but right to seek an interview with Mr. Clendinning, and induced Captain Farren to accompany us to Westport. Mr. Clendinning was from home, but we saw Mr. Howard, the sub-agent of the bank, and left a message with him for his principal, to the effect that we fully recognised our responsibility to discharge every just debt of the late Board of Guardians; but that he must be aware of the impossibility of doing so on a sudden, but we proposed to request a meeting of the creditors of the Union, and to offer them payment of 10*s.* in the pound of their demands out of the

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present rate, and the remaining 10s. out of the next succeeding rate; and that, of every lodgment made by the collectors in each Union, one-half should be reserved to meet this engagement, until discharged. Mr. Howard said he thought the proposal a fair one, and that the creditors would accept it. Mr. Lynch, the Inspector of the Westport Union, undertook to see Mr. Clendinning, explain our views, and point out to him the injurious consequences of wasting the funds of the Union in law costs, when no intention existed of evading or repudiating the just demands of the creditors. On our arrival in Ballinrobe, we found a similar letter applicable to that Union; and since our return here, Mr. Lynch informs us that Mr. Clendinning approves of our intentions, with the addition of advising that all debts under 10*l*. should be cleared off, in full, at once, and the others according to priority. We now only want your sanction of this proceeding to call the creditors of the Westport and other Unions together, and have the proposal laid before them. This matter is urgent, as other letters, similar to those from Mr. Clendinning's attorney, have been addressed to us by gentlemen of the law, on the part of creditors for large amounts; and proceedings and costs may be stayed, by affording an understanding satisfactory to the parties. Our minutes of Saturday's proceedings will have informed you of the position in which we stand with respect to Foy's Hotel. We have urged the present occupier, as much as possible, to evacuate the premises, but cannot expect he will do so in less than a fortnight, and, even after that, some time must be consumed in alterations, to adapt the house to our purposes. We greatly fear that, ere long, great destitution will pervade this country. There is but little appearance of employment, and scarcely any preparation for employment. Should things continue much longer as they at present appear, the promise of a future wheat crop will not be worth calculating on. Could any plan be devised for assisting the small landholders to dig their land, by giving them some small allowance for every acre turned up, and selling them seed at a reduced price, on their joint notes, or on giving security? If the land continues to be left idle from year to year, destitution must increase, and the prospects of the country become more and more forlorn. We have lately learned that there is a great source of employment in the immediate neighbourhood of Castlebar, which only awaits the order of the Board of Works to be put in operation. It is the drainage of the Saleen Lake, which would employ 200 men through the winter, and consequently feed a thousand individuals, if, as it is said, every necessary form has been fulfilled and the proper security entered into. It is a grievous loss that this extensive source of support for an almost starving population should not be acted on. By and by, we fear some great expenditure of gratuitous relief will have to be engaged in; and far better would it be, when money must be spent, that some return should be had for it, and particularly in a case such as this alluded to, where the outlay must be refunded.

REPLY to the above:—*November 24, 1847.*

I AM directed to express the Commissioners' approval of the second course proposed in your letter for the payment of the creditors, namely, to pay off at once the debts under 10*l*., and the others by two instalments, one of 10s. in the pound, out of the rates to be now collected, and the other, of equal amount, out of the next rate to be levied; the debts to be thus paid off according to the priority in which they were incurred, so that instalments on account of those longest due may be issued first in order; and only one-half of the amount collected for each rate to be thus applicable to the discharge of debts.

With reference to that portion of your letter relating to the drainage of the Saleen Lake, I am to state that the Commissioners will request the Board of Works to have the Saleen drainage commenced immediately, if the arrangements for that purpose are complete.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS :—November 28, 1847.

Castlebar Union.

THE collection of the rate is slowly progressing; the sum obtained during the week, however, exceeds the receipts of former weekly periods.

The receipts for the week, as shown by the collector's book, amount to :—

	£146	10	2½
Amount previously received	369	17	5½

Total collected	516	7	8½
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From the following electoral divisions :—

Breaffy . . .	£50	8	3½
Castlebar . . .	443	14	3½
Strade . . .	4	5	8½
Turlough . . .	17	19	4½

Total . .	516	7	8½
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Leaving uncollected, from the following electoral divisions :—

Addergoole . . .	£889	12	1
Balla . . .	851	4	1½
Ballintobber . . .	708	14	8½
Breaffy . . .	414	19	2½
Ballyhean . . .	749	17	7½
Castlebar . . .	2,242	13	6
Drum . . .	899	1	1
Islandeady . . .	486	0	10½
Strade . . .	1,453	9	5½
Turlough . . .	735	2	7

Total uncollected	9,430	15	2
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Owing to delay arising from notices having been given to the collector, requiring his attendance elsewhere, he did not produce his books for examination until a late hour on Friday afternoon, and no return of unsuccessful applications was handed in by him.

Opposition has been offered to one of the collector's officers in the execution of his duty. James Malley, the individual in question, reports to the collector, that "on Tuesday, the 16th instant, he proceeded to the village of Kilmullagh, electoral division of Addergoole, to serve notices on persons subject to poor-rates. After serving four notices, he was opposed by several of the inhabitants, who said that if he did not forthwith withdraw they would have his life. He was struck with stones, and hunted out of the village." And he adds that, "these persons sent him an account, that if he again went there for the purpose of serving the said notices, that they would take away his life;" and that they owe the previous rate, and withstood the former collector of rates, and are notorious for opposing all legal assessments."

As this report was only shown to me on Saturday (yesterday) evening, I have not had an opportunity of making inquiries respecting it. I shall take an early opportunity of visiting the district.

Yesterday I attended the ordinary meeting of the Board of Guardians. The following was the state of the house :—

Males, 15 years and upwards . . .	118
Females ditto . . .	205
Boys, under 15 . . .	172
Girls ditto . . .	168
Children, under 2 years . . .	27

Total . . .	690
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Of the above, in fever . . .	34
Other cases . . .	53

Total . . .	87
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Castlebar Union.

The pressure of applicants for relief was exceedingly great. The number on the Application and Report Books of the relieving officers, being as follows:—

	Persons.	Numbers under head of Fever cases.
Addergoole } Islandeedy }	39	3
Balla } Drum }	98	17
Ballyhean } Ballintobber }	6	..
Castlebar } Breaffy }	79	39
Strade } Turlough }	Relieving officer sick. No return.	
Total .	222	59

95 of whom, being the most distressed cases, were relieved in the following manner, viz., 47 were admitted to the workhouse, and 48 infirm persons, widows with two or more children, and fever cases, were placed on the out-door relief list. And in order to provide accommodation in the house for the numbers above-mentioned, 27 persons (infirm and widows) were discharged from the house, and transferred to the out-door list.

With regard to the sanitary condition of the house, an increase of two only in the number of fever cases appears on the return. Dysentery has, however, shown itself, and is increasing, and the appearance of the children is not satisfactory. Regular intervals of relaxation and exercise, but in the school hours, proper clothing, and higher temperature in the school-rooms, appear to be required: and to arrest the disease alluded to, a change of diet, substituting bread for the meal of stirabout, once a-day, has been recommended by the medical attendant.

The room appropriated as a nursery is very small and crowded; also the women's day-room. All these points, and the condition of the house generally, has been reported upon by the doctor, and his report will be considered by the Guardians at the adjourned meeting, to be held to-morrow. With regard to the clothing, a supply has been received, and every exertion will be made to bring it into wear as soon as possible. The Board of Vice-Guardians, as the Commissioners are aware, have had many difficulties to overcome in this Union; and they are exerting themselves to the utmost of their ability, to meet them, and bring matters, both with regard to the establishment of the house and the financial affairs of the Union, to a satisfactory state.

On Wednesday, the Guardians, the Inspector of Westport Union, and myself had an interview with the treasurer, who agreed to accept, as far as he individually is concerned, the arrangement proposed for meeting the debts contracted under the former Board of Guardians, and a meeting of the creditors will be accordingly called to obtain their consent to the arrangement.

REPLY to the above :—*December 1, 1847.*

With reference to the opposition which has been offered to the collector's deputy when serving notices for poor-rate, I am to state that, if an information is duly sworn before a magistrate, the Commissioners cannot doubt that due protection will be afforded to the collectors.

With reference to the number of destitute persons applying for relief, I am to state, that if in your opinion, and in the opinion of the Vice-Guardians, an order authorising out-door relief to the able-bodied is become necessary, the Vice-Guardians should formally record the grounds of that opinion in their minutes, and make application accordingly for such order, to the Commissioners. Copies of orders for out-door relief, which have been issued in a few instances, are enclosed herewith for your information.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 30, 1847.*

Castlebar Union.

WE have the honour of informing you, that Captain Farren last night showed us a copy of a letter from you, addressed to us, relative to your sanction of the plan we proposed for liquidating the claims on the funds of the three Unions under our charge. The original of this letter never reached our hands. However, satisfied by the evidence conveyed by the document forwarded to Captain Farren, we have called meetings of the creditors for Ballinrobe on Friday the 10th, Castlebar, Monday the 13th, and Westport, Tuesday the 14th of December.

On Saturday last, the pressure for admission here, and at Ballinrobe on the previous days, was considerably increased; and as the houses at both places are full, and all the inmates comprised in the three classes set forth in the Extension Act have been cleared out on the out-door relief, we were compelled to reject a very large number of claimants entered on the relieving officers' books, as well as a crowd of others who assembled in front of the houses. Yesterday, again, at our adjourned meeting, the gathering was renewed. Those assembled were all evidently in a state of great destitution.

REPLY to the above :—*December 1, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have given directions for the preparation of an order authorizing you to administer relief out of the workhouse in the Ballinrobe and Castlebar Unions, to destitute poor persons, not being persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or mental defect, and not being persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, and thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, who they are liable by law to maintain, and not being poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them.

I am at the same time to state, that as it is intended that no relief should be given out of the workhouse to able-bodied men except in return for work, the Commissioners request the Vice-Guardians to take measures for employing, as far as is possible, able-bodied men in stone-breaking by task-work in return for food.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*December 3, 1847.*

WITH reference to the order for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, dated the 2nd instant, authorizing you to afford out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, in the Ballinrobe and Castlebar Unions, I am directed by the Commissioners to draw your attention to the circumstance that no relief under this order can be legally given to persons in employment, that such relief must be in food only, and that no able-bodied man should receive relief except in return for work.

With regard to the nature of the work which should be offered to able-bodied men, the Commissioners have to state that the making of roads, and stone-breaking, are two modes of labour which have been suggested as expedient for employing persons receiving out-door relief.

In reference thereto, I am to state that the Commissioners are desirous that the question of employing the able-bodied paupers of the Union on the roads left unfinished by the Board of Works, or on the making of any other roads, should not be raised at the present moment.

And as road-making has been proved, on a very extensive scale, to be no adequate test of destitution, the Commissioners would strongly recommend another test, which has often been found effectual. The Commissioners advert to stone-breaking, and they suggest the making preparations for obtaining a large supply of hard stone, and for employing able-bodied paupers at stone-breaking by task-work in return for the rations to be supplied by the Union.

The Commissioners are anxious strictly to prohibit and prevent the granting relief on account of the insufficiency of wages, to persons occasionally in employment during the week.

It appears to the Commissioners that there is no rule of greater importance in the administration of out-door relief to able-bodied men, than that they should

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be maintained either wholly by their employer, or wholly by the Board of Guardians, and that the strongest line should thus be drawn between relief and wages.

In setting able-bodied men to stone-breaking by task-work, as a condition of relief, much will depend on the knowledge, firmness, and discretion of those who may be appointed to superintend stone-breaking, and the Commissioners cannot too strongly urge you to be peculiarly careful in permitting yourselves to be influenced by no other considerations than those of personal fitness in selecting candidates for that highly important office.

The Commissioners will take this opportunity of observing, that in specifying the period of eight hours at least in the day during which every able-bodied pauper should be required to work, they have made allowance for the present season of the year, and for the possible circumstance that some of the able-bodied paupers may come to the stone-breaking from a considerable distance. It is not, however, by any means intended to prevent the Guardians from requiring work during a still longer period of time. The period of eight hours is, in fact, merely the minimum space of time in the day during which every able-bodied pauper should give the value of his labour to the Union.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire to remind you that the out-door relief order is merely temporary, and that you should in the meanwhile use every possible exertion to obtain separate workhouse accommodation for the pauper children, in order that the workhouse may be made available almost exclusively for the relief of able-bodied men.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 5, 1847.*

THE collector not having attended at the Board-room yesterday for the examination of his accounts, I am not in a position to inform the Commissioners of the progress made, in the collection of the rate during the past week.

I brought this neglect of duty on the part of the collector, in not producing his books and accounts for inspection on the day appointed for the weekly examination by the clerk, to the notice of the Board of Vice-Guardians yesterday, and the clerk has been directed to call upon the collector for an explanation.

The tide of destitution may now be fairly considered to have set in; and the energies of all engaged in working out the operations of the Poor Law in this Union, will be required to meet the pressure.

In consequence of the number of applicants seeking relief at the Board-day on the 27th ultimo, I deemed it advisable to address a letter to the agent of the British Association, requesting temporary assistance for the destitute able-bodied class, until the house for which the Guardians are now in treaty, would be available for workhouse accommodation, being anxious to postpone the official application to the Commissioners for their sealed order as long as possible; but the Board of Vice-Guardians having yesterday received a sealed order, authorizing out-door relief to that class, I have informed the Count de Strzelecki that the necessity of aid from the Association on these grounds, has been removed.

A progressive and considerable increase has taken place in the numbers on the out-door relief lists.

On the 13th November the number discharged from the workhouse to out-door relief was	7
20th November, ditto ditto	34
(And a number of fever cases ordered relief.)	
27th November, discharged to out-door relief	27
Passed in books of relieving officers	48
4th December, discharged to out-door relief	14
Passed on books of relieving officers	327
The total number now receiving out-door relief being about	472

Hitherto this mode of relief has been confined to infirm persons, widows with two or more children, and cases of fever. Its extension to the able-bodied opens a wide field, and its administration will require the closest attention.

The attention of the Board of Vice-Guardians has been directed to the neces-

sity of providing an extra staff; and they are seeking for persons eligible for the situation of relieving officer, the number at present employed (five) not being sufficient for this Union. The qualifications of claimants for the office will be considered on Saturday next.

Castlebar Union.

The state of the workhouse yesterday was as follows:—

Males, 15 years and upwards	121
Females, ditto ditto	209
Boys under 15	172
Girls ditto	168
Children under two years	26
Total	696

Of which, in fever	25
Other cases	49
Total	74

The number of applicants on the books of the relieving officers was	364
Of which there were admitted to the workhouse	23
And transferred to out-door relief list	327

And, in order to make room for those admitted, 14 individuals (infirm persons and widows with children) were discharged from the workhouse, and transferred to the out-door relief list.

With regard to the sanitary condition of the workhouse, I am happy to report that a decrease in the number of fever cases has taken place, the number of cases now under treatment being nine less than on the preceding Saturday; there are, however, 43 cases of dysentery, the number of new cases of that malady during the week being 18.

With reference to the statement of the medical officer of the establishment, alluded to in my report of last week, the Board of Vice-Guardians have caused an alteration to be made in the school-houses of the children, affording longer periods for relaxation and exercise; also arrangements for the better ventilation of the school-rooms, &c.; and have recommended a change of diet, substituting bread for the meal of stirabout once a-day. These arrangements will, doubtless, work a beneficial change, and, with regard to the children, an improvement is already perceptible.

Defects in the discipline and interior economy of the workhouse (notwithstanding the anxiety and the orders given by the Board of Vice-Guardians on the matter) having attracted my attention, I have frequently visited the establishment, and have endeavoured to enforce a system of general responsibility, from the master and matron down to the orderly men or women of each room, and the result has been satisfactory, a decided improvement in the cleanliness, &c., of the different apartments of the house having been apparent, at the inspection yesterday.

Since writing the foregoing report, I have been informed that the collector has explained to the Board of Vice-Guardians the cause of his absence on Friday, and that he has handed a sum of 300*l.* to one of those gentlemen, with a request that he will lodge it with the treasurer of the Union at Westport, when he proceeds to that place on Wednesday next.

REPLY to the above:—*December 10, 1847.*

WITH reference to the sum of 300*l.*, which you state the collector of poor-rate has handed to one of the Vice-Guardians, to lodge with the treasurer

Castlebar Union.

in Westport, I am to state that the Commissioners consider that it is not advisable there should be so large an accumulation of rate in the collector's hands. The collector is bound to lodge, not only weekly, but whenever he may have 50% collected, which he may do by remitting half notes.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 12, 1847.*

THE progress made in the collection of the rate during the last fortnight, as shown by the collector's books, has not been considerable.

The amount obtained was 137*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.*, viz., from the following electoral divisions :—

Addergoole . . .	£ 5 11 11½
Breaffy . . .	8 8 9
Castlebar . . .	88 16 1½
Drum . . .	12 0 9½
Turlough . . .	22 11 6
	137 9 1½

To this, however, should be added the sum of 100*l.* received from the agent of the Earl of Lucan, which was not entered in the Abstract, or in the Rate Receipt Book, as the collector did not know the items for which the payment was made. He has been instructed to ascertain the same forthwith, give the necessary receipts, and make the required entries.

The total sum collected (including the 100*l.* in question, and previous receipts) is 753*l.* 16*s.* 10½*d.*, leaving uncollected in the following electoral divisions :—

Addergoole . . .	£ 884 0 2
Balla . . .	851 4 1½
Ballintobber . . .	708 14 8½
Breaffy . . .	406 10 5½
Ballyhean . . .	749 17 7½
Castlebar . . .	2,153 17 4½
Drum . . .	887 0 3½
Islandeedy . . .	486 0 10½
Strade . . .	1,453 9 5½
Turlough . . .	712 11 1
Total uncollected . . .	9,293 6 0½
Less (sum above alluded to) . . .	100 0 0
	9,193 6 0½

Many of the large proprietors not having yet lodged the amount they have been respectively called upon to pay, the Vice-Guardians have placed a minute on the books, this day, calling upon the collector to lay before them, on the next day of meeting, a list of ten of the highest rate-payers in the Union, with observations of the position in which they stand on the subject of their payments, and such list to be continued from week to week.

With reference to the opposition shown to one of the collector's deputies, in the townland of Kilmallagh, electoral division of Addergoole, alluded to in my report of the 28th ultimo, the collector proceeded to that district last week, and having met with no resistance in any other part of the division, he did not deem it advisable to seek magisterial assistance. The matter was confined to one townland, and from the arrangements made, and the co-operation offered by the Roman Catholic clergyman of the parish, who I am happy to say has exhorted his flock to pay the rate, further opposition is not anticipated from that locality.

On Saturday I attended the meeting of the Vice-Guardians.

The following was the state of the workhouse:—

Castlebar Union.

Males, 15 years and upwards . . .	122
Females, ditto ditto . . .	206
Boys under 15 years	174
Girls ditto ditto	165
Children under 2 years.	24

Total 691

Of which in fever 28

Other cases 60

Total 88

There was a decrease of two in the number of new cases of fever, and also of two in the new cases of dysentery, during the week, as compared with the return of the preceding Saturday.

A crowd of applicants, destitute and misery-stricken, assembled at the workhouse. The number of individuals entered in the Application and Report Books of the relieving officers, amounted to 1469; of these there were admitted to the workhouse 37, and 1425 placed on the out-door relief lists; 38 individuals (infirm persons, and widows with children) were discharged from the workhouse, and transferred to the out-door relief lists; and on this day (Monday) a further discharge also took place of 41 persons, of the same classes, but who had been authorized to receive lodging money, (6*d.* a-week,) in consequence of having no place of abode.

There are now nearly 2000 persons receiving out-door relief; the numbers have sprung in one week from 472 to 1919, being an increase of 1447.

Arrangements have been made for employing the able-bodied at stone-breaking. An assistant to the relieving officer, in each electoral division, has been appointed, for the purpose of supervising the gangs, checking the tasks, &c.; points in each electoral division, have been selected as depôts, where the labourers will assemble and break the stones, which the county surveyor will purchase, a supply being required for the maintenance of the roads in the Union. The county surveyor also states that he has a large supply of implements, hammers, crowbars, &c., belonging to the Commissioners of Public Works, in his possession, which were procured for the labourers employed on the Public Works. A portion of these, if authorized by the Board of Works, could be handed over as a loan to the Vice-Guardians, whereby expense to the Union would be saved. The Chairman of the Board of Vice-Guardians has addressed a letter to the Poor Law Commissioners, upon the subject.

The application of the labour test to the able-bodied, is a subject of much importance, and much will depend upon the efficiency of the persons appointed as assistants to the relieving officers. I have drawn up a form of labour roll, in which the quantity of work performed each day, by each labourer, will be shown, and this will be checked at the end of each fortnight, by persons appointed by the county surveyor, to measure the work. I shall myself visit the gangs as frequently as possible, and observe closely the conduct of the assistants in question. I trust this test when properly carried out, will remove from the relief lists, any doubtful cases which may be placed upon them, and by the sale of the produce of the labour, lessen the charge upon the Union for the relief supplied.

With regard to the debts of the Union, contracted by the former Board of Guardians, a meeting of the creditors took place this day, when those present acquiesced in the arrangements approved by the Commissioners, for the liquidation of their claims, viz., that out of the rate at present in progress of collection, 10*s.* in the pound, shall be paid on the full amount of their admitted claims, and the residue, viz., second 10*s.* in the pound, out of the next succeeding rate, to be struck; the Union debts under 10*l.*, to be paid off in full; and all other debts according to the priority in which they were incurred, so that instalments on account of those longest due, may be issued first in order; and that out of the rates paid into the hands of the treasurer, from and after 1st January next, one-

Castlebar Union,

half, or 10s. in the pound shall be reserved by him, in order to fulfil this agreement, and the other half, only, be applied to the purposes of the Union.

The Vice-Guardians directed that this agreement should remain upon the table of the Board-room for some days, in order that all the creditors may have an opportunity of signing it.

Some of the books of the Union are not in a satisfactory state. Those in charge of the clerk, owing to the neglect of the clerk to the former Board of Guardians, are much in arrear. I allude to the ledger. The accounts for the half year, ended 25th March last, have not been closed, and many items under the respective heads of expenditure, not brought out. Not a single entry has been made in the ledger for the half year ended 29th September.

The Vice-Guardians have directed a communication to be made to the late clerk, calling upon him to complete the books within a week, or they will cause an accountant to be employed for the purpose, at his expense.

No blame can be attributed to the present clerk, who is most anxious and attentive in the performance of his duties, and who cannot bring up his portion of the work until the arrears of former periods are completed.

REPLY to the above:—*December 16, 1847.*

YOUR report appears to the Commissioners in the main satisfactory, with the exception of what relates to the collection of the rates. The Commissioners observe, that the whole sum collected in the week ended was only 137*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.*, and the Commissioners cannot but think that the collectors might have received a larger sum, if they had actively discharged their duty. At the same time, the Commissioners are desirous of receiving your own observations on this very important point.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 19, 1847.*

THE collector's books show a considerable increase in the amount of rate obtained during the week, as compared with former weekly periods.

The amount obtained was 301*l.* 15*s.* 0½*d.* (being more than double the receipts of the preceding week), viz., from the following electoral divisions:—

	£.	s.	d.
Addergoole	10	2	5
Balla	56	19	7
Breaffy	23	14	9
Castlebar	47	0	0½
Drum	137	15	3
Islandeady	10	10	10½
Turlough	15	12	2
	301	15	0½

The total amount of rate now collected is 1055*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, leaving uncollected in the following electoral divisions:—

	£.	s.	d.
Addergoole	873	13	9
Balla	794	4	6½
Ballintobber	708	14	5½
Breaffy	382	15	8½
Ballyhean	749	17	7½
Castlebar	2,106	17	4
Drum	749	5	0½
Islandeady	476	10	0½
Strade	1,453	9	5½
Turlough	696	18	11

Total uncollected £8,992 6 9

More than one half of the amount collected has been obtained from the electoral division of Castlebar. Some of the proprietors have paid the demands made upon them. Others have paid the portion which they conceive, they are legally called upon to discharge, and have objected to the remaining items as being erroneously charged to them,—the occupiers of the lands holding under leases. In such cases, they have been requested to state the numbers objected to; a day will be appointed for inquiry, and in the event of the objection being sustained by the production of leases, the collector will be instructed to demand the rate from the occupiers. This does not refer to arrears due by immediate lessors, no appeal having been made by them.

Adverting to my report of the previous week, and the Commissioners' remarks thereon, relative to the collection of the rate, considering all the difficulties arising from the incorrect state of the rate-books, which were unavoidably drawn up from the old books, I have reason to believe that the collector (there is but one for the Union) is using all the exertion in his power. At the same time, seeing the small amount received during the week ended 12th December, I requested the Vice-Guardians to place a minute on the books calling upon the collector to lay before them at the next day of meeting, a list of 10 of the highest cess-payers, with observations as to the position in which they stood with respect to the payment of the rate. This list has not yet been furnished, but the collector has promised to produce it at the adjourned meeting on Monday.

The Commissioners may rely upon the closest attention being paid to this important point. The books and abstracts of receipts are examined every week by myself, and I have had repeated interviews with the collector upon the subject. Yesterday I attended the meeting of the Board of Vice-Guardians.

The following was the state of the house:—

Males, 15 years and upwards	105
Females, ditto	181
Boys under 15	157
Girls ditto	153
Children under 2 years	23
Total	619
Of which in fever	28
Other cases	72
Total	100

The number of fever cases under treatment are the same as on the preceding Saturday; of the others, 60 are cases of dysentery, the number of fresh cases during the week being 13.

The pressure of applicants seeking out-door relief has increased nearly three-fold within the last seven days; the number on the Application and Report Books of the relieving officers being 3270.

In dealing with these cases, the value of the workhouse, as a test, was shown in a very decided manner. Every exertion had been made to create as many vacancies as possible, by transferring to the out-door relief lists such of the inmates as were eligible. The result was, that numbers who were eager and pressing for relief outside, refused to enter the house; and thus, out of the whole number of applicants in question, 1322 only, considerably less than one-half, were placed on the out-door relief lists, and 141 were admitted to the workhouse. Several of the latter have, I understand, since left the house.

The number discharged from the workhouse to out-door relief was 60. Additional workhouse accommodation would evidently be of great value, at the present time; fresh difficulties have however sprung up to obstruct the arrangements of the Vice-Guardians on this point; a universal feeling of hostility having arisen amongst the inhabitants of Castlebar against the appropriation of the house for which the Vice-Guardians were in treaty, for such a purpose. Legal proceedings have been threatened, and a memorial forwarded

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to the Lieutenant of the county, for presentation to the Commissioners. This memorial, it appears, has been returned by the Earl of Lucan, and as the house is merely intended for the children, the Vice-Guardians have determined upon taking possession.

With regard to the employment of the able-bodied, I am not yet in a position to report upon the effect of the labour test. I visited two of the electoral divisions during the week, but as the tools had only been obtained the evening before, and, in some instances, on that morning, the assistants were employed in collecting the men; written instructions have been given to the assistants, and a form of return showing the work performed, to be filled up weekly and handed to the clerk of the Union.

The relief afforded by the British Association to the destitute children attending the schools, has been brought into operation in the town of Castlebar, where 380 are fed daily; 180 in the electoral division of Ballyhean will be added to the number to-morrow; and arrangements have been made for extending the relief to the other electoral divisions as soon as the school Committees have completed their portion of the preliminary details.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 26, 1847.*

OWING to difficulties encountered by the collector in one of the electoral divisions, and the period of the season (Christmas week), the amount of the collection of the rate since my last report has been but trifling.

The sum received, as shown by the Rate Receipt Abstract Book, was £124 12 11½ viz., from the following electoral divisions:—

	£.	s.	d.
Addergoole	0	17	6½
Castlebar	119	11	10½
Turlough	4	3	6½
	£124 12 11½		

(100% of the above was previously received from the agent of the Earl of Lucan, but as the items were not then known, the amount could not be entered in the Rate Receipt Book).

Making the total sum now collected 1080 4 10½

Leaving uncollected in the following electoral divisions:—

	£.	s.	d.
Addergoole	873	0	2½
Balla	794	4	6½
Ballintubber	708	14	8½
Breafy	382	15	8½
Ballyhean	749	17	7½
Castlebar	1987	5	5½
Drum	749	5	0½
Islandeedy	475	10	0½
Strade	1453	9	5½
Turlough	692	15	4½
Total uncollected	£8866 18 0½		

The collector states, that when he visited the electoral division of Islandeedy on Tuesday, for the purpose of making arrangements with the rate-payers, every disposition was shown to oppose the payment, and threats were held out to him. As a combination exists in this locality (a mountain district) against the payment of the rate, the assistance of the constabulary will be required to enforce the collection, and arrangements will be made with the resident magistrate accordingly.

Legal measures (distrain and seizure) are also in contemplation against other and more wealthy rate-payers, who have not yet complied with the collectors' demands, or signified their intention of meeting the charges against them.

Saturday being Christmas-day, the Vice-Guardians held their meeting yesterday (Monday), when I attended.

The following was the state of the house :—

Castlebar Union.

Males, 15 years and upwards	126
Females, do. do.	219
Boys, under 15 years	178
Girls, do.	178
Children, under 2 years	32

Total 733

Of which, in fever 29

Other cases 73

Total 102

The pressure for out-door relief is still increasing; the crowd of applicants in front of the workhouse yesterday was greater than on any former occasion; and the number of applicants on the books of the relieving officers was greater by about one-fourth than on the previous Board day.

The number of individuals entered on the Application and Report Books was 4007.

Of which, there were placed on the out-door Relief Lists 3440.

And, as the workhouse was crowded, 23 of the inmates were discharged and transferred to the out-door Relief Lists.

The total number now receiving out-door relief in the Union is 6821.

The following table shows the number of applicants yesterday, the number placed on the out-door Relief Lists, number discharged from workhouse, and total number now receiving out-door relief in each electoral division :—

Electoral Divisions.	Number of Individuals on Application and Report Books, 27th December.	Placed on Out-door Relief Lists.	Discharged from Workhouse to Out-door Relief.	Total now receiving Out-door Relief.
Addergoole	1013	913	13	1367
Islandeedy	322	206	..	394
Balla	343	215	10	500
Drum	413	238	..	588
Castlebar	799	781	..	1776
Breafy	175	151	..	246
Ballyhean	164	161	..	634
Ballintubber . . .	326	326	..	532
Strade	220	220	..	315
Turlough	232	229	..	465
Totals	4007	3440	23	6821

All that portion of the peasantry who hold less than a quarter of an acre of land are pressing for out-door relief, and many of those who possess a larger quantity are adopting every expedient, handing over their land to their sons and relatives, and in some cases offering it to their landlords to make their claim good also. The relieving officers are doing their best to meet these attempted evasions of the law, arising in some cases perhaps from real destitution, though in many, doubtless, from the attraction of a food allowance obtainable out of the workhouse. The prospect of the labour test does not appear to have been sufficient to check applications from the latter class. The workhouse may be considered the only efficient check.

The cost of supplying so large a number of individuals is a serious consideration, and any diminution which can be made in the expense of the ration is most desirable. At present one pound of Indian meal is issued to each individual above nine years of age, and half a pound to those under nine; the cost of a pound of meal is little more than one penny. Rye bread, a higher standard of food, and which would have the advantage of being cooked food, could probably be issued at a cheaper rate, though some inconvenience might attend the details of the distribution. Rye bread is supplied to the schools in this Union, relieved by the British Association; and at Castlebar the cost of the bread is three farthings per pound, and I have made a contract in the electoral division of Addergoole, at the rate of

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seven-eighths of a penny per pound. I have brought the subject under the consideration of the Vice-Guardians, and should the arrangement be successful in the relief afforded to the schools, it will be applied to the out-door relief, under the Poor Law.

With regard to the work performed by the able-bodied receiving relief, I visited some of the electoral divisions during the week and found the system in operation. Yesterday I examined the books of the assistants, whose duty it is to oversee the gangs. Owing to the inclemency of the weather and other causes, the amount of work returned was not considerable. The names of 15 labourers were struck out of the Relief Lists for non-attendance at the work, they and their families to be deprived of their rations in consequence. It has been impressed on the assistants that a greater quantity of work must be executed, and that they will be held responsible for its performance.

REPLY to the above:—*December 31, 1847.*

THE Commissioners regard, with some apprehension, the small progress which has been made in the collection of the rates in the Union.

The present rate was put in course of collection on the 25th October last, and it appears from your report that only 1080*l.* 4*s.* 10½*d.* has been collected up to the 26th instant.

The Commissioners think it necessary to draw your special attention to this point, and they wish to be furnished with a list of the immediate lessors who have not yet paid their rates, stating their places of abode.

The Commissioners trust that by a regular and careful scrutiny of the circumstances in each case of application for relief, and the application of the workhouse test as far as practicable, as well as a more strict enforcement of the labour test, the Vice-Guardians will be enabled to detect cases of simulated distress.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 6, 1848.*

IN consequence of the illness of the collector, his accounts were not examined on Friday last, the day appointed for that purpose. I saw the collector on Monday at the meeting of the Board of Vice-Guardians, and learned from him that the amount collected during the week was trifling. He stated that he had just returned from the electoral division of Addergoole, where he had gone by appointment to meet the ratepayers, and that many failed to attend—the amount paid to him being about 6*l.* He handed in a list which had been called for on the preceding Saturday, containing the names of the immediate lessors in the Union who have not paid their rate; and the Vice-Guardians directed their solicitor to write forthwith to each of the persons named in the list, requiring immediate payment, and stating that in default thereof the necessary steps to enforce the same would be adopted.

Measures have been in contemplation, as stated in my report of last week, for enforcing the collection, but the Vice-Guardians have been hitherto unwilling to have recourse to them, as many of the gentlemen, and the agents of others, had promised payment to the collector, and in some instances had even named the day; knowing also the doubtful state of the rate-books, which were unavoidably compiled from the old books, it was deemed only prudent that the time allowed for objections should be permitted to pass. The period for appeals having now expired (two only have been lodged, which will be tried immediately), the promised payments not having been made, and the sum lodged by the collector not being sufficient to meet the current expenses of the week, the Vice-Guardians feel that the time for energetic measures of a legal nature, has arrived; and with reference to the 2nd section of 6 and 7 Vict., c. 92, are desirous of obtaining the sanction of the Commissioners to proceed by action or suit in the case of those immediate lessors, in which the letter from the solicitor above alluded to, shall have proved unsuccessful in inducing the payment of the rate. It is desirable that the sanction should be afforded as soon as possible, as the writs, to be available for this term, should be returned on or before the 11th instant.

On Saturday and Monday last, I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians. Castlebar Union.

The following was the state of the house :—

Males, 15 years and upwards	.	.	117
Females, ditto	.	.	208
Boys under 15	.	.	172
Girls ditto	.	.	169
Children under 2	.	.	26
Total			692
Deduct number removed to auxiliary workhouse	.	.	88
			604
Of which in fever	.	.	37
Other cases	.	.	90
Total			127
<i>Auxiliary Workhouse.</i>			
Girls	.	.	75
Female assistants	.	.	13
Total			88

An increase of 3 in the number of fever cases, and 7 new cases of dysentery, during the week. An increase of 25 in the total number of sick in the hospital, as compared with last week's return. The prevailing epidemic, influenza, has also appeared, and a considerable number are sick in the house, in addition to those in the hospital.

The number of applicants for out-door relief was considerably less (by nearly one-half) than on the preceding Saturday. The removal of a portion of the female children (all who were able to leave the house) to the auxiliary workhouse, having created vacancies in the main establishment, the Vice-Guardians were enabled to apply the workhouse test to the cases before them. Many did not answer their names when called, and others refused to enter the house, so that about one-eighth only of the individuals entered on the application books, was admitted to relief.

Number of applicants, 1st and 3rd January	.	2469
Admitted to workhouse	.	110
Placed on the out-door relief list	.	173
Discharged from workhouse to out-door relief	.	7

The total number now receiving out-door relief is 6798, being 19 less than during the preceding week—the difference being occasioned by the number of families struck off, in consequence of the non-attendance or idleness of the able-bodied members, at the stone-breaking dépôt.

I examined the work-books of the assistant relieving officers on Saturday and Monday; the work done in some of the electoral divisions was satisfactory, in some instances the labourers had been idle, and in one, collusion had evidently existed between the assistant and the men. The former was dismissed at once by the Board, and told that his salary for the week would not be paid. The names of 61 labourers, who either did not attend or were late and idle at the work, were struck out of the lists, they and their families being thus deprived of rations. These measures will convince all parties of the necessity of performing their respective duties.

As the numerous cases on the relief lists, since the commencement of the out-door relief, were, in consequence of the pressure, necessarily disposed of rapidly, and frauds may have been committed and abuses arisen, the relieving officers

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have been directed to visit the house of every individual now receiving relief, and to obtain further particulars respecting each, with a view to a revision of every case on the books; and the Vice-Guardians will authorise no relief to any family unless the relieving officer certify that he has visited the house, and testify to their destitution, and the truth of the particulars respecting them.

Owing to the pressure of destitution, the districts now allotted to the relieving officers have been found too extensive. Each officer at present, has charge of two electoral divisions, containing an area of upwards of 40,000 acres, and a population of 12,000 persons. It is therefore, proposed to augment the number of these officers, assigning one to each division; and that such officers should be appointed temporarily with a weekly salary, so that should any prove inefficient, dismissal may at once follow.

The following table shows the districts at present allotted to each relieving officer, the area, population, &c.

Districts.	Electoral Divisions.	Population.		Area Statute Acres.	
1	Addergoole . . . Islandeedy . . .	7,379 4,273	12,652	{ 33,064 14,673 }	48,737
2	Balla . . . Drum . . .	4,181 5,925	10,106	{ 9,424 12,249 }	21,673
3	Castlebar . . . Breafy . . .	10,464 2,452	12,916	{ 13,366 5,300 }	18,666
4	Ballyhean . . . Ballintober . . .	4,032 6,753	10,785	{ 7,731 21,226 }	28,957
5	Strade . . . Turlough . . .	8,174 7,430	15,604	{ 16,192 22,299 }	38,491

Two appeals only have been made against the rate in this Union, they are for small amounts; the cases will be tried immediately, and the solicitor of the Union has been directed to defend them.

I beg to add, that indisposition has been the cause of the delay in forwarding this report.

REPLY to the above:—*January 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to the proceedings proposed to be instituted against immediate lessors of property in the Union, for recovery of the poor-rate due by them, I am to state, that the Commissioners have addressed the Board of Guardians, in reference to the proposal to proceed in the superior courts against all immediate lessors, who will not pay the rates claimed, and for which application has been made by a solicitor.

The Commissioners, under the circumstances of urgency to which you refer, have conveyed their sanction to the Guardians' proceeding in the superior courts, where, on consideration of the Commissioners' letter of yesterday's date, they shall deem such course to be necessary.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*January 6, 1848.*

IN reference to the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, relating to applications for relief on the part of persons occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land; the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, request that you will be good enough to inform them how far cases to which the provisions of this section may apply, have come before you as Vice-Guardians, and that you will state the course which you have taken in regard to such cases, and to the surrender of the land where persons applying for relief were at the time occupying more than the quarter of an acre; you will also be so good as to state, whether difficulties have been experienced by you in acting on the 10th section, and how you have usually dealt with such difficulties.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 10, 1848.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, and have to inform you, that it was our intention to have written to you this day, on the subject submitted to us therein.

In our admissions to out-door relief, individual cases have come before us where the parties avowed, that they had surrendered their land, but retained possession of their houses and offices. To all such we have refused assistance, conceiving such a surrender to be a mere evasion of the law, and have uniformly stated to them that they must make an absolute surrender of the whole before they can come, in a properly qualified condition, to receive relief. Again, that we have no desire to raise insuperable obstacles in the way of relief to the really destitute who may be holders of land, and, therefore, should not object, on their surrendering in toto to the proprietor, to allow them to get back into their houses as lodgers, or caretakers: but we ask, should not the evidence of a stamped document be produced, that such arrangements as we have stated were *bonâ fide* transactions? May not collusion exist between parties, the one to give, and the other to take, a nominal surrender, and having tided over the difficulties of the winter and spring, resume their former relations when better times came on. In cases of this description, the rate-payers would be called on to support men and their families who had but temporarily thrown off the character of landholders and rate-payers, and who would resume them again at their convenience.

We trust that, in reading the foregoing remarks, you will not suppose that we allude to the gentry or landed proprietors of this county, as capable of having recourse to any such subterfuge or evasion of the law—we have no such persons in our minds. In the very limited intercourse we have had with the gentry of Mayo, we have found them kind, humane, and affable, never shrinking from the tremendous abyss which appears to yawn before them; satisfied that the destitute should be supported, let the consequences to themselves be what they might. No; we allude to the petty middlemen, to whom it would be utter ruin to part their small tenantry, and who might be heedless of encountering public odium were their evasions discovered.

There is no doubt, that among the landed proprietors many are accepting surrenders from their small tenantry, and restoring them their houses with portions of land, within the stipulated quantity; but these are open, positive arrangements, and entered into for the double purpose of getting up the land, which the tenantry could not crop, and of placing them in a position to receive relief from the rates. In Ballinrobe, on our last Board-day, one of our relieving officers handed in a long list of names of persons who had tendered a surrender of their land to the proprietor, but we thought the affair too vague to take any notice of it. But another, and a well defined case, has arisen on Lord Oranmore's estate, and having received his Lordship's permission, we think it right to mention it to you. His Lordship stated to us, that on his Castlemagarrett estate he had 135 tenants paying under 10*l.* per annum rent; that he had made a review of their condition, and satisfied his mind that not more than 30 would be able to stand their ground, and crop their land; that he intended to take a surrender from all the remainder, and re-let them their houses and a statute quarter of land, and thus place them within reach of assistance from the poor-rates. Now there is no doubt this is a fair, open, manly movement, and if Lord Oranmore finds a difficulty in enabling his small tenantry to maintain their ground, the course he has adopted is open to him; but should this course be generally pursued, the numbers on the out-door relief lists will surpass those of last summer.

REPLY to the above:—*January 13, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are fully sensible of the difficulty of acting on the 10th section of the Act referred to; still, as that section is of extreme importance, the Commissioners desire to express their opinion upon it, for your information and guidance.

The Commissioners think that the words of the Act should be strictly

Castlebar Union.

adhered to, by which no one who occupies more than a quarter of a statute acre of land shall be deemed, and taken to be, a destitute person. Hence the Commissioners think that the *bonâ fide* cessation to occupy more than a quarter of a statute acre, is the only point which should be looked to by the Guardians in the construction of the clause; and that no additional unbending condition should be insisted on, such as a certificate of surrender from a landlord, or the cessation to occupy even a quarter of an acre, or any land of still less extent.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 11, 1848.*

I ATTENDED meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians on Saturday and yesterday, and examined the collectors' accounts on the Friday preceding.

	£.	s.	d.
The amount of rate collected during the week was	163	9	2½
The total amount now obtained is	1,243	4	10½
Leaving uncollected	8,703	8	10

In consequence of the receipts not keeping pace with the expenditure, the Vice-Guardians found themselves yesterday in a difficult position: no funds being available to pay the contractors' bills, to two of whom about 440*l.* was due for provisions supplied for out-door relief; and as one of them is a creditor for articles furnished to the late Board, it was at one time doubtful whether provisions would be forthcoming to feed the thousands already on the relief list, and the crowd of applicants then outside anxiously awaiting their turn to be called before the Board. The Board having turned to me, I explained to the contractors the position in which matters were with regard to the rate; the small amount already collected; the certainty that the rest, or a considerable portion, would be forthcoming; that legal measures had been already put in train, and that all the powers placed in the hands of the Vice-Guardians, would be exerted to the utmost to enforce the payment of the rate. After some hesitation, the contractors consented to furnish a supply for another week. I also let it be distinctly understood, that no assistance would be afforded to the Union until it had been proved that its resources had been exhausted; and that no excuse whatever would be received for non-payment of rate.

With reference to the list of immediate lessors who have not paid the rate, alluded to in my report of last week, I now enclose a statement showing the places of residence of the gentlemen in question, and containing the observations of the collector on each case. A copy of the former list was handed over to the solicitor of the Union, who has written to most of the gentlemen concerned, and has received replies from some—there has not been time for all to have reached him. In the event of his application being unsuccessful, measures will be taken to enforce payment, either by suit in the superior courts under the sanction contained in your letter to the Board of Guardians, or by complaint and summons, whichever may be best suited to the circumstances of each case. The solicitor has been urged to make no delay.

In the mean time, the collector has prepared a list of numerous occupiers to whom he has made unsuccessful application for the rate, and they will be summoned to appear before the magistrates on next Thursday week, upon which occasion the resident magistrate has promised to attend; and that gentleman accompanies the collector to-morrow to the electoral divisions of Balla and Drum, to enforce the collection by seizing the property of certain other wealthy rate-payers who have taken no notice of the collectors' applications. To avoid all risk of opposition, a body of constabulary and a party of infantry, with a few dragoons, will be in attendance.

These measures will break the spell of passive resistance, and bring in the rates more rapidly.

The two appeals against the rate have been arranged without a trial before the assistant barrister, and the rate now stands on sure grounds. I am satisfied that a great portion can be collected—though doubtless its pressure will, in some cases, be severely felt.

The number of applicants for relief is still very great.

The number placed on the relief list on Saturday and Monday was 1560.

The number now receiving out-door relief is 8401.

That the whole of these are actually in a starving condition may, I think, be doubted; and although the deep-rooted aversion of the peasantry to the workhouse, causing them almost to starve before they will enter it, will, in some measure, lessen the force of the following comparative statement, still the facts are sufficiently marked to give a colour to the supposition.

On Saturday when the Application and Report Books of six electoral divisions, viz., Addergoole, Islandeady, Balla, Drum, Castlebar, and Breaffy—were under consideration, the number passed for out-door relief was 261: whilst on Monday 1299 were passed in the four remaining divisions, viz., Bellyhean, Ballintobber, Strade, and Turlough. On the first day there were vacancies in the workhouse by which the destitution could be tested; and numbers refused to enter the house; and on Monday there were no vacancies. As the parties appeared with their families, and the relieving officers asserted their destitution, the Vice-Guardians had no alternative but to afford out-door relief.

Should the Commissioners approve of the proposition to appoint an additional number of relieving officers, I shall suggest to the Vice-Guardians to employ them at first in making further and strict inquiries respecting the parties now on the relief lists, in the hope that some reduction in the number may be made. The pressure on the relieving officer at present, is very great.

The labour-test is applied as closely as possible, to the able-bodied; 31 men were struck off the lists for non-attendance at the work, or for idleness during the week; their families thereby losing their rations.

The relief afforded by the British Association to the children attending the schools in the Union, is now extensively in operation. 25 schools obtain relief, and 3297 received rations of rye-bread; and in some of the schools broth also, during the last week. The bread, when baked, costs three farthings per pound, and the broth twopence per gallon.

ENCLOSURE.

LIST of IMMEDIATE LESSORS who have not paid their RATES.

Name.	Residence.	Amount.	Observations.
		£. s. d.	
The Earl of Lucan . . .	Castlebar House; Latham House, Chertsey, England.	692 4 2½	Applied to agent, who stated that he had paid what Lord Lucan was liable for, and would not pay for any items where there were leases. Has not appealed.
Sir Robert Lynch Blosse, Bt.	Athavalla, Balla . . .	169 3 1½	Was furnished with his account, and promised to pay. Has not yet done so.
Colonel Charles N. Knox .	Lackan, Killala . . .	119 13 10½	Account furnished by clerk. Could get no satisfaction.
Peter Bourke, Esq. . . .	Ballinen, Castlebar . .	106 8 2½	Account furnished. Not yet paid, but will do so.
Mervyn Pratt, Esq. . . .	Ennischoe, Crossmolina .	100 2 ■	Has stated that he will pay 70% on 10th January, and the balance immediately.
Colonel Thomas Fitzgerald .	Mapleton House, Somersetshire.	90 1 8½	Account prepared. Estate in the Court of Chancery. Name of receiver until lately not known. Messrs. Clendinning and Lambert will be applied to immediately.
Sir Samuel O'Malley, Bart.	Kilboyne House, Castlebar	90 1 8½	Account furnished to his son, Sir William O'Malley, who resides with him. Not paid.
Captain St. George Cuffe .	Deel Castle, Crossmolina .	81 14 11	Account furnished. No reply or payment.
James Anderson, Esq. . .	Woodpark, Crossmolina .	72 9 1½	In the Marshalsea, Dublin. Estate in Chancery. Receiver, James V. Jackson, Esq., not yet applied to; will be done immediately.
Andrew Crean Lynch, Esq.	Clogher House, Ballyglass	80 9 1	Account furnished. Said he would send his man to check the account.
Captain W. M. Fitzmaurice	Lagatuma, Balla . . .	63 3 7½	Account furnished. Stated that the property did not all belong to him; that he would come and explain.
Conyngham Jones, Esq. . .	Deceased	43 ■ 2½	Applied to agent, Mr. John Stevens; promised to pay, but said that he was getting up more lands from tenants, for which he would have to pay also.
Owner is, Henry Shaw Jones, Esq.	Stephen's Green, Dublin .		
Lord Avenmore	Portumna	42 4 0	No account yet furnished. Did not know who was agent.

List of Immediate Lessors who have not paid their Rates—*continued.*

Name.	Residence.	Amount.			Observations.
		£.	s.	d.	
Colonel John Brown . . .	Breafty, Castlebar . . .	42	3	1½	Receiver on property, A. C. Lambert, Esq. Ballinrobe. Account prepared.
John Cheevers, Esq. . . .	Killion, county Galway . .	39	18	3½	No application.
James Hardiman, Esq. . .	Galway	34	11	0½	Account not furnished. Now learned his address.
Francis M'Donald, Esq. . .	Toomore, Ballyrany . . .	30	■	1½	Receiver on property. Account not yet furnished.
Ormsby Ellwood, Esq. . . .	Loughmask, Cong.	28	12	7½	Promised to pay on Thursday.
Major Owen O'Malley . . .	Castlebar	27	13	1	His agent states that he will pay every item for which Major O'Malley's name is set down in the book as immediate lessor; but thinks that other items have been entered in the account for which he is not properly chargeable. Will be arranged.
George M. Sheridan, Esq. . .	Pheasant-hill. Lives in London; address not known.	26	9	8	
John Bodkin, Esq.	Quarrymount, Tuam	25	3	4½	Abroad. Agent not known.
Charles Goodwin, Esq. . . .	Swineford	24	19	7½	Account furnished, and promises to settle.
Isadore P. Blake, Esq. . . .	Ballylahan, Foxford	24	16	1	Account furnished on Saturday last to his bailiff; will also be furnished to himself.
Francis Palmer, Esq.	Residence not known	24	16	1½	Inquiry will be made.
Malachy Tuohy, Esq.	Kiltyhabane	24	14	6	Account furnished. Will pay to-day.
Ormsby (Minors)		23	17	3	Agent, Oliver C. Jackson, Esq., Ballina. Account furnished. Payment promised.
John Finn, Esq.	Ballymagibbon, Cong.	23	10	2½	Account furnished, and was returned by agent.
George Blake, Esq.	Belmont, Tuam, county Galway.	23	7	9½	Did not know residence until to-day.
Lord Clanmorris	Not in the country. Agent, Parsons Persse, Esq., Newbrook, Ballyglass.	21	2	7½	Agent applied to; promised to pay.
Walter Joyce, Esq.	Castelucas, Ballyglass	20	8	2½	Account furnished, and repeatedly promised to pay. Has not yet done so.
Rev. John Leech	Residence not known. Agent, Oliver Jackson, Esq., Ballina.	18	12	0½	Account furnished to agent. No answer yet.
Walter Bourke, Esq.	Curraun, Ballyvany	16	17	4½	Account furnished. Said would not pay, as it was leased property.
John H. Peyton, Esq.	County Leitrim	16	16	6	Account not furnished. Address not known.
Lady Norbury	Agent, Mr. Garvey, Thornvale, Moneygall.	26	17	9	Account furnished to under-agent, and also to agent, by post. Payment promised by the former.
Dominick Brown, Esq.	Brown Hall	15	13	8	It is said that a receiver is appointed. Will apply to him.
Earl of Erne	Croom Castle, Lisnaskea, Fermanagh. Agent, Ormsby Ellwood, Esq., Loughmask, Cong.	14	14	3	Applied to, and payment promised.
John Knox, Esq.	Castlereagh	13	15	8	It is said that a receiver has been lately appointed. Inquiry will be made.
Francis B. Knox, Esq.	Rutland-square, Dublin	12	19	7½	Did not know address until now.
Anthony F. French	Ballyhean, Castlebar	10	17	7	Promised to pay.
Joseph Myles M'Donald, . . .	Doo Castle, Tubbercurry	8	13	2½	Property in Chancery. Receiver, Charles H. Crommie, Esq. Not aware of this until now.
Lord Kilmain	(The Niele), Garlston Park, Westmeath.	67	0	8½	Applied to Mr. Kelly, bailiff, who promised to come in and settle the account. Did not yet do so.
William Kearney, Esq.	Ballinvilla, Castlebar	53	14	5½	Promised to pay.
John Welsh, Esq.	Castlehill, Crossmolina	46	14	9½	Went to house twice, and could get no satisfaction.
Charles M. Coyne, Esq.	Westlands, Dublin	39	11	5	Account furnished personally. No payment yet made.
George H. Moore, Esq.	Moore Hall, Ballyglass	38	0	11½	Account not yet furnished.
Charles A. O'Malley, Esq. . .	Abroad	36	14	2	Do not know his address. Agent just dead. Account furnished to Patrick Boyd, Esq., Mount Gordon, Castlebar, who used to pay the rates.
Joseph D. Bourke, Esq.	Westport	36	5	7	Account furnished. Said would suffer anything before he would pay.
Captain John Knox	Greenwood Park, Crossmolina.	35	7	1½	Account furnished. Said he would not pay.
St. Clair O'Malley, Esq. . . .	Dead	34	8	11½	21l. 3s. 6d. of the sum paid by Patrick Boyd, Esq.
Thomas Irwin, Esq.		31	4	7½	Address not known.
Michael Rowland, Esq.	Mucknagh, Castlebar	30	18	6½	His son promised to pay.

Dated at Castlebar, the 10th day of January, 1848.

WILLIAM MALLY, *Collector.*

REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 17, 1848.*

Castlebar Union.

THE Commissioners have addressed the Vice-Guardians on the subject of the appointment of additional relieving officers in the Union.

I am, at the same time, to state, that the Commissioners approve of your suggestion as to the duty upon which the relieving officers should first be employed.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 19, 1848.*

ON Friday I examined the Collector's Books and Accounts, but the collector not being present to state the amount of lodgments, they could not then be closed. I subsequently saw the collector, who informed me that about 400*l.* had been collected during the week; this is the largest sum yet obtained in any weekly period. Scarcely sufficient time has, however, yet elapsed to show the full effect of the measures taken for enforcing the collection.

On Wednesday the collector proceeded to the electoral division of Balla, accompanied by the resident magistrate, and parties of constabulary, infantry, and dragoons, for the purpose of distraining the lands of several defaulting rate-payers. Some of the parties paid, but it was found necessary to bring to Castlebar 18 head of cattle, which were subsequently released upon payment by the proprietors of the demands made upon them.

Numerous individuals, in the electoral division of Castlebar, have been summoned to appear before the magistrates on Thursday, to answer for non-payment of rates, upon which occasion the resident magistrate will attend; and the collector will distrain other parties as soon as arrangements can be made with the resident magistrate.

The solicitor of the Union having been absent attending the sessions in various parts of the county, I have not had an opportunity of ascertaining from him the result of his applications to the parties included in the list of immediate lessors placed in his hands. I understand from the collector that some of them have paid the rate, and others have named a day of settlement. I hope to see the solicitor on Thursday upon this subject.

On Saturday and Monday I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians. Mr. Bourke, Poor Law Inspector, was present on the former day.

The following was the state of the workhouse :—

Men	146
Women	224
Boys under 15	192
Girls	78
Infants	27
Total	667

Auxiliary workhouse :—

Women	16
Girls under 15	98
Total	114

In Workhouse	667
Auxiliary ditto	114
Total	781

Of the above—in fever . .	36
Other cases	71

Total 107

The pressure for out-door relief still continues.

The number on the Application and Report Books, amounted to nearly	4,000
Of which there were admitted to the workhouse	36
Placed on out-door relief lists	3,221
The total number now receiving out-door relief is	11,358

Castlebar Union. being upwards of one-sixth of the population of the Union, according to the Census of 1841.

There can be little doubt of the fact, that the whole of these persons are not in a starving condition; the marked result, alluded to in my former reports, of the workhouse test, individual cases of imposition which have come to my knowledge, the assertion of the poor themselves, (from whom, however, I can never obtain the names of the parties, as they will not turn "informers," as they call it), and the statement of persons of undoubted veracity, confirm this. Indeed the majority of the lower orders seem to have lost all sense of self-respect, and the honest pride of independence, and they are now as eager to obtain a share of the rations from the Poor Law Guardians as they were importunate for food and work during the late measures of Government relief.

With so much of shameless imposition is mixed up, at the same time, the dire misery and destitution; the most harrowing scenes are witnessed in front of the workhouse, every Board-day. Crowds of squalid, wretched creatures, wrapped in rags, the covering probably just snatched from the bed of fever, rendering the air foetid with the poisonous emanations of disease, side by side with the man, who, not destitute, asserts his claim to relief with as much energy as his starving neighbour.

The difficulties arising from this state of feeling are such, that the truth is almost a sealed book to the relieving officers, only to be arrived at after repeated inquiries and corroborative evidence; and the pressure upon them is so great, that it is in some cases impracticable altogether. They assert that they visit the houses, but even here they are baffled. The relieving officer in this town has resigned, and only acts until another is appointed. He is followed by a crowd through the streets, and when he unexpectedly visits a house to make inquiry, his presence is known in a moment, and he is at once surrounded by a clamorous crowd, thus setting all his attempts at investigation at defiance.

With such a feeling prevailing so universally amongst the lower classes, the only course appears to be, to meet the pressure by calling in the aid of the rate-payers and all well-disposed persons; not in the selection of persons for relief, but to bring their opinion to bear upon the mass, by inducing them to afford information of the abuses and impositions existing; with a view to this information being used by the Vice-Guardians in revising and checking the relief lists. I have, therefore, suggested to the Chairman of the Board, who, at once, adopted the proposal to post up in the most conspicuous places in each electoral division, lists of the persons now receiving out-door relief, showing their places of residence, number in family, and number of rations issued daily. Also to publish these lists in the local papers, accompanied by an appeal to the magistrates, rate-payers, and all well-disposed persons; earnestly requesting them, for their own sakes, to afford the Vice-Guardians all the information in their power regarding any cases which may come under their observation, of persons who have improperly obtained relief, and to transmit such information (embodied in a form also to be published) to the clerk of the Union. These lists to be published periodically.

The dread of publicity, will, it is to be hoped, then deter the non-destitute from making applications for relief; and the lists of persons receiving out-door relief, thus in the possession of the rate-payers, will at once enable them to place a finger upon an abuse, and notify it to the Board of Guardians for correction. A stimulus will, moreover, be given to the relieving officers.

I need not inform the Commissioners of the unceasing anxiety of the Board of Vice-Guardians, to administer this relief in the spirit of the law, and I have made this statement solely, to put the Commissioners in possession of the many difficulties attending its execution, and of the efforts made to meet and overcome them.

REPLY to the above:—*January 22, 1848.*

As regards your suggestions to have the names of the persons in the receipt of out-door relief posted up throughout the several electoral divisions, and published in the local papers, with a view to prevent imposition, the Commissioners recommend that the lists of persons receiving relief as paupers should be only posted, as publication in the newspapers would be attended with very great expense, in

lieu of which it would appear sufficient to publish the proposed appeal of the Vice-Guardians to the magistrates, clergy, and rate-payers, referring to the posted lists, copies of which might, with advantage, be given to the relieving officers for distribution.

Castlebar Union.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 23, 1848.*

I BEG to transmit the accompanying statement, showing the weekly expenditure for in-door and out-door relief in the Castlebar Union, the amount of liabilities, &c., by which it will appear that the cost of the maintenance of the inmates of the workhouse, and salaries of officers, amounts to 93*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*; the value of provisions for out-door relief, 323*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.*; and that the total weekly expenditure amounts to 416*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.*

The amount of rate struck in October last was 9947*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

Supposing that 9000*l.* will be collected, which I fear is beyond the mark, and deducting 1125*l.* for collectors' fees, the sum of 7875*l.* becomes available; of this however, 1600*l.* has been already expended, leaving 6275*l.*

The liabilities of the Union incurred by the late Board of Guardians, as far as can be ascertained, amount to 3966*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, one-half of which, viz., 1983*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, the Vice-Guardians have agreed to pay out of this rate.

The liabilities since incurred, amount to 1445*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, which two sums deducted from 6275*l.*, leave only 2945*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* actually available to meet the current expenses of the Union, a sum which (even supposing the numbers on the out-door relief lists to remain stationary, the reverse of what may be expected) would not suffice for the outgoings of two months; and this with rates in course of collection, varying from 3*s.* 1½*d.* in the pound in some electoral divisions, to 4*s.* 7*d.* and 5*s.* in others.

Notwithstanding that every exertion is made to collect the rate, the highest amount yet obtained in one week was 400*l.*, and that on only one occasion; and as the Vice-Guardians are bound to reserve 50 per cent. of the rate as collected, to pay off the liabilities incurred under the former Board; and the other arrears, principally for provisions, being of a pressing nature, the balance of the weekly lodgments will do little more than liquidate the expense of salaries and maintenance of the inmates of the workhouse, particularly as the cost of in-door relief will be augmented, when the completion of the fittings in the auxiliary workhouse will render that building available for more extended accommodation, leaving the amount of out-door relief (now 323*l.* per week, with a certainty of its increasing), totally unprovided for.

Under these circumstances, I feel that the time has arrived for me to bring the condition of this Union under your notice, and to certify that the Board of Vice-Guardians having made every effort in working out their arrangements, the extent of the distress really exceeds all their powers duly and fully exerted. I therefore beg to recommend the case of the Union to your favourable consideration, in order that an appeal may be made to the British Association in its behalf.

STATEMENT referred to in foregoing REPORT.

No. 3875/48.

Weekly Expenses.

Salaries—		£.	s.	d.
Three Vice-Guardians		8	1	7½
Doctor, at 60 <i>l.</i> per annum		1	3	0
Chaplain, R. C. 40 <i>l.</i> „		0	15	4½
Ditto, Protestant 20 <i>l.</i> „		0	7	8½
Master 60 <i>l.</i> „		1	3	10
Matron 30 <i>l.</i> „		0	11	11
Clerk of Union 50 <i>l.</i> „		0	19	2½
Schoolmaster 25 <i>l.</i> „		0	9	7½
Schoolmistress 15 <i>l.</i> „		0	5	9½
Relieving Officers, three at 50 <i>l.</i> „		2	17	7½
Ditto, two 40 <i>l.</i> „		1	10	9½
Ditto, additional five, say 15 <i>s.</i> per week		3	15	0

Carried forward 22 1 6

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Castlebar Union.

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	22	1	6
Superintendents of labour gangs, ten, at 10s. per week	5	0	0
Nurse-tender, at 12 <i>l.</i> per annum	0	4	7½
Total for salaries	£26	3	0
Rent—			
Rent of site of workhouse	0	13	5
Rent of auxiliary workhouse	1	8	10
Total rent	2	2	3
Provisions—			
Provision and necessaries for workhouse	64	19	1
Salaries and in-door relief	£ 93	4	4

Out-door Relief.

Electoral divisions—

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.		£.	s.	d.
Strade	52	0	3½	at 10 <i>s.</i> 4½ <i>d.</i> per cwt.	26	19	9¼
Turlough	50	3	20½	" "	26	8	5
Ballyhean	42	2	3½	at 10 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> "	21	15	11
Drum	84	0	7	at 10 <i>s.</i> 4½ <i>d.</i> "	43	12	2½
Balla	42	2	24½	" "	22	3	3½
Islandeedy	39	2	14	" "	20	11	1¼
Addergoole	100	2	7	" "	52	3	4
Castlebar & Breaffy }	153	2	0	at 10 <i>s.</i> "	76	15	0
Ballintubber	65	0	3½	at 10 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> "	33	6	6¼
Total weekly cost of out-door relief					323	15	7¼
Out-door relief					323	15	7¼
Total weekly expenditure					£416	19	11¼

Statement of Liabilities.

Liabilities incurred by late Board of Guardians, as far as they have been ascertained	£3966	17	11
Liabilities incurred since:—			
Contractors for provision (for workhouse, 350 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> ; out-door relief, 850 <i>l.</i>)	£1200	5	9
Clothing	13	10	0
Repairs, &c., of workhouse	26	0	0
Glazing	3	0	0
Invoice of medicine	11	11	4
Salaries unpaid	191	7	10
Total liabilities	1445	14	11
Amount of rate struck	£9947	2	11
Say will be collected	9000	0	0
Deduct collectors' fees (2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> in the 1 <i>l.</i>)	1125	0	0
Remains	7875	0	0
Deduct already expended	1600	0	0
Leaves	6275	0	0
From which must be taken 50 per cent. of liabilities of former Board	1983	8	11
And the whole of liabilities incurred since	1445	14	11
	3329	3	10
Leaving for current expenses	£2945	16	2

Castlebar, January 23, 1848.

R. T. FARREN, *Captain 47th Regiment,*
Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

REPLY to the above:—January 27, 1848.

THE Commissioners have made application to Count Strzelecki for an
advance of 300*l.* for this purpose.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners are desirous of being informed whether you are able to certify that the rate-payers of the Union will not be able to meet their liabilities, and that they are making such exertion, as can reasonably be expected from them.

The Commissioners also request that, you will be so good as to report specially, on the following points:—

1st. What is the sum total of the poor rates paid in the Castlebar Union since the Vice-Guardians were appointed, and to how many shillings in the pound on the net annual value does it amount?

2nd. What is the obstacle to the rate being collected? Is it that there is negligence or dishonesty in collectors or rate-payers? Is it that the crops have failed? Are the means of the proprietors and occupiers exhausted, or likely soon to be exhausted, and if so, how is this proved?

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain FARREN:—*January 26, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are desirous of receiving from you, a detailed report as to the arrangements for the employment of paupers receiving out-door relief in the Castlebar Union, with a statement of the numbers so employed, the amount of labour exacted from each, the rate of remuneration to each, and the kind of work (if any) in addition to stone-breaking, on which such paupers are employed.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 26, 1848.*

I REGRET that I cannot report that the collection of the rate is progressing favourably. On Friday, I examined the collector's books and accounts, and found that the amount collected during the week, as entered in the Rate Receipt Abstract Books, was

£115 18 6½
That the total sum now collected is
1,599 9 11
And that the amount remaining uncollected is
8,347 13 0

In my last report I stated that the collector had summoned numerous individuals to appear before the magistrates to answer for non-payment of the rate, and that the cases would be heard on the ensuing Thursday. Upon that day, it appears, the Court was closed at an unusually early hour, before the arrival of the resident magistrate, who, however, arranged that a special meeting should be held on Monday for the purpose. Accordingly, on that day the resident magistrate and two other magistrates attended. Deeming it advisable that support should be given to the collector, the chairman of the Board of Vice-Guardians and myself were also present. After disposing of one case, it was discovered that no signature was attached to the block notices produced in Court, and that the collector had not himself signed those served on the individuals summoned. The solicitor of the Union was therefore obliged to withdraw all the cases (which were very numerous) amidst the delight of the whole Court. Fresh notices must therefore be served, and delay thereby occasioned.

This unbusiness-like proceeding in so simple a matter will show the Commissioners the difficulties which the Vice-Guardians have to contend with here. The collector, who is also collector of the baronial cess, does not appear to have sufficient clerical assistance in his office. On inquiring from the solicitor of the Union the result of his proceedings in the cases of the immediate lessors who have not paid their rates, he stated that in almost every instance his communications have been met by an application for a detailed statement of the items of rate demanded from them, and that delay is experienced in the collector's office in furnishing those detailed accounts. The collector, in the first instance, furnished to the parties an account, showing the amount due for each townland, not specifying the separate items in the rate book.

The collector has been urged to use despatch in this matter. A communication to him from the Commissioners would be of service.

Some of the lessors included in the list of defaulters have since paid the rates. Writs have been obtained by the solicitor for service on others. The request for a detailed statement of account appearing only reasonable, proceedings in cases of such application have been stayed, but will be resumed in the event of the demands remaining unpaid after the receipt of such accounts.

Castlebar Union.

Whilst on the subject of the rate it should be stated that the necessity of a revision of the rate books before a new rate is struck, becomes more manifest every day. The distribution of the rating, originally very defective, and augmented by the changes which have since taken place, is a source of constant complaint on the part of the rate-payers, and embarrassment to the Board of Guardians. The latter are quite convinced of its necessity. The almost impossibility of obtaining a properly qualified unprejudiced person for the office is the great obstacle in the way of its accomplishment.

On Saturday and Monday, I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians. The pressure for relief was not so great as at the meetings of the preceding week.

The number of applicants was	1741
(Being about one-half that of the preceding week.)	
Of which there were admitted to the workhouse	32
Placed on the out-door relief lists	1424
Some individuals were also discharged from the workhouse to out-door relief, to the number of	21
The total number now receiving out-door relief is	12,450

The lists of persons receiving out-door relief in four electoral divisions have been received from the relieving officers, and ordered to be printed, for posting in the electoral divisions, and for distribution amongst the rate-payers. The lists for the remaining divisions will be given in on the next Board day. This measure, it is hoped, will have a good effect.

As it would appear from a communication received by the Vice-Guardians, that an impression exists on the part of the Commissioners that the labour test is not carried out in a sufficiently stringent manner in this Union, I think it right to mention that the able-bodied are compelled, except in cases of sickness, to attend at the depôts fixed for stone-breaking in each electoral division, and a task of work is exacted daily from each. The overseers have each a book in which every labourer's name is entered, and his absence or presence recorded daily; also the quantity of stone broken by each during the week. These books are produced and examined every Board day; and a return giving the total number of days and work executed by each gang, is also handed in and retained by the clerk of the Union. In the event of the absence or idleness of any labourer, his name is struck out of the relief list, and himself and family lose their rations. As the work performed will be tested by the measurement of the county surveyor's assistant, who will purchase a portion of the stone for some of the roads—and an example having already been made by the dismissal of one of the overseers who had entered into collusion with the labourers—the depôt, moreover, being inspected by myself as frequently as my duties will permit, these officers, in the event of a dereliction of duty, cannot escape; they do therefore report in their books the absence or illness of the labourers, and the result has been that 261 men, with their families—from 1300 to 1500 individuals—have been struck out of the relief lists for this cause, and thereby lost their rations.

Without in any way attempting to controvert the wishes of the Commissioners, whose recommendation upon the subject of a daily issue of provisions to the able-bodied in return for a daily task of work performed, must be carried out, and to effect which every assistance in my power shall be afforded to the Vice-Guardians, I venture, from the experience I had an opportunity of acquiring in this county during the last fifteen months, to submit that collusion between the overseer and labourer may be dreaded, when the latter knows that the daily ticket in the possession of the overseer will procure him his rations, and every process of intimidation will be resorted to on his part to oblige the overseer to issue the same; whereas, at present the labourer feels that it is the Vice-Guardians who strike him off the list, and that he has no alternative but to obey. It is difficult to explain this feeling, but those acquainted with this district will readily admit its existence.

I visited the workhouse frequently during the week, in order to give assistance and advice to the newly-appointed master and matron, whose proceedings lead me to imagine they will become useful and valuable officers.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 31, 1848.*

Castlebar Union.

I AM to express the great regret of the Commissioners, at the omission of the collector of poor-rate to sign his name to the notices served on the rate-payers, against whom proceedings had been taken for non-payment of the poor-rate.

The notices should have been signed by the collector, otherwise the cases could not be proceeded with. The particulars of the rate should likewise be furnished always to the immediate lessors in the first instance.

With reference to the appointment of a revisor of valuation, the Commissioners will endeavour to obtain the services of some competent individual in Dublin, and will communicate on the subject with the Vice-Guardians at an early opportunity.

As regards the employment of the persons receiving out-door relief in the Union, I am to state, that if on a fair trial of the system recommended by the Commissioners, the consequences result which you anticipate in your report, the Commissioners will not object to the Vice-Guardians returning to the old system; but the Commissioners are convinced that the plan which they suggest is founded on correct principles, and that it should not be lightly departed from.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 31, 1848.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, No. 82, referring to our having omitted to furnish a weekly report relative to the collection of the rates in the Union under our charge.

We regret exceedingly that you should have had to reproach us on this subject, and hope that the cause will not occur in future.

The collection for the week ending the 27th January, amounts to 41*l.* 4*s.* 2½*d.* only. This has been caused by the proceedings in the Petty Sessions Court at Castlebar having been quashed by the informality of the notices served by the collector on the parties summoned; and also, in one of the rural districts, in consequence of the Court there having ruled that it was necessary for the clerk of the Union to be present to prove the signature of the chairman to the warrant in the collector's book; and, in addition, no results have as yet been produced by the proceedings instituted by our solicitor in the superior courts against some of the large defaulting ratepayers. We are, however, aware that since the books were officially made up by the collector, upwards of 200*l.* have been lodged, which of course will be included in our next week's report.

REPLY to the above:—*February 4, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will inform the Commissioners whether the magistrates in the Petty Sessions Court in one of the rural districts of the Union to which you advert, of themselves called for evidence of the signatures to the warrants of the collector, or did so at the suggestion or desire of the defendant: I am also to request that the Commissioners may be informed whether the magistrates that adjudicated in both of the cases mentioned in your report had themselves paid the rates charged against them.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 2, 1848.*

I REGRET that I cannot report an improvement in the progress of the collection of the rate.

	£.	s.	d.
The sum obtained during the week, as shown by the Rate Abstract Books, examined on Saturday, (the books not being forthcoming on Friday, the appointed day,) was only	41	4	2½
The total amount now collected is	1640	14	1½
Leaving uncollected	8306	8	9½

The temporary triumph obtained by the parties summoned for non-payment of rate (detailed in my last report) in the withdrawal of the cases on Monday week last, in consequence of an informality in the notices, has increased the difficulties

Castlebar Union.

of the collection, and I fear deepened the feeling too generally prevailing of "paying only upon compulsion." I regret also to state that up to Monday last the collector had not repaired the error which overthrew the proceedings in question, fresh notices not having been served up to that day.

These delays and omissions on the part of the collector are of moment, at a time when large sums are due to contractors and others for provisions, and an increasing amount of destitution to be provided for.

The non-preparation of the accounts in detail of the immediate lessors whose cases were handed over to the solicitor of the Union, having been a subject of difficulty with that officer, the collector was urged to use despatch, and on Saturday he produced the greater part of the accounts, and stated that he would compare them with the rate-books at once and hand them over to the solicitor, and that the remainder, about eight, would be drawn up immediately.

With regard to the cases in the hands of the solicitor, I enclose a statement (marked A), showing the progress made, the solicitor's observations being given in each case, by which it appears that the sum of 306*l.* only has yet been paid; that

In 6 cases a promise of payment has been made;

2 cases proceedings have been commenced;

4 cases writs have been issued;

1 case about to be sued;

1 case to be sued;

1 case proceedings about to commence;

7 cases receivers on property to be applied to, and where no funds in hand, application to be made to Master of the Rolls for order for payment;

1 case estate in hands of trustees for benefit of creditors;

1 case insolvent;

3 cases applied to, and no answer;

7 cases address not known;

2 cases not applied to.

The detailed accounts handed over to the solicitor by the collector will enable him to bring matters in many of the foregoing cases to an issue; and in cases where payment is not made after receipt of the accounts, proceedings will be instituted.

It appears by another statement (marked B.) which I enclose, that the collector attended at the Petty Sessions at Ballyvany on the 28th instant, and obtained 29 decrees against parties in the electoral divisions of Strade and Turlough, who were summoned for non-payment of the rate.

The collector has been urged to put these decrees in force without delay, and the necessity of completing and issuing fresh notices in lieu of the defective ones before alluded to, has also been impressed upon him.

It is hoped that by these means the collection will be enforced; but as passive resistance is encountered at every step, time will necessarily be consumed in overcoming that resistance by the legal processes suited to each case.

In the meantime, whilst these difficulties occur in the collection of the rate, the pressure of destitution still continues.

The number of applicants on the books of the relieving officers, when examined on the Board days of Saturday and Monday, amounted to	2,113
Of which there were admitted to workhouse	13
Placed on out-door relief lists	1,416
There were also discharged from the workhouse to out-door relief	3
The total number now receiving out-door relief is	13,114

Although a considerable number of the able-bodied receiving out-door relief have been struck out of the lists for idleness or non-attendance at the work depôts, little effect seems to have been made in diminishing the amount of applications for relief.

I visited these depôts in some of the electoral divisions during the week, and at one—that of Donamona, in the electoral division of Drum—found a considerable number of the men absent. On questioning the overseer, he stated "they had completed their tasks;" but on examining the heaps of broken stone, it did not appear that such was the case; moreover, his written instructions stated that the labourers must attend at work at eight in the morning, and remain until four in

the afternoon, allowing one hour for meals. I took his book and called the roll, when at least 50 men were found absent. I ordered their names to be handed to the relieving officer, in order that their rations might be stopped, and brought the case before the Vice-Guardians on Saturday, when the overseer was dismissed. It is exceedingly difficult to obtain overseers who will do their duty honestly and fearlessly. This is the second instance of an overseer being dismissed for neglect of duty and collusion with the labourers.

The following is the Labour Return for the last week :—

Electoral Divisions.	No. in Gangs.	Total Days' Work.	No. of Boxes of Stone Broken.	No. of Labourers Struck off.	Observations.
Addergoole . .	114	605½	445½	2	Overseer cautioned and labourers, that if a larger task was not performed in future, names should be struck out, rations stopped, and overseer dismissed.
Balla	68	340	272	2	
Ballintubber . .	117	437	211	2	
Ballyhean . . .	150	365	101	17	
Breafty	67	269½	146	2	Ditto ditto ditto.
Castlebar . . .	77	318½	..	..	Employed in workhouse grounds, quarry having been refused by owner.
Drum	150	761½	1,005½	54	Overseer dismissed.
Islandeedy . . .	65	256	204½	8	
Strade	123	489	632	18	
Turlough	57	227	212	35	
	988	4,087½	3,289½	140	

This return only shows the quantity of stone broken; portions of the men were employed in quarrying the stone and preparing it for the breakers. The weather was very unfavourable.

On the examination of the books, 140 labourers were struck off for idleness or absence from the work, by which they and their families, from 700 to 800 individuals, lost their rations.

The Vice-Guardians have caused notices to be circulated, calling upon them to submit tenders for the supply of rye-bread in the electoral divisions for the able-bodied paupers receiving out-door relief, and next week I trust arrangements will have been made for issuing daily rations of that description of food to the able-bodied in return for the daily task of work performed.

I am happy to state that the drainage of the Saleen lakes near Castlebar, on the property of the Earl of Lucan, has been commenced, and will afford employment to a considerable number of men. His Lordship affords employment to upwards of 300 men in this Union, in addition to the above, and I understand has also applied for advances for other works, under the Land Improvement Bill.

There is ample room in this Union for the employment of the able-bodied poor in productive and remunerative works; the area of the Union contains 155,524 acres, and the population amounts to 61,083 (including the town of Castlebar), thus giving upwards of 2½ acres to each individual. There are extensive tracts of mountain land in various parts of the Union, crying aloud, if I may use the term, for reclamation—abounding with limestone gravel, and very little depth of bog on the surface, in many instances even now affording rough pasture; many acres of rich bottom land are annually covered with the winter floods, which might, to a considerable extent, be prevented, by deepening the rivers. Surface drainage is most defective, and the cultivation of the land is carried on in the rudest manner.

The inducements, however, held out by the Land Improvement and other Acts, have, with very little exception, not been taken advantage of. Indeed there are but few proprietors who are in a position to do so. Many of the estates in the Union are under the Court of Chancery, and many are weighed down with debts and difficulties; other proprietors do not reside in the Union, so that the whole burden of the destitution is thrown upon the poor-rates.

The preparation of the land for future crops is not as satisfactory as might be hoped; the visit of one of the lecturers from the Royal Agricultural Society would be of much service at the present time, as the small holders are much in need of advice and instruction in agricultural matters.

ENCLOSURES.

(A.)—LIST OF IMMEDIATE LESSORS.

Names.	Residence.	Amount.	Solicitor's Observations.
		£. s. d.	
1. Earl of Lucan	Latham House, Chertsey, England.	692 4 2½	Proceedings about to be immediately commenced.
2. Sir Robert L. Blosse . . .	Athavalla, Balla . . .	169 3 1½	Paid 100% to collector. A pressing letter written for the balance.
3. Colonel Charles L. Knox . .	Lackan, Killala . . .	119 13 10½	Proceedings have commenced.
4. Peter Bourke, Esq. . . .	Ballinen, Castlebar . . .	106 8 2½	I have not got his account.
5. Mervyn Pratt, Esq. . . .	Ennischoe, Crossmolina.	100 2 6	Paid 20% to collector. Written to for balance.
6. Colonel Thomas Fitzgerald.	Mapleton House, Somersetshire.	90 1 8½	Receiver over this estate. An application to Master of the Rolls for an order for payment about to be made.
7. Sir Samuel O'Malley, Bart.	Kilboyne, Castlebar . .	90 1 8½	Applied to for payment. No answer. Writ to issue for service.
8. Captain St. George Cuffe . .	Deel Castle, Crossmolina	81 14 11	Proceedings have commenced.
9. James Anderson, Esq. . . .	Wood Park, Crossmolina	72 9 1½	In the Marshalsea. A receiver on his property; but no funds in hands. An application to be made to Master of the Rolls.
10. Andrew C. Lynch, Esq. . .	Clogher House, Ballyglass.	80 9 1	Paid 50% to collector. Pressing letter for the balance, and a writ already issued.
11. Captain W. M. Fitzmaurice.	Logatuma, Balla . . .	63 3 7½	Two receivers on this property. An application to Master of the Rolls next term for order for payment.
12. (Conyngham Jones, Esq.), now Henry Shaw Jones, Esq.	Stephen's Green, Dublin	43 6 2½	Account furnished to Mr. Walker, Mr. Jones's solicitor, who wrote to say payment would be made.
13. Lord Avonmore	Portumna	42 4 0	Not yet applied to.
14. Colonel John Brown . . .	Breafty	42 3 1½	Receiver on this property. Proceedings as in No. 6.
15. John Cheevers, Esq. . . .		39 18 3½	I don't know this gentleman's address.
16. James Hardman, Esq. . . .	Galway	34 11 0½	Not yet applied to.
17. Francis C. McDonald . . .	Toomore, Ballyrany . .	30 8 1½	Applied to. No answer. This property vested in a trustee for benefit of Mr. McDonald's creditors.
18. Ormsby Elwood, Esq. . . .	Loughmask, Cong . . .	28 12 7½	Paid the collector.
19. Major Owen O'Malley . . .	Castlebar	27 13 1	Dead.
20. George M. Sheridan		26 9 8	In London. Circumstances insolvent.
21. John Bodkin, Esq.	Quarrymount, Tuam . .	25 3 4½	Abroad.
22. Charles Goodwin, Esq. . . .	Swineford	24 19 7½	Served with a writ.
23. Isadore P. Blake, Esq. . . .	Ballylahan	24 16 1	Writ issued.
24. Francis Palmer, Esq. . . .		24 16 1½	His address not known.
25. Malachy Thuoy, Esq. . . .	Kiltyhabane	24 14 6	Paid collector.
26. — Ormsby (minors)			Account furnished, and payment promised by receiver.
27. John Finn, Esq.	Ballymagibbon, Cong . .	23 10 2½	Paid collector.
28. George Blake, Esq.		23 17 9½	I don't know where this gentleman is to be found.
29. Lord Clanmorris.		21 2 7½	Paid collector.
30. Walter Joice, Esq.	Castlelucas	20 8 2½	Paid collector.
31. Rev. John Leech		18 12 0½	I don't know where he resides.
32. John H. Peyton.	Curraun, Ballyvany . .	16 17 4½	Written to, and payment promised by his son.
33. Lady Norbury	County Leitrim	16 16 6	Don't reside in this county.
		26 17 9	A tender of more than two-thirds of the rate claimed made to collector. I have written to the agent again on the subject.
34. Dominick Brown Esq. . . .	Brown Hall	15 13 8	Receiver.
35. Earl of Erne.	Croom Castle, Lisnaskea	14 14 8	Payment promised by agent.
36. John Knox, Esq.	Castlereagh	13 15 8	Receiver.
37. Francis B. Knox, Esq. . . .	Rutland-square, Dublin	12 19 7½	Applied to. No answer.
38. Anthony T. French	Ballyhean	10 17 7	
39. Joseph Miles McDonald, Esq.		8 13 2½	Receiver.
40. Lord Kilmain	Garliston Park, Westmeath	67 0 8½	Payment promised by agent.
41. William Kearney, Esq. . . .	Ballinvilla	53 14 5½	18% paid to collector on account.
42. John Walsh, Esq.	Castlehill, Crossmolina.	46 14 9½	Account furnished, and payment promised.
43. Charles M. Coyne, Esq. . . .	Westland-row, Dublin . .	39 11 5	Applied to. No answer. To be sued.
44. George H. Moore, Esq. . . .	Moore Hall	38 0 11½	Applied to. No answer.
45. Charles A. O'Maley, Esq. . .		36 14 2	Dead.
46. Joseph D. Bourke, Esq. . . .	Westport	36 5 7	Writ issued.
47. Captain John Knox	Greenwood Park, Crossmolina.	35 7 1½	Charged in mistake for Mr. P. Bourke. Not liable in this instance.
48. St. Clair O'Malley, Esq. . .		34 8 11½	Dead. 21% paid collector on account of his representatives.
49. Thomas Irwin, Esq.		31 4 7½	Don't know his address.
50. Michael Rowland, Esq. . . .	Mucknagh, Castlebar . .	30 18 6½	Writ issued.

Dated at Castlebar, the 29th day of January, 1848.

(Signature of Solicitor)

M. L. O'DONEL.

(B.)

PROCEEDINGS by the COLLECTORS of POOR RATES at Ballyvany Petty Sessions,
January 28th, 1848

Electoral Division of Turlough,

13 summoned and entered.

2 paid.

11 decreed.

Electoral Division of Strade,

18 persons decreed.

January 29, 1848.

WM. MALLEY.

REPLY to the above:—*February 4, 1848.*

THERE appears reason to apprehend that the collector of poor rate is wanting in zeal. The omission to sign his notices, and his permitting a week to elapse without serving fresh notices, also his delay in supplying information necessary for the solicitor's proceedings against immediate lessors, manifest a very serious want of exertion.

The Commissioners request that the collector may be urged on decisively to a more energetic discharge of his duties.

As it is observed that in several cases, the present residence of the immediate lessors cannot be ascertained, and that in others the estates are in charge of receivers who plead want of funds, the Commissioners recommend that in all such cases notice should be served on the occupiers, under the 3rd section of the Act 6 and 7 Vic., c. 92, at the proper time, as auxiliary means of recovering the rate.

As regards the number of labourers who were absent from work, when you visited the dépôt in the Donamona electoral division, the Commissioners recommend that the provisions of the 100th section should be enforced against the overseer, in which case the form of complaint 43, on page 489 of Compendium of Poor Law Acts, may be adapted to the circumstances.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 3, 1848.*

WE have the honour to transmit, for your inspection, a bundle of documents purporting to be certificates of surrender granted by the bailiff of Sir Samuel O'Malley to some of his tenants on Clare Island. We have good reason to believe, through the evidence of our relieving officer, that though the person who signs the papers is the acknowledged bailiff of the estate, he has no power or authority for taking surrenders, and that the proceeding is entirely one of deception and fraud, to enable the parties to receive the out-door relief; that no transfer whatever has taken place, and the parties mentioned in the papers are, and were at the moment, living in their houses, in possession and occupation of their land; but the relieving officer says—and we consider him deserving of our confidence—that should we refuse assistance to those people they must die of starvation; and the question immediately arises, as we must commit one of two evils, is it not best to err on the side of humanity. We have therefore directed the relieving officer to give the people provisional relief until further orders.

We beg to remark that those poor people are far removed from the rest of the community; shut up in their wild and desolate island, they have no opportunity of wandering off to other localities in search of food or shelter. There is no room in the workhouse to receive them; there they are, and there they must remain; and if we deny them food, they perish: still it is to be feared that a huge precedent like this will open the door in other places for fearful fraud. The chairman has written to Sir S. O'Malley to inquire if the bailiff has any authority from him to accept surrenders, and if those certified for are *bonâ fide* transactions.

REPLY to the above:—*February 5, 1848.*

I AM directed to state, that as far as the Commissioners are able to form an opinion, the documents accompanying your communication (which are returned

3 M

Castlebar Union.

herewith) seem to render it *prima facie* probable that the individuals to whom they refer have ceased to occupy the land to which the documents respectively refer.

The Commissioners desire at the same time to state, that according to their view of the 10th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, it is merely the occupation or non-occupation of a quarter of an acre of land which is made a criterion of destitution, provided that an applicant for relief may otherwise be deemed entitled to it.

Hence the Guardians, as far as that clause is concerned, are warranted in relieving anybody who is not in such occupation; and they are not bound to investigate title at all, or to ascertain whether the tenant's interest has been legally determined by surrender or otherwise.

GALWAY UNION.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 18, 1847.*

At the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, there were 1202 paupers in the house, 149 applicants, but 50 only could be admitted; consequently 99 persons in a state of destitution were left unprovided for at the gates, which, of itself, at once shows the distressed state of the Union generally.

The surgeon reported that 13 additional cases of fever had appeared during the week, which he attributed to the imprudent removal of blankets that had been used in the fever hospital, to the body of the house, without being previously washed, thus communicating the disease to those who unfortunately used them; and he forbade the admission of more than 1250 paupers until Straw Lodge was prepared to receive the hospital patients, of which there were 103 in the house.

The Guardians are proceeding with the purchase of materials for sheeting, and clothing for the boys and female paupers. The usual notice of a rate having been struck, has been posted. The warrants were not ready for signature yesterday; but on Wednesday next they will be ready to proceed with the collection.

REPLY to the above :—*November 19, 1847.*

THE Commissioners are desirous of being informed of the proceedings which have taken place at the meeting of the Guardians on the 17th instant, with respect to the appointment of relieving officers.

The Guardians would have been enabled to make room in the workhouse for relief of the able-bodied, and for testing the destitution of applicants for relief, if they had made arrangements to relieve the classes specified in the 1st section of the Extension Act, out of the workhouse; and the Commissioners request that you will have the goodness to press this point upon the consideration of the Guardians.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 22, 1847.*

IN obedience to your letter of the 19th instant, received yesterday, I acquaint you that the appointment of relieving officers was not touched upon at the meeting of guardians on the 17th instant, in consequence of the Commissioners' letter of the 16th instant not reaching me till the 18th instant. It cannot therefore, now be acted upon until Wednesday next.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 21, 1847.*

HAVING received the enclosed copy of a resolution passed at the last meeting of the Killanin Fever Committee, from Andrew W. Blake, Esq., J.P., and D.L., relative to the prevalent distress on the sea coast of that extensive division, it becomes my duty to lay the same before you, observing that general distress is daily increasing throughout this Union.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. HUTCHINSON, Secretary to the Board of Health (Temporary Fever Hospital Committee), to Captain HELLARD :—*November 18, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Committee of the Killanin Board of Health, to forward to you for your consideration and assistance, the following resolution passed by them this day :—"Resolved that we behold with the utmost sorrow and dismay, the fearful return of famine and disease to this destitute district, visiting in their destructive career, not only their former surviving victims, but hundreds besides, who had hitherto escaped their dreadful influence.

"No language can express, and the mind can scarce conceive, the awful privations which more than half our population are now calmly and patiently enduring; one well-known but melancholy fact will sufficiently describe their sad condition; that is, that we are fully assured, that many

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families are at this moment endeavouring to prolong a miserable existence, on one meal a-day of turnips alone, plundered sometimes at the risk of their lives, from the gardens of their more fortunate neighbours. Human life cannot be long sustained by such precarious and deplorable subsistence. The law of the land will step forth to suppress the law of nature, and in the awful antagonism, both life and property must be placed in imminent danger. To meet so dire a calamity and pressure, by all the means in our power, and to preserve the lives of our truly patient, peaceful, and heavily afflicted fellow creatures, we hereby pledge ourselves to contribute as far as our circumstances will permit, to the timely relief of the starving poor of our district, with the hope and confidence that the Government will promptly and mercifully aid our zealous but feeble efforts.

"We therefore propose, this day, to pay to our very zealous, most benevolent and efficient chairman, Andrew W. Blake, Esq., our individual subscriptions, and request our secretary to forward a copy of this our resolution, to all persons connected by property, or otherwise, with this district, for the purpose of soliciting their charitable assistance, and likewise to Captain Hellard, R.N., the inspecting officer of this Union, with a view of his obtaining some aid from the Government, or from any other source under his direction and control.

"A. W. BLAKE, Esq., *Chairman.*
 Rev. JAMES MACREADY.
 Rev. FRANCIS KENNELLY, P.P.
 Rev. JOHN M'CULLOUGH, P.P."

REPLY to the above:—*November 23, 1847.*

THE Commissioners recommend you to communicate with Count Strzelecki, after inquiry into the actual circumstances of the poor in the district referred to.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 1, 1847.*

REFERRING to the letter of the 23rd ultimo, I acquaint you that after making inquiry, as therein directed, I yesterday made my report to Count Strzelecki, a copy of which is herewith forwarded for the information of the Commissioners.

ENCLOSURE.

Captain HELLARD to Count STRZELECKI:—*November 30, 1847.*

HAVING been directed by letter of the 23rd instant, to report upon the accompanying resolution of the Killanur Board of Health, I acquaint you, that upon inquiry along that line of coast, more particularly in the neighbourhood of Spiddal, I found a great deal of distress, there being, I may say, little or no work for the peasantry in that locality, consequently poverty must exist. On the estate of Tully, nine miles west of Spiddal, I was informed by James Blake, Esq., J. P., that he had employment for the tenantry, at which they could earn from 8d. to 9d. per day, but that they positively refused to work, "stating that they were waiting for the public roads to be commenced," which was fully corroborated by Patrick M'Nalty, steward on the estate, who also stated that the men were then idle at home, and would not hear of coming to work, although frequently requested by him to do so; therefore should any assistance be at this moment rendered the people at Spiddal, except at their schools, which will very much relieve them, I fear it would act as an inducement to keep the idlers before alluded to from profitable occupation, and encourage them to go on refusing employment from their landlord. I, however, took the opportunity of assuring the steward that Public Works would not be again resumed, and desired he would make that assertion as public as he could.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 25, 1847.*

THERE were in the Union workhouse yesterday 1190 paupers; 60 were admitted, and 140 unfortunate destitute persons left at the gates unprovided for; thus again proving, in an increased ratio, the absolute necessity of additional accommodation.

The Guardians in future will meet at 11 o'clock, in order that the two first hours be entirely set apart for the examination and admission of paupers.

The payment of the cheque, signed some time since in favour of Mr. Manghan for 1100*l.*, has been stopped.

A Committee has been directed to immediately inspect premises for additional accommodation at Dangan; and a special meeting of the Guardians will

take place on Saturday next to hear their report, decide upon the appointment of relieving officers, and consider a resolution brought forward by Lord Wallscourt, and seconded by Nicholas Lynch, Esq., for the appointment of paid Guardians to conduct the duties of the Union.

Mr. Thomas J. Reed was appointed an assistant clerk, at a salary of 40*l.* per annum.

Contracts for the supply of provisions and medicine, from the 25th instant to the 25th March, were entered into.

Warrants for collecting the rate were signed, and the collectors directed to proceed forthwith in the execution of their important duty.

In making this report I regret to state, that fever is on the increase, and will, I fear, progress, unless the Guardians exert themselves to carry out the Poor Law, generally. I have at every meeting reminded them of the state of the house, and the necessity of thinning it of the aged, widows, and children, as the press for admission is daily increasing; and I hope, from the steps taken yesterday, that they now see the propriety of using all their energy to meet the pressing distress of this locality.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 27, 1847.*

AN adjourned meeting of the Board of Guardians took place this day, when the Committee appointed to inspect premises at Dangan and other places reported, that they considered a store belonging to Mr. John Gunning, on Wood Quay, afforded the best accommodation they could find in the neighbourhood, for either the boys or girls; which was accordingly hired for one year, at a rent of 60*l.*

It was also ordered, that contracts should be entered into for the supply of bedding by public advertisement.

The question of appointing relieving officers, as well as Lord Wallscourt's motion, will be considered on Wednesday.

Since the meeting of Guardians I have visited the store taken by the Board of Guardians yesterday, and am of opinion that it is not fit for the purposes required. It appears to have been an old malt-house, with three floors, about seven feet in height, with mortar floors; no chimneys, or other conveniences out of doors, either for cooking or exercise. Consequently, I would request the Commissioners' instructions upon this head before the meeting on Wednesday next.

REPLY to the above:—*November 30, 1847.*

THE building which has been taken by the Board of Guardians of the Galway Union for an additional workhouse being, as you describe it, unfit for use as a workhouse, the Commissioners do not feel warranted in sanctioning the occupation of it by the Board of Guardians.

I am at the same time to request, that you will be so good as to point out to the Guardians the circumstances which render the building unfit for the purpose to which they propose to apply it; and, possibly, you may be prepared to point out a suitable place which can be obtained.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 4, 1847.*

REFERRING to your letter of the 30th ultimo, relative to additional workhouse accommodation, I acquaint you that the house and land at Dangan belonging to Mr. John Redington, is the only place I can recommend to the notice of the Poor Law Commissioners, as fit and proper for the accommodation required, and although I am of opinion that to meet the present press of destitution this step is actually necessary, still I wish it to be distinctly understood, that it is not only the situation and premises which I recommend, but that the produce of the 16 acres of land will in itself be equal to the rent, if only used as a dairy-farm for the whole establishment, the labour on which, as a matter of course, being performed by the boys under proper superintendence, and thus reduce the present very high yearly expense of milk and buttermilk; in fact, by the occupation of premises of this description, the establishment would

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become altogether an industrial agricultural school, instead of a workhouse retreat for idleness, which when once embarked in by youth is seldom, or never, shaken off, consequently should the Commissioners think fit to entertain my recommendation, they would thereby be adding a fair and profitable test to the youthful paupers in general, and thus tend to reduce the present rates of the Union.

Mr. Redington's offer for letting the property in question is enclosed, for which he is now receiving 145*l.* per annum for a very long lease, observing that a plan of the premises can be seen at the commanding engineer's office, Dublin.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. JOHN REDINGTON to Captain HELLARD :—*December 3, 1847.*

SOME weeks ago Major Geoghagan, my present tenant at Dangan House, who holds that house and 16 acres (late Irish plantation measure) from me under a lease, wrote to me, requesting of me to take up the lands and premises, as he was desirous of leaving this part of the country, and being from home at the time, and he having gone to Dublin before I returned, I did not reply to him; however, I have no doubt he is still disposed to give me possession.

And, as yourself and, I believe, most of the Guardians think it the most suitable place in this vicinity, and so convenient to the present workhouse for an addition to that establishment, I have no objection to enter into treaty with the Government either for sale or lease of those premises. The Ursuline nuns paid me for the lands and a dwelling-house 150*l.* a-year; they expended over 2500*l.* in the erection of substantial additional buildings, all of which are available and most suitable for the purposes you require; and conceiving, very justly, that the villas erected on the other parts of my property adjoining the premises in question will be much deteriorated in value, I think that 200*l.* a-year a moderate rent for the same, provided the Government take a lease of not less than 21 years.

REPLY to the above :—*December 8, 1847.*

THE Commissioners are only empowered by law, to take for the workhouse purposes of any Union, 12 statute acres, under the Act 1 and 2 Vict. c. 56, and three acres under the 10 Vict., c. 31, keeping which in view, they request that you will be good enough to communicate Mr. John Redington's proposal to the Board of Guardians, for the purpose of ascertaining the Board's opinion on the proposal, modified according to the extent of additional ground which may be held if the premises were to be taken for a term of years.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 9, 1847.*

YESTERDAY there were 1218 paupers in the house and 310 applicants, of whom 32 only could be admitted, leaving 278 destitute persons unprovided for, being a decrease, compared with last week, of 32; and had the late gales not prevented, I am of opinion the accommodation at Shaw Lodge would have enabled the Guardians to have taken the whole of the applicants into the house. The contractor is, however, now at work; and should the weather not interfere, I see no reason why it should not be complete by the next day of meeting.

The Guardians, after some discussion, proceeded to the election of relieving officers, appointing one to each district, at salaries from 30*l.* to 35*l.* per annum; but looking at the duties required in the extensive electoral divisions of Oughterard, Killannin, and the county of the town of Galway, they resolved to submit for the consideration of the Poor Law Commissioners, the necessity of two being appointed to each of those districts, in which I fully concur, as it is quite impossible for any one man to properly watch over the interests of the Union in those localities.

It appears by the reports from every quarter, as well as my own observations, that distress is very much increasing, particularly on the sea-side portion of the Union. The Rev. Patrick Horcon, P.P. of Gormuna, reported the extreme distress of his district. Dr. Lambert also made a similar report from Oranmore. I must, however, admit these to be the only two extreme cases which I have heard of, and upon which I will make further inquiry; for although the picture may be somewhat overdrawn, still at both those points I am quite satisfied there is great distress, consequent upon the non-residence of the landed proprietors, and the want of capital to pay for labour as it is performed.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain HELLARD:—*December 16, 1847.*

Galway Union,

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a communication which they have received from the Under-Secretary's office relating to the decease of a poor man, named A. Carty, who is stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body to have died from want and exposure from the inclemency of the weather, and I am to request that you will have the goodness to make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made any application for relief either to the Board of Guardians, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers of the Galway Union.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 19, 1847.*

As directed by your letter of the 16th instant, I have made every inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of the late A. Carty, upon which it appears that no application was made by him for relief, either at the Union workhouse, of the master, or relieving officer, but that he was taken before the resident magistrate at Galway, on the 6th instant, charged with having attempted to break windows; but the offence not having been committed, he was discharged from custody, and afterwards found dead on the 9th instant.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 16, 1847.*

At the meeting of Guardians yesterday there were 1263 paupers in the house, out of which 160 were in hospital, 60 of whom were in fever; 209 applicants for admission; but none could be received.

The Guardians passed several resolutions, which appear upon the minutes; but they were unanimous in opposing all my efforts to effect the out-door relief for the aged and widows, under the 1st section of the Extension Act. They, however, appointed a Committee to examine and revise the inmates of the house, and ordered 70 additional beds for fever accommodation in Killannin.

The distress throughout the Union is, beyond a doubt, increasing to a fearful extent, as will appear by the state of the streets, and the number of applicants at the gates of the Union workhouse, as well as the fact of 11 boats, and several cars, loaded with destitute persons, having within the last week arrived at Galway from the west side of the Union, chiefly (as I am informed) from the property of C. St. George, Esq., M.P.; and unless the Guardians do immediately adopt the course so frequently pointed out to them by direction of the Commissioners, it will be impossible to meet the press of destitution that must consequently result. I have however used every argument to induce them to carry out the 1st section of the Extension Act, by clearly showing that it is much more economical to pension off the aged and widows; but, with all this reduced to figures, they are still determined to oppose it. I am, however, of opinion that, upon going through the revision of the house (which is in a deplorable state) as I have recommended, they will soon see the actual necessity of complying with the law in all its parts.

REPLY to the above:—*December 20, 1847.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 16th instant, relating to the Galway Union; and with reference to the refusal of the Board of Guardians to carry out the provisions of the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, I am to state that if the Guardians, on revising the list of paupers in the workhouse, still refrain from acting on the Commissioners' instructions, the Commissioners are prepared to dissolve the Board of Guardians.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 19, 1847.*

WITH reference to a former report, I beg leave to acquaint you that the resident magistrate yesterday committed 92 persons to gaol for a month each for begging, the majority of whom are from Connemara, and in the greatest

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possible distress, it appearing that these unfortunate people committed the offence in order to be sent to prison, after being refused admittance to the Union workhouse for want of room. This of itself should induce the Guardians (if anything will) to immediately carry into effect the 1st section of the Extension Act, and thus make room for the able-bodied within the walls of the workhouse.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 23, 1847.*

At the weekly meeting of Guardians yesterday, the house contained 1220 paupers; 33 were admitted out of 106 applicants upon the books, setting aside 40 or 50 others at the gates. Serious complaints were made by the medical officer and chaplain, as to the dirty state of the paupers.

The Guardians as usual talked away the entire day, leaving the house in the same state as last week. Several resolutions were passed as per minutes, and the wasteful expenditure of the house admitted by Messrs. Bodkin, Blakeney, and others.

In accordance with the minute of the 15th inst., appointing a Revising Committee, I attended on Friday and Tuesday at the time named, but the Committee, for reasons unknown to me, did not meet, to which I called the Guardians' attention, and again pointed out to them the deplorable state of the inmates; in fact, I have no hesitation in stating, that unless the affairs are at once undertaken by the Commissioners, the Union will be placed in such a position as to almost paralyze their best exertions to recover it; the conflicting opinions of Guardians, as well as their want of attention, completely upsetting that routine of business which is so absolutely necessary in conducting even minor establishments, much less one of this importance to so large a portion of society. Lord Wallscourt has again brought forward his motion for paid Guardians to be considered on the 5th proximo. No steps were taken for either revising the house, or providing for the aged and widows out of it; so that the orders of the Commissioners are in truth, thus set at defiance by a body of Guardians, who appear to me determined not to carry out the law.

ENCLOSURE.

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS. *December 22, 1847.*

RESOLVED,—That proposals be advertised for in the Galway newspapers, and by handbills, for an additional relieving officer in each of the following electoral divisions:—

Galway	.	.	.	.	1
Oughterard	.	.	.	.	1
Killanin	.	.	.	.	1

The Poor Law Inspector, Captain Hellard, reported that he had attended on Friday at the workhouse, in pursuance of the resolution of the Board of the 15th instant, to revise the house paupers, but that only one of the Guardians, Mr. John Harrison, had attended; and that he had again attended on Tuesday for the same purpose, and but one Guardian, Mr. William Clancy, had attended, in consequence of which the house lists could not be revised.

The following notice of motion was handed in by Lord Wallscourt:—

SIR,—Take notice that, at the request of several of the Poor Law Guardians, who declared their regret to me that they had not notice of my motion on Wednesday the 1st of this month, the substance of which motion they entirely agreed to, I shall feel bound to move on Wednesday the 5th day of January next—That we withdraw ourselves from the duties of this Board, and call on the Commissioners to appoint paid Guardians.

WALLSCOURT.

Ordered,—That advertisements be published in the Galway newspapers for tenders for oatmeal, Indian meal, buttermilk, turf, and coals, to be paid weekly.

The following resolution was handed in from the Fever Hospital as follows:—

That a suggestion be made to the Board of Guardians that it would be advisable that the several Fever Boards in the Union, should be supplied with the several matters required by them under the contracts entered into for the workhouse.

Resolved,—That we approve of same.

Proposed by John Blakeney, Esq., seconded by Nicholas Killian, and unanimously

Resolved,—That we refer the apothecaries appointed under the Fever Act to the Relief Commissioners for payment of the sums now due to them for their attendance and medical services rendered to patients in the hospitals established under said Act.

The following estimate of sums required by the undernamed fever hospitals within the Union, was presented:—

	£.	s.	d.
From 1st to 28th October, Galway Fever Board . . .	141	13	8
To 11th December, Spiddal do.	44	6	7
For Spiddal do. estimated expense to 23rd December . . .	31	5	6
	£217	5	9

L. MACHLACHLAN.

S. HELLARD, *Captain Royal Navy.*

The Board declined to pay the above, until they were first enabled to pay persons who had sold goods and provisions, and whose accounts were due and audited up to the 25th of March last.

Resolved,—That Mr. Nicholas Lynch's motion, relative to assistants being paid out of the increase of salary granted to the different officers, be postponed to this day fortnight.

Read a letter from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Poor Law Inspector, Captain Hellard, stating that if the Guardians, on revising the lists of paupers in the workhouse, still refrain from acting on the Commissioners' instructions, the Commissioners are prepared to dissolve the Board of Guardians.

The medical attendant reported 13 deaths within the week.

The Roman Catholic chaplain reported that on the evening before, the 21st instant, he could scarcely administer the sacrament to a male pauper for want of being shaved or cleansed. He further complained, that on Sunday last while celebrating Divine Service, some of the boys were employed in cleaning the windows of the house.

The medical attendant also reported the filthy state of the house, and that fever was greatly on the increase, which he principally attributed to the paupers being admitted into the house without being cleansed or washed.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD OF GUARDIANS—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians :—December 28, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have had under their serious consideration the present state of the Galway Union, with reference to the proceedings of the Board of Guardians, in the discharge of the responsibility devolved upon them, of making due provision for the effectual relief of destitute poor persons applying to them for relief.

In the month of August last, the Commissioners had occasion to draw the special attention of the Guardians to the probability, that the workhouse would not be found sufficient to receive the number of persons who would apply for relief, and the Commissioners then urged the Guardians to take timely steps for carrying into effect the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, by the appointment of relieving officers and the collection of sufficient rates; and the Commissioners warned the Guardians that, in the event of their continuing to neglect their duties in these respects, it would become necessary for the Commissioners to consider their own responsibilities, under the 18th section of the Act referred to.

The Guardians did not, however, appoint relieving officers in the Union until the 8th instant; and notwithstanding the remonstrances of the Commissioners, and the difficulties created by the Union debts, the Guardians failed to take effectual steps to place the finances of the Union in a satisfactory condition.

On the 31st August, the liabilities of the Guardians amounted to 6,679*l.*, a sum equal to four times the amount collected in the eight preceding months, which appears to have been 1650*l.* only, or less than fourpence in the pound on the entire valuation. During the three following months of September, October, and November, the progress of the collection was not less unsatisfactory.

The current expenses of this period were 1390*l.*, and the amount of rate collected was only 550*l.*, or less than three-halfpence in the pound on the valuation; thus causing an addition to the liabilities to the extent of 840*l.*; and the total liabilities on the 1st instant amounted to 7492*l.*, or eighteen-pence in the pound on the valuation.

The Commissioners are aware, that a new rate was brought into collection at the close of November; but they cannot but apprehend that the postponement of the making of this rate to so late a period of the year, will have seriously interfered with the prospects of a favourable collection.

The Commissioners cannot but regard it as most unsatisfactory, that in a Union like the Galway Union, the net annual value of the rateable property in which amounts to 100,777*l.*, so small a sum as 550*l.* should have been raised in three months favorable for the collection.

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The Commissioners have further to observe, that so long ago as the 11th October last, they drew the attention of the Guardians to the necessity of providing a sufficient supply of bedding and clothing, for the persons to be admitted into the workhouse; yet the Commissioners find, that the inmates of the workhouse are not properly supplied with clothing.

Moreover, the attention of the Board of Guardians has frequently been called to the urgent necessity which existed for the active exercise of their powers under the 1st section of the Act 10 Vict., c. 31, and the expediency of making room in the workhouse, by discharging and affording out-door relief to the classes coming under that section, has been repeatedly pointed out to the Guardians; but the Guardians have not taken steps in accordance with these recommendations, and they have consequently been obliged, on many occasions, to reject applicants for relief from want of room in the workhouse.

The Commissioners having observed that the Guardians, on the 15th instant, rejected the applications of upwards of 200 destitute poor persons, 92 of whom were subsequently committed to gaol for begging, it was intimated to the Temporary Inspector of the Union, that if at a subsequent meeting, the Guardians still refrained from acting on the Commissioners' instructions for carrying into effect the provisions of the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, they were prepared to dissolve the Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners deeply regret to learn that, at the Guardians' meeting on the 21st instant, they again rejected many destitute applicants for relief, and thus failed to discharge their duties effectually according to the intentions of the Legislature.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners feel that they should no longer be justified in refraining from the exercise in the Galway Union, of the powers entrusted to them by the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act. They have accordingly resolved to issue an order dissolving the Board of Guardians, and to appoint paid officers to administer the affairs of the Union; and a copy of the order dissolving the Board is enclosed herewith.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 30, 1847.*

At the meeting of the Guardians yesterday, there were 1217 paupers in the house, and 90 applicants for admission, of whom 26 could be admitted, leaving 64 unprovided for. Fifteen deaths were reported within the last week; there being 157 in hospital, 60 of whom are in fever.

After the admission of paupers, last week's expenses were examined, and the supplies for the present week ordered, when the Commissioners' letter dissolving the Board of Guardians was read, and the business closed.

Distress throughout the Union, is becoming every day more apparent, as whole families are to be seen on the roads from Connemara, flocking into the town of Galway for shelter; and I was credibly informed on Monday, at Oughterard, that the tenantry had been driven from the villages of Gurtreva and Clusk by Mr. Christopher St. George, and that ejectments are in force against the tenantry residing in the village of Pouleeny, near to Turbough, also belonging to the same gentleman, which will at once account for the increase of distress in and about the town.

REPLY to the above:—*December 31, 1847.*

With reference to that portion of your report of the 30th instant, in which you advert to the large number of persons coming into the town of Galway in a destitute condition, I am to state that the Commissioners would recommend you to see that the relieving officers enable such persons as appear to be in actual necessity, to obtain provisional relief, either in-door or out-door, pending the arrival of the paid Guardians; bearing in mind however, that as yet there is no authority to give out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Act 10 Vict., cap. 31, and such authority has not been yet applied for in the Galway Union.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 4, 1848.*

IN acknowledging the receipt of a letter of the 1st instant, with an extract from a newspaper reporting the proceedings of the late Board of Guardians of the Galway Union on the 15th ultimo, I would take leave to refer to my report of the 16th ultimo, which fully corroborates the printed statement in question, observing that it is not only on the sea-side west of Galway that this unfortunate clearance has taken place, but also from two villages near Oughterard (Gurtreva and Clush), and ejectments are in force against the tenantry of Pouleeny, near Furbough, the whole being tenants of Christopher St. George, Esq., M.P. In fact, the town is at this moment full of rural paupers, very many of whom, no doubt, are making a trade of begging, in preference to becoming inmates of the Union workhouse, proofs of which often come under my own knowledge, and which must, more or less, be the case in all towns similarly situated.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 6, 1848.*

THERE being several widows, with *one child*, now in the Union workhouse, and it appearing that they cannot be afforded out-door relief without direct authority from the Poor Law Commissioners, I have to request directions may be given thereon, in order that every possible accommodation may be made available for the able-bodied.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain HELLARD:—*January 7, 1848.*

IN accordance with your recommendation, the Commissioners have issued an order authorizing the Vice-Guardians of Galway Union to give out-door relief under the second section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act to widows with one child, dependent on them; also to children, both of whose parents are dead.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 6, 1848.*

THERE were yesterday 1202 paupers in the Union workhouse, out of whom 172 were in hospital, 48 were admitted, 62 provisionally taken in, and 82 provided for by the relieving officers for the night, there being 192 applicants.

The collection of rates this week amounted to 309*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, leaving the sum of 967*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* in the Treasurer's hands, at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians.

Since the local Guardians were removed, I have been occupied in examining the aged and widows, to be ready for commencing out-door relief under the 1st section of the Extension Act (which will be proceeded with this day), and in making other revisions and classifications for the general improvement of the house, and cleanliness of the paupers.

With the collection of rates I am much dissatisfied. *The collection from Oughterard, our largest electoral division, is only 1*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.**, thus proving the actual necessity of carrying out my former recommendation of appointing additional collectors for Killanin and Moycullen.

I have had frequent occasions to express my dissatisfaction with the state of the Union workhouse as regards the duties of the master and matron, both of whom are in my opinion unfit for the responsible situations they hold. With the former I have taken considerable trouble in endeavouring to establish an uniform system throughout, without the least possible appearance of success; and the latter is so dirty in her person, and negligent in her general duty, that nothing short of their removal can possibly establish that discipline and good order so essential in an establishment of this description.

In the Union generally, there is, no doubt, *great* distress, which will, I trust, as the duties of the Vice-Guardians proceed, meet with the relief anticipated by the Commissioners.

Galway Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 18, 1848.*

WITH reference to the means suggested by you for expediting the collection of the poor-rate, I am to request that you will have the goodness to communicate with the collectors on the subject, in the first instance.

I am at the same time to state, that it will be in the power of the Vice-Guardians to re-arrange the Collectors' districts, under the 27th Article of the General Regulations, and to assign what districts they think fit to the collectors.

If any such re-distribution of the districts be made, it will be necessary to look to the collectors' bonds, and to have them amended if necessary.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 9, 1848.*

HAVING by directions of Count Strzelecki received from the Commissary General the sum of 300*l.* for the use of the Galway Union, I have lodged the sum in question in the hands of the Union Treasurer, to be at the disposal of the paid officers for the administration of its affairs.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 10, 1848.*

UPON my examination of the rate collectors' accounts this day, it appeared that James Walsh had only collected 63*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* in the electoral divisions of Ballynacourty, Stradbally, and Oranmore, during the previous week; which he accounted for by stating that he had summoned 26 persons for the recovery of their rates, but that on the day of meeting at Oranmore (Thursday the 6th instant), there was only one magistrate from a distant part of the county present, who declined hearing any of the cases alluded to; consequently, the parties thus called upon have escaped payment until the next Petty Sessions, when a meeting of the magistrates will, as a matter of course, be equally uncertain as it was on the 6th instant. I would, therefore, take leave to call the attention of the Commissioners to this particular case, in order that steps may be taken to secure the proper attention of the magistracy of the division in question to this important part of their public duty; observing, that unless the collectors meet with prompt assistance, the greater part of the rates must remain uncollected; whereas, with even a little energy on the part of those in authority, I am quite satisfied a large sum may with ease be brought to account.

REPLY to the above :—*January 17, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have forwarded a copy of your report, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and have requested the special notice of his Excellency thereto.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 15, 1848.*

THE rate collector of the town of Galway (Patrick Martin), having been again assaulted in the execution of his duty, on Friday, the 31st ultimo, at Ballafaille, I directed him to immediately communicate with the resident magistrate, or, in his absence, with the local authorities, in order that proper assistance might be rendered him in carrying out the collection of the rates; and having myself conferred with Mr. Keenan thereon, I beg leave to forward a letter from that gentleman of the 9th instant, wherein I am acquainted that the police will afford the necessary protection; but it appears by the collector's report of the 10th instant, that the sub-inspector cannot comply with the magistrate's order, until he receives further instructions from the Government; and yesterday it was again reported to me that two or three days more must elapse before their services would be obtained, thereby affording the people who have now the means of paying, an opportunity of removing their stock, &c., off their farms, and assaulting the collector with impunity. In fact, unless prompt and immediate measures are taken to

carry out this very important duty, the collection of the rates may as well be abandoned, as at this moment the loss of the last 14 days tends only to give these lawless characters confidence in their opposition, and consequently calls for more stringent orders being given to the resident magistrate thereon.

Galway Union.

ENCLOSURES.

For the information of Mr. Patt Martin, who is to communicate with Mr. Lynch, S.I.P., immediately, and follow out the instructions contained in Mr. Keenan's letter, which is to be returned to me after the service has been performed, with a written report.

Galway, January 9, 1848.

J. HELLARD, Capt. R.N.

Mr. KEENAN to Captain HELLARD.

Galway, January 9, 1848.

I BEG to state that I have received the minute of the Under Secretary on my report of the 6th instant, submitting Mr. Martin's informations. I have written to Mr. Lynch, the sub-inspector, to afford Mr. Martin the protection of a police force in the discharge of his duty; and I have the honour to request that Mr. Martin may be instructed to take advantage, without any delay, of the protection offered; to place himself in communication with the sub-inspector, and that he shall make such arrangements as will enable the duty to be performed, as little harassing to the constabulary force as possible.

Should the constabulary protection prove not to be sufficient to deter resistance, the military will, in that case, be employed in aid of the civil power, and then the arrangements of the collector must be such as will secure the coercive collection of the rate generally throughout his district.

I respectfully suggest, that the collector may be instructed to proceed forthwith on his collection, under the protection of the constabulary, so as at the end of the week to be prepared to make his report to you, and to swear an information before me of the nature of the resistance (if any) offered. I leave home to-morrow morning early; I propose returning on Thursday.

Mr. MARTIN to Captain HELLARD.

Town Court-house, January 10, 1848.

I BEG leave to inform you that I have been speaking to Mr. Lynch, S.I., on the subject of Mr. Keenan's letter of the 2th instant, concerning the police force. Mr. Lynch is not prepared to accompany me in the collection of the poor's-rate, until he has an answer from the Government to a letter forwarded by him on this day. Mr. Lynch will call on you to-morrow.

REPLY to the above:—January 17, 1848.

I AM to state for your information, that the Commissioners have communicated on the subject with the Chief Secretary, and they have reason to believe that steps will be taken to remedy the evils complained of by you.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS:—January 13, 1848.

At the weekly meeting yesterday, the Vice-Guardians were occupied the whole day in the examination and admission of paupers, hundreds of whom had assembled from every quarter of the Union, expecting to receive out-door relief; so much so, that with 170 vacancies in the house, occasioned by the removal of paupers, under the first section of the Extension Act, last week, 49 only could be admitted before dark, in consequence of the numbers presenting themselves for examination, apparently in distress, and so reported by the relieving officers, who, upon being ordered into the house, in many instances declined to enter it, stating that their object was alone out-door relief; and positively refused the asylum offered them, consequently much time was thereby lost, and the Guardians having appointed three additional relieving officers, adjourned till half-past 10, A.M. this day, after the business of which is closed, I shall have the honour of making a more detailed report of the general state of the house, and the proceedings of the week, observing, that the whole of the population appear to be encouraged to look forward to nothing but gratuitous relief, which alone caused the pressure on this occasion; and I hope the mode adopted for their examination will be the means of checking any future attempt of this description for the present, although I fear the time is not far distant when the able-bodied in this extensive and distressed Union must be relieved out of the house.

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Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 14, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians at their adjourned meeting yesterday, admitted 153 paupers, thereby completing the numbers in the house to 1258; which I have pleasure in stating, met all the admissible applications for the week. It will, however, scarcely be believed that during the examination, several cases came under consideration where husbands had left their wives, and wives their husbands, in their cabins to perish in fever, while they sought an asylum in the workhouse; thus showing the miserable state of feeling to which these unfortunate people have been reduced, from want of the most common necessities of life. Many instances of fraud were attempted, with the view, as they thought, of obtaining a large allowance of out-door relief; and in fact, the cunning resorted to by the applicants called into action every possible precaution on the part of the Guardians, to thoroughly sift out the truth. The pressure during the first day was so great, that it was with some degree of difficulty the crowd could be kept outside; firmness, however, on the part of the officers secured something like order, until the whole had had their hearing.

This being the first week of the relieving officer's duty, some difficulties arose out of their over anxiety in the fulfilment thereof, but from their general demeanour, I am led to hope they may prove efficient and faithful servants, as no doubt the responsible duties attached to their office will for some time increase, as distress in every quarter becomes daily more and more apparent; although at this moment, there are 4466 children fed at the several schools, and these numbers will be considerably increased so soon as I am relieved from the present pressing duties at the Union workhouse.

The supplies to children this day consisted of 3379½ lbs. of rye bread, and 700 quarts of new milk.

Captain HELLARD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 23, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Vice-Guardians were engaged on Wednesday the 19th instant, in going through the routine business of the Board, and ascertaining the number of persons that could be discharged from the workhouse, and placed upon out-door relief, under the 1st section of the Irish Relief Act, of which classes 113 were discharged on the following day. On Thursday and Friday, 186 were admitted into the workhouse, and 360, in addition to the above 113, were placed upon the out-door relief list, all of the same classes. The number in the workhouse on the 22nd instant was 1292.

I regret to say that very many persons belonging to the able-bodied class, who appeared to be in great want and destitution, were refused relief from the want of room in the workhouse. There is no doubt but that the poverty and misery of the people are daily increasing to a fearful degree. Three deaths took place in the probationary wards of the workhouse during the present week, of persons who were taken in for the night from the gate; and while this is the case, it is with great regret I have to report that in some districts of this Union, great cruelty is practised towards the poor by landlords and their agents. It has been represented by several applicants for relief during the past and present week, that on the 31st ultimo, without any authority, their houses, on the property of Mr. Patrick Blake, of Gortnamona, at Tully, in the electoral division of Killinan, were thrown down by a number of men headed by Mr. Arthur Blake, son to Mr. James Blake, of Tully, who is agent to Mr. Patrick Blake, the proprietor, and a magistrate in the district. Upon inquiry, the relieving officer, Francis O'Connor, stated that the houses had been levelled as represented. The Rev. Mr. McCullagh, the parish priest upon Mr. Blake's estate, has made a written statement to the same effect.

Mr. Kernan, the stipendiary magistrate of the district, has arranged with me to hold an inquiry at the workhouse, on Thursday next, and upon its termination, I shall forward copies of the depositions of the witnesses.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*January 22, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration, minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Galway Union on the 20th instant, and they have directed me to express their approval of the proceedings of the Vice-Guardians.

I am at the same time to state that, in accordance with the request contained in the minutes, an order will be issued forthwith, authorizing the Vice-Guardians to afford out-door relief to the able-bodied.

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A copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Guardians of Unions, in which such an order has been issued is enclosed herewith, for the information of the Vice-Guardians. Page 1.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 27, 1848.*

ON my arrival in Galway this day, I heard with much regret of the serious indisposition of Captain Hellard, Temporary Poor Law Inspector; and from inquiries which I had an opportunity of making later in the day from his medical attendants, I fear that his recovery can be considered as but very uncertain. His illness, which commenced with a cold, has now turned into fever of a very malignant character; and it must be long, if he survives it, before he is restored to his usual strength.

I had an interview with the Vice-Guardians, and gave them all the assistance in my power during the short time I remained in Galway; but having appointed to be in Clifden to-morrow morning to make the report on the state of that Union, called for by your letter of the 20th instant, I could only remain for a few hours.

I also saw one of the members of the committee, which Captain Hellard has associated with himself for carrying on the relief afforded by the British Association to the schools in the Union, and requested him to summon a meeting of the members, and take measures for preventing any interruption to the system established for the purpose. But as they will be unable long to continue it without the assistance of an Inspector, I respectfully submit that it is a matter for consideration, whether some person should not be appointed to act in this capacity during Captain Hellard's illness.

The pressure for relief appears to be very great upon the Vice-Guardians for this Union; and the approaches to the workhouse were thronged with applicants of the most destitute appearance. The Vice-Guardians are acting with energy and perseverance, and have already afforded a considerable amount of relief; but I think it of importance that they should, as soon as possible, commence holding the Board in such distant parts of the Union as appear to them most destitute; for the evils of bringing large numbers of poor persons to the town of Galway to seek relief are already manifesting themselves; and besides, the sufferings of the poor themselves are much aggravated by the distance they have to travel. I mentioned the subject to the Vice-Guardians, and I think they appeared to agree with me in opinion.

REPLY to the above :—*January 29, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' regret at the account which you give of the state of Captain Hellard's health.

I am at the same time to state, for your information, that the Commissioners propose at once to appoint Major M'Kie a Temporary Poor Law Inspector, and that he will be directed to proceed to Galway.

The Commissioners have already issued an order, authorizing the Vice-Guardians to hold meetings at any place in the Union they shall see fit; and the Commissioners presume from your remarks that they intend to act in accordance with your suggestions, in holding their meetings at other parts of the Union besides the town of Galway.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 29, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, requesting our report, weekly, as to the collection of the poor-rates, and on other matters coming under our observation in the Galway Union.

Since we came here, our attention has been particularly directed to the collection of the rates, which we consider of the first importance, but in which object we have met with some difficulties. In some cases, where six-day notices have been served and summonses issued, as at Oranmore, the local magistracy have either neglected attending at the petty sessions, or refused to adjudicate; and in

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a recent case, where there was in the same locality a decision in favour of the collector, the magistrate, Mr. Lynch of Lavally, refused to issue warrants until the next court day, which caused a delay of four weeks from the time of issuing the summonses. We are of opinion that this evil might be met by a direction to the resident magistrate to attend at any petty sessions within the Union, on receiving notice from the collector that he had issued summonses for the recovery of poor-rates.

We have given directions to our solicitor, Mr. Blakeney, to apply to the receivers under the Court of Chancery who have refused to pay the rates chargeable on the properties so circumstanced, and, if not paid, to apply without delay to the court.

With respect to the immediate lessors, we are of opinion that serving them with a fifteen-day notice would not be very efficacious, for reasons which are sufficiently obvious, and we think proceeding in the superior courts, would be most likely to produce the desired result.

It is not necessary to advert to the load of debt which has been allowed to accumulate in the Union, and which we conceive would have been liquidated by this time, if the present rate had been struck in July last instead of November.

For the most part, the small farmers are unable to pay their rates, as the greater part of the produce of the last harvest was disposed of before the rate was struck.

We regret to say that there will be some delay in the collection of the rate in the Galway electoral division in the coming week, in consequence of Mr. Martin, the collector, being served with a subpoena, at the suit of the Crown, to give evidence in an excise case against one of the rate-payers of the Union.

We are at present using every exertion in making arrangements to set the out-door able-bodied paupers at work. Mr. Bourke, the Inspector, has undertaken to provide the necessary implements from the Board of Works; and we have advertised for a superintendent and overseers, so as to commence forthwith.

The workhouse, particularly the dormitories has been clean, for the last fortnight. There is a great want of that discipline amongst the adult paupers, so essentially necessary for the preservation of good order and regularity, in the different departments of the workhouse.

There has been a very great deficiency in the clothing of the adult paupers; the greater number of them are still wearing the clothes which they had on when admitted many months ago. We have advertised for proper clothing, and will remedy this very great evil with as little delay as possible.

The schools are conducted with due order and regularity, and the children appear healthy and cleanly. We would here beg leave to impress on the Commissioners the great necessity that exists of having a separate building for the children, not only in a healthful, but in a moral point of view. The building offered by Mr. Redington is admirably suited for this purpose, both as to extent and situation. The house is in capital order, the roof nearly new, and the rooms are large and well ventilated. There are two excellent school-rooms, formerly used for that purpose by the nuns who inhabited the house, and the concern is capable of accommodating 600 children, with the necessary officers, &c., &c. Another great advantage would arise from getting the children out of the workhouse; namely, the room it would make for such a large number of adult paupers. The house is in so crowded a state at present, that we are unable to apply the workhouse test to those seeking for out-door relief; thus completely defeating the system to be observed in carrying out the directions of the Commissioners in that respect.

We have discharged all the infirm and aged paupers, and widows and their children, with the exception of those who were in hospital or bed-ridden.

We found it necessary to advertise for an hospital serjeant, in consequence of the great irregularity in keeping the books of the hospital, as well as in other matters connected with that part of the institution.

We consider it highly important that there should be a revision of the valuation of the Union before the next rate is struck, so many complaints having been conveyed to us from different parts of the Union against the present valuation.

We have to state that three of our relieving officers could not leave Galway, up to a late hour on yesterday evening, with bread for the out-door paupers in the Killannin, South Outerard, and Moycullen divisions, in consequence of their not being able to procure an escort during the day, there having been a bread cart plundered on the road leading in the same direction during the last week, and within a short distance of Galway.

We cannot conclude this report without expressing our deep regret at the melancholy death of Captain Hellard, R.N., Temporary Inspector in this Union; and in common with all who witnessed his undeviating zeal and exertions, deplore the sad event.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 2, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will be good enough to state the reasons which lead you to consider that service of the fifteen-days' notice on the immediate lessors who have not paid their poor-rates, would not be efficacious.

As regards the number of inmates of the workhouse, who, it appears, are wearing their own clothes, I am to state that the Commissioners regard it as peculiarly objectionable that paupers in the workhouse should be allowed to wear their own clothes; and the Commissioners are glad to learn that there is a probability of the practice being discontinued in the Galway Union at an early period.

The Commissioners entirely approve of the proposal to remove the children in the workhouse, to a separate building. The Commissioners have also directed me to express their sanction of the proposed appointment of an hospital serjeant.

I am at the same time to express the Commissioners' consent to the proposed revision of the valuation of the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major M'KIE:—*February 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to request that you will be so good as to make minute inquiry, and report to the Commissioners on the cases mentioned under the head "Relief Applications," in the annexed extract from the "Galway Mercury," of the 29th ultimo.

I am at the same time to state that, the Commissioners deem it desirable that the evidence should be on oath.

ENCLOSURE.

GALWAY MERCURY, JANUARY 29, 1848.

THE Vice-Guardians transacted business at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, having also been engaged during the week in looking after the affairs of the Union.

Master's Wants.

5168 lbs. bread, 206 lbs. meat, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of oatmeal, 794 quarts buttermilk, 1153 quarts sweet milk, 8 lbs. 3 oz. tea, 70 lbs. of sugar, 7 lbs. of pepper, 2 bottles wine, 1 bottle pure Malaga wine, 5 tons coals, 56 lbs. candles, 56 lbs. soap, 8 lbs. mould candles, 2 off-falls leather, 2 doz. tips and nails, 50 porringers, 19 padlocks, and 20 yards chain for buckets, and stationery for master's office.

	£.	s.	d.
Provisions received	91	18	4
Do. consumed	73	0	11
Average weekly cost of each pauper	0	1	5
Amount of rate collected and lodged during the week	243	5	10

State of the House.

Remaining last report	1261
Since admitted	186
	—1447
Discharged	148
Died	7
Remaining	1292
	—1447

State of the Hospital.

Number of patients	212
Fever cases	80
Dysentery	90
Other cases	42—212

Lord Wallscourt appeared to complain that on the revision of his estate he had been rated not alone for the rent received by him, but also upon the sum agreed upon between himself and his tenants for taxes. He had mentioned the matter to Mr. Martin, who had, as he (Lord Wallscourt) thought, improperly obtained an inspection of his books and rent-roll. He believed the valuation ought to have been made from an inspection of the land, and not from the books. Mr. Martin consented to pay one-half of the surcharge, provided it was found that he was wrong.

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Mr. Mahon said, it could not be expected a person would undertake to go over the entire Union for the purpose of personally inspecting the land for the sum allowed him, 50%.

Mr. Martin remarked, that he believed his lordship was under a mistake as to the amount of the surcharge agreed on to be refunded. What he understood it to be was, that the landlord should pay two-thirds, and the other third to be defrayed between him, Mr. Martin, and his lordship's clerk.

Relief Applications.

Mary Faherty was the first applicant for out-door relief called before the Vice-Guardians. She stated, that she lived in the village of Tully. On the 2nd of January last two men, in the employment of Mr. James Blake, came to her cabin, and told her to leave it, or the walls would be tumbled down over her head. In consequence of that threat she went out, and the roof was tumbled in.

Daniel Conneely, of Tully, made a similar statement. The destruction of the house was effected by Mr. Blake's family and the people from another village. Applicant did not leave the house until the crowbar was put under the walls. No ejectment-paper had been previously served upon him. He spent five days under the shelter of a wall, without any covering whatsoever.

John Denohue, five in family. His house was knocked down by the villagers of Bullinahown, as they said, by Mr. Blake's directions.

Mark Conneely, three in family. His house was also thrown down by the same parties. His wife is lying in fever in the ruins of the cabin.

Thomas O'Meally, 10 in family. Like case. Applicant had no land; it was taken from him without any paper being served upon him. The houses were burned, after being thrown down. The villagers are all banished now. On earth he does not know where to put his head for shelter. Is quite satisfied to work whenever he gets a bit to eat.

Thomas M'Donough, six in family. His house was thrown down in Garomna by the steward of Mr. St. George, M.P. Since the application was made, two of his children died from starvation and hardship; they slept out every night since the house was thrown down.

John Lee, his wife, and four small children, next applied. He said he had quietly given up his house. He had been in the habit of dredging for oysters, but his boat was stolen and sunk, by whom he did not know.

There were several other applications, in which it was stated by the relieving officer that as soon as the wretched creatures left their homes for the purpose of seeking relief from the Vice-Guardians, their cabins were demolished, and the consequence therefore was that when they returned they were without the shelter of a roof.

Michael M'Donough, five in family. His house was thrown down about a month ago by the steward of Mr. St. George, M.P.; an ejectment had been served upon him; is willing to work if he be allowed food.

John Donoghue, his wife, and five small children. Three or four days ago his house was thrown down by the orders of Mr. Blake, of Tully. The men came to the village at night, and his wife stated that she was nearly killed by the falling in of the roof; she added, that the poor people were endeavouring to erect huts with sticks and scraws, but as quickly as they did so they were pulled down again.

There was a great many like cases, but the above will enable the public to form an opinion of the manner in which properties are managed in Connemara.

The Vice-Guardians sat again on Thursday and yesterday.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS in reply :—*February 19, 1848.*

IN compliance with the instructions conveyed to me in your letter of the 1st instant, that I should make minute inquiry into the cases mentioned under the head of Relief Applications in the annexed extract from the "Galway Mercury," of the 29th ult., I have the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, that having made preliminary inquiries of the Vice-Guardians, the relieving officers, and others, I proceeded on Monday last, the 14th instant, to Derrynea Lodge, Castelle Bay, being the nearest convenient place I could find to hold an inquiry. The parties were duly summoned, and the evidence taken on oath. The proceedings were held on the 14th, and continued by adjournment till the 15th. A correct copy of the proceedings is forwarded herewith. There were many others of Mr. Blake's tenants who could have given similar evidence, but I did not think it necessary to go into the matter at greater length. There are but two witnesses as to the ejectments on Mr. St. George's property, who could swear to the facts; the others stating that their houses had been thrown down when they were absent, and they could only speak as to their belief.

It would appear from the evidence recorded, that these forcible ejectments were illegal; that notices had not been served; that they were perpetrated under circumstances of great cruelty. The time chosen for the greater part nightfall, on the eve of the new year. The occupiers were forced out of their houses, with their

helpless children, and left exposed to the cold on a bleak western shore on a stormy winter's night; that some of the children were sick; that the parents implored that they might not be exposed, and their houses left till the morning; that their prayers for mercy were vain, and that many of them have since died.

The witness, John Costello, states, that Mr. Arthur Blake, son of Mr. James Blake, J.P., and agent to Mr. Patrick Blake of Gorumna; Patrick M'Nalty, steward to James Blake; Edmund Walsh, and one Faherty, drivers to Mr. Blake, with several others, tenants to Mr. Blake, were the actors in these illegal proceedings; and their identity is confirmed, together with that of Mr. Richard Blake (also son to Mr. James Blake), by the witnesses Bridget Faherty, Mary Faherty, John Toole, John Magan, Mary Feeny, and others, all of whose cases were attended with circumstances of great cruelty.

I have visited the ruins of these huts (not any great distance from Mr. Blake's residence); I found that many of these unfortunate people were still living within the ruins of these huts, endeavouring to shelter themselves under a few sticks and sods, all in the most wretched state of destitution; many were so weak that they could scarcely stand when giving their evidence. The site of these ruins is a rocky wild spot, fit for nothing but a sheep-walk.

It appears from the information I have been able to obtain, that these people had many of them been living in these huts for years; renting patches of land on the rocky shore, and earning a precarious and scanty subsistence by the culture of the potato, paying even for the sea-weed to manure the land. The total failure of the potato crop left them without any means of subsistence, and being unable to cultivate the land, they had given up their holdings, but continued to occupy the huts, paying no rent.

It has been stated, and I believe with truth, that Mr. Blake and many of his tenants had lost sheep, and suffered from depredations on their turnip crops. These people having no means of subsistence, suspicion fell on them, and it was resolved to root them out.

Mr. Blake, sen., was present on the 15th, and had the perusal of the whole of the depositions, of which he took notes. He denied any knowledge of the proceedings, he being absent at the time they occurred. I asked, if, as a magistrate, he had not on his return from Dublin made any inquiry as to the acts of violence committed during his absence. Mr. Blake said he inquired of the police, who had made no report of the matter, although fully aware of it. I have made inquiry, and find this to be true; they were well aware that the people's houses were thrown down, but made no report to the Inspector.

I pointed out to Mr. Blake that the depositions implicated himself, as it had been asserted to be by his orders, and that his sons and servants were the leaders; that the depositions were on oath. Mr. Blake assured me he had not in any way sanctioned those proceedings, which he admitted to be illegal; and promised to send me an affidavit to that effect on the following day. I have not heard from him since.

ENCLOSURE.

NOTES of EXAMINATIONS taken on oath before Major P. M'Kie, Poor Law Inspector for the Union of Galway, at Derrynlea Lodge, on the 14th and 15th days of February, 1848, relative to matter which appeared under the head "Relief Applications," in the annexed extract taken from the "Galway Mercury" of 29th January, 1848.

Many of the witnesses being unable to speak English, Mr. Thomas J. Read is sworn Interpreter.

First Witness, John Costello, being duly sworn, states. I live at Invern; I applied at the workhouse in Galway for relief after New Year's day; I stated to the Board of Guardians that my house was thrown down by Pat M'Nalty, Arthur Blake, David Costello, Edmund Walsh, John Conneely, a man named Faherty, driver to Mr. Blake; all those persons were present: Pat M'Nalty is steward to Mr. Blake, Arthur Blake is son to James Blake, Mr. James Blake is agent to Mr. Patrick Blake of Gortnamona. I only know that David Costello was with Mr. Arthur Blake; Edmund Walsh and Faherty are both drivers or stewards to Mr. James Blake; I don't know in what capacity John Conneely was; Pat M'Nalty had a crowbar with which he was throwing down the house, Arthur Blake had also a crowbar and was throwing down the house, when one of them got tired he gave the crowbar to another; David Costello was throwing down the house; Edmund Walsh was present when the house was down, and along with the persons who were throwing it down; he threw three of my children out on the street; one of them was sick at the time; her name was Anne; she died last week; was near four years old; Coleman my son died on Friday last, aged ten years, from cold and hardship. My house was completely destroyed, and it was near dusk when it

was thrown down; myself and my family had to sleep in the open air; it was raining and snowing that night, and it blew very hard; my wife and remaining child are now lying sick, and have a bad chance of recovery; my wife says that if she dies, she will attribute her death to the cold she got that night for want of a house; it was on the 31st December my house was thrown down; I asked Arthur Blake for God's sake to leave the house over me until that night would be over, to which he replied, that he would if I gave him a pound; Faherty and Edmund Walsh, who are both drivers or stewards to Mr. Blake, were also throwing down the house; I built the house myself about eleven years ago on a mountain garden; I had no rent to pay for that, but I had to pay three pounds and a half a crown in the year, besides a day's work every week for sea-weed and some land I held near the sea-shore; Mr. Patrick Blake was the landlord, and Mr. James Blake the agent. The land and sea-weed was taken from me about six years ago; I lived in the house ever since, and was served with no notice or ejectment to give it up until it was thrown down; my wife and child are now lying sick in a hovel I made against the ruins of the house; when my child Coleman died there was over six inches of water about him; Pat McNalty and Arthur Blake had the appearance of having taken drink; I knew by them that they had drank whiskey; Edmund Walsh came to my house first, and told me to take my children out of it; I said I would not, if they were killed in it; the others came up and threw down the house shortly after; Arthur Blake and Samuel Mullowney came to my house and searched it some nights before; they found nothing improper in it; the late and present priests of the parish can give me a good character, and so can every person on the estate; my wife nursed the last child (named Henry) that Mr. James Blake had, about nine or nine and a half years ago; I don't know why the land was taken from me; Mr. Blake said, "I would rather feed goats than ye;" I owed half a year's rent; Mr. Blake seized my corn in about a year afterwards; I paid him the half year's rent; I supported myself ever since by having a boat between myself and two others in which we fished, and I tried to earn a little; the boat and all I had were sold before I applied at the workhouse; we got 2*l.* 10*s.* for the boat; I believe I would not be alive now, but for the charity of John Hernan; I was employed with others in building a wall for Mr. James Blake; Pat McNalty is the man that hired me; I worked for a fortnight at that wall, and all I got for it was two shillings and six-pence.

Second Witness, Bridget Faherty, being duly sworn, states. I live at Tullymore; I applied at the Galway workhouse for relief last Wednesday fortnight; my house was thrown down on last New Year's eve; I was absent at Lettermore at the time; when I returned, I found my house had been thrown down; I was not served with any notice or ejectment to give it up; I held no land but about an acre of a mountain garden that I reclaimed and walled in; Mr. Blake is the landlord; I lived 12 or 13 years there; I never paid any rent for the house and garden; I held some land, and as long as I had it I paid the rent regularly; the land was taken from me six years ago, because I would not pay 104 days' duty work along with the rent to Mr. Blake, of Tully; the land was taken from me against my will; I was not served with any ejectment or legal process; after the house was thrown down I erected a shelter against the ruin walls, and slept in it with my family; the rain came in upon us through it; this hut was twice afterwards knocked down, and the timber taken away; I contrived to get a little covering, and I still continued to live in the same place; the last time the hut was knocked down, Mr. Richard Blake was along with a party of men, some of whom had crow-bars, with which they knocked down the chimney and wall of the house; Mr. Richard Blake, who is son to Mr. James Blake, ordered the men to do so; they threw down the hut or shelter I fixed, too; Edmund Walsh knocked down the wall; Tom Faherty Tom, Bartholomew Faherty, and Thomas Conneely, were taking out the timber of the roof to a cart on the road.

Third Witness, Mary Faherty, being duly sworn, states. I am daughter to Bridget Conneely; I and my brother James, who is about eleven years of age, were in our house at Tullymore on 31st December last; on the evening of that day about sixteen men, tenants of Mr. Blake, from Ballinahown, came; they said they had been sent by Mr. James Blake, of Tully, to throw down the house; they at once commenced throwing it down over my head; I had to go out, or I would have been killed; the furniture was broken in throwing them out; Coleman Folan Matthias had a crowbar, and was throwing down the house; Thomas Maherty Matthias had another crowbar, and assisted in throwing it down; Thomas Faherty Roger threw down part of it; myself and my brother had to remain that night under a wall for shelter; we made a kind of hut against the house wall on the following day; this hut was also thrown down in a short time after by some of the same persons and others, who stated it was Mr. Blake sent them there; we again built up the hut, and it was again thrown down by Edmund Walsh, Thomas Faherty Tom, Bartholomew Faherty, and Thomas Conneely; Edmund Walsh and Bartholomew Faherty are drivers to Mr. James Blake; at this time Mr. Richard Blake was with them; he directed the men to knock down the chimney of the old house, which they did.

Fourth Witness, Daniel Conneely, being duly sworn, states. That on last Wednesday fortnight I applied for relief at the Galway workhouse; I was driven there by hunger and want; I have eight in family; my house at Tullymore was thrown down on the evening of the 31st December last by a party of men from Ballinahown; they said they had been sent to do so by Mr. James Blake, of Tully; I did not leave the house until they commenced throwing out my furniture; I assisted them in removing it myself; some of the men put the crowbars into the walls, to throw down the house at once; others came in; I begged of them to leave it standing until morning, and that I would throw it down myself; they said they could not do that as they had orders to throw it down; I held three pounds worth of land, which I gave up last year, as I had no seed to sow in it; I did not leave the house until the crowbars were put

into the walls to throw it down; I was not served with any notice or ejectment; my master, Mr. James Blake, was for a long time wanting to get me out of it; my wife and three children were in the house at the time; Mr. Blake claims rent, but I don't owe him any; myself, my wife, and children, had to sleep under a wall that night; the persons from the village of Ballinahown who came and knocked down my house, are 1, Coleman Folan, 2, Thomas Folan, 3, Michael Noone, 4, Thomas Faherty, 5, Coleman John, 6, Michael Folan, 7, John Waters, 8, John Faherty, 9, Pat Faherty Matthias, 10, Bartholomew Folan, 11, Stephen Faherty, and 12, Coleman Faherty; I don't recollect saying at the workhouse that Mr. Blake's son was with the other people in throwing down the house; Mr. Blake's sons were standing on the road, about a quarter of a mile away; I am now getting out-door relief.

Fifth Witness, John Donohoe, being duly sworn, states. My house at Tullymore was thrown down on the 31st of December last by the villagers of Ballinahown; they said they got orders to do so from their master, Mr. James Blake. I held land which was taken from me three years ago; the entire village was turned into pasture land. I paid all rent due for the land. The house I built myself: there was no rent demanded for the house. I was not served with any notice or ejectment. It was at nightfall my house was thrown down; and we have been since going from house to house, frequently sleeping in our clothes by the fire-side.

Sixth Witness, Mark Conneely, being duly sworn, states. I went to the workhouse for relief, and stated that my house had been thrown down. On the 31st of December last the villagers of Ballinahown came and threw down my house. I asked them to leave it standing until morning, which they refused. I assisted myself in throwing it down, so as to save the rafters, that I might be able to put them in another house elsewhere. My wife was in the house at the time. We got shelter in the next house that night. I built a kind of hut against the wall of the house thrown down; my wife and daughter got fever in it, but they are well now; we are still living in the same hut. The villagers (those named in the evidence of Daniel Conneely) did not say by whose orders they had thrown down the house; but when I asked them to save the house until the morning, they said they would throw down every house in the village. I had no land.

Seventh Witness, John Toole, being duly sworn, states. I had a house at Invern; I went to Galway to look for relief at the workhouse; on my return the house was thrown down; I was about building a hut on the ruins when I was struck and knocked down by Arthur Blake; he knocked me inside the road wall, and from the beating he gave me, I was quite insensible for a considerable time; he told me if I went there again he would have my life; every person in the whole country are afraid to let me in lest the same thing would be done to themselves; it is the general report that Mr. Blake's son gave orders that none of the persons whose houses had been thrown down should be allowed to remain in any house on the estate; and that if any of the tenants did let them in, his own house would be thrown down in like manner; I am informed that Mr. Richard Blake, son to Mr. James Blake, ordered my house to be thrown down, and that Pat Noone and John Faherty were present; I had some land from Mr. Blake, which I gave up last year, not being able to till it.

Eighth Witness, John Magan, being duly sworn, states. I live at Knockarra at present; I applied to the Guardians of the Galway Union for relief about the 15th of January last; before I applied for relief, my house at Tully, on the estate of Mr. Blake, was thrown down by Arthur Blake and John Conneely; Pat M'Nalty, Thomas Conneely, and Bartholomew Faherty, stewards and drivers of Mr. Blake, were present at the time. Arthur Blake came into the house first; he took a pot of water and threw it on the fire; he then put a crowbar under the wall of the house and threw down part of it; John Conneely went to the other side of the house and threw down the rest of it; after they left I put some of the sticks of the roof standing against the wall of the house, and covered them as well as I could with screws; myself and my family slept in that hut for a week; we were admitted to the workhouse; we left it in about a week after; my wife died last Monday night, and two of my children are so sick that I don't know when they may die; I did not strip my clothes off for the last 15 nights; I left the workhouse at my wife's request; she was only about a week at home when she was delivered of a still-born child; in three nights after she died.

Ninth Witness, Mary Feeny, being duly sworn, states. I am a widow with four children; I am now receiving out-door relief; my husband died on last Friday fortnight in the Spiddal fever hospital; on the 31st December (my husband being then in that hospital) I was in our house at Tullymore with my two children, Coleman and Ellen, both lying in fever, when, about an hour after nightfall, Arthur Blake and Pat M'Nalty came into the house; but before they did come in, Coleman Folan came in and desired me to take out the two children; that he was desired by Arthur Blake to tell me so, as he was going to throw down the house; I begged of him to ask him not to do so until morning, as my two children were lying in fever; Arthur Blake came to the other door, which he broke in with a crowbar; Pat M'Nalty came in with Mr. Blake; he took a can of water and threw it on the fire; they both knocked down the house the moment that I took out my children; I was obliged to keep them under the shelter of a wall until morning; I built a kind of hut in a room in the house; in some time after this hut was thrown down by Richard Blake, brother to Arthur Blake; my daughter Ellen, 15 years of age, died about 10 days ago from the cold she got.

Tenth Witness, James Folan, being duly sworn, states. That in or about a week after the 1st of January last, Pat M'Nalty and James Faherty, the driver and steward of Mr. James Blake, of Tully, came to my house at Ballinahown; they threw it down; M'Nalty had a crowbar, and Faherty had a spade; they knocked down the roof, which took fire and was burned; I saw several houses thrown down and burned in one day on Mr. Blake's estate; I went to the workhouse in Galway, but while waiting for admission my daughter Catherine died

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under the workhouse wall; we left the workhouse in some time after, because myself and my children were sick; I was swelling up; since then my son Matthias, aged five years, died; and I have heard, and believe, that since I left home to-day my son Thomas, aged seven years, died also; from the time we left the workhouse we have been lying under a little hut built against a wall, partly covered with some of the old scraws of my former house which escaped being burned; I was not served with any notice or ejectment at the time my house was thrown down.

Eleventh Witness, Thomas O'Malley, being duly sworn, states. I have a wife and seven children; had a house at Invern, which, by the orders of Mr. James Blake, I had to throw down about three months ago; I afterwards built another house at a distance opposite at Tully, on the land of Mr. Blake; I had not Mr. Blake's permission to build the house; I went to the workhouse in Galway to look for relief about three weeks ago; when I returned the house I left was also thrown down; there were several houses in the same village; all the houses to which land was attached were left standing; the rest were thrown down and burned; the houses of all persons who went to the workhouse for relief were thrown down and burned upon their return; I had land, which I gave up to the landlord, as I could not sow it.

Twelfth Witness, James Donohoe, being duly sworn, states. I had a house at Invern, which was thrown down on this day three weeks by Michael Folan, steward to Mr. James Blake, and Mr. Blake's son, Arthur; I was going to the workhouse on that day; they began to knock down the house with crowbars on one side, and I had to get out of the house by the door on the other side; the house was completely levelled. I have a wife and seven children; we now live in a kind of little hut built in a room of the ruined house; I have had no land for some years; I was under no rent for four or five years; I never heard that I was charged with stealing turnips from Mr. James Blake.

John Donohoe could not be examined, he is nearly dumb.

Thirteenth Witness, Bridget Donohoe, being duly sworn, states. I am the wife of John Donohoe, of Bunraghbawn; we had a house at that place, which was thrown down about three weeks ago by the villagers of Bunraghbawn; it was at night the house was thrown down; myself and my five children were nearly killed by the falling of the house; they smashed a loom belonging to my husband, who is a weaver by trade; we had to remain out a week after that every night under frost and snow, as we could get no house to shelter us—since then we have got a night's lodging here and there through charity. Mr. Blake assisted us before the house was thrown down—but for him we would have died; neither myself nor my husband stated at the workhouse that my house was thrown down by Mr. Blake's orders.

Fourteenth Witness, Thomas M'Donagh, being duly sworn, states. I had a wife and five children when my house was thrown down at Ballinakill, Island of Garomna, on the property of Mr. St. George; I have but two children now—three of them died since the house was thrown down; Myles M'Donagh and John Reamy, stewards to Mr. St. George, are the persons who threw it down; in the latter end of harvest it was so thrown down; I was not served with any ejectment or notice; I owed one year's rent, 2*l.*; I was living in the house at the time Mr. St. George's men came to throw down the house; I had to leave it with my wife and children; I applied at the Galway workhouse and got out-door relief; I held possession of the land under Mrs. O'Flaherty, who was tenant to Mr. St. George; the sheriff came some time before the house was thrown down, and gave the land up to Mr. St. George; I was ordered to quit, but I did not give possession of the house until the men came and threw it down; myself and my family went to my brother-in-law's house, where we remained for a week after the throwing down of the house, but we had to leave that, as the two men who threw down the house noticed my brother-in-law that if he kept us his house would be thrown down also; after that we had to sleep out under walls for several nights, without the covering of a house.

Fifteenth Witness, Michael M'Donagh, being duly sworn, states. I have a wife and three children; my house at Garomna, on the estate of Mr. St. George, was thrown down about three of four weeks ago by Myles M'Donagh, Mr. St. George's steward; I was served with an ejectment notice; I did not see the sheriff there; I was in the house at the time it was pulled down, and was nearly killed by its falling; he said nothing to me until he began to tumble the house; I never gave up possession; myself and my father and grandfather lived on the estate, and all the rent I owed was 1*l.*; I never gave up possession of the house or land; I had to sleep frequently under the shelter of walls since then; I even had to sleep out last night, having no house to shelter me.

P. M'KIE, Major Un.,
Poor Law Inspector, Galway Union.

GORT UNION.

Captain HANLEY to the COMMISSIONERS—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians :—*
February 16, 1848.

HAVING visited and carefully inspected the workhouse of this Union, I beg to call your attention to the sad state in which it is at present.

It appears to me that no part of your instructions is fairly carried out. The wards, yards, &c., present one scene of confusion, filth, and disease.

On reference to the Committee Visiting Book, I find no note of any Guardian having visited the interior of the house since the 8th March, 1847.

The dietaries are in the same state of neglect; books not kept up, and matters left to the discretion of the master and matron.

It is hardly possible to conceive a house in a worse state, or in greater disorder.

At a meeting of the Board of Guardians, on Friday last, there were 3157 applicants for relief, of which 410 were marked for in-door (200 beyond what the house could receive), 1730 out-door, and 1017 rejections.

Forming an opinion from the state in which I find the house and every matter with it connected, the want of anything like system or regularity, a debt of 4000*l.*, without a shilling in the treasurer's hands, and a weekly expenditure of over 250*l.*, I have come to the conclusion, that the only hope of correcting those evils, and affording the benefit of the law to the truly destitute of the district, would be by dissolving the present Board, which I feel it my duty to recommend, and appointing Vice-Guardians who would sit from day to day, affording relief where necessary, checking imposition when attempted, and whose sole duty it would be to attend to the neglected affairs of the Union, with a view to improvement—a result I cannot expect, under existing circumstances, from the present Board, however zealous some of the members.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—*February 18, 1848.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have received and have had under consideration a report from their Inspector, Captain Hanley, on the state of the workhouse of Gort Union.

Captain Hanley reports that it appears to him that no part of the Commissioners' instructions is fairly carried out; and that the wards and yards present one scene of confusion, filth, and disease. He adds, that on reference to the Report Book of the Visiting Committee, he finds no note of any Guardian having visited the interior of the house since the 8th March, 1847; that the dietaries are in the same state of neglect, that the books are not kept up, and that matters are left to the discretion of the master and matron. He further observes, that it is hardly possible to conceive a house in a worse state, or in greater disorder.

In connexion with this representation of the state of Gort workhouse, the Commissioners have had under their serious consideration the state of the Union funds; and on this head the Commissioners perceive, that, owing to the very inadequate amount of rates levied by the Board of Guardians, the financial condition of Gort Union is in the highest degree unsatisfactory.

It appears that the last rate was made by the Guardians on the 24th May, 1847, at an average poundage of 1*s.* 3½*d.*, including arrears of previous rate.

This rate was calculated to yield 3464*l.*; but the collection proceeded so badly, that the total amount collected in the eight months ended 31st January last, was only 2581*l.*, being an average of only 11½*d.* in the pound on the valuation, and leaving more than a fourth of so small a rate uncollected.

As the consequence of this inadequate collection, a debt has accumulated, amounting on the 31st January last to 3538*l.*, a sum actually exceeding the entire amount collected during the preceding year (3226*l.*)

It is true that the Guardians have recently agreed to make a new rate of 7950*l.*; but as the season most favourable for the collection has been suffered to pass away without a proper rate being on the books, as the Union is encumbered by a debt

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which will alone absorb more more than *half* of the produce of the new rate, and as no money is in the treasurer's hands, it appears to the Commissioners that the Union will be involved in inextricable embarrassments, if a better management of the finances be not immediately introduced.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners have determined to dissolve the Gort Board of Guardians, on the ground that through the default of the Guardians its duties have not been duly and effectually discharged, according to the intention of the Irish Poor Relief Acts. The Commissioners accordingly transmit herewith a sealed order for the dissolution of the Board; and they will proceed with the least possible delay to appoint paid officers to manage the affairs of the Union.

SCARIFF UNION.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 20, 1847.*

As you will have learned from the minutes, that every exertion is being made to render this Union workhouse as extensively available as possible, for the able-bodied, by putting on out-door relief, the three classes enumerated in your letter of the 14th August, by advertising for a house to be converted into a fever hospital, and for premises suitable to the accommodation of all the school children, I need only briefly mention that all my exertions to procure premises have been rendered unavailing, owing to the very exorbitant rents which have been demanded. There is a large house, about a mile distant from Scariff, advantageously situated for the purpose required, and well ventilated, and after a minute inspection, I calculated that the two upper floors would afford sleeping accommodation to 300 children, and I proposed reserving the two lower floors for school and dining rooms, kitchens, &c. The present occupant has the premises, with *thirty acres* of land, on a lease from the Court of Chancery, at 4*l.* per acre, or 120*l.* per annum, and, although anxious to dispose of his interest in it, he demands 200*l.* per annum for the house and *three acres*, and thus the matter ends. I regret also to have to state, that we have met with no better success, as regards obtaining a house for a fever hospital; nevertheless, it is my firm conviction, grounded upon what I have myself already witnessed, independently of information received from credible sources, that with such a mass of destitution as we have here to deal with, the present workhouse accommodation would be altogether inadequate, even if we could now remove from it every one of its present 700 inmates. I, therefore, beg leave, in the strongest manner, to urge upon the Commissioners what I cannot but consider the imperative necessity of at once taking the necessary steps for the immediate erection on the present premises of additional *permanent* accommodation for at least 1000 persons; without this assistance it will not be possible to apply the workhouse test, to doubtful cases in the three classes eligible for out-door relief, much less to provide room for the able-bodied.

I would also strongly recommend that, in the mean time, temporary accommodation be at once run up, similar to the temporary barracks erected for the troops at the Cape of Good Hope and in the East Indies. Thatched roofs, with walls of "wattle and dab." The materials are to be obtained near this on reasonable terms, and the inmates of the workhouse could perform all the work, except putting the frame together. I have been thus housed for five consecutive years, and therefore make the suggestion from personal experience.

But the matter of permanent importance is the providing of necessary means, as well for current expenses during the ensuing season, as to liquidate outstanding debts. To obtain these means, I have advised the Vice-Guardians to strike an uniform rate of 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound upon the Union.

It is my conviction that no reasonable objection can, under existing circumstances, be raised against a 7*s.* 6*d.* rate, or even to a higher one, seeing that the last collected rate was struck so far back as 14 months ago, and being only a *temporary* rate, amounted to but 1800*l.* in the gross; thus, the Union may be said to have enjoyed an immunity from rates, during a period when it was visited with famine and pestilence, and when unusual efforts ought to have been made by the late Board of Guardians. Had the Guardians collected a reasonable rate, and paid promptly for their supplies, I do not think that the Union would now be suffering from pecuniary embarrassment; but as supplies were purchased on credit, at double the market prices of the day, and as blank requisitions were signed, it was impossible that any proper control could have been exercised over the expenditure. I, therefore, hold it now to be a paramount duty not to shrink from having recourse to all the lawful means in our power, to promptly retrieve the Union from its present insolvent condition.

It has been calculated that about 9000*l.* will be required to provide for the wants of the workhouse up to 25th March, 1848, and to pay off the debts, amounting to 6000*l.*, incurred by the late Guardians. The gross amount of a 7*s.* 6*d.* rate will be 16,860*l.*, but after deducting the expenses of collecting it, and failures in payment, I do not estimate the net amount at a higher figure than 15,000*l.*; and

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the available balance of 6000*l.* will, I fear, be very inadequate to the calls we shall have upon it for the administration of out-door relief, if I may judge at all from the expenditure under 10 Vict. chap. 7, and which, I am informed, amounted to 17,000*l.* in this Union, not one farthing of which has been repaid.

After the due collection and careful expenditure of the rate which we are about to strike shall have taken place, the rate-payers may then come forward with clean hands, and appeal to Government for its aid, should our means become exhausted during this winter, or the next spring; but, until a sincere and vigorous effort has been made by those who have the duties of property to fulfil, I do not conceive that they have a legitimate right to represent the destitution existing within their Union, as an imperial calamity.

REPLY to the above :—*November 22, 1847.*

I AM to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 20th instant, reporting on the administration of relief in the Scariff Union; and in reference thereto, I am to express to you the thanks of the Commissioners for the information which you have conveyed to them, and I am to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have this day addressed to the Vice-Guardians on the subject.

The Commissioners desire to call your attention to that part of their letter which relates to the proposed 7*s.* 6*d.* rate. If, after consideration of the subject, you and the Guardians are still of opinion that more money would be collected by it than by two consecutive rates of 3*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.*, the Commissioners will not raise any objection to the 7*s.* 6*d.* rate.

ENCLOSURE.

The POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS of Scariff Union :—
November 22, 1847.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your communication of the 19th instant, in reply to the Commissioners' letter of the 13th instant, relative to providing additional workhouse accommodation, and to the administration of relief to the destitute in Scariff Union.

In reference to the proposed rate of 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the old valuation, the Commissioners desire to state that, although they do not wish to interfere with your discretion, as to the amount of rate to be struck in the Union, yet the Commissioners deem it worthy of consideration, whether more money might not, on the whole, be collected, by making, first of all, a rate of 3*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* in the pound, collecting that rate vigorously, and then making and collecting another rate of the same amount. The Commissioners, at the same time, wish it to be distinctly understood, that they do not in any way object to the rate of 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the Union, if more money will really be levied by it than by two consecutive rates of 3*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.*

With respect to their Circular of the 17th instant, the Commissioners desire to state, that they have come to the conclusion that some limitation should be set to the numbers in every workhouse, but they have not decided on what should be the precise limitation for the Scariff workhouse; and the Commissioners' letter to the Guardians was intended to elicit the views of the Vice-Guardians on the subject. The Commissioners having received your remarks, will refer them to their architect for his observations, and they will likewise communicate to him your request respecting the preparation of plans, together with some suggestions of Captain Hart, on the best mode of providing immediate additional workhouse accommodation.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS of Scariff Union :—
December 3, 1847.

I AM to forward to you the enclosed extract from a report which they have received from Captain Hart, relative to additional accommodation which he proposes for the workhouse of Scariff Union, together with a copy of Mr. Wilkinson's observations thereon; and I am to state that the Commissioners will readily sanction the erecting buildings in accordance with Mr. Wilkinson's suggestions, and that you can borrow money for the purpose, under the 35th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain HART :—*December 3, 1847.*

WITH reference to that part of your report of the 20th ultimo which relates to the proposed increased accommodation at the workhouse of the Scariff Union, I

am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to forward for your information, the enclosed copy of the observations of Mr. Wilkinson on the subject, and to state that the Commissioners will readily sanction the erecting buildings in accordance with Mr. Wilkinson's suggestions, and that the Guardians can borrow money for the purpose, under the 35th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

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ENCLOSURE.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. WILKINSON.

Scariff Union.

To erect permanent additions to the present house, to the extent of 300 additional paupers, the estimated cost is 1800*l.*; much beyond this number would render a new house advisable. The temporary buildings described by Captain Hart could be erected around the boundary walls of the site, quite detached from the present building. If carried out as proposed by Captain Hart, and done under his superintendence, the cost would not exceed 1*l.* per head, I should suppose.

Wooden buildings will cost about 30*s.* per head prepared for sleeping in.

Under the circumstances stated, and using the stable, I assume that 700 persons might safely be lodged in this house.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*November 24, 1847.*

ON receipt, this morning, of your letter of the 22nd instant, I did not fail to immediately confer with the Vice-Guardians on the subject of the 7*s.* 6*d.* rate, which it had been determined to strike upon this Union; and I now beg leave to acquaint you that, after our having given this most important question our best consideration, and viewing it again in all its phases, it is still our unanimous opinion that a 7*s.* 6*d.* rate should be adhered to, as we find that we can effect no substantial amelioration of the present financial embarrassments of the Union, or of the suffering condition of the poor, with a less sum than 10,000*l.*, which is immediately required to pay off the debts incurred by the late Board of Guardians, and to provide for present disbursements. We consider, also, that quite as much difficulty and excitement would be experienced in the collection of a 3*s.* 6*d.* as in a 7*s.* 6*d.* rate; and, such being our conviction, we are anxious to overcome our present difficulties by *one* vigorous effort. Moreover, it has, by some means, become generally known, and it is therefore more fully expected that a 7*s.* 6*d.* rate is to be struck; were we, therefore, now to reduce the amount, it would have the appearance of vacillation, and a bad effect might be produced.

As I previously stated, this Union has enjoyed an almost perfect immunity from a poor-rate from its first formation until the present day, for I find that in the aggregate but 3*s.* 6½*d.* has been collected: thus—

On the 8th February, 1842 . . a 5*d.* rate was struck.

9th November, 1842 . . 1*s.* 0½*d.*

5th March, 1844 . . 0 5

28th January, 1845 . . 0 10

9th September, 1846 . . 0 10

Total 3 6½

Taking this into consideration, and also that a heavy debt has been contracted in consequence of the late Guardians having purchased their supplies on credit, at *double* and even *treble* the market prices of the day (for I am credibly informed that 24*l.* per ton was agreed to be given for Indian meal, at a period when it was selling for 8*l.* per ton), I do not consider that any honourable and right-thinking person can raise an objection to a 7*s.* 6*d.* rate.

The Union is certainly in a desperate condition as regards its finances; and in having recourse to a desperate remedy—if, indeed, a 7*s.* 6*d.* rate should be so thought by interested or unprincipled parties—we have but done our imperative duty, from the responsibility of which we shall not shrink, feeling perfectly satisfied with the approbation of the Commissioners.

REPLY to the above:—*November 25, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that, under the circumstances stated, the Commissioners do not propose to interfere with the discretion of the Guardians concerning the amount of rate which they are about to strike.

Scariff Union.

Mr. HANCOCK, Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS :—
November 24, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to report that Messrs. Fisher and Christy called on me at Limerick on Monday last, to consult as to the best manner of carrying into effect your instructions as to the borrowing a sum of money for the immediate necessary expenses of the Union, giving the rates as security, and the interest upon any advance to be guaranteed by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

I recommended these gentlemen to make an official application to the treasurer of the Union (the Provincial Bank at Ennis) for a sum of 2000*l.*, for a period not exceeding six months, the interest to be guaranteed by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant. The Vice-Guardians have made that application to the treasurer, and the manager, Mr. Menzies, is very well inclined to recommend the advance; but the matter has to be referred by him to Robert Murray, Esq., the secretary, Dublin.

The advantage of getting the advance from the treasurer would be considerable. In the first place, no confusion would be created in the accounts, or the awkwardness of having two treasurers, or one place of deposit for the Vice-Guardians' funds, and another for the rate of Unions. The advance to the Vice-Guardians would be paid by the rates, after the outstanding checks of the Board of Guardians have been discharged by the collection of the rates. I do not believe there are outstanding checks for the whole amount of the debts; but of this I am not sure: but supposing the whole of the debts due have had checks drawn for the amount, it appears to me the first of the rates must go to pay these drafts, as the collectors are bound to lodge with the treasurer.

I beg to recommend that an official application should be made from the Commissioners for the administration of the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland to the Provincial Bank of Ireland, recommending the advance to the Scariff Vice-Guardians, guaranteeing the payment of the interest by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant; and if Mr. Murray should require any further security, I would recommend the Commissioners to give any guarantee which Mr. Murray may require for the repayment of the principal sum of 2000*l.* within six months. I should not venture to make any such recommendation with any ordinary Board of Guardians; but I do not see the slightest difficulty in guaranteeing the repayment of a sum so advanced by the treasurer when paid officers are in charge, who may be removed by the Commissioners.

It appears to me such arrangement would be much preferable to negotiating any advance from private individuals, or upon the personal security of the Vice-Guardians. I have had a good deal of conversation with Mr. Menzies, the Manager of the Provincial Bank here, and he is quite favourable to the proposal, and willing to make the advance; but he cannot do so without orders: hence the necessity of having a communication with Mr. Murray.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. MURRAY, Agent of the Provincial Bank of Ireland :—
November 27, 1847.

THE Commissioners have received a report from their Inspector, Mr. Hancock, in which he states that the Vice-Guardians of Scariff Union have made an application to the Union treasurer, the Provincial Bank at Ennis, for a loan of 2000*l.*, to be repaid within six months, with interest, but that the treasurer has referred the application to you.

The Vice-Guardians have agreed to a rate, which will be sufficient to discharge the existing liabilities of the Union, and, to enable them satisfactorily to continue the administration of relief to the destitute, and the rate will be immediately placed in active collection; but in the mean time, the advance which the Guardians have applied for would greatly facilitate their proceedings, and would enable them at once to place the business of the Union in a more satisfactory state.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners desire to state that, should the treasurer be authorised to make the advance which has been applied for by the Vice-Guardians, the Commissioners have reason to believe that they will be enabled themselves to guarantee the repayment of the interest on the advance.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain HART—*December 2, 1847.*

I AM to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter which they have received from the Agent of the Provincial Bank, declining to accede to the application of the Vice-Guardians of the Scariff Union for an advance of 2000*l.*, and I am to express the regret of the Commissioners at the decision of the Directors.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. MURRAY, Agent of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, to the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS:—
December 1, 1847.

WITH reference to my letter of the 27th ultimo, I beg to inform you that the Directors having considered the application of the Vice-Guardians of the Scariff Union for an advance of 2000*l.*, regret to be obliged to decline acceding to the application, as no security has been offered for repayment of the principal.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 11, 1847.*

THE past fortnight has been a period of most anxious and painful solicitude to me, occasioned by the great and almost overwhelming pressure on the part of crowds of starving people clamouring for relief, and no present means available for alleviating their destitute condition; and this state of things is rendered more difficult to be dealt with, owing to a large admixture of turbulent able-bodied single men, and others not in distressed circumstances, who evidently entertain the notion that it needs but a due exhibition of physical force to induce an indiscriminate issue of out-door relief, seeing that the workhouse which was constructed for 600, now contains nearly 800 inmates.

Last week, a number of persons forced their way up to the Board room; but on my seizing and locking up two of the ringleaders, the crowd dispersed. I did not fail, however, to impress upon the minds of the assembled people that they had, by their turbulent behaviour, given me the most convincing proof that they at least were not in want of food, and that no relief whatever should be extended to those who clamoured for it at the workhouse, but only to peaceably disposed destitute persons, who sought for it in the manner provided for by law, viz., through the medium of the relieving officers.

On Tuesday last, however, I had again to seize another turbulent fellow (a single man) who had forced his way with others into the house; and on my having his name registered, as a warning to others, and ordering that no relief should ever be given to him except inside the house, he insolently replied, that he would "rob and steal sooner than come into workhouse," and that "all the people had a right to get the out-door relief."

I should not have deemed such matters as these worthy of mention, were it not that they abundantly exemplify what must inevitably be the demoralizing effects of out-door relief to able-bodied men, should such an expedient unhappily ever have to be resorted to—a crisis which I can view in no other light than as an unmixed and dire calamity, which will speedily extinguish in the breasts of its recipients every principle of self-reliance, and swallow up the property of the country; for judging from past experience, it is utterly futile to expect that any adequate check can be interposed, especially at this early stage of the administration of the new laws for the relief of the poor, to prevent an almost indiscriminate issue of relief, as when once it is believed that the destitution has extended beyond the power of being met by local taxation, every barrier to abuse will I fear be at once levelled, and the same general rush made for the "Government relief" as took place under the system of relief by Public Works, and subsequently by the issue of rations, when the detection of the most shameless imposition was usually met by the reply, that "one man had as good a right as another to get a share of the Government relief."

It appears, by the public returns that upwards of one-half of the entire population of this Union were lately receiving Government rations, and that 17,000*l.* was expended for that purpose. Consequently, as the rateable property of the Union is valued at but 44,960*l.*, it is quite clear that the entire rental would be inadequate to meet the wants and abuses incident to out-door relief. Under these circumstances, indeed, under any circumstances, I confidently hope that the Commissioners will approve of every possible expedient being resorted to which offers a prospect of warding off the necessity of issuing an order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied persons, and I shall now proceed to report progress in that

Scariff Union.

direction, by stating that during the period necessarily occupied in striking the rate and making out the books for the collectors, I visited various localities in search of additional workhouse accommodation for a length of time, with but little success. I am truly happy, however, now to be able to state that I have at length secured most eligible premises from Dr. Sampson (referred to in a former report) for the unexpired period of his lease, viz. up to the 25th March, 1849, at a rent of 150*l.* for the entire period. This will enable us to carry out the suggestions of removing the whole of the school children to a separate establishment. I have also suggested, with the view of rendering the workhouse still further available for able-bodied men, the advantage of also removing the aged and infirm who are still in the house, and in pursuance of this plan an agreement has been entered into for the purchase (for 50*l.*) of a three-storied slated house in Scariff with out-houses and a rood of land; here we purpose accommodating nearly 100 old women. We are also in treaty for the purchase (for 150*l.*) of extensive premises with about two acres of land, eligibly situated on the Scariff River; the houses will accommodate all the old men, and the barn can be fitted up as a fever hospital, until such time as we are enabled to erect a new fever hospital for the use of the entire Union, lower down on the land. This alone would effect a very large saving, as at present the expense of medical and other attendance for each of the temporary fever hospitals, is little short of 300*l.* per annum, while the Medical Officer of the workhouse has but the miserable stipend of 40*l.* per annum.

The erection of temporary accommodation on the workhouse premises for 300 men, will also be commenced next week.

I trust that the Commissioners will approve of these measures, and sanction the continuance of similar ones as occasion requires.

It is infinitely more advantageous to purchase (when it can be done on such favourable terms) than to hire, as any tenement can be sold with all improvements when no longer required.

I beg leave to enclose a plan of Dr. Sampson's house, and should be glad to receive it again when done with.

REPLY to the above:—*December 14, 1847.*

THE Commissioners approve of the course which you have adopted, a detailed in your report.

With reference to the house of which you have forwarded the plan, the Commissioners will readily sanction the hiring of it; and I am to forward for your information, the enclosed copy of observations of one of the assistants of their architect on the subject. The Commissioners have written to their architect, Mr. Wilkinson, by this night's post, in accordance with the suggestions contained in the last paragraph of Mr. Barney's observations.

The plan of Dr. Sampson's house which accompanied your communication, is herewith returned.

ENCLOSURE.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. BARNEY.

WITH regard to Dr. Sampson's house, it appears to me very eligible, and will accommodate about 220 children, allowing only two of the rooms on the basement floor for kitchen, &c., and the two large rooms on the principal floor (marked 13) for school-rooms, and appropriate all the other rooms for dormitories. The plans do not shew what extent of ground for yard there is attached to the building; if the children are removed altogether from the workhouse, yards will be indispensable. 220, I am of opinion, is the greatest number that can be accommodated in this building, and probably it will only accommodate one class of the children, the girls perhaps.

With regard to the other buildings mentioned in Captain Hart's report, there is nothing upon which I can form any idea of their eligibility, but I beg to suggest, as Mr. Wilkinson will be at Galway at the latter end of this week, whether it would not be advisable to ask him if he could make Scariff on his way back to Dublin, as it is not very far from Galway, and inspect the premises reported on by Captain Hart.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. WILKINSON:—*December 14, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have received a communication from their Temporary Inspector, Captain Hart, relative to the arrangements which he is making in conjunction with the Vice-Guardians, with the view of providing additional work-

house accommodation, from which it appears that a house has been purchased, and that they are now in treaty for two other buildings.

This communication has been referred in your absence, to Mr. Barney, who approves of the house which has been purchased, and has suggested, with regard to the others, that as you will be at Galway at the latter end of this week, it would be desirable if you could make Scariff on your way back to Dublin, and inspect the premises in question.

As the matter is of considerable importance at the present time, in reference to the state of the Scariff Union, the Commissioners will feel obliged to you, if you will endeavour to act in accordance with this suggestion.

Scariff Union.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 14, 1847.*

IN reply to your letter of yesterday's date, and its enclosures having reference to naval clothing and purser's stores in charge of Sir Randolph Routh, I beg leave to inform you that any supply of the articles enumerated would be most thankfully received for the use of the paupers in this Union Workhouse, and I firmly believe they could be sent to no establishment so much in want of the articles in question; for a length of time the scanty clothing of the poor inmates has been in rags and tatters, and there is also a lamentable deficiency of beds and bedding; the insolvent state of the Union has unfortunately hitherto precluded the possibility of a purchase of clothing and bedding.

Mr. WILKINSON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 23, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I this week inspected some buildings taken by Captain Hart for auxiliary workhouses in the Scariff Union.

Three buildings have been taken, one a large residence, which has already been sanctioned by your Board, and it is well calculated for the female children; it is about one mile from the poor-house.

The other premises are an old barn and small dwelling-house adjoining, and requires outlay in providing new floors, and high enclosing walls to screen the yard from the road. This building is suited for the boys to occupy, when it is fitted up as intended.

The third building is an old dwelling-house, very well suited for occupation by infirm people; it is in the street of the town of Scariff, with a small yard in the rear, and an out-building suitable for day-room, when provided with windows, &c.

Workhouse accommodation, in addition to the present building, being considered necessary, it appears to me that Captain Hart has done the best for obtaining it that it was possible for him to do, by the taking the above buildings.

It is proposed to enlarge the main building of the poor-house, by making the wing buildings half as large again. The cost of this addition will be about 800*l*. Captain Hart proposes to pay this cost out of the rates: if your Board approve this outlay, plans and specifications can be sent to Scariff accordingly.

REPLY to the above :—*December 27, 1847.*

THE Commissioners approve of the proposed enlargement of the workhouse, and I am to request that you will prepare and forward plans accordingly.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain HART :—*December 27, 1847.*

I AM directed to forward, for your information, the enclosed copy of a report which they have received from their architect, relative to the proposal for enlarging the workhouse accommodation of Scariff Union; and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have apprised Mr. Wilkinson that they approve of the proposed enlargement of the workhouse, and have requested him to prepare and forward plans accordingly.

I am at the same time, to state that it would be more equitable to borrow the money for this purpose, under the 35th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, and not to expend the whole of it out of the present rate.

Scariff Union.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 25, 1847.*

I HAD hoped to have it in my power to have stated in this report that the female school children and the aged and infirm female paupers had been removed from the workhouse to the two buildings which I had engaged for their respective accommodation; unfortunately this intention has been frustrated for the present, owing to the contractor for the blankets having to send to London for the supply. I trust, therefore, that the Commissioners will consider that I exercised a proper judgment in advising the Vice-Guardians to immediately purchase in Limerick bedding for 500 persons; as unless arrangements are speedily made to render the workhouse extensively available for the reception of able-bodied paupers next week, a storm of destitution will, I fear, break upon us which we shall not easily weather. Should it be intended to grant to this Union any portion of the navy clothing and pursers' stores now in charge of Sir R. Routh, I would earnestly request that it might be sent here with the least possible delay; and I venture to express my belief that there is no Union in Ireland more in need of a supply of the clothing in question than the Scariff Union.

Referring to the subject of erecting additional accommodation on the workhouse premises, it appears to me, after having duly reconsidered the matter in all its bearings, that a permanent enlargement of the workhouse, by adding another section to each of the wings, would be the most advantageous plan to adopt; and as Mr. Wilkinson, the Board's Architect, who visited this place on Sunday last, expressed his perfect concurrence in the design, and considered the enclosed estimate very moderate, I am anxious to receive, at the earliest possible period, the Commissioners' authority to enter into the contract, and for which forms will be required.

My objections to the temporary accommodation which I proposed should be erected, are, 1st, That it might, and from what I can learn, most probably would be burned down; and, 2ndly, That permanent buildings can, I now find, be constructed at less than double the cost of temporary ones.

Mr. Wilkinson, of course, considers this period of the year unfavourable for building, and that the 1st of March next would be quite early enough to commence operations. I beg to say that I entirely concur with that gentleman in every opinion which he expressed on that subject, and that under ordinary circumstances, I should consider it the height of folly to commence building at this season of the year; but, situated as this Union is at present, we must bend to circumstances, which no effort can control; I, therefore, earnestly hope that the Commissioners will grant the necessary authority for a contract being entered into for the immediate erection of another section to each of the wings of the Scariff workhouse. With the increased means which this accommodation will afford I confidently hope to effectually stave off the calamity of giving out-door relief to able-bodied persons; but, on the other hand, in the absence of this indispensable assistance I must candidly express my conviction that the evil must be shortly succumbed to, for the people have become so demoralized as to be plotting what they conceive to be a deeply laid scheme which they imagine will force forward a general issue of out-door relief. It is their determination, I learn, to fill up all the accommodation we have provided, and then, they argue, that we must give indiscriminate out-door relief. Now the immediate commencement to build on the premises, and an intimation that this would be promptly continued to any required extent, would abundantly demonstrate to the population in general the utter futility of any attempts to "fill us up," and a reaction would take place by which we should be effectually relieved from all except the really destitute.

ENCLOSURES.

Tomgraney, December 15, 1847.

I PROPOSE to erect two additional wings to the Scariff Union workhouse similar in every respect to those adjoining.

To be finished in a proper and workmanlike manner, and subject to the inspection of any competent person, for the sum of 780*l*.

The entire work to be strictly in conformity and in exact accordance with present building To be finished in four months from date of agreement. Security to be given for due performance of contract.

P. SULLIVAN, *Builder,*

MR. SULLIVAN will engage to have one section ready by the 1st March and the other by the 10th April next.

N. G. HART.

Scariff Union.

Each section would afford barrack accommodation for 300 soldiers, and consequently sleeping room for 300 paupers.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*December 29, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to return the estimate herewith, and to send you a copy of Mr. Wilkinson's observations in regard to it, as well as the usual form of contract bond, which may be adapted to the circumstances of the Union. When so adapted, and the several blanks for the names of the sureties and other particulars are duly filled up, it should be submitted to the Commissioners for examination, before being executed.

ENCLOSURE.

THE amount of estimate is a fair sum. I would suggest that the contractor should be required to put windows in the new outside wall instead of the present blank window openings, the sills of which can be removed for the new outside wall. The quoins of the angles should also be pulled down and be rebuilt in the new wall.

A fire-place will also be required in the new outside wall, and the gateway will have to be removed.

December 27, 1847.

GEORGE WILKINSON.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. TREVELYAN :—*December 27, 1847.*

WITH reference to the constabulary report forwarded by you to this office, relative to the death of William Danalier, at Moyno, County Clare, I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to forward for your information, the enclosed copy of a report and of its enclosure, which they have received from the Temporary Inspector, Captain Hart, on the subject.

ENCLOSURES.

EXTRACT FROM ABSTRACT OF CONSTABULARY REPORTS, 11th December, 1847.

Clare.—“ Wm. Danalier died at Moyno, on the 9th instant, from want and destitution.”

Captain HART, Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 23, 1847.*

IN reply to your letter of the 18th instant, I beg to acquaint you that, after due inquiry into the case, I find that William Danalier died of old age and infirmity, on Sunday the 5th instant.

In addition to the particulars contained in the report, addressed to me by the relieving officer, I wish to state that the poor man was furnished with a good meal of warm milk and bread at the workhouse on the 3rd instant, and that he would have been kept in the house had he not himself preferred the out-door relief. It appears, also, that he was an inmate of the workhouse from the 19th January to the 19th July of the present year, and that he left it of his own accord, preferring the life of a wandering beggar.

Mr. PURCELL, Relieving Officer, to Captain HART, Inspector :—*December 22, 1847.*

IN conformity with your instructions, I beg to inform you that William Danalier, deceased, applied to me for relief on the 14th November, 1847, and that on the 23rd of November he was, with his wife and one child, allowed 3s. per week. I paid his wife and child 1s. 6d. per week, which was their portion. Danalier did not live with his wife—was a wandering beggar; I reserved his portion, namely 1s. 6d. per week, for him, in the mean time making all possible inquiries after him.

On Friday, the 3rd December instant, I paid him 3s. at the workhouse, being the allowance for that and the previous week. On that day he had no immediate symptoms of death; he had been a feeble old man for the last 12 months. On that day he pointed out to me a little boy, his son, to whom he wished that I should give his weekly allowance in future. He died on Sunday, the 5th December instant, at Moyno, of old age and infirmity.

Scariff Union.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 1, 1848.*

THIS day terminates a week of severe trial to many a destitute family in the Scariff Union, and not less so to the Poor Law establishment here, who are making strenuous efforts, with inadequate means, to afford the necessary measure of relief.

Unhappily the idle and worthless, as well as the really destitute, make the workhouse a focus at which to assemble on Board days; and the former are ever ready to create disturbance, and only lack the courage to break the peace. Thus on Wednesday, when a commencement was made to receive into the house a certain number of the most destitute, to whom the respective relieving officers had been authorized to issue tickets of admission, a general uproar was made by a set of idle fellows, who insisted that a shilling a-head should be at once distributed. It became necessary, therefore, to call in the aid of the police to preserve order; and after the lapse of several hours we were enabled to bring about 100 most wretched objects, who were placed for the night in the probationary wards; other poor creatures who would have been also admitted, had straggled away in despair after nightfall, but were received the following day, when the house lately purchased in Scariff, and also the probationary wards, were filled with pauper families, who are being classified and drafted, some to the female school at Moynoe, and others into the body of the workhouse, as fast as clothing can be got ready.

The removal of all the female school children to Moynoe House, and the occupation of the small house in Scariff, have contributed to rere-off an enormous pressure of destitution, but which is by no means yet altogether removed. I confidently hope, however, that the premises which I hired yesterday will enable us to relieve every case of undoubted destitution of the able-bodied class which may present itself during the next few weeks; but should this prove inadequate, I expect to have yet in my power to secure additional accommodation. Any outlay in the shape of rent will be preferable to giving out-door relief to able-bodied men, a calamity which I am doing all in my power to avert.

The premises which I hired yesterday are situated in Tomgraney, about half a mile from the Scariff workhouse. They consist of a large corn store and a good sized house. For the store, which contains three lofts, 60 feet by 18, together with another loft running at right angles, 40 feet by 20, and the kiln, I have agreed to pay a rent of 80% for one year. The house I have also engaged, but for one year, at a rent of 15% only, in consideration of sundry repairs being necessary, and which we shall have to make.

I am thankful to have the necessary authority for making the preliminary arrangements towards the *immediate commencement* of the permanent enlargement of the workhouse; and I did not fail to give effect to the suggestion of borrowing money for building purposes, in preference to making an indent upon the rate, which is now in process of collection. A loan will accordingly be advertised for; but we may after all fail in obtaining it, as the credit of the Scariff Union was brought to a very low ebb by the late Board of Guardians.

I beg leave, in conclusion, to express my gratitude for the approbation and support which I have received from head quarters in my humble, but I trust zealous, exertions here. It is this which upholds me in my present difficult position, threatened as I am on one side for starving the people, and abused on the other for taxing the rate-payers. My line of duty, however, is sufficiently defined; and all attempts, therefore, either to influence or intimidate me, will prove alike unavailing.

REPLY to the above :—*January 5, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that they approve of the measures adopted by you, and that they are fully sensible of the difficulties with which you and the Vice-Guardians have to contend; but the Commissioners trust that, by your persevering in the same line of conduct which you have hitherto pursued, those difficulties may be successfully surmounted.

Mr. FISHER, Vice-Guardian of Scariff Union, to the COMMISSIONERS:—

January 6, 1848.

Scariff Union.

IN the absence of my colleague, Mr. Christy, from illness, I have the honour to submit the following report relative to the collection of rates in this Union, and to the general state of its affairs, concluding with a report of the state of the workhouse at the time of our commencing the discharge of our duties as Vice-Guardians, and of its state at the present time.

Immediately upon our appointment, the question of the imposition of a new rate for the purpose of providing for the current expenses of the workhouse, as well as for liquidating the large accumulation of debt which had been incurred and left unpaid by the late Guardians, became the subject of anxious inquiry and deliberation.

About five weeks were occupied with the necessary inquiries and arrangements, which included the question as to what valuation should be adopted, and as to the qualifications and securities of the existing collectors, as well as the amount of rate which ought to be struck. The careful preparation of the rate-books and the collectors' books also occupied a considerable portion of this period.

On the 3rd December, the rate-books and the warrants for the collectors were signed, and were immediately given to each collector, whose securities were perfected. This was the case with all of them, except the collector for the Scariff electoral division. In this case, the sureties had signed the *old* form of bond, previous to the *new* form being received by the clerk; but on getting notice that their signatures were required to the new form they declined to come forward, and John McNamara, the collector, was unable to obtain any other solvent securities. From information since received, we have reason to congratulate ourselves that it became necessary to appoint a new collector for the Scariff electoral division. Some delay was thus incurred before the legal appointment of a new collector could be made. That was accomplished on the 29th of December, and on the 3rd instant, the warrant for the Scariff collection was handed to Mr. Lawrence Taylor. Another delay has occurred in consequence of the suspension and dismissal of John Callaghan, the collector for Kilnoe, for neglect and misconduct.

In Killaloe, Mr. Scanlan, the collector, has been proceeding in a very satisfactory manner, and has shown diligence and correctness in the discharge of his duties, although no sum appears on the minutes, as collected and *paid* on this division during the week. This arises from the delay in the acknowledgment of sums in course of transmission to the treasurer, but which will appear on next week's minutes. At the same time, Mr. Scanlan, the same collector, has made no progress in Ogunnella. This has been chiefly owing, as he states, to the refusal of Simon Purdon, Esq., late chairman of the Board of Guardians, to pay his rates, after appointing a day for doing so. In consequence of this appointment, the collector did not serve him with notice; but on calling for the rate on the day agreed upon he was told by Mr. Purdon that the rate was unjust and illegal, and that proceedings were taken in the Court of Queen's Bench to quash it. Mr. Scanlan attended the Board on Tuesday, the 4th instant, and made this report, whereon he was desired to proceed in the most summary way against Mr. Purdon.

Owing to extreme pressure of business this week, and the absence of Mr. Christy, from illness, the report of the collection is not so perfect as I could wish; but for the future it shall have our careful attention weekly, and we mean to forward it every Friday.

The following sketch will give some idea of the progress in each division up to this time, so far as is reported:—

	To 25th December.	Week ending 1st January.	This Week.	Total.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Tulla . . .	301 8 7	104 17 0	75 9 0	481 14 7
Fenkle . . .	57 0 0	92 4 3	47 0 0	196 4 3
Killuran . . .	. . .	63 15 0	15 0 0	78 15 0
Clonrush . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Mount Shannon . . .	. . .	103 19 9	18 0 0	121 19 9
Woodford . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Killaloe . . .	137 13 6	104 0 0	29 0 0	270 13 6
Ogunnella . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Scariff . . .	. . .	. . .	2 8 0	2 8 0
Kilnoe . . .	. . .	38 9 7	. . .	38 9 7
	496 2 1	507 5 7	186 17 0	1190 4 8

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We have generally to remark, that delay has taken place from the unwillingness of the collectors to proceed to extremities where they saw preparations making to meet the rate, and where a little time was demanded. They state that they have served notices to a considerable extent, on which they will proceed at once, if payment be not made.

All of the collectors, except Mr. Taylor, attended on Tuesday, the 4th instant, and each was strictly and carefully admonished by Captain Hart, who pressed on them the importance of an immediate and vigorous progress being made in their collection, and that no excuse would be taken for their not collecting quickly, unless they could show that they had taken immediate and legal proceedings in every case of default. We have reason to expect, from all that has passed, together with the example of Callaghan's dismissal, that a vigorous effort will be made this week, with some effect, to collect a considerable sum.

While so little progress has as yet been made in the collection, and the weekly expenses of the Union being more than ordinary, owing to the existing want of clothing and bedding, not only for new admissions, but to replace the old and worn-out garments and bedding of the whole establishment, no steps have as yet been taken towards relieving the Union from its pecuniary embarrassments. The heavy debt of nearly 6000*l.* still remains unliquidated, nothing having been paid of the engagements of the late Guardians, except the current salaries of the officers of the house to the 29th September last, and a few small debts due to needy persons, to prevent their becoming chargeable to the Union as paupers. Some of the officers of the house still hold in their possession unpaid cheques of the late Guardians on the treasurer, for which receipts were duly given, and have passed the auditor. It would be very desirable if arrangements could be made for the gradual payment of the outstanding cheques, many of which have passed from hand to hand, and on some of which law proceedings either have been taken or are threatened. The amount of those cheques is now about 3500*l.*, and we think, if paid according to priority of date, if the collection proceeds satisfactorily, they might all be liquidated in the course of this and the next month. A list of the cheques ordered to be paid, and charged to the account of the Vice-Guardians, might be transmitted weekly to the treasurer; and public notice given to the holders of such cheques to present them at the bank for payment, might be given by advertisement. This is a subject on which we have felt some difficulty, and would be glad of the advice and recommendation of the Commissioners.

After payment of the outstanding cheques, we propose to examine the outstanding accounts as certified by the master, and to arrange for payment of such as appear correct and equitable, and as much as possible by priority of date. We do not think that a meeting of creditors would lead to any satisfactory arrangement, but might tend in our present situation to embarrass us further.

The pressure at present on our time and thoughts, as well as upon our funds, arises from the great amount of unrelieved destitution, which has increased more rapidly than we have immediate means of meeting. Although we have additional room between Moynoe and other houses, for about 700 to 800 paupers more than the limit assigned to the original workhouse, yet we are prevented from receiving that number by the want of clothing and bedding, which we cannot procure quickly enough to meet our daily necessities. The duties of the master, matron, porter, medical officer, and clerk, are necessarily very much increased by the peculiar circumstances of the Union; and we are embarrassed by the immediate necessity of providing assistants, and the difficulty of finding suitable persons on the spot. It is unreasonable to expect, that the officers above named should be subjected to an increase of duty to so great an extent without adequate additional remuneration; and it is vain to expect that the business will be efficiently and satisfactorily performed, unless sufficient inducement be held out to the officers, to engage their willing co-operation with the Vice-Guardians. Although in the present state of our finances, it might appear unjust to the creditors of the Union to announce any increase of salaries, we think it would be advisable to make some conditional pledge to the officers who have increased and onerous duties to perform, that as soon as the finances of the Union will admit of it, a retrospective allowance for extra services will be considered by the Guardians.

As, however, some immediate measures are necessary to ensure the regular government of the house, and the labour now devolving on the master is far too great for him to perform satisfactorily, we would recommend the temporary appointment of Patrick Farrell, the porter, to be acting assistant master at a

salary of 25*l.* per annum, and that an assistant porter be appointed at 9*l.* per annum, with rations. P. Farrell is a very clever efficient person, and fully capable of keeping all the accounts, and, from his character and conduct, well deserving of promotion.

So far we have taken a review of the affairs of the Union, as regards outstanding debts and present difficulties. It remains to be stated, that a sum of from 1500*l.* to 2000*l.* must be expended during the next two months, in paying for materials for clothing and bedding; and that if we have to provide for 2000 in-door paupers, which we think is a minimum number, and may extend to many hundreds more, the current expenses will require about 200*l.* per week, while the relief to externs will not fall short of 120*l.* per week. In addition to these, are the two temporary fever hospitals in Feakle and Tulla, at an expense of about 50*l.* per week for both.

This will form a total weekly expenditure of	£ 370
Or, for three months for subsistence	£ 5,000
Clothing	2,000
Debts	6,000
Total	£ 13,000

leaving but a small surplus to cover arrears of rate and cost of collection; so that, at the 25th March, it is likely we shall again be under the necessity of striking an additional rate, or of asking assistance from the Treasury.

We are not acquainted with the peculiar circumstances of other embarrassed Unions; but we can scarcely suppose the worst of them to have been placed in such a difficult position as Scariff, or that there is one where Vice-Guardians and Inspector have had to contend with such fearful difficulties, oppressive in the highest degree, not only to our mental faculties, but to our feelings of humanity and compassion for the destitution and suffering around us. Were it not for the cordial and efficient co-operation of Captain Hart, and the support which we receive from his counsel and assistance, our situation would be nearly untenable.

Having mentioned the temporary fever hospitals of Feakle and Tulla, it affords opportunity to state that we are most anxious, as soon as we can accomplish it, to establish in this neighbourhood a general fever hospital for the Union. One of our embarrassments at present is, the number of cases of fever in the families of able-bodied men, which we cannot relieve without violating the letter of the law, or without bringing fever cases at once into the workhouse. In some of these cases we have strained a point to class the head of the family as subjected to temporary infirmity, in order to relieve the pressing cases of fever by medical and other relief, out of the house.

It is, however, very satisfactory to be able to state, that, notwithstanding the very unfavourable circumstances with which we have had to contend, the health of the paupers in the house continues generally good. Although fever has been prevalent out of doors, and we have been obliged to afford out-door relief to many families in fever, yet we have only five cases of fever now in the infirmary, and two slight cases at Moynoe. It is grievous, however, to see the great prevalence of that frightful scourge, small-pox, of which there are two cases now at Moynoe, and several children, both there and at this workhouse, have recently recovered from the disease. We have been pressing on Dr. Egan the necessity of vaccination, and of forcing the mothers in the workhouse to allow their children to submit to the operation, to which the doctor says he finds the greatest unwillingness. Most of the infants recently admitted are in too emaciated and weak a state to be likely subjects to receive and transmit a healthy virus. This subject shall continue to have our attention.

As to the state of the workhouse when we first entered upon the discharge of our duties here, I have the honour to report that it then contained about 700 paupers, who were fed on Indian meal porridge twice in the day with milk: The bedding in the house was very deficient, and mostly very much worn, and in bad order. Most of the paupers were in a ragged condition, from want of proper clothing. The tailor and shoemaker employed in the house at weekly wages, were unpaid for many months, as well as the salaried officers of the house of all grades. Every other necessary article, a supply of which should have been in the house, was wanting: even the daily food of the paupers was refused by the contractors, without individual guarantees for payment. Copies of writs for

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debts were lying on the Board-room table, and a sheriff's officer was in possession of the property of the house. At this time the demand for admission was not very great, and orders were only given in those cases which appeared most pressing; while, by removing as many as could be easily and legally placed on out-door relief, it was endeavoured to keep the number in the house as near 700 as possible. The arrangements for keeping the able-bodied paupers at work, were imperfect and unsatisfactory; but without means at their disposal, the Vice-Guardians could not rigidly enforce all the rules. The boys' school was destitute of the necessary materials for their instruction: the children were ill-clothed, and therefore not cleanly in appearance. The girls' school, although deficient, was better supplied, the girls better clothed, and apparently in much better order, and many of them well instructed. The conduct of Miss Malone, the schoolmistress, under great discouragements, seems to have been exemplary, and has given us a favourable opinion of her character and capabilities.

A very unpleasant job was in operation at the time of our appointment, and which, from having been too long deferred, was one of tediousness and difficulty, namely, the cleansing of the necessaries. The labour and consequent disagreeable and unwholesome effluvia continued for some weeks.

The want of funds for immediate expenses was supplied by the loan of 200*l.*, procured for us by the Commissioners; and when that was exhausted a further loan from the British Relief Association, through Captain Hart, enabled us to provide for pressing wants until the new rate began to be collected. As soon as it could prudently be done, contracts were entered into for the supply of bedding and clothing for about 800 paupers; but in consequence of taking Moynoe house for the female children, and an almost immediate and pressing demand for admission to the workhouse from all quarters, an additional supply of clothing and bedding materials was ordered by us from Limerick and Dublin immediately, and which are now in process of being made ready for use. We have also just received, through Captain Hart, from the Ordnance stores in Limerick, a considerable supply of soldiers' cast rugs, and some blankets and sheets.

The pressure for admission from furnishing multitudes on each of the relieving officers, but chiefly in Tulla and Feakle, has been so sudden, and to such an extent, that we have been obliged to provide temporary accommodation in a house in Scariff for about 100 women and children, for whom we had no clothes ready; and in the store we have hired at Tomgrany, we have provided room for about 300 of all classes in a temporary manner, until clothing is ready for them. In addition to these, we have been obliged to take 190 into the probationary wards, while further room is preparing in the store at Tomgrany. We were obliged to adopt this expedient to prevent their spending the night on the road.

By the addition we have made to the house room, by converting the late stables into dormitories, we have room with comfort for 750 paupers in the present workhouse. We shall be able to keep 100 in Clune's house, about 350 in the store in Tomgrany, and about 100 in Hickey's house: these, with 300 at Moynoe, will amount to 1600. Having this day over 1400 on the books, and the remaining 200 at hand ready to enter, we must immediately endeavour to procure further room.

The diet of the paupers has been for some time altered by recommendation of the medical officer, and brown bread has been substituted for the afternoon meal instead of porridge, as heretofore. The clothing of all classes continues ragged and deficient, although we have tailors and women at constant work making up new articles as fast as materials arrive. It will take some weeks before a sufficiency of new clothes is made to clothe all those now on the books. The wages of tailors and shoemakers are now regularly paid, as well as the bills of the contractors for provisions, fuel, straw, and other necessaries. The clothing contractors have agreed, in most instances, for payment in two months. The writs issued against the Union, for various debts contracted by the late Guardians, still remain unsatisfied, and the sheriff's officer continues in charge on the premises.

The state of the house, as to cleanliness and subordination, is not at all satisfactory, owing to the extraordinary circumstances in which the master is placed. The number of paupers who have to take their meals in successive troops, and the necessity of a large number being admitted for this purpose in their own clothing, causes much unpleasant confusion, and renders classification and order much more difficult. For the present, we shall have to appoint some superintendents, both male and female, to assist the master and matron.

The dormitories are kept clean and regular ; but the dining-hall, and the yards and day-rooms are not in the state they ought to be, if matters were in an ordinary train.

There are now on the books of Moynoe house 209 female children, and some adult women to assist in cooking, &c. Over these we have placed Mr. Samuel Shaw, and his wife as matron ; and increasing the salary of Miss Malone, as schoolmistress, to 15*l.* per annum. This we considered to be a better arrangement than that at first proposed of uniting the offices of matron and schoolmistress ; and we think Miss Malone deserving of the addition to her salary, and entitled to it on account of increased duties.

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REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 11, 1848.*

As regards the arrangement for discharging the outstanding debts of the Union, the Commissioners feel that the subject is one of much difficulty. They do not, however, see any course which is less open to objection than the one suggested by you ; but they think the propriety of publicly advertising from time to time, the claims which the Vice-Guardians are ready to discharge may be questionable. At all events, the Commissioners think that if that course be adopted, an advertisement should in the first instance be issued, stating fully and clearly the course which the Vice-Guardians intend to adopt, and announcing that lists of the claims will be from time to time advertised, as the Vice-Guardians may be enabled to provide for their discharge.

The Commissioners feel the justice of the Vice-Guardians' views in regard to the officers' salaries ; but as regards the suggestion that a promise of retrospective remuneration be held out, the Commissioners think that the legality of such retrospective remuneration is open to so much doubt, that they do not think the suggestion could properly be acted on. The best course, under all the circumstances of the case, will probably be for the Vice-Guardians to take a general review of the whole salaries of the establishment, and to record on their minutes the present rate of salary to each officer, and the increase which they think the circumstances of the case would warrant in each instance where they think increase requisite, setting forth at the same time, the allowances to any additional temporary assistants appointed to meet the present pressure ; and showing also the additional staff (with the salaries and emoluments) appointed in respect of each additional workhouse. Upon receiving such a statement, the Commissioners will give the subject their best consideration, and will communicate again with the Vice-Guardians thereon.

With reference to your observations on the prevalence of small-pox, the Commissioners think the Vice-Guardians should take immediate steps for putting the provisions of the Vaccination Extension Act in operation in the Union.

The Commissioners regret to learn that you are deprived of the assistance of your colleague through illness, and they trust that he will soon be enabled to resume the discharge of the important duties which devolve upon him, in conjunction with yourself, as Vice-Guardian of the Scariff Union.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 8, 1848.*

I AM happy to be able to report, that the premises which I hired at Tomgraney, have enabled us, during this week, to effect a sensible diminution of the great pressure for relief ; there has also been a considerable abatement of the tumultuous clamour alluded to in my last report.

For a considerable time, I have been endeavouring to hire a corn store, situated near the bridge of Scariff ; it contains three floors, each 110 feet long, by 18 wide, but the enormous rent demanded, (every person seeming determined to take advantage of our necessities,) has hitherto operated to prevent an engagement being closed.

I must, however, almost immediately secure this accommodation ; and I am not without hopes of being able shortly to obtain premises, to which the male school children can be removed.

The total absence of all previous arrangements on the part of the late Board of Guardians, added to the pecuniary embarrassments in which they left the Union, renders it extremely difficult, even when house room is obtained, to admit such

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overwhelming numbers, and at the same time, to maintain discipline and classification unimpaired. The women and children recently admitted, we have sent to a separate house, and the men to another, all of course necessarily remain in a probationary state, until clothing can be got ready.

I am thankful to be able to add, that we are enjoying almost exemption from sickness, a circumstance which I ascribe chiefly to the great cleanliness and wholesome dietary; and I must here offer my meed of praise to the officers of the establishment, each of whom performs his duties in an efficient and cheerful manner, which I cannot too highly estimate; indeed, I never visited any public institution, which I consider better regulated than the Scariff workhouse. Cleanliness and order pervade every department. The officers are very inadequately paid for the duties they are performing, and I therefore suggest as a sound policy, as well as an act of justice, that their salaries should be raised.

The collection of the rate not progressing to my satisfaction, I distinctly intimated to the collectors, that unless more successful exertion were made, I should deem it my duty to recommend their dismissal. Two or three of them, I expect, it will eventually be necessary to get rid of; my admonition has, however, produced a good effect, as I now daily receive accounts of the receipt of money. Michael Conway having reported a rescue of cattle, was instructed to at once institute the necessary legal proceedings against the offenders, for unless prompt proceedings be adopted, an encouragement would be afforded for a combination to resist the payment of poor rates.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 12, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 6th instant, we have the honour to state that the number of cases of application for relief that have come before us, to which the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act is applicable, are not many, owing to the relieving officers having instructions not to place any such on their books, until they were satisfied that the land held by the applicant had been properly and *bonâ fide* surrendered.

We have not in our power to state the number and particulars of such cases, as they were not put on record either by the relieving officer or the Vice-Guardians, the law appearing to be imperative that such persons should not be relieved.

In those instances which were brought before us, we invariably refused relief to the applicant until he was prepared to give such proof of the *bonâ fide* surrender of the land, as seemed to us to be satisfactory. The chief proof which we required was the production of a certificate either from the landlord, his agent, or under agent, that the surrender was satisfactory. In one instance, upon information received that a pauper then in the house, held more than a quarter of an acre of land which he refused to give up, the pauper was called up and discharged, and told that he would not be re-admitted until he brought sufficient proof that his landlord was satisfied with the manner of his surrender. This we found necessary to require, in this and some other cases, in consequence of an evident collusion among joint tenants, for some of them to seek relief in the workhouse on the plea that they had surrendered their land to the remaining joint holders, while it was pretty evident that they retained the expectation of being able to resume possession, as soon as it would suit them to quit the workhouse. In these cases we required the offer of surrender to be made to the immediate lessor, and proof to be given either of his having accepted or refused it. We had one instance of refusal on the part of the lessor, to accept the surrender, and in this case we only required that the tender of surrender should be made in the first instance, to the lessor—and if refused, we agreed to allow the applicant's case, provided the land were legally and *bonâ fide* given up to the joint tenant. In some cases, we found a reference to the rate-books a sufficient proof of the applicant's tenure.

The cases here stated are from recollection of the circumstances, not from any record or memorandum taken at the time; but they may give an idea of the manner in which we are disposed to carry out the provision of the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 15, 1848.*

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I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that they are fully sensible of the difficulty of acting on the 10th section of the Act referred to; still, as that section is of extreme importance, the Commissioners desire to express their opinion upon it, for your information and guidance.

The Commissioners think that the words of the Act should be strictly adhered to, by which no one who occupies more *than a quarter of a statute acre* of land shall be deemed and taken to be a destitute person. Hence the Commissioners think that the *bonâ fide* "cessation to occupy" more than a quarter of a statute acre, is the only point which should be looked to by you in the construction of the clause; and that no additional unbending condition should be insisted on, such as a certificate of surrender from a landlord, or the cessation to occupy even a quarter of an acre, or any land of still less extent.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 13, 1848.*

WE have now the honour to submit our weekly report of this Union.

As yet in most of the electoral divisions the collection is proceeding slowly, but we expect, as the time advances, larger sums will be received, as the preparation to take legal proceedings in cases of default has been now pretty generally made.

The following is the state of the collection to this date:—

	To 1st January.	To 8th January.	This Week.	Total.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Tulla	406 5 7	170 10 3	24 0 0	600 15 10
Feakle	149 4 3	302 0 0	..	451 4 3
Killaloe	241 13 6	179 0 0	251 0 0	671 13 6
Killuran	63 15 0	54 3 7	..	117 18 7
Woodford	103 19 9	35 0 0	165 7 2	304 6 11
Clonrush				
Mount Shannon				
Kilno	..	38 9 7	..	38 9 7
Scariff	..	2 8 0	39 1 6	41 9 6
Total	964 18 1	781 11 5	479 8 8	2,225 18 2

So far as we have the means of judging from the collectors' own reports, they are generally proceeding with increased activity in the collection, but have in several instances had to seize and impound cattle. In some cases they have met with opposition, and although no personal violence has been attempted, some cattle seized by the collectors were retaken and driven back by the owners or some of their connexions. One person is summoned by the collector of Feakle district for rescue, to appear before the petty sessions at Feakle on Monday, and another is summoned to the petty sessions at Killaloe, to be held on Saturday, for rescue of cattle seized by the collector of Orgunnella electoral division. The latter is a tenant of S. Purdon, Esq., and holds 12 acres of land at a nominal rent. He seems to be encouraged in refusing payment of his rates by the example of his landlord who has not paid his own, and who is the chief proprietor and occupier of land in Orgunnella parish. We have not been informed by the collector what proceedings he has taken against Mr. Purdon.

The total amount collected is not as yet sufficient to discharge the obligations which we have been obliged to enter into for feeding and clothing the paupers, and we are therefore unable to commence any arrangements for the discharge of the debts incurred by the late Guardians.

We shall further consider the subject of publicly advertising our intentions as to the payment of the outstanding cheques before we take any steps for doing so. If we can ascertain the names of those persons who are holders of cheques with any degree of accuracy, we shall be glad to avoid the necessity of advertising. It is our intention, however, to discharge all the debts which we have ourselves incurred for the immediate wants of the Union before we pay any of the engagements of the late Board of Guardians. It is essential to the proper discharge of our duties that our credit should be preserved by the punctual and exact fulfilment of all our engagements. The chief part of the clothing for which we have con-

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tracted we have promised to pay for in two months, but a considerable portion since ordered must be paid for in cash.

In our last report we omitted to advert to that paragraph in your letter of 1st instant, referring to the printed instructions to the Temporary Inspectors of Unions.

We have endeavoured to the utmost of our power to administer relief on the principles therein pointed out, and have given out-door relief in money in every case brought before us where we were satisfied we could legally do so.

In our last report we intended to have recommended your issuing a sealed order, authorizing us to give relief either in money or food to the heads of families, any of the members of which were afflicted with contagious disease, and also to able-bodied widows with one child or without children, to orphan children, and to married women with or without children, whose husbands had left the country or were in gaol, and which we now submit for your consideration. Such a measure would relieve us from a considerable number, and enable us to receive many able-bodied heads of families who are now daily besieging our doors. The constant obligation which we feel ourselves under to receive into the house such poor creatures as appear ready to perish at the door, continues to keep our probationary wards crowded, and it is but by comparatively slow degrees we can prepare clothes and bedding for their increased numbers. This evening we had to receive several such cases, so that our numbers, including 282 at Moynoe, are about 1800 under roof, while the out-door recipients of relief amount to over 3000. Such appears to be the still unrelieved pressure, that we think it necessary to endeavour tomorrow to take houses in Killaloe sufficient for the accommodation of at least 1000, and to make a separate establishment there if we possibly can. Killaloe being the principal town in the Union, we expect to find more accommodation there than we can in any other part; and it is desirable not to have the different workhouses too much scattered, as the power of inspecting and superintending them would be less. As we pass through Killaloe twice every week, coming to and going from Scariff, it will be easier for us to pay constant visits to any workhouse established in that locality, than it would be in any other.

The great amount of destitution, so much beyond what we at first had any idea of, now begins to be almost appalling, and it becomes a matter of doubt whether it will be possible to levy and collect rates sufficient to relieve the mass of pauperism that seems every day becoming more manifest.

According to your desire we have taken the subject of the increased duties of the officers of the house into our consideration, and on this day's minutes have submitted a scale of salaries for your approval. In case we take additional houses at Killaloe, an additional staff will be required there.

With respect to the health of the inmates of all our houses of relief, we beg to refer to the medical officer's report on our minutes of yesterday.

We have to beg you will favour us with a copy of the Vaccination Extension Act, in order that we may consider the subject of putting its provisions in force in this Union.

REPLY to the above:—*January 18, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report in which you state that proceedings have been taken against one of the tenants of Mr. Purdon for a rescue, and that this tenant seems to be encouraged in refusing payment by his landlord, who has not paid his own rates, the Commissioners desire to state that inasmuch as the satisfactory collection of the rate must, to a certain extent, depend upon the conduct of the persons of station and influence in the district, in regard to the payment of their own rates, it appears important that the earliest application should be made to them, especially to such of them as were members of the late Board of Guardians; and that in any instance in which, as you state is the case in regard to Mr. Purdon, obstruction to the collector is offered, the most prompt and decided proceedings should be adopted to enforce payment.

With reference to your recommendation that a sealed order be issued authorizing out-door relief to certain classes in money or food, the Commissioners desire to state that they have received a communication from Captain Hart, in which he states, that for the next two weeks he trusts that all claims for admission to the workhouse can be met; but that after that period it will be necessary to relax the rule as at present existing in regard to out-door relief. Under these circumstances,

and bearing in mind that it is desirable to relax the rule as gradually as possible, the Commissioners have thought it best to comply only partially with the request contained in your report, and they have accordingly issued an order, a copy of which is enclosed, authorizing out-door relief in food to widows with one child, and to children whose parents are both dead. The Commissioners will, however, be prepared to extend the other, by authorizing out-relief to such other classes as may appear desirable on learning that such extension is necessary.

The subject of the officers' salaries shall receive the consideration of the Commissioners.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 15, 1848.*

I AM glad to be able to acquaint you that my expectation of securing premises adequate to the accommodation of the pauper male school children has been realized, in my hiring a large house with extensive out-offices and a large garden, situated in the town of Scariff, at a rent of 100*l.* for one year. In these premises I calculate that between 300 and 400 children can be comfortably domiciled. I have also hired another house, at a rent of 2*l.* per mensem, capable of holding at least 100 persons.

Although there has been a considerable pressure for admission to the workhouse during the week terminating this day, still it has not been to the extent experienced in the three previous weeks. At present it is scarcely possible to make, with anything approaching to accuracy, even an approximation of the number of destitute persons of the able-bodied class for whom workhouse accommodation may yet be needed; for the next two weeks, however, I trust that all claims for admission into the workhouse can be met, after which period, it will be necessary to relax the rule as at present existing for out-door relief, so as to embrace another class or two of persons, reserving the workhouse for able-bodied men.

The collection of poor-rate during the week has upon the whole been satisfactory, the collectors having reported to me the receipt of nearly 1200*l.*; and I have reason to expect that a very large amount will be obtained before the end of this month.

I had a man fined 40*s.* this day at Killaloe for a rescue; and on Monday I am going to see the law enforced at Feakle for a similar offence. After these examples I expect that the rate will be promptly paid.

In conclusion, I beg leave to observe that I conceive the officers of the workhouse eminently deserving of the increase of salary recommended by the Vice-Guardians.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 20, 1848.*

WE are sorry to state that much difficulty continues to be experienced in collecting the rate as quickly as our necessities require. The collectors have been very strongly urged not to delay proceedings in any case where payment is refused or evaded, and as they have, in many instances, been obliged to drive and impound cattle, but as yet have not sold any for payment of rates.

The case referred to in our last report of rescue of distress made in Ogunnella, was tried on Saturday, at Killaloe, before Petty Sessions, and the party was fined 40*s.* Captain Hart attended and publicly explained the necessity of immediately enforcing payment of the rates. Another case was tried at Feakle, on Monday; and to-day Captain Hart has gone to attend a case brought before Tulla Petty Sessions. It is hoped that these few examples may have a useful effect.

Some delay has occurred in collecting from those gentlemen at present in attendance at the Special Commission in Ennis, as it was not thought expedient to disturb them from their important duties there, but as soon as the business of the Commission is over, the collectors shall be required to perform their duty without exception, and means will be adopted to give publicity to the names of those who are defaulters, and who persist in giving delay to the collection. We are aware that in consequence of the disorganized state of the country, and the difficulty experienced by most landlords in collecting their rents, for some time past, there are many instances among that class in which

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the means of immediate payment are wanting, without attributing their default to any disposition to oppose or object to the rate.

We have received the following letter from James Molony, Esq., of Kiltanon, a gentleman of considerable property in the Union, and a member of the late Board of Guardians, and who has publicly expressed his opinion of the necessity for collecting this rate.

"GENTLEMEN,

"Kiltanon, January 18, 1848.

"THE collector of the Tulla division has been pressing my tenant, Mr Robb, for payment of the balance of the very heavy assessment on the town-land of Kiltanon; I have paid 78*l.* of rates, and Mr. Robb has paid 40*l.*; I think, therefore, it would not be unreasonable to expect a little forbearance from pressure for some time longer.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"(Signed) JAMES MOLONY.

"P.S.—I have also paid a considerable sum in Feakle electoral division.

"To the Vice-Guardians of the Scariff Union."

To which we have sent the following reply:—

"SIR,

"Scariff Union, January 20, 1848.

"WE have received your letter of 18th instant; and in reply we beg to state, that we have no wish unnecessarily to cause any pressure upon the rate-payers of this Union, but as you must be aware that the heavy debt incurred by the late Board of Guardians is still unpaid, and as the collection of the rate, so far as it has gone, has not yet been sufficient to meet our current weekly expenses in providing relief for about 6000 destitute persons, while the workhouse doors are daily besieged by additional applicants, we hope you will not think it unreasonable that we should decline, in any instance, to relax from the immediate collection of the rate.

"We have the honour, &c.,

"(Signed)

J. J. FISHER,
JOHN CHRISTY,
"Vice-Guardians."

"To James Molony, Esq., Kiltanon.

The state of the collection is as follows:—

	To 8th January.	To 15th January.	This week.	Total.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Tulla	576 15 10	131 12 3	..	708 8 1
Feakle	451 4 3	3 18 10	112 0 0	567 3 1
Killaloe	420 13 6	304 10 11½	..	725 4 5½
Ogunnella	..	10 16 6	..	10 16 6
Killuran	117 18 7	170 12 6	..	288 11 1
Woodford	..	..	..	50 5 9
Clonrush	138 19 9	194 0 1	..	123 0 4½
Mount Shannon	..	..	..	159 13 8½
Kilnoe	38 9 7	..	..	38 9 7
Scariff	2 8 0	83 0 7	94 1 10	179 10 5
Total	1,746 9 6	898 11 8½	206 1 10	2,851 3 0½

Of the above, Killuran and Killaloe have been the most satisfactory, the third part of the rate having been collected in each of these electoral divisions, and about the same proportion in Mount Shannon. In Kilnoe the collection is suspended until the appointment of the collector is confirmed. In Ogunnella no progress has been made; and the collector states he cannot proceed without the assistance and protection of police or military. Mr. Purdon is still a defaulter, although as Chairman of the late Board of Guardians he must be well aware of the necessities of the Union. Not much progress has as yet been made in Scariff electoral division, in which the collector was only recently appointed. He is, however, using exertions to enforce payment. In Feakle and Woodford the collection has not been in equal proportion to the other electoral divisions.

The total amount of the collection, so far as reported, is	£2851	3	0½
The total amount of payments made by us to this date, is	2500	16	7
Leaving for debts incurred and current expenses	350	6	5½
There is due to the Commissioners for an advance to the Vice-Guardians	200	0	0
Ditto for fever hospital	110	0	0
Due to Captain Hart for a loan	200	0	0
Total	£510	0	0

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A considerable sum is also due for clothing and bedding lately purchased, and a sufficient supply has not yet been received to enable us to clothe one half of the paupers under roof, and the supply of bedding is still very inadequate.

A good deal of difficulty has been experienced by the collectors in the numerous cases in their books of joint tenancy; and we have therefore, by Captain Hart's advice, directed the collectors in such cases, where they can ascertain the different proportions for which each joint tenant is equitably liable, to receive from each who is willing to pay his individual proportion, and to give a separate receipt in each such case, as in part payment of the whole rating.

The great imperfections of the valuation are matters of notoriety; and great loss is sustained by the Union, in consequence of much property being wholly exempted. We are, therefore, very anxious to take immediate steps to have a new valuation perfected before it becomes necessary to make a new rate. On conferring with Captain Hart on the subject we find we agree with him in opinion, that for this object it would be most expedient to adopt Mr. Griffith's valuation as a groundwork: we would, therefore, beg to be informed what details of his townland valuation can be obtained and made available, and in what manner we are to apply for them. As soon as these are procured we are of opinion that a competent person, wholly independent of the Union, and whose integrity and judgment are unquestionable, should be appointed to divide and apportion the ratings. We must beg to solicit your recommendation of such a person; and also such advice as your position and experience may enable you to afford us.

The pressure this week for relief has been very great; and although of those recently admitted in apparently extreme destitution, about 118 have been discharged on out-door relief, the further necessary daily admissions keep our number up to 2000 under roof.

These are distributed nearly as follows:—

In workhouse	850
Tomgrany	350
Kirby's	300
Clune's	150
Moynoe	350
	2000

A good deal of irregularity necessarily occurs, in consequence of not having a distinguishing dress for the paupers in the out-houses, but clothing is being prepared as fast as materials can be procured; and we hope in two or three weeks to have matters arranged in a more satisfactory way.

We are preparing the small house of Hogan's (from which we have removed the late inmates to Kirby's) for an infirmary, as our present infirmary in the workhouse is rather over-crowded, owing to illness among those newly admitted. There are not, however, any cases of a dangerous or contagious nature.

We have to acknowledge your sealed order, authorizing out-relief to widows with one child, and to orphans, but the first class is not so numerous as to afford us any sensible relief; and the latter class is one which we fear to put out, as

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most of them have no homes to go to, and as relief in food would be of no avail, unless they could also be provided with lodging.

Such has been the pressure for admission, and the inadequacy of our means of affording it to the class of able-bodied men and their families, that in order to prevent any calamity from starvation, we have been obliged to authorize relief in food to over 300 persons out of doors where actual necessity seemed to exist, and in which we have to class the heads of families as infirm from hunger.

We have at present on the out-relief lists above 3500 persons; and there remain still in the Application and Report Books of the different relieving officers, as nearly as we can estimate, about 3000 persons who have received no relief, and all of whom are the able-bodied class and their families.

We think the time is come to authorize us to give relief to that class out of doors, for the difficulty of obtaining houses to contain them is such, that we fear some may perish in the meantime, if not temporarily relieved. We must acknowledge that the necessity of the case has obliged us, this week, to go a little beyond the strict letter of the law, in giving food where we could not give shelter. It were desirable not to leave us in such a predicament as to have to choose between violating the law and risking the lives of applicants in extreme distress.

We have only, in conclusion, to acknowledge your letter of the 15th instant.

We are quite satisfied with your construction of the 10th section of the Poor Relief Extension Act, and shall for the future act in accordance with your opinion, by only requiring such applicants as apply for relief, while occupying more than a quarter of a statute acre of land to give us some proof of their having ceased to occupy before we grant the relief required. We have given orders to the relieving officers not to require either landlords' or agents' certificates, but to satisfy themselves of the fact of the occupancy or the contrary, and to state that fact in their report.

We have instances of persons in the workhouse continuing to keep possession of tenements to which more than one quarter of an acre of land is said to be attached, by retaining the keys of their houses, and they have been followed here by the lessors, persons frequently in humble life, complaining that they could obtain neither land nor rent. It is exceedingly difficult to know how to act in such cases, particularly where the applicant and family are often in a state of extreme destitution. Many cases have occurred in which it is stated by the applicants that their houses have been thrown down as soon as they have quitted them; and although some of these are entitled by law to out-door relief, they cannot so easily subsist on the regulated allowance as those who still retain houses of their own.

REPLY to the above:—*January 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners infer from some observations in your report, that you are under the impression that the relief given out of the workhouse under the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, is only to be given in food; or if in money, is only to be of sufficient amount to enable the parties receiving such relief to provide themselves with food. The Commissioners desire, therefore, to state that in cases where the wants of the applicant are such as to render allowances for clothing, fuel, or lodging, as well as for food necessary, the Vice-Guardians are fully authorized by law to grant such allowances; and it is their duty to take care that the allowances in all cases are proportioned to the necessities of the applicant, and that there shall be no danger of any person in the receipt of relief being exposed to severe suffering from cold.

The Commissioners take this opportunity of remarking, that although it is very proper to lay down a regulated scale of allowances for the guidance of the overseers themselves in the great majority of cases, still such scale should not be unbendingly adhered to; but the circumstances and necessities of each particular case should be taken into account, and the regulated allowance modified if necessary according to those circumstances.

The Commissioners have, in accordance with your recommendation, issued an order authorizing out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, to the able-bodied for a period of two months. The Commis-

sioners do not doubt that the manner in which such an order should be carried into effect, and the test of destitution which should be enforced under it, have already engaged your attention; and the Commissioners now forward, for your information and guidance, a copy of a letter which has been addressed to another Union in which out-door relief to the able-bodied has been authorized. A copy of the order is also enclosed.

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Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 22, 1848.*

IN my last weekly report, I expressed an expectation that all claims for admission into the workhouse could be met during the following fortnight, but that after that period, it would be necessary to relax the rule as then existing for out-door relief, so as to embrace another class or two of persons, reserving the workhouse for able-bodied men. I deeply regret, however, to have to represent that the time has arrived, in which it would be no longer safe to withhold authority for issuing out-door relief to the able-bodied classes.

We have borne up against the pressure of destitution to the last moment it can safely be withstood, administering the necessary measure of relief in every case of undoubted destitution, and rigorously refusing it in every case of reasonable doubt.

In bending to the great calamity of extending out-door relief to the able-bodied classes, we have still the satisfaction of feeling that we have done everything in our power to stave off the evil to the latest possible moment, and long after the adjoining Unions had been compelled to give way to it.

Need I here represent the state in which, about three months since, I took over the charge of the Scariff Union? The workhouse, constructed for 600, containing over 700 inmates; the Union deeply steeped in debt, indeed to all appearances inextricably involved in pecuniary difficulties; the daily food of the paupers provided for by funds advanced by the Government; the paupers clad in rags and tatters; an insufficiency of bedding and every other requisite; the sheriff of the county in legal possession of the effects of the workhouse; the salaries of the officers and servants of the establishment unpaid for about two years; an utter absence of all arrangements for the relief of a starving population, either within or outside the workhouse, notwithstanding that nearly 28,000 persons, upwards of one-half the entire population, were lately represented by the different Relief Committees within the Union, to be in a state of utter destitution, and who were accordingly fed at the public expense, or from funds amounting to nearly 18,000*l.* advanced by Government for that purpose, but which it was believed would never be repaid.

Surrounded as we have been with every conceivable difficulty, we have nevertheless provided in-door accommodation for nearly 2500 paupers; but in this direction we must of necessity halt, for the miserable village of Scariff contains but the one large house, already engaged for the pauper male school children, and there is no habitable building to be obtained in any part of the Union sufficiently large for a separate workhouse, except the house at Moynoe, to which the female school children have been removed.

There are also reasons why it would not on the whole, just at the present time, be advisable to receive more than the 2500 inmates. In the first place, it is desirable to prevent, as far as possible, any further demolition of the dwellings of the poor; for should employment hereafter offer, the unfortunate creatures will be unable to avail themselves of it, owing to the want of a cabin, and they would thus necessarily become permanent paupers. Secondly, the separate buildings which have been engaged for the male and the female school children, cannot by any contrivance, be rendered available for the reception of 400 children in each, and there will be fully 800 school children among 2500 paupers.

The Commissioners may rest assured that, in extending out-relief to the able-bodied, every effort will be made by the Vice-Guardians and myself to check abuses.

REPLY to the above :—*January 24, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that they are satisfied that both you and the Vice-Guardians have had recourse to every expedient which could be adopted by you consistently with humanity, in order to prevent the neces-

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sity of granting out-door relief to able-bodied men; still the time seems now to have arrived, when such relief can no longer be delayed with due regard to the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act; and the Commissioners have issued an order authorizing such out-door relief accordingly.

The Commissioners rely on your exertions, and on the exertions of the Vice-Guardians, in carrying out efficient arrangements for employing able-bodied men in stone-breaking, as a condition of their receiving relief.

A copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to another Union in which out-door relief to the able-bodied has been authorized, is enclosed for your information.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 28, 1848.*

DURING the past week, and what has elapsed of this, the progress of the collection has been very satisfactory. We have reason to believe all the collectors have been vigorous in their exertions for the past fortnight, and have, in many instances, been enforcing payment by seizure of cattle and other stock, where prompt payment has been delayed.

The following is the state of the collection as far as reported:—

	Collected to 15th January.			Week 22nd January.			This Week.			Total.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Tulla	708	8	1	443	1	6½	187	0	0	1,338	9	7½
Feakle	455	3	1	120	2	10	191	0	0	766	5	11
Killaloe	725	4	5½	178	12	7	262	5	4	1,166	2	4½
Ogunnella	10	16	6	240	8	6½	72	0	0	323	5	0½
Killuran	281	11	1	116	0	4	.	.	.	404	11	5
Kilnoe	38	9	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	38	9	7
Scariff	85	8	7	184	6	11	206	0	0	475	15	6
Woodford	50	5	9	18	19	6	158	0	0	623	10	2
Clonrush	123	0	4½	105	17	6						
Mount-Shannon	159	13	8½	7	13	4						
	2,645	1	2½	1,415	3	1	1,076	5	4	5,136	9	7½

We expect that at the end of this week the whole collection will amount to 6000*l.*

On Wednesday we received information that Callahan, the late collector for Kilnoe, had managed, in some fraudulent manner, to collect about 40*l.* on account of the last rate made by the late Guardians, and for which he had not accounted. Yesterday we received from Mr. George Sampson, of St. Catherine's, the receipt which Callahan had passed him, and which appears to be dated 1st November, after the time when the warrant had been taken out of his hands and lodged with the clerk. No time was lost by Mr. Hennessy yesterday evening in going before a magistrate and lodging informations against Callahan, upon which a warrant was issued, and he was taken into custody, and is now lodged in the gaol at Tulla. We should be glad of advice how to proceed against him and his sureties; he should be punished for the fraud, and they should be made to pay the amount of deficiency.

The amount of the collection has now so much exceeded our current expenses, that we have begun to pay some of the outstanding cheques of the late Board, and we yesterday paid 167*l.*; we intend to pay a much larger sum next week; and in a very few weeks we hope to have the whole amount of the cheques liquidated. The total amount now outstanding is 3301*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*

We have to admit, that in giving out-door relief in money to certain classes, we were, in some degree, under the impression that the amount should be regulated according to what appeared to be the cost of necessary subsistence in food, without regard to clothing or other requisites; and this impression was, in a great degree, caused by the provisions made, that relief to certain other classes should be in food only. We are glad, however, to be set right in this respect, and shall, for the future, take into account other circumstances than the price of food in apportioning out-door relief in money. In cases of relief to widows with one child and to orphans, under the sealed order of the Commissioners, it still appears to us that we are prevented from providing anything else but food for such classes, many of whom are in want of clothing and shelter. We

wish to know if we should be authorized in providing clothing, at the cost of the Union, for such children as are receiving relief, and who may seem to need decent and proper clothing.

We have received your order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied for the space of two months. We have given anxious consideration to the subject, and are fully convinced of the necessity of a stringent test in all such cases of relief; but the necessity of the moment compels us to act on the order without in the first instance enforcing the test; as our other duties are at present so overwhelming, that we are not able to make the necessary arrangements to set the able-bodied recipients to work. We have applied to the Board of Works for implements, and they write that they have referred our application to you, but we have as yet received no answer to our application. The applications for relief at the door of the workhouse became so numerous and so clamorous, and such numbers came from remote districts, whom the relieving officers could no longer detain at home, that we feared death, from cold and exposure, might occur, if not from actual want of food. We wish, therefore, to be armed with the power of giving relief to the able-bodied in food, even for a short time, so as to keep the paupers in their own houses for a little longer, until those under our roofs were properly clothed and classified. We have, in a great degree, relieved the immediate pressure at the door by acting partially on your order. We have directed the relieving officers in no case to give any applicant a ticket of admission to the workhouse without a special order from the Vice-Guardians; but in all cases of immediate necessity, where a family were suffering from want of food, to give immediate relief provisionally, for one week in food, and to report each such case at the next meeting of the Vice-Guardians, who could then exercise their discretion in ordering for their relief. The number of such cases from each of the electoral divisions (but chiefly from Tulla and Feakle) during this week has been very great, and we have not yet been able to give an analysis of them. We have ordered a weekly continuance of food in all cases of able-bodied applicants with families, as it would be impossible for us to attempt to give them in-door relief. We are only able to report the number which were on out-door relief to the 22nd instant, not having time to count the additional cases of this week. They are as follow:—

Scariff and Mountshannon . . .	834
Kilnoe and Killuran . . .	1183
Killaloe and Ogunnella . . .	1174
Feakle	1589
Tulla	1632
Woodford and Clonrush . . .	359
	6771

Amount expended during last week in relieving the above number:—

	£.	s.	d.
In money	117	7	6
Food	86	2	11
	£203	10	5

The numbers in the different houses at this date are nearly as follows:—

Workhouse	915
Tomgrany	300
Kirby's	260
Clune's	130
Moynoe	374
Total	1979

In the throng and pressure for immediate relief, many cases are admitted which, if there were opportunity to examine, would be found to be subjects for out-door relief. We have had much trouble in selecting these cases, and during the last two days have transferred from our in-door cases to our out-door

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relief list 78 persons of various classes. This has enabled us to admit 34 of the most urgent applicants. We are still, however, in a probationary state, and without the power of enforcing such classification and discipline as is desirable. The making of clothes is proceeding, but much more slowly than our necessities require.

The sickness and mortality among such numbers, when we consider the state of disease and debility in which many of the poor creatures were brought to the door, is comparatively small, and the deaths chiefly among the children. Colds and influenza have been very prevalent, and there have been many cases of dysentery; but, on the whole, we have reason to be satisfied that disease has made so little progress.

Your letter of the 24th instant has been received, relative to the revision of the Union valuation. We are glad that it is the intention of the Commissioners to appoint a revisor of valuation, who will be fully competent to make a new valuation, as we fear the attempt at revision would prove very unsatisfactory, the groundwork of the present rate is so very imperfect.

We hope that under the circumstances in which this Union is placed, where the amount of destitution is so very overwhelming, and the present rate in course of collection so very large, that although the whole of this collection appears likely to be expended about the end of March, some means may be found, by temporary assistance from Government, to preclude the necessity of making a new rate until another crop is raised, as we fear otherwise many of the possessors of property will be utterly ruined, or their resources so dried up as to deprive them of the power of employing labour, and so be the means of throwing an increased amount of pauperism on the Union.

We have received your letter of the 24th instant, together with copy of a letter from Mr. Reade, on which we think it unnecessary to make any observations at present.

We have still to report the state of the schools to be very unsatisfactory, because of the want of books and other requisites. We wrote to the Board of Education a fortnight since for a list of prices, that we might order what was required, but have received no reply. It appears to be a long time since any Inspector from the National Board has visited the schools.

January 29, 1848.

The foregoing report was not ready for post-hour yesterday, and we have this morning received your letter of the 28th instant, enclosing a copy of a Constabulary report relative to the death of Bridget Gallaher. This case you will find on our minutes of Wednesday, the 26th instant, with all the particulars we could then learn. We beg to call your attention to their having been no medical officer present, and that the relieving officer was not summoned. The report given by the relieving officer in this case at our Board was a verbal one; and on recurring to our recollection of it, we think he stated that Bridget Gallaher was subject to epileptic fits, and which circumstance we omitted to state in the minutes.

REPLY to the above:—*February 5, 1848.*

I AM to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the progress which they observe has been made by you in collecting the rates.

In regard to a new valuation of the Union, as suggested by you, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they will give the fullest consideration to your wishes on this head; and the Commissioners are disposed to cause a wholly new valuation to be made, provided that other circumstances render such a course possible.

With reference to your inquiry as to whether you are at liberty to provide clothing (where needed) for children of widows who have only one child, or whether they are limited to food, the Commissioners desire to state that the Vice-Guardians have no power to grant any relief, except *in food*, to persons relievable under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act. It will be observed that this depends on the express words of the Act of Parliament, and is not one respecting which even the Commissioners themselves have a discretionary power.

In regard to the fraudulent collection of rate by the late collector for Kilnoe,

after the warrant had been taken out of his hands, I am to state that you must be guided by professional advice, both as to the civil and criminal proceedings to be taken against this collector, after submitting the whole facts of the case and the bond to a solicitor for that purpose.

The Commissioners quite concur with you that an example should be made by a criminal prosecution, if the facts of the case admit of it, either under the Poor Law Acts or otherwise, and that every exertion should be made to recover the money received and not accounted for.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 29, 1848.*

THE authority to give out-door relief to the able-bodied classes reached us on Tuesday, and relieved us from much anxiety, for it had become absolutely necessary to clothe and classify the paupers who were remaining in a probationary state, before further admissions were made. In the course of another fortnight every arrangement of this nature will be accomplished; after this, and in order that the workhouse test may be yet extensively applied, as well as to withdraw from the market as much of the surplus labour as possible, I propose that during the period in which it may be necessary to grant out-door relief to able-bodied men, it be given to those who have the greatest number of young children; thus reserving the workhouse for all single persons, and, if possible, for married men who have not more than three children. By a plan of this nature, the proportion of school children would not be too great for our existing establishments, even if we made arrangements to provide in-door accommodation for 3000 paupers.

Although *practically* acting to a limited extent on the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men, still, for obvious reasons, we are not yet *ostensibly* doing so, and I have enjoined secrecy of the fact of such an order having been issued: it is at present only known to the Vice-Guardians, the clerk, and myself.

In every new case of well-ascertained destitution, the relieving officers have been instructed to administer *provisional* relief for *one week*, but on no account to issue tickets for admission to the workhouse without due authority; and it is proposed, during the existence of the present pressure, to continue on *provisional relief from week to week* to such destitute persons as have large families, and to receive into the workhouse all other destitute able-bodied men with their families. This arrangement will have the double advantage of preventing or mitigating the demoralizing effects of out-door relief, as the large mass of the population will not be slow in observing that *out-door* relief will never be extended to them; and it will also effectually prevent any destitute person from suffering unnecessary privation.

During the present severe weather it would not be possible to put persons who are half naked to stone-breaking, unless under shelter; efficient arrangements will, however, be made to employ the able-bodied men who may hereafter be put to out relief; and in order that this may be effected in an economical manner, I propose to restrict the application of the order to the most populous localities.

As regards the poor-rate, I have again the satisfaction of being able to report most favourably of the progress now making towards its collection. Accounts have already reached me of the receipt of 5520*l.*, and I have every reason to believe that the entire amount will be speedily paid. My attendance on the few occasions already reported, to see the law enforced against parties who had rescued cattle seized by the collectors, has produced the best possible effect; for as the utter futility of resistance has been proved, the smaller rate-payers are promptly meeting the call. I wish I could say so much for the higher classes. However, fair promises have been made; and so long as money continues to flow in as it has done during the past fortnight, there can be no harm in giving some of them "a long day."

As we have now a balance in hand exceeding 2000*l.*, after paying all our own expenses, I have advised the Vice-Guardians to make a commencement towards the liquidation of the debts incurred by the late Board of Guardians; their outstanding cheques amount to about 3400*l.*, and I propose that these should be first taken up, as they should never have been issued. In about two

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or three weeks' time we shall have all these paid; and during the next similar period it is hoped that their entire debt of 6000*l.* odd will be extinguished.

The present state and future prospects of the Scariff Union, as compared with affairs as existing two months since, abundantly exemplify the efficacy of the New Poor Law, *when vigorously administered*; and were it not for the heavy debt incurred by the late Board of Guardians, and their neglect to strike and collect the very moderate rates which would have been adequate for the then wants of the workhouse; had it not been for this, I can see no sufficient cause why the Scariff Union should not have been in a condition to support its own poor without any assistance from the Government, or from the charitable societies. However, as the insolvent state of the Scariff Union, and the extensive spread of destitution amongst its population, occasioned its being considered as one of the 22 Unions situated in the west of Ireland, to which it would be necessary to afford assistance; and as the time is rapidly approaching when it will be entitled to that assistance, by my certifying that the "Guardians have made proper exertions to work out their own arrangements, and that the extent of distress really exceeds all their power of relief, duly and fully exerted;" I am anxious now to place before the Commissioners my views on the subject, and in doing so, I must necessarily advert to matters that have already been sufficiently discussed.

The Commissioners are aware that in urging upon the Vice-Guardians the necessity of striking a 7*s.* 6*d.* rate upon each of the electoral divisions of the Union, I had a double object in view: the first was, to raise sufficient funds to provide for current expenditure up to the end of March next; and the second was to pay all outstanding debts, and thus replace the Union in a state of solvency; these views could not have been achieved had a lower rate been struck; and it is not unworthy of remark, that nearly 18,000*l.* of the Government money was expended in out-door relief *during four months* of last year, (under Act 10 Vict., c. 7,) to say nothing of the other bountiful contributions showered into the Union by various charitable societies.

Now, as it was intimated to me in confidential communications from the Commissioners, that assistance would be rendered to the Scariff Union only at a period when the necessary local efforts had been made, I was anxious to place the Union in a position to profit by the promised bounty, and at the same time to fulfil my duty to the Commissioners; it did not appear to me that I could consistently with any honourable feeling certify that a proper exertion had been made, unless past misconduct had been atoned for; in other words, until means were taken to at once liquidate the debt which had been so recklessly contracted; it appeared equally reasonable that the rate-payers should also make a proper effort to provide for their destitute poor for a short period. My position has enabled me to see these views carried out; and as my duty to the Commissioners has been carried out, I am now anxious to secure to the Scariff Union the assistance of the British Relief Association. As already stated, the rate in course of collection will be adequate to pay off outstanding debts, and meet current expenditure up to the end of March, from which period up to next harvest I earnestly hope that the Association will provide us with the necessary means of providing for the wants of our poor. At a rough estimate, I calculate that we shall require about 6000*l.* altogether. This assistance will leave the Union free of all embarrassment, and in a position to make a fresh start at the commencement of the next harvest.

REPLY to the above:—*February 4, 1848.*

I AM to state, that the Commissioners entirely approve of the plan proposed to be adopted by you in offering relief in the workhouse, first, to single able-bodied men, and then to able-bodied men with small families, if there is not room in the workhouse for the two last-mentioned classes, and likewise for able-bodied men with large families.

The Commissioners feel much satisfaction at the progress which has been already made by the Vice-Guardians in the collection of the rates, and the Commissioners trust that the sum which remains at present uncollected will be levied by them with equal vigour and promptitude.

In regard to the relieving officers, the Commissioners desire to point out that those officers have no legal authority to grant relief, except in cases of necessity which are both sudden and urgent; and the Commissioners therefore regard it as foreign to the spirit of the Irish Relief Extension Act, that the relieving officers should give provisional relief for a longer period than until the next meeting of the Guardians after the application for such relief is duly made.

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EXTRACT from CONSTABULARY REPORT.

*County of Clare—Caher,
January 21, 1848.*

AN inquest was held this day on the body of Bridget Gallagher, who died on the 19th instant, and a verdict returned that she died of destitution.

*Inspector-General,
§c. §c.*

GEORGE ELLIOTT, *Constable.*

OBSERVATIONS of Captain HART thereon.

I BEG to annex a statement from Mr. Purcell, the relieving officer of the district, by which it will be seen that Bridget Gallagher's death did not result from starvation.

In the present case, I am informed that there was no medical man at the inquest, and in no single case has a relieving officer been requested to attend or even noticed of this inquest.

*H. G. HART, Captain 49th Regiment,
P. L. Inspector.*

Scariff, February 2, 1848.

STATEMENT of Mr. PURCELL referred to in Captain HART's Observations.

Scariff Board-room, February 2, 1848.

THOMAS GALLAGHER rented a farm at Coolmore, which he sold about the 6th January instant to a man named Broderick, who applied to me on his behalf on the 8th January, and stated that he had given him 2*l.* 10*s.* for it.

Gallagher's wife was subject to a violent inward pain, of which it is the opinion of those most intimately acquainted with her that she died.

The money which Gallagher received from Broderick was not spent at the time of her (*his wife's*) death.

*MATT PURCELL,
Captain Hart.
Relieving Officer, Feakle.*

Correspondence respecting the Amount of Rate struck by the Vice-Guardians.

Mr. PATERSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 22, 1847.*

I WOULD beg to call your attention to the enormous rate of 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, struck by the Vice-Guardians of the Scariff Union, and to be levied on the property of that Union, and to point out the injustice of laying such a rate in the present impoverished state of the country. Being intimately acquainted with the various properties of that Union, I can assure you that the collection of this rate will be found an impracticability, and one which may lead to very dangerous consequences, both as regards the peace of the Union as well as also the pecuniary resources both of landlord and tenant, most of whom, if not all, are severely pressed by the destitution and depression of the times, as also by the various other taxes. The Vice-Guardians not having any property in the Union, nor having any taxation to pay, cannot be as competent judges as those persons from whose resources their moneys must come, and who, although having a nominal rental, yet, in fact, from the impoverished state of the lower class of tenantry, not in receipt of any, and scarcely able to meet the heavy calls on their resources, almost unable to meet the demand of this excessive rate.

At the same time, gentlemen, that I request your attention to the circumstances of the landlords, and to the sad state in which they now find themselves, I do not mean to exonerate them from the payment of just and lawful rates for the support of the poor, but to require from you that this rate should be levied in some modified manner, either by instalments or in such manner as you and

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the Vice-Guardians might best see fit; and should it not be in your power to order, yet that you would advise the Vice-Guardians that this rate should be levied by instalments, and that the Vice-Guardians should call a meeting of the landlords, and advise with them as to the best and most desirable manner of doing same, both as regards the resources of the inhabitants of the Union and the peace of the district. Nor do I conceive I am requiring too much in making this request, knowing more intimately than the Vice-Guardians can the state of the Union, and being equally anxious with them that this rate should be collected, and that without oppression or breach of the peace.

Gentlemen, having now laid before you the state of the Union and the hardness of this rate, I would beg respectfully to call your attention to the hardness of my own peculiar case. Having a property in the Union I have always endeavoured, so far as my own pecuniary resources would allow, to assist my tenantry, and not to allow them to look for relief from the poor-rates, either in or out of doors, and have been, up to this period, affording employment from my own money. I now, to benefit them more, have applied for a loan from Government to further assist and enable me to give them greater employment; nor can any advantage accrue to me from this, as, by agreement, each tenant is to work his own land, to be paid daily hire, and he to pay 2 per cent. towards the loan, I 4½ per cent. And yet I, with every anxiety, with every desire, to employ every individual over the age of 15 years; to tax myself, without any hope of gain, with 4½ per cent., now find myself called upon to pay a rate of 7s. 6d. in the pound, never having, as I stated before, one single individual receiving relief from these poor-rates; so that, in fact, this rate, and more especially its being a Union rate, quite ties up my hands, and renders it impossible for me to give the employment so much desired for, having to pay for poor-rate more than 30 per cent., for Government loan 4½. I would, therefore, urge on you the hardship of my case, and which is also the case of three-fourths of the landlords in Ireland; and the necessity and propriety, in order to preserve the property of the country and to encourage employment, that the taxation under the Poor Law be made a townland and not a Union rate; and also to state that my tenantry are the ordinary small class of tenantry of Ireland, who, if not assisted by me, must become a burden and tax upon the country.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—December 31, 1847.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 23rd instant, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Paterson, relative to the rate of 7s. 6d. in the pound, which has been made in this Union, and requesting us to furnish you with our observations thereon.

In reply, we beg to state that the above rate is so far from *enormous*, that, setting aside from the present consideration the debt of 17,000*l.* incurred for out relief under 10th Vict., chap. 7, we very much fear it will not be more than sufficient to pay the other debts of the Union, and provide for the current expenditure for the next four months.

Neither is this rate *unjust* to the rate-payers, who have been hitherto almost exempted from rate, having paid on an average only 7d. in the pound annually since October, 1841, while other Unions were paying 2s. 6d. to 3s. a-year, and the valuation of Scariff Union being notoriously on a very low scale.

As to the impracticability of collecting the rate, we have reason to believe it will not be so great as Mr. Paterson supposes, nor is there so much reason to fear any disturbance of the peace, by making the attempt, as there would be in allowing the poor to perish for want of funds to afford them relief.

It is true the Vice-Guardians have no property in the Union; but for that reason it may be presumed we are more impartial judges of what relief is needed, and of what rates should be levied for the purpose, having no personal interest to prevent our doing justice to the poor as well as to the owners of property.

We have said enough to prove that this rate is *just*, and we believe you are satisfied that it is *lawful*, and we therefore hope Mr. Paterson will set a good example by paying it forthwith.

As to collecting it by instalments, if that were legal, it would be most inexpedient, as we cannot feed and clothe the paupers *by degrees*: it must be done

at once, or they will perish; and we fear it would be more difficult to collect 2s. 6d. in the pound in March than 7s. 6d. now.

As to a committee or meeting of landlords to consult, we beg to submit that the late Board of Guardians was partly composed of such, and they were not able to surmount the difficulties of their situation; we are, therefore, satisfied that such a meeting would have no other effect than to retard the necessary operations of the law, and produce nothing but altercation and confusion.

We are glad to know from Mr. Paterson's own declaration, that he is equally anxious with us for the collection of this rate, and is only desirous of preventing oppression and breach of the peace. We are satisfied that with his sincere co-operation, and that of other landlords in the Union, neither of these evils need be dreaded.

As to Mr. Paterson's individual case, it cannot be met by us, however much we may appreciate his useful exertions to give employment. It is for you, gentlemen, to refer him to your reply to the Newcastle Board of Guardians, relative to Lord Devon's application for individual property rating.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS :—December 31, 1847.

AFTER a careful perusal of the copy of Mr. Paterson's communication, which accompanied your letter of the 23rd instant, it appears to me that that gentleman is impressed with a notion that the property situated within the Scariff Union has been placed at the mercy of a set of unprincipled functionaries, who are actuated by no better motive than to ensure its wanton confiscation; for Mr. Paterson abstains from all allusion to the starving condition of the population, and is equally silent regarding the state of debt and difficulties into which the Union has been plunged by the late Board of Guardians, or rather by a majority of that body, for there were gentlemen of correct feeling and high honour belonging to that Board, who were most anxious to administer the laws enacted for the relief of the poor with vigour and effect.

It is this heavy debt which has rendered a 7s. 6d. rate indispensably necessary; to liquidate which, and to meet more recent expenditure, 10,000*l.* are at this moment required.

Mr. Paterson should have entered his protest against a *reckless expenditure* when supplies were being purchased on credit by the late Board of Guardians at more than double the market prices of the day, instead of now raising innumerable objections and difficulties against the *remedial measures* rendered necessary solely by the misconduct of that Board, and which measures the strong arm of the law has forced upon those who are now administering the Poor Laws in this Union; for the sheriff has long since seized in execution the very rags worn by the inmates of the workhouse, there being no other effects, and a sad deficiency even of these.

In addition to other liabilities, the late Board issued cheques to the amount of nearly 4000*l.*, without having a farthing in the hands of their banker. One of the sad consequences of such a proceeding has been, that many of these cheques have been parted with for one-third of their nominal value; and, last summer, a poor tailor who had been paid for his labour by the Guardians with a cheque for 1*l.* 10s. was glad to sell it for 10s., to save his family from starvation.

I feel bound to infer that Mr. Paterson must be in total ignorance of the circumstances and condition of this Union, with the exception of the one isolated fact of a 7s. 6d. rate having been struck.

As regards his proposal of a *townland* rating, it is not necessary for me to offer any opinion, seeing that it is repugnant to the existing law; but I feel bound to supply an omission to Mr. Paterson's statement, namely, that a *townland* rating would effectually screen that gentleman from poor-rates, seeing (if the inquiries and researches which I have made be correct, as I believe them to be) that there are no persons on his property, which is valued at 362*l.*, who require public support, his tenantry being chiefly substantial farmers, there being but 16 persons valued at and under 4*l.*

Finally, Mr. Paterson's fears as to the peace of the Union being broken should the collection of the rate be attempted, I hold to be perfectly ground-

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less; but should any symptoms of the kind be evinced, doubtless the arm of the law will be found sufficiently powerful as well to preserve the peace as to collect the rate. It is no time now to temporize with a section of rate-payers when the pauper population are starving.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. PATERSON:—*January 10, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your letter of the 22nd ultimo; and in reference thereto they desire to state, that having communicated on the subject with the Vice-Guardians of Scariff Union, the Commissioners see no sufficient reason for their interfering to prevent the law from taking its course in respect of the rate which has been made on your property by the Vice-Guardians.

The Commissioners are convinced that the Vice-Guardians in the course which they have adopted have been actuated by a sense of public duty in reference to the great destitution which exists in Scariff Union, and the amount of debts incurred and left unpaid by the late Board of Guardians. The first duty of the Vice-Guardians is, to relieve the distress which unhappily exists in the different electoral divisions of the Union; and unless it is shown that the rate made in any such division is too large to secure this object (which the Commissioners see no reason to believe), the Vice-Guardians were fully justified in making a rate of 7s. 6d. in the pound in all the electoral divisions of an Union the valuation of which is represented to the Commissioners as notoriously too low.

However much the Commissioners may regret the hardship of your individual case, the Commissioners cannot comply with your request to introduce a system of townland rating. At the same time the Commissioners desire to observe, that the present system of rating is not on Unions as such, but on electoral divisions. If, contrary to the expectation of the Vice-Guardians, there is any electoral division in Scariff Union in which the whole sum of 7s. 6d. in the pound will not be required, the balance will remain to the credit of the electoral division, and will not be applied to the uses of the Union generally.

Mr. PATERSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 13, 1848.*

I HAVE this day had the honour to receive your letter, in answer to my communication with regard to the rate on the Scariff Union. I beg to call your attention again to that part referring to the collection by instalments, and to which you do not even allude. It would appear from Sir G. Grey's answer to the member for Portarlington, that it is in your power, as I asserted before, to order the Vice-Guardians (they being for the time your servants,) to levy the rate as you may deem fit; nor can I conceive any objection you may have to issuing this order, it tending towards the benefit of the inhabitants of the Union, so will as to the advantage accruing from the rate, and I would again respectfully call your attention to this point.

From your official communication, I can see no reason to infer that my assertion was incorrect as to the rate being a Union, and not an electoral division rate; but on the contrary am now more fully convinced of the validity of my objection, both from the latter part of your letter, as from a previous conversation with Mr. Twisleton, clearly pointing out that the Vice-Guardians never had examined into the cases of the several electoral divisions, but had struck one rate of 7s. 6d. in the pound, I presume to save themselves any extra trouble, "as, should not the whole sum of 7s. 6d. in the pound be required, the balance would remain to the credit of the electoral division, and not be applied to the uses of the Union generally;" in this showing, at least to me, the advantage and benefit of instalments so much desired: for what can I understand by a rate of 7s. 6d. in the pound on all the electoral divisions, otherwise than a Union rate, all the electoral divisions forming the Union.

Gentlemen, I would respectfully urge your attention again to this point, and to the manner in which the rating is at present levied, as it cannot be an advantage to you to assist in the confiscation of property, or to the discourage-

ment of those landlords who are willing, anxious, and in many cases embarrassing themselves, to assist their cottier tenantry; but that rather, you, from the high position, from the great powers you possess, would exercise that authority, and assist and encourage those landlords and private individuals; and I would request you not to shelter yourselves under the plea of not having these rates to pay, in looking to the wants of such landlords, where it can be clearly proved, that, without any hope of gain, without the slightest prospect or wish at emolument, they have been laying out their own monies, than take advantage of the Government loan to employ, and thus remove from the charity of the poor-rates, all those families and separate individuals dependent on them.

With the greatest respect, and with the most urgent entreaty, gentlemen, I would call on you to show to the country that you are determined to use your powers in enforcing the principle that properties should support their own poor, and especially when urged to it by a landlord whose dependants, to a great number, and with but two exceptions, are the small cottier and labouring tenants of the country, and holding all the lands in their own occupation.

I would request your earliest communication.

I would also request the correspondence between your Board and that of the Scariff Union, on the subject of my first letter.

REPLY to the above:—*January 20, 1848.*

IN reference to that part of your letter in which you call the Commissioners' attention to that part of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, which referred to the collection of the poor-rate by instalments, and to which you state that the Commissioners did not even allude, I am directed in turn to call your attention to the first paragraph of the Commissioners' letter to you in which they state, that they see no sufficient reason for interfering to prevent the law from taking its course in respect of the rate which has been made on your property by the Vice-Guardians.

As you are legally bound to pay the rate which has been made upon you by the Vice-Guardians of Scariff Union; as the law does not recognize the collection of a rate by instalments; and as a collector who has received his warrant, cannot legally be required to take instalments of a rate; the Commissioners, in the words above quoted, virtually negatived the proposition for the collection of the poor-rate in Scariff Union by instalments.

In regard to your account of a conversation at the Poor Law Office, the Commissioners are authorized to assure you, that you entirely misunderstand the drift of what was said on the occasion adverted to.

With respect to your remark, that "you see no reason to infer, from the latter part of the Commissioners' letter of the 10th instant, that your assertion was incorrect as to the rate being an Union, and not an electoral division rate, but that, on the contrary, you are now more fully convinced of the validity of your objection," the Commissioners desire to set forth the passage to which you advert, which was as follows:—

"The present system of rating is not on Unions as such, but on electoral divisions. If, contrary to the expectation of the Vice-Guardians, there is any electoral division in Scariff Union, in which the whole sum of 7s. 6d. in the pound will not be required, the balance will remain to the credit of the electoral division, and will not be applied to the uses of the Union generally."

The Commissioners have to add, that the meaning in the Irish Poor Laws of an Union rate is, a rate which is applied to the uses of the Union generally, and in which, if the whole sum levied on an electoral division is not required for it, the balance, nevertheless, does not remain to the credit of such electoral divisions.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire to state, that they would readily comply with your request, to furnish you with a copy of the correspondence between the Commissioners and the Scariff Board of Guardians, on the subject of your first letter, were it not contrary to their practice in similar cases. The Commissioners however do not hesitate to acquaint you with the main grounds alleged by the Guardians on which the Commissioners arrived at the

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conclusion, that it was undesirable for them to prevent the law from taking its course in reference to the rate made on your property. These grounds were, in substance, that the destitution in Scariff Union was very great, and in order to pay the Union debts, and to preserve the destitute poor from starvation, it was necessary to push forward the collection of the rate with the least possible delay.

MR. READE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 26, 1847.*

HAVING no other feasible mode of redress, I trouble you with the following facts :—

I am joint occupier, with a Mrs. Tandy, of the *electoral division* of Mountshannon, Scariff Union, valuation, Poor Law, 1530*l.*; Ordnance, 1640*l.*; and many farms are *let at less* than the valuation, by me, *previous* to the Poor Law enactment, on leases, and agreements for leases, of a life, of 21 years.

Consequently, I am not legally liable to the poor-rate of those holdings.

I wrote, offering to point out to the Vice-Guardians lately appointed, those who were so circumstanced, and well able to pay; and offering personally to pay for 43 holdings, though not legally liable, as the persons were poor—as I always had done on former rates.

The Vice-Guardians have declined my offer, and placed the whole rate on me, as immediate lessor; by this means I *lose all the rate* from solvent tenants—or I may appeal—and, though I must succeed, I should have to pay, not only my own expense, but also the *expense of the defence*—as, in all cases, I pay three-fourths of the rates. So that an appeal *in each case* would be ruinous; and the Vice-Guardians would be perfectly indifferent on the matter.

It is right to state, I did appeal on a former occasion, and at once succeeded.

The Queen's Bench remedy would be still worse, as I should have to pay both costs, though successful.

Both the names were on the rate-book, and the only question for the Vice-Guardians was, which they would enforce the rate from. By taking it from me, I *lose* the whole rate, and have no remedy. In the other case, the occupiers would have paid it, as they always did.

The difficulties I have to contend with are overwhelming, without any additional or illegal ones being imposed.

A population of 2400, on a valuation of 1530*l.*, or 12*s.* 8*d.* a-head, in a poor mountain district, on which I have had the misfortune to have already expended 10,000*l.* capital. In such a district, to exonerate all the small farmers from poor-rate, and, consequently, make them utterly careless what number of old, helpless, relatives or strangers are introduced, the utter impossibility of controlling such conduct, where all interest is removed, need not be pointed out to you.

The rate struck, 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, I will pay out of capital solely. It, with the county tax, 4*s.* in the pound, is a great deal more than I have received—and, in fact, amounts to total confiscation. As duties are now always referred to, I may be pardoned for stating, that I have endeavoured to do mine. I have refused to none, and have uniformly afforded work, for the last 15 months, to every labourer of this division.

But all the solvent farmers have taken alarm, and are flying to America from the rates, or throwing up land. This division and Union, I firmly believe, will almost immediately consist of ruined proprietors and a pauper peasantry.

I shall struggle against it to the last; but I have no doubt of the result—no purchaser can be found for such properties. The Vice-Guardians come from the best land in, perhaps, the world, where 7*s.* 6*d.* is about the value of the 8*th* or 10*th* part of an acre of land—in this Union, it is more than the value of an entire acre; so that, supposing one half the rents to have been paid, and *that is the full average*, it amounts to a confiscation of the whole available income of the Union.

It will be paid by some proprietors and farmers, out of capital, and the rest of the Union will become one great pauper warren.

I hope the case I have stated, with regard to my own position, will meet your consideration.

The defective valuation of this Union I need not allude to; Lord Morpeth deemed it both "unjust and illegal," and yet the rate is again struck on it, by which some of the best property is altogether exempted, and the rate falls on others with augmented weight.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—December 31, 1847.

IN reply to your letter of the 28th instant, enclosing copy of a letter from Mr. Reade, relative to the rating of his property in this Union, we beg to state that the only propositions we had from that gentleman were contained in two letters, the substance of the first of which, and our resolution thereon, was stated in our minutes of the 1st December instant.

Mr. Reade's second letter, and our reply thereto, were both stated on our minutes of the 21st instant, to both of which we beg respectfully to refer.

The Vice-Guardians, under the pressing circumstances in which they were placed, and having no distinct or tangible proposition from Mr. Reade, nor means of arriving at an equitable decision on his own *ex-parte* statement, were obliged to sign the rate-books as they stood, rather than delay the collection, at a moment when the lives of thousands were dependent on the immediate raising of funds for the subsistence of the poor.

In making any decision between Mr. Reade and his tenantry, if we had agreed to entertain his proposition, we are not satisfied that we would have acted legally, and were therefore unwilling to undertake the responsibility. We have made inquiries, and we do not find that Mr. Reade did appeal in the cases he alludes to when a former rate was made, and we cannot see that there is any formidable obstacle to his lodging an appeal now, and if he does so, he will not find that we are disposed to offer any vexatious opposition to his having justice done to him.

We beg to correct a misstatement of Mr. Reade's, that both the names of the occupiers and immediate lessors were in the rate-books; this is not the fact, nor would it be legal to have it so.

Mr. Reade speaks of the difficulties he has to contend with, which, no doubt, are many, but we submit that they are not greater than those of other landed proprietors in this Union, nor so great as those to which we, as Vice-Guardians, are subject, which Mr. Reade and some other rate-payers rather seek to aggravate than to alleviate.

We find that the electoral division of Mountshannon, in which Mr. Reade's property is situated, is valued, as he states, to 1536*l.*, the rate on which, with arrears, amounts to 595*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* The amount due by that electoral division at 29th September last was 272*l.*, besides 217*l.* for relief, under 10 Vict. cap. 7. The estimated expense to 25th March next, cannot be less than 200*l.*, which will leave the electoral division still in debt, even if the whole of the rate be collected before that time.

The question between Mr. Reade and the Vice-Guardians is not as to the value of the land on which the rate is levied, but whether the rate is or is not sufficient or excessive for the purpose of supporting the poor in the manner provided by the law. The value of the land in the district from which the Vice-Guardians came has nothing whatsoever to do with the matter, and has had no influence in determining the amount of rate which they should strike; they regarded chiefly the debts of the Union, and the necessities of the destitute poor; but were in some measure guided by the supposed ability of the rate-payers to meet this demand, and it was this consideration alone which prevented their making a still higher rate.

Mr. Reade seems to have gone astray in his calculations, by assuming that the rate will amount to 7*s.* 6*d.* per acre on the poor land in this Union. We wish to correct him by explaining that the rate amounts only to three-eighths of the annual value of the acre, whether that acre is worth 3*l.* or only 5*s.* We are sorry to find that this Union is in so impoverished a state; the mass of pauperism is immense, almost overwhelming, but we do not think that the population should be abandoned to certain annihilation by famine and pestilence, without an effort to avert such a calamity.

Mr. Reade has failed to point out any feasible remedy by which destitution can be relieved without expense to the owners of property.

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We are convinced that the present valuation of the Union is very defective, and are most anxious to have it corrected, but the overwhelming pressure of debts and destitution, left us no alternative but to choose the least of two evils, and make a rate on the existing valuation.

ENCLOSURES.

EXTRACTS from MINUTES of the VICE-GUARDIANS referred to in the foregoing Report.

Extract from Minutes of December 1, 1847.

READ a letter from Philip Reade, Esq., of Wood Park, Mountshannon, in this Union, complaining of the injustice of striking a rate on the immediate lessor in the electoral division of Mountshannon, for lands which are either held in perpetuity, or for long terms on leases, or agreements for leases dated prior to the first Poor Law Act, and therefore expressly exempted by the Act from being so charged; and further stating that several farms have been consolidated into one, and yet are now charged separately to the immediate lessor; and complaining that a great injustice would be wrought unless the rate-book is amended.

Resolved,—That the necessities of the poor in this Union are such, and the sufferings so great both within and outside the workhouse, from the want of funds to pay for the daily maintenance of the paupers, and to afford that measure of out-door relief to which the sick and indigent poor are entitled; and the embarrassments of the Union being so great from the pressing demands of creditors to the amount of over 6000*l.*, left unpaid by the late Guardians, the present property in the workhouse being seized by the sheriff under execution at the suit of some of the creditors, and liable to be sold from day to day, the Vice-Guardians consider it their duty not to delay signing the rate-books, notwithstanding the complaint of Mr. Reade, more especially because it does not appear that Mr. Reade appealed against the rating when last made by the late Board of Guardians, and that it is still in his power to appeal against the present rating if he finds himself aggrieved.

Extracts from Minutes of December 21, 1847.

GENTLEMEN,

*Mountshannon Electoral Division,
December 21, 1847.*

As persons may, and I believe have applied for and are receiving relief in this electoral division who can earn good wages if they please to work, I beg to apprise you thus officially, as I have previously in your Board-room, that no person whatever has been refused employment by me for, I believe, 15 months, and that I have ordered my steward to continue to afford it at full wages, and when it ceases I shall inform you or direct him to do so. I beg also to state, that all persons employed get an excellent 4 lb. of good stirabout for $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*, and all poor widows and others the same gratis, daily, who have been deemed objects, and that same will be continued until the 1st March next, and if then stopped you will be informed of the fact. Under these circumstances, I hope the Vice-Guardians will not encourage idleness, by affording relief to those who are able to work, or discourage industry and independent support, by giving money as relief to persons who can get food gratis daily if really objects, and who, with assistance, will now, as they always have done heretofore, support themselves by various independent sources of industry, and which, if pecuniary aid is once tasted, will utterly cease, and also utterly confiscate the property of this electoral division. Begging this letter may be inserted on your minutes,

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant.

PHILIP READE.

The following reply was given to Mr. Reade's letter.

SIR,

Scariff Union, December 21, 1847.

YOUR letter of this date has been received, and will be inserted in our minutes. We can assure you that we fully appreciate the exertions you are making to give employment and subsistence to the poor of your neighbourhood, and that we shall be happy to co-operate with your views by not affording relief to those who have an opportunity of earning their livelihood by labour. As to the relief of those classes whom we are obliged by law to relieve out of doors, when there is no room for them in the house, we must depend on the report of the relieving officer as to their destitution, but the relieving officer will be glad to have your assistance to enable him to detect any cases of imposition which may be attempted.

If you would supply Mr. George Sampson with a list of those to whom you are kindly affording relief gratis, it would enable him to distinguish those in his report, and we would give them our attention.

Your obedient servants,

(Signed)

J. J. FISHER, }
JOHN CHRISTY, } Vice-Guardians.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 30, 1847.*

Scariff Union.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Reade, and in reply I beg to enclose a copy of another letter from that gentleman, together with an extract from the minutes dated 1st instant, which embodies the sentiments of the Vice-Guardians and myself, on the subject which Mr. Reade has brought under the notice of the Commissioners.

I must add, however, that it appears to me that Mr. Reade should have pressed for the redress of his grievance during the period when he was himself in office, seeing that the Guardians were left perfectly uncontrolled in the alteration of the valuation; so much so, indeed, that one Guardian reduced his own valuation below the amount which qualified him to remain in office; and, on this fact being pointed out to him, he then added another shilling to his rating merely to sustain his position as a Poor Law Guardian.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. READE:—*January 12, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo, the Commissioners have communicated with the Vice-Guardians, and the Guardians have explained, to the satisfaction of the Commissioners, that they were obliged to sign the rate-books as they stood, rather than delay the collection at a moment when the lives of thousands were dependent on the immediate raising of funds for the relief of the poor. The Commissioners would sincerely regret to learn that your property was unduly burdened by the rate. Still the legal remedy of appeal remains to you; and in the present very embarrassing circumstances of the Union, the Vice-Guardians were reduced to the unpleasant necessity of choosing between two evils, and of these they appear to the Commissioners to have chosen the least.

From the report of the Vice-Guardians, the rate made on the electoral division of Mountshannon does not seem to be greater than is required for the purpose of supporting the poor in the manner provided by the law. The whole valuation is, as you correctly state, 1536*l.*; and the rate, with arrears, amounts to 595*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* Now the amount due by the electoral division for Poor Law expenses on the 29th of September last was 272*l.*, besides 217*l.* due for relief under the 10th Vic. c. 7; and the estimated expenses to the 25th of March next cannot, it is stated, be less than 200*l.* So that, supposing the electoral division does not repay any of the advances under the Temporary Relief Act before the 25th of next March, the electoral division will only have the sum of 106*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* to its credit at that date, while if the division repays the full amount of those advances, it will actually be in debt.

Mr. READE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 18, 1848.*

IT is, I know, useless to remonstrate with official gentlemen once they have decided, and I only write in reply to your letter of the 12th instant, to correct facts as given by the Vice-Guardians:—

“That they were obliged to sign the books rather than delay the collection a “moment.” Nearly two months, from 13th October to 8th December, was devoted to fill this rate-book, one quarter of an hour with the revised valuation on the table was not too much to do so honestly and legally, as it was only to leave both names on the rate-book instead of improperly omitting one.

I thought I had explained that the grievance I complain of is, that I am virtually deprived of my right of appeal by having to pay costs at both sides, which exceed the possible gain. “That the legal remedy of appeal remains to me,” as stated in your letter, is rather a singular answer to my complaint.

Excuse these observations, but when I see the fruits of my own unwearied industry and capital for many years, and my children's property, about to be confiscated by the course adopted, I cannot at once submit in total silence.

None of the debts are paid; a small one, only 4*l.*, due to myself, was refused on Saturday; and I deliberately and thus coolly state my conviction, that if the uncontrolled command of the funds is left to persons, one of whom at least has extreme opinions, and with merely official surveillance, and not of those having

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personal interest, all the property of this Union will be confiscated "according to law."

One further hope I have, which I now submit for your consideration.

The workhouse now contains, as I hear, 900 paupers. The proportion of accommodation falling to this electoral division would be for about 33 persons; now, if by private expenditure I prevent a greater number entering the house, this electoral division, the poorest in the Union, with only 12s. 6d. a head for its population, ought to be exempted from paying for the other houses and stores taken for the in-door relief of other electoral divisions at immense expense. There is evidently no reason why one electoral division should be charged with the in-door relief of another than with its out-door relief, particularly when it is prevented by private employment.

If this is decided against me it will paralyze individual exertion, and this estate will, ere long, be handed over to the Poor Law Commissioners or their paid Guardians, and I should retire to another country while I have yet an independence to enable me to do so.

REPLY to the above:—*January 22, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will communicate your letter to the Vice-Guardians.

The Commissioners can assure you that they are much concerned, and are convinced that the feeling is shared by the Vice-Guardians, that a necessity should exist for making such a heavy rate on your electoral division. At the same time the Vice-Guardians, in the present circumstances of the Union, had only a choice of two evils before them, and of these they selected the best.

In regard to your request that your electoral division should be exempted from paying for the other houses and stores taken for the in-door relief of other electoral divisions, the Commissioners have to regret that in this instance, likewise, they are precluded from meeting your views, inasmuch as the principle involved in your request is not recognized in the Irish Poor Relief Acts, and that it is at variance with the manner in which the establishment charges are regulated in all Unions in England, Wales, or Ireland.

KENMARE UNION.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 28, 1847.*

I HAVE to acquaint the Commissioners of my arrival here on the 23rd instant, and for their information beg to submit the following report of the Union, upon the inspection which I have as yet been able to make.

My first duty was to inspect the state of the workhouse. Its order and cleanliness were to my satisfaction; it contained the number of inmates it is calculated to receive (500), including about 40 in the hospital, but upwards of half the number were children.

I attended the Board of Guardians yesterday, when they received me with proper courtesy, and manifested a desire to carry out the views of the Commissioners. The subject of admitting more paupers into the workhouse than it is intended for, by accommodating the extra numbers in the probationary wards, was brought up. Upon my objection it was abandoned; one of the Guardians having provided accommodation in the town for 100 boys, they were removed, which enabled 100 more inmates to be received into the workhouse, making 600 receiving in-door relief. During the whole day, the entrance was surrounded by hundreds of applicants of the most miserable and destitute class, craving for admission. I caused resolutions to be adopted, appointing a visiting Committee to attend to the internal economy of the workhouse, and a Committee to control and facilitate the collection of the rates, who expressed a readiness to undertake their duties.

With respect to the collection of the rates, at present I am unable to form an opinion of the amount likely to be collected; but 133% was paid in during the last week. The finances of the Union are in most embarrassed circumstances, as the Commissioners are aware; the liabilities, amounting to 3212%, with an expenditure increasing weekly, and an amount of destitution they are unable to relieve. Out-door relief is being given only in four divisions, the funds for three being supplied from the balances remaining under the Temporary Relief Act.

The subject of the great amount of distress already prevailing throughout this Union, is of serious consideration, and requires immediate attention. Allowing that every exertion is made on the part of the Guardians, the resources of the Union are quite inadequate to relieve the great disproportion of the destitute population. The Commissioners are doubtless aware of the circumstances of this Union; I only wish to remind them there is no employment for the people, and they have no substitute to compensate for the loss of the potato upon which they entirely depended. At present the distress of the people is far greater than what prevailed during the same period last year. The destitution is increasing so rapidly, that it is sad to contemplate what a few weeks may produce. The town is at this moment, filled with the most miserable objects seeking relief; the cries of the children from hunger are most distressing; the Bridewell is full of people who have been taken up in the streets, and this shelter they are glad to obtain.

This morning, I regret to say, an attack was meditated upon the Commissariat stores, but the presence of the police deterred the people.

I have made a tour of inspection through the division of Tuosist. It is of great extent and in greater poverty than any part of the Union. It is thickly populated on various parts of the coast, where there are no visible means of subsistence, and numbers are suffering from the want of food. From this division there are upwards of 100 inmates in the workhouse. As yet there is no out-door relief afforded. The state of this division certainly requires some relief, and that without delay. There are some very useful roads required, which I would suggest as a useful employment for the people.

I recommend that the benevolent intention of the British Association for affording relief, through the medium of existing schools, should be carried into operation without delay; though I fear that the school accommodation in this Union is very limited.

In conclusion, I cannot refrain from impressing upon the minds of the Corr

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missioners the necessity of affording some assistance to this district, as under any circumstances, the season is too far advanced for any reliance to be placed upon the Guardians for mitigating the present amount of destitution, and the winter before us, I apprehend, will be a season of severe distress and suffering for the destitute.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*December 1, 1847.*

WITH regard to the crowded state of the workhouse and the pressure for relief, I am to request that, if possible, further additional accommodation may be obtained with a view of sending more of the children out of the house; and I am also to recommend you to move the Guardians to give out-door relief at once, to all persons that can be removed from the house, and are of the class described in the 1st sec. 10 Vic., cap. 31, as well as to all destitute persons of such classes who may be amongst the applicants for relief.

The Commissioners are also of opinion that much good may be effected by a public notice from the Guardians, apprizing the rate-payers of the urgent necessity for an immediate payment of the rates outstanding, which the collectors are required to recover by all the means which the law places at their disposal.

I am at the same time, to request that you will report whether it is necessary to extend the power of giving out-door relief, by an order under the 2nd section of the Act, either limited to certain classes (as in an order to the Old-castle Union, a copy of which is herewith sent for your information), or extended to the able-bodied classes that may be legally relieved, as by the further order issued to that Union, a copy of which is also sent.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 10, 1847.*

IN compliance with the Commissioners' request, contained in your letter of the 1st instant, I have to report that, although the extent of destitution in this Union may require an order under the 2nd section of the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31, it is unnecessary to issue it until the provisions of the 1st section are properly extended to all destitute persons of the classes therein mentioned. Under this section the Commissioners' instructions are not fully carried out, nor has it yet been applied to the very distressed electoral divisions, viz., Tuosist, Bourdoneen, and Kilgarven. The excuse put forth by the Guardians is, their inability from want of funds; as, in consequence of their heavy debts, they are bound to pay away the rates as soon as they are collected, to avoid getting into further difficulties by being subjected to legal proceedings.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 5, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following weekly report, for the information of the Commissioners.

This week I have completed my tour of inspection of the Union, and am much struck with the general poverty which prevails throughout the district, which I can only briefly represent, by stating that the general mass of the population is in a state of pauperism.

The Guardians have entered into arrangements for extra workhouse accommodation in the town. In the course of a few days, more of the children will be removed, when more inmates will be received. The applicants are numerous, and all are real objects of distress.

The Committee appointed to control the collection of the rates met on Friday, and investigated the accounts of the collectors, when it appeared that their progress had been satisfactory, considering that they have, as yet, confined the collection to the most remote and unfrequented parts of their districts. I have therefore, some confidence, that as they call on the more wealthy classes for payment, the great bulk of the rate will come in without much difficulty.

The balance in hand of the Bourdoneen Relief Committee (amounting to 28*l.* in cash, and 10*l.* in meal, remaining from advances under the Temporary Relief Act), was produced yesterday, and transferred to the Guardians, and is intended to be applied for the out-door relief.

Out-door relief is a measure which I fear it will be found exceedingly difficult to establish in this Union, partly owing to the financial embarrassments of the Guardians, but chiefly from the disproportionate amount of pauperism compared with the value of the land. As the rates are collected, the Guardians are compelled to discharge their debts, many of which are of long standing, and they are continually threatened with legal proceedings by their creditors. It would be impracticable to collect another rate for a considerable period; consequently, taking into consideration the augmented workhouse expenditure, it appears to me that the Union will scarcely be in a position, to do more than provide for the workhouse with extended accommodation.

The motion for a paid Board of Guardians came before the Board yesterday, and was lost by a majority of two votes. The argument put forth by its supporters was, that it was impossible for the Guardians to give that attention to their duties which the increased business of the Poor Law Extension Act require; and that in consequence of the great distance some of the Guardians have to come on a Board day, they are seldom able to attend.

The Guardians and some residents of the Bourdoneen electoral division, have represented the great inconvenience they experience from being attached to the Kenmare Union, owing to its remote position, and are desirous of being changed to the Cahirciveen Union.

It would be a great benefit and source of relief to the Union, were the parties allowed to proceed in the execution of the works, which have been granted under the Land Improvement Act.

I had the gratification of meeting Mr. Crawford (Inspector) at the Board yesterday.

REPLY to the above :—*December 8, 1847.*

THE Commissioners infer, from your observations with respect to the collection of the rate, that the collectors are not in the first instance obtaining the rates from the highest rate-payers.

The Commissioners recommend that, in the first place, the rates should be collected from all the higher and more wealthy classes in the Union, or at least, that the collection in any particular district should include all classes. It has been found useful in other Unions, to require the collectors to return to the Guardians each week, the names of the ten highest rate-payers in each district, who are in arrear; and I am to suggest that this plan should be adopted in the Kenmare Union, as the Guardians will be better enabled by that means, to instruct the collectors as to any proceedings which may be necessary in any case, to obtain immediate payment of the rate.

The circumstances of the Union absolutely require that the most speedy and vigorous efforts should be made to collect the rates, which are required for the support of the destitute poor in the Union, and the Commissioners are anxious that your continued attention should be directed to this essential point.

The Commissioners regret to observe, that you entertain apprehension of great difficulty in administering out-door relief, owing to the extent of pauperism in the Union; but they request you to bear in mind, that when the sources of the Union, are fully called into action, if they be fully proved to be inadequate, the funds of the British Association will be to a certain extent, an auxiliary resource.

As regards the Bourdoneen division, I am to state that the Commissioners are desirous that alterations of Unions should not be made at the present time, unless absolutely requisite; and they think that the provisions of the 6th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act may be acted upon with advantage in that division. Your further observations on this matter are requested.

The Commissioners will communicate to the Board of Works your observations with respect to the commencement of works under the Drainage Act, in the Kenmare Union.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS.—*December 12, 1847.*

THE distress and destitution prevailing generally throughout the electoral division of Tuosist, without any prospect of relief from the Guardians, instigate

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me to the expediency of making special application to the Commissioners, to consider the necessity of granting relief to this division.

I have personally inspected the condition of the people of Tuosist, and can therefore testify from observation that, in many parts, the people are suffering from all the miseries of famine; nor can I conceive it possible for them to endure their privations much longer.

Owing to the poverty of the rate-payers in this division, it is hopeless to look to them for the means of supporting the dreadful amount of pauperism. There are more than its proportion of inmates in the workhouse, most of whom are objects for the out-door relief; but as there is none in this division, it is impossible to refuse them admission, in consequence of their miserable condition, though it crowds the house to the disadvantage of the other divisions.

Under the afflicting circumstances, I feel bound to recommend the case of this division as one which the Commissioners may justly consider as an exception, and request their sanction to the funds of the British Association being applied for relief in Tuosist, or to any other course the Commissioners may deem more expedient.

To delay, until I can report that the resources of the Union generally are inadequate, would be attended with fatal results; and, with regret, I cannot but anticipate loss of life, by the time arrangements can be made for extending relief, consequent upon this representation, even should the Commissioners act immediately on this requisition.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 12, 1847.*

FOR the information of the Commissioners, I have the honour to submit the following weekly report.

This week further extra workhouse accommodation in the town has been made available for children, which enabled the Guardians to admit 120 more inmates into the workhouse yesterday. With respect to the collection of the rates, but little progress has been made this week. At the meeting yesterday, the names of the ten highest rated defaulters were brought before the notice of the Board, amongst them are several of the Guardians, and gentlemen who hold stations of influence in society. The collectors were directed to give a satisfactory account that they have used every means which the law places at their disposal, to recover the outstanding rates from these parties, by the next Board-day, and that in case of neglect, they must suffer the penalty.

Out-door relief has been this week supplied to the Bourdoneen division, from the balance which remained from the Relief Commission. The divisions of Kilgarvan, Bunawn, and Tuosist, are deprived of the benefit of out-door relief from want of funds. The destitution prevailing in the latter is such, that I consider it as a special case for assistance.

The financial difficulties of the Union prevent the Guardians from giving due effect to the operation of the Poor Law. The pressing demands of their creditors, leave them no alternative but to discharge their debts. Of the outstanding rate there remains about 2,000% of debt.

Owing to the distance of the Bourdoneen and Ballyboy electoral divisions, I would recommend the Commissioners to issue directions for complying with the provisions of the 6th section of the Act 10 Vict. cap. 31, as the Guardians complain of their inability to attend the Board.

The distress of the Union increases, nor do I hear of any local exertions being made which are likely to afford relief.

Exertions are being made by the poor people to prepare their land for cultivation by manuring with sea-weed.

Deputy Commissary-General Dobree visited the Union this week, on his tour of inspection, and informed me of the intention of Government to construct an oven at the workhouse. The Guardians gladly accept the offer. It will be of great service, and I recommend it to be erected without delay, as the scarcity of bakers has delayed my proceedings, in distributing the bounty of the British Association to the schools.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 15, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have issued an order for enabling the Board of Guardians of Kenmare Union to give out-door relief to certain classes of the destitute poor, in addition to those described in the 1st section of the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31.

The circumstances of the Union to which you have drawn attention, require that the most strenuous exertions should be made to collect the rates throughout the Union, from all rate-payers possessing the means of payment; and the Commissioners trust, that you will require the collectors to give the most unremitting attention to this important object.

At the same time, the Commissioners request you to report formally, whether the Guardians are taking due steps to enforce payment of the rates, as in case of failure the Commissioners will have to consider their responsibilities under the 18th section of the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31.

In reference to the remarks in your report of the 12th instant, the Commissioners deem it right to observe, that the rates of the whole Union are applicable to the relief of the distress of all parts of the Union; and that, in such portions of the Union as are not now able to pay rates sufficient to relieve the distress there existing, any sums applied for the purpose out of the rates collected in other divisions, must be replaced hereafter by the collection of the rates now outstanding, and by the imposition of further rates on such portions of the Union, if necessary.

The Commissioners observe that the rateable property in Bourdoneen, Kilgervan, Bunawn, and Tuosist divisions, to the destitution in which you make special reference, is estimated for rating at the annual value of 12,268*l.* 10*s.*

That portion of your report of the 12th instant which relates to the construction of an oven in the workhouse, under the direction of Commissary-General Sir R. J. Routh, will be communicated to him.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 18, 1847.*

IN compliance with the request of the Commissioners, contained in your letter of the 15th instant, directing me to report whether the Guardians are taking due steps to enforce the payment of the rates, I have to state, that since my arrival in the Union they have made as much progress in the collection, as can reasonably be expected.

With reference to the sealed order of the Commissioners, ordering out-door relief to be given to certain classes of the destitute poor, in addition to those described in the 1st section of the Act 10 Vict. cap. 31, I beg to observe that as the order directs the relief to be given in food, and as the Guardians at present give out-door relief in money, we should have two different systems in operation, which would cause much confusion. I have, therefore, to request that the Commissioners will inform me whether the Guardians should be restricted to giving relief in food, or by an allowance of money, as they have been permitted to do up to the present time.

REPLY to the above:—*December 21, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have received with satisfaction, the statement that since your arrival in the Union, the Board of Guardians have made as much progress in the collection of the rates, as can reasonably be expected; and they trust that the Board of Guardians will use such exertions in the collection of the rates as are necessary, to enable them to afford relief effectually to the destitute poor of the Union.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners cannot but entertain the opinion that a larger amount of rate might have been collected in the last month, than 635*l.* out of 4236*l.*, due at the beginning of the month; and they bear in mind that you have already drawn attention to the fact, that some Guardians owe the rate assessed on their holdings.

As regards the relief to be afforded to certain classes of poor persons in the Union, I am to state, that relief should be given, in food only, to the able-bodied, in accordance with the Commissioners' order of the 15th instant; but

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relief may be still given as heretofore in money, or partly in money and partly in food, as may be found expedient, to the classes to whom the Guardians were authorized to give out-door relief, before the issue of that order.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 19, 1847.*

FOR the information of the Commissioners, I have the honour to submit the following weekly report.

Considering the circumstances of this Union, the administration of the Poor Law, since my arrival in the Union, has thus far proceeded with satisfaction, and I have had great pleasure in seeing its gradual extension made available to relieve the increasing demands of destitution.

The extra workhouse accommodation provided in the town, has been a great source of relief to the Union, affording admission to many able-bodied families who were in great destitution, to which class all the admissions are confined; and owing to the numerous families of this class, the greater portion of inmates are consequently children. Upon examination it is found, that the extra houses are capable of receiving more inmates, which will enable the Guardians to admit about 50 more; and there are also a few in the house who are entitled to out-door relief, who are to be removed.

The sealed order of the Commissioners, dated the 15th instant, was read yesterday at the Board, enabling them to extend out-door relief to certain classes of the destitute poor, in addition to those described in the 1st section of the Act, 10 Vic., cap. 31, and a resolution adopted to act upon it. Out-door relief has been granted to the divisions of Kilgarven and Tuosist, which at length extends it over the whole Union.

Upon the important subject of the collection of rates, I have endeavoured to stimulate the collectors in the execution of their duties. They have certainly increased their exertions; but at the same time I think they are in need of assistance, and of being supported in their authority, to enforce payments. In several instances of distress upon parties well able to pay, there have occurred rescues, and in such cases the collectors should have immediate support upon application. The collector for the Bourdoneen division makes but slow progress in the collection, owing to a rumour of resistance. He appears to be intimidated from making use of his powers, and wishes for the support of police or military. At the next meeting of the collectors I hope to receive a good return, as they say there are fairs and other public meetings then to be held where they confidently expect to obtain payments. There are several appeals against rates, which will come before the sessions on January 3rd.

Much discussion has arisen at the Board with reference to the appointment of a legal officer, the candidates being a Guardian and a Guardian's brother. The selection yesterday fell upon Mr. Downing (attorney), a Guardian, and I hear that he is the most competent person in the town for the business required.

It is much to be lamented there is no employment going on. Throughout the Union, I see no private exertions to assist the people with employment.

I have commenced the distribution of the bounty of the British Association to destitute children through the medium of existing schools; unfortunately they are so few in number that very little benefit can be experienced.

This week I have travelled over a great portion of the Union; the condition of the people is most wretched, and their prospects nothing but a trial of severe misery and suffering.

REPLY to the above:—*December 23, 1847.*

WITH reference to the resistance which the collector for Bourdoneen electoral division states has been offered to him in the collection of the poor-rate, I am to state that the Commissioners have reason to know, that the requisite assistance to enable the collectors to discharge their duties effectually, will be given on the proper application for aid being made to the stipendiary magistrate.

It is of great importance that any resistance to the collectors, should be met and overcome with promptitude and vigour; and as ample assistance, where really required, will be immediately afforded on application for it, any alleged

resistance to the collectors in the discharge of their duties, cannot be admitted as an excuse for unsatisfactory returns of the collection.

The Commissioners request that you will have the goodness to impress the Guardians with these views.

With reference to the proposed appointment of a solicitor to the Board of Guardians, I am to state that the Commissioners have already addressed the Guardians on the subject.

As regards the want of employment in the Union, the Commissioners regret that private exertions are not being made to provide profitable employment for the poorer classes. A want of activity in this respect, can only result in causing the necessary imposition of increased rates on all rateable property for the support of the poor.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 27, 1847.*

THE Board of Guardians met on Friday, in consequence of Christmas-day falling on Saturday. They have come to the resolution of holding their meetings at an earlier hour in future; hitherto they have seldom assembled before two o'clock, which was a cause of much business being neglected.

There are still in the workhouse several of the classes entitled to receive out-door relief under the 1st section of the Act, but the Guardians express a disinclination to remove them from the house, upon the grounds that it would be a harsh measure to remove those who have no shelter outside. Several inmates from the Bourdoneen electoral division left the house during the week, at their own request.

The collectors are making exertions to get in the rates, but I regret there are many unsatisfactory reports regarding opposition. They have distrained in many instances, and in nearly every case they have been rescued; the offenders have been summoned, and informations taken by the magistrates. The collectors have processed a large number of defaulters, for the next quarter, sessions to be held in Kenmare on the 3rd January next; and they will have the advantage, where decrees may be obtained, of selling distresses made under them without employing a licensed auctioneer. As yet no benefit has been gained through the measure of exposing the names of the ten highest rated defaulters; the exposure, I am sorry to state, has little or no effect on the parties so disregarding the law. The result of proceedings at quarter sessions, it is to be hoped, may produce a salutary effect, should the law demonstrate to the public the crime for non-payment of rates. As the collectors are to make their reports at the end of this week, I must defer making a more definite report of their proceedings.

The magistrates should, in every case, show their determination to support the collectors in carrying out the law. The petty sessions are only held here once a month. I am of opinion a reinforcement of police or military would have the effect of showing the determination of Government to enforce the rates being collected.

By discharging all persons from the workhouse entitled to out-door relief, I am of opinion that the number to be relieved under the order of the 15th instant, would not be so extensive as to require the expense of food establishments, unless it is more advantageous to give all out-door relief in food.

With the exception of a school at the western extremity of Tuosist, I have succeeded in supplying each of the established public schools with rations of bread, under the conditions allowed for distributing the bounty of the British Relief Association, each destitute child receiving $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of rye bread, which I have baked by contract in Kenmare, and forwarded by carts to the respective schools in the district. In forwarding these supplies, I apprehend the escort of police will soon be necessary, as I hear that several depredations have been committed on live stock.

I regret that the want of unity of feeling and co-operation in this community is an obstacle against carrying out any public measure with general satisfaction, which unfortunately is the case with regard to the school relief, some parties not being satisfied without having the entire control in the distribution and arrangements.

Due consideration may be allowed to the collectors for the nature of the country where they have to collect, which during the late stormy and wet weather rendered the mountainous glens almost inaccessible: the treasurer being at Tralee,

Kenmare Union.

and the long distance they must come to make their reports and attend the Board, engage a great deal of their time. The collector of the Bourdoneen electoral division has been very unsuccessful, which I fear results from a combination against payment of rates.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 1, 1848.*

WITH reference to the persons in the workhouse who you state, are entitled to out-door relief, the Commissioners recommend you to have lists of these classes made, according to the electoral divisions in which they resided before entering the workhouse, and send the lists to the relieving officers to ascertain whether means of lodging, with relations, or otherwise, may not be found by the paupers if discharged.

It is not incumbent on the Guardians to give out-door relief in food only, to the classes specified in the 1st section of the Extension Act; in fact, the Guardians have ample power to grant allowances sufficient to provide the pauper inmates with lodging, clothing, and fuel, as well as food.

Under these circumstances the Commissioners acquiesce in the course adopted by the Guardians. It is a matter of essential importance to the interest of the Union that the workhouse should be received as a test for able-bodied men, and they rely on your impressing this view upon the Guardians in the strongest manner, in accordance with the Commissioners' instructions of 26th October.

As regards the collection of the poor-rates, the Commissioners request that you will have the goodness to impress on the Board of Guardians that they are responsible for having the rates collected or enforced from all persons possessing means of payment; and that if this be not done by a strenuous exercise of the powers which the Guardians and collectors possess, the Commissioners must consider that the duties of the Board of Guardians are not effectively discharged, and the Commissioners will feel bound to take into consideration their own responsibility in such cases, under the 18th section of the 10 Vict., cap. 31.

The Commissioners recommend that when the collectors ask for escort, they be required to make information of its necessity before the stipendiary magistrate, when protection will be given in the usual course.

To proceed by summons it is not necessary to wait for petty sessions, as the grand jury, which authorizes this mode of proceeding, enables any one magistrate of the county to issue the summons requiring the rate-payer to appear before himself.

At the same time the Commissioners desire to state, that the collectors, when not proceeding by summons, may distrain under their own warrants.

As regards the apprehended plunder of provisions supplied by the British Association, I am to state that whenever you may consider an escort necessary for the carts conveying food to the schools, you should make timely application to the local authorities.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 31, 1847.*

I HAVE this day been examining the accounts of the rate-collectors, and receiving their explanations, with reference to the delay in obtaining the outstanding rate, and I have to make special complaint against the rate-payers of the Bourdoneen electoral division for non-payment; and request the Commissioners will cause compulsory measures being resorted to for payment of rates.

It appears from the evidence of the rate-collector, Mr. W. J. Kelly, that there appears to exist a decided determination against the payment of the rate in Bourdoneen, an English proprietor, E. B. Hartopp, Esq., and a few small farmers being the only individuals who have paid.

The total amount of the rate in this division is 663*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, of which the sum 614*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* still remains uncollected. The following are the names of the most influential parties who are defaulters:—

Maurice O'Connell, Esq., M.P.

James Butler, Esq., J.P.

James F. Bland, Esq., P.L.G.

Eugene O'Sullivan, Esq., P.L.G.

William Jermyn, Esq., P.L.G.

One, a magistrate, has been applied to three times, but without obtaining payment.

Kenmare Union.

The collector states that he used every exertion in his power to enforce the law. On making distresses he was rescued. He lodged the information with a magistrate, who was unable to assist him in consequence of the inadequate strength of the police force, there being only two constables to assist him.

At Sneem, the nearest police station, there are but four constables.

There is no reasonable excuse why the rates in this division should not be paid. It is necessary the Government should enforce obedience to the law in Bourdoneen by forthwith protecting the collector to obtain the rates; the example is producing a dangerous effect throughout the Union.

REPLY to the above :—*January 3, 1848.*

THE collector in the Bourdoneen division should make application for assistance in the usual manner to the stipendiary magistrate of the district, when the Commissioners have reason to know that the requisite protection will be afforded to him.

As regards the gentlemen named in your report as defaulters, I am to observe that the collector cannot proceed to distrain for rates due by *immediate lessors*, until after the immediate lessor has been served with a notice under the 2nd section of the 6th and 7th Vict., c. 92, and the necessary proceedings before a magistrate have been taken; but for rates due by such parties for tenements of which they are rated as *the occupiers*, the collector can, of course, proceed in the ordinary manner.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 2, 1848.*

THE workhouse has been cleared of those persons who are entitled to receive out-door relief under the 1st section of the Act, and transferred to the lists of the relieving officers, which made room for the admission of about 100 inmates of the able-bodied class. There were many applicants of this class yesterday, strong, active-looking men, who were encumbered with large families, which fill the greater portion of the workhouse with children.

Upon the subject of collecting the rates, I hope next week to give the Commissioners a more satisfactory statement of the progress made in the collection than hitherto. The general feeling among the rate-payers has been, to delay payment until the Quarter Sessions, which commence to-morrow. There are no less than about 400 processes for disposal, representing a sum of more than 1000*l*. I trust that the result may convince them of the futility of their schemes to avoid payment, as the public here seem more disposed to be influenced by legal opinions. The collectors are under the impression that a large sum will be recovered this week. In the Bourdoneen electoral division there appears to be a decided determination against payment, which I have already made special report of. Several of the Guardians still continue defaulters.

The out-door relief is at present given in money. I am of opinion that if meal tickets were substituted they would be less subject to abuse.

General destitution increases, without any local exertions for giving employment.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 4, 1848.*

It is my painful duty to transmit a copy of the evidence which was given this day at an inquest, held on the bodies of four children who died from want of food, in the electoral division of Tuosist, together with the verdict which has been passed thereon.

The widow Connolly with five children, were amongst the inmates of the workhouse entitled to out-door relief, in pursuance of a resolution which was passed by the Guardians on the 11th ultimo, they were in consequence, with some others of the same class, to be discharged from the workhouse, and to be provided for by the relieving officers, in order that they should be supported immediately, they left the workhouse. A copy of the resolution is enclosed.

In consequence of the verdict which was passed this morning, I summoned the master of the workhouse, and in presence of the stipendiary magistrate and

Kenmare Union.

Edward Godfrey, esq., he gave me the evidence in writing to the queries which I put to him, a copy of which is herewith transmitted; also the reply of the clerk of the Union to a similar query.

I request that you will be pleased to direct the attention of the Commissioners to the difference of the evidence given by Mr. Phelan before me, and that which he gave at the inquest.

I leave the Commissioners to judge of my feelings upon hearing such a verdict, after having used every means in my power to relieve the distress and extend the provisions of the Poor Law Act; for my part I feel conscious that as far as my duty is concerned, nothing was left undone to guard against such a lamentable circumstance as befell the unfortunate children.

ENCLOSURES.

Kenmare, January 4, 1848.

George Phelan, master of the Kenmare poor-house, examined:—Said that Catherine Connolly with five children were in the Kenmare poor-house; were put out on Tuesday the 28th. Was directed by Captain Ommanney and the Board of Guardians to put all persons entitled to out-door relief out of the workhouse, for the purpose of making room for the able-bodied; got the orders some days before to put them out, but from his other duties was not able to do so until Tuesday. Catherine Connolly and her children went much against their will; they left the house from 12 to 2 o'clock, after breakfasting; when putting out those classes has never been directed to give them any rations for the purpose of supporting them until they arrived at home; cannot say if any persons remained in the house who were entitled to out-door relief after the deceased and their mother were put out of the house.

Daniel Sullivan, of Derrynamuckalagh, examined:—Saw the deceased, Michael, John, Daniel, and Catherine Connolly, on the evening of Thursday, the 30th December, 1847, off the high road near Glaninchaquin—the two eldest had the two youngest on their backs; asked them if they were going home—they answered yes, that they had been turned out of the poor-house; they were crawling on the road, falling from side to side; asked what was the matter with them, they answered they were hungry; asked where their mother was, they said she went to Dourus to get relief from Mr. M'Swiny, the relieving officer, who promised it to her; they said they would wait on the road for their mother. Witness said, he supposed she would not come that night; they answered, if she did not, they would die on the road. Witness then left them, and did not see them afterwards alive.

Timothy Sullivan, of Derrynamuckalagh, examined:—Got up about 7 o'clock on Friday morning; went on the road towards Currageen, where he saw a little girl as he thought asleep on the road; went up to her, found she was dead. It was Catherine Connolly. Found Dan and John Connolly about one-eighth of a mile further on, on the roadside dead, and further on still, Michael Connolly, also dead.

Catherine Connolly, examined:—Is mother of the deceased Michael, John, Daniel, and Catherine Connolly; was with her children in the Kenmare poor-house; was put out on Tuesday, the 28th of December; was asked if she would go out, said yes, as they were putting every person like her out, but she would stay within if they left her there; was put out a good while after breakfast; got no relief since. Asked the relieving officer, Mr. M'Swiny, on Thursday, the 30th, for relief, and he answered, that her name was not on his book, but to come to him the next Monday, and that she would get it. When put out of the poor-house, she asked the master if she would get a ticket for relief, and he said there was no occasion, as her name was on the book of the relieving officer; parted with her children for the purpose of going to Dourus to get her name put on the book of the relieving officer; thought the eldest boy would be able to take the rest home; he was about 15 years old; she nor her five children did not eat anything from the time they left the poor-house on Tuesday, until she parted with them on Thursday evening, except one plate of gruel between them all, which they got in the house of John Harrington, of Muscua; thinks it was hunger killed her children.

George Woodhouse, clerk of the Union, examined:—Read a resolution which was agreed to by the Board of Guardians of the Kenmare Union, on the 11th of December. It was as follows:—"Resolved, at the suggestion of the Union Inspector, that all persons entitled to out-door relief, and who can be removed from the workhouse, be discharged on next Saturday, to make room for the destitute able-bodied who may apply for admission to the poor-house, the persons so discharged to be placed on the out-door relief lists by the relieving officers of the respective electoral divisions to whom they belong. It was the Board of Guardians generally who had the resolution proposed: Captain Ommanney suggested it.

George M. Mayberry, esq., M.D., examined:—I have made a *post mortem* examination on two of the deceased children, Catherine and Michael Connolly, and not a particle of food was there in the stomach or intestines; from the general appearances on my examination, I consider they died from want of food, accelerated by cold.

VERDICT.

"That the deceased Michael, John, Daniel, and Catherine Connolly were found dead on the morning of the 31st December, 1847, on the high road leading through the lands of Currageen, where we believe they came by their deaths from want of food, in consequence of the neglect of Captain Erasmus Ommanney and the Board of Guardians of the Kenmare Union."

*Kenmare Union Workhouse,
December 11, 1847.*

Kenmare Union.

At a meeting of the Board of Guardians held this 11th day of December 1847.

Resolved—"At the suggestion of the Union Inspector, that all persons entitled to out-door relief, and who can be removed from the workhouse, be discharged on next Saturday, to make room for the destitute able-bodied who may apply for admission to the workhouse. The persons so discharged to be placed on the out-door relief lists by the relieving officers of the respective electoral divisions to which they belong."

(Signed) *GEORGE WOODHOUSE, Clerk of Union.*

*To Captain Ommanney, R.N., Union Inspector,
Kenmare.*

Query, by Captain Ommanney to Mr. Phelan, master of the workhouse.

"State the reason why my directions were not carried out with respect to those parties who were discharged from the workhouse, receiving tickets to be placed on the relieving officer's lists for immediate relief, it being alleged at the inquest this day that such was not carried out."

Answer, by Mr. PHELAN.

"I have to state that widow Connolly and five children went out without being discharged, and I do consider I have obeyed the order, so far as giving tickets to those entitled, the parties whom the inquest was held this day and the mother; and consider I gave a ticket to some person, if not to herself, for to give the relieving officer."

(Signed) *GEORGE PHELAN.*

Captain OMMANNEY—"You state they were not discharged; under what circumstances did they leave the house?"

Answer, by Mr. PHELAN.

"Left the house on Tuesday, the 28th instant, as they were told they would be discharged on the following day, as it was at their own request they left the house, and I cannot object to their doing so when they wish."

Kenmare, January 4, 1848.

(Signed) *GEORGE PHELAN, Master.*

Query, by Captain Ommanney to Mr. Woodhouse, clerk of the Union.

"State the reason why my directions were not carried out with respect to those parties who were discharged from the workhouse, in pursuance of a resolution passed at the Board on the 11th ultimo, it being alleged at the coroner's inquest, held this day, that widow Connolly and five children did not receive tickets to be placed on the relieving officers' list for immediate relief?"

Answer—"The master received instruction in person from the Guardians assembled at the meeting of the Board, to select such persons as came within the class entitled to out-door relief, and to discharge them in order to make room for the able-bodied, who might apply for admission to the workhouse.

"The master also directed to apprise the relieving officers either by giving them lists of the persons discharged, or by tickets to the individuals themselves, to be presented to the relieving officers. The order was to discharge on the following Saturday, but on the next meeting of the Board it was considered expedient to extend the time to Wednesday, so that in each case half a week's ration would be received on application to the relieving officers, who were aware of the arrangement, and I believe complied with it."

(Signed) *GEORGE WOODHOUSE, Clerk of Union.*

Kenmare, January 4, 1848.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 6, 1848.*

WITH reference to the verdict passed at the coroner's inquest on the 4th instant, held on the bodies of the four children who died from want of food, (the evidence of which I have already transmitted), it appears to have been the impression on the minds of the jury that my duties are of an executive character in the working of the details of the Poor Law.

My definition of the Commissioners' instructions is, to direct the proceedings of the Guardians, and suggest to them the most effectual means of carrying out the Commissioners' instructions. Upon desiring that the workhouse should be cleared of those persons who were eligible for the out-door relief, I caused a resolution to be passed at the Board, and desired that precaution should be taken that they were transferred to the relieving officers' lists for immediate relief. In this case I considered that the officers were responsible for seeing the details carried out, by taking care that the relieving officers took charge of the persons on leaving the workhouse.

Kenmare Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*January 10, 1848.*

I AM to state, that although you have a right, as Inspector, to attend the meeting of the Board of Guardians, you have no power of voting or ordering relief; and if due relief is not afforded to any destitute person in the Union, the Commissioners are of opinion that the legal responsibility rests with the Board of Guardians or the relieving officers.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. CRAWFORD, Poor Law Inspector :—
January 6, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a communication which they have received from Captain Ommanney, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, relating to the death of four children, named Michael, John, Daniel, and Catherine Connolly, who had been inmates of the workhouse of the Kenmare Union, and had left the house with their mother on the 28th ultimo, and I am to request that you will have the goodness to inquire and report to the Commissioners on all the circumstances under which the widow Connolly and her five children were not put on the out-door relief list at once on quitting the workhouse, and did not receive sufficient relief to enable her to preserve her children from starvation.

I am also to request that you will inquire and report whether the death of the children is to be imputed to a neglect of duty on the part either of the relieving officer, or of the Board of Guardians of the Kenmare Union.

Mr. CRAWFORD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 23, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you a report of the circumstances under which the widow Connolly and her five children were not put on the out-door relief list at once, on quitting the Kenmare workhouse on the 29th December last, as also my opinion as to whether the death of the four children who unfortunately perished on that occasion can be imputed to a neglect of duty on the part either of the relieving officer or of the Board of Guardians of the Kenmare Union.

Captain Ommanney, the Temporary Inspector of the Union, produced a letter from the Commissioners, dated 1st December, 1847, requesting him to suggest to the Guardians the necessity of giving out-door relief to all inmates of the workhouse authorized to receive it under the provisions of the 1st section of the Poor Relief Extension Act.

In accordance with this communication, Captain Ommanney brought the subject under the consideration of the Board, and in consequence, at their meeting on the 11th December, 1847, a resolution was passed ordering the discharge of those classes, and directing them to be placed on the out-door relief lists of the relieving officers of the respective electoral divisions to which they belong; and, at the same time, instructions were given to the master of the workhouse to make out lists of those parties.

It appears that those lists were made out by the master of the workhouse and submitted to the Guardians at their meeting on the 24th December, and an arrangement was made that those parties should leave the house at latest on the following Thursday. Although I cannot find that any written instructions were given as to the mode of carrying out the arrangement, still it was distinctly understood that the master was to give tickets to such parties as might be discharged, which, on being presented to the relieving officer of the district, entitled them at once to relief from that officer.

The widow Connolly and her five children being included in the class entitled to out-door relief, were among the persons who were to be discharged from the workhouse under the arrangement.

The master, on some day in the beginning of the ensuing week, informed all those parties that they should leave the house at latest on the following Thursday, but, at the same time, recommended those who resided in remote localities to take advantage of any fine day which might occur, as the Thursday might be wet and unsuitable for travelling.

The widow Connolly and her children left the workhouse on Wednesday the

29th, her object being to go to Gleninchiquin, in the division of Tuosist, where her father dwelt, and which is about 10 miles distant from Kenmare, on the south bank of the Kenmare bay.

The widow Connolly states, that previous to her departure she asked the master of the workhouse for a ticket to the relieving officer, when he stated, in reply, that "the relieving officer would have her name before her." This, however, the master does not recollect, as he states his ignorance of her having taken her discharge on that day until after she left the workhouse. But I do not consider this point to be material, as it appeared to me perfectly plain that the widow Connolly had a perfect right to presume that she would receive immediate relief on applying to the relieving officer of the Tuosist division, and which she would have received only for an unfortunate mistake which occurred, the particulars of which I am about to explain.

The master of the workhouse, on discharging the paupers, instead of giving a separate ticket to each individual or family, made out a list containing the names of all the parties chargeable on each division, which he entrusted to one of the parties whose name was on the list, and who was to receive assistance from the relieving officer. I send herewith a copy of a list for the electoral division of Tuosist, which it will be seen does not contain the name of the widow Connolly. I would, however, direct attention to the last name on the list, which is that of "Norry Harrington, widow, and five children," which was evidently intended for Norry Connolly, the master having inadvertently inserted the name of Harrington (being a repetition of the previous name on the list) instead of Connolly. This appeared manifest, as no such person as "Norry Harrington" appeared either on the register, on the Admission and Discharge Book, or on the Application and Report Book of the relieving officer; and the description of widow and five children perfectly coincided with the case of the widow Connolly.

The widow Connolly, on being discharged from the workhouse on Wednesday, proceeded towards her father's house, and remained that night at the house of a man named Harrington, at a place called Killaha, about two miles from Kenmare. She proceeded on her way next morning, and went as far as the house of a person called Daniel Stretton, at Floramore. She there met the relieving officer of the division, who was proceeding to a place called Dourus, where he has an office for receiving applications and giving out-relief. On meeting Mr. M'Swiney, the relieving officer, at Stretton's house, she stated her circumstances, and applied for relief. Mr. M'Swiney having previously received the list of those parties chargeable on Tuosist who had been discharged from the workhouse, that list having been brought to him by the widow Gallavan, whose name is on the list, immediately made reference thereto, and not finding the name of the applicant (in consequence of the mistake alluded to) refused then to assist her, desiring her to follow him to Dourus, where he was proceeding, and where he expected he might have some means of ascertaining the truth of her statement. She accordingly did follow Mr. M'Swiney; but as in going to Dourus she was retracing her steps, she did not think it expedient to take the children with her (except the youngest, whom she carried on her back), desiring them to proceed home, which was not more than a distance of two hours' walk from Stretton's house, where she parted from them. It appeared that the children had not strength to accomplish this distance, and unfortunately perished from the effects of hunger and exposure during the ensuing night.

The widow Connolly, on separating from the children, followed the relieving officer to Dourus; but it did not appear that she there renewed the application for relief, either from fatigue or from the number of applicants before her. She did not see the relieving officer, and on going away she thought it too late, or was unable to follow her children, who were thus left by themselves on the night in question.

It appears to me that the death of the children is attributable to the unfortunate mistake made by the master in making out the Tuosist list. If the widow Connolly's name had been properly inserted, she would have received immediate relief on her first application to the relieving officer at Stretton's house, but who, under the circumstances, was justified in having strong suspicion of the truth of the statement made to him, as her name did not appear on the list which he had that day received from the master of the workhouse through the widow Gallavan; and thus further inquiry on his part was called for previous to granting relief. There did not appear to be any extraordinary circumstances to warrant him in departing

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from the course he pursued. The children at that time had not been more than 24 hours from the time of leaving the workhouse, had been under shelter the previous night, and had a plate of gruel among them, given by Harrington, at whose house they stopped.

With regard to the question as to whether any blame is to be attributable to the Board of Guardians, I think they might have given more *explicit* directions as to the mode in which the discharge of the parties should be carried out. The manner in which it was performed by the master was evidently one liable to accidents, as from the entrusting the list of all the persons from one electoral division to one person, any casualty occurring to that individual might have been attended with serious consequences to the others; each party discharged should have been furnished with a separate ticket.

With respect to the master, to whose unfortunate mistake the lamentable result is attributable, I do not think much blame can attach, it being one of those mistakes which might occur to any individual in the hurry of business attendant on the discharge of a large number of individuals. He was evidently much confused in the answers he made to the several inquiries which were put to him on the investigation, and which varied in some respects from the statement made by him on the coroner's inquest; but, under the circumstances, this may be in some degree excusable, as he seemed to feel much the unfortunate mistake which he had made.

After the inquiry, I was informed by the relieving officer of the Kenmare division, who, residing on the spot, attended personally to take the names and give relief to those parties chargeable on the Kenmare division, that he gave the widow Connolly sixpence out of his own pocket on her leaving the workhouse, being urged to do so by the distress she exhibited at not being able to get the clothes which belonged to her husband, who died in the workhouse, and which could not be found. It would thus appear that she was not perfectly destitute at the time she left the workhouse, and it would have been in her power to have supplied the children with food before she parted from them at Stretton's house; but it appears plain that at that time she expected they would have been easily able to reach home before night, as stated in her evidence given on the coroner's inquest.

I am therefore of opinion, upon a review of all the circumstances of the case, that the casualty was produced by the unfortunate mistake made by the master of the workhouse, in the performance of the duty imposed upon him by the Guardians, and is not to be attributable to any wilful neglect upon the part either of the Board of Guardians or the relieving officer of the district.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

A LIST of the PERSONS DISCHARGED out of the WORKHOUSE, liable to receive out-door relief in Tuosist.

Tuosist.

John Sullivan, infirm, and 3 children.
 Mary Sullivan, widow, and 2 children.
 Peg Shea, widow, and 3 children.
 Fanny Sullivan, widow, and 1 child.
 Daniel Cluvane, infirm, wife and 1 child.
 Kate Gallivan, widow, and 4 children.
 Eugene Sullivan, infirm.
 Johanna Harrington, infirm, and 1 child.
 Norry *Harrington*, widow, and 5 children. Should have been Connolly.
 Total 31.

(Signed)

GEORGE PHELAN,
Workhouse, Kenmare.

December 29, 1847.

II.

EVIDENCE taken at an INQUIRY held at KENMARE, on the 19th of January, 1848, relative to the deaths of Michael, John, Daniel, and Catherine Connolly, who had been inmates of the Kenmare Union Workhouse.

The register was produced, from which it appeared that Honora Connolly and six children entered the workhouse on the 28th August, 1847; she and five of the children subsequently left the house on the 29th December, one child having previously died in the workhouse.

Captain Ommanney read a letter from the Commissioners, dated 1st December, 1847,

No. 39631, directing him to suggest to the Guardians the expediency of giving out-door relief to all inmates authorized to it under the 1st section of the Poor Law Extension Act.

Kenmare Union.

Resolution of the Guardians carrying out the suggestion, passed on the 11th December, 1847, attached to the proceedings of the coroner.

Honora Connolly, sworn.—States that she had been an inmate of the Kenmare Union workhouse; left the workhouse with her children on the Wednesday after Christmas-day last; is positive it was on that day, although having stated previously it was upon a Tuesday; at the time she so stated had not her senses about her; on leaving the workhouse went to a place called Killaha; left the workhouse about the middle of the day; stopped that night at the house of a man named Harrington who resided there; left next morning; proceeded towards Dourus on her way home; went past Dourus to Floramore, to the house of one Daniel Stretton; parted there with the four children, who subsequently died; desired them to proceed home to Gleninchiquin, where she formerly had a house, and where her father and mother, and four sisters resided; the place where she parted from the children is about a couple of hours' walk from her father's house, which is about nine miles distant from the workhouse; remained behind the children to try to get relief from the relieving officer; met the relieving officer, Mr. M'Swiney, at Stretton's house; it was after breakfast time when she met him; asked him for relief, he desired her to go on the Monday following to Lauragh; told him that her children were outside, and had been fasting since they left the workhouse on the previous day; Mr. M'Swiney remained some time at Stretton's, and then proceeded to Dourus, whither she followed him; her children were with her when she first applied to Mr. M'Swiney; upon relief being refused, desired the children to proceed home; the children would have had sufficient time to reach home, if they had had strength and food; the reason Mr. M'Swiney said he refused relief was, because her name was not on the books; the first night after leaving the workhouse she went as far as she could; the reason she left the workhouse was, because "all of her kind" were going out; some of them left that day with her; the master of the workhouse told her of it; he was taking down a list of names for a week before; heard that they were not to be discharged until they had out-door relief; went out of her own accord, and did not receive any positive directions to go out that day; her name was taken down with those of the others; the master did not desire her to leave the workhouse; made no objection to do so; applied to the master for a ticket to the relieving officer; the master informed her that her name would be in the Tuosist book before her; he told her so on her leaving the workhouse; from the time they left the workhouse she and the children only got one plate of gruel among them, which was given by Harrington, at whose house they stopped; left the workhouse after breakfast; did not ask the master for any relief to take with her; saw no other person discharged that day along with her; after waiting for some time at Dourus, she went away without seeing the relieving officer; felt too ill to wait longer; went to the house of a man named Sullivan, where she slept; she fainted when there, and had some warm milk given her; left at day-break in the morning, and proceeded homewards across the mountains; heard of the death of the children on the road; if she had got relief from Mr. M'Swiney when she first applied, would have been able to save her children.

George Phelan, sworn. Is master of the Kenmare workhouse; received instructions from the Guardians to make out a list of the inmates belonging to each electoral division who might be entitled to receive out-door relief; made out lists for that purpose three different times; the Guardians did not act upon the lists first returned by him; made out lists on Monday, the 24th December; the Guardians inquired if any had been discharged; stated that they had not yet; was desired to discharge them immediately; told the Guardians that would be inconvenient, as from the number of persons admitted that day he would not have time to do so, and requested the Guardians to postpone it until some day in the week following, to which they assented; stated to the paupers that night in the dining-hall that such as were entitled to out-door relief should leave the house in the following week; told them on the Monday or Tuesday after that they must go out on the Thursday at farthest, but recommended those that lived at a distance to take advantage of any fine day which should occur, as Thursday might be wet; by directions of the Board gave tickets to the parties going out; the tickets stated that the parties were entitled to out-door relief; those tickets were to be delivered to the relieving officers of the district. On the morning of the day the widow Connolly left, asked whether any would leave on that day, as they must at all events go on the day following; the widow Connolly said she would go; she came down towards his (the master's) room, and then went back to the dining-hall; supposed, therefore, she had changed her mind, and was about to remain until the day following; does not recollect having seen her afterwards; does not recollect whether she made any application to him for a ticket to the relieving officer; was asked by the parties who were to be discharged, whether they would be entitled to out-door relief? told them they would, as all from each division would get a ticket to the relieving officer of that division; did not know that the widow Connolly had left the house until after she had gone; thinks, on finding she had gone, he gave a ticket for her to some woman who left the house on the day following; never received instructions from the Board to give tickets to each of the parties going out; thinks he did not discharge any paupers entitled to out-door relief without giving tickets, except those from the Kenmare, the relieving officer being in attendance, and taking their names; does not conceive he was ordered by the Guardians to give tickets to parties going out; did it of his own impulse; will not swear he may not have told the widow Connolly that her name would be on the books of the relieving officer of Tuosist before her; would have given her a ticket, if he had been aware of her leaving the workhouse at the time she did.

Victoria Robertson, sworn. Is matron of the workhouse; remembers the widow Connolly

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leaving the workhouse on the 29th December; saw her in tears at leaving, as the children were almost naked; their old clothes were very ragged; desired the porter to search for the clothes of her husband, who had died in the workhouse, to give to her, but the porter could not find them; thinks the widow Connolly said she would rather not go out; other parties entitled to out-door relief went out the same day.

Daniel Sullivan, sworn. Is porter of the workhouse; remembers the widow Connolly being discharged; a good many were discharged on the same day; they were chiefly persons entitled to out-door relief; they were parties who lived at a distance; saw the master making out lists of those to be discharged; those lists were given to one of the paupers going out to take to the relieving officer of the district.

Edmond Brown M. Swiney, sworn. Is relieving officer of the electoral division of Tuosist; understood that all parties to be discharged from the workhouse were to get out-door relief; got a ticket from the master containing the names of the parties discharged who were to be relieved in his division; produces that list, which is in the hand-writing of the master; that list does not contain the name of the widow Connolly; the last name is that of the widow Harrington, and five children; no person answering that description applied to him for relief; the ticket was brought to him on Thursday, the 30th December last, by the widow Gallavan; received the list on his way to Dourus, where there is a relief station; gave relief to the widow Gallavan, and would have done so to any other whose name appeared on the list; remembers the widow Connolly applying to him for relief on that day at Stretton's house; she stated she had been discharged from the workhouse; examined the list which he had received, but not finding her name, refused to relieve her until he made inquiry; desired her to follow him to Dourus where he would put her name on the list of those receiving relief; she did not again apply to him at Dourus, and did not see her there that day afterwards.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*January 28, 1848.*

I AM to forward herewith for your information, a copy of a report which the Commissioners have received from their inspector, Mr. Crawford, relating to the death of four children named Connolly, who, with their mother, had been discharged from the workhouse of Kenmare Union, and I am to state that the Commissioners concur in the view taken by Mr. Crawford, of the circumstances which caused the deplorable death of the four children.

I am at the same time to state, that as the Commissioners are convinced that the master of the workhouse sincerely laments the dreadful consequences which resulted from his clerical inadvertence, the Commissioners do not wish to distress his feelings by dwelling on them; at the same time, the Commissioners trust that what has occurred will be a solemn warning to all parties engaged in the administration of relief in Kenmare Union, that want of accuracy, or inadvertence on their part, in the present state of the population, may be attended with consequences as fatal as wilful neglect itself.

The Commissioners have further to add, that the arrangements of the late Board of Guardians appear to have been defective, in their not having provided that the name of every inmate of the workhouse who was to receive out-door relief should be placed by the relieving officer in his Report and Application Book, and brought under the notice of the Board of Guardians for their decision on the case before such parties left the workhouse. The Commissioners think that it was contrary to their regulations that the out relief to be furnished by the relieving officer to the inmates of the workhouse, should depend on a list to be furnished by the master of the workhouse.

In conclusion, the Commissioners have to state that they do not doubt that the Vice-Guardians will make such arrangements for the due relief of the destitute, as will prevent the possibility of the recurrence in Kenmare Union of such a deeply afflicting catastrophe.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 5, 1848.*

I HAVE to acquaint the Commissioners that many of the processes which were served against parties for non-payment of rates have been dismissed by the assistant-barrister at the Quarter Sessions, in consequence of some technical form in the rate book being omitted; for instance, the name of the townland should have been inserted on every line where there are several rate-payers in the same page of the book, as per margin, "for example;" the cases where the townlands were dotted have been dismissed.

The result was received with great exultation by the public. The result will I fear be detrimental to the collection of the rate.

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I should wish the opinion of the Commissioners whether the rates can be recovered by those rate books; and for advice as to the course to be pursued in consequence. Kenmare Union.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 6, 1848.*

IN consequence of the dismissals granted by the assistant-barrister at the Kenmare Quarter Sessions on several parties who were processed for non-payment of rates, the legality of the rate books in their present form was a matter of serious importance. I have to acquaint the Commissioners that upon a conference with the chairman of the Union and some of the Guardians, it was deemed advisable to appeal at the next assizes in Tralee to one of the dismissals, and accordingly the chairman has entered into a recognizance to prosecute the appeal.

I have communicated with the stipendiary magistrate upon the necessity of rendering assistance to the collector for obtaining the outstanding rate in the Bourdoneen electoral division. He informs me that he has no available force at present for this service, but will be prepared next week with a force, should the collector swear the necessary informations.

I have desired the clerk of the Union to forward a form of the rate book as filled up, to which the assistant barrister has raised a legal objection. I consider it is important that the Commissioners should obtain opinion from higher authority if the Guardians can still proceed in the collection of the rate with the rate books under their present form.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*January 26, 1848.*

I AM to state for your information, that the assistant barrister having directed that the last rate made in the Kenmare Union was in certain cases invalid, in consequence of the name of the townland in which the property was situated not having been repeated on every line of the rate book, the Commissioners submitted a case on the point for the opinion of Mr. J. Henn, Q.C., and I am to forward herewith a copy of the query submitted to Mr. Henn, together with a copy of his opinion thereon.

The Commissioners place entire confidence in the opinion of Mr. Henn, and they request that the collection of the rate may be prosecuted rigorously without delay.

ENCLOSURE.

OPINION of Mr. J. HENN, Q.C.:—*January 18, 1848.*

IN my opinion the rate as struck was valid; a repetition of the name of the townland does not appear to me to have been actually necessary; what has been done was, I think, equivalent to such repetition, as the townland first written is applicable to all the succeeding numbers until a new name is introduced; and if in fact the numbers without names written after them formed portions of the townland next before specified, I think the assistant barrister ought not to have yielded to the objection.

J. HENN,
16, Upper Merion Street.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 8, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the following weekly report upon the state of this Union:—

On my attendance this day at the meeting of the Board of Guardians, which I regret to say was very thinly attended, I impressed upon their minds the very responsible nature of their position, in consequence of the prevailing destitution and misery, without any other source available at present, for affording relief, than that which the Poor Law imperatively demands they should provide.

From the nature of the reply received by the Commissioners from the Board of Works, it appears that no loan has yet been made for the proprietors in this Union under the Landed Property Improvement Act, therefore we must relinquish the hope of any assistance through such a beneficial source of relief at this season. I caused a resolution to be adopted, and forwarded to the pro-

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prietors, in order to arouse their attention to the state of the Union, unprovided with any means of employment.

It then became my duty, to remind the Guardians of the extent of their duties, and I informed them that it is now impossible the amount of business now requiring close attention, can be effectively discharged at a single meeting in the week. Hitherto, sufficient attention has not been directed to the out-door relief, or to the examination of the business connected with the collection of the rates. At my suggestion, a resolution was agreed upon for the Board to meet twice a week—on Fridays, for the admission of paupers, business connected with the out-door relief, and the collection of the rates; on Saturdays, for the general routine and special business of the Board.

I again urged upon the Guardians the necessity of exercising their powers to enforce the collection of the rate; and I stated that in the event of non-compliance with this essential part of their duties, the Commissioners would consider that they were evading the responsibility entrusted to them. The collectors are directed to proceed forthwith by distraint against all defaulters, and, if necessary, to apply for protection to the stipendiary magistrate.

The workhouse has been cleared of all classes, but the able-bodied with their families. Some further extra accommodation was provided in the town, for 50 more inmates, which makes up a total of 840 pauper inmates. With the cleanliness of the house I have to express my satisfaction. By a frequent inspection, much improvement in the internal arrangements is perceptible, particularly in having a separate bed for each pauper, and in keeping them at work: they are now employed in draining the land attached to the house, paving the yards, &c., which up to this time, were almost in their natural state. The boys are kept five hours at school, but some useful labour from the elder ones would be of service. The articles for consumption are now procured for the use of the house at cash prices, which effects a considerable saving.

I cannot convey an adequate description of the miserable and wretched condition of the numerous unhappy creatures, who presented themselves at the house this day for admission; many had travelled a long distance in the hope of being admitted; the greater proportion were women with young children, whose emaciated appearance was shocking to behold. There were many at the house when I left it at 6 o'clock, crying from the pangs of hunger; I ordered a supply of bread to be distributed amongst them, from the bakery of the British Relief Association.

The workhouse being full, and the destitution so rapidly increasing, I fear the out-door relief will soon become incapable of supporting the mass of poverty. The relieving officers report generally, that there are numbers in the greatest want who do not come under any of the classes now sanctioned to be on their lists; and they state, that they know not what to do with the numbers applying for relief and admission to the workhouse. In Tuosist, the sum of 37*l.* has been expended in a fortnight, the relief being confined to a very limited scale. In this division, which is nearly 20 miles in extent, I think that two officers should be appointed. It is also necessary that an order under the 6th section 10 Vict. cap. 31, should be made by the Commissioners to enable the Guardians in the remote parts of the Union to approve of their own relief lists, and thus ease the pressure of business at the Board.

I must now request that the Commissioners will consider the financial position of the Guardians, as the uncollected portion of the rate will only meet their liabilities. The weekly expenditure is now about 200*l.*, and unless the rate is collected, there will be nothing in the treasurer's hands to meet this. I have directed that no sum be appropriated to any other purpose but the maintenance of the workhouse and out-door relief. At present there is only a small balance in the treasurer's hands of about 200*l.*

It is necessary that every portion of the outstanding rate should be immediately collected, and I have desired the collectors to be prepared for laying informations before the stipendiary magistrate, who will be ready to protect them; but even this, with another rate to the same amount, will not support the mass of distress which daily becomes inevitable.

In recapitulation, the state of the Union is this: there is no other support for the destitute but the Poor Law, which is inadequate to relieve the distress, and there is already about one-sixth of the population maintained by it. The workhouse, and all extra accommodating which can be procured, are occupied;

and consequently there can be no further test for the able-bodied. The present rate, and another one, must be collected to maintain the poor, provided there are no other means but the Poor Law; and I am of opinion the Guardians will not work it out effectively. Kenmare Union.

At the Quarter Sessions held in Kenmare this week, the collectors proceeded by civil bill for the recovery of the rate, from a large proportion of defaulting rate-payers. The attorney for the defendants argued, "that the description of the rate-books was defective," inasmuch as the name of the townland was not repeated at full length opposite to each number in the rate-books, this was ceded by the presiding barrister. It seemed a mere technical point; but its being so ruled will produce a mischievous tendency amongst the defaulters, as other rate-payers will be encouraged to refuse payment, while there is a chance of escaping by legal technicality, or by any other mode of evasion. Several appeals against the rates were heard at the same sessions, and over-ruled, with one exception, which the barrister, at the request of the appellant, adjourned to the next sessions, although he had previously expressed himself strongly in favour of the rate.

A coroner's inquest was held at Kenmare on the 4th instant, upon the bodies of four children, who were found dead in Tuosist on the 30th ult., having left the workhouse with their mother on the 28th December; the jury were pleased in their verdict to charge me with neglect, without ever taking the evidence of the relieving officer. I have since taken the evidence both of the master of the workhouse and the relieving officer for Tuosist, from which it appears, the mother left the workhouse at her own request, and did not apply to the relieving officer for relief.

I beg the Commissioners will favour me with their advice for my future proceedings, to provide for the great distress which must prevail in this Union.

REPLY to the above:—*January 12, 1848.*

THE Commissioners approve generally, of the course taken by you. I am at the same time to state, that if all attempts to obtain further workhouse accommodation are unavailing, and if you are in a position to assert positively, that according to the best of your judgment no such accommodation can be obtained in the Union, the next step for you to consider will be, whether the period has arrived in which it is necessary that an order should be issued, authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied.

When that necessity arises, if you are able to certify that the Guardians have used all possible diligence to collect the rates, and if the Guardians provide funds for the maintenance of the inmates of the workhouse, and of the destitute poor who receive relief under the first section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, the Commissioners believe that funds will be forthcoming from the British Association for the relief of the able-bodied, who will receive out-door relief under a sealed order of the Commissioners.

If, however, the Guardians do not collect the rates vigorously, or if they otherwise fail to discharge their duties effectually, you should formally make a separate report to the Commissioners on the subject, and should recommend the dissolution of the Board of Guardians; in which case, the Commissioners would be in a position to dissolve the Board accordingly, and to manage the affairs of the Union by paid Guardians. It will not be sufficient, however, to make general complaints; you should formally specify instances in which the Guardians have neglected their duty. Thus, continued thinness of attendance at the Board meeting would be a ground of dissolution, if owing to such thinness of attendance the duties of the Board are not properly discharged. So, again, if the Guardians are not as energetic in the collection of the poor-rates as they ought to be, or if they have not generally paid the rates which are due from themselves, such neglect would show them to be unfit for their office, and would justify the dissolution of the Board.

The Commissioners have only to add, that they will sanction the appointment of as many additional relieving officers as are found to be necessary; but the correct course will be for you, to bring the subject under the notice of the Guardians, and for the Guardians to record their wishes in their minutes.

In reference to the verdict of the coroner's inquest referred to in your letter, the Commissioners have, on the whole, deemed it advisable to instruct their inspector, Mr. Crawford, to make a special inquiry on the points connected with it;

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and when the Commissioners receive his report, they will be able to form a definite opinion as to whether any blame attaches either to the Kenmare Board of Guardians, or to any of the officers of the Board of Guardians, in reference to the deplorable death of the children on whom the inquest was held.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 10, 1848.*

I HAVE to bring before the immediate attention of the Commissioners the necessity of enforcing the collection of the outstanding rate without delay.

A general feeling of opposition to payment is manifest throughout the Union. Unless vigorous measures are instantly resorted to, the Union will not be in a position for sustaining the destitution of the country, through the medium of the Poor Law.

A collector was this day beaten in the town whilst distraining for poor-rates; a large number of the populace joined and rejoiced at their triumph. Such a spirit of opposition, if suffered to exist with impunity, will be detrimental to the future collection of the rate, and should not be permitted, whilst the poor are perishing in consequence of the rate being uncollected. I have applied to the stipendiary magistrate for assistance.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians:—January 14, 1848.*

I HAVE to report that my effort to impress upon the Guardians the necessity of collecting the rates are unavailing; neither by showing a proper example themselves or by making a proper exertion on their part to collect the rates.

Several of the Guardians are defaulters, and although I have frequently at the Board pointed out the evil of such a bad example on their parts by inducing others to hold back their rates, it has produced no effect in obtaining their rates due from themselves.

The Guardians have made no exertion on their part to enforce the collection of the rates, or to exercise the powers they possess to obtain the same. I caused a committee of the Guardians to be appointed soon after my arrival here, for the purpose of controlling the collection of the rates, but no attention has been devoted to the subject by them. At the last meeting another day in the week was appointed when the business relative to the collection of the rate was to form a part of the day's proceedings. The Guardians met to-day, but when the time arrived for examining the collector's accounts and reports there was not a quorum to conduct the business.

I have applied to some of the *ex officio* members, being magistrates, for an example on their part to the other ratepayers by paying their rates, but I regret to say they are still defaulters.

There still remains upwards of 2,300*l.* of the rate uncollected; many of the defaulters are well able to pay. Within the last week there has been about 100*l.* paid into the Treasurer's hands; there is scarcely any balance in his hands. Unless more vigorous measures are adopted we shall soon be without funds to support the destitution of the Union.

I augur no further exertion from the Guardians to obtain the rate, nor do I anticipate they will effectively discharge the duties required of them to carry out the poor law. I therefore recommend the dissolution of the Board of Guardians by the Commissioners, before the Union is involved in further difficulties.

REPLY to the above:—*January 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have given directions for preparing an order for the dissolution of the Kenmare Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners deem it right to make you acquainted with their intentions, but they do not wish you to communicate on the subject with any person in Kenmare Union, until the order actually arrives. An order for giving outdoor relief to the able-bodied will also be issued, and a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Board of Guardians of Unions where such an order has been issued is enclosed for your information.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 16, 1848.*

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ACCORDING to the arrangement of the previous week, the Board of Guardians met on Friday for the admission of paupers, disposing of all business connected with the administration of out-door relief, and for controlling the collection of the rates. By this means, these important branches of the Guardians' duties can receive that attention which is necessary, and which never could receive a proper investigation, when all the business of the Board has to be transacted in one day. When the time arrived for entering upon the important business of the collectors' duties, the Board had dispersed.

By the treasurer's account, produced at the Board yesterday, there appeared only a balance in hand of 165%. Cheques for the amount of 146% were signed the day previously for out-door relief alone; consequently, a sum of more than 200% weekly is required to maintain the support of the poor. The debts of the Guardians amount to 1500%. About half the rate only is collected, leaving about 2300% uncollected. Under these circumstances, the operation of the Poor Law must become embarrassed, unless more vigorous efforts are made to collect the outstanding rates.

Upon the subject of the collection of the rate, I regret that sufficient progress has not been made; and, with reference to the Commissioners' repeated instructions on this important duty, I do not consider the Guardians have exerted proper energy to collect it, which, owing to their financial difficulties and the distress of the Union, the necessities of their position demanded. Under these circumstances, the Guardians have not discharged their most important duty.

Rescues have been made, on several occasions of distraining for rate. I am anxiously looking for the stipendiary magistrate, with a force sufficient to ensure the payment from all parties who have the means. I am informed by the collectors that most of the defaulters are well able to pay.

Further extra workhouse accommodation has been procured, which will receive about 80 more able-bodied inmates. This will increase the number of paupers to more than 900 receiving in-door relief. Beyond this there will be no practicability of obtaining more extra buildings for this object.

I have now to inform the Commissioners that the time has arrived requiring them to issue a sealed order for authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied—an evil which I was anxious to guard against; but there is no other resource for the maintenance of the destitute in the Union. It would be desirable that the order should be similar to those already issued to the Newcastle and Listowel Unions, whereby labour is exacted.

In consequence of the extra numbers of paupers receiving workhouse accommodation, the increased number of sick patients cannot be received in the infirmary or the fever hospital, for want of room. A number of fever and dysentery cases appeared. The upper probationary wards were appropriated to the use of the sick. Upon the report of the medical officer yesterday, it appears that sickness had still further increased, so as to render it necessary to provide more accommodation. At his suggestion, the men's infirm ward was also appropriated for the sick.

The numbers of destitute on the out-door relief lists, have augmented considerably. The relieving officer for Ballybog states that he has been compelled to give relief to several able-bodied persons whom he found at their residences suffering from severe illness, most of them very bad fever cases. In two instances he found a child lying dead in consequence.

In this Union there is a very extensive class of destitution, which cannot be legally entitled to out-door relief—women, with children, whose husbands are gone to America; they are in the greatest distress. The relieving officers are desirous of instructions how such cases are to be dealt with.

The relieving officers find it necessary to exercise a rigid scrutiny with all applicants, to guard against the numerous attempts at imposition, as they generally are anxious to obtain the out-door relief in money, and practise deception to evade the workhouse test. Many leave the house after a few days, from a dislike to the labour now required of them.

In case of a deficiency of funds to meet the present current expenses of the Union, I wish to be furnished with instructions for my guidance.

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REPLY to the above :—*January 19, 1848.*

I AM to state that it appears that the sum of 2300*l.* remains uncollected of the last rate made in the Union; and the Commissioners are desirous that you should be unceasing in your efforts to cause the recoverable portion of that sum to be paid with the least possible delay by those who are in arrear.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 18, 1848.*

I CONSIDER that the time has now arrived that an order should be issued by the Commissioners for giving out-door relief to the able-bodied poor; the Poor Law being now extended as far as practicable, and there still remains a great number of the population requiring relief.

Every extra building available for workhouse accommodation is now occupied. Out-door relief under the 1st section of Act 10 Vict., cap. 31, and under the Commissioners' sealed order of the 15th ult., is now being extensively administered throughout the Union. I estimate that the weekly cost for in-door and out-door relief now amounts to 300*l.*; beyond this extent it is not practicable to provide for the maintenance of the poor from the rates.

As I am informed that when the local means are inadequate to provide for the extent of prevailing destitution, that funds will be forthcoming from the British Association for supporting the able-bodied, on condition that labour is exacted from them, I have to request that the Commissioners will be pleased to issue a sealed order to that effect.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION :—*January 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration, a report which they have received from Captain Ommanney, Poor Law Inspector in the Kenmare Union, stating that all his efforts to impress upon the Board of Guardians the necessity of collecting the poor's rate have been unavailing.

Captain Ommanney reports, that several of the Guardians are themselves defaulters in the payment of the rate; and that although he has frequently at the Board pointed out the evil of such a bad example on their part, by inducing others to hold back the rate, it has produced no effect in obtaining payment of the amounts due by the Guardians.

Captain Ommanney further states, that the Guardians have made no exertion on their part to enforce the collection of the rate, by exercising the powers they possess to obtain payment. He observes, that soon after his arrival, he caused a Committee of Guardians to be appointed for the purpose of controlling the collection, but that no attention has been directed to that object by the Committee.

He further observes, that at a late weekly meeting of the Board a second day in the week was appointed, on which the business relating to the collection was to form a part of the day's proceedings; but that although the Guardians met on the 14th instant (one of the days so appointed), yet, when the time arrived for examining the collector's accounts and reports, there was not a Guardian to conduct this most important part of the business.

Captain Ommanney reports, that he has applied to some of the *ex-officio* Guardians, who, being magistrates, might be expected to set an example to the other rate-payers by paying their own portions of the rate, but that his applications have had no effect.

He states that there still remains upwards of 2300*l.* of the old rate uncollected, many of the defaulters being well able to pay: that within the last week there had been only about 100*l.* received, whilst there is scarcely any balance in the treasurer's hands; and he expresses his opinion that unless more vigorous measures are adopted, funds will soon be wanting to support the destitute poor in the Union.

The Commissioners find that during the first six months of the last year, little more than 700*l.* was collected, and only 1761*l.* during the last six months; whilst the debts of the Union at the close of the year amounted to 1281*l.* over the money in the treasurer's hands.

The Commissioners must consider that the Guardians have failed effectually to discharge their duties, when, out of the rates due in the Union on holdings of the annual value of 24,689*l.*, the amount collected in the last six months

was insufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of the Union, as appears by the amount of debts left undischarged. Kenmare Union.

The Commissioners have much apprehension that, owing to the want of due exertion on the part of the Board of Guardians, much severe distress has remained unrelieved in the Union, the population having in 1841 been 33,656, according to the census of that period; and they are not led to hope that any future exertions of the Guardians would be sufficient, to meet the impending difficulties of the Union.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners have resolved, in the exercise of the powers entrusted to them by the Legislature, to dissolve the present Board of Guardians of the Kenmare Union, and to appoint paid officers to administer the affairs of the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain OMMANNEY:—*January 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners direct me to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which they have this day, in forwarding the order dissolving the Board of Guardians, addressed to the clerk of the Kenmare Union.

The Commissioners hope that early in the ensuing week, the two gentlemen whom they propose to appoint paid officers for administering the affairs of the Kenmare Union, will be at Kenmare to enter upon the discharge of their duties.

In the meantime, the Commissioners have deemed it advisable to appoint you a paid officer of the Union, at a nominal salary, to enable you to take any steps which may be necessary for affording relief to the poor in the Union, until the paid Guardians shall have arrived at Kenmare.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS—*January 24, 1848.*

HEREWITH I have the honour to submit my report for the past week.

The Commissioners having taken into their consideration the several reports made to them relative to the management of the affairs of this Union by the late Board of Guardians, and that in consequence of not having discharged their responsibilities in the collection of the rate, at the same time continuing defaulters themselves for the same, were pleased in the exercise of their own responsibility to issue an order dated the 20th instant, for the dissolution of the Board of Guardians; on the assemblage of the Ex-Guardians for their ordinary meeting yesterday, the Commissioners' order was read, when the said Board dissolved accordingly.

The sealed order appointing me a paid officer to carry into execution the Acts now in force for the relief of the destitute poor was then read, when I assumed the duties heretofore discharged by the Board of Guardians.

On Friday the Board sat for the admission of paupers, when there was but eight vacancies. In the course of the week about 50 inmates had been received into the further extra accommodation provided. The numbers now accommodated amount to 862. As it is impracticable to manage any further workhouse accommodation, we are no longer in a position to prosecute the workhouse test. There were numerous applicants for admission, many of the most miserable class, and others able-bodied, for whom no relief was available. To those who had a considerable distance to travel back to their abode, and were much exhausted, the relieving officers were directed to assist with temporary relief.

The out-door relief lists were scrutinized and authenticated. The relieving officers state they are overwhelmed with applications for relief. There was a considerable augmentation in their lists. They have to guard against many attempts at deception in the exercise of their responsible duty, which I cannot refrain from bearing testimony to, is discharged with fidelity and satisfaction. The amount required for out-door relief weekly is not less than 150*l.*; for the division of Tuosist 45*l.* is required, or upwards of 2300*l.* annually. I am informed the proprietor of this division has not received rent equal to the sum paid by him for poor-rate.

I regret to state that the rate is collecting but slowly; only a few small sums have been obtained in the last week. In consequence of the illness of the stipendiary magistrate, and the temporary withdrawal of the police force, it has been impossible to take the necessary steps for enforcing payment. The stipendiary magistrate has informed me that he will be prepared in the course of a week to render assistance. I have recently received a communication from Maurice

Kenmare Union.

O'Connell, M.P., expressing his readiness to pay his poor-rate, and at the same time to procure the amount due from his tenantry.

I have already specially communicated to the Commissioners the predicament I am placed in for want of funds to proceed with the operation of the Poor Law. Upon the occasion of assuming the duties of the Board yesterday, I found myself without the means of providing for the support of the poor; nor can I see what course is to be adopted, without the Commissioners see the expediency of supplying the Union with a temporary advance.

Mr. Crawford held an investigation into the circumstances relative to the death of the four children in Tuosist on the 30th ultimo, at the workhouse. The Commissioners will perceive by the evidence how injudicious was the conduct on the part of the jury to pronounce a verdict without having taken the evidence of the relieving officer, or made proper inquiries into the facts of the case. It is clear that a mistake occurred in entering her name upon the list; and from the evidence it was the general impression that the mother was to blame at having parted with her children. The contradictory evidence of the master subjects him to censure. The investigation excited much interest, and caused a large assemblage of the most influential persons in the Union.

The school relief to destitute children is now in extensive operation; in Tuosist 1200 children are fed, which affords considerable relief. I intend proceeding to Bourdoneen to organize the system in that division. I understand that the children so relieved may be reduced from the out-door relief allowance.

As there is no alternative left but to give relief to the able-bodied, no delay should take place in organizing the system for putting them to work, which should be suspended when the agricultural employment commences.

The state of the Union requires that the paid Guardians should repair to assume their duties with all dispatch.

REPLY to the above:—*January 29, 1848.*

ALTHOUGH the subdivision of holdings in Tuosist may now prevent the landlords from receiving the rent, this cannot be admitted as any reason for not requiring payment of the poor-rate, a large portion of which is payable by immediate lessors, whose capability of paying the rates may depend not merely on the circumstances of their property in that division, and whose rent there may have been hitherto well paid. I am also to observe, that Mr. O'Connell, one of the proprietors in Bourdoneen division, states, that he has never been applied to for rates, an instance of gross neglect which is probably not unusual in the Union. The Commissioners must therefore consider that much can be done by the exertion and diligence of the collectors, which should be constantly enforced.

As regards the number of children receiving relief in the schools in the division, I am to request that care may be taken that children of persons receiving out-door relief be, while relieved in the schools, deducted from the number for which the relieving officer's rations shall be issued.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 22, 1848.*

I HAVE to inform the Commissioners that their sealed order of the 20th inst., for the dissolution of the Board of Guardians, was this day read at the Board, on which occasion the said Board dissolved accordingly; when the sealed order of the same date, appointing paid officers to carry into execution the provisions of Acts for the relief of the destitute poor, was also read.

In pursuance of the instructions contained in the Commissioners' communication of the 20th inst., I proceeded to the discharge of the duties of the Guardians heretofore existing in the Union.

Upon the production of the treasurer's book, it appeared there were no funds in hand available for the support of the Union; and on comparing the cheque-book the sum of about 120*l.* is overdrawn. There is no probability of the cheques being dishonoured, as lodgments have been made by the collectors sufficient to meet them.

In consequence of the want of funds, I was unable to furnish the relieving officers with cash for the maintenance of the out-door relief for the ensuing week. The contractor's supply of meal having not yet arrived from Cork, and being unable to make another contract in the town this day, I applied to the Commissariat officer for a temporary supply of meal, which request he declined acceding to without cash.

With no resource for the support of the out-door relief, I resorted to the expedient of appropriating an order from the British Association on the Commissariat officer for provisions, intended for the use of the schools; by supplying the relieving officers with meal from this fund, as a loan, I have thus made a temporary provision for maintaining the poor, which I trust may meet with approval.

In the exhausted state of our finances a temporary advance will be necessary to meet the current expenses of the Union. I request instructions for my further guidance. The copy of a resolution passed this day at the Board will also be forwarded.

P.S. An immediate reply is requested on the subject of our finances, whether an advance can be granted.

Kenmare Union.

REPLY to the above:—*January 27, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have made application to Count Strzelecki for an advance of 300*l.* for the Kenmare Union.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners are desirous of being informed whether you are able to certify that the rate-payers of the Union will not be able to meet their liabilities, and that they are making such exertion as can reasonably be expected from them.

The Commissioners also request that you will be so good as to report specially on the following points:—

1st. What is the sum total of the poor rates paid in Kenmare Union since you have been the Inspector of the Union, and to how many shillings in the pound on the net annual value does it amount?

2ndly. What is the obstacle to the rate being collected? Is it that there is negligence or dishonesty in collectors or rate-payers? Is it that the crops have failed? Are the means of the proprietors and occupiers exhausted, or likely soon to be exhausted; and if so, how is this proved?

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 27, 1848.*

UPON entering into the arrangements required for carrying into operation the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied, I have to submit to the Commissioners the following subjects for my information and guidance.

I have already expressed my opinion that the Union can only maintain the workhouse establishment, and the out-door relief under the 1st section of the Act. I have now to arrange for the cost of the staff of superintendents of labour, the food, and the implements required for putting the men to work; also many other expenses involved by the distribution of food, as depôts in each division must be established.

As I am informed that the funds of the British Association are the resource from which assistance is to be rendered, am I to understand that all the expenses for putting the able-bodied to work will be advanced, and the food to be supplied from the Commissariat store?

There are plenty of tools available for putting the people to work immediately at the different depôts of the Board of Works; if these can be applied for this service, I request that directions may be issued to the officers under the Board of Works for a supply of implements suitable for the purpose of stone-breaking in each electoral division.

I have also to request that directions will be given to the stationer for a supply of the duplicate forms referred to in the Commissioners' letter to the Vice-Guardians, relative to the employment of persons in the receipt of out-door relief, to enable the lists for the superintendents of labour being completed without delay.

Stone-breaking on the unfinished roads is the labour which can be most easily put into execution.

Kenmare Union.

REPLY to the above :—*February 2, 1848.*

BEFORE the Commissioners can give you a definite answer to your questions, they are anxious to receive a detailed answer to the questions contained in their letter of the 27th ultimo, to which letter they desire to call your particular attention, if it has not been fully answered before this letter reaches you.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 29, 1848.*

WITH reference to my report of the 14th instant, recommending the dissolution of the Board of Guardians, wherein I stated that many of the Guardians were defaulters themselves, for the information of the Commissioners I enclose a return showing the names of the Guardians who had not paid their poor rates, in justification of my report.

ENCLOSURE.

RETURN of RATES due by EX-GUARDIANS, on the 20th January, 1848.

Electoral Division.	Name of Ex-Guardian.	Residence.	Post Town.	Amount due.
				£. s. d.
Kenmare .	Eugene O'Sullivan .	Westcoree .	Ballybrack . . .	2 5 6
„	Daniel M'Carthy .	Kenmare .	Kenmare . . .	1 4 6
„	Francis H. Downing .	Killarney .	Kilgarvan . . .	4 3 6
„	Duckett M. Mayberry .	Muxna .	Kenmare . . .	6 0 6
Templenoe .	Morgan J. M'Swiny .	Kenmare .	„	1 11 6
„	John H. Mahony .	Tubrid .	„	14 0 0
Tuosist .	Peter M'Swiny .	Derreen .	„	30 13 9
„	Francis H. Downing .	Killarney .	Killarney . . .	17 1 8½
„	John R. O'Sullivan .	Kilbunaun .	Kenmare . . .	2 8 0
Kilgarvan .	Daniel M'Carthy .	Kenmare .	„	1 16 9
„	Eugene O'Sullivan .	Westcoree .	Ballybrack . . .	4 4 0
„	John D. Croker .	Mallow .	Mallow, Co. Cork .	2 10 9
Ballybog .	Peter M'Swiny .	Derreen .	Kenmare . . .	5 14 0
„	James F. Bland .	Derryquin .	Sneem . . .	87 0 0
Bourdoneen .	Eugene O'Sullivan .	Westcoree .	Ballybrack . . .	13 0 0

ERASMUS OMMANNEY, *Captain R.N.*
Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

Kenmare, 29th January, 1848.

REPLY to the above :—*February 1, 1848.*

THE Commissioners presume that you have caused the collectors to be instructed to take active and prompt measures to enforce the immediate payment of rate in these cases as well as others.

The Commissioners are desirous of being informed, in the course of the next week, whether any of the persons in the list enclosed with your communication are still defaulters—and if so, what reason can be assigned in each such case, of the neglect of the collector to enforce payment?

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 30, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians have arrived. Charles Barnewall, Esq., assisted me on Friday in the admission of paupers and in authenticating the relieving officers' lists. Richard Robinson, Esq., attended at the Board yesterday, and assisted us with his advice. As their sealed order for the appointment arrived last night, the sealed order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied was read at the Board, a measure which is at this moment impracticable, arising from the impossibility of obtaining funds in the Union.

The sealed order authorizing the Vice-Guardians to hold meetings at other places in the Union than Kenmare was read, an authority which I consider as one of the greatest utility with a view to ascertain the correct state of the relieving officers' lists, and inquire into the manner in which they discharge their duties.

The collectors have obtained about 200% more of the rate. The stipendiary magistrate has arranged to be here to-morrow with a force to protect the rate collectors, and will at once proceed to the division of Bourdoneen. This measure

has been delayed a fortnight in consequence of the severe illness of Mr. Dillon, resident magistrate. The collectors appear to be sanguine in obtaining the greater part of the rate, but I anticipate a difficulty should a large sale be required for distresses made.

The dissolution of the late Board is regarded as a most salutary measure for the public benefit. The whole system in the execution of the Poor Laws in this Union requires to be placed on a proper footing. The Vice-Guardians will have to consider that they are beginning entirely *de novo*, particularly in the workhouse establishment; the Vice-Guardians will give their attention to this immediately.

The number of admissions on the lists of the relieving officers have increased to a large amount. A total revision of the lists will be necessary immediately; the Vice-Guardians can attend to them. In the Bourdoneen division the relieving officer brought up nearly 100 additional names, which I declined to authenticate, as he could not give any satisfactory account of the parties, nor could he state any particular case which required immediate relief. I have arranged that the Board will hold a meeting in the electoral division of Bourdoneen on the 8th February, in order to scrutinize the lists of the relieving officer.

The only dwellings which could be obtained in the town for extra workhouse accommodation, afford but very indifferent shelter for the inmates, who are scattered about the town. Upon inquiry, I find that a large building adjoining the Commissariat store may be made available for accommodating all the extra paupers. If it can be obtained it will be a very great advantage, as it is detached from the town, nearer to the workhouse, and will receive all under one roof, besides afford us an extension for continuing the workhouse test. I shall endeavour to have this effected without delay.

This week I availed myself of the opportunity of visiting the division of Bourdoneen, where a better disposition to pay the rate appears to be manifested since the change of Guardians, and a satisfaction to find the Vice-Guardians will hold meetings in the division. Much anxiety is entertained by the ratepayers for being attached to the Cahirciveen Union.

At Sneem in the division of Ballybog, the misery and destitution of the people can hardly be exceeded; the emaciated appearance of the children, who are almost naked, is distressing to witness.

I am now distributing upwards of 3000 rations of rye bread daily to destitute children, from the bounty of the British Association, and I have all the arrangements completed—the number will amount to 4000.

All along the coast the greatest exertions are in operation preparing the land for sowing the potato: in many parts it is already sown; every one who can is determined to plant it extensively. The destitution of the people produces much petty crime—seed is rooted up at night, and stock carried off. Sickness is spreading through the county, both fever and dysentery.

Many applications are made for the means of interring the destitute: but as the provisions of the Fever Act are not in operation, I am not aware how to satisfy the claimants for assistance. As much mortality may be anticipated, I beg the Commissioners will take the subject into consideration, and direct me as to providing for the emergency.

The Vice-Guardians will immediately proceed to a thorough investigation of the present state of the workhouse establishment, and I am prepared to find the existence of many evils from continued mismanagement; and in order that the Commissioners may obtain the fullest information respecting the whole state of affairs, I strongly suggest the propriety of directing Mr. Crawford, Poor Law Inspector, to repair here for the purpose of being present during the inquiries of the Vice-Guardians; the benefit of his advice and experience would, I think, be most desirable, and his opinion would be satisfactory from the respect generally entertained for him in this Union.

REPLY to the above:—February 3, 1848.

THE Commissioners have made application for a further advance of 200*l*. to the Vice-Guardians of the Union, to assist them in providing for the relief of the destitute poor of the Union.

I am, at the same time, to state, that the Commissioners are still desirous to

Kenmare Union. receive detailed answers to the questions contained in their letter to you of the 2nd ultimo.

As regards the difficulty which you anticipate with respect to the sale of goods distrained for non-payment of poor-rate, I am to draw your attention to the legal opinion on the subject contained in the "Collector's Manual."

If a sale cannot be effected to ordinary purchasers, it is possible that the Commissariat officer, or the police, or the Union officers, might become purchasers of the cattle or goods distrained. The Commissioners do not, however, apprehend that the difficulty which you anticipate will arise.

They await your further report on the subject of the occupation of the building, which you state may be advantageously used as an addition to the present work-house of the Kenmare Union.

With respect to your recommendation, that Mr. Crawford should visit the Kenmare Union, I beg to state that Mr. Crawford has various engagements in other parts of his district; but the Commissioners do not doubt that he will visit the Kenmare Union as soon as compatible with his other engagements.

Adverting to your report of the 27th ultimo, I am to state that the Vice-Guardians should themselves apply to the stationer for the printed forms required for commencing the system of out-door relief, or they may perhaps be more expeditiously printed at Kenmare.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 27th ultimo, and in reply I beg to inform the Commissioners that I am ready to certify that the rate-payers are unable to meet their liabilities, which amount to 1500*l.* The weekly current expenses are upwards of 300*l.*; the amount of rate uncollected about 2000*l.*, the whole of which it is expected will not be obtained.

Having also been called upon specially to report:—

1st. "What is the sum total of the poor-rates paid in Kenmare Union since I have been the Inspector of the Union, and how many shillings in the pound on the net annual value does it amount?" The sum total paid since my arrival, November 23rd, up to the 22nd January, is 1595*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, amounting to 1*s.* 3½*d.* in the pound on the net annual value.

2ndly, "What is the obstacle to the rate being collected? is it that there is negligence or dishonesty in collectors or rate-payers? is it that the crops have failed? are the means of the proprietors and occupiers exhausted or likely soon to be exhausted; and if so, how is this proved?"

The bad example of the Ex-Guardians in not paying the rates due from themselves I consider was an obstacle to collecting the rate, together with their negligence in collecting it. Most of the proprietors in this Union are people of affluence; but with occupiers there are many whose means are exhausted, owing to the failure of the potato crop, upon which they entirely depended. Many are in a state of destitution; the class usually termed middlemen are in great poverty, having received no rents last year, and are in consequence unable to pay their poor-rates.

Under the existing difficulties and great extent of destitution, I do not see any prospect of being extricated from them, so as to place the Union on a proper footing, without assistance to clear off the liabilities, and funds to set the work-house into a proper state of order.

REPLY to the above:—*February 5, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have made application for a further advance of 200*l.* to the Vice-Guardians, in order to meet the immediate and pressing wants of the Union. At the same time the Commissioners observe, that you state in your report that most of the proprietors in this Union are persons of affluence. Now the Commissioners are desirous of knowing whether the parties adverted to have paid their rates; and if not who the defaulters are, and whether legal proceedings have been instituted against them. The Commissioners observe also that you state that some of the late Guardians have not paid their rates; and it is scarcely necessary to point out that the very earliest attention of the collectors and of the Vice-Guardians should be directed to such cases of default.

CLIFDEN UNION.

MR. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*November 29, 1847.*

THE usual weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians was held to-day.

I brought before the Board the communication which I had the honour of receiving from the Commissioners, in reference to Patrick Evans, disqualified from being appointed relieving officer of the Renvyle district; and I have to inform you that the Guardians will proceed to elect another person on Monday next.

The collection of the rates is progressing favourably in the electoral division of Clifden.

The Roundstone collector has resumed his duties. The collector of Renvyle will be sufficiently recovered from his attack of fever to proceed with the collection of the rate in that electoral division on Monday next. (See Minutes).

There is an arrear of 406*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* of the last rate in the electoral division of Ballindoon, of which about 80*l.* is in the hands of the Board's solicitor for recovery, and for which he has already instituted proceedings in the superior Courts. I am desirous of being informed whether the Guardians can legally carry forward the arrears of the rate to the new rate, under these circumstances.

The necessary books are required for the use of the relieving officers before they can proceed to the execution of their duties, which I beg may be furnished at the earliest moment.

I am not sufficiently informed as to whether the documents can be had directly upon a requisition to the Commissioners' printer, or not. Adverting to the Commissioners' letter of the 20th instant, in reference to the deviation from the 17th article of the General Rules, I beg to state that the Guardians have taken the necessary steps to advertise for tenders for the supply of provisions, &c.; but, at the same time, I think it right to declare that I feel considerable doubt as to whether any tenders will be sent in at the next meeting, in consequence of the want of faith which there exists towards the Board of Clifden Union. I trust, however, that my apprehensions may prove incorrect. I am informed by the clerk, that on several occasions when notices for tenders were advertised, that no notice was taken of the same.

A Committee has been appointed, at my suggestion, for the revision of the list of paupers in the workhouse, agreeably to the Commissioners' opinion as to the necessity of such a step.

The cases of the children shall also be closely scrutinized by the same Committee.

No proposition has been made to remunerate Dr. Suffield for his services as local treasurer, I shall bring it before the Board at the next meeting.

In reference to the school-house proposed to be converted into a fever hospital, I beg leave to state that the chairman of the Board of Guardians, Mr. Hyacinth D'Arcy, is the landlord, and he is prepared to lease it on the most advantageous terms to the Board. Should the Commissioners approve of it, I shall write more fully on the subject when I communicate with that gentleman as to what he proposes to do. I do not think there would be any necessity to erect temporary sheds, if the school-house were fitted up. From what I have been enabled to gather by a short experience here, I doubt whether the Guardians could get the fever sheds fitted up in anything like the same space of time as the school-house.

It would be very desirable that I should be made acquainted, at the Commissioners' earliest convenience, with their definite opinion, as to whether the loan to build fever sheds could be expended in repairing the building I have alluded to.

The Board of Guardians appear to think (and I concur with them) that the school-house is the best site that could be chosen. The present state of the workhouse, now rendered absolutely pestilential by fever and dysentery, suggests the paramount necessity of prompt action to secure additional accom-

Clifden Union.

modation, and I beg leave respectfully to await the Commissioners' instructions on the points I have referred to.

My time has been anxiously directed during the past week, to the forwarding of the benevolent views of the British Association. I visited Westport on Tuesday last, and conferred with Mr. Lynch, the Inspector of that Union, in reference to the baking of rye bread. I returned on Thursday morning to Clifden, and have been very actively engaged in preparations to set the schools to work. The Commissary-General has forwarded me 250*l.* to make the necessary purchases, which I am proceeding to do.

The labour of effecting this excellent object is thrown, I may say, altogether on me. It will be in vain to expect assistance from the local gentry; however, it will afford me no small satisfaction to be enabled to dispense the relief through my own agency, and no exertion shall be spared for the purpose.

The distress during the week appears to have gained ground; but I trust in a week or ten days, it will be much mitigated by the proposed relief to the children.

I rejoice to state that the supply of fish is most abundant on the coast; and, what is still more gratifying, that (to use the words of Major-General Thompson, a resident landlord), "The fishermen were never more active in their exertions to fish, mainly because they are satisfied that no relief from the Government will be afforded to them this season." I myself witnessed some men bringing down their nets from the mountains to the sea coast, to catch the swarms of herrings in the bay. This is a step in the right direction, and holds out some hope for the future.

I hope in my next report to give the Commissioners some interesting information in reference to the commencement of relief to the schools.

REPLY to the above :—*December 2, 1847.*

THE Commissioners approve the proposed election of a relieving officer in room of Patrick Evans.

The Commissioners are glad to perceive that your continued attention is directed to the collection of the rate, the speedy collection of which from all classes is a matter of essential importance. In reply to your inquiry on the subject of the arrears, I am to state that, until the arrears have been actually paid, they should be carried forward into the new rate books as arrears, notwithstanding that legal proceedings for their recovery are pending. As regards the means of providing accommodation for fever patients, and your inquiry whether the loan for building temporary sheds for the accommodation of persons affected by fever, could be appropriated to the repair of the house, which Mr. D'Arcy proposes to let to the Guardians to be used as a fever ward, I am to state, that if the sheds cannot be speedily prepared, and that the house in question could be made available at once, without much outlay, the Commissioners will not object to a special application to the Lords of the Treasury, to sanction the appropriation of part of the loan for that object; but they must first be satisfied that the sheds cannot be speedily provided, and be made aware of the nature, particulars, and cost of the repairs proposed to be made in Mr. D'Arcy's house. They cannot understand why there should be any delay in preparing wooden sheds.

The Commissioners are glad to perceive that a Committee has been appointed to revise the relief lists. The relieving officers' books were forwarded to Clifden yesterday.

The Commissioners perceive, with satisfaction, that the apathy of the poor with respect to the coast fishery has in some degree abated; and they trust that the people will be induced to make an effort to provide sustenance for themselves and their families without extraneous aid.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 3, 1847.*

I WOULD hope to receive the Commissioners' final instructions, in reference to the occupation of the school-house as a fever hospital, before the next meeting of the Board.

A Guardian has asked me whether the Commissioners would sanction an individual here appointed relieving officer, who was married to his niece.

It is really difficult to get candidates who are not in some way connected with the Guardians. The party recently disqualified was brother-in-law to a Guardian.

I have to inform the Commissioners that two schools in the neighbourhood of Clifden, have been for the last two days receiving the relief extended to the Union by the British Relief Association. 400 children have been fed each day.

I hope to have the relief in operation in the other districts before the expiration of ten days.

Children have already left the workhouse to partake of the food in the schools. This will afford the Guardians additional room for able-bodied paupers.

REPLY to the above:—*December 4, 1847.*

WITH regard to the proposed repair and occupation of the school-house belonging to Mr. D'Arcy, I am to request your attention to the letter addressed to you on the 2nd instant. The Commissioners are not yet furnished with information sufficient to enable them to decide upon the matter; but they will do so immediately on receiving your further report.

In reply to your inquiry whether the Commissioners would sanction the appointment of a person as a relieving officer, who is married to the niece of a Guardian, I am to state that if no other person equally competent can be found for the office on further notice to appoint, the Commissioners will not object to the appointment unless some other good ground of objection should exist.

MR. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 6, 1847.*

SINCE the date of my last report, I have been occupied almost exclusively in organising the relief extended to this Union by the British Association, for the purpose of giving food to the children at the schools.

Two schools are already in full operation, and I only await the arrival of a supply of rye from Galway which I expect to-morrow, to provide food for several other schools in this district.

I attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day.

The election of relieving officer in the room of Patrick Evans, disqualified, was proceeded with, and John Lyden was elected; I have made inquiries as to his character and qualifications, and can recommend the Commissioners to sanction his appointment.

The books for the relieving officers were delivered in Clifden this day, and the clerk handed them over to three of those functionaries, whose active duties shall forthwith commence.

The porter was dismissed by the Guardians to-day, and advertisements were ordered to be posted for candidates to offer for that office.

A man of the name of Mullen has been appointed to act *pro tempore* as porter.

The collector of the Clifden Union is continuing to give satisfaction in the discharge of his duties; he collected 50*l.* this week, or rather he lodged that sum with the Treasurer of the Union; he has about 12*l.* in his hands.

The collector of the Roundstone electoral division did not attend to-day, but I am given to understand he has collected something over 58*l.* during the week. The great distance he has to come to Clifden, coupled with the severe and inclement weather to-day, formed a reasonable excuse for his non-attendance.

The collector of the Renvyle electoral division has resumed his duties, after a severe attack of fever, and he lodged 19*l.* during the week; he did not commence to collect until late on Wednesday last. I have every confidence in this officer, and hope to be enabled to report to the Commissioners of a steady advance in the amount of his collection.

The collector of the Ballindoon electoral division was very properly dismissed.

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to-day by the Guardians. He has proved himself unworthy of their confidence, and I can strongly recommend the Commissioners to adopt the suggestion of the Guardians, viz., that Mullins, the collector of the Clifden electoral division, should be allowed to collect the new rate in Ballindoon. I have already borne testimony to Mullins's efficiency, and when I assure the Commissioners, that before the 25th of this month, it is more than probable that the 3s. rate will be collected from the Clifden electoral division by this man, I would hope that they will permit his undertaking the collection of the rate in Ballindoon.

I am glad to be enabled to state, that several tenders were sent in to the Board to-day for the supply of necessaries, a proof of returning confidence in that body. I may here observe that the Guardians are evincing an anxious desire to attend to the interests of the Union, and that I continue to receive very willing co-operation from them, in the exercise of my official duties.

The Guardians, subject to the approval of the Commissioners, have agreed to take Mr. D'Arcy's house with the land adjoining for 15% a-year, for the purpose of a fever hospital (lease for 21 years). I have the honour to enclose one estimate which I have prepared, of the probable cost of making the necessary repairs, and alterations in Mr. D'Arcy's house for the purpose specified. The Guardians have ordered their clerk to post notices for tenders for doing the work (provisionally) with the sanction of the Commissioners. In reference to that part of the Commissioners' letter of the 2nd December, in which it is stated, that "they cannot understand why there should be any delay in preparing wooden sheds," I have the honour to submit the following remarks:—

1. There are but five persons able to undertake the erection of work of that kind.

2. A contractor having been declared, timber should be brought from Galway or Westport, by sea carriage, and at this time of the year it might be a month before it could be brought round.

3. I have made minute inquiries, and learn, that no one could complete the building before the expiration of ten weeks.

4. The constant storms and rainy weather at this time of year operate powerfully against the chance of the sheds being completed in any reasonable time.

For the above reasons, I would respectfully urge on the Commissioners the importance of procuring the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury to appropriate part of the loan to the repair, and alteration of Mr. D'Arcy's house.

The increase of disease in the workhouse renders it essential to have accommodation for fever patients, speedily provided.

I have (with the consent of the Guardians) employed the paupers in white-washing the interior of the workhouse during the week, and arrangements have been made to employ the able-bodied in breaking stones for the yards, which have not as yet been covered.

It is almost impossible to procure lime here, and it has only been by constant exertion on my part, that I have been enabled to obtain a small quantity for the workhouse.

It will take some time to reform the internal economy of the house after such long neglect, but I think that I shall yet be enabled to report to the Commissioners, the result of arrangements which I have made for its improvement.

There has been a great increase of distress and disease during the past week. The weather has been very severe, and has tended much to produce fever and dysentery.

It is pleasing to report that no opposition has been offered to the collection of the rate, and that with many combining disadvantages at present, a confident hope may be entertained as to this Union, of the ultimate success in the working of the recent legislation for the relief of the poor.

REPLY to the above:—*December 8, 1847.*

WITH reference to the appointment of a relieving officer for Renvyle, I am to state that the Commissioners will take the appointment of Mr. Lyden into consideration, as soon as they receive the answers to the usual queries

respecting him, which the clerk of the Union should be directed to forward without delay.

Questions for answers to be signed by the clerk and the person who may be appointed porter of the workhouse, in pursuance of the advertisement issued by the Guardians, and I am, at the same time to observe, that the Guardians should record the dismissal of the late porter on the minutes.

The Commissioners have read with satisfaction, your account as regards the collection of the rates in part of the Union, and they are anxious that your continued attention should be directed to this important subject. When any of the collectors are unable to attend to lodge with the treasurer the money they have collected during the week, they should, if practicable, forward the amount by post, sending half of the notes for the amount in the first instance, and transmitting the other half notes when the first are acknowledged.

The Commissioners will issue an order for the dismissal of the collector for the Ballindoon division, on being informed of the grounds, if they be sufficient, on which the Guardians suspended him from his office, and I am to forward herewith the usual queries, for answers to be signed by the clerk and Mr. Mullin, whom the Guardians propose to appoint in room of Mr. Flynn; the answers to these queries should be forwarded to the Commissioners with as little delay as possible.

With respect to the taking of Mr. D'Arcy's house to be used as a fever hospital, instead of erecting temporary sheds for the accommodation of fever patients, I am to state, that the Commissioners' architect has proceeded to Clifden, and they await his report on the subject.

Mr. Wilkinson's immediate attention will be drawn to your observations.

In the event of Mr. D'Arcy's house being taken, I am to inquire whether the expense of preparing the necessary lease would be defrayed by Mr. D'Arcy or by the Board of Guardians out of the poor-rates.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 13, 1847.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day. I have the honour to report that the several queries have been duly answered by the relieving officer elected for Renvyle electoral division, and were forwarded by the clerk.

A person of the name of Mullen was elected porter by the Guardians at this day's meeting. I have made particular inquiries as to his character and qualifications, and can recommend the Commissioners to sanction his appointment.

I have had a great deal of trouble in getting the dismissed porter to leave the workhouse. It was only by having a summons issued against him, under the 100th section of the Act, that I was enabled to get him to give up possession of the books, &c. His conduct was extremely violent.

The Board of Guardians paid him his salary to-day, and, I presume, they will receive no further annoyance from him.

The collector of the Ballindoon electoral division was dismissed by the Board, in consequence of his want of activity in collecting the rate; the Board unanimously feeling that the 3s. rate would never be collected by him. In this opinion I most fully coincide, and the appointment of Mullins would, I have no doubt, be the surest step to the collection of the rate. Flynn (the late collector) attended at the Board to-day, and preferred charges against Morris (the former collector of Ballindoon). He states that several persons (and he names two in particular), to whom he applied for the last rate (the 1s. rate), allege that they have receipts from Morris in their possession. Upon referring to the book, I found that the individuals alluded to by Flynn do not appear to have paid, and Flynn has promised to bring forward those parties, who have consented to produce the receipts. There is quite enough in the whole matter to rouse my suspicions, and, with the permission of the Commissioners, I should wish to examine the parties upon oath.

I have still to report favourably of Mullins's exertions. I examined a list of the immediate lessors owing rate which he laid before the Board to-day, and he has received instructions to proceed against the parties if the rate be not

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immediately forthcoming. There is a large amount to be paid by a receiver, who has been peremptorily written to, to send the amount due.

The collector of this division made no return this week, and the Board have unanimously resolved to suspend him on the next day of meeting, unless he shall have made considerable progress in the collection.

The Board have increased the rate of Leyden's poundage by three-pence. I think this was a prudent step, as his district is a large and straggling one, and in the collection of the rate a greater amount of labour than in the other electoral divisions.

In reference to the inquiry, whether the Board of Guardians or Mr. D'Arcy would pay for the expense of preparing a lease of the house and premises proposed to be taken for the purpose of a fever hospital, I have to inform the Commissioners that the Guardians have undertaken to defray that cost out of the current rates.

The Board have consented to provide funds for the support of this hospital.

This matter was brought before the Board this day, and its further consideration was postponed until next day of meeting. I think the Board will be obliged to incur a small annual expense for this purpose. I have suggested 2*l.* a-year for each office. I have no doubt they can be provided for this sum.

A Committee has been appointed to inspect two houses, contiguous to the workhouse, for additional accommodation; and the contractor for the supply of blankets was directed to furnish several additional pairs to-day for the service of the paupers admitted.

The additional day-room accommodation, as suggested by Mr. Phelan, is most important; and I beg leave to ask the Commissioners whether they would permit the present Board-room, which was built for the purpose, and also to be used as a chapel and dining-hall, to be temporarily allowed as a day-room. The Guardians have peremptorily refused to sit there until the house shall be in a more healthy state, and this, one of the largest apartments in the house, is unused (save on Sunday, when the paupers attend chapel), and could, I would suggest, be made available at the present time most advantageously.

It will be in vain to get the Guardians to attend at the workhouse, or appoint a visiting committee, until fever and dysentery cease their ravages.

As I mentioned to the Board in one of my former reports, it is a matter of no small difficulty to procure a supply of lime to whitewash the house, and it has only been by much personal exertion on my part that I got some few barrels to commence.

The medical attendant of the workhouse informed me that, in his opinion, the present inmates of the house required a change of diet; and a copy of his medical certificate appears on the minutes to that effect. The Board are desirous to use rye-bread. Dr. Suffield, appointed local treasurer, has been obliged to leave Clifden for a short time, in consequence of ill-health; he had not, as the Commissioners are aware, entered on the duties of that office. I hope in a short time that the Board of Guardians will have the benefit of his services.

I have to inform the Commissioners that the relief at the schools has been productive of the greatest benefit, and the system which I have been enabled to carry into effect will, I trust, be conducive of the best results.

There is much distress in particular parts of the Union, but I trust it is not of a character which cannot be met by the existing law, and the assistance to be afforded by the British Association. Whenever that assistance shall be extended to the Union I would hope to be enabled to procure an industrial return. To this matter I am directing my most anxious attention, and shall lay my views before the Commissioners in an early report.

REPLY to the above :—*December 16, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 13th instant relating to the Clifden Union, and in reference thereto, I am directed to state for your information, that the Commissioners have approved the appointment of Mr. Leydon as relieving officer for the Renvyle division of the Union.

The Commissioners have given directions for the preparation of an order

for the dismissal of Mr. Flynn, the late collector for the Ballindoon division, which will be issued unless he forthwith sends in his resignation.

The Commissioners fully approve of your making inquiry, upon oath, into the charges brought by Mr. Flynn against Morris, a former collector of poor-rate in the division, and in the event of the charges proving to be correct, the Commissioners recommend that immediate proceedings should be taken against Morris under the 101st section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, for misapplication of the Union funds.

The Commissioners have read, with satisfaction, your report of the attention which is being paid to the collection of the rates in the Union, and they approve the increase proposed in the remuneration allowed to collector Leydon.

The Commissioners can take no step with respect to Mr. D'Arcy's house until they receive the report of their architect upon the subject of providing accommodation for fever patients at Clifden.

The Commissioners have forwarded an extract from your report relating to the Ballindoon temporary fever hospital to the Central Board of Health.

The Commissioners are prepared to approve the allowance of an annual payment of offices for relieving officers.

The Commissioners think it a matter of much importance that the Guardians should meet in a Board-room at the workhouse, but they will address you further on this point.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. WILKINSON, Architect:—*December 16, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed extract from a report from Mr. Deane, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, of Clifden Union, relating to the house proposed to be taken from Mr. D'Arcy, to be used as a fever ward to the workhouse, and I am to state, that the Commissioners await your report upon the subject before they take any step in the matter.

They also request your report on the proposal contained in the further extract from Mr. Deane's report enclosed herewith.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. DEANE:—*December 28, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that they have now received observations of Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. R. Bourke on the proposal to use the Board-room at the workhouse of the Clifden Union as a day-room, and under the circumstances of the case, and having regard to the peculiar construction of the Clifden workhouse, the Commissioners will not offer any further objection to the occupation of the room referred to, either as a day-room or a dormitory.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners think it very desirable that arrangements should be made as soon as possible for the meetings of the Guardians to be again held at the workhouse, and the Commissioners are desirous that you should bring this point, as well as the appointment of a Visiting Committee, under the notice of the Guardians at a favourable opportunity.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 20, 1847.*

SINCE last I had the honour of addressing you my time has been chiefly occupied in attending to the dispensation of relief to the children at the schools in the Union.

You have already before you my report in reference to the amount of clothing required for the use of the workhouse, and I cannot too strongly urge on the Commissioners the necessity of advising its speedy transport hither.

The Guardians experience the greatest difficulty in getting the contractors to supply them with clothes and blankets.

The paupers who were admitted, are now necessarily obliged to lie down in the polluted and filthy rags they come into the workhouse with. I attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day. The applications for relief

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(in-door) were most numerous, and the distress has within the last week, owing to the inclement state of the weather, gained considerable ground.

The list of the inmates in the workhouse is carefully in course of revision, and especially in reference to the quarter acre clause, in the Act of Parliament; acting upon information received from the relieving officers to-day, 15 were discharged from the workhouse, who were found to come within its provisions.

I have strongly urged upon the Guardians the necessity of adhering rigidly to the course pointed out by the Commissioners in the Circular of the 26th of August last, and they have expressed their determination to follow the suggestions therein contained.

The Guardians have selected two houses (or rather thatched cabins) in the vicinity of the workhouse for additional accommodation. Subject to your sanction they propose to take them at a small yearly rent, 5*l.* for each.

It will be impossible to obtain any other accommodation, and it is only a chain between this and out-door relief to the able-bodied, which in this Union I look to with considerable apprehension.

By a careful revision of the list, and by removing the children in the workhouse to another establishment, and with a supply of clothing, I would hope that we shall be enabled to avert the necessity of out-door relief to the able-bodied for a considerable time.

The Guardians are now prepared to give out-door relief to those comprised in the first class, viz., to destitute widows with two or more children, and to keep the house for able-bodied paupers.

I am inclined to think that the step will be productive of much advantage, and I hope to report by next Monday that it will be in operation.

The revision of the list I attach much importance to. It is absolutely necessary to be guarded against imposition. During the last week (for instance) one of the female paupers appeared before the magistrate, and charged a fellow-inmate with stealing 3*l.* off her person; from the evidence adduced, there was strong presumptive proof that her story was correct. The female paupers in the same dormitory with her were searched, but no money was discovered; on examining the complainant's person, however, the master found 14*l.* 6*s.* in silver sewn up in her dress. This woman had been but a week in the house.

This will show the Commissioners how difficult it is to deal with the cases brought before the Board.

The collection of the rate progresses, under all circumstances, favourably.

It would be desirable that Mullins should receive the Commissioners' appointment for the collection of the rate in Ballindoon, without delay.

M'Donnell, the collector of Renvyle, who was recently ill of fever, collected 45*l.* this week.

Mullins, the collector of Clifden, would have had much more than that which he lodged with the Treasurer this week, but for the inclement state of the weather. The same remarks apply to the Roundstone collector.

On the whole, I can have no reason to complain of the activity of the collectors, who perform their duty strictly, and, at the same time, with temper and moderation.

I trust I shall soon have the benefit of Mr. Wilkinson's assistance in reference to the fever hospital, &c.

I propose to investigate the charges against Morris to morrow, a full report of which I shall duly forward.

Rumours have reached me relative to the conduct of the matron, affecting her moral character; touching which I am making preliminary inquiries. I would hope that they will turn out unfounded.

I should feel much obliged if the Commissioners will afford me the benefit of their advice in respect to the course best to be taken as regards increased accommodation, and whether they would approve of the houses I have alluded to (thatched cabins more properly speaking) being taken for the purpose; the premises are quite close to the workhouse, and may be used merely as dormitories.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 23, 1847.*

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WITH reference to the insufficient supply of clothing for the workhouse inmates, I am to state that no unnecessary delay will take place in forwarding to Clifden such portion of the cast naval clothing to which you advert, as may be allotted to the Clifden Union. I am, at the same time, to state that the admission of paupers into the workhouse, without changing their clothing, ought not to be allowed by the Board of Guardians, as being calculated to spread disease in the workhouse; and I am to suggest the expediency of giving to paupers already in the house their own washed clothes, and then cleansing the workhouse clothing which they now wear, to put on the additional parties admitted while their own clothes shall be washing.

By such an expedient, pending the preparation of additional supplies of clothing, which ought to be expedited as much as possible, the danger of contagion will be lessened; and you will be so good as to instruct the workhouse officers on this matter without delay.

With regard to that part of your report which relates to the giving of out-door relief, I am to enclose, for your information, a copy of an order which has been issued in some Unions, extending the powers of the Guardians for giving out-door relief.

It is most desirable, however, to avoid giving out-door relief as far as possible, by providing additional workhouse accommodation; and, under the urgent circumstances of the case, the Commissioners do not object to the temporary occupation of the two thatched cabins to which you refer, for dormitories of additional inmates; but they consider the rent of 5*l.* for each cabin unusually high, and they recommend you to endeavour to obtain some large detached building in Clifden, or elsewhere, to which the children or infirm might be removed.

In consenting to the temporary occupation of the ten cabins referred to, I am to state that the Commissioners rely upon your discretion in this matter, as they are not furnished with any particulars as to the size or capacity of the buildings, and no information is supplied as to whether there are any yards or other enclosures attached to them.

As regards Collector Mullins, I am to state that the Commissioners are awaiting replies to some of the usual queries which were omitted when they were first forwarded by the Union clerk.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. DEANE:—*December 23, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have now received the report of their architect on the proposal to take a house at Clifden belonging to Mr. D'Arcy, called the National School-house, and to put it in repair for the reception of fever patients.

The Guardians propose, it appears, to take this house on lease for 21 years at a yearly rent of 15*l.*, and to pay the costs of preparing the lease. They also propose to put the house in repair, and you have forwarded an estimate, from which it appears that the repairs contemplated would cost 49*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, exclusive of the bedsteads which are estimated at 40*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* In the estimate for the repairs is an item of charge of 3*l.* 6*s.* for sheeting under felt, which may not be required, as the item for felt has been struck out. The charge estimated for the bedsteads (15*s.* each) is considered high, and unless they are made for removing to the new fever hospital when it is built, 5*s.* or 6*s.* seems to the Commissioners to be quite sufficient for bedsteads.

The Commissioners observe that no name is attached to the estimate, and it does not appear from your reports who is to execute the proposed works. As the Commissioners are to make application to have any money which is expended on this house paid out of the loan which is to be obtained for erecting a fever ward, it will be necessary that the particulars, as regards the contract, should be fully stated.

I am further to state, that it appears to the Commissioners advisable, for the interests of the Union, to avoid if possible making a long lease of the National School-house, as it is intended to erect a permanent fever-ward, and it is also advisable to reduce the expense of repairs to the building as far as practicable. The Commissioners think it probable, as so much must be expended on the building to make it habitable, that Mr. D'Arcy would be satisfied with that

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expenditure, in lieu of rent, for such short period as the Board of Guardians may require to occupy the building, and they consider that if it can be avoided, it would not be expedient to take a lease of the building for 21 years. If, however, it is absolutely unavoidable to take a lease, a clause of surrender should be introduced. A copy of the estimate received from you is returned herewith.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 25, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 23rd instant, in reference to the proposed occupation of Mr. D'Arcy's house, (the National School-house,) for the purpose of accommodating fever patients.

The estimate which I transmitted to the Commissioners was prepared for me in order that I might furnish some preliminary information. No tenders have been advertised for by the Board of Guardians. I have been awaiting the decision of the Commissioners, founded on the architect's report, before I ventured to proceed further in the matter. I have had an interview with Mr. D'Arcy to-day, and he wishes me to communicate to the Board that he will waive any personal consideration to obtain accommodation for the fever patients, and begs that I will make any arrangements best calculated for that purpose. It is right, however, to state, that he is anxious that the permanent fever-ward should be built on the site of the present school-house, and the Board of Guardians, as a body, has expressed a similar desire. I have already offered my opinion as to the eligibility of the site, and I would hope that the Commissioners will shortly have the benefit of Mr. Wilkinson's experienced judgment on this subject.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—*December 30, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the proposal to fit up the National School-house at Clifden, belonging to Mr. D'Arcy, as a temporary fever hospital for the Clifden Union, and I am directed to express the Commissioners' sanction to the occupation of the premises by the Board of Guardians for the purpose stated.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners will take the site of the building referred to for the erection thereon of a permanent fever-ward, if the terms upon which it is proposed to let the ground be favourable to the Union.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 25, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 23rd instant.

In reference to your instructions as to the expediency of giving paupers, already in the workhouse, their own washed clothes, and then cleansing the workhouse clothing, which they now wear, for the use of additional parties admitted while their own clothes shall be washing; I beg leave to state, that the workhouse officers shall receive directions to carry the same into immediate effect,

In respect to the intention of the Guardians to give out-door relief to the first and second classes specified in the Act of Parliament, I beg leave to observe, that it is strictly to be confined to the permanently disabled and impotent poor, and destitute widows with two or more children. I should have stated otherwise in my last report, and particularly as regards relief to widows with one child. I have done so inadvertently, and by a clerical mistake, inasmuch as my particular and anxious attention was directed, at the meeting of the Committee appointed to revise the lists, to the importance of following, in the strictest possible manner, the directions of the Commissioners as contained in their circular letter of the 26th of last August, upon the correct understanding of which the Commissioners have laid so much stress.

I can assure the Board that I look with much apprehension to the quantity of out-door relief to the able-bodied of this Union, and consistently with the primary duty of relieving distress, I shall endeavour to point out to the Guardians, in forcible terms, the value of making their workhouse available for the reception of the able-bodied, with the view of preventing the necessity of resorting to such a step.

Acting, in this spirit, I recommended the Guardians to give relief to the two classes alluded to, and to provide increased accommodation outside. The two cabins, (and not 10) as stated in the communication I had the honour to receive, are about 45 and 35 feet long; they stand separately, and are not enclosed by any yard. It would be in vain to procure in Clifden any large "detached building;" the only one available being that selected for a temporary fever-ward. The Committee appointed by the Board to inspect these premises reported, that the largest cabin was worth 5*l.* a-year. The Guardians look upon their occupation of them as likely to be very temporary, and consented to give that sum, subject to the sanction of the Commissioners. It would be desirable that I should be acquainted, in reference to the passage "large detached buildings in Clifden or elsewhere," whether the Commissioners have placed any limit to the distance from the workhouse of buildings to be hired for that purpose?

I have now to call the attention of the Commissioners to the state of the workhouse, which I regret to say is in a lamentable condition, owing to the spread of disease therein. The Commissioners will, no doubt, recollect the position I am placed in. Unaided by a visiting Committee (the members of the Board of Guardians peremptorily refusing to go to the workhouse), I am obliged to witness the wretched condition of the establishment without means to effect a *prompt* remedy for this state of things. The inmates of the house are crowded together in a day-room, breathing a tainted atmosphere; there is an insufficient supply of bedding and clothing. The rain pours down through the ventilating turrets into the rooms, and the paupers are thus subjected to increased liability of infection. In all these matters I have applied my anxious attention. Directions have been given to provide increased accommodation, such as can be obtained. The contractor has been directed to supply additional bedding. A minute appears on the proceedings of the Guardians directing advertisements to be issued for tenders for the keeping in repair the house according to the printed specifications furnished to me. All this has been formally done, and yet I can tell the Commissioners from the experience I have obtained since my residence here, that it will be no easy matter to determine when these orders shall be completed. The contractor for clothing must be paid a portion of his debt before he gives any additional credit. The slater, carpenter, mason, &c., will urge the state of the weather as being against their respective operations; and while this delay is being experienced, pestilence rages among the wretched inmates. I have already reported to the Commissioners the difficulty I experienced in obtaining a few barrels of lime to whitewash the house, and they can understand, from this simple fact, how much I have to contend with in effecting matters of more consequence. On visiting the house, a few days ago, I was disgusted at learning that the dormitories (particularly those appropriated for children) are not supplied with night buckets. I forbear to describe the abominations consequent on this. The buckets had been long since ordered by the Guardians; but the idle laziness of the tradesmen occasioned a delay in the execution of the order, and the result was as I have stated. Now setting aside that the Guardians *have no visiting Committee*, and bearing in mind that they had actually ordered these articles, and had also directed their contractor to supply bedding, and had issued advertisements for tenders, I cannot attach blame to them, since my official connexion with their Board. And the Commissioners will, I trust, agree with me, that the difficulties I have to meet are associated with, and almost inseparable from, the locality in which the workhouse is placed in the Union; so distant as it is from towns where the Guardians could supply themselves with materials, and contractors for executing necessary works.

I regret to state that Dr. Bodkin's brother, who accompanied him to the workhouse hospital about a week since, for the purpose of assisting him in his medical duties, died to-day, of malignant typhus fever. I mention this fact, with the view of assuring the Commissioners that I shall now find it still more difficult to induce the Guardians to visit the house.

Within the last week the weather has been most inclement, and has brought with it a vast increase of disease and misery.

The rates are, I am glad to say, still in course of active collection. There are some receivers under the Courts of Chancery and Exchequer who have rents to collect in this neighbourhood. I have advised the collectors to remind them of their duty in paying the rate; and have learned that, in some instances, the receivers have proposed their total inability to meet the demand. It would be

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desirable to have something more definite and certain to deal with than their assertions; and I should be glad to know, whether the Commissioners would recommend an application to the Court, in every instance, when the rate is not paid by a receiver.

I have to report that Doctor Suffield has returned to Clifden, and is ready to undertake the duties of local treasurer. It is proposed to give him a salary of 20*l.* a-year. Will the Commissioners object to this? I think Dr. Suffield would be entitled to some remuneration.

I shall report to the Commissioners in my next communication the result of the investigation which I held, in respect to the charges brought against Mr. Morris, a retired collector, by Mr. Flynn, lately in the same occupation.

REPLY to the above :—*December 28, 1847.*

I AM to state that a note will be made on your former report correcting the clerical errors as regards the relief of widows, under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and the number of the cabins which the Board of Guardians have taken adjoining the workhouse.

The Commissioners fully approve of the course which you have recommended of giving out-door relief to those classes in the workhouse, who come within the provisions of the 1st section of the Extension Act, with a view to make room for the reception of able-bodied applicants for relief.

The Commissioners do not object, under the circumstances of the case, to a temporary occupation of the *two* cabins to which you advert; and as regards the distance within which they would think it advisable that the Guardians should occupy a suitable building, as an auxiliary workhouse, I am to state, that the Commissioners consider that it would be advisable to take such a building in any part of the Union in which it could be obtained. Any such auxiliary workhouse should be appropriated to the reception of the children in the workhouse, who might be readily managed by the employment of a trustworthy schoolmaster and schoolmistress, or other officers, if required. The Commissioners think it probable that there may be some buildings at Roundstone, which might be occupied with advantage as an additional workhouse.

The Commissioners have read your account of the state of the workhouse with great regret. They are aware that there are many difficulties to be met in reducing the establishment to a satisfactory state; but they rely upon your zeal and exertions to overcome those difficulties, and they trust, that you will shortly be enabled to report that your endeavours have been successful. The Commissioners are the more confident in this hope, from the satisfactory accounts which you give, upon the whole, of the collection of the rates.

As regards the case of properties under the Court of Chancery and the Court of Exchequer, the rates due on account of which are in arrear, I am to draw your attention to the orders of these Courts, copies of which will be found in the Collectors' Manual; and I am to request, that you will be so good as to obtain and forward to the Commissioners a list of the cases of that nature in which the rates have not been paid.

I am also to request that the Commissioners may be furnished with a list of the several immediate lessors in the Union who are now in arrear for poor-rate.

The Commissioners will address you again, with respect to the proposed allowance of 20*l.* a-year to Dr. Suffield, for discharging the duties of treasurer of the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. DEANE:—*January 1, 1848.*

WITH reference to your report of the 25th ultimo, I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to state that they approve the payment of a salary of 20*l.* per annum to Dr. Suffield, for his services as treasurer of the Clifden Union.

I am at the same time to state, that Dr. Suffield should enter into a bond for due performance of the duties of his office, in a principal sum equal to the utmost amount he is expected to have in his hands for the Union at any one time.

The Commissioners will be glad to be informed of the names of the sureties proposed by Dr. Suffield.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 27, 1847.*

I REGRET to be obliged to inform you that, owing to the crowded state of the workhouse and the spread of disease therein, I apprehend the most serious results, in which I am fully borne out by the opinion of the medical officer, as expressed to me in the letter which I have now the honour to enclose.

I attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day. It was resolved, with the view of arresting the progress of disease, and of carrying out the instructions of the Commissioners, as contained in their circular letter of the 26th August, to take out of the house the permanently disabled, &c., and widows with two or more children. The list of those coming under those classes was duly revised by the Guardians, and instructions were given to carry the same into effect to-day, but owing to the severity of the weather from rain, it was thought right to postpone discharging them until to-morrow.

The Commissioners will feel at once the position the Guardians are placed in, when I tell them that the workhouse built to accommodate 300, now has within its walls over 700!! that in a ward where but 40 patients could be conveniently accommodated for fever purposes, there are now huddled together 150!! that even in the day-rooms, and in the body of the house generally, as I am instructed by the medical attendant, many of the paupers are actually in fever, and, to use his own words, a "dire pestilence" will be generated, unless some steps be taken to check the spread of disease.

Having at the meeting of the Board to-day formally obtained the opinion of Dr. Bodkin that it was absolutely essential that the house should be relieved from its present crowded state, I urged on the Guardians the necessity of so doing, and on to-morrow morning I hope to see over 200 of the two classes I have already alluded to discharged.

From every part of the Union I receive distressing accounts of the spread of fever; indeed it is almost to be found in every village committing its ravages. While sitting at the Board of Guardians to-day a cart containing a fever patient was brought to the door. The greatest alarm prevails as to the state of the workhouse, and the prospect of the spread of contagion. The Guardians have passed a resolution to-day in reference thereto, in which they have requested me to proceed to Dublin to lay the condition of the Union in detail before you. Of course, without your sanction, I could not think of leaving my station; but should the Commissioners think that by a personal interview I might be enabled more effectually to represent matters to them than through the medium of a report, I shall lose no time in repairing to Dublin.

The Guardians will gratefully accept the assistance of Government in the erection of an oven at or near the workhouse.

The collection of the rate has not been as satisfactory this week, owing to the fact of one of the collectors being suspended (Ballindoon), and the Renvyle collector not having been enabled (as he alleges) to collect, owing to the death of his mother from fever; he has but just recovered from a severe attack of the same disease.

I trust that the sanction of the Commissioners will be given to Dr. Suffield's immediate appointment as local treasurer. It will be productive of the greatest advantage to the Board of Guardians, who have voted him a salary of 20*l.* a-year, subject to the Commissioners' approval.

I shall enclose the evidence taken before me in reference to charges brought against Morris by Flynn, both ex-collectors, on to-morrow.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. BODKIN, Medical Officer, to Mr. DEANE:—*December 27, 1847.*

As the workhouse is at present so very much over-crowded, there being 700 inmates under its roof, being more than double the number it is calculated to accommodate, I very much apprehend that unless the number be very speedily reduced within sanitary limits, that a dire pestilence will be generated, which would very rapidly extend its devastating influence far and near, and perhaps destroy many who might consider themselves perfectly secure from its contamination.

REPLY to the above:—*December 30, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 27th instant relating to the Clifden Union; and they have read with much apprehension yr

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account of the state of the workhouse. The Commissioners regret that the Guardians have not earlier taken steps for reducing the numbers in the workhouse, by affording out-door relief to all the classes coming within the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and by providing accommodation elsewhere for persons affected by fever. It appears, from the statements in your report, that the workhouse accommodation which has been provided in the Union, is not sufficient for the reception of the numbers of destitute persons now requiring relief in the Union; and under the circumstances, and taking into consideration the number of sick at present in the workhouse, the Commissioners have resolved to issue an order authorizing the Guardians to give out-door relief to the able-bodied. This order will be issued to-morrow, and, in the meantime, a copy of a similar order is enclosed for your information, together with a copy of a letter which the Commissioners deem it advisable to address to Boards of Guardians, when they issue such an order.

As regards the collection of the poor-rate in the Union, I am to request your attention to the Commissioners' letter of the 28th instant; and I am to state that the account which you gave of the Union fully shows the absolute necessity for the most vigorous and prompt steps being taken to effect the immediate collection of the outstanding arrears of rate. It appears from the clerk's return, that the collection for the month of November last amounted only to 300*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* The Commissioners have not received from the clerk of the Union the funds returns for the last four weeks; but it appears by the minutes of the Guardians' proceedings on the 27th instant, that there is 2125*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* still uncollected in the Union, notwithstanding the pressure upon the Guardians for want of funds.

The Commissioners have considered that part of your report referring to a resolution of the Guardians, suggesting that you should proceed to Dublin, to lay before the Government the alarming state of the Union; but the Commissioners think that it would be inexpedient that you should leave the district at the present time, when your presence there seems to be so much required.

The Commissioners will give prompt attention to any reports which you may make to them on the affairs of the Union; and they could only impress upon you, in a personal interview, the urgent necessity which exists for the active exercise by the Board of Guardians of the powers vested in them by the law, for affording relief to the destitute poor of the Clifden Union, and for the collection of sufficient rates for that purpose.

If you are of opinion that the duties of the Board of Guardians are not duly and effectually discharged, according to the intention of the Act for Relief of the destitute Poor in Ireland, the Commissioners are prepared to take into consideration the propriety of dissolving the Board, and of appointing paid officers to administer the affairs of the Union, in pursuance of the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

The Commissioners will communicate with you respecting the treasurer of the Union before the next meeting of the Board of Guardians; and they have forwarded extracts from your report respecting the spread of fever in the Union, and the erection of an oven, to the Board of Health and the Commissariat Office respectively; and they conclude that you have finally arranged with Mr. D'Arcy for the occupation of his house as a temporary fever ward, and have taken steps for having the necessary repairs made to the building.

When you report the amount to be expended for that purpose, the Commissioners will apply for authority to disburse it out of the loan for providing accommodation for fever patients in the workhouse.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. DEANE:—*December 31, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of an order which they have this day issued, authorizing the Guardians of the Clifden Union to afford out-door relief to the able-bodied.

I am at the same time to enclose a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Guardians relative to the employment of the able-bodied persons who are to receive relief; and the Commissioners request that you will have the goodness to afford the Guardians all the advice and assistance in your power, to enable them to carry out the order with the most effect and advantage.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 1, 1848.*

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SINCE my last report, 220 individuals, coming within the classes included in the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, have been discharged from the workhouse, and out-door relief has been administered to them. This step has been productive of much good in checking the spread of disease.

No time shall be lost in preparing Mr. D'Arcy's house for the reception of fever patients. On Monday next I hope to be enabled to report to the Commissioners as to the amount to be expended. Tenders for the execution of the work will be sent in to the Guardians on that day. In the absence of instructions as to specifications, I must necessarily trust to the assistance I shall derive from those prepared for the erection of wooden sheds, and from any judgment I can myself exercise as to the nature and extent of the work to be executed.

The order for granting out-door relief has arrived to the clerk, and I have, by this night's post, received copies of the same. The Commissioners may depend on my best and most anxious efforts to carry out their order with as much efficiency as lies in my power; but I feel it my incumbent duty to state, that I do not conceive that the present Board of Guardians "can duly and effectually" put the order into effect. They are totally unfit to meet an emergency of this kind, and are unable, from their want of business-habits and experience, to cope with the details of the order. The members of the Board are, for the most part, men of the more humble (indeed I may say of the lower class of life), and from whom I could not expect any assistance in the execution of the important instructions contained in the letter addressed to them upon the issuing of the order granting out-door relief.

Up to this moment, and previously, as I have already borne testimony in former reports, I have no reason to complain of the conduct of the Board of Guardians. They have attended *passively* to my suggestions, and adopted them; but I never received that active support which alone could enable me to carry out your last order in its spirit and integrity. The weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians being over, I saw nothing more of its members during the week, with the exception of Mr. D'Arcy, the chairman, to whose indefatigable exertions and ready co-operation at all times I wish to bear testimony. There appeared to be an impression on the minds of the Guardians (generally) that all responsibility should be thrown on me; and I have not hesitated, when I felt I could do good, to undertake it; but now that relief is about to be extended to the able-bodied, and that so much vigilance will be required in watching its administration, I have again to express my conscientious conviction that the present Board of Guardians is unequal to the trust. I, therefore, leave the consideration of dissolving that body to the Commissioners' judgment.

In reference to the collection of the rate during the last month, I beg to remind the Commissioners that fatalities have occurred unfavourable to its progress. Two of the collectors had only resumed their duties after severe attacks of fever, and a third had been suspended for inefficiency, and his successor has been but just appointed. A very large proportion of rate is due by landlords and receivers; and the Commissioners may depend that due steps shall be taken for the collection of the same.

The names of defaulting immediate lessors and receivers shall be forwarded as soon as I receive the lists from the collectors.

It occurs to me that it would be advisable that I should repair to Westport, in order to confer with Mr. Lynch and the Vice-Guardians as to the mode of affording out-door relief. I should also have occasion to go there to make a purchase of food from the agent of the British Association. I shall feel obliged by the Commissioners' permission to my leaving my Union for these purposes.

REPLY to the above:—*January 3, 1848.*

I AM to state, that the Commissioners have no objection to your proceeding to Westport, to confer with Mr. Lynch with respect to the order authorizing the Guardians to give out-door relief to the able-bodied.

The Commissioners will address you again with respect to the other matters adverted to in your report.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. DEANE :—*January 4, 1848.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had under their consideration your report of the 1st instant, relating to the management of the affairs of the Clifden Union; and with regard to your proposal that the Board of Guardians should be dissolved, I am to state, that the Commissioners will be ready to give the proposal their most deliberate consideration, provided that you will, in a separate report, place formally on record any instances in which the Guardians may have actually failed to discharge their duties duly and effectually since you have been in the Union. Your remarks in your report of the 1st instant on the conduct of the Guardians would not form a ground for the dissolution of the Board, unless accompanied by the enumeration of special instances in which they had neglected their duty.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 3, 1848.*

THE weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians was held to-day. I regret to be obliged to state, that the distress is becoming daily and hourly more alarming throughout the Union. Crowds of the most wretched and miserable objects surrounded the Court-house to-day, where the Guardians meet; and it required the assistance of the constabulary to preserve order, and secure the Guardians from interruption in the consideration of the many important matters which came before them. The order from the Commissioners for granting out-door relief to the able-bodied was read, as well as the instructions contained in the circular letter in reference thereto. I felt it to be my duty frankly to inform the Board of Guardians that I did not conceive, from my experience of the business-habits of its members, that they would be enabled "duly and effectually to discharge their duties according to the intention of the Act." I had (previous to the assembling of the Board to-day) a long interview with Mr. H. D'Arcy, the chairman, and the result was, that he expressed himself satisfied of the inability of the Board to meet the difficulties of the present crisis. He told me that he was willing and anxious to devote a certain portion of his time to the duties which devolved upon him as an *ex-officio* Guardian; and that to those duties he would give his undivided and anxious attention: but that he has apprehension that I could not expect regular attendance from the other members of the Board. At the meeting to-day there was considerable alarm excited by my having distinctly told the Guardians of my impression that the Commissioners would be obliged to dissolve the Board; and a resolution was passed in reference to the necessity of meeting *two* days in the week instead of one. I think it my duty to inform the Commissioners that I feel persuaded that that resolution will not be practically put into effect; and I expressed myself similarly to the Guardians. The Board did not meet till one o'clock to-day, and it is idle to think of getting through a mass of business in the interval between that hour and six o'clock, P.M.: it would nearly consume the whole time to examine into the cases of the applicants for relief. I have no hesitation in stating to the Commissioners my firm conviction, that, to meet the necessities which will arise, and to administer their duties fairly and honestly, it would take the attention of the Board of Guardians every day for one month at least, until the system should be fairly established for giving out-door relief to the able-bodied, according to the prescribed instructions. I have already communicated to the Commissioners my opinion as to the policy of dissolving the Board, and I have only now to await their instructions.

Tenders were received for the erection of the fever hospital to-day. I beg leave to enclose the one which the Guardians decided on receiving. The Commissioners will perceive that the cost of the *bed* which is to be made for permanent purposes has been reduced in price by 5s. (*see* No. 43251, D./47). The contractor is bound, under a penalty of 10*l.*, to complete his contract in six weeks from the day on which he receives orders to commence.

The increase of fever throughout the Union is most alarming. The relieving officers cannot send in patients to the present hospitals, either at Clifden or Ballydoon, as both are crowded to excess, and unable to accommodate more. Several wretched beings have died by the road-side and in their huts; and, in many instances, I have been applied to by the relieving officers with respect to instruction for providing coffins for them. According to the circular letter addressed to Union Inspectors, dated 15th November, 1847, it appears that coffins should be

provided by the churchwardens, and the expense assessed on the parish, under the 7th Geo. IV., c. 72, sec. 10: on the minutes of this day's meeting of the Board of Guardians a resolution appears in reference thereto, to which I beg leave to call the Commissioners' attention. No vestry has been held here for a very considerable time, and the churchwardens are unable to meet the demands which are daily made on them for the supply of coffins. A case occurred to-day which will show the position the Guardians are placed in. The relieving officer for Ballindoon electoral division brought before the Board the fact that a man was lying dead on the road-side, with his widow and children around him, and that they had no means to bury him. Mr. D'Arcy, the chairman of the Board (who is one of the churchwardens), was applied to by me, and he told me that no vestry had been held, and that as far as he was concerned he was powerless. In this state of things the Guardians resolved to provide a coffin for the man; I, of course, calling their attention to the letter of the 15th November, 1847. Cases such as this are now becoming of daily occurrence; and I shall feel obliged for the Commissioners' directions as to the best manner in which I am to act. It is lamentable that public decency should be thus outraged.

I regret to state that the mortality in the workhouse (as appears on the minutes) is still very great. I shall lose no time in putting the order of the Commissioners into effect in reference to relief to the able-bodied; but the details of the order, in such a district as this, require time to arrange. I could not get a supply of hammers for 50 men under 10 days at least. I trust that I shall have the benefit of the Commissioners' early determination as to whether they are satisfied that the present Board of Guardians can duly and effectually discharge the duties now devolving on them, and that if they shall arrive at the conclusion that they cannot, that paid officers may be sent here with all convenient despatch.

The collection of the rate has not been satisfactory this week. I brought the matter in the most forcible terms before the Guardians to-day, and the clerk received directions to write to the immediate lessors in the Union, informing them that the most rigorous steps would be taken for the collection of the rate due by them. I read at the Board the names of the defaulters, and I regret to say, some of the Guardians themselves have not paid. Mr. Martin, (who, as the Commissioners are aware, holds the most extensive estates in the district) is still a defaulter, and I told him that I should recommend the Guardians to proceed summarily against him; he paid to-day the rates due on one electoral division, and requested the collector to assist him in getting the rates from the occupying tenants; he has promised that all his rates shall be discharged within a week. I enclose, according to the Commissioners' desire, lists of the defaulting immediate lessors in the four electoral divisions. Mr. Fitzgerald, the acting agent of the receiver on Mr. D'Arcy's property, has promised to pay the rates due next week. I have had his attention called to the orders of the Courts of Chancery and Exchequer. Mr. Hart, receiver in *Burroughs v. Lambert*, is a defaulter; and he alleges that he has received no rents, and is unable to pay. It would be well that the Guardians had some better proof of this than mere assertion.

I beg to state that Dr. Suffield proposes as his securities H. D'Arcy, esq., and Major-General Thomson; and that they are ready to execute the bond. It would be of the greatest assistance to me if this appointment was at once sanctioned, inasmuch as the weekly account of the sums lodged in the bank at Galway is much short of the sums in the hands of the collectors, and consequently the Guardians can only draw cheques for what is actually lodged. To-day a letter was read at the Board from the manager of the bank, returning 13*l.* which the collector sent in a letter of credit, which he took from an individual in payment of the rate; the manager states that he could not place the amount to the credit of the Union, as he was unacquainted with the name of the party in whose favour the letter was made. This will show the Commissioners the advantage of having a local treasurer.

I shall not fail to have the necessary proceedings instituted against Flynn, under the 101st Section of the Act. Morris lodged 2*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* with Dr. Suffield, at my suggestion; which sum will be placed to the credit of the Union as soon as Dr. Suffield shall be regularly appointed, or it shall be handed over to Mullins, the Ballindoon collector, as the Commissioners shall direct.

The clerk has just informed me that he communicated to the Commissioners

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the fact of Morris's default, and that he called the attention of the Board of Guardians to Flynn not having numbered his receipt book ; he also states that the order in reference to his new duties, in initialing the block part of the receipts, did not reach him at the time the 1s. rate was in course of collection. Nothing appeared in the investigation to attach blame to the clerk for wilful neglect, though, as I have said in a former report, I have some reason to complain of his want of business-habits. I do not think he will be enabled to discharge his increased duties without additional assistance.

I have to report on the whole favourably of the efficiency of the relieving officers, who are evincing every desire to perform their duties strictly.

The relief afforded by the British Association to the children at the schools is working admirably. I am now affording food to about 3000.

I have given directions to the relieving officer to get the names of the children receiving relief at the schools, in order that they shall be enabled to prepare their lists accordingly, and that the Guardians shall not have to support the children of the able-bodied who shall be claiming relief for their families, when the schools may be possibly affording assistance.

The town of Clifden is infested with beggars, several of whom I have had committed as vagrants. I should be unwilling to trouble the Commissioners with any matter personal to myself, but as it in a great measure affects the performance of my duties, I beg to state that from the position in which I am placed, and from the apprehension on the minds of the people that I can alone relieve them ; my house is constantly surrounded by a crowd of wretched beings seeking relief, who are so importunate that I am unable frequently to sit down to my meals with that quiet necessary for one whose whole time is devotedly and anxiously directed to the faithful discharge of the duties entrusted to him. In bringing this matter before the Commissioners, I trust they will excuse me—and that I shall receive some protection from the constabulary. The Sub-Inspector has already afforded me assistance, but I think I am entitled to have an order issued to protect my house from this annoyance.

REPLY to the above :—*January 6, 1848.*

I AM to state in reply, that the Commissioners await your answer to their letter of the 4th instant, before they take into consideration the expediency of dissolving the Board of Guardians, and appointing paid officers to manage the affairs of the Union.

With regard to the repairs of the "National School-house," I am to refer you to the Commissioners' letter of yesterday's date ; and I am to state that an extract from your report, relating to the spread of fever in the Union, has been forwarded to the Board of Health. The Commissioners have no power to authorize the Guardians to pay out of the poor-rates for coffins for the interment of the bodies of persons dying out of the workhouse ; and they can only recommend that the existing law for providing coffins should be carried into effect.

The Commissioners approve of the intention of the Guardians to take proceedings for the recovery of the rates due by the several defaulters to whom you have drawn their attention. They think that the collectors should be directed, under the 2nd Section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, to serve the 15 days' notice on the immediate lessors, who are accessible to the collectors, with a view to their being summoned before the magistrates in case the rates are not at once paid.

It may be desirable to employ a solicitor to take proceedings against the defaulters in some instances, and the Commissioners request that you will bring the subject again under the consideration of the Guardians at their next meeting, as it is indispensable that every effort should be made without delay to obtain, and if necessary to enforce by all the means which the law has provided, the payment of the outstanding rates in the Union.

The following are the names of the immediate lessors who are returned as owing the larger amounts of rate :—

	£.	s.	d.	
A. B. Martin, esq.	245	1	6	
John O'Neill, esq.	109	0	8	
Hyacinth D'Arcy, esq.	88	2	10	Property partly in Chancery.
Martin O'Malley, esq.	25	12	6	
John Lambert, esq.	18	2	9	Property under the Courts.
Michael P. Browne, esq.	10	19	9	
John D'Arcy, esq.	7	15	0	

The Commissioners approve of the appointment of Dr. Suffield as treasurer of the Union, and recommend that his bond should be prepared and executed at once; a form of bond is given in the "Compendium," of which a copy is in your possession.

An extract from your report, relating to the importunity to which you are subject from vagrants, has been forwarded to the Constabulary Office.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. DEANE :—*January 15, 1848.*

ADVERTING to the letter already addressed to you on the subject of providing coffins for the interment of the bodies of persons not dying in the workhouse, I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to state, that if the Ballindoon temporary fever hospital be still managed by the Relief Committee, formed under the Act 10 Vict., cap. 7, the estimates to be sent to the Board of Guardians, through the Finance Committee, under the 15th section of the Act 10 Vict., cap. 22, may include the expense of providing coffins for persons who die of fever or other epidemic disease, in such Relief Committee's electoral division.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 10, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day.

The late hour at which I arrived from Westport on Saturday evening last, prevented my applying to your communications of the 4th and 6th instant, respectively.

With regard to your wish, that I should place formally on record any instances in which the Guardians of this Union have actually failed to discharge their duties duly and effectually, according to the Act, I beg leave to state that my opinions, expressed in my report of the 1st instant, have reference to the general inability of that body to perform their duties.

I may save the Commissioners some trouble, by informing them that after mature deliberation and consultation with Mr. Hyacinth D'Arcy, the chairman of the Board, I have determined, if possible, to save the Union the expense of paid officers, by undertaking the task of effecting the reformation in the state of the workhouse, in conjunction with Mr. D'Arcy, to whose constant and indefatigable exertions in the discharge of his duty I desire to bear testimony.

Mr. D'Arcy, in most forcible terms, brought before the consideration of the Board the state of the workhouse, and I cannot better describe its condition than by referring them to Messrs. O'Reilly and Duncan's report of the condition of the Mohill house, which, *mutatis mutandis*, is Clifden workhouse at the present moment.

The Board most determinately refused (with the exception of Mr. D'Arcy) to go near the house; one of the Guardians emphatically declaring, that the "Queen's dominions would not induce him to enter it."

The Commissioners will therefore see, that it is in vain for me to obtain the assistance of a visiting Committee; and in this extremity Mr. D'Arcy and I have offered (provided our suggestions be attended to) to undertake the task of setting matters in some degree aright in the workhouse.

The Guardians have willingly entrusted us with power to act as far as we may think expedient, in directing improvements; and with the desire, as I have before stated, to avoid the necessity of sending Vice-Guardians to the Union. I shall spare no personal labour for the purpose of bringing the Union workhouse to that condition which is provided for in the regulation of the Commissioners.

This must necessarily be a work of time, but I trust with zeal and industry to overcome the difficulties which surround me.

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The roof of the workhouse is in a sad state, a great portion of the slates on the southern side having been blown off in the late gales.

I inquired to-day, and found that there were no slates to be obtained in Clifden.

Three or four weeks may elapse before a supply can be obtained, at this time of the year, owing to the difficulties of the navigation round Slyne Head from Galway, and of the prevalence of south-westerly winds in coming from Westport.

No delay shall be made in providing the house with articles necessary for its internal economy, and with materials for present repairs. The Commissioners will therefore perceive, that as far as I am concerned, I propose to undertake the responsible duties of a visiting Committee, aided by my friend Mr. D'Arcy—and that the Board of Guardians have *willingly enough* conceded to us ample powers to commence reformatations.

The Guardians discharged 98 individuals from the house to-day, coming within the 1st section of the Extension Act. To each adult the sum of 1s. was given for one week, and 6d. to each child. The whole sum expended was about 3l. 11s.

This step, which I think a wise one, under the present circumstances of the house, relieves it from its crowded state. By Monday next I hope to find it reduced to the number it was originally built for, viz.—300. There are at present 140 in the hospital.

The mortality has been somewhat less this week, the greater number of deaths arising from dysentery.

I should be glad to know whether the Commissioners would approve of my directing some of the patients in hospital, not labouring under infectious diseases, being removed to the upper attic dormitories.

The medical attendant of the hospital seems to think that these apartments would not be suited for that purpose without a fire-place.

The Count Strzelecki has requested me to communicate with Captain Hellard in reference to the transmission of a cargo of rye meal to Clifden. The vessel which must be freighted for that purpose can bring some articles necessarily required at the workhouse, chloride of lime, &c., &c.

The Guardians have directed advertisements to be made for tender, for assistant relieving officers, to assist in the administration of the order granting out-door relief.

Tenders are also to be received on Monday next from contractors for the supply of meal, &c., at the various stations to be selected in the electoral divisions.

Mr. Richard Bourke has forwarded to me some observations, in reference to carrying out the order for the relief of the able-bodied, which he prepared for the Ballina Vice-Guardians. I read them to the Board to-day, and they agreed with me in thinking it highly expedient to adopt the practical suggestions contained in the document arranged by Mr. Bourke, a copy of which, I presume, the Commissioners have already had before them.

The collection of the rate has been very satisfactory during the last week, 170l. having been lodged in the hands of the treasurers. Dr. Suffield commenced his duties to-day.

The Commissioners will perceive that the Board have voted a gratuity of 10l. to Dr. Bodkin for his services at the workhouse hospital; and a notice of motion has been given to increase his salary from 40l. to 60l. a-year. I think the medical attendant is fully entitled to the increase.

Warrants have been issued from the Board of Health to the Board of Guardians, for providing increased accommodation for fever patients in the Union. Ballinahill and Ballinahinch have been selected as the localities in addition to Clifden. The Board of Guardians did not take any step in relation thereto to-day. The contractor has commenced work at the National School-house, sanctioned as the site of the temporary fever hospital. The terms agreed upon between the Board and Mr. D'Arcy are 15l. a-year, with a clause of surrender every three years. I received a communication from the Commissioners of National Education, in which no objection is offered to the occupation of the building, upon the Trustees consenting thereto, and upon the understanding, that it is to be restored to them for its original use as soon as the fever ceases to be prevalent in the locality. I should wish to know whether it is necessary that the trustees should be parties to the lease; and whether the Commissioners are of opinion that the condition imposed by the Commissioners of National Education as to the restoration of the building to the trustees, will affect the occupation of the site for the permanent fever hospital.

I had an interview with the solicitor to the Board of Guardians to-day, to

whom, as well as Mr. D'Arcy, I communicated the substance of the letter I received from the Commissioners of National Education.

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I have given directions to the collectors to serve the fifteen day notice on defaulting immediate lessors.

The solicitor will be in attendance on Monday next, to receive instructions as to proceeding against parties not immediately available in the Union, and who are in arrear for rate.

I should be desirous of ascertaining from the Commissioners, how far the Board of Guardians would be justified in taking (in a case where a large amount of rate is due) payment by instalments. In some cases I should be inclined to recommend that the arrangement should be sanctioned.

A Committee has been appointed for investigating the accounts of the Union weekly. I beg to call the attention of the Commissioners to the fact, that no auditor has yet visited Clifden Union.

I have called the attention of the clerk to the inaccuracies in the Union funds return, which he states he has rectified in the form lately enclosed to him.

Nothing further occurs to me to report to the Commissioners.

Mr. DEANE, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS:—

January 11, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a copy of informations sworn this day before the resident magistrate, Mr. Dopping, by John Lydon, poor-rate collector.

I waited on Mr. Dopping, who expressed his determination to accompany Lydon to the townland where the rescue and opposition to the payment of the poor-rate took place, and with an increased force of constabulary, to aid the collector in the execution of his duties.

I trust that this prompt and vigorous assertion of the law will have the effect of preventing a recurrence of similar outrages.

ENCLOSURE.

County of Galway } The information of John Lydon, poor-rate collector for the electoral
to wit. } division of Roundstone, who, having been duly sworn, states as follows:—

I proceeded, accompanied by head constable Wilks and four others of the police, on the morning of yesterday, the 10th instant, and having made a seizure of cattle for poor-rates due on the townlands of Leehenaghmore in said county, a number of women assembled, and shouted to some men, who were out in boats dredging for oysters, to come in to shore; the men then came in immediately, and when I was endeavouring to take away the cattle some of the party called out to the rest to gather stones.

Immediately afterwards a stone was thrown which hit one of the drivers, Michael King, over the eye, which caused him to stagger. I then observed the head constable sitting down, and his hand bleeding. Seeing it would be impossible to effect my purpose, and the head constable having been wounded, I relinquished the distress, and with the police left the land, the crowd following us for some time and shouting. I believe it would be impossible to collect the rate in that townland without a large police force, and I would consider my life in danger if I went there again unprotected.

Some of the persons who were engaged in this proceeding have been summoned on my complaint to the Roundstone petty sessions for to-morrow, for a rescue committed on the same townland, for the same rates, on a former occasion, and for which I duly swore informations before you.

Sworn before me at Clifden this 11th day of January, 1848.

JOHN DOPPING.

JOHN LYDON.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 17, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day. Tenders were received from individuals seeking to be appointed "stewards," or assisting relieving officers, to superintend the work to be performed by the recipients of outdoor relief (able-bodied).

The Board also received tenders for the supplying and delivering of meal, at certain places in the several electoral divisions. They were only enabled to agree with one contractor, and the further consideration of the tenders has been postponed until Wednesday next, an adjourned meeting.

The collection of the rate has not been satisfactory this week.

The collector of this district, who is also the collector of Ballindoon, has not been inactive. He informs me that if the immediate lessors in the several electoral divisions paid their rates, he would find no difficulty in collecting the rest.

Clifden Union.

The collector of this district has within a few weeks lost both father and mother by fever; the former having died within the last few days. He states that he was unable, from affliction, to undertake the collection of the rate since Monday last.

The collector here has been engaged, as he says, in attending petty sessions, and swearing informations for rescue before the magistrate; and thus excuses his having only collected 22*l*.

I told him that unless he shall increase the amount of his collection next week, that I shall recommend his dismissal. The Commissioners have already received the informations (a copy of which I forward) of the rescue of cattle from this collector. I have been informed that the parties are all summoned before the magistrates, and that the measures which have been taken, will probably prevent a similar outrage.

In reference to your request that I should state how much of the arrears due by the seven ratepayers named in the communication of the 6th instant, has since been paid, I have to inform you that Mr. Martin has paid 35*l*., and that I have directed the collectors to serve the 15 day notice on all the defaulting immediate lessors.

I have made the most searching inquiries as to the solvency of these individuals, and I have no doubt that in a short time I shall be enabled to report that the whole of their rate has been paid.

Mr. O'Neill, of Bunowen Castle, non-resident, owes a large amount of rate, about 200*l*. Proceedings have already been instituted against him for the 1*s*. rate, and similar measures must be taken to realize the recent rate, 3*s*.

The destitution is increasing here every hour, and I cannot but regret that, up to this moment I have been unable to organize the system for affording relief to the able-bodied. This is principally owing to the scanty supply of provisions in the Union. The order signed by the Board of Guardians to-day on the contractors (who could only supply them with two tons), and on other dealers, have nearly exhausted the supplies in Clifden, and I cannot too strongly urge upon the Commissioners to recommend to the Government the necessity of sending a supply of food for sale to this locality. The sooner this arrangement can be effected the more readily should I be enabled to put into effect the relief for the able-bodied, &c., with the assurance that there will be no deficiency of food.

I beg leave to enclose a letter which has been addressed to me by Dr. Suffield, the treasurer of the Union, and the medical attendant of the dispensary in Clifden.

Having been absent from Clifden, for the purpose of purchasing rye-meal in Galway, for the British Association, I requested him to assist Dr. Bodkin in classifying the sick and healthy in the workhouse. His letter very forcibly and truly sets forth the present state of the workhouse, and though I believe the master and matron to be, so far as I have had official acquaintance of them, honest, yet I have no hesitation in stating, that until the Clifden workhouse be managed and controlled by more experienced and practised officers, it will be in vain for me to effect permanent good.

If the Commissioners could possibly send an experienced master and matron here, (for it would be in vain to obtain such in Clifden), I should not despair of being enabled to produce the best results, but unless a strong step of this kind be taken, I cannot hope (at all events for some time) to effect much good. Since the date of my last report, Mr. D'Arcy and I have not visited the workhouse. We hope to be enabled to do so to-morrow, and I shall report accordingly.

The Board of Guardians have, in pursuance of the warrants issued to them by the Board of Health, directed notices to be posted for tenders for the erection of fever hospitals in Ballinakill and Ballinahinch. Clifden hospital is in course of preparation for the reception of fever patients.

The Board have named,—

Dr. Bodkin (medical attendant of the workhouse), for Clifden.

Dr. Suffield, for Ballinakill.

Dr. Gannon, for Ballinahinch.

I would respectfully suggest the propriety of an additional medical officer being appointed, *pro tempore*, to the Clifden workhouse. Dr. Suffield, who has been nominated by the Guardians to the fever hospital about to be erected at Ballinakill, and who has afforded me much assistance in endeavouring to arrest disease in the workhouse, would, in my judgment, be of the greatest and most valuable assistance at this critical juncture. The present medical attendant, Dr. Bodkin, having lost

the use of his legs, is necessarily much incapacitated to perform the duties without assistance. At the same time I am desirous of bearing testimony to the latter gentleman's regular and zealous attendance on the sick, and of his desire to carry out to the best of his ability my suggestions for the sanitary improvement of the house. I should be glad to have the Commissioners' opinion on the suggestion of having Dr. Suffield's assistance at the workhouse hospital, without delay, as I feel very strongly the necessity and value of providing additional medical assistance in the present state of the fever hospital.

ENCLOSURE. *

Dr. SUFFIELD to Mr. DEANE :—*January 11, 1848.*

I THIS day, according to promise, and in conjunction with the medical officer of the institution, visited the Clifden poorhouse. We visited every apartment, and have endeavoured, as far as in us lay, to correct the many abuses which now exist. Our task occupied us for hours, and I need not tell you, a most disagreeable office we had to perform; yet, if our instructions and orders are carried properly into effect, I do trust we may calculate on having done some good; and I do hope our labours may not prove in vain, for though not connected officially with the poorhouse, my anxious wish is, to see it conducted on proper principles, and that the poor may really receive those benefits which are intended. We have, so far as is practicable, classified the inmates of the house, separated the healthy from those in any way labouring under disease; settled the dietary, and made other arrangements as to cleanliness and order, which I trust will be conducive to the welfare of the house. Amongst the many abuses which exist, there seems to me to be a total disregard to discipline, order, or regularity; nor do the officers seem to me to have any idea of such a thing. The men, women, and children, are allowed to mix one with another, and even to pass and mix with the hospital patients.

The boys' school seems well conducted, the master attentive; but I cannot say the same thing of the girls', the school-room was dirty, and I found it converted into a wash-house; also the women's day-room, and other apartments in the house. On inquiring, I found that this has been the practice since the opening of the house, and that no use has as yet been made of the regular wash-house. I need not tell you, that converting the day-room and sleeping-room into wash-houses, is a most injurious one to the inmates, and must increase disease. I found all the yards in a most disgraceful state, full of nuisance and filth of every kind; the same reproach holds good as regards the privies, which are all in a most filthy and dilapidated state, the roofs and slates are broken, and in wet weather cannot be used by the paupers. The men and women's day-rooms require whitewashing, and the windows cleaning, they are now so dirty as not to admit the light. In the women's day-room, I found fires made on several parts of the floor, which was also strewn with old and dirty cast-off clothes of the paupers. The two sheds in the male and female yards, I found in a filthy state, covered with nuisance and some old clothes, which I strongly recommended should be burned. The dormitories, male and female, are clean, and in good order, as also the beds, &c.; but I find that so many as three or four lie in the same bed, this arises, they say, from the want of blankets. There are plenty of straw beds, sheets, &c. Steps should be taken to procure a sufficient supply of blankets.

There is plenty of sleeping room, as there are two dormitories unoccupied at present. The rooms which you said you thought might be converted into hospital wards, I do not think they would answer that purpose; they are too cold, and there is no fire-place, and besides, the roof is so much injured as to admit the rain and wind. We did wish to separate the children from the adults, but we could not procure for them an apartment which would answer. In the hospital we found double the number of patients for which it was intended; however, we discharged a good many, some of which were sent to the infirm ward. The hospital requires whitewashing, especially the idiot (now the fever) wards. There is a great want of hospital accommodation, and little can be done to reform it in its present crowded state.

I hope you will excuse this hurried sketch, it is merely intended for your own perusal. If order and regularity were kept, the house whitewashed, cleansed, and fumigated, the yards properly cleaned, and kept so, the roof and other matters repaired, a sufficient supply of bed-clothes and wearing apparel obtained, and a little more hospital accommodation, I do think (if the officers do their duty) in a little time you would have the poorhouse all you could desire.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BOURKE :—*January 20, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request that you will have the goodness to proceed at your earliest convenience to Clifden, and to report to the Commissioners minutely on the manner in which relief is administered by the Board of Guardians of Clifden Union.

The Commissioners forward to you the reports relating to the Clifden Union, which they have received from Mr. Deane, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, and the general result appears to the Commissioners to be very unsatisfactory. They observe that Mr. Deane constantly refers in his reports to Mr. D'Arcy, as showing

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great energy, and doing all that he ought to do as a Guardian. The Commissioners think that it is not enough for one Guardian only in a Union to do his duty, and if the Guardians generally, as a Board, make defaults in this respect, there should be a report and recommendation made accordingly, and the Board will be at once dissolved. The Commissioners particularly request you to ascertain the names of the defaulting rate-payers, and to inform the Commissioners whether the gentlemen of property in the Union (not omitting Mr. D'Arcy himself) have paid their rates.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 20, 1848.*

I BEG to call your attention to the proceedings of the Board of Guardians of this Union at an adjourned meeting of that body held this day.

You have already been made acquainted, through the medium of my previous reports, of the progress which has been made in putting into effect the order for the relief of the able-bodied.

The irregular supply of food at present in the town of Clifden, owing to the uncertainty of navigation from Galway and Westport, has not enabled the Board of Guardians to obtain a sufficient quantity of meal for the support of the recipients for relief; and, combined with this difficulty, the Guardians have to contend against the unwillingness of individuals to contract for the supply of provisions, at the various places determined upon as depôts for the distribution of food.

The resolutions passed at the Board point to these difficulties.

The remedy I would take leave to suggest is alone to be found in the establishment of a commissariat at Clifden, the necessity of which I have urged in a former report.

Measures have been taken for the supply of hammers, to be used by the able-bodied at the work to be done by them. I hope by to-morrow to commence operations in the electoral division of Clifden.

Mr. D'Arcy, the chairman of the Guardians, and I visited the workhouse to-day. It is in a very discreditable state, and I fear, notwithstanding our efforts for its improvement, will continue in the same state of mismanagement and inefficiency until the Union shall have the benefit of more experienced officers to regulate and direct its internal economy and discipline.

Dr. Suffield's letter, which I had the honour to enclose in my last report, has placed before you in painful terms the state of the workhouse.

I have directed the employment of the able-bodied in whitewashing the interior of the house, and I have ordered the yards to be levelled and covered with gravel.

There is a very scanty supply of clothing and bedding. A large debt due to the contractor for clothing, and the inability of the Guardians to discharge their debt to him at present, operates against the obtaining of further credit. Since my arrival to take charge of the Union he has been paid several small sums on account. The debt now exceeds 200*l.*

I have taken measures to have the children in the workhouse taught trades, viz., tailoring and shoemaking, and hope shortly to be enabled to report further on the subject.

The state of misery and destitution in the Union is most alarming at the present moment. Several deaths have taken place by the road-side from starvation.

While sitting at breakfast this morning my servant informed me that there was a woman at the door with a *dead child* in her arms, which I found upon inquiry to be too true. I directed the relieving officer to offer the poor woman provisional relief.

I trust that the observations I have made in reference to the necessity of securing a supply of food to this locality, will receive an early consideration from the Commissioners.

REPLY to the above :—*January 22, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have read with the deepest concern your statement that several deaths have taken place on the road-side from starvation.

The Commissioners request to be informed whether any of the deaths adverted to were the deaths of parties entitled to relief under the Poor Laws. If the deceased parties were entitled to relief, the deaths could not have taken place without a great neglect of duty on the part of the Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners request you to give them information on this point by return of post, and at the same time to acquaint them with the names of any of the Guardians who have not paid their poor-rates, and with the sums due from each such Guardian respectively. The Commissioners rely upon your sending this information by return of post, as far as you can obtain it. The Commissioners think that there can be no difficulty in your obtaining this information for Clifden electoral division, even although some time longer should be required on this head in reference to the other electoral divisions of the Union.

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Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 23, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd instant, to which I hasten to reply by return of post, according to your directions.

I have made inquiries from the relieving officers of Clifden and Ballindoon electoral divisions in reference to the individuals who have died from starvation, and they inform me that *no* application had been made by them for relief previous to their death. Collector Joyce, Ballindoon electoral division, states that two individuals (whom he names) died from want, and that they had not applied to him; he is now relieving their families. The same officer informs me that a man of the name of Flaherty, of Ballyconnell, in Ballindoon electoral division, made application to him for relief, that he visited his place of residence, and found that he was in the occupation of more than a quarter of an acre of land. This relieving officer refused the applicant relief, and he died by the road-side from actual starvation.

I regret to be obliged to state that Mr. Bell Martin, of Ballinahinch Castle, is taking advantage of the quarter-acre clause in the Act of Parliament in a manner totally foreign and inconsistent with the policy of its provisions. He is in the habit (through his agent or bailiff) of giving a certificate to his tenants that they are entitled to relief on giving up the land in their possession, and on their consenting to leave their homes, which upon being done the habitations are levelled to the ground, and the inmates left without shelter. This is making an ejection process of the Poor Law statute, and converting a clause passed for the protection of the landlord into a measure for the effectual pauperization of the Union.

I have expressed my opinion to Mr. Martin very decidedly on the inhumanity of putting so many families as an additional charge on the rates of the Union under the circumstances above detailed.

The Board of Guardians met three times during the past week.

Contractors were declared on Saturday to supply meal at some of the depôts in the district.

Two thousand five hundred and forty received out-door relief last week.

The able-bodied are daily employed in breaking stones, &c.

There has been an arrival of a cargo of Indian meal since my last report—30 tons.

I beg to submit, according to your desire, the names of the Guardians who have not as yet paid their rates to the several electoral divisions.

CLIFDEN.

	£.	s.	d.
H. D'Arcy, Esq., (in Chancery,) J.P.	73	11	8
Mr. John D'Arcy (elected)	6	2	8½
Mr. William Corbett (elected G.)	3	9	0
Total	83	3	4½

BALLINDOON.

	£.	s.	d.
John A. O'Neill, Esq., J.P.	148	15	4½
A. B. Martin, Esq., J.P.	27	7	5
Valentine M'Donough (elected G.)	2	11	4
Total	178	14	1½
		4 C	2

Clifden Union.

I have despatched special messengers to the collectors of Renvyle and Roundstone for the names of the Guardians (if any) in their electoral divisions who have not as yet paid their rates, and shall forward the information should it come in time for post.

In reference to the communication from Mr. Dopping, R.M., as to the state of this Union, I have to remark that the Commissioners will, no doubt, consider the difficulties which the Guardians have had to contend with in obtaining a supply of food, causing, as it necessarily has done, great delay in affording relief to the destitute.

I have already laid before you the facts connected with the deaths of those individuals who died from starvation, and that they had not applied for relief.

The Board of Guardians cannot, of course, deal with cases not before them in the regular way.

ENCLOSURE.

Clifden, January 14, 1848.

As it is impossible to witness, without feelings of intense interest, the scenes which every day come under my observation, I gladly avail myself of his Excellency's permission, in now making a further report of the state of the poor in this district.

I grieve to have to state, that poverty, destitution, and crime, are still on the increase. Deaths from actual starvation are becoming frequent, and so desperate and daring have the people become, that they not unfrequently enter dwelling-houses through the roof and steal whatever they can find, whilst the inhabitants are asleep.

At the petty sessions of Roundstone this week, which lasted two entire days, the following cases were disposed of in addition to the usual routine business of petty sessions.

Two committals for stealing corn.
Three committals for sheep-stealing.
Three committals for cow-stealing.
Seven committals for burglary and robbery.
One committal for stealing an anchor.
One committal for stealing a cable.
One committal for stealing a rope.

T. N. Redington, Esq.,
&c. &c.

JOHN DOPPING, S.M.

ROUNDSTONE ELECTORAL DIVISION.

Names of Guardians who have not paid their rates.

	£.	s.	d.
John Lyden Moyrus . . .	14	1	6
John King Stephen . . .	3	16	4
William Joyce . . .	1	10	0
Redmond Joyce . . .	7	10	0
Total . . .	26	17	10

January 24, 1848.

RENVYLE ELECTORAL DIVISION.

Return not received.

January 24, 1848.

J. C. DEANE.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—January 24, 1848.

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day.

I beg to state that Mr. Bell Martin's name was omitted in the list of Guardians returned by the collector of the Roundstone electoral division, as being in arrears for rate; he owes 194 $\frac{1}{2}$.

He has been served with the 15 days' notice, and I urged on him the necessity of discharging the amount due by him immediately.

He has tendered the collector a small portion due for some of his holdings, but as he has been noticed for the full amount, the collector has been directed to refuse partial payments.

The Guardians who are in arrears for Renvyle electoral division are :—

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	£.	s.	d.
Henry Blake, Esq., J.P.	48	5	6
Major-General Thompson	42	1	10½
Arthur Bell Martin	6	7	2½
Patt Gorham	4	17	2½
Walter Coneys	2	14	0
Matt Burke	3	6	0
Total	£107	11	9½

General Thomson, who was at the Board to-day, has promised to pay his rate to-morrow.

The greater part of this day's meeting was taken up in the election of an additional relieving officer for Roundstone electoral division, which resulted from the number of votes for each of two candidates being the same, in an order for a new election.

Contractors were this day declared for supplying meal to the various depôts.

There are no small hammers (as I am given to understand) in the store of tools belonging to the Commissioners of Public Works, and the Guardians have employed the local smiths to make a supply for the use of the able-bodied workmen.

There are several men employed in the levelling of the workhouse yards, and in breaking stones for the covering of the same, a most necessary and useful work.

I beg to enclose an estimate (according to the present number of able-bodied employed) of the tools required for the use of the Union. Their numbers will, of course, be increased in a few days very considerably, but I would respectfully submit that if I obtain a general order on the stores at Clifden, for the quantity of implements required, that it will save much trouble.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. DEANE:—*January 27, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have the state of the Clifden Union under their serious consideration, and they are merely awaiting a report on the subject from Mr. R. Bourke, their Inspector for the district in which the Union is included.

Mr. DEANE to Count STRZELECKI:—*January 28, 1848.*

I HAVE much pleasure in acceding to your wish, that I should furnish you with a report of the manner in which the relief extended by the British Association to the children attending the schools in this Union has been carried out, and of the results both moral and physical produced thereby.

Having received your circular of the 22nd November, 1847, intimating the course which the British Association intended to pursue for the relief of the children, I proceeded to make an inspection of the schools throughout the entire Union.

It is impossible to conceive anything more lamentable than the neglect of education in this district.

During my tour I found the National School houses for the most part in ruins, and, with one or two exceptions, no other schools established in their place.

In Roundstone the house formerly occupied as a National school, and built at the expense of the National Board, had been taken possession of by the brethren of the monastery there, and is conducted by them.

There is another school established by the monks near the town of Clifden.

A school under the auspices of the Church Education Society was existing in Clifden with a very limited attendance.

As soon as it became generally known that food was about to be given to the children attending the schools, the numbers increased to the full extent for which accommodation could be provided.

Clifden Union.

Objections having been raised by parties of both religious persuasions to the occupation of the National schools, I was for a considerable time in doubt (bearing in mind your instructions as to existing schools) whether I should give food to those which came into existence in consequence of the proffered relief. I felt, however, that the interests of the children should be primarily and above all things considered, and I provided to as many of the clergymen of the Roman Catholic church, as applied to me, provisions for schools opened by them.

The rations to each child consists of 10 ounces of bread (a mixture of three parts rye and one part of Indian meal) with a half pint of meat soup, and fish soup on fast days.

The elder children in almost all the schools prepare the soup themselves and cut up the bread.

A trough of water with soap and towel is provided for the schools, and I lose no opportunity of impressing on the masters and mistresses of the schools, and on those entrusted with their superintendence, the necessity of enforcing habits of cleanliness.

The female children are employed in making shirts, &c., from the funds placed at my disposal for clothing purposes. At one school, at the head of the little Killeries Bay (Salruck), which is under the guidance of Major-General Thomson, the boys are employed in making nets, the benefit of which occupation I trust to be able to extend to other schools in this Union.

It is scarcely possible to over estimate the value and importance of the course adopted by the Committee of the British Association, in the relief afforded to children at the schools, which now in number exceed 2000.

I feel persuaded, from my knowledge of the state of things in this Union, that were it not for the step which has been so wisely taken, the greater number of those who are now deriving the benefit of instruction (limited though it be) would have advanced to adult age uneducated and uninstructed, and then pursuing the ordinary labour of the peasant, would not find time or inclination for education.

Since the food has been given to the children their appearance has been wonderfully changed—on my arrival here I found the greater part of them emaciated and wretched, they are now showing the effects, in improved health, of the wholesome food so benevolently provided for them.

I rejoice to say that the funds placed at my disposal for clothing are being made available for the relief of some hundred families in this Union, there being employed at this moment in spinning wool for flannel 160 women, besides weavers and tailors, &c.

In no case (and I have made particular inquiry) have the persons so employed applied to the relieving officer for relief.

In the course of the next week I hope to be enabled to distribute some of the clothing, which I shall do with the more pleasure, as being the produce of the industry of the people.

I have calculated that each dress (on an average for all sizes) will cost, when complete, from 5s. to 5s. 3d.

I beg leave to enclose you a specimen of the flannel of which the dresses are made.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 31, 1848.*

SINCE last I had the honour of addressing you, Mr. Richard Bourke has visited Clifden. His report will put you in possession of the manner in which the Poor Laws are administered in this Union.

I attended the meeting of the Guardians to day—John King was elected by the Guardians, relieving officer for a portion of the Roundstone district, which has been defined by a resolution of the Guardians.

His election has been protested against by one of the Guardians, Mr. Joyce, on the grounds that he insulted him. I have made enquiries as to King's character, and learn from the Sub-Inspector, Mr. Ireland, that he was formerly in the police, and that he bore an excellent character.

Several of the parties declared contractors at the last meeting of the Guardians

for the supplying of meal at depôts in the Union, failed during the week to perform their contracts. It is right to observe that the agreements and bonds were not perfected, though directions were given to that effect. The clerk states that the parties left town without executing the necessary documents.

At this day's meeting contractors were appointed for all the depôts save four, and they executed the agreements, and the bonds were also perfected.

I am glad to be enabled to state that the collection this week has been the best since the new rate has been struck, it amounts to 194*l.* 4*s.* I have every hope that I shall be in a condition to report as favourably of next week's collection.

The Guardians have at length agreed to meet in their Board-room at the workhouse, on Saturday next. I hope for the best results from this resolution.

During the last week, Flynn (formerly collector of Ballindoon electoral division) was fined 5*l.*, in addition to treble the amount of 14*s.* 6*d.* which he was found to have peculated of the Union funds.

Two of the collectors were fined 5*s.* each by the magistrates for wilful disobedience of the Guardians' orders; these examples are calculated to effect much good.

Deputy-Commissary General Dobree has visited Clifden, and I have been in communication with him in reference to the proposed establishment of a commissariat here.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, enclosing me Sir Randolph Routh's communication to the Secretary of the Commissioners in respect to the same.

REPLY to the above :—*February 5, 1848.*

THE Commissioners await the answers to the usual queries with respect to Mr. King, who was elected a relieving officer, in part of the Union, on the 31st ultimo. I am, at the same time, to state that the Commissioners are desirous of receiving a report from you as to the specific charge against Mr. King, which was entered on the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Guardians on the day of his election. If necessary, you will be good enough to make enquiry into the matter upon oath.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 31, 1848.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 20th instant, that I should proceed as soon as possible to Clifden, and report to you minutely on the manner in which relief is administered by the Board of Guardians, I beg leave to inform you that, on the 27th instant, I visited that Union, and shall now proceed to lay before you the results of my inquiries into the subjects referred to me.

I directed my attention, first to the administration of relief within the workhouse, which I inspected on the 28th, in company with Mr. Deane; and on the following day I enquired into the arrangements made for affording out-door relief.

The condition of the workhouse appeared to me far from satisfactory. Though improved in cleanliness since the first time I saw it, the discipline of the house continues very defective; and no steps appear to have been taken by the Guardians for compelling the officers to perform their duty in this respect. The paupers are generally very badly clothed; no regular labour appears to be exacted from the able-bodied of either sex beyond the necessary work in the house, and the beds in use are of the worst possible description. I regret also to say that the hospital is much overcrowded and very dirty, and that disease has assumed a fatal character.

Upon former occasions I have, at various times, pointed the attention of the Board of Guardians to these defects; and I have reason to know that the same has been repeatedly done by Mr. Deane, who has himself used every exertion to remedy them, but his orders have been neglected by the officers of the house,

Clifden Union.

and the Board have not used their powers to enforce them. No visiting committee has assembled at the workhouse for many months; and the Board have positively refused to meet there, though the prevalence of infectious disease is by no means so great as to make it dangerous for them to do so. Under these circumstances it cannot be expected that the workhouse will be found in a satisfactory condition, or that relief can be efficiently administered within it.

With respect to the arrangements made for relief of the poor out of the workhouse, I ascertained that the Board had ordered food for between 2000 and 3000 persons, composed of the classes enumerated in the 1st section of the Relief Extension Act, and latterly of the able-bodied, under your order. The precise number of persons at this time receiving relief I could not ascertain, in consequence of the relief lists not being fully made up; but it is due to the relieving officers to state that they are not so much to blame for this irregularity as might be imagined, as the pressure upon them for the last week has been very severe. The food is distributed at certain appointed places by the relieving officers, who are furnished by the contractors. Until lately this supply was given by the workhouse contractor, but a short time back arrangements were made by the Board with certain parties in the Union to supply meal at the different depots, and deliver it to the applicants. This arrangement was to have taken effect from Monday the 24th instant, but when I reached Clifden the greatest confusion prevailed in consequence of these contractors having failed in providing the food, and as the Board had not prepared against any such contingency, the relieving officers found themselves without their supply; and but for the interference of Mr. Deane with a merchant in Clifden, the poor would have remained without food. No written agreement has as yet been entered into by these contractors, though one was prepared for the use of the Guardians by Mr. Deane, and there are therefore no means of punishing them for this neglect. It may be right here to observe that the irregular mode in which the Guardians transact their affairs, and the confusion into which they have allowed their finances to fall, have deterred merchants of respectability and capital from entering into contracts with them; and there is at present considerable risk of the supply of food in the town being suddenly exhausted, which would never occur if traders in Galway or Wexford would undertake to provide it.

There was a meeting of the Board, on Saturday, to go over the relieving officers' books, and have them ready for the usual meeting on Monday. Mr. D'Arcy, the chairman, and two or three other Guardians alone attended; and this most important duty was hurriedly and imperfectly executed, very little assistance being afforded to the chairman, upon whom the whole weight of the business devolved. Preparations are being made for applying the labour test, but as yet it is but partially in operation.

There at present exists a very large amount of destitution in this Union, and I fear it is not soon likely to decrease. To meet this, and duly to carry out the provisions of the law, will require a much greater degree of energy and activity than has as yet been exercised by the Guardians. The workhouse should not only be made available for the largest number it can safely accommodate, but should likewise be used as a test of the destitution of the able-bodied, whilst the arrangements for a regular supply of food for out-door relief should be united with measures for carrying out the views of the order for setting the able-bodied to work.

The improvement in the workhouse will, I fear, not be carried out as long as the Guardians refuse their personal superintendence to its management, and protect the officers in the imperfect execution of their duties; and the details for out-door relief will be thrown, as they have up to this time been, upon a single member of the Board, with the assistance to be afforded to him by the Temporary Inspector. The exertions of these two gentlemen, though zealously given, cannot be expected to supply the place of the united efforts of every member of the Board, which are absolutely required at this moment to conduct efficiently the different branches of the system of relief.

I forward herewith a list of some of the highest ratepayers in this Union, whose poor-rates are still in arrear. They will be found to include many persons of property and station in the Union, some of them being themselves Guardians. Whatever success has as yet attended the collection of the rates is to be attributed to the personal exertions of Mr Deane; no measures have been taken by the

Guardians for exercising a control over the collectors, or assisting them in recovering the rates, either by forming a committee to examine the books, or by considering them at a full Board; and no step for enforcing payment appears to have been adopted until the last meeting of the Board, when, at the instance of Mr. Deane, leave was applied for to bring actions in the superior courts against four parties then named. The amount of rate paid in, though not very deficient, is not so large as it might be; and in the case of one collector, whose books I examined, I found great cause to complain of his delay in making demand for the amount due, which, if the Guardians had duly inquired into, his progress would not have been permitted to continue.

Upon the whole, I fear that this Board of Guardians have failed in using due activity and diligence in carrying out their duties in this Union; and I cannot hope, from what I have seen of them, that they will meet their difficulties with the energy necessary to surmount them. With the exception of the chairman, who has shown great anxiety to perform his part with zeal and efficiency, little is to be expected from the Board. Many of the gentlemen of consideration are irregular attendants, some by reason of the distance of their residences from Clifden, and others from different causes; whilst the majority of Guardians who attend have never shown a disposition, and perhaps from their previous habits and mode of life are unable, to carry out in a proper manner the important duties now devolving upon them. Their attendance at the Board is not punctual; and it is often found impossible to secure their presence in the room where they meet for a length of time sufficient to the due discharge of the business, to which, even when present, they afford but very little assistance.

Under all these circumstances I beg leave to recommend that the Board be dissolved, and paid officers be appointed.

Clifden Union.

ENCLOSURES.

Clifden Union:—Clifden Electoral Division.

RETURN of POOR RATE uncollected, made by Mr. FRANCIS MULLIN, Collector for the above Division, this 29th day of January, 1848.

No. in Rate Book.	Street or Place, or Name of Property rated.	Persons from whom the Rate is due.	Amount of Rate due.			Observations as to cause of Non-Collection, &c.
			Due for last Rate made.	Arrears of previous Rate due.	Total.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
	Clifden . . .	Hyacinth D'Arcy, Esq. .	..	..	73 11 8	This property is in Chancery. Application made to agent of receiver. Reported by me to Board of Guardians. No order made.
	Coolacly . . .	John D'Arcy, P.L.G. .	..	..	6 1 8½	Noticed fifteen days; not expired.
	Kingstown Glebe	Rev. Mr. Thomas . .	..	..	7 17 ½	Application made; will soon be paid.
	Clifden . . .	Mr. Wm. Corbett, P.L.G.	..	..	4 11 8	Noticed six days.
	Clifden tolls and customs . .	John Mullin, and John Corbett.	..	..	8 1 6	Noticed six days.
	Cushatrough .	John Davis	..	..	3 12 5	Noticed six days.
	Cruckbrack . .	Mr. Kearns	..	..	2 2 0	
	Clifden . . .	James D'Arcy, Esq. .	..	..	5 16 9	Application made; promised that he would pay.
	Clifden . . .	Henry Kearney . . .	..	..	2 0 10	
		Total . . .	..	..	113 16 0½	

(Signed)

FRANCIS MULLIN, P. R. Collector.

Clifden Union.

Clifden Union:—Ballindoon Electoral Division.

RETURN of POOR RATE uncollected, made by Mr. FRANCIS MULLIN, Collector for the above Division, this 29th day of January, 1848.

No. in Rate Book.	Street or Place, or Name of Property rated.	Persons from whom the Rate is due.	Amount of Rate due.			Observations as to cause of Non-Collection, &c.
			Due for last Rate made.	Arrears of previous Rate due.	Total.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
	Bunnowen and Errismore.	John A. O'Neill, Esq., ex-officio Guardian.	..	Due.	189 11 7	Proceedings taken already for 40% of this amount.
	Errislanen . .	Anthony Morris . . .	..	Due.	11 4 4	Noticed fifteen days; not expired.
	Errismore . .	Martin O'Maley . . .	..	Due.	20 3 4	Application made; will be paid.
	Manin Errismore	Michael P. Browne . .	..	Due.	26 14 8	Application made; will be paid.
	Derrigiarla . .	A. B. Martin, Esq., ex-officio Guardian.	..	Due.	27 7 5	Noticed fifteen days; not expired.
	Errislanen . .	John Lambert . . .	..	..	35 0 0	Property in Chancery. Board have ordered proceedings.
		Total . . .	..	..	310 1 4	

(Signed) FRANCIS MULLIN, *P. R. Collector.**Clifden Union:—Roundstone Electoral Division.*

RETURN of POOR RATE uncollected, made by Mr. LYDEN, Collector for the above Division, this 29th day of January, 1848.

No. in Rate Book.	Street or Place, or Name of Property rated.	Persons from whom the Rate is due.	Amount of Rate due.			Observations as to cause of Non-Collection, &c.
			Due for last Rate made.	Arrears of previous Rate due.	Total.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
	Ballinahinch .	Miss Martin. Husband an ex-officio Guardian.	..	..	194 1 6	Noticed; fifteen days' notice served on 20th.
	Bunnowen . .	John A. O'Neill, Esq., ex-officio Guardian .	..	Due.	9 16 4	No application made.
	Clifden Castle .	Hyacinth D'Arcy, Esq., ex-officio Guardian.	..	Due.	23 8 11	No written application.
	Faul . . .	J. D'Arcy, Esq., solicitor	..	Due.	1 13 4	No written application.
	Killewongaul .	Patrick D'Arcy, Esq. .	..	Due.	3 4 0	Application made. To be paid on Monday.
	Inisnee . . .	Pat Blake, Esq. . . .	..	Due.	38 0 10	No written application.
	Gowlane . . .	Edward Lynch	..	..	6 16 9	Application made.
	Cool-park . .	Gregory of Coole . . .	..	Due.	3 0 0	No application.
	Errissanagh .	Waste Land Company .	..	..	32 15	Application made; will be paid.
	Glendalough .	David Lucas, Esq. . .	..	..	10 19 0	Application made a week since.
	Innistrover .	Martin O'Maley, Esq. .	..	Due.	6 16 9	} Application made.
	Croonacorra .	Ditto	..	Due.	2 2 7	
		Michael Browne, Esq. .	..	Due.	4 5 2	} Never inquired who he is.
	Carna . . .	John Barry	..	Due.	6 12 0	
	Ditto . . .	Robert Barry	..	..	5 14 7	} Served with fifteen days' notice, but never proceeded further.
	Ditto . . .	Thomas Barry	..	Due.	10 3 7	
	Ditto . . .	Anthony Barry	..	Due.	6 4 8	} Noticed fifteen days; not expired.
	Moyrus . . .	John and Wm. Lyden .	..	..	21 1 6	
	Meenish . .	John Nolan, Esq. . . .	..	Due.	47 6 1	19th made application to agent.
	Lettuard . .	Bidelia M'Donough . .	..	..	24 8 4	Noticed fifteen days on 20th inst.
	Erwillagh . .	Matt. Duane	..	Due.	4 10 8	Fifteen days' notice not expired.
	Roundstone .	John King Stephen . .	..	..	3 16 10	Noticed fifteen days on the 21st.
	Errisbeg . .	James Ogle, Esq. . . .	..	..	8 15 10	Returned name to Board.
		Total . . .	..	..	500 1 6	

(Signed) JOHN LYDEN, *Collector.*

Clifden Union:—Renvyle Electoral Division.

Clifden Union.

RETURN of POOR RATE uncollected, made by Mr. JOSEPH M'DONNELL, Collector for the above Division, this 29th day of January, 1848.

No. in Rate Book.	Street or Place, or Name of Property rated.	Persons from whom the Rate is due.	Amount of Rate due.			Observations as to cause of Non-Collection, &c.
			Due for last Rate made.	Arrears of previous Rate due.	Total.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
	Renvyle . . .	Henry Blake, Esq., ex-officio.	..	..	48 14 2	Noticed fifteen days 25th.
	Salruck . . .	General Alex. Thomson, ex-officio.	..	..	42 1 10	Promised to pay me on this day, 29th January, 1848.
	Kylmore . . .	Sir George Beresford . .	..	..	13 1 0	Made no application.
	Ballinakill . .	Hon. Martin French . .	..	..	8 14 7	Reported to Board.
	Cluggan . . .	A. B. Martin, Esq., ex-officio.	..	..	6 7 2	Application made. To be served with fifteen days' notice.
	Ballinakill . .	Lady French . . .	..	..	12 7 8	Reported to Board.
	Ballinakill . .	Thomas Coneys . . .	..	..	3 10 6	Noticed fifteen days, 28th.
	Davis . . .	Pat Gorham, P.L.G. . .	..	..	4 17 2	Noticed fifteen days.
	Cluggan . . .	Walter Coneys, P.L.G. .	..	..	2 14 0	Promised to pay this day, 29th January, 1848.
	Ballinakill . .	Robert Graham, Esq., ex-officio.	..	..	10 3 4	Application made.
	Ballinakill . .	Matthias Burke, P.L.G. .	..	..	3 6 0	Promised to pay this day, 29th January.
		Total . . .	..	..	155 17 7	

(Signed)

JOSEPH M'DONNELL, *P. R. Collector.*

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose you letters which I have this day received from Mr. D'Arcy, the Chairman of the Board of Guardians of this Union, and from Major-General Thomson, J. P. Both these gentlemen had a lengthened interview with me to-day; they expressed themselves satisfied of the inability of the present Board of Guardians to discharge their duties, and have begged me to be the medium of communicating to you their written opinions on this subject. Major-General Thomson states that he cannot undertake to attend the Board regularly; and Mr. D'Arcy, among other things, complained to me of the whole business being in effect thrown on him, and without assistance that he would be unable to meet with the difficulties which present themselves. Under these circumstances it only remains for me to state, that should Mr. D'Arcy and General Thomson decline to sit at the Board, I have no hesitation in stating that the affairs of the Union cannot be managed by the elected Guardians.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. D'ARCY to Mr. DEANE:—*February 2, 1848.*

HAVING to the best of my abilities endeavoured to carry out the provisions of the Act for the Relief of the Destitute Poor of this Union, and alive to the responsibility that devolves upon me as Chairman of the Board of Guardians, I feel I would not be doing my duty in withholding from the Poor Law Commissioners my frequently expressed opinion, that we are not equal to the present emergency. It may be painful to me to say this of a body, of which I am myself a member, but I believe conscientiously the duties are not done, and that as an individual member of the Board, I cannot afford to it more of my time than it at present receives.

The cases which have this day been brought forward of deaths under such heart-rending circumstances—for the lives of whom the Board were, I do feel, morally responsible, although I cannot say legally, as it appears no application had been made to them—confirms my conviction that I must not any longer withhold from the Commissioners my deliberate opinion that the time is come that the responsibility reaches them, and that the most prompt and vigorous measures will be required, or the lives of many may be sacrificed.

I trust, Sir, you will allow me to make you the channel of this communication. Our Union is truly in a state of wretchedness and misery no pen can describe; but unless met at once will be overwhelming.

Major-General THOMSON to Mr. DEANE:—*February 2, 1848.*

I BEG leave to state to you, for the information of the Commissioners, that I feel from the distance I live from Clifden, about 25 miles, that it is totally impossible for me to attend

Clifden Union.

at the Board of Guardians with that regularity that the present emergency requires, having other important duties to perform connected with the employment of the poor on my estate.

I have with much difficulty paid my own rate, and having done my duty, have nothing to reproach myself.

I consider the elected Guardians, from their class in life, totally incapable of managing the affairs of the Union; and bearing in mind that it is impossible for me to attend at the ordinary weekly meetings of Guardians, I do not desire to hold myself responsible for their acts. I need not say that in any observation made I mean to include Mr. D'Arcy, whose entire time has been devoted to his duty as a Guardian.

I am glad to be enabled to state that in a short time, through the loan that has been granted to me under the Land Improvement Act, I shall be in a condition to employ all the poor on my estate. I trust that my exertion will have the effect of reducing the amount of the next rate; but should the new ejectment process, viz., the quarter acre clause, without giving the people ejected employment, continue to be made use of, I know not where pauperism is to end.

REPLY to the above:—*February 5, 1848.*

IN reference to your report of the 2nd instant, I am to enclose herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have this day addressed to the clerk of the Union, announcing their intention to dissolve the Board of Guardians.

Paid officers for administering the affairs of the Union will immediately be appointed.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of CLIFDEN UNION—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians:—February 5, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration a report which they have received from their Inspector, Mr. Bourke, on the manner in which relief is administered to the destitute poor in Clifden Union by the Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners have likewise had under consideration a return from the collectors of the Union, containing a list of the individual Guardians in each electoral division who have not paid their rates, together with a statement of the sums which are due from each such Guardian respectively.

The Commissioners transmit herewith a copy of Mr. Bourke's report for the information of the Guardians, and at the same time the Commissioners have to announce, that having bestowed their careful attention on the present condition of Clifden Union, the Commissioners have arrived at the conclusion, that the Board of Guardians have failed to administer relief duly and effectually either in the workhouse or out of it, and have especially failed to provide themselves with a sufficient amount of funds at this season of distress, by a timely and vigorous collection of the poor-rates.

The Commissioners are strongly sensible of the great exertions which have been made by Mr. D'Arcy, the Chairman, to place the affairs of the Union on a satisfactory foundation; and the Commissioners are disposed to believe that his exertions would have been attended with success, if the object could have been attained by one individual Guardian alone. The Commissioners are convinced, however, that the debts of the Union are too heavy, and the amount of destitution is too great, to be met otherwise than by the systematic and persevering efforts of a Board; and as the Commissioners perceive no reasonable prospects of such efforts being made by the existing body of management, they have determined to issue a formal order dissolving the Clifden Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners are desirous that the Guardians should transact business as usual on Monday next, and the Commissioners will issue the Order of dissolution by the post of the 7th instant.

CAHIRCIVEEN UNION.

Cahirciveen Union.

The SECRETARY to the CENTRAL BOARD of HEALTH, to the COMMISSIONERS :—
November 25, 1847.

I AM directed by the Central Board of Health, to forward to you the enclosed copies of communications relative to the sanitary state of the electoral division of Dromod, in the Cahirciveen Union, and to state for the information of the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, that the temporary fever hospital provided under certificate of this Board, has been closed without previous communication with the Board.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. BARRY to Mr. HOPPER, Secretary :—*November 2, 1847.*

I BEG to transmit to you the circular on which the Relief Committee have acted in closing the Dromod temporary fever hospital. As the entire responsibility of providing funds was thrown on the Guardians, after the 30th September, and the Union being already deeply in debt, they did not wish to incur any further expense. The clerk of the Relief Committee has mislaid the official letter he received from the Relief Commissioners, for closing the hospital on the 25th day of September, otherwise I would forward it with the enclosed documents.

In reply to your inquiries respecting the sanitary condition of the country, I regret much to say, that this district is more unhealthy than it was during the spring or summer months; and fever of a worse description than that which then prevailed, is making vast inroads among the poorer classes. For corroboration of this statement, I refer you to the accompanying letter from the parish priest of Dromod.

Any further information you require, I shall feel happy to give you if in my power.

Rev. T. LYNCH, Parish Priest of Dromod, to Mr. BARRY :—*November 21, 1847.*

IN answer to your inquiries as to the state of disease among my parishioners, I am sorry to say there never was so much fever as at present; scarcely a day passes that I have not to administer the rites of the Church to many afflicted with that dreadful malady. We have every reason to deplore the loss of our little hospital; limited as it was in its accommodation, still it was a great means of preventing the disease which is now fatal, from making such rapid strides among the poor. My curate, the Rev. Mr. Fitzmaurice, is not as yet able to assist me in the duties of the parish; his attack of fever was the worst I have yet seen, but I trust a few weeks will restore him to perfect health.

The COMMISSIONERS to Colonel CLARKE :—*November 30, 1847.*

I AM directed to forward to you herewith a communication which the Commissioners have received from the Board of Health, relative to the sanitary state of the Dromod electoral division of the Cahirciveen Union, and I am to state that you will have the goodness to make inquiry as to the fact stated, that the fever hospital was closed without previous communication with the Board of Health.

I am, at the same time, to request that you will state your opinion as to the necessity which may exist for re-opening the fever hospital; the Commissioners consider that the subject should be brought under the notice of the Board of Guardians at their next meeting.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 4, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo respecting the late temporary fever hospital, and the prevalence of fever in the electoral division of Dromod.

I am not able to ascertain if any communication was made to the Board of Health previous to closing the fever hospital; but most probably not, as immediately the supply of money by the Relief Commissioners was stopped, Finance Committees and Relief Committees dissolved themselves, and cared for nothing further; but in this particular instance it would have been impracticable to carry on the establishment, as the Guardians had neither money or credit.

Cahiriveen Union.

With regard to the representations of the alarming extent of fever, I am somewhat taken by surprise. In organizing the mode of supplying the children attending public schools with food, I have traversed the Union in every direction and made the most minute inquiries as to the extent of fever: the answer universally given was, that there was little or none. On Wednesday, the 24th ultimo, I was through the whole extent of the Dromod electoral division, and made every arrangement with the Rev. T. Lynch, P. P., respecting the number of scholars that should be permitted to attend, referring most particularly to the danger of causing fever by overcrowding; but the reverend gentleman made no allusion to its being prevalent at Masterguehy. In the centre of the division I made most particular inquiries, and was distinctly told there was no fever; and at Ballynakelly, the eastern extremity, I received the same reply, but found hooping cough very common. I think it very probable that the wish to re-establish the hospital on the one hand, and the desire to obtain food on the other, may have caused the discrepancies of representations.

Dr. Courtenay, one of the Board of Health Inspectors, having been here, his report will be conclusive on the point.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of HEALTH:—*December 18, 1847.*

THE Commissioners desire to state, for the information of the Board of Health, in reference to the Board's communication of the 25th ultimo, relating to the temporary fever hospital of the Dromod electoral division of the Cahiriveen Union, that it appears by a report from Colonel Clarke, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, that this hospital was closed by the Relief Committee on the 25th September, upon the expenditure of the money received for its support, from the Relief Commissioners.

The Commissioners beg to forward a copy of the Report of Colonel Clarke, for the information of the Board of Health; and they are desirous to ascertain, under the circumstances stated, and the abandonment of the hospital since the 30th of September, by the Relief Committee, which then ceased to act, whether in the opinion of the Board of Health, the Guardians should now be required to take charge of this hospital.

In reference to the Board's letter of the 2nd instant, relating to the permanent district fever hospital, at Cahiriveen, the Commissioners beg to observe, that as it is no longer the hospital of a Relief Committee, the Guardians have no legal authority, (even though possessed of funds) to provide for its maintenance, unless the Board of Health can issue a requisition for that object, under the 9th Vic. cap. 6.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 4, 1847.*

MR. INSPECTOR CRAWFORD having been present at the meeting of the Board of Guardians on the 2nd instant, I presume he will have reported to you the proceedings. At the same time, I am desirous of submitting to you some observations on the present state of the Union, and the probable operation of the Poor Law during the winter.

The insolvent state of the Union and the general poverty of the country, will, I believe, preclude the possibility of giving out-door relief to any class, or to afford in-door relief from any rate that can be collected to a greater number than the present workhouse will contain. This is totally inadequate, even to the present wants of the people; and I believe that before the commencement of next month, there will be as great destitution as existed last spring, and it is daily becoming more important that measures should be adopted for affording relief. I have this day returned from visiting the district of Glenbeigh, and am persuaded that many are in immediate and pressing want, which is generally the case in every electoral division.

Assuming my proposition to be correct, which I believe it to be, viz., that the capabilities of the country are only equal to the support of the in-door poor, the great mass of the destitute must be fed from other sources. I have given this subject much consideration, and am strongly of opinion that the best course would be to dissolve the present Board of Guardians, and to appoint paid

officers, as I consider the present Board as a body, hopelessly and helplessly plunged in despondency by the effects of their own mismanagement, and totally inefficient. An opportunity would thus be given, of giving the Poor Law a fair trial in one of those Unions, in which it is said it can never succeed. The 3s. rate is equal to paying outstanding debts, and sustaining the workhouse for a considerable time to come. The out-door relief given under its provisions would fall on the Government, and would, I am persuaded, be far less in amount than what would be required for any measure of relief disconnected with the Poor Law. I submit this with much deference, to your superior judgment.

The collectors are now at work in all the electoral divisions, with one exception, in which some delay in completing the securities took place. They have not been very successful as yet, but as soon as the military detachment arrives, more activity will be enforced.

I think it highly important that a depôt of food should be established here. The supply at the present moment is very short, and as I am a purchaser to the extent of 10 tons, on account of the British Relief Association, it will be still further reduced. This, combined with the long-continued tempestuous weather, rendering communication with the markets impracticable, causes me some degree of anxiety.

REPLY to the above:—*December 8, 1847.*

THE Commissioners will be prepared to appoint paid Guardians in this Union, if this measure is absolutely necessary.

I am, at the same time, to state, that the Commissioners would not be justified in taking this step unless they have before them recorded instances of default of official duty on the part of the Guardians, and the Commissioners request that you will be so good as to report specially on this subject to them, if, in your opinion, the conduct of the Board of Guardians has been such as legally to justify their dissolution.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 10, 1847.*

THE result of the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday renders it now imperatively necessary that some decided steps should be taken for affording out-door relief in this Union, as the Guardians themselves are totally unequal to organizing measures for meeting the emergency, which is hourly becoming more pressing.

It was resolved, on the 2nd instant, that buildings should be hired for the reception of paupers, and orders were signed for obtaining clothing; but, although it was well known that there would be a rush on the house, not a single step was taken during the week; and yesterday, after admitting to the full extent recommended by Dr. Phelan, numbers remained, many of whom had come a distance of more than 30 miles, for whom no provision could be made; and it was found that there was no clothing for those who had been admitted.

A resolution was passed, appointing a Committee to inspect, and report upon the practicability of converting a store at Port Magee into a branch house for the children; but I do not think it can be made available without incurring a very great expense, and the distance (upwards of 10 miles) would render it very difficult to furnish supplies and superintend the management.

There is no possibility of finding accommodation sufficient to give the workhouse test a full and fair operation. It is computed that there are 10,500 destitute individuals in the Union, being able-bodied labourers not possessing land, and their families. How these persons existed in former years, is one of those Irish problems most difficult of solution; but I believe that to relieve one of them, and not another, would be a positive injustice; all being equally destitute. I am perfectly convinced that, even supposing the Guardians were in possession of sufficient funds, they are totally incapable of carrying out any measure of relief to any such extent; and though I might lecture on the subject daily and hourly, and every word be most fully acquiesced in, there would be no practical result. The gentlemen of the country who are ex-officio Guardians take no interest whatsoever in the affairs of the workhouse. I have now attended six meetings of the Board, and, excepting Dr. Barry, and, on one occasion, Mr. James O'Connell, not one of

Cahiriveen Union. these gentlemen ever attended, and the entire management is left to a class which I cannot consider competent.

I am of opinion that, whatever aid may be given by the Government or the British Relief Association should be administered in strict accordance with the Acts of Parliament in force for the relief of the poor; the inefficiency of the Board of Guardians as a body renders this impracticable, unless a separate establishment be found. It is on these grounds I recommend that paid Guardians should be appointed as a temporary measure; and though this may render my services as a Temporary Inspector unnecessary, I cannot permit my private interests to compete with that course which I consider would be most advantageous to the country.

The mismanagement of the workhouse, and the imposition of insufficient rates, are, I think, quite sufficient grounds for dissolving the present Board of Guardians. If we consider the actual state of the house, there is sufficient proof of both these points; a load of debts contracted which will absorb a great proportion of the rate now in course of collection; cheques given in anticipation of rates to be collected; no means of providing clothing for paupers admitted; the regulations for enforcing labour entirely neglected; land attached to the workhouse left uncultivated; are practical proofs that the evils of mismanagement are so deeply rooted as only to be eradicated by the strongest measures. I am not an advocate for taking the care of the poor from those on whom the duty should legitimately rest, as a permanent measure, but the present emergency requires an immediate and effective remedy; and when affairs shall be brought into a proper healthy state the Guardians should resume their duties under a strict and rigid inspection.

Mr. Crawford, when here, was of opinion that it would be sufficient if the collectors attended once a fortnight; and as the treasurer did not send his book, I am unable to state how the collection is proceeding, but I fear not very satisfactorily. I am informed that last week an anonymous notice was posted on the chapel door in Prior parish, advising the people to resist the payment of rates. I do not think it would be advisable to attempt any coercion until there shall be a sufficient force at hand; as one instance of successful resistance would be immediately followed by universal opposition.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 11, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, and in reference thereto, beg to refer to my report of yesterday's date, which explains the grounds on which I recommended a dissolution of the Board of Guardians of this Union.

On a former occasion, I expressed a hope that I should be able to carry out the laws for the relief of the poor even without the active co-operation of the *ex-officio* Guardians, but experience has shown me that this is impossible; and as they will not attend to their duties, and this is a moment requiring the most energetic and prompt measures, I see no alternative but the course I have recommended.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 17, 1847.*

IN doing myself the honour of reporting to you on the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, I am happy to say that, although a very considerable crowd assembled, there was no disturbance; this I attribute to the prudential arrangements of Mr. Dillon, the stipendiary magistrate, who assembled all the police force available in the district.

This is a state of things which cannot be suffered to continue, and would have been prevented, had the Guardians acted in accordance with my admonitions and advice; but each day only the more strongly convinces me that it is totally impossible to carry out the law with the present Board; and yesterday notice was given by one of themselves of a motion to apply for paid Guardians; stating, as a reason, that they were a most incompetent body, and himself more so than any; in all of which I most fully concur.

The affairs of this Union are now assuming a very serious aspect, and unless men of energy and determination be sent down to administer the Poor Laws, the country will be in a state of anarchy and confusion. It cannot be denied that destitution is daily becoming more pressing, and the greater number of those who presented themselves at the workhouse yesterday were evidently suffering from absolute want of food, and yet these poor wretches, many of whom had come a distance of from 20 to 30 miles, were turned from the doors with streaming eyes, because men possessing the power to relieve them have totally neglected their duties.

I have insisted that out-door relief shall be given to 112 persons, now in the workhouse, who fall under the 1st section of the Poor Relief Extension Act, and accommodation may be found for 240 children in separate houses; if this be carried into effect, there will be room for 352, which I expect will be fully occupied on the next Board-day; after which there will be no alternative but to apply for your Order under the 2nd section of the Act. I transmit you a letter, addressed to me by the Knight of Kerry, and though I do not consider the state quite so imminent as he describes, still the prospect is sufficiently alarming to render every precaution necessary.

The collection of the 3s. rate is proceeding slowly; one of the collectors having neglected to attend the Board of Guardians yesterday, in obedience to the orders he received. I have ordered the clerk to take out a summons against him, under the 100th section of the 1st and 2nd Vic., c. 56, which I hope will prove a salutary example.

ENCLOSURE.

The KNIGHT of KERRY to Lieut.-Colonel CLARKE :—*December 15, 1847.*

OUR position as to food is very alarming. I have written to the Government in London and Dublin to state, that in this electoral division there will be 1000 persons without food by the 1st of January. I have no doubt on the subject. This does not comprehend any of those I employ in drainage and quarrying, &c.: they will be numerous, and many of them even very destitute. But I have much more serious points to discuss with you concerning the general state of the country, and the spirit of insubordination has crossed the borders of Limerick, and is on both sides of Listowel.

I have the most serious apprehension of an outbreak of an extensive character, and the Government is by no means up to the amount of danger, nor its nature, and the means of providing against it beforehand. I wish, if you are not * to forward that you should * Illegible. be so; and would much prefer to address you officially than intrude myself officiously on the people at head quarters, so pray come to me when you can.

Tell the police to keep a sharp look out for strangers.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of GUARDIANS—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians :—December 21, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have recently had under their consideration the state of the Cahiriveen Union, particularly with reference to the extent of the distress existing in the Union, and the inadequate measures adopted by the Board of Guardians to discharge themselves of their responsibility in affording relief to the destitute poor.

The result of the meeting of the Board of Guardians, on the 9th instant, has led the Commissioners to the conclusion that it is now imperatively necessary to take steps for having the laws for relief of the poor administered in the Union with greater vigour than has been exercised by the Board of Guardians, who have not shown themselves equal to organizing measures for meeting the present emergency.

It appears that, on the 2nd instant, a resolution was passed by the Guardians that buildings should be hired in addition to the present workhouse for the reception of paupers, and that orders were signed for obtaining clothing; but although it was well known that there would be a pressure, and on the 9th instant the Guardians, after admitting applicants into the workhouse to the fullest extent, found themselves unable to afford relief in the manner in which they are authorized to do, to a large number of destitute poor persons, many of whom had travelled more than 30 miles to seek it.

The Commissioners cannot but think that if active steps had heretofore been taken by the Guardians for relieving out of the workhouse all classes coming within the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and for providing additional workhouse accommodation, they would now have been enabled to make

Cahiriveen Union. arrangements which are necessary to afford relief to the destitute poor persons who are seeking it at their hands.

The Commissioners regret to have observed that the *ex-officio* Guardians of the Union generally do not appear to take an interest in the business of the Board of Guardian, as, at the last six meetings of the Board, the Commissioners find that, excepting Dr. Barry, and, on one occasion, Mr. James O'Connell, not one of the *ex-officio* Guardians have attended, and the entire management of the Union has been left to the elected Guardians, who have thus had to contend with difficulties of no common magnitude.

As regards the finances of the Union, it appears that, owing to its pecuniary embarrassment, bread is not even obtained for such of the sick in the workhouse as require it; milk even for the sick is often provided in insufficient quantities, and Indian meal is taken for breakfast and dinner of the healthy classes without milk, sugar, or molasses.

Owing to the Guardians not having taken active steps to secure the collection of the necessary poor-rates, although repeatedly exhorted to that course by the Commissioners, the debts of the contractors and others have reached the sum of 1650*l.*, an amount sufficient to absorb a full half of the entire new rate now being brought into collection, but of which no portion had been collected down to the 30th ultimo.

On this point the Commissioners cannot omit to remark that, at the close of July last, they urged on the Guardians the necessity of providing for their liabilities by the immediate levy of a new rate, which, however, the Guardians, for a considerable time, declined doing, and the Commissioners believe that the disinclination of the Guardians, in the first instance, to strike the necessary amount of rate, and their subsequent delay in bringing the rate into collection, have been seriously detrimental to the interests of the poor of the Union; nor could the Commissioners entertain a confidence in the Guardians now taking the necessary steps to rescue the payment of the rates which have been made.

The Commissioners have determined, under all the circumstances of the case, to dissolve the Board of Guardians, in pursuance of the powers entrusted to the Commissioners by the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and to appoint paid officers to administer the affairs of the Union, and they have accordingly issued an order this day dissolving the present Board of Guardians of the Cahiriveen Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Colonel CLARKE :—*December 21, 1847.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your reports of the 10th and 17th instant, relating to the Cahiriveen Union; and in reference thereto, I am to forward, for your information, the enclosed copy of a letter which has this day been addressed to the clerk of the Union, in forwarding an order for the dissolution of the Board of Guardians.

I am at the same time to state, that paid officers, to administer the affairs of the Union, will be immediately appointed.

With regard to your observations as to the difficulties in the way of providing in-door relief in the Union, I am to state, that the Commissioners are most desirous that every exertion should be made to obtain additional workhouse accommodation; and if any additional building suitable for the purpose can be obtained, though at a considerable distance from the present workhouse, the Commissioners are of opinion that it should be taken; and that by the appointment of sufficient trustworthy officers to manage any such building or buildings, the difficulties adverted to in your report may be met and overcome.

With respect to the large number of persons whom you describe as able-bodied labourers not possessed of land, and whose mode of living heretofore you have not ascertained, I am to observe, that it will be very necessary to watch closely the proceedings of the relieving officers, under the Act 10 Vict., cap. 31, particularly in reference to persons holding more than a quarter of an acre of land.

The Commissioners apprehend that much error may arise from misstatement of persons holding land, with a view of obtaining relief; as the number of destitute able-bodied persons stated in your report must far exceed the actual extent of destitution in that class. It appears that of the number of persons who received relief rations in the week ended 4th July last, only 5211 were able-bodied men, and of these 1817 held more than a quarter of an acre of land.

The Commissioners will issue an order for out-door relief, under the 2nd section of the Act 10 Vict, cap. 31, when you recommend that they should do so, and will recommend Count Strzelecki to place at the disposal of the paid Guardians, immediately after their arrival in the Union, a loan of 200*l.* to aid in providing relief; but the Commissioners trust that you will have the relief lists of the relieving officers carefully scrutinized and revised; and that by sending out of the workhouse such destitute persons as out-door relief may be safely given to, and providing further workhouse accommodation, room may be found for testing the destitution of the able-bodied applicants for relief.

Rev. EUGENE O'SULLIVAN, Parish Priest, to the COMMISSIONERS:—
December 6, 1847.

SINCE I had the honour of receiving your letter of the 25th ultimo, I waited on the Board of Guardians of the Cahirciveen Union, and endeavoured to impress on them the absolute necessity of giving out-door relief to the persons referred to in your letter, in order to save them from immediate death by starvation.

I regret to state that I could not make any impression on the Board. It is needless for me therefore, to state, that no language can convey an adequate idea of the frightful condition of the poor in the electoral division in this parish attached to the Cahirciveen Union. As it is totally out of the question that disabled and infirm persons could walk to the workhouse, I requested of the Board to give funds to the relieving officer which would enable him to procure cars for their conveyance, but in this I was equally unsuccessful.

I respectfully beg leave to call the attention of the Commissioners to these facts, and to request that something be done to save the lives of the people.

It is totally inexpedient that the Killorglin Dunkerron electoral division should be attached to the Cahirciveen Union, because the distance between the workhouse of the Union and the electoral division is too great, being, in some instances, 35 miles.

Now it is quite plain, that even an able-bodied person with five or six children, some of whom he must convey on his back, would not now accomplish in the depth of winter, through a most dreary and desolate country, so long a journey.

If this electoral division were attached to the Killarney Union, the average distance from the workhouse would be about 12 miles. It is obvious then, that the greatest convenience would result if it was attached to the Killarney Union, besides the interests of the division cannot be so well attended to if it remains attached to the Cahirciveen Union, because the distance is so great, that neither will the *ex-officio* or the elected Guardians attend the sittings of the Board. I think it right to remark, that this subject was brought under the consideration of the Commissioners.

OBSERVATIONS of Colonel CLARKE:—December 11, 1847.

It is intended to commence giving out-door relief to destitute persons falling under the 1st section of the Poor Relief Extension Act, after the next meeting of the Board of Guardians. According to the Application and Report Book prepared under the direction of the Rev. Eugene O'Sullivan, there appear only 26 individuals who could receive out-door relief.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—December 13, 1847.

A NOTICE, of which I have the honour to enclose you a copy, was posted this morning on the chapel door, and being the fair-day, has received extensive circulation. I have also private information that the Killorglin and Glenbeigh people are to come in on the same day. Mr. Dillon, the stipendiary magistrate, will be here to-morrow, and I will consult with him as to the measures for the preservation of the peace.

Cahirciveen Union.

ENCLOSURE.

December 12, 1847.

It is hereby ordered, that all persons who want food or employment in this district, will meet at the Cahirciveen workhouse on Thursday, the 16th of this month, at the hour of 12 o'clock in the afternoon, this being done effectively by strict orders of the respectable persons of Cahirciveen, Foylemore, Valentia, Prior, and also Dromod.—It is also hoped there will be no disturbance. Fail not at your peril.

Work we want, or
food we must get,
We shall not starve
in the ensuing year;
fail not boys for
God is our guide.

REPLY to the above:—*December 15, 1847.*

THE Commissioners desire to state, that as the workhouse is a considerable distance from the town there may not be reason to apprehend that an attack on the provision dealers is contemplated; but there may be an intention of carrying away provisions stored in the workhouse, and, in either case, the assembly would be unlawful according to the terms of the 27th Geo. III. cap. 15. If, according to the opinion of firm men, the meeting is likely to produce danger to the peace of the neighbourhood, it is an unlawful assembly, and a misdemeanour in those assembling, even though there may not be an intention to do any act which if executed, would make them rioters.

The Commissioners apprehend, that if any effort shall be made to dissuade the persons from whatever purpose they entertain, by an appeal to their reason, or any assurance of giving attention to their case, such parleying will have the effect of promoting further meetings and tumult.

The COMMISSIONERS to Colonel CLARKE, Temporary Inspector:—
December 21, 1847.

I AM to forward herewith, for your information, an extract from a report which they have received from Mr. Phelan, Poor Law Inspector, relating to the insufficiency of proper nourishment for the sick inmates of the workhouse of the Cahirciveen Union, and I am to request that you will be good enough to furnish the Commissioners with a report on the present supplies for the workhouse inmates.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from Mr. PHELAN'S REPORT of November 17, 1847.

THE financial difficulties of the Union, are of course known to the Commissioners, through Mr. Crawford, and Colonel Clarke; but I beg to observe that in consequence of these difficulties, the credit of the Guardians is such that no bread is now to be had for such of the sick as require it, rice and Indian meal being the only articles of food used in the house. Milk, even for the sick, is often provided in insufficient quantity, and the Indian meal breakfast and dinner of the healthy classes, is taken without milk, sugar, or molasses.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 24, 1847.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st instant, requiring a report on the present supplies for the workhouse inmates, I have the honour to acquaint you that as the same financial difficulties which existed when Mr. Phelan made his report, still continue, no person can be induced to supply bread, even for the sick.

The only improvement in the dietary that I have been able to effect, is that of giving milk to all children under nine years of age, substituting a small proportion of rice for Indian-meal, and giving six ounces of salt fish in lieu of so much meal at dinner.

I regret to add, that the town is now quite bare of provisions; I have this day been obliged to suspend the supplies to the schools, and the contractor for the workhouse supply has only sufficient for 10 days on hand. Vessels are ex-

pected, and some cargoes have been afloat for the last five weeks, but detained by stress of weather. Calhirciveen Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 28, 1847.*

THE Commissioners trust that the sum of money which has been advanced by the British Association, will ere this, have enabled you to provide the requisite supplies for the inmates.

I am further to state, that if the supplies expected should not immediately arrive, it would be advisable for the Vice Guardians to purchase a sufficient quantity of meal, from the Commissariat dépôt at Kenmare.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 23, 1847.*

I HAD this morning the honour to receive your letter and its enclosures of the 21st instant, announcing the dissolution of the Board of Guardians of this Union. A severe attack of the prevailing epidemic prevented my being present at their meeting to-day, when it was communicated to them; but it was a timely reprimand, as, notwithstanding the resolutions of last week, no preparation for the reception of paupers, or for giving out-door relief to the impotent class, has been completed.

A house, consisting of two dormitories, a kitchen, and a school-room for 120 girls, has been taken, and is now nearly ready for their reception; and a house in the immediate vicinity of the workhouse has also been engaged as a dormitory for 120 boys. By some underhand influence the parties drew back from their bargain, and insisted upon a twelve months' term, which I could not accede to. I have learned this evening that they will let for six months, but I do not feel myself at liberty to enter into any contract, without your special authority. I think two or more additional buildings may be obtained in distant parts of the Union, and as soon as the new Guardians arrive, no exertion shall be wanting to give the workhouse test the most extensive operation.

According to the returns furnished by Captain Forbes on the 4th July last, there were 9463 able-bodied labourers (including their families) not holding land, on the relief lists, and as ejections on a large scale will shortly take place, I fear the number of 10,500, I formerly stated, is too near the truth. Nothing short of the most absolute necessity, and after every other resource shall be exhausted, will induce me to recommend an order under the second section of the 10th Vic. cap. 31.

I shall not hesitate to examine on oath, any relieving officer whom I may suspect of irregularity, and as I shall now possess a working power, it shall be exercised to its utmost extent.

Should any delay take place in the arrival of the Guardians, I should be glad of your instructions as to whether I shall be authorized in signing orders on the contractors, for food for the workhouse. It is necessary that I take upon myself the responsibility of doing so, in the interim of your reply.

REPLY to the above:—*December 28, 1847.*

THE Commissioners consider that you were fully justified, under the circumstances of the case, in signing the requisite orders for supplies for the workhouse inmates.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners think it more advisable to take suitable buildings for affording additional workhouse accommodation for a year, than to abandon them, because the owners will not let them for a shorter time.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 23, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit a proposition from the Knight of Kerry, which is tantamount to making the island of Valencia a separate Union, under laws differing from those in force for the county at large.

I am prepared to admit that the administration of the Poor Law in this Union

Cahiriveen Union. has been most shamefully mismanaged; but this by no means touches the soundness of its principle: nor does it appear to me that the Knight has adduced any argument against it, but merely urges the expediency of giving an opportunity of carrying out his particular views.

The distance from the workhouse might be urged as a ground for separation, with greater reason, by two-thirds of the Union, in some parts the distance being trebled; but the Knight's great objection seems to be founded on the assumption that the law establishes poor-houses in place of workhouses. The Guardians, by their neglect, have made this conversion of terms applicable; but this is capable of immediate remedy, without having resort to the measure of separation.

Supposing the law permitted the Knight's proposition, there is a point of some consideration as regards the establishment expenses of the Union workhouse. The Poor Law valuation of Valencia is about one-eighth of the whole Union; and as it may possibly be deemed expedient to separate the Killorglin electoral division, the valuation would be reduced from 24,866*l.* to 19,381*l.*, with the same establishment expenses to provide for.

I have not replied to the Knight's letter beyond a bare acknowledgment, as I do not consider it my province to enter into any controversy on the merits of the law.

ENCLOSURE.

The KNIGHT of KERRY to Colonel CLARKE:—*December 21, 1847.*

I AM glad to hear both matters which you tell me of confidentially. I enclose to you a pacific proposal which I offer to the Poor Law. If they do not assent, they must resolve to do evil with their eyes open. The greatest injustice is perpetrated against that island in all fiscal matters. Whether through the Poor Law Guardians, valuers, or Presenting Sessions, the island representatives, even when there are any, are, necessarily, in a small minority—the tyrant majority always against us. They hold still the mainland and the island; have no common interest: but they will never use roads in the island, and, therefore, that they should have none, &c.

You will much oblige me, and serve our destitute population, if you can promote what I recommend.

I am so rootedly opposed to the Poor Law, that it is with difficulty I bring myself to meddle with any of its details. I believe you, and I fully agree, that in this Union its administration has, in many respects, been shamefully abused. As another season of dire distress now approaches, I am desirous of suggesting, through you, some modifications, which may practically mitigate its mischief, at least in one district. As a basis for this improvement, I suggest the separation of this particular electoral division from the rest of the Union of Cahiriveen. I do this upon the ground of its being an island, making it difficult, especially in winter, for the extremely indigent to reach the poor-house, and dangerous in case of sickness. The centre of our district is nine miles from the poor-house, half a mile of which is water (at the narrowest point). A very strong prejudice prevails amongst the islanders against going to an external side.

All the circumstances of this district are very different from those which belong to the other electoral divisions of the Union. Works which are suitable to other parts, such as main lines of communication, do not, in any respect, interest or concern this island. Works can never be in common between the island and the mainland. Central accommodation could be obtained upon the island on very reasonable terms. The administration to be on the strict principles of a workhouse, contradistinguished to a poor-house, with an efficiency which will probably soon enable it to support itself. A large proportion of the destitute in this district are widows with large families, whose removal to a distant poor-house would be extremely painful. The active inspection of the clergy of both persuasions, as well as of the local magistrate, could be ensured, and a considerable moral improvement would be obtained. The insularity of the district would prevent it being brought as a precedent in other cases. By localising the establishment under the view of those who must pay for its support, the greatest economy and regularity in its administration would be ensured. The greatest distrust prevails amongst the rate-payers of this island as to the transactions of the poor-house, from the observation of which they are cut off by the sea. If this very reasonable proposal be conceded on its merits, and on the peculiar circumstances of the case, I can answer for lending myself to a very useful reformation of the Poor Law system, at least in one district. I have no doubt that the rate-payers would cheerfully submit to whatever increase of rate may be involved in the proposed separation.

* * * *

You will observe that my tender is for industry *versus* idleness; for reproductive and useful employment against the slothfulness and demoralization of the poor-house; the bringing work to the door of the pauper instead of sending him away from all work, useful to himself and family and the district, to systematic indolence in a remote poor-house. I clear my conscience by this proposal; the responsibility of rejecting it must rest with others.

The COMMISSIONERS to the KNIGHT of KERRY :—*December 29, 1848.*

Cahiriveen Union.

THE Commissioners have had before them your communication of the 21st instant, addressed to Colonel Clarke, Temporary Poor Law Inspector; and I am directed to state, that the Commissioners have considered your proposal, to have the island of Valencia declared a separate Union: but as the reasons stated in your letter to Colonel Clarke have reference to a defective administration of the law by a Board of Guardians now dissolved, they cannot be considered to weigh in favour of the change proposed.

The annual value of the rateable property in Valencia being 3019*l.*, a very large amount of rate would be necessary to raise the sum requisite to provide and support a workhouse, much exceeding the rate on any other part of Ireland; for, notwithstanding the efforts suggested for making workhouse labour available towards its support, a large surplus expense would be unavoidable.

In the application of means for lessening the pressure on the workhouse, the present position of Valencia as a separate electoral division should afford the same facilities that could be used if it were a distinct Union; and every local exertion to promote employment and abate pauperism must, in the present as in the proposed disposition of the island, be equally effectual in lessening the rates.

The Commissioners trust that you will continue your most useful efforts in providing employment, and so give the paid Guardians the advantage of your valuable co-operation, and the law a fair trial, while administered in strict accordance with the regulations for giving effect to it.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 29, 1847.*

IN acknowledgment of your letter of the 27th instant, I have the honour to acquaint you that my earnest attention has been given to the state of destitution in the island of Valencia, and the Vice-Guardians shall be desired to give the subject their immediate consideration on their arrival.

I am happy to state that the Society of Friends have again come forward with their usual benevolence, and enabled the Knight of Kerry to continue feeding the 700 persons on his list, and I am affording relief to 460 children attending the schools; to which there has been no interruption in that locality.

OBSERVATIONS of Colonel CLARKE, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, relating to a communication which the COMMISSIONERS have received from the Rev. E. O'SULLIVAN, P.P., on the distressed state of the poor in the Killorglin electoral division of the Cahiriveen Union :—*January 1, 1848.*

THE Inspector has directed the relieving officer to investigate the cases represented in the declarations, and if found proper persons, and unable to walk from sickness or infirmity, to hire a car to convey them to the workhouse, where there is room reserved. It is expected that two of these cases are those of persons possessing land.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 1, 1848.*

THE delay in the arrival of Mr. Burchadt has prevented any progress in definitive arrangements for the operation of the new Board of Guardians. I am, however, informed that he may be expected this day, and on Monday, I hope to give effect to those preliminary measures I have been making during the last 10 days.

A commodious store has been fitted up in the vicinity of the town, which will afford accommodation for 120 female children, with kitchen and schoolroom, and a respectable woman engaged to superintend the cooking, and general management, and near the workhouse, two houses as dormitories, for 120 boys, who will be fed and taught within the house as before, also a store in the town, at 25*s.* per month for the reception of the supplies from Limerick, of which I have been advised.

I have received 200*l.* as a grant from the British Relief Association, in addition to a similar sum, placed at my disposal for feeding the children attending the schools, but I have not received any notification, if this sum be for the same object, or if intended, for the use of the Guardians, as mentioned in your letter of the

Cahiriveen Union

21st ultimo. If the latter, I have to request your instructions, if I should pay this sum over to the Guardians in instalments of 50% at a time as a loan from the British Relief Association, to meet incidental expenses of out-door relief to the impotent class, and to provide bread for the hospital.

On my visit to the workhouse yesterday, I was much struck with the squalid appearance of the inmates, particularly children; I have had a communication with the medical officer on the subject, and he is of opinion that a change in the diet is absolutely necessary. I shall press on the Vice-Guardians to substitute a proportion of bread in lieu of meal; I attribute the unhealthy appearance of the paupers in a great measure to the cold wet flooring, of the whole of the basement story, on which the schoolrooms and men's day room are situate. The drainage is so imperfect, that the flags are never dry; I have caused the boards which formed the bed tressels in the temporary sheds, to be placed in front of the seats, in the schoolroom, in order to protect the naked feet of the children from the damp.

I am of opinion that the kitchen should be separate from the body of the house, as the steam from the boilers pervades the dining-hall to such a degree, as to impede respiration; and as the water is not supplied by pipes, the wetness of the floor is still further increased. As it is in contemplation to erect a bakehouse and oven, probably a favourable opportunity offers for attaching a kitchen under the same roof, without any very great additional expense.

I beg to bring under your consideration, that it will be necessary to provide infirmary accommodation, while the alterations contemplated for that building are being effected. The district fever hospital is now on the point of being closed for want of funds, the medical officer having neglected the necessary measure for obtaining the grand jury presentment, at the last Sessions. I am led to believe that the subscribers are willing to let the building to the Guardians at a low rental, and as there is no fever of an epidemic character now prevailing, I think it would be desirable as a temporary measure of expediency, that this arrangement should be effected, which would afford the power of admitting 100 additional paupers into the workhouse, for some months to come.

There is some difficulty as to the contract for supplying the workhouse with meal, which will not expire for three months. The contractor states that he has entered into arrangements to meet the average demand for that time, and that the Government grant, if applied to the workhouse, will subject him to a heavy loss.

REPLY to the above:—*January 3, 1848.*

THE Commissioners perceive with satisfaction that additional workhouse accommodation has been obtained.

As regards the sum of 200% last sent to you from the funds of the British Association, I am to state that the amount is to be considered as a loan to the Guardians, and that it should be brought to charge in the Union accounts under the head of "other receipts."

The Commissioners will forward an extract from your report, relative to the drainage of the workhouse premises, and the providing additional hospital accommodation, to their architect. They have no objection to the Guardians renting the district fever hospital, under the 16th Section of the Irish Poor Relief Amendment Act, if that course is deemed advisable.

With respect to the contract for the supply of meal for the workhouse, I am to request that the contract may be forwarded for the perusal of the Commissioners.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 15, 1848.*

THE last week has been one of incessant occupation, the Vice-Guardians having sat every day by adjournment. The people are crowding to the workhouse, which is now completely filled, and 200 children lodged in separate houses. The occupation of the fever hospital will afford additional room; and I shall accompany the Guardians to inspect a store at Port Magee, which, if at all answerable for the purpose, shall be immediately fitted up for the reception of paupers. A difficulty arises as to finding bedding for these extra

buildings, credit being out of the question; and to expend the produce of the present rate on this object, would cripple the exertions of the Guardians in providing food and other necessaries. If there should be any available barrack stores of this description at Cork, Limerick, or Tralee, it would be a great relief to have a supply granted.

There is a strong objection on the part of the inmates of the workhouse, falling under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, to being placed on the out-door relief lists, all alleging that they have no home to go to. I do not feel warranted to advise the Guardians to a compulsory course, but all such persons henceforth presenting themselves, will be put on those lists, unless there shall be room for them.

The collection is now proceeding rather more satisfactorily; all outstanding cheques have been discharged, and the Guardians were enabled, on Thursday, to issue others in payment of some small accounts. I will endeavour to make an arrangement with the larger creditors, to receive their money by instalments; and intend going to Killarney on Tuesday, with the view of inducing Mr. Murphy, the contractor for clothing, to receive 200% on account, and to stay legal proceedings.

I am entreated on all sides, not to make any application for your order for out-door relief to the able-bodied, but I fear it will be inevitable, as there is no absorption of labour in this purely pastoral country. I cannot, however, but suppose that the return on the 4th July last, of 10,340 destitute individuals not possessing land, must be far beyond the real fact. I find the number of ratings to the Poor Law is upwards of 5000, representing 25,000 individuals, out of a population of 30,888. This, however, will not be an exact criterion to judge from, as parents cannot be compelled to support their adult children, whatever be the extent of their means. The absence of this power will, no doubt, prove the loophole by which abuses of the out-door relief system will creep in. Unfortunately, in this country, charitable or local funds are looked upon as common property, of which every man is entitled to a share without reference to his circumstances. Parents, however well off, will have their adult children placed on the poor lists, and use every deception as to the ages of the younger children, which is now daily practised at the workhouse, in order to obtain a higher scale of diet. I am, therefore, induced to believe that there will be at least 6000 persons on the out-door relief lists; the cost of these for 25 weeks, at the most moderate calculation, will be 8000%.; to raise this sum from the Union, would require a rate of nearly 7s. in the pound. I have before had the honour of submitting to you my opinion that the levy of any rate, in addition to that now in course of collection, would be hopeless. If the Guardians can carry on the workhouse, with the auxiliary building, it will be the extent of their powers.

I am gratified with the manner in which the Vice-Guardians have set about their arduous task. Mr. Power has had considerable experience in the administration of the Poor Law, and both gentlemen were inspectors under the Relief Commission. Mr. Burtchaell was in the adjoining Union to that under my charge, and well known to me by favourable repute; and I have no doubt, they will sustain the high character they obtained under the trying circumstances of the last year.

REPLY to the above:—*January 19, 1848.*

INQUIRY has been made of the Commissary-General, as to whether there is any barrack bedding which could be obtained for the workhouse inmates.

As regards the objection to leave the workhouse, which you state exists amongst such of the inmates of the workhouse as are entitled to out-door relief, I am to request your attention to the Commissioners' circular letter of the 18th instant, as containing the Commissioners' opinion in respect to inmates of the workhouse, who may get out-door relief under the 1st section of the 10th Vic., c. 31.

The Commissioners trust that, if you shall have to recommend the issue of an order for out-door relief to able-bodied persons, a timely arrangement will be made for establishing stone-breaking in stations throughout the divisions, in which such relief may become necessary; and they rely on the effect which the knowledge of the Guardians' preparations for that object must have, for

Cahirciveen Union. a considerable check to applications for relief, and the limitation of them to cases of actual necessity. At the same time, the Commissioners have a full expectation that both yourself and the Vice-Guardians, will use all available means of extending in-door accommodation, by hiring additional buildings, and making temporary constructions where practicable, to avert, if possible, the resort to out-door relief for able-bodied persons.

Page 1. A copy of a letter which has been addressed to Boards of Guardians of other Unions, in which an order for out-door relief to the able-bodied has been issued, is enclosed herewith for your information.

The COMMISSIONERS to Colonel CLARKE :—*January 21, 1848.*

WITH reference to your report of the 15th instant, relating to the Cahirciveen Union, in which you advert to the probability that the Union will be unable to defray the cost of out-door relief, I am directed to state, that if you are convinced, and are able to certify, that every possible exertion is made to collect the rates, and if the rates when collected are such as to enable the Guardians to maintain able-bodied men and their families in the workhouse, and persons entitled to relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, out of it, the Commissioners will make application to the British Association for food to maintain able-bodied persons out of the workhouse.

In reference to the workhouse inmates who may receive out-door relief under the 1st section, the Commissioners are desirous of reminding you that they have full authority to give such persons allowances of such an amount as will provide them not only with food, but likewise with lodging and clothing.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 16, 1848.*

WE beg leave to report for your information, that we have examined the workhouse of this Union, and found that it was totally inadequate to accommodate the number of persons applying for admission. We were, therefore, obliged to rent five houses to enable us to shelter and feed the destitute creatures, who are every day pressing upon us in large numbers for relief; and certainly, from their general appearance, we consider them the most wretched, miserable people we ever beheld, and we are of opinion, that in no other Union in Ireland, does destitution prevail to a greater extent.

The inmates of the house stand in need of almost all necessaries requisite to support nature; and, so shamefully have they been neglected, the straw for their ticks has not been changed more than once, within the last six months. In fact, there has been a total disregard on the part of the late Guardians, to attend to the wants of those poor people, which is quite evident from their emaciated, worn-out, and ragged appearance.

The only food the adults receive is Indian meal stirabout, with a small portion of rice and conger eel. The hospital patients get a very small quantity of meat, and some milk, which the children under six years also get.

The dining-hall requires to be furnished with tables, forms, tins, &c., &c. The inmates are obliged to be formed into four classes, to enable the master to serve them at each meal, which causes considerable delay and inconvenience; but we have given orders for a supply of the required articles, to remedy this evil.

The master has reported that property has been from time to time, conveyed away by the paupers through the lower windows, which are quite insecure; and there are no less than 370 broken panes of glass in the house. The damp of the underground apartments, and also in the yards, is sufficient to cause disease; and the portion of the walls partially built round the house, is not sufficiently high to prevent the paupers from having ingress or egress at option. No fence walls have been erected, enclosing the land attached to the house, nor have the paupers been employed in any way whatever, in the cultivation of it from the commencement, until within a few days, when we procured implements and set them to work in repairing the approach to the house, and cleaning up the yards.

The rate struck by the late Guardians amounts to 3,578*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, and is in progress of being collected. There is at this moment, an execution against the house for 458*l.*, with costs; and proceedings have been taken by the late master and matron, for the recovery of their salary. Some of the present officers are claiming their salary, not having received any portion of it since their appointment.

We beg further to add, that for the last week, we have met from day to day for the despatch of business, and will continue to do so until matters are on a better footing in the Union; and we are happy to say, that up to the present, we have been able to give relief to all the applicants that came before us.

In conclusion, we feel great pleasure in stating how much we are indebted to Colonel Clarke for his kindness and zealous co-operation, since our arrival here.

REPLY to the above:—*January 21, 1848.*

YOUR proceedings appear to be conducted with an activity and attention to the more urgent wants of the destitute poor, which must be considered very satisfactory.

The Commissioners find it necessary at present, to direct your attention to the consideration of the best means of removing the cause of damp from the basement portion of the workhouse, by employing the able-bodied inmates in cutting deep drains from it through the site.

The Commissioners also recommend, that some arrangement be at once made to stay the execution for 458*l.*, which one of the creditors has obtained. In reference to this and other debts, it may be useful to suggest a composition with the creditors, for payment of part out of the present rate, and the remainder out of the rate next to be levied. This course has been readily agreed to in another Union, for which the Commissioners have had to appoint Vice-Guardians.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 17, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your letter of the 14th instant, relative to the proposed appointment of additional relieving officers for Prior, Killorglin, and Glencar electoral divisions, I have the honour to submit for your consideration the grounds which induced me to recommend that course.

The electoral division of Dromod, to which Prior is now attached, is the most extensive of any in the Union, being estimated at 50,702 acres, with a scattered population of 5247, while the Poor Law valuation is only about 15*s.* to each individual; consequently there is great poverty, and I think sufficient occupation for one individual; at the same time, as Valencia is now separated from Killinane, the relieving officer for the latter should also take charge of Prior, which, combined, will form a compact relief district of 38,666 acres, with a population of 6892.

The recommendation of separating Killorglin and Glencar from Glenbeigh, arises from circumstances of a different character. On the 25th November last, the Rev. Eugene O'Sullivan, P.P. of Killorglin, presented himself at the meeting of the Board of Guardians, and represented the state of destitution to be such that if relief were not given, many would die of starvation within 24 hours. At my urgent request the Guardians desired the relieving officer to proceed immediately, and to exercise the discretionary power conferred by the 7th Section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, in such urgent cases as represented by Mr. O'Sullivan. On the following Thursday, it appeared that he had given out 2556 lbs. of meal to individuals whose cases he had not investigated, not one of whom would come into the workhouse. He admits he did wrong, but urges that he was ordered to do so by Father O'Sullivan. I think it, therefore, highly desirable that a man possessing sufficient moral courage to act upon his own judgment and responsibility, should be appointed for Killorglin, to which Glencar might be added, in order to equalize the districts.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will be prepared to sanction the proposed change of relieving officers' districts, and appointment of additional officers, when carried into effect by the Vice-Guardians.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 22, 1848.*

As the Vice-Guardians now sit daily, my reports will be an epitome of the proceedings of the past week, rather than of any particular meeting.

On Thursday last the number of applicants for admission to the workhouse exceeded every power of accommodation, and the Guardians were at length compelled to commence a general system of out-door relief to the widows and impotent. Upwards of 70 individuals were transferred to the out-door relief list at their own desire, the relieving officers being present, and inserting their names on their lists, and receiving money for their support; this being done in my own presence, there cannot possibly be any mistake or misapprehension. I am in hope of being able to defer the extension of this to the able-bodied for some weeks.

The want of clothing is a most serious evil; there are now upwards of 400 persons who are in probationary wards, and cannot be admitted into the interior of the house on account of filth and vermin. I have directed the master to let all those who came into the house with decent clothes have them to wear, giving those more in want, the workhouse clothing; but these are very few in number. I felt the importance of getting a supply so great, that I went to Killarney to ascertain if I could make any arrangement with the contractor, and I am happy to report to you that he has consented not to proceed to execution upon his action, on the condition of receiving 200*l.* on account, and that the Guardians will engage to pay the remainder by instalments from the present rate as it shall be collected. He will moreover supply immediately, upon the usual credit, 150 complete suits of clothing for each sex, to be delivered 50 suits each week, and on lower terms than before. I endeavoured by every possible argument to induce him to accept half of his claim from the present rate, and the balance from the next that should be struck; but he declined doing so on the ground that his claim is of longer standing than that of any other creditor, having never received any sum on account, and that the late Guardians, after running up a long bill, took no further notice of him, but purchased what they required from other parties. I think he has reason in what he states, and I trust the proposed arrangement will meet your approbation. I have 400 strong calico bags which will make 200 good petticoats for the girls, which are being made in the school.

I anticipated Mr. Wilkinson's recommendation as to procuring the felt for covering the temporary sheds, which will arrive to-morrow; the printed instructions will enable the workmen of the country to proceed immediately to the task.

The collection of the rate varies much in different localities. In Killorglin more than two-thirds has been collected; but in Dromod it is very unsatisfactory, being only 73*l.* out of upwards of 600*l.* The collector informs me that he experiences the greatest difficulty. There have been two cases of rescue, on which he has sworn informations, and he has justices' warrants against other parties, but fears to distrain without the assistance of the police, which cannot at present be given, the greater part of the force having marched for the county Limerick.

In Killemanagh a forged notice was posted, purporting to be signed by the clerk of the Union, that the Vice-Guardians would proceed to levy a rate of 9*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. The intention is evidently to create alarm in the minds of the rate-payers, and to impede the collection of the present rate. I have directed the clerk to issue a notice that I will give a reward of 5*l.* to any person who may give such information as may lead to the conviction of the guilty party.

REPLY to the above:—*January 26, 1848.*

THE Commissioners see no objection to the arrangement which you have made with regard to the settlement of the account of the contractor for clothing.

The COMMISSIONERS to Colonel CLARKE :—*January 29, 1848.*

Cahiriveen Union.

I AM to request your attention to the enclosed extract from a communication from Mr. Maurice O'Connell, M.P., which has been referred to the Commissioners from the Under Secretary's office, relative to the neglect of a relieving officer in the discharge of his duty, and abuses in administering out-door relief in Cahiriveen Union.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. MAURICE O'CONNELL to Mr. REDINGTON :—*January 20, 1848.*

I HAD this honour on the 18th. On this day I have had a letter from Captain Ommanney, stating that he would probably be here on Monday next to visit this district. I should be sorry to prejudge him, or prejudice the cause of any man with his superior officers without giving him every chance: and I would, therefore, pray that no decision may be come to on that part of my letter concerning him, until opportunity has been afforded of judging of what his presence will effect in this quarter. I trust he will find time for the future to visit this district regularly; but I despair of having anything substantial done for this district until it is taken from the Kenmare and affixed to the Cahiriveen Union; and I would earnestly pray the attention of the Commissioners to the part of my letter bearing thereon.

This day the approaches to my farm-yard and offices were thronged with near 100 poor persons. Their statement was, that they had been directed to muster here for inspection by the relieving officer, who would be here at noon. They spent the day here, and have only just retired, having impeded the operations of my people during the day, to say nothing of the spectacle presented, or the chances of infection, &c. The relieving officer, *so called*, did not make his appearance at all. He certainly had no right to make my offices his place of pauper rendezvous without even informing me thereof; but if the creatures took anything by the motion, I of course would waive objections, but keeping them all day standing fruitlessly, with the thermometer at the freezing point, is rather what seamen call "hard lives."

If this out-door relief is intended to be efficient,—if the meaning of the Act is to be carried out,—the staff *must* be changed in this quarter. At present it is a mockery; one case will suffice for a specimen. The relieving officer, Mr. Jermyn, takes candidates for out-door relief on the faith of a person named John Moran, clerk to the parish priest. Moran puts in the names of *all* his own family,—sons, daughters, and sons-in-law. One of these sons-in-law, by the name of Coffee, lives on my land. He has a good house, for building which his father was allowed the full value, certainly over ten acres of land, besides mountain pasture; is an able-bodied man, a good quarryman, and could earn from 7s. to 10s. per week as such; has two cows, &c., &c.; yet this fellow is on the out-door relief list, has been so from the commencement—he and all his family receiving rations: of course *he* won't work. This is but a solitary case, but is a type of how the great majority of those receiving out-door relief in this division are circumstanced.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 29, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you that affairs are proceeding in this Union in a more satisfactory manner than might have been expected. There is a great mass of destitution, yet I hope out-door relief to the able-bodied may be deferred for a few weeks longer. I believe that the Vice-Guardians have pushed the principle of taking buildings as auxiliary to the workhouse as far as it can be carried with advantage. There are now upwards of 1100 receiving in-door relief. I have not yet a return of the out-door lists, which are very heavy,—and I have no doubt that many individuals are borne upon them who, strictly speaking, should not be; but I think it better to give some small latitude to sickly and weak persons than to open the flood gates to the able-bodied.

I am most desirous that the clerk of works should be here with as little delay as possible, as no person can be found capable of putting the patent felt on the temporary sheds.

REPLY to the above :—*February 2, 1848.*

MR. WILKINSON's attention has been drawn to your request with respect to the clerk of the works, to be despatched to Cahiriveen.

With a view to enable the Vice-Guardians to relieve the workhouse of some of its present inmates, the Commissioners have given directions for the issue of an order authorizing them to afford out-door relief to widows with one child, and to children, both of whose parents are dead.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 5, 1848.*

I HAVE much gratification in being able to report to you that I do not yet feel myself called upon to recommend out-door relief to the able-bodied. To avoid this has been the more difficult on account of it having been resorted to in the adjoining Unions; but I have impressed so strongly on the ratepayers that such a measure would press most heavily upon them, that I believe a healthy spirit has been roused; and that there will not be that wholesale trade of imposition practised which prevailed during the last and preceding years: at the same time it must be admitted that there is much distress and misery amongst the small landholders, who will not give up possession; and it is this class that is alluded to in the various representations made respecting the island of Valencia.

The number now receiving in-door relief exceeds 1200. There are 200 female children lodged in two convenient houses close to the town (but separated by a branch of the harbour), where they sleep and are fed under the care of a superintendent and the schoolmistress. In the immediate vicinity of the workhouse a house is appropriated solely for nurses and infants: this is a great relief to the workhouse, as this class is always most difficult of management. About 350 men and boys occupy other houses near the workhouse as dormitories only. By these means the Vice-Guardians have been able to treble the in-door relief; and as soon as the sheds shall be made habitable 120 more may be admitted.

The great evil is the want of clothing. I had made arrangements for the immediate supply of 300 suits, but it appears the contract had expired, and the Guardians did not feel themselves at liberty to sanction what I had done, but have advertised for tenders. I am sorry for this delay, but believe they have acted in strict accordance with your instructions.

Somewhat more than one-third of the 3s. rate has been collected, and many of the highest ratepayers have promised payment immediately after the fair, which takes place next week.

An application has been made by the Roman Catholic clergyman of Glenbeigh for a medical officer, recommending the appointment of his brother. It appeared to me very objectionable to place the whole operations of relief under the control of one family—the one brother having the entire patronage of four national schools, in which 740 children are fed, the other being the relieving officer; and it was not shown satisfactorily that sickness to any extraordinary extent was prevalent. The Vice-Guardians did not, therefore, feel themselves under the necessity of applying to you under the 5th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, which was communicated to the reverend gentleman, on which he wrote to the Vice-Guardians, saying that the people were dying almost daily of disease and starvation; and though he felt bound in conscience to mention these things, that, *of course*, the Guardians would not notice them. I had the relieving officer before me on Thursday, when one of the clergy of this parish and many other persons were present, and examined him closely as to whether any person had died during the last three weeks, after applying to him for relief;—if so, had he refused relief; and on what grounds; and whether the Guardians had supplied him with the means of relieving all cases of sudden emergency. He fully admitted that he had no knowledge of any such cases; that he must have known of them had they occurred; and that he had money at command. I was glad, of an opportunity of giving so complete a negative to a grave charge—affecting not only my own character, but that of gentlemen who are unceasing in their endeavours to perform their arduous duties conscientiously.

The ratepayers generally are very desirous that relieving officers should be appointed for each electoral division. I think this might be done as a temporary measure under the present pressure. The electoral divisions of Caher and Killinane are at present combined; the population is about 10,000, and the area 46,000 acres, embracing the most destitute part of the Union; and though I recommended Prior and Killemenagh to be united, which, in appearance on the map, form a very compact district, I find the communication is intercepted by a range of mountains, is always difficult, and often impracticable. I think it would therefore be desirable to appoint temporary relieving officers for Killinane and Prior.

I have great reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the master and matron of the workhouse have conducted their duties under no ordinary difficulties. The house is kept beautifully clean throughout, and, comparatively speaking, there are few disorderly or refractory cases. I felt it so necessary to make a prompt example of any that might arise, that last week I had three tailors brought before

the court of petty sessions for refusing to work, who were sentenced to a month's imprisonment, with hard labour. Cahiriveen Union.

The deaths in the infirmary have been few—the last week only nine. I am informed that at this period of last year from 20 to 30 died weekly, when the inmates of the house only averaged about 350. I think, considering the character of extreme destitution which has always been attached to this Union, that the facts of no out-door relief having been required until within the last fortnight, and that out-door relief to the able-bodied is not yet absolutely necessary, show that the benefits I anticipated from the dissolution of the late Board of Guardians were not overrated.

REPLY to the above :—*February 8, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners are prepared to take into their consideration the re-construction of the relief districts, as you suggest.

I am at the same time to request that you will have the goodness to communicate on the subject with the Vice-Guardians, in order that they may record on the minutes of their proceedings at their next meeting the arrangement which they may propose to make.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 10, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you that at the ordinary meeting of the Vice-Guardians which took place this day, tenders were put in for the supply of clothing and bedding, which will relieve the most pressing necessity.

The clerk of works has arrived, and will proceed immediately to making the temporary sheds habitable, and erecting the boundary wall. It is desirable that I should know the exact sum that remains from the building loan, in order to regulate the expenditure accordingly.

I am gratified in being able to state that there is a manifest improvement in the appearance of the paupers generally, and most particularly with the children; and when they shall be clothed it will make a very great improvement in their condition. There were this day 1241 in the workhouse and auxiliary buildings; of these 155 were in hospital, not a very great proportion, considering the condition of those who came into the house. Deaths are very few, and from what I can learn, malignant disease was never less known in this part of the country.

There is much importunity for relief by those who will not go into the workhouse; but there is no turbulence nor disorder, and I believe the determined attitude assumed by the Guardians has been mainly instrumental in producing that effect. About 6000 individuals, including those in the schools, are now led with the greatest order and regularity; and I believe few now remain who can be relieved under the Poor Law; but the lists will increase weekly by the addition of those whom circumstances will oblige to give up their land.

Rathkeale Union.

RATHKEALE UNION.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain MAXWELL :—*December 7, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter which they have received from the clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Rathkeale Union, reporting a resolution of the Guardians, urging the necessity of authorizing the administration of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor in that Union; I am also to forward for your information, a form of an Order which they are about to issue to the Rathkeale Union previous to the meeting of the Guardians on Friday next, and I am to request that you will be so good as to proceed to Rathkeale, and inquire and report to the Commissioners, with the least possible delay, as to whether it is or is not advisable to issue a further Order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied men in Rathkeale Union.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

Mr. HALL, Clerk to the Guardians, to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 4, 1847.*

At the meeting of the Board of Guardians of Rathkeale Union on yesterday, the 3rd instant, it was resolved,—

That we find from our own knowledge, and from the information of our relieving officers, that large masses of the labouring poor in this Union are in the most destitute state, living solely on turnips, without work of any kind.

That our workhouse is unable to contain anything like the number of destitute persons who seek for admission, and that although we are preparing an old building to enable us to accommodate 500 more paupers, it cannot be got ready in less than a month.

That under these circumstances we again apply to the Commissioners to authorize us to give out-door relief to those destitute persons who have no food, and no employment to earn it, until we can find room in our workhouse to sustain.

That we make this request with the greatest unwillingness after the refusal lately sent us from the Poor Law Commissioners, and we suggest that if the Commissioners will not permit us to give full rations, that they will allow us to give those destitute persons half rations, to save them from the effects of living on turnips alone.

That our chairman be requested to send these resolutions to the Poor Law Commissioners, in the hope of their permitting us to grant this proportion of relief, which with what turnips they can obtain may for a time sustain life.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. HALL, Clerk to the Guardians :—*December 9, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, reporting a resolution of the Board of Guardians of Rathkeale Union on the 3rd instant, in which they request the Commissioners to authorise them to grant out-door relief to the destitute poor in the Union.

In reference thereto, I am to state that the Commissioners have issued an Order under section 2 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, authorizing the administration of out-door relief to other classes than those specified in the 1st section of that Act; a copy of the Order was transmitted by last night's post.

The Guardians will observe that the relief authorized by the Order is limited to relief in food to destitute widows, with one child dependent on them, respectively, to destitute children whose parents are dead, and to destitute able-bodied men, of whose families one or more members dependent on them are affected by severe illness or serious accident; and the Commissioners desire to impress on the Guardians the necessity of their administering relief under this Order strictly to the classes therein specified, and in the mode prescribed.

The Commissioners have requested their Temporary Inspector, Mr. Maxwell, to visit the Union with special reference to this subject, and on receiving his report the Commissioners will, if necessary, address the Guardians further.

II.

RATHKEALE UNION.

To the Guardians of the Poor of the RATHKEALE UNION; to the Clerk or Clerks to the Justices of the Petty Sessions, held for the Division or Divisions in which the Townlands and Places comprised within the said Union are situated, and to all others whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it has been shown to our satisfaction, that, by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the Rathkeale Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded to destitute poor persons, being widows with one child dependant on them respectively; or to destitute poor persons, being children whose parents are both dead; or to destitute poor persons being able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families dependent on them for support are affected by severe sickness or serious accident:

Now, therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the Guardians of the said Union, for the period of one month from the date of this order, to administer relief out of the workhouse in food to such destitute persons as aforesaid, being widows with one child dependent on them respectively; or being children whose parents are both dead; or being able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families dependent on them for support are affected by severe sickness or serious accident.

Sealed with our seal, this eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

(Signed) E. T. B. TWISLETON.

(Countersigned) W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 10, 1847.*

IN compliance with your communication of 7th December, 1847, I proceeded to Rathkeale, and made every inquiry in my power into the state of that Union. I am informed that the distress is beginning to be severely felt very generally; that the supply of food of the poorer classes is now nearly exhausted, and that the employment formerly given is now withheld from the labouring classes. I therefore think that it will be advisable to authorize out-door relief to the able-bodied, but would suggest that the Guardians be first compelled to make the necessary arrangements to carry out the labour test.

I find that the workhouse is full; the Guardians are preparing a large building in the town to contain 500 persons, this house will be ready in about three weeks. There is another house available, I am informed, which would accommodate about 100 more. The idiot wards would contain from 20 to 30, there are five inmates at present in them. The infirmary, which is now entirely vacant, is calculated to contain 200 persons.

REPLY to the above:—*December 18, 1847.*

I AM to forward for your information, the enclosed copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Board of Guardians, relative to the administration of out-door relief to the able-bodied.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS:—*December 16, 1847.*

WITH reference to the resolution of the Board of Guardians of Rathkeale Union on the 3rd instant, on the subject of out-door relief, and to the Commissioners' letter to you in reply, I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to state that they have received Mr. Maxwell's report; and I am to forward herewith, for the information of the Guardians, a copy of an order which they have issued in another Union, authorizing out-door relief under Section 2 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act to the able-bodied.

I am at the same time to state that if the Guardians are of opinion that the issuing of an order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men is absolutely required, the Commissioners will not object to issue an order accordingly. But the Guardians should make preparation beforehand for acting on it, as otherwise the Commissioners are afraid that the same abuses might arise which are known to have been in operation in Newcastle Union during the period subsequent to the first issuing of the order to the Newcastle Guardians.

The Commissioners, however, are still not without hope that the Guardians may by great exertions be enabled to dispense with the issuing of the order in the Rathkeale Union at the present time.

Rathkeale Union.

ORDER referred to in the foregoing Letter.

WESTPORT UNION.

To the Paid Officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the WESTPORT UNION; to the Clerk and other Officers of the said Union; and to all other persons whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it has been shown to our satisfaction, that by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the said Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded therein to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled, or destitute poor persons disabled by sickness or accident, or destitute poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, and it is expedient to authorize and empower the paid officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the said Union to administer relief out of the workhouse to such destitute poor persons, for a limited time as hereinafter mentioned.

Now, therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the said paid officers to administer relief out of the workhouse, in food, to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect, and not being persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, and thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, whom they are liable by law to maintain, and not being poor widows, having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, for two months next ensuing after the date of this order.

And we do hereby make the following rules and regulations as to the granting, ordering, and giving of relief to all persons who shall be relieved by the said paid officers, under the authority of this order, that is to say:—

1. Every person relieved under the authority of this order shall be relieved in food only, and such food shall, as far as is practicable, be cooked food.
2. Every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of this order shall, so far as is practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives such relief.
3. No able-bodied person who shall be in employment, nor any part of his or her family, shall receive relief as a destitute person under the authority of this order.

And for the more effectual administration of relief under this order, we do hereby authorize and direct the said paid officers to appoint so many relieving officers as shall be found sufficient from time to time, to superintend the labour of such persons as shall be set to work, in pursuance of the regulations in this order contained, and otherwise to assist in the administration of relief under this order, as the said paid officers, subject to our approval, shall direct.

Sealed with our seal, this seventh day of December,
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight
hundred and forty-seven.

(Signed) E. T. B. TWISLETON.
T. N. REDINGTON.

Mr. HALL, Clerk to the Guardians, to the COMMISSIONERS:—
December 18, 1847.

At the meeting of the Board of Guardians of Rathkeale Union on yesterday, the 17th instant, your letter of the 16th instant, in reference to the resolution of the Board on the 3rd instant, on the subject of out-relief being read, together with the copy of the out-relief order issued to the Westport Union, it was resolved,—

“That before calling on the Commissioners to issue an order for general out-relief to the able-bodied, we consider it advisable to ascertain how far the order of the 8th instant for giving out-relief to certain additional classes, which has been but a very short period in operation, will be effective in relieving the existing destitution of the labouring classes.”

The Lord MONTEAGLE to the COMMISSIONERS—*Proposed Annexation of certain Townlands to Shanagolden Electoral Division:—November 18, 1847.*

I AM directed by the members of the Shanagolden Relief Committee to bring under your consideration the present divisions of our neighbourhood into the two electoral divisions of Shanagolden and Loughill. The inconveniences arising out of the mode in which these districts are partitioned have long been felt, but since the introduction of out-door relief are greatly increased. The whole social connexion of the eastern parts of the Loughill district is with Shanagolden and not with Loughill. The identity of property, of ecclesiastical government,

and of vicinage between Shanagolden and many townlands now united with Loughill, is so obvious as to require no argument beyond the mere recital. Rathkeale Union.

The facilities of obtaining the allowances required and granted for the relief of the old and sick—the local knowledge required for the relieving officers and for the Guardians is lessened or rendered unattainable by the present geographical division; above all, by the partition of properties, the bond of private interest, which ought to induce the inheritors of land to invest capital for the improvement of their estates and the employment of their people, is severed altogether.

It is, therefore, the opinion of the Committee, which in their name I am desired to communicate to you, that the following townlands might be advantageously annexed to the electoral division of Shanagolden :

Clountees,	Ballymorris,	Clashganneff
Ballyanne,	Knockgoura,	Ballybawn,
Bansmore,	Gourbane,	Toodegbee,
Clouncloghessy,	Rathfroder,	Turamore,
Breseagh,	Monekeal,	Rathfarra,
Waterpark,	Moeg,	Kilmoylan Glebe.
Shaned, E. and W.,		

The Committee, therefore, earnestly request, that for the benefit of the district, and more especially for the benefit of the classes entitled to relief, the Poor Law Commissioners may exert their power in making a revision of the present electoral division by the formation of another arrangement more consistent with public convenience and justice to all concerned.

Mr. HANCOCK, Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS :—
December 6, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th November, forwarding to me a letter enclosed which they had received from Lord Monteagle, suggesting that certain townlands should be annexed to the Shanagolden electoral division of the Rathkeale Union.

I also procured a return from the clerk to the Guardians of the names of the owners of property likely to be affected by the proposed alteration, as well as a copy of the application from Lord Monteagle, as chairman of the Shanagolden Relief Committee, to the Board of Guardians. The Guardians did not entertain the question of the proposed alteration.

As I found that Lord Clare had considerable interest in the question, I postponed my report until I had an opportunity of seeing him, and it was not until last Wednesday that I had the opportunity. Lord Clare had not heard of the proposition; and he is entirely opposed to any such change, and considers the answer given to the trustees of the Earl of Devon to be final, conclusive, and very satisfactory upon the estate area question.

It does not appear from any document furnished me, that Lord Monteagle has undertaken to pay the rates for the occupiers of his lands.

I beg to recommend that a copy of the letter to the trustees of the Earl of Devon, Newcastle Union, be forwarded to Lord Monteagle.

ENCLOSURES.

SIR, *Rathkeale Union, November 23, 1847.*

IN conformity with your request, I send herewith a copy of Lord Monteagle's letter regarding the electoral divisions of Loughill and Shanagolden, together with a list of the immediate and principal landlords of the rateable property in such divisions.

I have, &c.,

William J. Hancock, Esq., Inspector.

JOHN HALL, Clerk to Guardians.

Rathkeale Union. STATEMENT of NAMES of the immediate and principal LANDLORDS of the several Tenements situated in the Electoral Divisions of Loughill and Shanagolden.

Parish.	Townland.	Immediate Landlord.	Principal Landlord.
LOUGHILL ELECTORAL DIVISION.			
Loughill	Kilteery	Earl of Clare	Earl of Clare.
	Ditto	Samuel Harding, Esq.	Ditto.
	Curramore	Under the Courts	{ Thomas Royse, senior.
	Currabeg	David Fitzgerald, Esq., Rec.	{ Thomas Royse, junior.
	Fairy Lawn	Johanna Shaughnessy	Ditto.
	Hip Hall	Jeremiah O'Shaughnessy	Ditto.
	Carhuebanemore	Pat Griffin, Esq.	Ditto.
	Carhuebanebeg	Maurice O'Donnell	Ditto.
	Loughill village	Michael O'Loughlin	Ditto.
		Michael Brown	
		Margaret Hogan	
		Daniel M'Coy	
	Lisreedy Cripps	Under the Courts	Anselm E. Taylor.
		Michael Kennedy, Receiver	Sir Richard Bateson.
		Cornelius Ivess, Receiver	
		James M'Grath	
		John O'Leary	
		Anselm E. Taylor	
	Ballyroe	Mrs. Bridget Griffin	Earl of Carrick.
	Knocknaboula, west	Under the Courts	{ Thomas Royse, senior.
	Ditto east	David Fitzgerald, Receiver	{ Thomas Royse, junior.
	Ditto middle	Timothy M'Coy	Colonel Wingfield.
		Pat M'Coy	
		Daniel M'Coy	
		Johanna Shaughnessy	
		Daniel Hanley	
	Loughill	Lord Monteagle	{ Thomas Royse, senior.
		Patt M'Mahon	{ Thomas Royse, junior.
		Sir Richard Bateson	Lord Monteagle.
		Maurice Hewson	Sir Richard Bateson.
		Rev. John Warburton	Rev. John Warburton.
		Lord Monteagle	Lord Monteagle.
	Loughill Glebe	Ditto	Ditto.
	Mount Trenchard	Ditto	Ditto.
	Cappagh	Ditto	Ditto.
	Waterpark	Ditto	Ditto.
	Briscagh	Ditto	Ditto.
	Shanid	Ditto	Ditto.
	Middle Briscagh	Ditto	Ditto.
	South Briscagh	Ditto	Ditto.
	Bausmon	Ditto	Ditto.
	Knockgoura	Ditto	Ditto.
	Gourbane	Ditto	Ditto.
	Rathfroder	Ditto	Ditto.
	Mouskeal	Ditto	Ditto.
	Tiermore	Earl of Clare	Earl of Clare.
	Dunmoylan	Ditto	Ditto.
	Thouslegee	Ditto	Ditto.
	Ballyanne	Michael Cautillore	Michael Cautillore.
	Clouncloghessy	Ditto	Ditto.
	Moig	Lord Monteagle	Lord Monteagle.
	Ballybane	Ditto	Ditto.
	Clashganniff	Ditto	Ditto.
	Ballymorris	Ditto	Ditto.
	Kilmoylan	William Morgan, Esq.	Earl of Cork.
	Kilmoylan Glebe	Christopher Delmege, Esq.	
	Clounties	Stephen Roche, Esq.	Stephen Roche.
		Bridget Griffin	
SHANAGOLDEN ELECTORAL DIVISION.			
Shanagolden	Lisamore	Earl of Clare	Earl of Clare.
		Anne Curtayne	
		Mary Enright	
	Rathfarra	Earl of Clare	Earl of Clare.
	Kilcosgriff	Rev. Richard Longford	Rev. Richard Longford.
	Clashganniff	Lord Monteagle	Lord Monteagle.
	Monevaha Glebe	Rev. Richard Dickson	Rev. Richard Dickson.
	Monevaha	Pat Griffin	Lord Monteagle.
		Jeremiah O'Brien	
	Ballycormack	Rev. Richard Longford	Rev. Richard Longford.
		Edward Longford, Esq.	

Statement of Names of the immediate and principal Landlords, &c.—*continued*.

Rathkeale Union.

Parish.	Townland.	Immediate Landlord.	Principal Landlord.
Robertstown and Shanagolden Robertstown	Mount David	George Enright Lord Monteagle Luke Ferguson	Lord Monteagle.
	Croaghane	Lord Monteagle Ditto	Ditto.
	Dunscardine	Philip Elegerry	Ditto.
	Greenagh	Lord Monteagle	Ditto.
	Knockpatrick	Ditto	Ditto.
Shanagolden	Leahys	John Elegerry	Ditto.
	Ballinree	John Molony	Ditto.
	Ballynash Bishop	Lord Monteagle Ditto	Ditto.
		Under the Courts David Fitzgerald, Receiver	{ Thomas Royse, senior. Thomas Royse, junior.
	Ballynash Clare	Miles M'Mahon Pat Griffin Earl of Clare Elizabeth Sheahan	Earl of Clare.
Robertstown Shanagolden Robertstown	Ballinacraggy	Lord Monteagle	Lord Monteagle.
	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
	Foyce's Island	Ditto	Ditto.
	Vicarage	Rev. George Vincent	Ditto.
	Corgriff	Lord Monteagle Ditto	Ditto.
Shanagolden		John Connors Pat Neville John Molony	Ditto.
	Dernish	John Lynam	Colonel Wingfield.
	Ardeneer	Colonel Wingfield	Ditto.
	Lower Shrulane	Ditto	Ditto.
	Upper Shrulane	Ditto	Lord Monteagle.
Robertstown	Knocknasupp	Lord Monteagle Rev. George Vincent	James D. Lyons.
	Monanore	James D. Lyons, Esq.	Ditto.
	Coimheer	Ditto	
	Abbey Lands	James Donovan William Morgan, Esq. Stephen Roche, Esq.	Earl of Cork.
	Knockardacotland	Colonel Wingfield	Colonel Wingfield.
Shanagolden	Stokesfield	Ditto	Ditto.
	Robertstown	Ditto	Ditto.
	Churchfield	Ditto	Ditto.
	Inchycrenogue	Edward Longford, Esq.	Ditto.
	Acramhia	Colonel Wingfield	Edward Longford.
Shanagolden	Reenkellagh	Lord Monteagle	Lord Monteagle.
		Colonel Wingfield	Colonel Wingfield.
	Craga	Knight of Kerry	Knight of Kerry.
	Glounbawn, east	Bourke White, Esq. Sir Robert Bateson	Colonel Wingfield.
		John Barrett	Sir Robert Bateson.
Robertstown	Glounbawn, west	James S. Malecare	Sir Robert Bateson.
	Hazelfield	Sir Robert Bateson	Colonel Wingfield.
	Muldrigsfield	Colonel Wingfield	Ditto.
	Dysart	Ditto	Ditto.
	Island M'Sequee	Ditto	Ditto.
Aharush	Aharush	Lord Carrick	Lord Carrick.
		Edward S. Massey	Edward S. Massey.
	Fannenore	Lord Carrick	Lord Carrick.
		Edward S. Massey	Edward S. Massey.
Robertstown and Shanagolden Shanagolden Ditto	Parkmore	James D. Lyons, Esq.	James D. Lyons, Esq.
	Glebe	Rev. George Vincent	Rev. George Vincent.
	Shanagolden village	Lord Monteagle	Lord Monteagle.
		Rev. Richard Longford	Rev. Richard Longford.
		Luke Ferguson David Ferguson John Hennessy Daniel Dundon Martin Sheahan Martin Dowling Pat Gennane James Sheahan Nancy Sheeby Owen Shene	

Parish.	Townland,	Immediate Landlord.	Principal Landlord.
Shanagolden	Shanagolden village	John Lynch James Bridgeman Reps. of John Donovan Michael Downey Daniel Heshon James Cloghessy William Enright Pat O'Brien Daniel Sheahan Catherine Sheahan Daniel Shene Maurice Connors Edward Longford, Esq. Pat Byrnes Thomas Lynch George Enright Robert Smyth John Madegan John Mangan George Ball Lawrence Sullivan Edward Enright William Shaughnessy Jeremiah O'Brien John Gennane John Barry Berkly Vincent, Esq. Michael Sheahan Mary Sheahan John Hicber Denis Sheahan Rev. George Vincent Agnes Ferguson	Lord Monteagle. Rev. Richard Longford.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. HANCOCK in reply:—*December 10, 1847.*

I AM to request that you will be so good as again to inquire and report specially on the request of the Shanagolden Committee, in reference to that part of their memorial in which they state that the whole social connexion of the eastern parts of the Loughill district is with Shanagolden and not with Loughill; that the identity of property, of ecclesiastical government, and of vicinage, between Shanagolden and many townlands now united with Loughill, is obvious; and that the facilities of obtaining the allowances required and granted for the relief of the old and sick; and the local knowledge required for the relieving officers and for the Guardians, is lessened, or rendered unattainable by the present geographical division.

The Commissioners would not have referred the memorial to you, if it had merely involved the principle disposed of in the answer to the trustees of the Earl of Devon. There are, however, other important considerations which have been adverted to in the memorial of the Shanagolden Committee; and it is with regard to these considerations, which require local knowledge, in order to bring out all the facts of the case, that the Commissioners were, and still are, desirous that you should inquire and report to them.

The papers are herewith returned to you.

The COMMISSIONERS to Lord MONTEAGLE:—*January 5, 1848.*

I AM to acquaint your lordship that the Commissioners' Inspector, Mr. Hancock (who is confined to bed by severe illness), has returned to them, undischarged, the papers which were referred to him for his report, relative to the request made by the Shanagolden Relief Committee, that certain townlands might be annexed to the Shanagolden electoral division of Rathkeale Union.

The Commissioners will, however, take the earliest opportunity of obtaining such a report, founded on local inquiry, as will enable them to come to a decision on the proposal.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 8, 1848.*

IMMEDIATELY on the receipt of your communication of the 6th January, 1848, I proceeded to Rathkeale, and put myself in communication with the Board of Guardians, with a view of obtaining the information necessary to enable me to report on the subject of the annexation of certain townlands to the Shanagolden electoral division.

I conceive that the plan I now propose would remedy the inconveniences complained of in Lord Monteagle's letter, without making any alteration in the electoral divisions as they now stand; viz., to join the electoral division of Shanagolden and Loughill in one relief district, under one relieving officer, giving him, by this arrangement, a population of 7618 to attend to. One food depôt to be at the village of Shanagolden, the other at the village of Loughill, in both of which there are police stations. The paupers of the townlands named in Lord Monteagle's letter, to receive their rations at the Shanagolden depôt, which is at a moderate distance, and the distributor to keep the accounts quite distinct.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain MAXWELL:—*January 13, 1848.*

THE Commissioners regret that they should be obliged to trouble you again on this subject; but on reference to the instructions contained in the Commissioners' letter to you of the 6th instant, and their letter to Mr. Hancock of the 10th of December, it will be seen that the Commissioners require a report on certain facts alleged in the memorial of Shanagolden Relief Committee, and that they referred the subject a second time to Mr. Hancock, after he had made one report, because his first report was insufficient. Under these circumstances they desire to call your especial attention to the following passage contained in their instructions of the 10th December to Mr. Hancock, which, by the Commissioners' letter of the 6th instant to you, are made a part of your instructions:—

“I am to request that you will be so good as again to inquire and report specially on the request of the Shanagolden Committee, in reference to that part of their memorial in which they state that the whole social connexion of the eastern parts of the Loughill district is with Shanagolden, and not with Loughill; that the identity of property, of ecclesiastical government, and vicinage, between Shanagolden and many townlands now united with Loughill is obvious; and that the facilities of obtaining the allowances required and granted for the relief of the old and sick, and the local knowledge required for the relieving officers and for the Guardians is lessened, and rendered unattainable by the present geographical division.”

So much delay has already taken place in reference to this case, that the Commissioners will be obliged by your reporting to them, in accordance with the above instructions, at your earliest convenience.

The documents relating to the case are herewith returned to you.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 14, 1848.*

IN obedience to instructions contained in your letter of the 13th January, I proceeded to Rathkeale, and attended the Board of Guardians at their weekly meeting. From the information I there received, I find that 11 of the townlands named in his lordship's letter (in the electoral division of Loughill) are his lordship's property. He is also the proprietor of part of the town of Shanagolden, and part of the electoral division adjoining Loughill eastern division.

The townlands proposed to be annexed to Shanagolden are all in the Roman Catholic parish of Shanagolden, and under the charge of one priest. These townlands are also in the vicinity of Shanagolden; this is their town of resort.

The Guardians are decidedly averse to any change being made in the electoral divisions, but have already recommended that the paupers of these townlands receive out-door relief at the Shanagolden food depôt. This has not been carried into effect yet from press of business.

The Guardian of Loughill division dissents, and advocates the change in the eastern division, because it would be of service to Lord Monteagle and to the people on his property.

The Guardians had discussed this subject before in presence of his lordship, and

Rathkeale Union. had objected to any change. The object of Lord Monteagle appears to be plainly to get the whole of his property into one electoral division.

All the difficulties and inconveniences complained of in his lordship's letter, with regard to the districts of relieving officers and the distribution of food, will be removed by the arrangements detailed in my letter of the 8th January, 1848, and the Guardians are prepared to carry them into effect without any further delay.

The BOARD of GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 15, 1848.*

AT the meeting of the Guardians of Rathkeale Union on yesterday, the 14th instant, Captain Maxwell, Poor Law Inspector, attended the meeting in reference to the proposed annexation of certain townlands in Loughill electoral division to the electoral division of Shanagolden; and the subject having been explained to the Board, and by them taken into consideration, it was resolved :—

“ That we do not consider it would be desirable or generally advantageous that
 “ any alteration should be made in the electoral divisions of Loughill and Shana-
 “ golden; but for the accommodation of the recipients of out-relief in the electoral
 “ division of Loughill, the suggestion of the Board on a former occasion, that all
 “ persons entitled to out-relief in the eastern portion of that division should receive
 “ their rations at Shanagolden, as being more conveniently situated for the pur-
 “ pose, shall be immediately carried into execution.”

The COMMISSIONERS to Lord MONTEAGLE :—*January 21, 1848.*

ADVERTING to your lordship's letter of the 18th November last, relative to the proposed annexation of certain townlands to Shanagolden electoral division of Rathkeale Union, I am to acquaint your lordship, for the information of the Shanagolden Relief Committee, that the Commissioners have given much attention to their proposition, and they have received a report from their Inspector, Captain Maxwell, and have communicated with the Rathkeale Board of Guardians on the subject. After duly considering all the circumstances of the case, the Commissioners do not propose to make any alteration in the boundaries of the Loughill and Shanagolden electoral divisions; but, at the same time, they are not insensible to the evils pointed out in the report of the Shanagolden Relief Committee.

The Commissioners are informed that the Board of Guardians of Rathkeale Union is decidedly averse to any change being made in the boundaries of the electoral divisions; but the Commissioners are likewise assured that the Guardians will remedy the evils complained of, and that they have already recommended that the paupers of these townlands receive out-door relief at the Shanagolden food depôt, though this recommendation has not yet been carried into effect, owing to the pressure of business.

Captain Maxwell expresses a decided opinion that all the difficulties and inconveniences complained of, with regard to the districts of relieving officers and the distribution of food, will be removed by joining the electoral divisions of Shanagolden and Loughill in one relief district, under one relieving officer; one food depôt to be in the village of Shanagolden, the other at the village of Loughill, with the understanding that the paupers from the townlands named in your lordship's letter should receive their rations at Shanagolden depôt, which is at a moderate distance from the townlands. Captain Maxwell further states, that the Guardians are prepared to carry this arrangement into effect without further delay.

SKIBBEREEN UNION.

Extract from the Cork Southern Reporter Newspaper:—November 11, 1847.

SKIBBEREEN BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

THE Relieving Officer complained that no provision was made for persons recommended, for whom there was no room in the house; that such persons, after travelling long distances, were sent away by the master without a morsel to eat, and that the Relieving Officer had no authority to give them relief.

The master admitted the truth of this; he said he had no room in the house; that one man had travelled, backwards and forwards, 135 miles, seeking an admission ticket, and must have been rejected by him, unless the Rev. Mr. Fitzpatrick had taken upon himself the responsibility of his admission.

The particulars of this man's statement were then given to the Board of Guardians by Mr. Fitzpatrick, of which the following is a summary:—

Miles.	Curly Cocklan, living at Camgaeet, 27 miles from Skibbereen work house, having got a recommendation from his clergyman, he travelled
27	to the poor-house with his family, consisting of a wife and five children, the eldest 15, the youngest carried on the mother's back.
27	The relieving officer, Williamson, refused him a ticket till he had seen the man's house; he then walked back, leaving his wife and child in Skibbereen.
27	The relieving officer visited the house next day, refused a ticket, because the wife and children were not there; he then travelled back to bring them.
27	He returned home with them next day; he then got the ticket and went
27	back with his family, when he was admitted, as before stated; thus, the
135	man walked 135 miles, and the wife, with a child on her back, 108 miles.

N.B. Many other important statements were made by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

The case was inquired into by the Board.

Mr. Fleming stated Cocklan was his tenant, but would neither pay rent nor give up his land. Cocklan was then examined, stated he had a joint farm with his brothers, that he had offered 12 months ago to give up his land, but the landlord would not take it, as his brothers refused to give up their parts. Mr. Townsend, of Raheen, is then reported as saying, "Turn this fellow out of the house, we will make these fellows be honest, &c."

The report does not state the further result, but leaves it to be supposed the man was turned out.

Mr. Charles Galway is stated to have afterwards proposed a resolution, to the effect that application be made to the Commissioners for authority to give out-door relief to the able-bodied, the house being full.

Carried, with one dissenting voice, Mr. Fleming.

Will Sir William Somerville be so kind as to inquire whether the above statements are true? whether Cocklan was turned out or not? and what answer has been given to the foregoing resolution by the Poor Law Commissioners?

W. S. C.

The above proceedings must have been at the meeting of the Board, either on Thursday, the 11th November, or the Thursday preceding, the 4th instant; the report in the newspaper does not clearly indicate which of those days.

Mr. MARSHALL'S OBSERVATIONS on foregoing:—November 30, 1847.

WITH reference to the case of Cornelius Coghlan, I have the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners, that the greater part of the statement, as it appeared in the "Cork Southern Reporter," is correct; he was *not* discharged, but still remains in the workhouse of Skibbereen Union with his family; his father held a farm for some years under Mr. Fleming, which he

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Skibbereen Union.

divided among his three sons, each of whom paid their portion of rent to Mr. Fleming, in all amounting to 15*l.* yearly.

Two years rent is now due. Cornelius Coghlan was reduced to a pauper, and gave his share of the land to his brothers; he left home in August last to obtain work at the harvest, and returned in October with 10*s.*; he spent all but 3*s.* in the support of his family; he brought his wife and family, as stated, to obtain admission to the workhouse, but the Relieving Officer could not give a ticket without first visiting his place of residence; during the time he was returning to Killmoe, where he resided, he left his family in Skibbereen with means of support, and they don't appear to have been without that till they were admitted.

No blame appears to be attached to any party but the man himself; had he made the proper application, in the first instance, he would have had his case investigated, and not have been sent forward when there was no room, and for this reason he was obliged to travel the distance stated.

Coghlan is a strong able-bodied man; the relieving officer got directions not to send forward paupers to the workhouse unless there was room for them.

Arrangements have been made so that few will be disappointed; but from the number of applications at first, some cases of hardship occurred, which were unavoidable.

With reference to the resolution passed on the 4th November, at the Board of Guardians, for an order to give out-door relief to the able-bodied class, *only six Guardians were present*. Mr. Aylmer, the Chairman, gave his decided opinion against the resolution, but could not vote. Mr. Fleming voted against it. It was suggested that additional accommodation be had for able-bodied paupers, and every means taken to prevent the necessity of resorting to such an alternative of giving out-door relief to that class. This has been done, and accommodation is now given to those applying for admission, which will prevent the necessity of having the resolution complied with by the Commissioners; which would, if carried out, have a most injurious effect upon the Union generally, as when room is to be had in the workhouse, and the test is applied, the application for tickets are not so numerous.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—November 30, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to report that I returned from Skull this day, and attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians.

I have also to report that stores have been taken and are in course of fitting up, in which all the children can be placed permanently, and in which also upwards of 600 adults can have sleeping accommodation, which will afford considerable increase of room to test the able-bodied paupers who are at present seeking admission to the workhouse. No time will be lost in carrying those arrangements into effect. Assistants to the relieving officers, in certain districts, were offered where the duties were too great; but this assistance is limited to one month, by which time the destitute poor in the three classes for out-door relief shall be upon the lists, and the pressure less severe.

Numbers of Committees composed of the local Guardians were named in districts more than six miles from the workhouse, who will also assist much in carrying out the relief to those requiring it, and by which the duties of the Board will be lessened.

I have ordered the relieving officer to furnish me with a return weekly, of the number of adults and children receiving out-door relief in each electoral division daily, and am adopting means to ascertain the probable number of unemployed able-bodied persons and their families in the Union (not holding land), with a view to judge of the relief that may be required for that class, and who cannot be received in the workhouse, should a plan be adopted to afford them relief for labour of a profitable kind, similar to that I proposed in a late communication. I fear the number will be great, particularly in the western division, where no employment is to be had.

The turnips which were sown last season, have been of great benefit to the people; excellent bread is made from these and Indian meal, and from the advantages derived from this crop, a large quantity is likely to be sown next season, and also parsnips and other vegetables. In many districts every preparation is making to plant potatoes, and the seed is being preserved with great care. Under these circumstances employment in spring will be more easily had for the poor; a greater variety of cropping is likely to be adopted, which is so much to be desired. I

propose to accompany Assistant Commissary-General Dobree to-morrow to Skull and Crookhaven, to examine as to stores should they be wanted, in the western district, and afford him as much information as possible. I shall return for the meeting of the Board of Guardians on Thursday, at which some important matters are to be brought forward.

Skibbereen Union.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 2, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, when the motion was brought forward to apply to the Poor Law Commissioners for paid Guardians, but it was negatived by a large majority. There was a long discussion on the subject, which will tend to much good, as those who opposed that motion brought forward arguments to show the necessity of the united exertions of the Guardians, and not to relinquish their duties at this time; but to carry out the law to the fullest extent, and assist the Commissioners in that object, for the relief of the poor and the improvement of the Union. Great harmony prevailed, and those who supported the motion (although lost) stated they would not relax in their exertions with the other Guardians, but continue to act.

Several suggestions were made to adopt more effectual means of meeting the difficulties. I took the liberty of reading to the Guardians the copy of the letter from the Commissioners to the Glenties Union, in order to show the feeling of the Commissioners on the subject of paid Guardians, and it had a very desirable effect in the decision to which the majority came. I brought forward again the state of the accounts, and from their present confused state, although attempts have been made to arrange them, it will be necessary to obtain the services of a competent person to wind them up. The fault, it appears, lay with the late master; and from the deplorable state of the house last winter, when the Guardians could not venture near it, the clothing and provision accounts got into arrear.

The clerk, although he got an assistant, has so much business connected with the relieving officers and the collectors, that he could not have them arranged in proper time. A resolution was passed to-day, requesting me to apply to the Commissioners for their sanction to employ a competent clerk for a fortnight for this purpose. There has been a balance of 40*l.* stopped from the late master, till his accounts be settled. Could the Guardians appropriate a part of this to the payment of the person required? or can they pay it out of the funds of the Union?

It is extremely necessary that every means be taken to have the accounts regular. I have made several attempts, but I see no other mode of having them arranged but the mode proposed.

I have arranged to take stock of all the clothing in the workhouse on Monday next; by which I shall ascertain the present wants of the inmates.

The rate-collectors' books were not ready for signing this day, but shall be early next week. A delay arose from the revisor having had to make several alterations before the new books could be filled.

Arrangements are in progress to carry into immediate effect the benevolent and highly valuable plan proposed by the British Relief Association, to afford relief to those children attending the schools in this Union; this will be of the greatest advantage in many ways, and be a means of saving numerous lives; as, when an able-bodied man sees his children fed at these schools, he will exert himself to obtain for his own support a subsistence, and not apply for admission into the workhouse.

The plan is considered a great boon, and is hailed with gratitude by all classes. I shall draw up a few necessary regulations, with regard to the cleanliness, &c., and care of the children by their parents, and also endeavour to make it one of the stipulations, that the parents of those receiving relief in this way shall attend to cleanliness in their own houses, which is so necessary to preserve the health of the district.

REPLY to the above:—*December 7, 1847.*

THE Commissioners think that the Guardians should consider what part of the expense of employing an accountant to arrange the Union accounts should fall upon the clerk of the Union, and what part upon the late master of the workhouse.

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As regards the power of the Guardians to deduct from the salary of a Union officer, I am to state that, on the one hand, the Guardians have the power of taking proceedings against a Union officer for neglect of duty, and on the other hand, the officer is entitled to payment of his salary after his accounts have been audited.

It frequently happens that deductions are made from the salaries of Union officers to meet expenses incurred in arranging accounts which have got into arrear or confusion by their neglect.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 8, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday at the Union Workhouse, when the relieving officers' books and accounts were examined and checked. Upwards of 7000 persons are on the out-door relief lists of the three classes. No other business was transacted.

The master is having the stores prepared for the reception of the children and adults, some of which will be ready this evening.

The arrangements for giving food to the children in the schools, through the British Association, are going on, and this valuable relief will be afforded generally throughout the Union in a few days, by which a great change will be made upon the relief lists, and the pressure upon the Guardians will be much less. There are 96 schools in the Union, at which 5568 children are attending at present, but it is calculated that 10,000 will attend when the relief proposed is in operation. The houses would contain fully that number.

The collectors' books will be signed on Thursday next, and the 3s. rate, with the arrears, put in collection immediately.

REPLY to the above :—*December 11, 1847.*

I AM to request that you will be so good as to state whether the great number of persons on the out-door relief lists, at present exceeding 7000, answer the description of destitute persons, as given in the 1st section of the Act 10 Vict. cap. 31, to whom out-door relief is now limited.

I am also to request that the Commissioners may be informed of the number of each of the three classes given in that section, now receiving relief out of the workhouse.

The Commissioners deem it right to point out, that the auditor will be bound rigidly to disallow in the Union accounts, all sums expended for relief which shall not have been given in accordance with the Irish Poor Relief Act, and with the Commissioners' regulations. It is further the settled intention of the Commissioners that every individual or individuals debited by the auditor with the sums disallowed by him, shall be proceeded against under the 28th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and shall become responsible for the money of the rate-payers which he or they may have expended contrary to law.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 16, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I attended at the workhouse on Tuesday, the 14th instant, but a sufficient number of Guardians were not present to form a Board to sign the relieving officers' books.

I read to the relieving officers your letter of the 11th instant, with reference to issuing out-door relief to those only in the three classes as specified by the Poor Law Acts, and cautioned them against acting contrary to their instructions under this head.

I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, when all the collectors' books that were filled up were signed, and orders given to proceed at once to the collection of the 3s. rate, together with the arrears; the remainder of the books shall be filled up and signed next day of meeting; additional securities have been required and the bonds perfected.

The boys have been removed to the store fitted up for their permanent accommodation as a school, about a mile from Skibbereen; the other stores are in course of preparation also. There are vacancies in the workhouse at present for 100 paupers, but there is great want of clothing.

A contract has been made lately for a supply but not yet received.

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About 60 schools in the Union are in operation, supplying the children in attendance with food, through the British Relief Association, which will afford much relief to the Union, and be a means of lessening the pressure both upon the workhouse and the out-door relief lists; upwards of 100 schools will be in operation by Monday next, and from 10 to 12,000 children shall receive food through this channel in the Skibbereen Union.

I have given directions to the relieving officers to discontinue rations to all children from 5 to 14 years of age, in those electoral divisions where the schools are in operation, and every care shall be taken to keep up regularity with a view to their education and cleanliness, by which it is expected the habits of the children will be much improved and their health also.

With reference to the number receiving out-door relief at present in the Union in each class, I cannot in this report give the required information; returns have been ordered to be sent to me by the relieving officers, but this shall be forwarded without delay. A competent person has been engaged to wind up the accounts of the Union, who is to be paid not by the Union but by the late master, and the present clerk. No time will be lost in having this highly important business completed.

The Union continues upon the whole in a comparatively healthy state. Dysentery prevails in some localities, but few deaths, and very few cases of fever, except those provided for by hospital accommodation.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. MARSHALL:—*December 22, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have received from Mr. Phelan, Poor Law Inspector, a communication, from which it appears that there is some intention of permitting persons recently admitted into the workhouse of the Skibbereen Union, to wear the clothes which they have on when entering the house, and in reference thereto I am directed to state that the Commissioners consider that the admission of paupers into the workhouse without changing their clothes ought not to be allowed by the Board of Guardians, as calculated to spread disease in the workhouse. I am at the same time to suggest the expediency of giving to paupers, already in the house their own washed clothes, and then cleansing the workhouse clothing which they now wear, to put on the additional paupers admitted while their own clothing shall be washing. By such an expedient, pending the preparation of additional supplies of new clothing which ought to be expedited, the danger of contagion will be lessened. You are requested to be good enough to instruct the workhouse officers immediately on the point.

Mr. HALY, Secretary of the British Association, to Mr. TREVELYAN:—
January 10, 1848.

You will be pleased to hear, that our relief to the poor children is being carried out most satisfactorily.

It is estimated that 58,000 children, attending various schools in the western Unions, are now receiving daily rations supplied by the Association. In the Skibbereen Union, 12,000 are being thus fed, and Mr. Marshall reports that this number will shortly be increased to 15,000.

Each ration consists of 8, 10, or 12 ozs. (according to the age of the children) of rye bread, to which is added half a pint of warm broth, generally made from one of Soyer's receipts.

The average weekly cost of thus feeding each child is about 4d. a-head.

In many of the Unions, the bread is baked by contract; and to show you how very cheaply it is done, in Glenties, Captain O'Neil contracted with bakers for any quantity of bread required, at 3s. per month, fuel and labour included.

The inspecting officers have been requested by Count Strzelecki, to require that water, towels, soap, and combs are provided at each school at which our relief is afforded, and that no child be allowed to partake of his ration without having first well washed his face, and hands, and combed his hair.

I enclose you a copy of a very interesting letter, addressed by Mr. Marshall, of the Skibbereen Union, to Count Strzelecki, which will show you more particularly how this relief is being extended in that Union, and how very beneficially it is working.

Mr. MARSHALL to Count STRZELECKI :—*December 22, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that since my last communication of the 8th instant, I have been completing the arrangements to provide for the children in all the schools in the Skibbereen Union, and have the whole in operation, but have not yet received the returns of those first commenced; they shall be forwarded to you this week. There are a greater number than I anticipated; preparations are making to open new schools in some localities, and I have thought it right not to discourage this, as destitution prevails to a great extent, and so efficient relief cannot be afforded in any other way with the same beneficial results, both as regards the health of the children and the improvement of their habits. In some cases, the clergymen have given the use of the chapels, which afford great accommodation, and good air, and prevent the over-crowding of the schools, as much danger would be apprehended if that were allowed. The education is attended to as far as possible.

I have thought it right to disallow the children of those parents who have sufficient means to support them, to give room for the destitute poor.

I beg to mention, that there are a few infant schools in the Union established some time by the ladies, who have been most active in their management; and I have taken the liberty of affording them small grants of food, as they tend to much good in bringing even the very young up in a system of order and cleanliness, which their parents could not effect, and these schools are extremely well managed.

I have been able, only in a few cases, to make contracts for bread, as all the bakers at this time are busily engaged; but in the course of a fortnight I expect to have more bread prepared, and so soon as ovens can be built, and rye meal and Indian meal procured, I shall endeavour to carry out the system of supplying bread as generally as possible. The contract I have had for bread is at 5d. for the 4 lbs., baked in rolls of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. each, which is easy of distribution, made from best whole wheaten meal. Good substantial stirabout is given to supply this want; $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. made into a quart; a pint of which is given at 10 o'clock, A.M., and the other pint at 3 P.M., or immediately before the children leave the school; each brings a vessel and spoon.

For the systematic arrangement of the schools, and the distribution of the food, I have drawn up a form of rules, (a copy of which I beg to enclose for your approval,) which I shall have copied, and supply one to each school, to be posted up for their guidance and regularity. I have also made out forms of returns, in order that the accounts may be checked, and kept properly, to prevent abuse, as far as possible, and from which I shall always see the details of each. I beg to enclose you copies of these forms for your information also.

Mr. Commissary-General Dobree mentioned to me that I should be authorized to appoint persons to cook the food, and be accountable for its distribution; that the masters may devote their whole time to their own duties when the numbers were greater than the masters could manage; the whole at small weekly wages. I have found it necessary to do so; but as I am determined to expend as little of the funds as possible in this way, I allow only 4s. a-week, except in a very few cases, to a competent person, from whom I require security for the honest and faithful discharge of his duty. So soon as I obtain the return of children receiving food, and the expenses up to the 18th instant, which shall be made out weekly, I will forward them; but it is difficult to get so many into a proper system in so short a time. The number of schools will be over 120, and the number of children attending them will be over 12,000. In the western division of this Union (which, having suffered so much, requires considerable aid), the pressure on the workhouse or out-door relief is not so great, as many of the able-bodied class will now look for some means of support by their own exertions, rather than for admission to the workhouse, when their children are fed at the schools; and for this reason I have not discouraged the patrons of schools increasing the accommodation, but rather promote it,—as no system of gratuitous relief can have the same desirable effects.

With regard to the clothing, the children are very many of them in a miserable state for want of sufficient covering, but the providing them with food was the first object.

I would take the liberty of suggesting that a portion of the funds would be extremely well applied in purchasing frieze, flannel and linen, which are made in large quantities in this district, particularly through the exertions of ladies and benevolent individuals, who are endeavouring to provide employment for the females. Almost every article could be provided here in the way of clothing, and at very moderate prices, and they could be made up by the children. By purchasing these articles in the district, it would enable more employment to be given, and encourage industry among all. Several ladies who have quantities on hand have already applied to me on the subject, and as several who obtained grants and donations for the relief of the poor appropriated them in this way, rather than give gratuitous relief, by taking these off their hands at low prices they could carry on the same system of giving employment. It would be most desirable to encourage industry and individual exertion among all, as it can be only by this means that the people can rise from their present state of pauperism and dependence upon charity.

I am much in want of boilers of from 30 to 60 gallons, as those in the Union are generally too large for the schools.

Will you have the goodness to inform me out of what fund will the expenses of erecting boilers, and, in some few cases, sheds, at the schools for cooking the food be paid. I have kept every expense as low as possible, and shall continue to do so; but these cannot be avoided.

I have endeavoured to impress not only on the clergy and gentry, but the rate-payers in general, the necessity of co-operating in this most efficient mode of relief, as, by reducing the rates, it will be a great boon to them as well as to the poor.

I am glad to inform you that the people generally are in much better spirits, as a man, though able to work, when he saw his family of helpless children crying for something to eat and had not the means of relieving them, was cast down and rendered unable even to earn his own bread; but now the case is different, and in place of gratuitous relief being a check to industry, it will stimulate the parents to exertion.

A Roman Catholic clergyman, who had been most violent in complaining of the state of the people lately, came to me a few days ago, and said, that since the children are fed, matters were now become quite cheering, and that the returns of deaths this winter, he expected, would show a great contrast to those of last winter in this Union. I am glad to say the sanitary state of the Union is on the whole good, although dysentery prevails in some parts of it to some extent, but fever is not showing itself to any great degree. In some cases a little rice, as medicine, would be desirable, but not given as an article of food in any quantity. Cleanliness is most rigidly enforced, which is most essential in preventing the spread of disease, and although the children may not all receive a great share of education, the teaching them habits of regularity and cleanliness itself will be a great good effected. I omitted to mention that school requisites are much wanted in some of the poorer districts, and there is a great inability of paying masters, except those under the National Board of Education; although a little assistance to the poor in this way would be desirable, I give them no hopes of getting anything but food from the British Association, and endeavour to urge upon those residing in the localities to afford a little help in this, as it is the duty of all to co-operate in carrying out the present plan; and I have much pleasure in saying that I have received very general assistance, without which it would have been impossible to organize such an extensive system in so short a time. Whenever it can be done, I shall have different species of work and industry introduced in the schools; but the feeding takes the place of all other plans for the present.

I hope a supply of meal will shortly be sent here from Cork, as I fear the millers, from whom I am getting my supplies, are threatening a rise in the prices. The quantity that may be calculated upon as required, as far as I am able to judge at present, will be from 30 to 35 tons per week; but by the end of this week, when I have in my returns, I shall be better able to ascertain correctly.

One electoral division alone in my district, under the Temporary Relief Act, in the western part, issued half that quantity alone in a week, and there are 23 electoral divisions in the Union: from which you may have some idea of the state of the people here.

P.S. I have only one cash-book left from the relief business, but have given directions to the masters to rule books according to the sums supplied them, in order to save expense, printing, &c.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 23, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that I attended a meeting of the Guardians this day, when contracts were entered into for the supply of meal for the out-door relief in the Union. Contracts were also made for a supply of wooden shoes for the paupers; also soap. Dr. M'Cormick, the medical officer for the Killcoe and Aghadown temporary hospital, attended, to bring the state of that hospital before the Board; when, at my recommendation, a resolution was entered into to advance a sum of 10*l.* to meet the current expenses, till the accounts be brought forward, with a view to put them in a way of being settled. A considerable sum is due by the hospital, prior to the 30th September, over which the Board think they have no control, and which they are not bound to pay.

At their next meeting, I shall have the matter again brought forward. The remainder of the collectors' books were signed. The 3*s.* rate, with the arrears, shall now proceed with the utmost vigilance in collection.

The supply of clothing contracted for has not yet all been delivered, which has been attended with much inconvenience. There is room in the house (exclusive of the stores fitted up) for 200, and I have thought it imprudent and dangerous to admit paupers to the house in their own clothes, although several are applying. The contractors have been urged to send in the supplies without delay, which are expected early next week. The doctor reports a most favourable change in the health of the boys, since they were removed to the house fitted up out of Skibbereen, for their permanent residence.

Over 100 schools are now in operation, and over 15,000 children in the Union, receiving food. I am about entering into contracts for a supply of bread to all, as that mode of relief will be attended with less trouble in every respect, than erecting boilers, and cooking the food.

The accounts of the Union have not yet been settled; the man who undertook to do so has not yet come, but has promised to be here on Tuesday next. Dysentery has been on the increase, and most of the hospitals are full, but fever has not increased.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*December 28, 1847.*

I AM to state, with reference to the debts on account of the temporary fever hospital to which you advert, that the Commissioners cannot legally pay out of the poor-rates, any expenses on account of such hospitals, which were received before the 1st October last.

As regards the supply of clothing for the workhouse inmates, I am to request your attention to the Commissioners' letter of the 22nd instant, and to state that the Commissioners trust that every exertion will be made to obtain, without delay, the supplies of clothing which have been ordered from the contractors.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. MARSHALL, Temporary Inspector:—
December 24, 1847.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for your information, an extract from a report which the Commissioners have received from Mr. Phelan, Poor Law Inspector, relative to the number of boys, between the ages of 15 and 18, requiring employment or instruction in the workhouse of the Skibbereen Union; and I am to request that you will be so good as to state whether the boys referred to, can be taken into the school for a portion of each day.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from Mr. PHELAN'S REPORT:—*December 13, 1847.*

(A.) I BEG particularly to observe that in this, as in some other houses, the number of boys above 15 is becoming very considerable. There are about 120 of this class, perhaps from 15 to 17 or 18 years old. These get no school instruction, although many of them are evidently much in want of it, and there is little employment for them. I would take the liberty of suggesting that the schoolmaster should devote a couple of hours daily to the instruction of this class. Without it, and especially whilst unemployed, they will only acquire bad habits from idleness, and their intermixture with the elder male paupers; and I should think that the schoolmaster could readily devote some time to their instruction, religious as well as scholastic.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 30, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians for this Union yesterday, when Mr. Crawford was also present.

The collectors were ordered to proceed with the collections of the rates with all possible diligence, and Tobin, who has so large a district, was told that unless he return an amount of rate weekly to satisfy the Guardians, he will be dismissed, and more collectors appointed. This shall be strictly attended to, so that the collection of the 3s. rate, and the arrears, may be completed as soon as possible.

A circular has been ordered to be sent to each of the clergy of all denominations, to impress upon the rate-payers the necessity of paying, without delay, that the debts of the Union may be paid off, and the poor in the Union supported.

The Guardians have ordered clothing to be purchased at once, to supply the workhouse, where it can be had, as the contractor has not yet delivered according to agreement.

Upwards of 200 vacancies are in the house at present, besides two stores taken, not yet occupied; therefore the able-bodied may be admitted. Since the food has been given in the several schools, the pressure is not nearly so great, and many are going out daily when they have their children provided for. Under these circumstances, I have every reason to think that an order for giving out-door relief to the able-bodied will not be necessary. Should all the accommodation be taken up, I would prefer taking more stores for two months rather than have recourse to that alternative.

Owing to the severity of the weather, disease has been more prevalent; the last week, influenza and dysentery.

The person who had engaged to come to wind up the accounts of the Union has not yet commenced doing so; I would therefore advise that, if convenient, the Commissioners should send down a competent person from Dublin to do

so without delay, as, from the present state of the accounts, nothing satisfactory can be arrived at, and the business of the Union cannot be put in a proper system of regularity, without which the working of the Union cannot be carried on as it ought.

With reference to that part of Dr. Phelan's report, with regard to those children from 15 to 18 requiring employment or instruction in the workhouse, I have the honour to report that the boys' school has been removed from the workhouse, and is now in a separate building, about a mile from Skibbereen, and therefore all the boys referred to could not at present receive instruction; but I have directed the master of the workhouse to remove the youngest of that class to the boys' school, as several of them are unable to do any work, and should it be found necessary for the others, I shall recommend the Guardians to have an assistant schoolmaster, for a short time, until all the male children return to the house; as, in spring, it is expected the pressure will be much less, and accommodation for all will be had in the house.

REPLY to the above:—*January 4, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will address the Guardians on the subject of the sureties of the master of the workhouse.

With regard to the Union accounts, I am to state that the Commissioners are not enabled to detach any of the clerks in their establishment to arrange the Union accounts, and they would suggest that the Guardians should obtain from Cork, the services of some person competent to make up the accounts correctly.

Under the circumstances stated in your report, it appears desirable that the Board of Guardians should engage an assistant schoolmaster in the workhouse, with a view to instruct the elder boys, and to keep them employed.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 6, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on Monday the 3rd instant, I visited the electoral division of Kilmore, with regard to the arrangement of the schools there, and to contract for a supply of bread. The state of that district is much improved, and a very general disposition is shown to cultivate the land, and prepare for the spring crops.

On Tuesday I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians, when the relieving officers' accounts were examined: the same evening, I went to Glandore, in the electoral division of Kilfaughnabeg, to inspect the schools; next day, I proceeded to Roscarberry and Clonakilty for the same purpose, and returned this day to Skibbereen, when I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians. In my visit to the eastern part of the Union I found a great necessity for having a district Committee of the Board of Guardians, to meet in Rathbarry, in order to examine the relieving officers' books, and inspect the paupers on the out-door relief lists, as I was informed that improper persons are receiving rations; but I had no means of ascertaining the correctness of my information. I brought the subject before the Board, and a resolution was passed to have an order from the Commissioners to form a district of Rathbarry, Kilkeranmore, and Ardfield: but in order to investigate the matter at once, I have arranged to meet the Board of Guardians of those electoral divisions on Saturday, the 8th instant, the result of which I shall report on my return. From the number of vacancies in the workhouse at present, it was resolved to test a number of those receiving out door relief, by which, I have no doubt, a reduction will be made. In Caharagh this plan was adopted, and a number gave up the out-door relief rather than come into the workhouse; care, however, will be taken in selecting those for this test that none may be in danger of sufficiency.

The collectors were present this day, when their books were checked and examined. I again urged the necessity of getting in the rates without delay, and enforcing the payment by every means. A feeling has gone abroad, that from the distressed state of this Union, the payment of the rates would not be enforced by the Government; but I took the opportunity of stating, that the *last shilling* would be enforced, and most rigidly; and that any collector not doing his duty diligently

Skibbereen Union.

would be dismissed: and from my intercourse at present with the clergy of all persuasions, I have requested them to explain to the people the necessity of the rates being paid without delay, in order to meet the demand of the Union, and support the poor: this has been met in a proper spirit.

I find with reference to the securities of the master, when he found the objection made, he provided others.

The clothing granted for this Union out of the naval stores will be most acceptable, and enable the Guardians to give increased accommodation; in addition to this they are providing a supply through a contractor. A letter was this day written to an accountant in Cork, to come down to settle the accounts.

REPLY to the above:—*January 19, 1848.*

AN order will be issued authorizing the Board of Guardians to appoint a Committee for the Rathbarry, Kilkeranmore, and Ardfield electoral divisions, in accordance with the 6th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

MR. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 11, 1848.*

I ATTENDED a meeting of the Guardians of the electoral divisions of Kilkeranmore, Ardfield, Rathbarry, and Rosscarberry, at Miltown (being a central situation), on Saturday, the 8th instant, when the relieving officer's books for Kilkeranmore were examined, and I am glad to say that they were found satisfactory. There was a full attendance of the Guardians of the eastern part of the Union, and they entered into resolutions to meet every Monday, for the purpose of scrutinizing the out-door relief lists, to look after the contracts for meal, and also to examine the rate-collectors' books, with a view to afford every assistance in the collection of the rates. A Committee of the Guardians, such as I proposed in my former report, will be of great advantage in that locality, it being upwards of 12 miles from Skibbereen. The rate-payers will feel they are protected, and the poor will be attended to. I shall endeavour to have such Committees in other parts of the Union, which will tend to lessen the duties of the Board at Skibbereen, and have the business of the Union more efficiently managed.

It is proposed in some electoral divisions, where it can be carried into effect, to give cooked food daily, to those on the out-door relief list. In many cases, the meal given out cannot be cooked sufficiently by those getting it; and some who are now getting, perhaps, 14 lbs. on one day in the week, would not look for it were they obliged to come for a daily ration of cooked food, although they may come within the denomination of the three classes; but, should this plan be adopted, care will be taken that those unable to come for it daily, shall have their allowance in the usual way. I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, when the relieving officers attended, and had the books examined and initialed by the Chairman. They received further instructions with regard to testing a certain number of those on the out-door relief lists, by giving tickets for admission to the workhouse, as there continues to be room in the workhouse for nearly 200; and, in order to afford more, I gave directions to the master to send 100 of the youngest boys to the school, separate from the workhouse, or as many as can be accommodated there. Although they are over 15 years of age, many of them are unable to work, and will be better separate from the grown-up paupers, and to receive some education.

The clothing contracted for is on the way from Cork; therefore, from the vacancies in the house, and the two stores yet unoccupied, ample accommodation will be available, and a means of testing all will be had.

The pressure for admission only arises, when it is known the house is full.

From the high price of milk, and the difficulty of obtaining a supply (at almost any price), a substitute has been provided, made from a pound of ground rice, boiled in a gallon of new milk and a gallon of water; this is found most palatable, and rather medicinal, in cases of dysentery, which are more prevalent than usual.

The French hand-mill granted to the Union has arrived, and is most useful.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 13, 1848.*

S kibbreen Union.

I ATTENDED a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, when the collectors attended and had their books and receipt blocks examined and checked. The rate collected and lodged for the last week amounts to 908*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, and the collectors continue to receive orders to use every exertion to get in the rates with all possible expedition. A committee was formed to examine and report on the next day of meeting, upon the several hospitals, with a view to make such arrangements as may be deemed necessary; but the Guardians don't seem aware, whether they have the power of closing all or any of the temporary fever hospitals, or whether it is compulsory upon them to provide funds for their continuance. It would be well if this were clearly defined.

A meeting of the Aghadown Relief Committee is to be held to-morrow, at which I propose attending, for the purpose of having some arrangements made with regard to the hospital there, which has been so long in a most irregular state as regards the accounts. The several relief committees having ceased to act, has created much confusion with reference to the hospital. I shall endeavour to bring the committees together to remedy this, as it is only through them and the Finance Committee the Guardians can be called on to make any advance for the payment of the debts, or for the support of the hospitals.

I shall report the result of the meeting to-morrow. A resolution was adopted to advertise for a competent person to settle the accounts of the Union, which I have long tried to have wound up without effect, not being able to get a person conversant with the books of a workhouse, but hope through this means to have them settled without further delay.

REPLY to the above:—*January 19, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have addressed the Board of Guardians on the subject of the temporary fever hospitals in the Union.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 20, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, when I brought the subject before them with reference to the necessity of appointing additional collectors, but they passed a resolution stating the difficulties and delay that would arise by cancelling the arrangements made with their present collectors, and were still of opinion that the rate would be collected as efficiently by those engaged. 1018*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* has been lodged the last week. But should more collectors be found necessary, I have no doubt the Guardians will appoint them, as they are determined to carry out the orders of the Commissioners to the utmost; and from the advice and aid of the clergy in the collection of the rates, I have every reason to hope that little delay will occur in having them paid in.

The solicitor to the Guardians is taking proceedings to recover the present rate, and arrears due upon the several properties in chancery.

The Committee appointed last day of meeting made a report upon the hospitals of the Union, and recommended they should be concentrated, and have proposed certain districts; the Guardians have named this day week to discuss the subject.

I am sorry to have to report the death of the medical officer (Dr. Brady), who was in charge of Caheragh hospital, he was carried off by malignant fever; another medical officer has been sent down. Dr. Brady was most efficient in the discharge of his duties since his appointment to this district.

The clothing has been received from the contractor, and is now making up. The out-door relief lists have been considerably reduced since the relieving officers commenced testing a number by giving tickets to the workhouse; out of one electoral division where forty tickets were given, only four appeared at the workhouse this week.

There are nearly 200 vacancies in the house, besides the stores not yet occupied; but should all be filled, those coming within the three classes shall at once be discharged, and have out-door relief. Applications were received to-day from persons proposing to settle the books and accounts of

Skibbereen Union. the Union, and a committee has been named to select the most competent to undertake it.

The change adopted by substituting rice boiled in milk and water, as alluded to in my last report, is attended with good effects, as well as being a great saving to the Union. I shall have a report from the doctor on the subject, who will be able to give more information upon it, as to the health of the paupers since it has been given them. The sanitary state of the Union continues favourable; although dysentery prevails to some extent, fever is not prevalent, and very few deaths. In East Skull and Kilcoe only four persons have died within the last three months, who were upon the out-door relief lists.

Means are adopted to provide employment for the paupers in the workhouse as far as possible, four looms are at work weaving flannel and coarse linen for the house, and the women are about being instructed to knit woollen caps for the men and boys.

In my next report I shall furnish a return of what has been done in this way for the last six months, as it is most desirable to render the workhouse as reproductive as possible, and by which the habits of the inmates will be improved.

MR. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 27, 1848.*

ON Tuesday the relieving officers attended at the workhouse for the purpose of giving lists of those paupers upon the out-door relief lists to whom tickets for admission to the workhouse had been given, and ascertain the number of those who presented themselves; but upon examination it was found not more than one in ten had done so. In order to afford as much room as possible for the able-bodied, those entitled to out-door relief now in the house shall be discharged, having been tested.

I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, when the collectors attended, they having previously lodged the amount collected, and had their books checked and examined; upon examining the collector's books of Caharragh and Droumdalleague (John Kelly) I found them kept irregularly, and the amounts received not entered in the collecting book, and also that he had not used proper diligence in his collection in these electoral divisions. I found it necessary to report him to the Guardians; and should he not keep his books more regularly and get in the rates more promptly, I would recommend his dismissal. Over 1000*l.* has been collected the last week. A Committee has been named to meet at the Board-room to-morrow, which I shall attend to report upon the present state of the rate-books, as a proper revision is much wanted, in order that correct rate-books be prepared in time for the next rate.

An additional supply of clothing has been advertised for; and in doing so I suggested that *Industrial Committees* and *private individuals* who have had frieze, flannel, and linen manufactured, be solicited to send in tenders, in order that as much employment be afforded within the district as possible. The clothing granted from the Naval stores has been received.

From the increased number of applications for admission at the workhouse the last week, the Board of Guardians have resolved to rent additional stores to receive the able-bodied paupers, and prevent the necessity of giving out-door relief to that class. A temporary shed or timber-house would be much required, in which stoves could be put, to increase the day-room for adult males. The female children are all to be removed at once to the store fitted up for their permanent accommodation; their present school-room will be applied as a day-room for the adult females, as it is more desirable to have that class in the workhouse.

I have further to report that *no* pauper has been *refused* admission to the workhouse for the last month from want of accommodation in the house.

An accountant has been appointed to arrange the books and accounts of the Union, and has commenced doing so.

The collectors have been ordered to come weekly (every Wednesday) to have their books checked, and have all money collected lodged that day with the treasurer, in order that the clerk may make out the weekly return as ordered by the Commissioners.

The relieving officers have also been ordered to send in their books on Wednesdays to be checked by the clerk, and attend themselves on Thursdays to have them examined and initialed by the chairman; by this arrangement the business can be efficiently done, as the out-door relief lists have been much reduced since the children received food at the schools.

I fear the plan proposed by the Guardians to concentrate the hospitals of the Union would be attended with risk, particularly for the next two months, when contagious disease is most to be apprehended, and when no hospitals of sufficient accommodation are at present built if a large district were taken in.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather fever and dysentery have been on the increase in the Union. It is still undefined whether the Board of Guardians have the power of closing certain hospitals in the Union without the sanction of the Board of Health. I propose having meetings of the Relief Committees under the Fever Act, in order to have their opinion upon the subject, and shall write to the chairman of each to that effect.

REPLY to the above :—*February 17, 1848.*

WITH reference to your report of the 27th ultimo I am directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith for your information a copy of observations of their architect on the proposed erection of temporary buildings on the work-house premises.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners concur in the tenor of Mr. Wilkinson's observations.

ENCLOSURE :—OBSERVATIONS OF COMMISSIONERS' ARCHITECT.

THE school-rooms will give good day-rooms when the children are removed, and the day-rooms will then be equal to the sleeping-rooms. If a wooden building is erected it will become a dormitory, and I think the house will be better without it.

The state of Sligo, Parsonstown, and several other houses, owing to over-crowding from the effect of dormitory sheds, renders the advantages of such erections very doubtful on the whole.

February 12, 1848.

G. W.

EXTRACT from REPORT of MR. J. J. MARSHALL :—*January 29, 1848.*

You can have no idea of the great good the British Association bounty is doing to this Union: hundreds of lives have been saved by it, and were it not for this, the scenes of last year would have been witnessed in Skibbereen again. I am endeavouring to relieve the poor in such an effective way, both by the Poor Law and by feeding their children at the schools, as will, I trust, carry this Union over the trying season before us. If we had two months more over, much relief would be had by employment, and I therefore would beg you to allow me a discretionary power to go as far as 20,000, if I find that I require that number. I have adopted every means to have only the destitute children fed, and that they get what is allowed them. I find it necessary to have a person to go through the schools, say in one or two electoral divisions, to see the children fed, and my directions attended to, and not to allow improper persons to be on the lists.

I have arranged to give the sick children their bread, and shall buy a little rice and have it ground for them. A good many are suffering from dysentery, measles, and small-pox. They are much in want of clothes, but as there has been a large quantity of flannel made in the Union which could be had moderate, I would not recommend your sending clothes here but money to buy. We have extremely few deaths.

 GRANARD UNION.

Mr. FLANAGAN, Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 14, 1847.*

I EXAMINED yesterday the books of the different relieving officers of this Union, and have to report, that although relief has been given by them for a period of three weeks and more, their books have not as yet been initialed by the chairman; and the relief consequently has been illegally dispensed.

I would beg that the attention of the Board of Guardians be drawn to this subject, and that they be directed to have the Application and Report Book regularly initialed.

The system which at present exists is liable to the greatest abuses, and leaves the entire dispensing of relief in the power of the relieving officers.

The condition of this Union, I regret to state, is most deplorable. The Guardians are not able to give the different relieving officers more than one-tenth part of the sum required for their several districts.

The rate-books for the 3s. rate were signed, and the collecting books will be in the hands of the collectors in the course of next week. This rate, if actively collected, and not absorbed by the present creditors of the Union, will do much to alleviate the present very great distress.

I have to report, moreover, that of the applicants for relief many are able-bodied persons not coming within the terms of the first section, or of the limited order issued under the second section.

I would therefore beg to recommend that the Commissioners do issue an order extending the power of the Board of Guardians to give out-door relief to all destitute poor persons.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—*December 18, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of an order which they have issued to-day, in accordance with the recommendation in a report made to them by Mr. Flanagan, Poor Law Inspector, authorizing you to afford out-door relief, under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, in the Granard Union.

In reference thereto, I am to draw your attention to the circumstance, that no relief can be legally given to persons in employment, that such relief must be in food only, and that no able-bodied man should receive relief except in return for work.

With regard to the nature of the work which should be offered to able-bodied men, the Commissioners have to state, that the making of roads and stone-breaking are two modes of labour which have been suggested as expedient for employing persons receiving out-door relief.

The Commissioners are desirous that the question of employing the able-bodied paupers of the Union on the roads left unfinished by the Board of Works, or on the making of any other roads, should not be raised at the present moment; and as road-making has been proved on a very extensive scale to be no adequate test of destitution, the Commissioners would strongly recommend the other test which has often been found effectual, namely, stone-breaking; and they suggest the making preparations for obtaining a large supply of hard stone, and for employing able-bodied paupers at stone-breaking by task-work, in return for the rations to be supplied by the Union.

The Commissioners have further to state, that they are anxious strictly to prohibit and prevent the granting relief on account of the insufficiency of wages, to persons occasionally in employment during the week.

It appears to the Commissioners that there is no rule of greater importance in the administration of out-door relief to able-bodied men, than that they should be maintained either wholly by their employer, or wholly by the Board of Guardians, and that the strongest line should thus be drawn between relief and wages.

In setting able-bodied men to stone-breaking by task-work as a condition of relief, much will depend on the knowledge, firmness, and discretion of those who

may be appointed to superintend stone-breaking: and the Commissioners cannot too strongly urge you to be peculiarly careful in permitting yourselves to be influenced by no other considerations than those of personal fitness in selecting candidates for that highly important office.

The Commissioners will take this opportunity of observing, that in specifying the period of eight hours at least in the day during which every able-bodied pauper should be required to work, they have made allowance for the present season of the year, and for the possible circumstance that some of the able-bodied paupers may come to the stone-breaking from a considerable distance. It is not, however, by any means intended to prevent the Guardians from requiring work during a still longer period of time; the period of eight hours is in fact merely the minimum space of time in the day during which every able-bodied pauper should give the value of his labour to the Union.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire to remind you that the out-door relief order is only temporary, and that every possible exertion should be made to render the workhouse available, almost exclusively, for the relief of able-bodied men with their families, and that it is also advisable to provide further workhouse accommodation by every means which the Union may present for affording in-door relief as far as practicable to all classes of the destitute poor.

ENCLOSURE.—ORDER FOR OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

To the Guardians of the Poor of the Granard Union; to the Clerk and other Officers of the said Union; and to all other persons whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it has been shown to our satisfaction, that, by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the said Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded therein to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled, or destitute poor persons disabled by sickness or accident, or destitute poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, and it is expedient to authorize and empower the Guardians of the said Union to administer relief out of the workhouse to such destitute poor persons for a limited time as hereinafter mentioned.

Now therefore we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the said Guardians to administer relief out of the workhouse, in food, to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect, and not being persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, and thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, whom they are liable by law to maintain, and not being poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, for two months next ensuing after the date of this order.

And we do hereby make the following rules and regulations as to the granting, ordering, and giving of relief to all persons who shall be relieved by the said Guardians, under the authority of this order, that is to say:—

1. Every person relieved under the authority of this order shall be relieved in food only, and such food shall, as far as is practicable, be cooked food.
2. Every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of this order shall, as far as is practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives such relief.
3. No able-bodied person who shall be in employment, nor any part of his or her family, shall receive relief as a destitute person under the authority of this order.

And for the more effectual administration of relief under this order, we do hereby authorize and direct the said Guardians to appoint so many relieving officers as shall be found sufficient, from time to time, to superintend the labour of such person as shall be set to work, in pursuance of the regulations in this order contained, and otherwise to assist in the administration of relief under this order, as the said Guardians, subject to our approval, shall direct.

Sealed with our seal, this eighteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

(Signed)

E. T. B. TWISLETON.

(Countersigned)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*December 18, 1847.*

THE Commissioners have received a report from their Inspector, Mr. Flanagan, relating to Granard Union, in which he states that he examined the books of the different relieving officers, and found that although out-door relief has been given in that Union for upwards of three weeks, their books have not as yet been initialed by the chairman of the Board of Guardians.

Granard Union.

The Commissioners desire me to call the attention of the Board of Guardians to this subject, and to impress upon them the necessity of having the Application and Report Book regularly initialed by the chairman, as prescribed by Article 7 of the Commissioners' general order for the administration of out-door relief.

I am at same time to state that the practice of the relieving officer giving relief without a proper authority, which at present exists in Granard Union, is liable to the greatest abuses, and leaves the entire discretion in administering relief in the power of the relieving officers.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. FLANAGAN :—*December 20, 1847.*

IN reference to the irregularity which you state has occurred in the keeping of the relieving officers' books, I am to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have addressed to the Guardians on the subject.

The Commissioners have issued an extended order for out-door relief, in accordance with your request; and I am also to enclose herewith a copy of the letter which accompanies that order.

I am at the same time to request that your exertions as an Inspector may be directed with great advantage to requiring the Guardians and officers of a Union to use the forms of accounts in the way prescribed.

EXTRACTS from MINUTES of PROCEEDINGS of BOARD of GUARDIANS :—
20th December, 1847.

Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 18th December, 1847.

In compliance with this letter, the Guardians waited to a late hour in revising the relieving officers' books, and adjourned to Thursday, 23rd instant, for further revision of the books.

Letter from the Commissioners, dated 18th December, 1847. No order was made on this letter whatever.

Mr. FLANAGAN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 5, 1848.*

AT a meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union, held on the 3rd instant, the following collectors were selected for the collection of the new rate :—

	Electoral Division.	Poundage.
James Finnan	Abbeylara	6d.
Pat. Carnygy	Clonbroney	6d.
Henry Macken	Lough Gowna	6d.
William Creggy	{ Foyran	6d.
	{ Lickbla	
	{ Coole	
James Cosgrave	Scrabby	6d.
Michael M'Loughlin	Rathowen	6d.
William Pollock	{ Mullaghoran	6d.
	{ Drumlumman	

In the electoral divisions of Columbkil and Granard no tender was made, and the Board has unanimously determined to offer the collection to the county cess collector. In case of his refusal, another person will be appointed upon the next Board-day. For Gelshagh no tender has as yet been made.

Of these collectors, Messrs. Pat. Carnygy and James Cosgrave are the only new appointments. I would beg that the Commissioners' sanction be forthwith transmitted to the Guardians, who are most anxious to put the rate into immediate course of collection.

The necessities of this Union are so urgent and pressing, that Major Blackhall has been obliged to give a personal guarantee to the treasurer for the sum of 100*l.* to meet the current expenditure of the week.

Upon inspecting the books of the relieving officers, they were found to be so irregularly kept and signed, and in fact so unintelligible, that the Board of

Guardians has been obliged, under the direction of Major Blackhall, to adjourn from day to day in the course of the last week, and to prepare new lists for each of the electoral divisions of the persons to whom relief had been already ordered. The names in these lists to be afterwards transcribed into new books which have been ordered for the purpose, and the signature of the chairman to be then affixed to those entries, and such relief to be ordered as the Board may think right.

The object of the lists is two-fold; first, to obtain an accurate statement of the persons to whom relief is necessary; and secondly, an exact calculation of the sum which will be required weekly for their relief.

For the purpose of aiding the Guardians, the Relief Committees of the different divisions have been requested to attend and assist the Guardians with their local knowledge of the parties and their circumstances.

The Guardians I found most anxious to give relief in all cases in money, and several of their lists had been prepared with that view. I pointed out to them the illegality of this course; and the lists will undergo a further analysis to distinguish the persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section, from those to whom relief in kind only can be given under the 2nd section.

The lists so revised and prepared, and the new regular entries in the relieving officer's "Application and Report Book" consequent thereon, will, I hope, be all furnished and ready before next Wednesday.

Meanwhile there will be much irregularity in dispensing relief, which, as the Board of Guardians (or more properly speaking, Major Blackhall) is energetically and *bonâ fide* making the utmost efforts to bring the system as quickly as possible into legal and effective operation, I do not think it advisable to notice.

Until the new rate has been actually in part collected, which can hardly be for the next three weeks, I fear much distress will exist in the Union; the amount available weekly not being one-sixth part of what is required for the use of the relieving officers. Indeed, were it not for the personal guarantee of Major Blackhall, there would be no funds even for the support of the workhouse during the present week.

If it were possible to procure for the Guardians a loan of 300*l.*, it would do much to relieve their immediate wants. Indeed, if it be obtainable, I know not what they will do for the next fortnight. Major Blackhall has intimated that he cannot give any longer his personal guarantee for money advanced; and if he do not, upon the next Board-day there will be the workhouse without supplies, and the relieving officer's book filled with names of persons to whom relief has been ordered, and no money to procure any. Were not the Guardians now energetically doing their utmost to meet the difficulty, I would not recommend procuring a loan; but under the circumstances I would respectfully submit the propriety of advancing one to the consideration of the Commissioners.

REPLY to the above:—*January 8, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to inform you that their approval of the collectors' appointments was conveyed to the Guardians by yesterday's post.

In regard to your suggestion as to procuring a loan of 300*l.* to the Guardians, I am to state that the Commissioners cannot hold out any prospect of a loan to the Guardians of Granard Union.

The Commissioners observe that in the return on the 20th ultimo, the amount of uncollected rate in Granard Union was as much as 1729*l.* 2*s.* 9½*d.*, and the Commissioners think that the proper remedy for the present financial embarrassments of the Union is, for the Guardians to proceed vigorously in compelling the payment of that sum by the rate-payers who are in arrear.

The CLERK of the BOARD of GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—
January 25, 1848.

By the directions of the Guardians of this Union I have the honour of applying to request you will obtain for the Guardians an advance of 1000*l.* on the security of the rates, to enable them to settle their accounts with Mr. Dixon, who refuses to take what is due him by monthly instalments, and who is at this moment taking out execution against them for the sum of nearly 600*l.*, as also to pay off other old debts.

Granard Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS in reply :—
January 27, 1848.

THE Commissioners can hold out no expectation of a loan to the Guardians from any quarter for the purpose mentioned.

The only course which the Guardians can effectually take is to collect the rates with promptness and vigour, and apply the proceeds to the discharge of their debts and the effectual relief of the destitute poor.

Mr. FLANAGAN to the COMMISSIONERS :—February 7, 1848.

I FEEL it my duty to report, that in my opinion the Board of Guardians of this Union have not "duly and effectually discharged its duties according to the intention of the Act for relief of the poor," and would therefore urge upon the consideration of the Commissioners the necessity of dissolving this Board, and in the exercise of the powers vested in them by law, appointing paid officers to discharge those duties which the present Board has proved itself incompetent to fulfil.

The Commissioners will, by reference to the monthly returns of the state of the funds of this Union perceive the very unsatisfactory manner in which the rate has hitherto been collected. To prove the accuracy of my representation, I would beg to refer them to the case of electoral division of *Gelsha*, the net annual value of which is 3663*l.*, and in which, from the 31st of December, 1847, to the 31st of January, 1848, out of a gross rate, amounting to nearly 400*l.*, a sum of 12*l.* only was collected, and during the previous month of November a sum little exceeding that.

Directions have been repeatedly given to furnish names of the defaulting rate-payers, with a view to the enforcing a more vigorous and active collection, and resolutions to that effect entered upon the minutes, but never acted upon.

The consequence has been that the amount collected from week to week is wholly inadequate to meet the daily increasing destitution, and that the relief afforded to the many thousand starving poor of this Union is barely sufficient to keep them from the grave.

The following cases which I have taken indiscriminately from the books of the relieving officer for the Columbkil electoral division, will give a fair idea of the average relief given in this Union to every person receiving it :—

Columbkil electoral division, No. 675, in Application and Report Book.

Ned Reilly, his wife and seven children, ages 17, 15, 13, 11, 9, 8, 2, making altogether nine in family, received from the 13th to the 15th week, inclusive of the half year, *half a stone* of meal per week; during the 16th and 17th weeks *none*; during the 18th week *half a stone*, and during the 19th, 20th, and 21st weeks, *one stone* of meal, which is the *maximum* allowance made to him; that is to say, according to this scale *nine* persons are to live and be relieved upon 2 lbs. of meal per day.

Again, in the same book, No. 8, *William Crossan*, wife, and four children, during the 17th and 18th weeks they received *one quarter* of a stone of meal; during the 19th, 20th, and 21st, *half a stone*, the *maximum* which they have been ordered; that is, a pound of meal per day for the support of *six* persons, or 2 ozs. and *two-thirds* of an ounce per head.

It were a gross mockery and perversion of language to call food doled out in such a manner relief; it is rather a lingering process of starvation; and from the representations made to me this day, I fear that many have already fallen victims to hunger and want; and when it is recollected that 6000 or 7000 persons in the destitute and indigent state are upon the relieving officers' books, endeavouring to eke out existence upon such a scanty pittance as that allowed, I fear that many more will be carried off, unless those prompt and vigorous exertions be made to check the evil that this present Board of Guardians is capable of making.

I am far from imputing to them insensibility to the sufferings of the poor; on the contrary, I believe that they feel deeply and sensibly the unfortunate condition to which they are reduced. Unfortunately, though they clamour and wail, they either cannot or will not, but certainly do not act. I have here and elsewhere observed a want of a due sense of the heavy moral responsibility which as Guardians of the poor they have undertaken. Although alive to the suffer-

ings of the poor, they never appear to recollect that upon them and them only the duty of relieving them devolves; and instead of energetically and perseveringly endeavouring to check the evil, they cry out to others for assistance, and think they have discharged their duty without a single attempt at exertion on their own part.

I could enumerate many other facts to prove the incompetency of this Board. One more will suffice to show the careless inattention to the details of their business which characterizes them.

From the time that the relieving officers have been giving out-door relief to the present, their books have never yet been regularly signed and initialed by the chairman, and consequently the relief given has been illegally given.

Again, although there are about 1700 able-bodied men receiving relief, not the least attempt has been made to set them to work according to the directions in the Commissioners' order.

For these (amongst other) reasons I would submit to the Commissioners the necessity of dissolving this Board of Guardians, and of entrusting the administration of the law to persons more competent (if not fitting) to extend to the destitute poor the benefit of that relief the law has given them a claim to.

While thus censuring the general conduct and inefficiency of this Board, I think it just to record the high sense I entertain of some individual members of it: in particular, of the deputy vice-chairman, Major Blackhall, who, when in this country, laboured with the most indefatigable zeal, energy, and ability, and through whose assistance I had hoped for a considerable time to extricate this Union from its present embarrassments, and avoid the necessity of a dissolution. His necessary attendance in Parliament deprived the Union of his services, and matters in his absence became as confused as ever.

As an illustration of what one individual can accomplish, I would farther state, that of the 15 electoral divisions of this Union, in which, as I have already said, there are about 1700 *able-bodied men* receiving relief, there is not one in the Castle Nugent division. Major Blackhall having given directions to the relieving officer that all such applicants should be referred to his steward who has orders to give them employment.

I feel much pleasure in bringing under the notice of the Commissioners this fact, which does so much honour to Major Blackhall, and proves that even in this Union the Poor Law has not been wholly ineffectual in giving a wholesome stimulus to industry.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*February 12, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their serious consideration the state of the affairs of the Granard Union, and the financial embarrassments which appear with other causes to have prevented the Board of Guardians from effectually relieving the destitution prevailing in the Union. In consequence of representations which the Commissioners received of the great distress existing in Granard Union, and of the insufficiency of any measures taken by the Board of Guardians for its relief, the Commissioners felt it necessary to direct the special attention of their inspector, Mr. Flanagan, to the state of Granard Union. They have now received a report from him, which discloses a state of affairs which cannot be permitted to continue in the Union consistently with the objects of the Irish Poor Relief Acts.

From this report, and from the financial returns, and other documents before the Commissioners relating to the Union, it appears that the amount of relief afforded by the Board of Guardians has been wholly insufficient for the due sustenance of the destitute applicants. It appears that in the case of a destitute family, consisting of a man, his wife, and seven children, making nine in family, only half a stone of meal per week was given from the thirteenth to the fifteenth weeks of the half-year inclusive; the same family appear to have been also relieved during the eighteenth week with half a stone of meal only, and during the three next weeks with one stone of meal per week. The Commissioners have had other instances before them of inadequate relief in this Union; and in another case reported by Mr. Flanagan, a man, his wife, and four children, making six in family, received during two weeks a quarter of a stone of meal, and during the three next weeks half a stone.

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It is manifest that in cases in which the Guardians feel it necessary to afford relief, such an amount of relief as that reported in the above cases would not be sufficient or consistent with a due performance of the obligations imposed by the provisions of Laws for the Relief of the Poor; and when it is considered that there are some thousands of persons in a destitute state upon the relieving officers' books, it may be feared that many are in danger of falling victims to hunger and privation.

The Commissioners do not impute the inadequacy of the relief afforded to insensibility on the part of the Guardians to the sufferings of the destitute poor; but the financial embarrassment into which the Guardians have allowed the Union to fall, must be undoubtedly regarded as the principal cause of the destitute poor not receiving due relief.

The collection of the rate during the past year was very unsatisfactory, only 2,756*l.* having been collected, a sum of about 7½*d.* in the pound on the valuation, leaving debts on the 31st December, to the large amount of 2,094*l.*; a sum much exceeding two-thirds of the entire year's collection. The Guardians had not 10*l.* in their treasurer's hands at the commencement of the present year; and although a new rate was signed on the 13th December last, no part of it was put in collection until the middle of January, a large portion not being even yet in collection. This delay must have materially lessened the chances of a favourable collection, a great part of the season best calculated for the collection of the rate having been suffered to elapse.

As regards other matters, it appears that the Guardians have failed in due attention to the business of the Union. From the commencement of the administration of out-door relief by the relieving officers, their books have not it appears been regularly examined, signed, and initialed, while, although there are about 1700 able-bodied men receiving relief, no attempt has been made to set them to work according to the order in that behalf.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners see no other course consistent with their duty for the remedy of this state of things and the effectual relief of the destitute poor in Granard Union, but to dissolve the Board of Guardians, and to appoint paid officers to act in their place. An order dissolving the Board will accordingly be transmitted by this day's post, and the appointment of Vice-Guardians will follow in due course.

Captain LANG, Temporary Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS :—
February 12, 1848.

I HAVE been this day occupied in visiting the workhouse and hospital, and the inspection of the books of some of the rate collectors. I find the collection still very much in arrear, and that the large occupiers are the greatest defaulters, among whom I observe the names of several of the Guardians. The collectors state, that they have received promises from most of those of payment next week, but I have signified to them that in future such excuses will not be admitted by me for tardiness or negligence in the performance of their duties.

The books of some of them appear to have been kept in a very slovenly manner.

The state and condition of the workhouse and the ground about it, and the apparent want of order, cleanliness, and proper classification, are conclusive proofs of the incapacity or negligence of both master and matron.

If the close attention and vigilant surveillance I shall devote to the interior economy and management of the establishment. do not speedily produce a decided reformation, I shall consider it my duty to recommend the dismissal of both master and matron, a measure I feel reluctant to resort to, until admonition and reproof have been tried and found unavailing.

The ground belonging to the workhouse has never been properly fenced or enclosed, nor has the slightest attention been paid to the improvement or cultivation of it. A portion of it close to the road round the house, and near to one of the back gates, has been (most improperly in my opinion) appropriated as a cemetery; and from the specimen of two graves I saw ready dug, the bodies must have been deposited at a very little depth beneath the surface. This offensive nuisance ought to be removed without delay, and the space already occupied by graves covered

over with a foot or more of fresh earth, for which purpose there is a mound of earth close to the place.

Measures should be taken to obtain a burial ground for the paupers, apart from the space immediately surrounding the house. On Monday I shall endeavour to impress these matters on the immediate attention of the Guardians, and report the result.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Captain LANG:—*February 19, 1848.*

WITH reference to your communication of the 12th instant, I am to state that the Commissioners have directed a communication to the Vice-Guardians upon the several points referred to therein.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain LANG:—*February 12, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request your attention to the fact that the Commissioners' order authorizing the administration of out-door relief, which was issued on the 18th of December last, will expire on the 18th instant; and I am to request that you will be so good as to report to the Commissioners, as to the necessity for its renewal, in time for an order to be issued, if necessary, before the above date.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain LANG:—*February 16, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that the Commissioners not having received a report from you in pursuance of their instructions of 12th instant, as to the necessity of renewing the order of 18th December for out-door relief in the Granard Union, and the time for the preparation and issue of a new order before the expiration of the present order on the 18th instant being so limited, the Commissioners have directed a new order to be issued in accordance with a communication which they have received from their Inspector, Mr. Flanagan, on the subject.

Captain LANG to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 17, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letters of the 12th and 16th instant, Nos. 140 and 154, as to the necessity of renewing the order for the administration of out-door relief in this district, I beg leave to state that I deferred replying to the first until I had made some inquiry, and had returns before me of the existing amount of destitution prevailing in the several electoral divisions. From the information I have been enabled to collect I am satisfied that out-door relief cannot (at present) be dispensed with, and that the renewal of the order was a measure absolutely required. But I am of opinion that the labour test will very much reduce the numbers of able-bodied applicants on the lists of both in and out-door relief.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain LANG, in reply:—*February 19, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that as the former order expired on the 18th instant, it was requisite to take such steps as might be necessary for that day, and therefore the Commissioners felt it necessary to renew the order, without waiting for your report, which in such cases should be made a few days before the actual expiration of an order, so as to allow time for a new one if necessary to be prepared and issued. The Commissioners are glad to perceive from your present communication, that the issue of the second order was in accordance with your views.

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The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*February 19, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that they have had under consideration, reports from which it appears that the collection of the rates in Granard Union is very much in arrear, and it is stated that the large occupiers are the greatest defaulters, among whom are the names of several of the late Guardians of the Union. The Commissioners are also informed that the books of some of the collectors appear to have been kept in a very slovenly manner.

It is further reported that the condition of the workhouse, and of the ground about it, and the apparent want of order, cleanliness, and proper classification, indicate incapacity or negligence on the part of both the master and the matron of the workhouse.

It further appears that a portion of the ground belonging to the workhouse, close to the road round the house, and near to one of the back gates, has been appropriated as a cemetery, and that the bodies have been deposited at very little depth below the surface, so as to be in an offensive state, while there is a mound of earth close to the place, over which it could be spread; and measures should be taken with a view to procuring a proper burial ground more distant from the workhouse buildings.

The Commissioners request your early and special attention to these matters, and they rely upon your exertions in conjunction with the Inspector, for bringing the affairs of this Union into better order, and for ensuring a proper performance of their duties by the officers of the Union, or for the appointment of more efficient officers, should it be found necessary.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 24, 1848.*

1. HAVING in pursuance of your orders entered upon the administration of the affairs of this Union, we deem it well at once to submit for your consideration our report upon their general aspect and condition, so far as the limited time we have had at our disposal has enabled us to form a judgment on the matter; and we shall take occasion, in the weekly reports it will be our duty to make to you, to supply you with accurate and detailed information upon the several particulars that engage our attention, or seem to us to demand comment.

2. We have completed a minute inspection of the house in all its departments, and regret to add, that the result is in every way far from being satisfactory. With so limited an experience to guide us, we feel slow to express, as yet, a *decided* opinion upon the character or competence of any of the officers of the establishment—especially so, as it seems manifest to us that the most ordinary supervision on the part of the late Board must have rendered impossible many, if not nearly all, of the abuses that have come under our notice; and we cannot therefore say how far the neglect of the servants is, or is not, attributable to the indifference exhibited by their superiors.

3. We cannot, however, hesitate to state, that the manner in which the duties of master and matron have been performed is exceedingly discreditable. The inmates of every class seem to have lived up to this in a state of utter listlessness and inactivity; and no effort whatever has been made, so far as we can see, to devise or enforce employment for them. An exactly corresponding air of neglect and slovenliness is observable in almost everything about the place. The land attached to the workhouse has been suffered to lie unfenced and uncultivated. The yards are all filthy, damp, and insalubrious; the windows are broken in many places; the floors in very many of the rooms are in a state of ruinous neglect; the ventilation of the dormitories has been seemingly but ill attended to, and in some instances the heads of the beds have been allowed to rest against walls so damp that the occupants must necessarily have been exposed to danger. In one of the sleeping wards we found two very young female children lying ill in bed, who, it might have been, stood in instant need of medical advice and infirmity treatment; but this the matron did not appear to have much considered.

4. In both male and female wards we found several young children of various ages, who for months had not been in the schoolroom—some had *never* gone there, and no intelligible reason was offered to us for so strange an omission.

5. The children attending the schools, or so many of them as we examined, did not seem unusually backward; but no pens, ink, pencils, or slates, having

been for months supplied by the late Board, though they were applied to for them, as we are informed, no advance has been in consequence made in these branches of education.

6. Shoes, heretofore supplied to the house by contract, have been but sparingly used; the vast majority of the inmates being *barefooted*. Bread procured in same manner, by contract, has been never given except when medically ordered; and, when so required, has been obtained at the exorbitant cost of 1s. per 4lb. loaf, *i. e.*, about double the market price. The universal diet of all classes is porridge or stirabout, made usually of Indian, occasionally of oatmeal; rice has not been used, except for the invalids.

7. A Visiting Committee, judging from the book kept for that purpose, has rarely acted in this Union; the last entry bearing date 27th September, 1847; and those preceding it are dated at long intervals. The queries in the book are all, without distinction, answered affirmatively upon those occasions—a circumstance which to our mind cannot be easily reconciled with the state of affairs as we have noticed them, and which we have here but very faintly described.

8. No entry appears in the Master's Clothing Receipt and Appropriation Books since 28th September, 1846; such being the case, a knowledge of the quantity in use or on hands is not now attainable by us.

9. The Commissioners' order requiring the officers of the house, by the calling of a roll, to ascertain the presence of every pauper half an hour after rising each morning has been *totally disregarded*; this, of course, opened the doors to a confirmed system of disorder and irregularity amongst the inmates.

10. We entertain strong hopes that the clerk will give us satisfaction ultimately; but his business is, at this moment, *considerably* in arrear; his ledger has not been posted into since March 25, 1847; but there are some extenuating circumstances to palliate this, and we trust he will not again suffer his duties to accumulate in the same way.

11. We have given such directions to the officers upon whom the several duties respectively devolve, as will, we trust, lead to a prompt reform of the abuses we have noted. We propose further, that the inmates shall be all provided with shoes, to be made in the house, by the employment of a competent tradesman, assisted by fit subjects selected from the paupers. This will be a source of economy in itself, will increase the comfort of the inmates, and will afford an opportunity of giving orphan children a useful trade. The same remark applies to other things. By the introduction of hot plates, numbers of the girls will be usefully and instructively employed in the preparation of bread; the article will then be available upon moderate terms for the general dietary of the establishment, and will, we think, be with advantage substituted in part for the porridge or stirabout, which now constitutes the *sole* diet of the paupers, and the *indiscriminate* and unvarying use of which has probably tended to the spread of disease in the house. Some time hence we hope to employ the females generally in carding and spinning wool, to be used in the manufacture of apparel for the house.

12. The books of the relieving officers are, we fear, one mass of hopeless and irretrievable confusion. For the correctness of their *future* operations we will of course be responsible; but we are not yet in a position to state how far it will be in our power to retrace their past errors, or bring to light any misapplication of the public funds those officers may have been guilty of. The Board have only in rare instances initialed or examined the books at all; the entire administration of the law has been thus confided to the relieving officers. They have been permitted to purchase the meal they distributed, where and at such cost as they pleased; and in the course of an inquiry yesterday held before Captain Lang, your Inspector, it was clearly proved that a relieving officer had charged the Board 12s. 8d. per cwt. for meal, which his *brother* (a dealer in meal) was shown to have bought in *for the particular occasion* at 11s. 3d. per cwt.

13. The collectors are to attend at our Board-room on Saturday next. Up to this they have done little in the performance of their duties; but we will endeavour to arouse them to a sense of their neglect, and the serious responsibility they have thereby incurred; and will lose no time in reporting to you upon the conduct of any of them by whom a becoming spirit of zeal and activity is not at once manifested.

14. We regret that, consistently with the necessity we feel we are under of accurately acquainting you with the present position of the Union you have committed to our charge, we could not compress this report into smaller limits. We

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shall not now trespass further ; and you may confidently rely upon our earnest anxiety to do all that lies in our power to promote the internal economy and comfort of this establishment, and restore its embarrassed financial concerns to a solvent and independent position.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 28, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' approval generally of the several steps which you propose to take, as stated in your report.

With reference to the condition of the workhouse, I am to state, that the Commissioners do not doubt that you, in concert with the resident Inspector, will be enabled shortly to bring it into a better state than it has heretofore been in.

The Commissioners have already communicated with Captain Lang, in reference to the officers of the Union ; and the Commissioners request that special attention may be given to the due enforcement of the duties of the master and matron of the workhouse, as well as the other officers of the Union ; and if they shall not be found hereafter to discharge their duties more efficiently than they have hitherto done, it will be necessary for you to consider as to the expediency of obtaining more efficient officers, and the present officers should be cautioned accordingly.

Respecting the supply of bread to the workhouse, the Commissioners suggest that as it appears the present extravagant price has been given under a contract, such contract should be terminated as soon as practicable, with a view to obtaining the requisite supplies on more just and economical terms.

The Commissioners also request that you will have the master's clothing and other accounts made up without delay, and the workhouse rules regularly observed. The clerk's accounts also should now be made up to 29th September last for audit as soon as possible, his salary having been recently increased to enable him to procure assistance.

As regards the confused state of the books of the relieving officers, the Commissioners will further consider the conduct of those officers, on Captain Lang's report of his inquiry.

THURLES UNION.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. J. BURKE, Poor Law Inspector—*Condition of the Poor in Thurles:—January 3, 1848.*

THE Commissioners, in accordance with the request of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, instruct you to proceed with the least possible delay to Thurles, and to make a special inquiry into the condition of the poor in that town, and in the surrounding neighbourhood, and to report to them thereon; and at the same time, they request that you will more especially report whether there are any well-authenticated cases of destitute persons in the Thurles Union having died from starvation; and if so, the Commissioners wish you to take evidence upon oath respecting any such case.

The Commissioners are aware that Thurles is not in your district, but Mr. Hancock is confined to bed by sickness, and the Commissioners are desirous of obtaining for his Excellency, the desired information with the least possible delay.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. J. BURKE:—*January 4, 1848.*

ADVERTING to the letter addressed to you on the 3rd instant, respecting the Thurles Union, I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to request that you will be so good as to place yourself in communication with Dr. Slattery, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cashel, with reference to his public statement respecting the deaths of thousands of persons of starvation.

Mr. BURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 12, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, instructing me, in accordance with the request of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, to proceed with the least possible delay to Thurles, and to make a special inquiry into the condition of the poor in that town and in the surrounding neighbourhood, and to report to you thereon, and also requesting me more especially to report whether there are any well-authenticated cases of destitute persons in the Union having died from starvation, and of fever, and directing me to take evidence upon oath respecting any such case. I have also to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, advertng to your letter of the 3rd instant, and directing me to place myself in communication with Doctor Slattery, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cashel, with reference to his public statement respecting the deaths of thousands of persons by starvation.

I have now to inform you that I arrived in Thurles on Friday, the 7th instant, my previous engagements not permitting me to be there sooner. On the following morning I waited on Doctor Slattery, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cashel, and in the minutes of the inquiry, comprising 36 pages, which I forward herewith, will be found the report of my interview with his Lordship.

I next proceeded to hold the inquiry at the Board-room of the workhouse, and examined on oath the resident magistrate, the sub-inspector of police, the coroner, and one of the medical officers of the fever hospital, as also Mr. P. B. Ryan, the Deputy Vice-Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and the relieving officer of the Thurles electoral division, and his three assistants. Since the inquiry the clerk of the Union has forwarded to me the depositions taken before a magistrate, of the relieving officer for Moycarkey district, and whose attendance I could not procure in time for the inquiry.

From the evidence given, and from all I could learn, I believe that there is much destitution, not alone in the town of Thurles and its neighbourhood, but in the Union generally. There this destitution is caused, not by the scarcity or high price of food, but from want of the means to procure it, there being scarcely any employment for the labouring class. The discharging of about 600 labourers from the railway works, which are now nearly completed, has added I should say very much to the prevailing distress.

The Guardians have given very general out-door relief, there being, as far as the clerk of the Union could say (the relieving officer's books not being made up),

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about 10,000 persons on out-door relief, of whom nearly 4000 are in the Thurles electoral division. Amongst those on out-door relief are many able-bodied, the Guardians having administered relief to such, although not previously authorized by any order from you to do so.

It does not appear from the evidence of the parties whom I examined, and who must be considered to be well informed on the subject, that deaths from starvation have occurred within the Union. The only case which I could trace as having been attributed to such a cause was that of a young man, named James Ryan, from whom no application it appears was made to the relieving officer. James Ryan's father, subsequent to the death of the former, applied for relief for himself and daughters, and received from the relieving officer a ticket of admission for them to the workhouse, but which Ryan and his daughters did not avail themselves of for five days after.

Fever is stated to be on the decrease in the Union, and I did not hear of any death from it caused by the want of proper assistance. The Thurles fever hospital, which can accommodate 200 patients, has now not more than about two-thirds of that number in it. The apothecary and registrar of the hospital states that every facility is afforded for admission to it; in fact that no one is ever refused.

ENCLOSURE.

January 12, 1848.

MINUTES of an INQUIRY held on Saturday, the 8th January, 1848, at the Board-room of the Workhouse, before Joseph Burke, Esq., Poor Law Inspector, relative to the condition of the poor in the town of Thurles, and in the surrounding neighbourhood; and whether there were any well-authenticated cases of destitute persons in the Union having died from starvation or of fever.

Commenced the inquiry at 11 o'clock, concluded at 4 o'clock.

Saturday, January 8, 1848.

Mr. Burke, Poor Law Inspector, accompanied by Mr. Fogarty, the clerk of the Thurles Union, waited this morning on the most Rev. Dr. Slattery. Mr. Burke stated to Dr. Slattery that he, Mr. Burke, was directed to inquire into the state of the poor in Thurles and its neighbourhood, and particularly with reference to any deaths from starvation having occurred in the Union.

Dr. Slattery said he presumed Mr. Burke referred to a letter which appeared from him (Dr. Slattery) in the newspapers, and he did not think he was to be brought to account for any act of his in this way; that what he (Dr. Slattery) had written did not refer in particular to the Thurles Union, but had reference to what he read and heard particularly from the bishops of his province, and the clergy of his diocese.

Mr. Burke assured Dr. Slattery that he came with no such purpose as that of calling his lordship to account for any of his acts, but that the Poor Law Commissioners felt bound in every instance, when it was stated that deaths from starvation had occurred, or that destitution was said to prevail to a great extent in a Union, to direct one of their Inspectors to inquire on the spot, whether the Guardians entrusted with the carrying out of the law and their officers had performed their duties.

Dr. Slattery said that he was perfectly satisfied with the explanation, and that he was the last who wished to impute negligence of their duties to public functionaries or public bodies; nor did he in this instance, charge the Thurles Board of Guardians with any neglect of duty,—but he (Dr. Slattery) heard from all quarters, and from his clergy, of the wide-spreading distress now existing; and he saw by a report in the newspapers, that the Commissioners had refused giving their sanction to out-door relief to the able-bodied in the Thurles Union.

Mr. Burke stated in reply to Dr. Slattery, that the Commissioners, before giving their sanction to such an important step as relief to the able-bodied, required the Guardians in the first instance, to resolve on the necessity of it at a meeting of the Guardians specially summoned; this it appears was not done, until the last meeting of the Board on the 4th instant. Mr. Burke also stated that it was his intention to sit during the day at the Board-room of the workhouse, to receive any information on the destitution stated to prevail in the Union, and that if his lordship had any suggestion to offer, he, Mr. Burke, would be happy to receive and act upon it.

Dr. Slattery replied, that he had nothing to offer on the subject.

The examinations of *Michael Harrold*, who being duly sworn, saith that he is relieving officer for the electoral divisions of Thurles and Ballycahill. The farthest extent from the town of Thurles of either electoral divisions is not more than three Irish miles (hands in a document marked A). By the document handed in, it appears that 3800 are on his relief book as recipients of relief for the Thurles electoral division, and 308 for the Ballycahill electoral division, both for the week ending this day. About the commencement of December, relief was first given by deponent in his district; at that time there was no great pressure for relief, but in about a week after, when it became generally known that relief was giving out,

the applications increased, and have continued to increase up to this time. At first, relief was only given to those contemplated by the 1st section of the Act, but about the middle of December, relief was extended to those mentioned in the Commissioners' Order of the 13th December; and deponent has since continued to give relief not alone in those cases, but deponent has also given provisional relief to other parties than those contemplated by the 1st section of the Act, or the Order of the 13th December, and even before the latter was issued; in fact, deponent gave relief to able-bodied whom he considered destitute, and which the Guardians sanctioned generally, at their subsequent meeting. Deponent's opinion is that no person did die of starvation, nor did deponent hear of persons dying of starvation; but deponent believes that many persons from the privations which they suffered, brought on sickness on themselves; has not heard of any coroner's inquest being held on any person whom it might be alleged died of starvation, but deponent thinks that if he had not exceeded the law in giving relief as he did, many would have died of starvation in the commencement; deponent was in the habit of visiting every case before he administered relief, but, from the numbers who applied latterly, deponent was unable to examine into the particulars of each case, and exercised his own judgment as well as he could, and took his information from Guardians and heavy ratepayers. Deponent's opinion of the present state of distress is, that in a short time there will be as many more as are on his list who will require relief as at present, and those of the able-bodied class; because deponent does not consider there will be any employment until the 1st March, and even then the farmers will continue to do their own work, and will employ as few as they can. From the time the temporary relief ceased until relief was administered under the Poor Law, the people were living on turnips, and even now those who are not receiving relief under the Poor Law are existing on turnips. In all the houses of applicants that deponent visited, he saw but one in which there was other food than turnips. Deponent again states that from his experience, and what he knows, he does not consider that any person in his district died immediately of starvation; the cessation of the works on the railway added to the distress, as many who came from other parts of the Union, and from other Unions, applied and received relief through deponent.

Sworn before me this 8th day of January, 1848.

JOSEPH BURKE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

MICHAEL HARROLD, *Relieving Officer.*

The examination of *Richard Harding*, who being duly sworn, saith that he has been acting for the last fortnight as assistant to Mr. Harrold, the relieving officer for Thurles and Ballycahill electoral division; visited the houses of applicants in company with Mr. Harrold. During the time deponent has been acting as assistant to Mr. Harrold has not met with any case of death from starvation; saw some very bad cases of distress, and some, if they had not been relieved, would, deponent thinks, have died.

Sworn before me this 8th day of January, 1848.

JOSEPH BURKE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

RICHARD HARDING.

The examination of *Thomas Mahony*, who being duly sworn, saith that he was acting as assistant to Mr. Harrold, the relieving officer, for between a fortnight and three weeks, up to Tuesday last. During the time deponent was acting, did not meet with any deaths from immediate starvation, but considers that from previous privations illness might have been brought on; during the time he was assisting Mr. Harrold, in every case of destitution properly represented by any Guardian or respectable ratepayer, he afforded relief as soon as possibly could be; but from the crowds that presented themselves, although Mr. Harrold and his assistant worked for 17 hours out of the 24, there must have been many whose cases could not be taken down, and others whose names were taken down, but their cases could not be properly attended to by the relieving officer from the extreme press of business. Deponent thinks the present distress is very great, as there is now no employment given by the farmers; last year there was some employment on the public works.

Sworn before me this 8th day of January, 1848.

JOSEPH BURKE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

THOMAS MAHONY.

The examination of *John Harrold*, who being duly sworn, saith he is acting as assistant to his brother, Mr. Harrold, the relieving officer; he will be acting three weeks next Wednesday. Deponent was employed more at the books than in visiting the houses of applicants, but did visit a few houses; did not hear of persons dying of starvation, but has heard that privations or want brought on lingering sickness. In deponent's opinion the people are very much distressed, including the labouring classes who have no employment.

Sworn before me this 8th day of January, 1848.

JOSEPH BURKE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

JOHN HARROLD.

The examination of *Patrick Burke Ryan*, who being duly sworn, saith, that he had been a Guardian of the Thurles Union, on the opening of the workhouse, for a year, and has been for the last year a Guardian and a deputy vice-chairman of the Board, and one of the most constant attendants, and for the last five weeks has been almost daily at the Board-room, that is, since the pressure for relief commenced. Deponent read a letter addressed by him to the

Thurles Union.
—

editor of the *Dublin Evening Post*, a copy of which he hands in, marked B. During the last five weeks, deponent and his brother Guardians have devoted a great deal of their time to the examination of applicants for relief, and the Guardians are only guilty of exceeding their powers in administering relief to those whom they were not legally entitled to administer it to; and they were led to do so from a wish that even a thousand not entitled to legal relief might receive it, sooner than that one should perish from starvation. Deponent thinks that of the number on the Thurles electoral division now receiving out-door relief, not above one half are entitled, legally, to relief, but deponent and his brother Guardians have been solely influenced in their exceeding their power by the motives which deponent has just stated; deponent is of opinion that if the Guardians go on in the same ratio giving relief, the entire valuation of the Thurles electoral division will be swallowed up; deponent heard or knows of no death from starvation having occurred in the Thurles electoral division, nor in the Thurles Union; deponent is one of the highest ratepayers in the Union, his rates will be about 100*l.* this year; deponent considers that there is great destitution at present existing in the Union; considers that such arises from the want of employment rather than the price of food.

Sworn before me this 8th day of January, 1848.

JOSEPH BURKE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

P. B. RYAN.

The examination of *Thomas O'Meara*, who being duly sworn, saith, that he is one of the coroners of the county of Tipperary, and for the northern and part of the southern divisions of the Union, which includes the district comprising the Thurles Union; there was no inquest held by deponent during the last six months, in which a verdict was brought in of death by starvation. The only case there was bordering on starvation was that of a body found at Drum, on Sunday the 31st December, the name was Mary Canny, she was found dead on the side of the road, and deponent held an inquest on her (deponent hands in a copy of the depositions taken on the occasion, marked C.)

Sworn before me this 8th day of January, 1848.

JOSEPH BURKE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

THOMAS O'MEARA.

The examination of *James H. Bracken*, who being duly sworn, saith, that he is sub-inspector of constabulary, and stationed at Thurles. Deponent has not during the last six months heard of any case of death from starvation, except in one instance, when a report was made to him by one of the constables (a copy of which, marked D, deponent hands in). There was no inquest held on the occasion, the man being buried, deponent did not think it prudent to have the body disinterred; deponent made inquiry whether the young man, James Ryan, ever made application to the relieving officer, and from what deponent could learn, believes Ryan made no application to the relieving officer. Deponent desired the constables to ascertain who the relieving officer of the district was, and then to let the relieving officer call on the family and give them relief; the family was in such a state of destitution when the constable went there, that the constable had to give relief to them. Deponent's belief as to the town of Thurles, and its neighbourhood, is, that there exists the greatest destitution, and is sure that it extends to the labouring classes. Numbers of women and children have applied to deponent, and stated their having been begging, with a view of being committed to gaol under the Vagrancy Act.

Sworn before me this 8th day of January, 1848.

JOSEPH BURKE, *Poor Law Inspector.*J. H. BRACKEN, *1st Sub-Inspector.*

The examination of *John Gore Jones*, who being duly sworn, saith, that he is the resident magistrate of Thurles district, and has much opportunity of being acquainted with the state of the poor in the district. Deponent thinks, that the labouring classes here are in a wretched state of destitution for want of employment, and have no provisions of their own, and believes that they exist almost on turnips. The destitution has been much increased since the breaking up of the works on the railway. Deponent cannot move from his gate that he is not surrounded by groups of people, who importune him to put them in Bridewell, that they may get food, and pour forth their blessings on deponent for doing so, as if he were conferring on them the greatest obligation. Deponent believes he does not exaggerate when he states, that there have been as many as 150 of these miserable wretches at one time in the Bridewell, committed under the Vagrancy Act. On all occasions that deponent has committed those persons, he has directed the constable to come to the relieving officer to inform him that those persons were in Bridewell; the relieving officer has taken down the names, and been ordered to give relief to them. Deponent has not been aware of any case of a person dying of want, except the case just detailed in the evidence given by Mr. Bracken, the sub-inspector. Deponent did not think it necessary, in this case, that an inquest should be held, as it would only spread alarm, and as there seemed to be no doubt on the subject. Deponent has no reason, as resident magistrate, to suppose that there has been any opposition given to the collection of rates in the district, no application being made to him for assistance. The summonses that were issued have been very few.

Sworn before me this 8th day of January, 1848.

JOSEPH BURKE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

JOHN GORE JONES.

The examination of *George Bradshaw*, who being duly sworn, saith, that he is apothecary and registrar to the *Thurles Fever Hospital*, which was under the *Temporary Relief Act*, and is now supported by the *Guardians* under that Act. The hospital is capable of containing 200 patients, there are now 130 in it, and fever is now on the decrease; the highest number in the hospital during the last three months was 170, so that during that time there were always vacancies, but during that time or before, no person was ever refused admission, as soon as they do so, the number was exceeded; there is no difficulty at all thrown in the way of admission, as no one is ever refused admission. Deponent is also medical attendant of the *Littleton dispensary*; deponent believes that one-fifth at least of poor persons attacked with fever in the rural districts will not come into the fever hospital, from a wish to remain at home amongst their own friends, and from a prejudice they have to come into a fever hospital. As regards the *Thurles Fever Hospital*, every facility is afforded for admission to it, and if any poor person should die outside of fever, it must be in some measure owing to their not availing themselves of the fever hospital.

Thurles Union.

JOSEPH BURKE, *Poor Law Inspector*.GEORGE BRADSHAW, *Surgeon*.

The *Rev. Daniel K. Lannigan*, Roman Catholic curate, attended during the examination of Mr. Gore Jones, and on its conclusion, Mr. Burke having inquired of Mr. Lannigan if he had any information to give on the matter; *Rev. Mr. Lannigan* said, that he called at the instance of the *Most Rev. Dr. Slattery* to state a fact mentioned in Mr. Gore Jones's evidence, namely—the application of the people to be committed to *Bridewell*, but as Mr. Gore Jones had stated the circumstance, he Mr. Lannigan did not consider it necessary to be examined on the matter.

John Cassidy, a sub-contractor on the railway, stated (on the 7th instant,) that he had at one time 600 labourers employed, one half of whom he discharged some time since, and the other half more recently.

Thurles, January 10, 1848.

John Mannin, relieving officer for the *Moycarkey District* of *Thurles Union*, comprising divisions of *Moycarkey*, *Holycross*, and *Ballymoreen*, being duly sworn on the holy Evangelist, deposeth and saith, that on or about the 25th day of November last, he was applied to by a man named *Danial Ryan*, of *Lisbonick*, in the electoral division of *Holycross* in the above Union, for a ticket of admission for himself and three daughters, one 16, one 13, and one 11, to the workhouse of said Union. That deponent gave such ticket of admission on same day; that those persons were admitted on the 30th November following, to the workhouse, having kept the ticket five days without making application on it. At the time of application to him for such ticket of admission, on 25th November, 1847, the applicant, *Danial Ryan*, informed deponent that a son of his, named *James Ryan*, died some days previous, of want of food; heard that deceased was about 22 years of age, did not hear that an inquest was held on him; visited the dwelling of *Daniel Ryan* on his making application for relief, it was in a wretched state, the inmates with scarcely any covering for night or day, they were preparing a scanty meal of stirabout; cannot suppose the son, *James Ryan*, died of starvation, as if the family of which he was a member were in so destitute a state as to be in danger of death from hunger, they would not keep deponent's ticket for admission to the workhouse five days without making use of it. Deponent further says, relief would have been given to this family ten days previous to the said 25th November, had application been made to him for that purpose, which was before the death of said *James Ryan*, as this deponent heard and believes. Deponent saith he is giving out-door relief to all classes of destitute persons, with the knowledge of the *Board of Guardians*; that there is a most urgent necessity for so doing. That there is no employment for the able-bodied, and that the turnips, on which the labouring classes principally subsisted for three months previous to 10th November last, were about that period withdrawn from the fields. Deponent further says, that said *Danial Ryan* and his daughters are still in the Union workhouse.

JOHN MANNIN.

FRANCIS O'BRIEN, *J. P. for County Tipperary*.

(A.)

RETURN of the NUMBER of CASES and PERSONS who have received Out-Door Relief in THURLES and BALLYCAHILL DISTRICT, under the *Poor Law Extension Act*.

THURLES ELECTORAL DIVISION.

	Cases Relieved.	Persons, Section 1.	Persons, Section 2.	Total.
10th week, December 4, 1847 . . .	39	123	..	123
11th week, December 11, 1847 . . .	87	229	..	229
12th week, December 18, 1847 . . .	406	346	611	957
13th week, December 25, 1847 . . .	829	522	1,559	2,081
14th week, January 1, 1848	1,200	906	2,198	3,104
15th week, January 8, 1848	1,600	..	..	3,800

Thurles Union.

Return of the Number of Cases and Persons who have received Out-Door Relief in Thurles and Ballycahill District, under the Poor Law Extension Act—*continued*.

BALLYCAHILL.

	Cases Relieved.	Persons, Section 1.	Persons, Section 2.	Total.
10th week, December 4, 1847 . . .	1	2	..	2
11th week, December 11, 1847 . . .	51	153	..	153
12th week, December 18, 1847 . . .	125	179	111	290
13th week, December 25, 1847 . . .	144	179	112	291
14th week, January 1, 1848 . . .	144	179	112	291
15th week, January 8, 1848 . . .	155	..	..	308

Twenty-four persons were relieved this week on the Union at large.
Total Number relieved this week in the district, 4,132.

January 8, 1848.

MICHAEL HARROLD, *Relieving Officer*.

(B.)

To His Grace the Most Reverend Dr. SLATTERY, Archbishop of Cashel.

MY LORD,

As it appears to me your letter to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant implied a serious charge of neglect on the part of the Board of Guardians of this Union, I did expect that ere now some more influential member of our Board would have replied, and set you right on a subject with which you seem not perfectly acquainted. In presuming to address your Lordship, I do so with great diffidence and reluctance, lest in vindicating the conduct of our Board I may, in the slightest degree, displease one of the most amiable and exalted dignitaries of our church, for whom I always had, and ever will have, the most profound respect and sincere esteem.

Constituted as our Board is of men of various classes, there may be slight differences of opinion amongst us on matters of minor importance; but I beg to assure you that, individually and collectively, there never was a body more closely and firmly united in zealously promoting the great object for which we have been embodied—to administer to the wants of the poor, and, if possible, to raise them from destitution to comfort. For weeks previous to the date of your letter, we formed a resolution to attend daily, instead of weekly, at our Board-rooms. We have not only sacrificed our time, but risked our personal safety; first, by encountering an inclement season, and next, by exposing ourselves to that annoyance and danger ever attendant on commingling with crowds of destitute and perhaps diseased people. For my part I have been every day during the last five weeks at the workhouse, with the exception of two or three days, when I was laid up with a severe cold, caught in the discharge of my duty there. And I must in justice to my fellow-labourers state, that we have all acted on the principle that it would be better a thousand persons not entitled to relief should get it than that one individual should die of hunger. The consequence is, that two-thirds of the persons on our relief lists are not legally entitled to relief; and indeed a vast number of them are in better circumstances than many rate-payers who are contributing to their support. At present, about half the population of this district is receiving rations; and if the distribution goes on in the same progression, our expenditure will shortly considerably exceed the nett annual value of this division. Considering this state of affairs, and that the Temporary Relief Act was in force up to a very late period, I cannot conceive on what grounds your Lordship could come to the conclusion, "that the Poor Extension remains almost a dead letter, and that thousands of the people are famishing, and some of them perishing of hunger." If, by famishing, you mean that they are destitute, badly fed, badly clad, and badly housed, your assertion cannot be controverted; for that excellent philanthropist, Mr. Nicholls, many years ago, stated that one-third of our population was in that state; but if you mean to convey that they are famishing and dying of hunger, I must, in justice, respectfully state, that not one individual in the Thurles Union died of hunger since the passing the Act you allude to, nor was there any inquest held on the body of any person alleged to have died of starvation. I must further state, that from the highest to the lowest official entrusted with the administration of the Poor Laws in Ireland, I have always observed a most laudable anxiety to afford prompt relief to the destitute, and to treat them with the greatest clemency. At first view, a charitable benevolent mind will be led to think that the cries of the destitute should be instantly appeased, and that the laws should be made at once effective; but when your Lordship considers the embarrassing circumstances in which the executive are placed, I am sure you will make fair allowance for the delay created by the pressure of the people themselves.

That intelligent and hard-working man, Mr. Nicholls, in his admirable report on the state of Ireland, foretold the difficulty of introducing Poor Laws into this country. The greatest statesman proclaimed that it was almost impossible to frame laws to meet the exigency of such an impoverished people. But the greatest of all difficulties has latterly arisen—the principal food of the bulk of our population has been destroyed by an all-wise Providence. With this accumulation of difficulties the Poor Law Commissioners and the Guardians have to contend in administering the laws. We have to steer our course in a most boisterous sea

between Scylla and Charybdis. If we are too liberal to the destitute, or if we incautiously give food to those who don't want it, we pauperize the rate-payers—we increase the misery we are bound to alleviate. Regardless of the censure of all parties, we will endeavour to do our duty fairly and firmly; and I am free to confess that the Commissioners have afforded us every facility in doing so. They have sanctioned our procuring further house accommodation, and done all in their power to meet the present emergency.

With a most submissive apology for the liberty I have taken in thus addressing you, and with the most profound respect and sincere esteem,

I have the honour to be your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

P. B. RYAN, *Dep. Vice-Chairman.*

Liscahill House, Thurles, January 7, 1848.

Thurles Union.

(C.)

Inquisition at Drom, on view of the body of Catherine Kanny, held the 1st of January, 1848, before Thomas O'Meara.

Anne Russell, sworn.—On Friday, the 31st December, I saw a woman lying on the side of the road at Knocka; I could not say whether she had a cloak or not; Judy Ryan gave me word she was there; I heard from a person called Andrew Ryan that her name was Catherine Kanny, of Borrisoleigh.

Ignatius Browne, constable, sworn.—On yesterday, the 31st, it was reported to me that a person was found dead at Knocka; I learned from Andrew Ryan her name to be Catherine Kanny; I had her removed to the widow Kennedy's house, who gave me liberty to do so.

Dr. Quinlan, sworn.—I have examined the body of deceased; I have opened the stomach, and found it quite full of yellow meal stirabout, it was over extended; I consider her death was caused by epilepsy.

THOMAS O'MEARA.

(D.)

*County of Tipperary,
Ballycamas, November 8, 1847.*

I HAVE to report, that on Saturday last, about the hour of 4 o'clock, P.M., a young man, named James Ryan, living on the townland of Lisbook, and parish of Holycross, was found dead on his bed by his father, who left him at 11 o'clock, A.M., on his going out, seemingly well, but quite weak for want of food. Deceased was 23 years of age, and one of six in family, and obliged to live on a quarter of a stone of meal from the Tuesday previous until the time of his death. Whilst struggling during the day he called for a turnip, but, on receiving it, could not partake of it.

I have further to state, that respectable persons who live near them, informed me, that the whole family are many days suffering for want of food. Deceased's father kept this case quite private, until a few minutes before interment that I received the information; he will this day be buried in Clogher. The Sub-Inspector will please, should he consider it a case for an inquest, to give directions to the coroner accordingly; as also to let me know by return whether I will attend at the church-yard with such witnesses as would be examined by a jury.

EDWARD MADDEN, *Constable.*

J. H. BRACKEN, Esq. 1, S. I.

A true copy.

J. H. BRACKEN. 1. S. I.

Board Room, Thurles, July 8, 1847.

EXTRACT from RETURN furnished to the GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR, Mr. LABARTE, of the Number of Persons who received Relief under the Temporary Relief Act, in the THURLES ELECTORAL DIVISION of above Union, in the week ended 4th July last, in rations.

Impotent Persons.				Able-bodied Persons.			
Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
28	37	10	75	1,918	1,528	3,578	7,024

RETURN of PERSONS, on above List, holding more than quarter acre of Land.

Impotent Persons.				Able-bodied Persons.				
Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	
..	..	..	..	183	28	706	912	7,024 912
								6,112

JAMES FOGARTY, *Clerk of Union.*

Thurles Union.

Name of Union and County in which situate.	Names of Electoral Divisions showing the Counties in which situate.	Population according to Census of 1841.	Estimated Area in Statute Acres.	Net Annual Value according to Poor Law Valuation.			Names of Baronies in which the Electoral Divisions are situate.
THURLES UNION. Co. Tipperary.	1. Thurles	10,643	12,792	15,706	2	6	Eliogarty.
	2. Holycross	2,653	5,604	4,884	19	0	"
	3. Moycarkey	2,667	6,822	3,825	19	0	"
	4. Ballymoreen	1,613	3,124	2,204	18	11	"
	5. Burris	3,372	15,310	5,735	8	11	"
	6. Moyne	2,763	8,178	5,894	10	0	"
	7. Rahealty	2,058	3,354	1,472	2	0	"
	8. Templemore	5,223	6,289	10,213	11	5	"
	9. Loughmore East . .	2,429	5,403	3,406	1	0	"
	11. Loughmore West . .	2,471	4,975	3,778	15	0	"
	11. Drom	2,720	5,769	6,619	8	0	"
	12. Inch	1,983	4,411	4,167	19	0	"
	13. Ballycahill	1,903	8,338	2,158	1	0	"
	14. Boolick	2,660	11,952	7,096	15	6	Slievardagh.
	15. Kilcooly	4,467	5,593	3,895	2	0	"
	16. Fennor	2,338	5,405	2,782	16	2	"
	17. Templetoohy	3,194	7,912	4,143	14	0	Ikerrin.
	18. Templeree	1,612	3,635	2,068	11	0	"
	19. Moyliffe	3,372	7,752	5,248	11	0	Upper Kilnamanagh.
	20. Templebeg	4,354	13,293	4,347	19	0	"
	21. Burrisoleigh	7,481	13,731	9,279	17	0	"
	Total	71,976	154,542	108,931	1	5	

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS—*Proposed Employment of able-bodied Persons receiving Relief, on Private Farms:—January 17, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them a resolution of the Board of Guardians of Thurles Union, passed at their meeting of the 11th instant in the following terms:—

"That, in pursuance of the directions of the Poor Law Commissioners, in their order of the 10th instant, to employ any able-bodied paupers who get relief, we direct our relieving officers to give to any rate-payer, on the production of the collector's receipt, to work on his farm a number of labourers, in proportion to the amount of the rate paid. For example, that any man who pays 5*l.* shall get two labourers for 60 days, and so in proportion for every rate-payer paying a higher or smaller sum; and on the rate-payer giving a certificate that these men are working fairly, the relieving officer of the district give them the amount of hire, at full rations, in Indian meal."

In reference to this resolution, the Commissioners desire me to call the attention of the Guardians to the printed letter which followed the sealed order under section 2, in which the Commissioners stated to the Guardians their determination not to approve any arrangement involving the employment of persons receiving relief on the lands of private individuals, and entered fully into the nature of the objections which appear to the Commissioners to exist to any proposal of that nature.

The course proposed by the Guardians of Thurles Union must, if carried out, inevitably lead to the discharge of many of those persons from employment who are now engaged in the cultivation of land for hire. Such, at least, is the direct tendency of the step proposed; for rate-payers now employing persons for hire will not continue to do so, if they can get the work done by labourers furnished them by the relieving officers.

The tendency of the resolution is, in effect, to call upon the relieving officers to interfere between the labourers and the employers of labour throughout the Union, in a manner calculated to disturb the natural relations between those parties; than which nothing can be more fatal to the mutual interests of both, and especially to the industry and independence of the labourer.

The Commissioners, therefore, call on the Guardians to re-consider this resolution, with a view to its being at once rescinded.

ORDER referred to in foregoing.

Thurles Union.

THURLES UNION.

To the GUARDIANS of the POOR of the THURLES UNION; to the Clerk and other Officers of the said Union, and to all other persons whom it may concern.

WHEREAS it has been shown to our satisfaction that, by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the said Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded therein to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled, or destitute poor persons disabled by sickness or accident, or destitute poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, and it is expedient to authorize and empower the Guardians of the said Union to administer relief out of the workhouse to such destitute poor persons, for a limited time as hereinafter mentioned.

Now therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the said Guardians to administer relief out of the workhouse, in food, to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect, and not being persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, and thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, whom they are liable by law to maintain, and not being poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, for two months next ensuing after the date of this order.

—And we do hereby make the following rules and regulations as to the granting, ordering, and giving of relief to all persons who shall be relieved by the said Guardians, under the authority of this order, that is to say:—

1. Every person relieved under the authority of this order shall be relieved in food only; and such food shall, as far as is practicable, be cooked food.
2. Every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of this order shall, so far as is practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives such relief.
3. No able-bodied person who shall be in employment, nor any part of his or her family, shall receive relief as a destitute person under the authority of this order.

And for the more effectual administration of relief under this order, we do hereby authorize and direct the said Guardians to appoint so many relieving officers as shall be found sufficient from time to time, to superintend the labour of such persons as shall be set to work, in pursuance of the regulations in this order contained, and otherwise to assist in the administration of relief under this order, as the said Guardians, subject to our approval, shall direct.

Sealed with our seal, this Tenth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight.

(Signed) E. T. B. TWISLETON.

(Countersigned)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

EXTRACT from GUARDIANS' MINUTES of 18th January, 1848.

PROPOSED by Martin Quinlan, seconded by Richard Sause,—

Resolved,—That in compliance with the sealed order of the Poor Law Commissioners of the 10th instant, directing this Board to employ the able-bodied paupers in productive works, we unanimously agreed, that the most advantageous way they could be employed was in the cultivation of the land; and we have directed our relieving officers to allot any rate-payer who has paid his rates a certain number of men from our relief lists, in proportion to the rate he has paid, to be employed by him in such a way as he may find most profitable to him.

Resolved,—That the recommendation of the Poor Law Commissioners, contained in their letter of the 13th instant, to employ the able-bodied paupers in no other work than breaking stones, instead of our profitable advantageous, and bene-

Thurles Union.

ficial mode of employing them in the cultivation of the land, is so preposterous, so ill-considered, and would be so cruel to those poor men at this cold and inclement season, and so ruinous to the rate-payers, by withdrawing so much labour from the land, that we beg of the Commissioners to consider maturely the proposition of this Board, and of other Boards who have acted on our principles, and sanctioned and approved of as it is by the public, before they make an order compelling us to abandon a project, in which we see the greatest possible blessings to all classes, and which has engaged our deep and anxious consideration for some time.

Resolved,—That as the Commissioners direct that relief to the able-bodied is to terminate in two months, and order stone-breaking as the only work they should be employed on for eight hours of the day during that time, we have calculated the expenses in the first place, which we are prepared to prove would be enormous; we have considered the profits also, which would not one-fourth cover the cost of the stones, the wages of stewards, the expense of stone depôts, the hire of horses and cars, &c. &c.; and we are so certain, from our experience of the great inutility of this mode of employment, and so thoroughly convinced that it is bad, that we would sooner submit to have the able-bodied paupers live entirely on the rates, without giving any value for them, than resort to this way of employing them.

Resolved,—Any inference from the good or bad working of the Poor Law in England or Ireland heretofore, cannot be brought to bear against our plan of employing the destitute people who are on our lists; for this reason, that our mode of giving employment, and thereby testing the destitution of those who apply for relief, was never before broached or tried by any other Board of Guardians in England or Ireland; this being the case, and convinced that by the rules and regulations we lay down we shall succeed in our object, we only ask the Commissioners to give our plan a fair trial even for one month, and if at the end of that time, it appears that we are wrong, we will unite most anxiously in any other scheme the Commissioners point out for the better employment of the people.

Passed unanimously.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—*January 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration resolutions of the Board of Guardians of the Thurles Union on the 18th instant, in which they state their opinion that the most advantageous mode of employing able-bodied paupers receiving out-door relief is to employ them in the cultivation of the land, than in stone-breaking as recommended in the Commissioners' letter of the 13th instant; and in which resolutions the Guardians propose to allot to any rate-payer who has paid his rates a certain number of labourers, in proportion to the rate he has paid, to be employed by him in such a way as he may find most profitable to him.

In reference thereto the Commissioners desire to state, that they disapprove so decidedly of the employment of persons receiving relief on private farms; and they are so strongly convinced that the course proposed by the Guardians, however well intended, would be in the highest degree pernicious, in the long run, to the real interests of the Thurles Union, that they have determined to issue a formal sealed order prohibiting such employment: and the Guardians will receive such order in due course.

The course which the Guardians should pursue is the following :—they should contract with proper parties for the purchase of road metal, and should appoint overseers of the works, under the name of assistant relieving officers, who should take care that each able-bodied man has a definite task of work every day, and is compelled while receiving relief to break stones to such smallness as will render it possible to pass each of them through a ring of a certain diameter. In order to prevent confusion, the system might be commenced with 40 or 50 men, and the number might gradually be increased.

ORDER above referred to.

To the GUARDIANS of the POOR of the THURLES UNION; to the Clerk and other Officers of the said Union, and to all other Persons whom it may concern.

WHEREAS, in pursuance of the provisions of an Act passed in the 10th year of the reign of Her present Majesty, Queen Victoria, intituled, "An Act to make further

“provision for the Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland,” we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, did, by an order under our Seal, bearing date the 10th day of January instant, authorize and empower the Board of Guardians of the Thurles Union to administer relief out of the workhouse of the said Union for a limited period, to destitute poor persons in the said order described, and did make certain rules and regulations as to the granting, ordering, and giving of such relief, and did direct that every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of the said order, should, as far as was practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least, of every day for which he shall receive such relief.

And whereas the Guardians of the said Union did, at a weekly meeting of the said Guardians held on the 11th day of January instant, make and record upon their minutes, a certain resolution in the following terms, that is to say:—

“That, in pursuance of the directions of the Poor Law Commissioners in their order of the 10th instant, to employ any able-bodied paupers who get relief, we direct our relieving officers to give to any rate-payer, on the production of the collector's receipt, to work on his farm a number of labourers in proportion to the amount of the rate paid; for example, that any man who pays 5*l.* shall get two labourers for 60 days, and so in proportion for every rate-payer paying a higher or smaller sum; and on the rate-payer giving a certificate that these men are working fairly, the relieving officer of the district shall give them the amount of hire at full rations in Indian meal.”

And whereas the said Guardians, at a weekly meeting of the said Guardians, held on the 18th day of January instant, did make and record on their minutes a certain minute and resolution in the following terms, that is to say:—

“Resolved—that, in compliance with the sealed order of the Poor Law Commissioners of the 10th instant, directing this Board to employ the able-bodied paupers in productive work, we unanimously agreed that the most advantageous way they could be employed was in the cultivation of the land, and we have directed our relieving officers to allot any rate-payer who has paid his rates, a certain number of men from our relief lists in proportion to the rate he has paid, to be employed by him in such way as he may find most profitable to him.—Passed.”

And whereas it is inexpedient that persons receiving relief under the said order, should be employed in the cultivation of land occupied by any rate-payer or other person, or for the private profit or advantage of any individual in any way whatever.

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers vested in us in this behalf, we do hereby order and direct, that no person receiving relief under the authority of the said order, shall be set or sent to work by the Guardians of the Thurles Union, or any of their officers, in cultivating land in the occupation of any rate-payer or other person, or shall be employed or sent to be employed by the said Guardians or any of their officers, in any other way for the private profit or advantage of any individual.

Sealed with our seal, this 27th day of January, in the year of our Lord 1848.

(Countersigned,)

(Signed)

E. T. B. TWISLETON.

W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

Mr. LLOYD, Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 26, 1848.*

I BEG leave to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I attended the Board of Guardians of this Union yesterday, and laid before it the necessity of complying with the order and views of the Commissioners. It affords me much pleasure to be enabled to add, that notwithstanding the preconceived ideas the members of the Board had formed regarding the employment of the able-bodied destitute, we had a lengthened and most amicable discussion, the result of which was the resolution forwarded with the minutes of proceedings of the Board by the Clerk of the Union. The Board did not break up until a late hour; I had it not therefore in my power to write by yesterday's post, neither could I this day, for from morning until post hour I was interrupted by the Guardians coming to consult upon different matters connected with the Union. The objection to stone-breaking is, as it should be, giving way; and one of my greatest opponents yesterday declared he was a convert to the Commissioners' views. I

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pressed upon the Guardians present the necessity of a better system of cultivation, to enable them to pay the rates; that draining was the first step towards such, and that breaking stones in different localities, particularly in those where such an improvement has been carried out, would prove remunerative. I hope to see good result from our discussions.

I visited every part of the workhouse, in company with three of the Guardians, one of whom was chairman of the Board. I think it quite possible to accommodate 1100 persons in the house; the large beds would easily contain three persons; and many of the wards had not the complement of beds they would without inconvenience contain. I think every exertion should be made to encrease just now for a test, house accommodation, in order to reduce the out-door relief list already amounting to near 16.000. I have recommended the Board to apply to the Commissioners for permission to take additional buildings, and to cease giving out-door relief to the able-bodied. The number of females in the house is double that of the males, and the children are at least two-thirds of the inmates.

It is supposed that upon a scrutiny the house may be cleared of about 200 of its present inmates, and that a house could be had near the workhouse capable of containing near 300 more; and if the Commissioners sanctioned the Guardians' admitting near 300 into the house, in addition to the present number, there is no doubt the applicants for out-door relief would be soon diminished. The spring business will soon commence, and if the able-bodied are placed upon out-door relief there will be no end to imposition.

EXTRACT from the MINUTES of PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of GUARDIANS on the 8th February, 1848.

THAT we protest most strongly against the sealed order of the Commissioners, which prevents this Board from employing the able-bodied paupers in cultivating the land; but sooner than give up the care of our destitute poor into the keeping of paid Guardians, and rather than surrender the property of the rate-payers of this Union into the hands of the paid officials of the Poor Law Commissioners, who we are certain would both stint the poor and waste the rates, we reluctantly obey the order of the 27th ultimo; and though we see that the employment of the people at stone-breaking will not only waste our funds to the amount of 6000*l.*, but leave thousands of acres of land uncultivated in this Union, still we feel constrained to adopt the test of stone-breaking for the able-bodied—and will carry it out in every way as effectually as possible.

TUAM UNION.

PART I.

PAPERS RELATING TO THE POOR LAW DEFAULTERS.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BOURKE:—*January 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request that you will be so good as to make inquiry into the condition of the poor of the Tuam Union, especially in the town of Tuam and in the Killererin electoral division, and to report to the Commissioners on the subject with as little delay as possible.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS in reply:—*January 11, 1848.*

I ARRIVED at Tuam on Sunday evening, which was the earliest moment at which my previous engagements permitted, and have been occupied since then in making such inquiries into the circumstances of this Union as would enable me to afford the required information. At the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians which took place yesterday, I had an opportunity of consulting with the Guardians and relieving officers, and since then I have communicated with such persons as appeared to me likely to afford faithworthy information; and the result has been to convince me that destitution exists to a very great and distressing extent in various parts of this Union. The testimony of every Guardian present at the meeting yesterday and of all the relieving officers was given to this effect; and the large increase of applicants for admission to the workhouse afforded a strong confirmation. The total number of applications appearing on the relieving officers' books amounted to nearly 500, though not more than 250 attended at the workhouse; and if I may judge from these of the districts where the greatest poverty exist, I think I might name the electoral divisions of Lisgeevy, Killererin, Headford, and Tuam, as being at present the districts where the greatest distress prevails.

The relief afforded by the Board of Guardians has undoubtedly not been adequate to the distress; but at the same time it must be stated that they have provided for all cases brought before them in the regular course by their relieving officers which appeared to require it; and having regard to the necessity for caution in the administration of relief from the poor's-rates, I am of opinion that they acted wisely in confining themselves to such cases. The numbers of paupers, however, whom it was found necessary to admit yesterday into the body of the house having exceeded the limit appointed by your order, I called upon the Guardians to exercise the powers for giving out-door relief, as laid down in the first section of the Relief Extension Act, and after some hesitation and reluctance they yielded to my representations, and directed so many of the present inmates to be discharged on out-door allowances as would reduce the number below the regulated limit; they likewise placed a small amount of money in the hands of each relieving officer, to enable him to provide for cases of sudden and urgent necessity. In a few days I trust the children of one sex, now in the schools, will be enabled to occupy the house lately taken for them in the town of Tuam, and thus additional accommodation will be afforded in the workhouse; but neither this nor the additional room to be given by the removal of all the classes described in the first section of the Act, will for any length of time afford means for relieving the numbers who must soon be expected to demand relief, and more extended powers must soon be given to the Board of Guardians. How far they will consent to exercise these powers the experience derived from their debate in the Board-room yesterday renders very doubtful.

Their reluctance to act on the powers of giving out-door relief, which they now possess, arose from the embarrassed financial condition of the Union, and the alleged difficulty of collecting rates taken in connexion with the immense demand they expect will be made upon them. I urged upon the Guardians yesterday my

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opinion, that it was quite premature in them to assert that the distress could not be adequately provided for from the rates; that as yet no sufficient effort had been made; that the present rate, amounting to not more than 1s. 6d. in the pound, must be considered as a very trifling demand; and that not until a much heavier rate had been struck, and actively put into collection and found deficient, could they with any justice allege that the poverty was beyond the powers of a poor-rate to provide for. And I pointed out to them how badly the present rate had been paid, and represented the duty now devolving on them of exerting themselves to secure its due collection.

In consequence of my representations a Committee of the Guardians met to-day and closely examined the collectors' books, giving directions, when necessary, for immediate proceedings to be taken against all defaulters. This Committee meets again to-morrow to complete the inspection, and I anticipate good results from their proceedings. I was myself engaged with them throughout the day, and I regret to say, I observed instances in which persons of rank and consideration, some of them Guardians, were still in arrear of their rates; in some instances, amongst which I may mention that of Dr. M'Hale, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, no part of this or the previous rate had been paid; and when it is remembered that this is only the second rate struck in this Union, it will be seen that those parties have thus never contributed to the support of the poor of their district in the manner provided by law.

I reserve some observations upon the proceedings of the Board yesterday, until the minutes shall be referred to me in the usual course.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*January 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration a report from their Inspector, Mr. Bourke, in which Mr. Bourke states, that destitution exists to a very great and distressing extent in various parts of Tuam Union, but, at the same time, acquaints the Commissioners that on examining the collectors' books he observed instances in which persons of rank and consideration (some of whom were Guardians) were still in arrear in payment of their rates, and that in some instances (amongst which he mentions that of Dr. M'Hale, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam,) no part either of the present or the previous rate had been paid. And Mr. Bourke further observes, that when it is remembered that the present rate is only the second rate struck in Tuam Union, it will be seen that the latter parties have never contributed to the support of the poor of their district in the manner provided by law.

In reference to Mr. Bourke's report, the Commissioners desire to point out that the facts which it discloses are deeply discreditable to the Tuam Board of Guardians, as such a state of things could not possibly have existed if the Guardians had made use, as they ought to have done, of the extensive powers which they possess to enforce the payment of poor-rates. At a period when great destitution is stated to exist in the Union, the preservation of human life may depend on the manner in which the Guardians levy the rate now in progress of collection; and the Board of Guardians incur a heavy responsibility if they permit any deference to rank or station, or feelings of delicacy towards members of their own body, to interfere with the rigorous exaction of that money from which the destitute poor of the Union are by law entitled to relief.

The Commissioners, therefore, now call upon the Guardians to discharge their duty to the poor—first, by paying the poor-rates which are due from themselves as individuals—and secondly, by instituting legal proceedings without delay against all the highest rate-payers in the Union who are defaulters. The most effectual course will probably be to commence with 8 or 10 of such rate-payers in each electoral division; and if these are promptly compelled to pay, the Commissioners do not anticipate that the Guardians will have any material difficulty with the rest.

At the same time the Commissioners deem it right to state distinctly that unless the Tuam Board of Guardians adopt vigorous measures in accordance with the spirit of the above suggestions, the Commissioners are prepared to exercise their powers under the 18th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and to appoint paid officers to administer relief to the destitute in Tuam Union.

Mr. BLAKE, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Guardians, to the COMMISSIONERS :—
January 18, 1848.

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I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of the Tuam Union to acknowledge the receipt of a communication, dated the 15th January, 1848, and to express their extreme surprise at the report of Mr. Bourke, Poor Law Inspector, therein referred to.

The Board of Guardians are not aware of any neglect on their part in enforcing the collection of the rate, and beg to inform the Commissioners that they have at once adopted any suggestion of Mr. Bourke's in that respect; that circulars to the effect, that legal proceedings would be taken against rate-payers who did not pay in within 10 days from the date thereof, were posted on the 14th instant, at the suggestion of a Committee which was attended by Mr. Bourke himself.

The Board of Guardians, therefore, feel that the threat held out by the Commissioners in the last paragraph of their communication is, to say the least of it, harsh and uncalled for, and went the length of causing a division in the Board as to the expediency of withdrawing themselves from the administration of the affairs of the Union.

REPLY to the above :—*January 22, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, and to inform you that the Commissioners are in communication with their Inspector, Mr. Richard Bourke, and will address the Board of Guardians at their next meeting.

Further Letter from the COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BLAKE :—*January 29, 1848.*

ADVERTING to your letter of the 18th instant, and the Commissioners' reply of the 22nd instant, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they have reason to believe that their Inspector, Mr. Richard Bourke, will attend the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Tuam Union on Monday next the 31st instant, and the Commissioners await the result of his communication with the Board of Guardians.

EXTRACT from GUARDIANS' MINUTES :—*January 24, 1848.*

Ordered,—

That it having appeared to the Board that Dr. M'Hale, Roman Catholic Archbishop, had paid the arrears of the former rate, and no credit given for it by the collector; and also having paid the present rate, that the amount of such arrears be deducted from the poundage due to him.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 4, 1848.*

THE Board of Guardians of the Tuam Union, having declared by a resolution passed at their meeting of the 24th January, that the Rev. Dr. M'Hale, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, was not liable to the payment of the arrear of poor-rates charged against him in the collector's books, as communicated to you in my letter of the 11th January, I have made inquiry into the evidence upon which they arrived at this conclusion, and find it to have been as follows :—

The Rev. Mr. Ryan appeared before the Board on the 24th instant, and stated that he had paid to Patrick Lally, late rate collector of Tuam electoral division, who has since died, a sum of about 3*l.* charged to Dr. M'Hale, as poor's rates for the house he occupies, and other premises of which he is landlord. He further stated that he had got no receipt, but that Lally had acknowledged in presence of others that he had received the amount. I am informed that a Guardian present at the meeting, stated that he had heard Lally state this before his death, but on the other hand, that another Guardian held a different opinion, and stated that Lally had declared that the amount had never been paid.

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I instituted the best inquiry I could into the evidence on this subject, but owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case, I regret to say I have not been able to arrive at any certain result. The death of Lally has cut off the source of the best, if not the only information, that in a legal point of view, can be brought to bear on the subject, and what is now available, cannot be considered as directly affecting the matter at issue. Such as it is, however, together with my opinion upon it, I beg to report.

The first rate struck in the Tuam Union bears date the 24th of October, 1842, and under it Dr. M'Hale was charged as follows:—

		£.	s.	d.	
Killalouty, No. 954, Dr. M'Hale		0	4	6	
Bishop-street, 1524, ditto		0	18	9	
Dit 1576, Archbishop M'Hale		0	9	7	
Dublin-road, 1576, ditto		1	2	11	
Old Chapel, 1821, Dr. M'Hale		0	2	1	Not to pay poor rates.
Tierboy, 2152, Archbishop M'Hale		0	3	3½	
Total		3	1	1½	

By a return which I found in the clerk's office, signed by Patrick Lally, and dated the 13th July, 1846, purporting to be a return of all persons in arrear of their rates at that date in Tuam electoral division, I find Dr. M'Hale's name appearing for all the denominations specified above. Up to that date it seems therefore pretty clear that the rate was unpaid. Patrick Lally appears to have died about April or May, 1847, so that it must have been during the interval that the amount was paid. He has left only one son, who is a child, now residing with his uncle, a Roman Catholic clergyman, near Clifden. I have examined Lally's collecting books, but no entry appears of any payment made to him on this account. And his block receipts have also been searched, but no record of any acknowledgment for this amount can be found. I have not been able yet to examine these blocks, as they are in custody of Mr. William Gannon, who for the present is disinclined to give them up, but I have no doubt that I shall have an opportunity of examining them on my next visit. After the death of Lally, a revision of the valuation of the Union took place, and Dr. M'Hale's name was omitted in connexion with the two last denominations as given above, viz., Nos. 1821 and 2152, but retained in the rest. On the 14th of June, 1847, a new rate was struck, and on the 5th July following, the present collector, Patrick Ryan, was appointed. The circumstances connected with Dr. M'Hale's rates, as far as Ryan is concerned, are detailed in the accompanying deposition which I have taken, in order to show that he acted according to his duty in demanding not only the amount of the rate of the 14th June, 1847, but likewise of the former one which was returned to him in the late collector's books as in arrear.

The result of this evidence appears to be, that judging from documents available for purposes of this inquiry, it appears clear that the whole rate and arrear were due by Dr. M'Hale at the time when the Committee examined into the state of the collection. This documentary evidence is, however, qualified by the statement of the Rev. Mr. Ryan, and the conversation sworn to by Patrick Ryan, as having taken place between him and Dr. M'Hale. But as neither of these statements are legal evidence upon the issue now pending, but at the same time are entitled to weight from the source from which they proceed, I fear it is impossible to place the matter on a footing quite free from doubt.

I shall continue my inquiries when at Tuam, on Monday, and if I can derive any information bearing on the matter I shall not fail to communicate it.

ENCLOSURE.

Patrick Ryan sworn.—Am rate collector for the electoral divisions of the county and borough of Tuam; Clare, Tuam, and Cummer, in the Union of Tuam; was appointed to this situation on or about the 5th of July, 1847; immediately after this date I commenced having the collector's books for these electoral divisions filled up from the revision books of Matthew Kearney, which were in custody of the clerk of the Guardians. I compared the collecting books when completed with Kearney's revision book, and found them to correspond. In the column of arrears and rate due, I find the following entries:—

- No. 321, (Bishop-street,) house, garden, and offices, Archbishop M'Hale, value 45*l.*; rate, 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; arrears, 18*s.* 9*d.*
 No. 330, (Bishop-street,) Corlea Nunnery, Archbishop M'Hale, value 23*l.*; rate, 1*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; arrears, 9*s.* 7*d.*
 No. 435, (Dublin-road,) two waste-houses and land, Archbishop M'Hale, value, 55*l.*; rate, 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; arrears, 1*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*
 No. 852, (Killalouty,) lands, Dr. M'Hale, value 10*l.* 16*s.*; rate, 16*s.* 2*d.*; arrears, 4*s.* 6*d.*

In the month of October last, as well as I remember, I wrote to Dr. M'Hale demanding payment of his poor's rates; could not see him on that occasion, but left the letter. I made a second application some time after, but could not see him, as he was unwell. About the month of January I called at his house with the particulars of his account; he came down to see me; he stated he would pay, but asked me to look over the books, to see whether he had received credit for 3*l.* paid, as he said, by the Rev. Mr. Ryan. I promised to do so, and accordingly looked over the books, but could find no entry of any such payment; about a fortnight ago I called on the Rev. Mr. Ryan on the subject of the rates; he desired me to draw up receipts and that he would pay; he said nothing to me about the arrear. On Monday, the 24th January, I met him as I was going to the workhouse; he again told me to draw up the receipts and he would pay; he said nothing to me about the arrears. I went up to the workhouse, and when I entered the Board-room the Rev. Mr. Ryan was there. The Guardians desired me to take the amount of the rate due, without the arrear, and to make an entry on my collection book that the whole was paid; they also desired me to give a receipt for the rate, but to make a memorandum on the block receipt that I had not been paid the arrears. In pursuance of their orders, I gave receipts for the rate to the Rev. Mr. Ryan, who paid me the sum of 10*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, being the amount of rate due by Dr. M'Hale; I gave the receipt in the name of Dr. M'Hale.

PAT. RYAN.

Sworn before me this 3rd day of February, 1848.

RICHARD BOURKE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

I certify the corrections were made by me on the dictation of the deponent, whose statements varied slightly on this being read to him, from what they had been at first.

R. BOURKE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*February 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received the minutes of the proceedings of the Guardians of Tuam Union on the 24th of January last, in which they find the following resolution recorded:—

“Ordered—That it having appeared to the Board that Dr. M'Hale, Roman Catholic archbishop, had paid the arrears of the former rate, and no credit given for it by the collector, and also having paid the present rate, that the amount of such arrears be deducted from the poundage due to him.”

In a previous letter of the Commissioners to the Guardians, of the 15th January, they mentioned the fact reported to them by their Inspector, Mr. Bourke, that the Roman Catholic archbishop had paid neither the present nor the previous rate, and the resolution passed by the Guardians on the 24th being at variance with that statement, the Commissioners instructed Mr. Bourke to make inquiry into the grounds on which the resolution of the Guardians was passed.

Mr. Bourke has since informed the Commissioners that the evidence on which the Guardians arrived at their conclusion was as follows:—

The Rev. Mr. Ryan appeared before the Board, and stated that he paid to Patrick Lally, late rate-collector, (who died in April, 1847,) a sum of about 3*l.* charged to Dr. M'Hale as poor rates. He further stated that he had got no receipt, but that Lally had acknowledged in presence of others that he had received the amount.

Mr. Bourke was informed that a Guardian present at the meeting, stated he had heard Lally say this before his death, but on the other hand, that another Guardian held a different opinion, and stated that Lally had declared that the amount had never been paid.

It appears further, from Mr. Bourke's report, that no entry was made of any such payment in the collecting-book of Lally, the late collector; and that although the block receipts left by that collector are preserved, no block receipt corresponding to this payment has been found.

Under these circumstances the Commissioners are of opinion that the Guardians took a hasty and improper step in declaring, by a vote of the Board, that the arrear had been paid; and in desiring the present collector, as it appears from his sworn evidence they did, to accept the amount of rate due without the arrear, and to make

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an entry on his collection book that the whole was paid. It seems that after this order was given, the Rev. Mr. Ryan paid the amount of the latter rate to the collector, and took his receipt for it in the name of Dr. M'Hale.

A collector of poor rates is bound by the rules of the Commissioners to issue a receipt for every payment of rate, and to preserve and hand over to the clerk the counterpart or block receipt; and it is the examination of these receipts by the clerk, and comparison thereof with the sums lodged in bank, which constitute the principal checks on the collector's accounts.

The omission to give a receipt on payment of a rate, and to render any account of such payment in his books, is *prima facie* an act of peculation and embezzlement on the part of the collector; and the Commissioners think that the Guardians should not lightly have cast such an imputation on a deceased collector; in justice to whom the Commissioners must observe, that no other instance has come to their knowledge, of a rate-payer having paid Mr. Lally his rate, and not having received credit for it.

The Commissioners do not doubt that the Roman Catholic archbishop and the Rev. Mr. Ryan, his administrator, are both under the impression that the arrears of the first rate were paid, and the length of time which intervened between the making of that rate and the close of the collection may have assisted in throwing some obscurity on the subject.

The first rate made in Tuam Union for the relief of the poor was made in October, 1842; it was only by a peremptory mandamus of the Court of Queen's Bench, obtained by the Poor Law Commissioners, after long process in that Court, that the Guardians were induced to place warrants in the hands of collectors to collect that rate, which they did on the approach of Michaelmas Term, 1845.

The warrant given by the Guardians to the deceased collector, Lally, bore date 20th October, 1845. A return signed by Lally on the 13th July, 1846, is still in existence, showing the Roman Catholic archbishop had not at that time paid that rate; and in the October following the collector Lally declared that the archbishop had not only not paid his rate, but had refused to pay it.

The last examination of Lally's accounts was made by the clerk at the end of March, 1847, and the total arrear then appearing, viz., 106*l.*, was carried into the new rate signed by the Guardians in June, 1847, including the arrears then supposed to be due from the Roman Catholic archbishop. The collector took fever early in April, 1847, and died on the 29th of that month.

If previously to his death the collector received that arrear from the Rev. Mr. Ryan on behalf of the archbishop, it certainly was never accounted for by him; and although such appears to be the impression of the archbishop and his administrator, that impression may be erroneous; and when, to the improbability already suggested, that in this particular instance the collector omitted to issue a receipt or to give credit, the further improbability is added, that the Rev. Mr. Ryan, when paying the rate on the part of the archbishop, would neglect to require a receipt, the Commissioners cannot but think it would have been a far more satisfactory course, if the Board of Guardians had permitted the present collector to use his power of recovering the arrears, and thereby obtain an adjudication from a proper tribunal on the facts of the case, than to direct, as they did, the collector to forego the arrears on payment only of the latter rate.

The Commissioners felt themselves called on, by the resolution of the Guardians, to have special enquiry made in this particular instance of default. They trust that in the cases of other parties of rank and station in the Union, who have been reported as defaulters, or as denying their liabilities, the solicitor of the Guardians will strenuously carry on the legal proceedings which the Commissioners understand he has, in accordance with their suggestions, been directed to commence.

The Rev. LUKE RYAN, R.C.C. to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 18, 1848.*

FROM your letter of the 11th instant addressed to the Tuam Board of Guardians, the Poor Law Commissioners have done what in them lay to place my name before the public in a light calculated to compromise my character for veracity; similar insinuations against the Board of Guardians and against his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam I pass by without comment, simply remarking that it did not well become the Commissioners to introduce again his Grace's name

after my public declaration "that whatever mistake had occurred in reference to this disputed rate, was owing exclusively to my neglect in not being more attentive in procuring the proper receipt from the deceased collector."

I cannot easily persuade myself that the Board of Commissioners would intentionally volunteer their services as auxiliaries to the rabid press of England in blackening the character of men whose lives are evidence of the salutary influence exerted by their teaching over a starving and oppressed population, yet the following statement, in the letter referred to, having the object of falsifying the public evidence given by me before the Board, and corroborated by many respectable members of the same Board, appear as if the Commissioners had directly intended to join in these widely circulated aspersions.

First,—Mr. Bourke, your Inspector, states in his report "that a Guardian had asserted that Lally, the collector, had declared that the amount had *never been paid*;" as this statement in the report is strictly false, I call upon Mr. Bourke to produce his authority.

Secondly,—Mr. Bourke's report would make it appear that he examined the block receipts of Lally; now this assertion is equally untrue, as I have unquestionable evidence to prove he has never seen them at all.

Thirdly,—Mr. Bourke's assertion that one Guardian only stated that "he had heard Lally declare before his death that the amount in question had been paid, though no receipt was issued," is likewise open to the same charge of falsehood, as I have abundant evidence to prove that Mr. Bourke knew full well that not only one but three Guardians, together with some of the present officers of the house, had attested the payment of the money in question. Now I would submit that the extreme sensitiveness of Mr. Bourke to shield from obloquy the memory of the dead, ought, in justice, to manifest a similar regard for the characters of the living, and not wilfully attempt to discredit, and thus calumniate, the accumulated evidence of so many respectable witnesses. Without entering here into the merits of the question of selecting some rate-payers as objects for public odium, I might fairly ask why so much pains are taken in the case of the Archbishop of Tuam, and pass over men of large fortune, viz., Martin James Blake, M.P.? Is it because he supported the Government in the late tyrannical Coercion Act.

In conclusion, as the Commissioners, along with other unbecoming insinuations, labour to make it appear that my "impression" with regard to the payment is "erroneous" and as their judgment in the case is founded upon the foregoing and similar false and prejudiced statements, I call for, and must insist upon, a further searching and more impartial investigation of this affair.

Before, therefore, I call any further attention to the proceeding I await your earliest reply.

REPLY to the above :—*February 25, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received your letter of the 18th instant, adverting to their correspondence with the Guardians of the Tuam Union on the subject of the poor-rate and arrears of poor-rate assessed on the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam.

You state, that it did not well become the Commissioners to introduce his Grace's name after your public declaration, that whatever mistake had occurred in reference to this disputed rate, was owing exclusively to your neglect in not being more attentive in procuring the proper receipt from the deceased collector.

Your declaration to the above effect was not made known to the Commissioners in any shape, and had it been so the Commissioners must nevertheless have expressed themselves precisely as they did in their letter to the Guardians of Tuam Union, of the 11th instant. The Commissioners wrote that letter in the discharge of a paramount and pressing duty. On the one hand, they received representations of the most urgent distress in that Union, unrelieved for want of funds through non-collection of rates; and on the other hand, they found the Guardians hastily deciding on a verbal statement opposed to the evidence of their own books, that a rate-payer of so much consideration as his Grace the Roman Catholic Archbishop had paid a rate for which no receipt could be produced, and which it was well known he had expressed his unwillingness to pay.

The Commissioners regret that, in the performance of their official duty,

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expressions should have proceeded from them in any way hurtful to your feelings; and that, while stating they had no doubt you were under the impression that the Roman Catholic Archbishop's arrear had been paid, they felt themselves constrained to advert, at the same time, to the possibility that such an impression might be erroneous.

In reply to your observations thereon, the Commissioners will now recapitulate the circumstances which led them so to express themselves.

In their letter to the Guardians of Tuam Union, dated 15th January last, the Commissioners cited a report from their Inspector, Mr. Bourke, in which the Roman Catholic Archbishop, Dr. M'Hale, was named as a defaulter both for the present rate, and also for an arrear of the only other rate which had before been made in the Tuam Union.

The former of the two rates was made in October, 1842, and the latter in June, 1847. The amount assessed on the archbishop in the former was about 3*l.*, and in the latter about 10*l.*

The Guardians received the letter of the Commissioners at their meeting of the 17th January last, and at the following meeting of the 24th, you are said to have attended at the Board and to have stated that you had paid the former rate to the deceased collector, Lally. It appears that you then tendered the amount of the second rate to the present collector, who, by desire of the Guardians, received it, and the Guardians then passed their resolution exonerating the archbishop from any further liability for either the first or second rate.

The sworn evidence given by the collector on this point is in the following terms:—

"In the month of October last (as well as I remember), I wrote to Doctor M'Hale demanding payment of his poor's-rates; could not see him on that occasion, but left the letter. I made a second application some time after, but could not see him, as he was unwell. About the month of January, I called at his house with the particulars of his account, he came down to see me, he stated he would pay, but asked me to look over the books to see whether he had received credit for 3*l.* paid, as he said, by the Reverend Mr. Ryan. I promised to do so, and accordingly looked over the books, but could find no entry of any such payment. About a fortnight ago, I called on the Reverend Mr. Ryan on the subject of the rates. He desired me to draw up receipts and that he would pay. He said nothing to me about the arrears. On Monday, the 24th January, I met him as I was going to the workhouse, he again told me to draw up the receipts and he would pay. He said nothing to me then about the arrears. I went up to the workhouse, and when I entered the Board-room the Reverend Mr. Ryan was there, the Guardians desired me to take the amount of the rate without the arrears due, and to make an entry on my collection book that the whole was paid. They also desired me to give a receipt for the rate; but to make a memorandum on the block receipt, that I had not been paid the arrear. In pursuance of their orders I gave receipts for the rate to the Reverend Mr. Ryan, who paid me the sum of 10*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, being the amount of rate due by Doctor M'Hale. I gave the receipt in the name of Doctor M'Hale."

With such information before them the Commissioners did not regard your communication to the Guardians as having resulted from any very confident impression of your own upon the subject. The payment, if made by you to the deceased collector, must have been made before the end of April, 1847, about which time he died; and the Commissioners were not made acquainted with any circumstantial facts attending the supposed payment, or with the existence of any entry in your pecuniary accounts with the archbishop, which might have served to assist your memory at this distance of time, ten months, regarding so small a sum as (three pounds) the amount of the arrears.

Should the Commissioners under these circumstances have done you any injustice by mentioning the possibility of your impression being erroneous, they will be most happy to repair it by every means in their power, and on receiving from you a positive statement that you paid the rate of 1842 for the archbishop, and any particulars which you may choose to make known to them as showing the accuracy of your impressions, they will not fail to give your statement the same publicity as the other correspondence on this subject, in the event of the latter being at any time furnished for the information of Parliament, as it probably will be.

The Commissioners must now advert to the reflections made by you on the accuracy of Mr. Bourke's report. They have referred your observations to Mr. Bourke; and he replies that, not having been present at the meeting when your statement was made, he cannot take upon himself to say what the exact expressions were that fell from members on that occasion, but that he has no reason to doubt that the information given to him was, in its leading points, perfectly true. Mr. Bourke adds that as to his knowledge, that not only one but three Guardians stated that Lally had acknowledged the receipt of the archbishop's rates, he cannot remember that at the date of his report, he had even heard of more than one person having so testified, and though at a subsequent meeting of the Board, where he had a conversation with yourself, he did hear a second person so assert, yet up to the present hour he does not know who is the third.

With reference to the other point on which you declare Mr. Bourke's report to be untrue, the Commissioners must themselves observe that you impute to Mr. Bourke a statement which, in fact, he never made, viz., that he "examined the block-receipts of Lally." Mr. Bourke reported to the Commissioners on the contrary that he had not examined the block-receipts; but he stated that they were in existence, and were withheld from him by one of the Guardians; but that no block-receipt had been found among them applicable to the archbishop's rates. It is manifest that this part of Mr. Bourke's report must be correct, when you yourself say that you neglected to obtain from the deceased collector a receipt, in which case there could be no block-receipt; and your assertion therefore of Mr. Bourke's inaccuracy on this point had no relevancy to the question at issue.

You say that you call for, and insist upon, a further searching and more impartial investigation of this affair. The Commissioners do not see on what grounds you rest this peremptory claim for enquiry at their hands.

The Commissioners have censured the late Board of Guardians for passing a hasty resolution excusing a rate-payer from rates appearing due on the collector's warrant; and they are well satisfied that that censure was justified by the occasion; and they do not consider that you have any ground for complaining that the terms in which the Commissioners expressed themselves were not perfectly respectful towards you. On the contrary, the Commissioners have distinctly stated their belief that you were under the impression that the archbishop's arrears were paid; and the Commissioners now repeat that they will be most happy to receive and give effect to any communication from you which may tend to show that your impression was well founded.

The Rev. LUKE RYAN, R.C.C., to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 2, 1848.*

IT is painful, while thousands of the poor people around me are dying of actual starvation, to be wasting time in again urging upon the Commissioners the obvious necessity of having the payment of this much-contested rate cleared up. My character, however, requires it, the public expect it, justice demands it. Shift the matter as the Commissioners may, the whole question, disembarrassed of any sophistry, comes simply to this: Was the rate in question paid by me? and, if paid, and if the means of ascertaining the said payment was easily accessible to the Commissioners and their Inspector, have not the public a right to ask, why not ascertain the fact before holding up, and continuing to hold up, for special annoyance the Archbishop of Tuam?

Now, with reference to your reply of the 25th February, the Commissioners, it appears, expect from me a "positive statement" that I paid the rate. What do the Commissioners mean by this positive statement on my part? Now, in their own letter of the 11th February, addressed to the Tuam Guardians, I find the following words:—"The Rev. Mr. Ryan appeared before the Board, and stated that he paid Patrick Lally, late rate-collector (who died in April, 1847), a sum of 3*l.*, charged to Dr. M'Hale as poor-rate." And in the letter of the 25th ultimo, now lying before me, the following words occur:—"And at the following meeting of the 24th, you were said to have attended at the Board, and to have stated that you had paid the former rate to the deceased collector, Lally." If these words of mine, quoted from their own communications, contain not an express and positive statement in reference to the said payment, perhaps the Commissioners

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will condescend to enlighten me on the meaning of my own language, and say what form of words will convey what they call a positive statement.

In reference to the sworn evidence of the present collector, introduced into the letter, I am at a loss to discover what bearing it has upon the question at issue, unless to prove to the public, from the very words of the same sworn evidence, that I was prepared to pay the collector the amount of his just claims upon the archbishop.

With regard to the reflections thrown upon what the Commissioners term the hasty resolution of the Board of Guardians, and the "possibility of my impressions being erroneous," I will merely beg to remind the Commissioners that when about to give evidence before a public body, composed of men of high station and rank, magistrates, deputy lieutenants, differing with each other in religion and political opinions, it is not only unlikely, but quite impossible, that I would venture upon such a statement without such due consideration as would preclude the possibility of an "erroneous impression." Moreover, will that resolution be called hasty which was deliberately passed by such a body, when, after further investigation and more mature inquiry, the same resolution, and in stronger terms, was again repeated? And, in confirmation thereof, I beg to submit to the Commissioners the following extract, taken from the proceedings of the Board of Guardians assembled on the 4th of February:—"Mr. James Kirwan, Blindwell, said that the letter of the Commissioners was insulting to them as a public body, and also a highly respectable Catholic clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Ryan, and should not be allowed to pass. The Board were fully satisfied that Mr. Ryan had paid the archbishop's rate when they passed the resolution complained of. Although the late collector did not give Mr. Ryan a receipt, he acknowledged to several persons that he had been paid the archbishop's rate by the Rev. Mr. Ryan, and all that was stated here before. If no other gentleman more competent would take it up, he would propose a resolution, stating that, notwithstanding the insulting letter of the Commissioners, we reiterate our firm conviction, not alone that the Rev. Mr. Ryan stated the truth before this Board, but that Dr. M'Hale's rate was fairly and honourably paid, and that we indignantly repudiate the statement put forth in that letter, evidently with the view of throwing discredit on the reverend gentleman's statement, and censure on our act as a public body for directing the present collector to allow it. Mr. Kirwan concluded by proposing the following resolution:—

"Resolved—That we, the late Board of Guardians of the Tuam Union, have with astonishment read the unwarrantable letter of the Poor Law Commissioners, reflecting on our conduct as a Board, and accusing us of neglect of duty. We again express our convictions that the Rev. Mr. Ryan has paid the Archbishop of Tuam's rate, and our surprise is great when that letter doubts or disbelieves the statement of the reverend gentleman, supported as it was by three of the Guardians, a support which we hold to be totally unnecessary, who heard from the late collector that he received it."

"Mr. Thomas O. C. Donelan, J. P., seconded the resolution."

Does that extract imply that their resolve was hasty, or "my impressions erroneous?"

With regard to the attempt made by the Commissioners to exculpate their Inspector, Mr. Bourke, my first charge is left unanswered. Again I repeat it, Who is the Guardian that told him that "the collectors stated this rate was never paid?"

From your letter it seems Mr. Bourke had only the authority of one Guardian that the rate was paid; now from your present letter it appears Mr. Bourke has discovered that a second Guardian has corroborated that statement. Perhaps, if Mr. Bourke will take a little further trouble, he will discover a third Guardian. And in the next letter of the Commissioners it may come out that Mr. Bourke has discovered more of the evidence to which I alluded in reference to the payment.

As to my alleged distortions of Mr. Bourke's report in reference to his inquiry into the block receipts of Lally, I will content myself by referring any impartial reader to that portion of the letter of the Commissioners of the 11th February, to the Tuam Guardians, in which the following words occur:—"That although the block receipts left by that collector are preserved, no block receipt corresponding to this payment had been found." Now I must again repeat that if language has any definite or distinct meaning, my charge, founded upon this

extract, is perfectly accurate and by no means distorted. And, to justify Mr. Bourke still further upon this subject, the Commissioners, in their last letter, declare that Mr. Bourke reports that the block receipts were in existence, but were withheld from him by one of the Guardians. Now this is a further inaccuracy in Mr. Bourke's statement, as I have incontrovertible evidence to prove the said block receipts were never withheld by that one Guardian.

Finally allow me to call the attention of the Commissioners to one extract more from your last letter in reference to this said Mr. Bourke of accurate notoriety. The Commissioners make him say that he (Mr. Bourke) not having been present at the meeting when your statement was made, he cannot take upon himself to say what the exact expressions were that fell from the members on that occasion, but that he has no reason to doubt the information given to him, was in its leading points perfectly true. Now allow me to ask what is the character of this private information to which Mr. Bourke refers. He was not present he says at the proceedings, but upon what he calls his source of information, he chooses without knowledge of the evidence upon which their conclusion was formed, to brand the resolution of the Board, at which he says he was not present, with precipitancy, and my impressions as erroneous. Are the public to be left to the mercy of this anonymous informer, of whose credibility they are kept in ignorance.

But although more than sufficient has been already said to show that my statement was made with all due deliberation, enough has been said to bear out the impossibility of my impressions being erroneous. Although the hastiness of the resolution imputed to the Board of Guardians has been shown to be the effect of mature deliberation; although Mr. Bourke's statements are upon the showing of the present letter turning out to be not free from glaring inaccuracies, yet even at the risk of running into too great a length in reply, I must cull one extract more from this studied diplomatic communication. The Commissioners themselves call the arrear in question, "the small amount of three pounds." Now the public have yet a right to demand (even if this small sum was proved not paid); why hold up for public odium, and select for special annoyance, the Archbishop of Tuam. And as I mentioned before, why pass over others whose unpaid rate far exceeds that sum, viz., M. J. Blake, M.P., a member of the same Board of Guardians. Is it because by his ministerial support he aided the ministry, in saddling upon the necks of the people the odious Coercion Act, and by a similar subserviency was silent without demanding and insisting upon food for the starving thousands in his own locality. The Commissioners therefore cannot be surprised that I still demand a searching investigation, not based solely upon the anonymous information so much relied upon by their inspector, Mr. Bourke; especially when I remind them that Commissions are now the order of the day, and with a full conviction before me, that the mass of evidence to be produced at the investigation, would, in the hands of the Attorney-General, suffice to convict to the scaffold, or doom to perpetual exile, whole thousands of our ill-fated and starving fellow countrymen.

REPLY to the above:—*March 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners received on the 6th instant your letter bearing date the 2nd instant, and in reply I am to state that the Commissioners regard your letter as a direct declaration of the fact that the arrears of the archbishop's rate assessed in October, 1842, were paid by you on his behalf, to the late collector, Lally, previously to his death in April, 1847, although no particulars relative to such payment are stated by you of the nature referred to in the Commissioners' letter of the 25th ultimo.

No record of what you stated to the Board of Guardians has been made upon their minutes; the Commissioners could not previously refer to any account of the transaction, as proceeding directly from yourself.

The Commissioners continue to think that the Guardians of Tuam Union ought not to have passed a resolution on this subject, purporting to determine a question of fact, and to interfere with the free-exercise of the present collector's power to recover rates which were included in his warrant, and which by the documentary evidence appeared to be unpaid.

Your desire to have an official inquiry instituted for the purpose of proving your

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veracity, is not one which the Commissioners feel themselves called upon to comply with, inasmuch as they never questioned the sincerity of your convictions on this subject. They have, however, adopted a course which they trust will be equally satisfactory to you, by directing the Vice-Guardians of the Union to inform the present collector, that the Commissioners are advised he is not bound by the resolution of the late Board of Guardians, and that he is still at liberty to proceed in the exercise of his powers to recover the arrears from the archbishop, notwithstanding that by desire of the Guardians he gave you at their meeting of the 24th January, a receipt for the subsequent rate which you then and there paid.

The Vice-Guardians will be at the same time instructed to require the collector to discharge his duty in this respect, should they not be enabled to satisfy themselves by previous inquiry that the arrear has actually been paid. Should the Vice-Guardians so satisfy themselves, the Commissioners will not fail to inform you thereof, otherwise the collector will be required to proceed, and in the event of the archbishop's declining to acquiesce in such proceeding, you will have an opportunity of making your statement upon oath, before a tribunal competent to decide upon the question, whether the rate has or has not been paid.

The contents of your letter as they relate to Mr. Bourke, will be communicated to him, but the Commissioners are most desirous that in justice to you, the papers about to be submitted to Parliament should contain the correspondence up to this point; and they must defer their reply to that part of your letter until they receive Mr. Bourke's observations upon it.

PART II.

DISSOLUTION OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BOURKE :—*January 20, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication addressed to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant by the Rev. John O'Grady, P.P., which has been referred to the Commissioners, relative to the destitution alleged to exist in the parish of Abbeyknockmoy in the Tuam Union, together with a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Board of Guardians on the subject; and I am desired to request that you will be so good as to make inquiry and report specially to the Commissioners on the subject of these statements, and also to report as to the course which you would recommend to be taken to afford effectual relief to the destitute poor in this Union.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. O'GRADY, Parish Priest, of Abbeyknockmoy and Monivea, Dangan, to
Lord CLARENDON.

As I am extremely sorry to be obliged to trespass on your Lordship's invaluable time even for a moment, in the detail of facts connected with this respectful communication, I shall be as brief as possible.

This parish of Abbeyknockmoy, in the county of Galway, comprises 1100 families. Out of that population upwards of 400 persons have died the last 10 months of hunger, and even these last 10 days four other persons have fallen victims to the same disease. I give their names and residences: John Coneely, his wife and daughter, in the townland of Polsilla; Widow Ford of Larabeg, whose husband died also of starvation last summer. Fever is increasing rapidly, the result of the poor having nothing to eat but a turnip or two parboiled in the 24 hours. I can safely, and without fear of contradiction, state to your Excellency, from the list I have accurately taken of the existing distress in this parish, that there are 400 families as amenable to the laws of the land as any in the world, and amongst whom not one single outrage as yet has been committed, in the greatest distress without any means of subsistence, and on the eve of actual starvation. This melancholy tale will plead, I hope, my apology with your Excellency for trespass of time, and induce your Excellency to order some immediate relief for those poor creatures whose case has no parallel in the annals of history. We are here much worse than last year, because the poor have neither employment of any sort nor out-door relief as yet extended to them.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—*January 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, desire to inform the Board of Guardians of the Tuam Union, that the Commissioners have

had referred to them a letter addressed by the Rev. John O'Grady, P.P., Abbeyknockmoy and Monivea, to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, in which it is stated that of 1100 families in the parish of Abbeyknockmoy, 400 persons have died in the last 10 months of hunger, and that even in the last 10 days four other persons have fallen victims from the same cause, namely,—John Coneely, his wife and daughter, in the townland of Polsilla, and Widow Ford, of Larabeg, whose husband died also of starvation last summer. It is also stated that fever is rapidly increasing, owing to the poor having nothing to eat but a turnip or two parboiled in the 24 hours; that there are 400 families in the parish without any means of subsistence and on the eve of actual starvation; and that the poor there have neither employment of any sort, nor out-door relief as yet extended to them.

In reference to the Rev. Mr. O'Grady's letter, the Commissioners request the immediate attention of the Board of Guardians of the Tuam Union to the necessities of the destitute poor in the district adverted to by him; and they desire the Guardians to take this communication into consideration, in connexion with what the Commissioners stated in their letter of the 15th instant, respecting the propriety of compelling the payment of the poor-rates by all rate-payers in the Union, whatever may be their rank or station.

THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 26, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians to state in reply to your letter of the 20th instant, that they called on the relieving officer referred to in the Rev. Mr. O'Grady's letter, to inform them whether any of the parties mentioned in his letter had applied for relief, and they found that John Coneely, wife, and family, had been admitted into the workhouse on the 15th November, and were discharged on the 17th November last; and that these persons never made application to him for relief. The Board wish not to contradict the statement made by the Rev. Mr. O'Grady, as to the extent of destitution which exists in Abbey and Monivea, as they fear destitution to an alarming and fearful extent prevails in the Union, which they are doing all in their power to alleviate.

MR. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 3, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to state, that I have made inquiry into the statements referred to, and beg to transmit herewith the deposition of the relieving officer of Abbey electoral division, in which the parish in question is situated.

From this document, and from other testimony, I have arrived at the opinion that it is more than probable that the whole family of John Coneely died in circumstances of the greatest destitution, if not from absolute want. But it is clear that no application was made by any of them to the relieving officer, probably from a disinclination to be again sent to the workhouse, which they had quitted on the 17th of November, after remaining in it only two nights.

With regard to the Widow Ford, I have been unable to obtain direct evidence of her death having been caused by hunger; on the contrary, it appears she was suffering from the effects of a fish-bone which she swallowed many months before, and that immediately at the time of her death she was affected with fever, or some complaint considered to be so. There is however no room to doubt her being in very indigent circumstances.

I have not been able to get any confirmation of the statement that 400 persons died during the last 10 months of hunger, as stated by the Rev. Mr. O'Grady; but I believe that during that period a very great mortality took place. It has however been stated to me, and it is also to be found in the deposition of the relieving officer of the district, that fever was prevalent and fatal in the neighbourhood during the time specified.

There can be no doubt that destitution of a very appalling kind exists in the district of Abbey, and other parts of this Union; and as the workhouse is now nearly full of able-bodied persons and their families, I strongly recommend an order for out-door relief to the able-bodied to be issued for the Tuam Union. This I consider it only right should be done as soon as possible; but at the same time I am bound to say, I have very serious doubts how far the Board of Guardians will, from the embarrassed state of their finances, be enabled to carry it out. Upon this subject it is my intention to address you by to-morrow's post, as I find that I have not time to do so this day.

I return the papers enclosed to me.

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ENCLOSURE.

Patrick Gannon sworn.—Is relieving officer for Killrerin and Abbey; appointed on the 15th of November; on the 29th of the same month (as well as I can recollect) I received my books from the clerk. On or about the 7th of December I opened my office for receiving applications for relief. No application was made to me by John Coneely, or by any one on his behalf. I was present when the register was examined, and heard it read; and I believe that this man and his family were admitted to the workhouse on the 15th of November, and discharged on the 17th. I have heard, and believe, that John Coneely died about 10 days or a fortnight after leaving the workhouse; and about a fortnight after his wife died, and his daughter on the following day. From what I learn I believe the family to have died of want; but no application was made to me for relief, though before the death of the wife and daughter I held my office for receiving applications at Dereen, about three miles from their residence. I never heard of the death of these parties until it was reported to the Government.

I have made inquiries about the Widow Ford; she resided in Larabeg. Some months ago (nearly a year) she appears to have swallowed a fish bone which stuck in her throat, and of which she complained. I have been informed that she had a fever, or what was supposed to be a fever, at the time of her death. I also heard, from inquiries made, that she did not get any attendance while ill, the neighbours being afraid of infection. Was not able to find out the exact time of her death.

She never made application to me for relief, nor did any person on her behalf.

I reside in Killrerin parish, within about half a mile of the parish of Abbeyknockmoy. During the last 10 months fever has been very prevalent, and a large number of deaths has taken place; but I cannot state what they were caused by.

PATRICK GANNON.

Sworn before me this 3rd day of February, 1848,

RICHARD BOURKE, *P. L. Inspector.*

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*February 5, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received a report from their Inspector, Mr. Bourke, confirming the representations recently made to the Commissioners of the severe distress existing in some districts of the Tuam Union. Mr. Bourke further states, that the workhouse of the Union is now nearly full of able-bodied persons and their families, and recommends the Commissioners to issue an order authorizing the Guardians to give out-door relief in food to able-bodied persons, under the provisions of the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

The Commissioners have determined on adopting Mr. Bourke's recommendation, and an order, under their seal, to the effect above described is enclosed herewith.

The Commissioners feel bound at the same time to observe, that the present financial state of the Tuam Union is in the highest degree unsatisfactory; and, looking at that circumstance in connexion with the alarming state of distress prevailing in many parts of the Union, the Commissioners have under their most anxious consideration the course which they ought to take, as best calculated to provide effectually for the relief of the destitute poor.

The Commissioners are awaiting a further report from Mr. Bourke on the state and prospects of the Union, on the receipt of which they will be prepared to address the Guardians further.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BOURKE:—*February 5, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which they have this day addressed to the Board of Guardians of the Tuam Union, relating to the employment of poor persons in the receipt of out-door relief in that Union; and I am to request that you will be good enough to afford the Guardians all the advice and assistance in your power to enable them to carry out the out-door relief order with most effect and advantage.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BOURKE:—*January 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith a report from Sub-Inspector Wright, of the constabulary, relative to the death of a man named John Collieran, who is stated to have died after being turned out of the workhouse of the Tuam Union for theft; and I am to request that you will inquire and report to the Commissioners respecting this case.

ENCLOSURE referred to.

Headford, January 20, 1848.

Tuam Union.

I HAVE to report that a man named John Colleran, who was lately turned out of the Tuam poor-house for theft, was found dead this morning on the road leading from this town to Shrute. I communicated the event to Mr. Marmion, the governor, but he did not consider an inquest necessary in this instance.

(Signed)

GEO. WRIGHT, 2nd Sub-Inspector.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply :—*February 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state that the person in question, who appears on the register under the name of John Collernan, is returned on a book kept by the porter as having left the house on the 19th December, accompanied by his son William, aged 11 years. From examination of Patrick Clancy, ward-master, and Michael Browne, porter, I have ascertained that, on the 18th of December last, a complaint was made to the Visiting Committee by a pauper named Peter M'Hugh, to the effect that a pair of shoes had been stolen from the house by John Collernan; that the Visiting Committee inquired into the charge, and satisfied themselves that the robbery had been committed, and that M'Hugh and Collernan were both concerned in it; but that, not considering they had sufficient evidence to send the case for trial, they ordered both parties to be discharged from the workhouse, which was accordingly done on the following day, the 19th December.

Peter M'Hugh's name appears on the master's Admission and Discharge Book as having been discharged on that day; but no mention is made of John Collernan, whose name was continued on the register, and remains there to this day. No report of the circumstances appears to have been made by the Visiting Committee, nor is any resolution of the Board to be found directing those men to be discharged.

Upon this state of facts I think it is to be observed that the Visiting Committee acted improperly in directing the discharge of any inmate of the house without the previous sanction of the Board, and that the right even of the Board itself to discharge under such circumstances is very doubtful. And next, I think the evidence affords a further proof of the extremely inaccurate manner in which the duties of the master were performed, and of the generally irregular manner in which the business of the workhouse was conducted, when two men thus summarily ejected were omitted from being entered as discharged on the Admission and Discharge Book, and were permitted to continue on the register as if actually present in the house.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*February 9, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration the report which they have received from their Inspector, Mr. Bourke, of the circumstances respecting the decease of a poor person named John Colleran, who was stated to have died on the 20th ultimo, after having been turned out of the workhouse of the Tuam Union for theft.

Mr. Bourke reports that the person in question appears on the workhouse books under the name of John Collernan; and that he is returned on a book, kept by the porter of the workhouse, as having left the house on the 19th December, accompanied by his son aged 11 years.

On proceeding to examine Patrick Clancy, ward-master, and Michael Browne, porter of the workhouse, as to the circumstances of the case, Mr. Bourke found that, on the 18th December last, a complaint was made to the Visiting Committee by a pauper named Peter M'Hugh, that a pair of shoes had been stolen from the house by John Collernan; and that the Visiting Committee, having inquired into the charge, ordered both M'Hugh and Collernan to be discharged from the workhouse, not being, however, satisfied that the evidence was such as would warrant their sending the case for trial.

Mr. Bourke reports that M'Hugh's name appears on the master's Admission and Discharge Book as having been discharged on the following day, the 19th December; but he states that no mention is made of the name of John Collernan, whose name was continued on the registry, and still remained when Mr. Bourke inquired into this case.

It further appears that the Visiting Committee made no report of the case, and

Tuam Union.

that no resolution was passed by the Board of Guardians directing these men to be discharged from the workhouse.

The Commissioners request the attention of the Board of Guardians to the inaccurate manner in which the duties of the master of the workhouse were discharged with regard to the case of these two men. The circumstances reported appear to the Commissioners to show great irregularity in the management of the workhouse and the keeping of the workhouse books; and the Commissioners feel bound to add, that the discharge of an inmate by the Visiting Committee without any reference to the Board of Guardians was an unauthorized proceeding on the part of the Committee.

The Commissioners do not doubt that the Visiting Committee acted from good motives; but the case, involving as it appears to have done, fatal consequence as to the person discharged, shows the necessity of the utmost caution being used in observing the law and the regulations of the Commissioners for the relief of the poor and the management of the workhouse.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 4, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th January, addressed to the clerk of the Guardians of the Tuam Union, and the reply thereto, dated the 18th, I beg leave to submit to you the following statement of facts connected with the collection of rates in this Union :—

The rate at present in collection was struck on the 15th of June last, and the warrants were handed to the collectors, some on the 23rd August, and others on the 6th September following.

	£.	s.	d.
The total amount of rate and arrears then put in collection was	6,748	10	9
Whilst the liabilities of the Union to the 31st August, exclusive of the debt for temporary relief and the charge for building the workhouse, amounted to	6,692	13	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Leaving a balance of only	55	7	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
available for carrying on the expenses of the workhouse.			
Of this rate of 6,748 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> the amount collected during the month of September was	669	18	0
During the month of October	1,362	15	1
„ „ November	948	4	6
„ „ December	545	4	9
„ „ 31st January, 1848	716	12	4
Making in all the sum of	£4,242	14	8

And leaving now a balance outstanding of 2505*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*

In the month of November I called the attention of the Guardians to the backwardness of the collection, and induced them to demand from their collectors a weekly return of the 10 highest rate-payers in arrear of their rates, with a view to proceedings being taken for recovery of the amounts due. To this list the Guardians directed the collectors to add also the names of 10 of the lowest rate-payers, that steps might be taken against all classes of defaulters. These lists were accordingly furnished by the collectors, and duly handed in to the Board at its weekly meeting; but no orders were made thereon, nor was any further step taken by the Guardians for compelling these parties to pay. On the 10th January, at a meeting of the Board, I again called the Guardians' attention to the unsatisfactory nature of the collection, and suggested to them to appoint a Committee to examine the collectors' books, which Committee I offered to attend. Two members of the Board accordingly met me at the workhouse on the 11th and 12th January, when we carefully examined the collecting books, and the Committee gave such orders as were considered most applicable to each case—placing some in the hands of the solicitor, directing applications from the clerk in others, and summonses or distrains in the rest. The information which I acquired during this examination I communicated to you in my letter of the 11th January, in consequence of which you addressed to the Board your letter of the 15th; since then a sum of about 600*l.* has been paid in; but, up to the present time, there remains outstanding a large amount of rate, part of which is due by Guardians, and more by persons of rank and station in the Union. At their last meeting, on the 31st ultimo, the Guardians directed their solicitor to take proceedings for the recovery of the rates

so due; but as much delay must take place before these sums can thus be realized, and the wants of the Union are daily requiring an increased expenditure, I fear that, unless means are promptly taken for increasing the funds of the Union, it will be impossible to meet the demand that is now arising for relief to the destitute poor.

The net amount of liabilities in the Union to the 31st January appear to be 4818*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, which exceeds the amount of rate now due by a sum of upwards of 2300*l.*; and as no less an amount than 3778*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* of these liabilities is secured to the creditors by cheques drawn in their favour by the Guardians (which the treasurer is bound to pay whenever presented, as far as he has funds to do so), it is manifest that no part of this outstanding rate can with any certainty be counted upon as available to meet the current expenses of the Union. Under these circumstances, no course seems open to the Guardians but forthwith to strike a rate sufficient to pay their debts and meet their weekly expenses for the support of their poor; and though this may appear unusual whilst so large an arrear remains outstanding, it must be borne in mind that it has been rendered necessary by the default of those who should long since have paid the amounts due by them, and by the neglect of the Guardians in taking timely steps for their recovery.

I am aware that much objection will be raised to the laying on of a new rate at this moment, not only for the reasons last stated, but also on account of the very defective condition of the rate-books; and I perceive that, at their last meeting, the Guardians appointed a valuator to revise the valuation, and bound him to have his books completed by the 14th April. But even if it were possible that this engagement could be observed, I feel bound to state that, in my opinion, the worst consequences must result from postponing the striking of a new rate for so long a time; and that I can see no possible mode of meeting the present difficulties than at once to strike and levy a rate sufficient to meet the incumbrances of the Union, and liquidate the current expenses, which at present amount to about 100*l.* weekly, and must soon increase to three or four times that amount.

I beg leave to enclose an account of the liabilities of the Union to the 31st ultimo, and of the outstanding cheques drawn by the Guardians, and now in the hands of their creditors.

ENCLOSURE.

LIABILITIES of the TUAM UNION for Month of January, 1848.

	£.	s.	d.
1. Amount due to Union treasurer (if any)	16	18	5
2. Amount due to contractors or others for provisions, clothing, and bedding, and all necessaries pertaining to the establishment	3,637	7	3½
3. Amount of officers' salaries unpaid.	410	10	8½
4. Amount due to all other parties, specifying particulars—Poor Law Commissioners	754	2	1
5. Total liabilities on 31st January, 1848	4,818	18	6
6. Deduct amount in hands of treasurer (if any) on 31st January, 1848			
7. Net amount of liabilities on 31st January, 1848, after deducting amount in treasurer's hands (if any)	4,818	18	6
8. Net amount (if any) which would remain in the hands of treasurer on 31st January, 1848, supposing all debts to have been first paid.			

SUMMARY.

Dr.	£.	s.	d.	Cr.	£.	s.	d.
9. Net amount of liabilities (if any) on 31st January, 1848, per Col. 7, last return	4,991	0	8	13. Net balance in favour of Union on 31st January, per Col. 8, last return			
10. Amount of current expenses incurred during January	544	10	■	14. Amount of rate lodged during January	716	12	4
11. Net balance in favour of Union (if any) on 31st January, as given above (No. 8)				15. Other receipts (if any) during January			
				16. Net amount of liabilities (if any) on 31st January, as given above (No. 7)	4,818	18	6
12. Total	£5,535	10	10	17. Total	£5,535	10	10

Tuam Union.

LIST OF OUTSTANDING CHEQUES to 31st January, 1848.

No.	Name.	Amount.	No.	Name.	Amount.
		£. s. d.			£. s. d.
36	John Casby . . .	4 13 9	233	Patrick Whitstead . .	4 3 1
38	Michael Green . . .	7 3 4	238	William Moran . . .	13 9 4
56	Charles Davis . . .	20 0 0	239	Patrick Burke . . .	4 8 0
61	Ditto . . .	20 0 0	244	Timothy W. Murray . .	54 7 0
76	Peter Flanagan . . .	5 13 11	245	James Blake . . .	76 6 0
81	Thomas Brennan . . .	14 10 0	254	Timothy W. Murray . .	8 6 7
88	Michael Browne . . .	6 5 0	259	James Whitstead . . .	19 19 0
99	William Moran . . .	40 4 2	262	Michael Gilmore . . .	7 0 0
101	Charles Davis . . .	20 0 0	264	James Fynne and Co. . .	49 10 0
117	James Whitstead . . .	4 16 0	269	James Henihan . . .	37 10 4
118	Charles Davis . . .	2 0 0	270	John Hopkins . . .	40 14 3
119	John Burke . . .	67 16 3	276	James Whitstead . . .	10 3 8
128	Thomas B. Turner . . .	36 4 5	279	James Blake . . .	113 11 6
129	Matthew Kearney . . .	45 0 0	290	Peter O'Flanagan . . .	3 10 2
132	Margaret Davis . . .	10 0 0	292	Patrick Kearney . . .	100 0 0
134	William Moran . . .	36 1 5	302	John R. Hopkins . . .	10 0 0
157	Thomas B. Turner . . .	4 0 0		Celia Costello . . .	4 9 1
158	Patrick Whitstead . . .	34 7 2		James Henihan . . .	2 11 4
160	William Moran . . .	21 3 2		Archibald M'Naughten . .	2 13 0
162	Patrick Ternan . . .	7 16 0		Patrick Kearney . . .	50 0 0
164	Patrick Whitstead . . .	19 18 6		Ditto . . .	50 0 0
167	Michael Gilmore . . .	20 0 0		Ditto . . .	50 0 0
171	Patrick Whitstead . . .	20 13 6		Ditto . . .	50 0 0
172	William Moran . . .	5 5 9		Ditto . . .	40 10 4
173	James Blake . . .	468 9 8		James Lynaskey . . .	20 4 11
175	John Massey . . .	8 13 4		Digby French . . .	5 10 0
190	William Moran . . .	4 3 8		John R. Hopkins . . .	20 0 0
191	John Burke . . .	122 14 0		John Ryan . . .	47 2 11
192	Catherine Noone . . .	12 14 8		Andrew Dalton . . .	4 1 8
193	Patrick M'Hugh . . .	32 9 11		John Moylen . . .	3 13 6
197	Patrick Whitstead . . .	47 1 9		John Burke . . .	28 0 6
198	James Blake . . .	59 10 0		John Hanly . . .	25 0 0
205	Michael Gilmore . . .	3 6 0		Ditto . . .	25 0 0
207	Catherine Noone . . .	1 1 0		Ditto . . .	25 0 0
209	Patrick Whitstead . . .	50 14 3		Ditto . . .	25 0 0
210	John Newton . . .	11 2 8		Ditto . . .	30 4 8
212	William Moran . . .	2 9 7		James Blake . . .	57 10 0
213	John Gunning . . .	585 7 2		Timothy W. Murray . .	30 8 0
214	Martin M'Donell . . .	504 15 7		Michael Gilmore . . .	6 1 0
216	Patrick Whitstead . . .	31 13 9		Celia Costello . . .	6 15 0
217	Andrew Egan . . .	100 0 0		William Moran . . .	8 9 0
222	Patrick Whitstead . . .	23 13 0		Thomas Begly . . .	5 16 8
225	Catherine Noone . . .	2 13 10			
227	Andrew Egan . . .	52 10 0		Total . . .	£3,778 16 8

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—February 7, 1848.

I BEG leave to inform you that I attended, this day, a meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Tuam Union.

I regret to say that, since the date of my last report, but little progress has been made in the collection of the rate, and many persons of high position in the county, as well as several of the Guardians of the poor, continue in arrear of their rates. The treasurer's book showed a balance of only 13*l.* this day to the credit of the Guardians: and the contractor for meal, whom they are bound to pay once a fortnight, was a creditor to the amount of about 50*l.* for a week's supply. The order was read for giving out-door relief to the able-bodied, and the books of the relieving officers were in part gone through. They presented several thousand names of persons alleged to be in extreme distress, and the estimated quantity of meal required to supply them with rations amounted to above 25 tons. The contractor for supplying this article positively refused to supply this quantity, unless a distinct promise was given of payment in a week or fortnight; and as the Guardians felt unable to enter into this engagement, it appeared for a long time doubtful whether the wants of the relieving officers could at all be supplied. At length, with the assistance of individual members of the Board, arrangements were made for procuring the required amount from country dealers in small quantities, and thus the demand for the present week has been met, but I cannot see in what manner this is to be further continued.

I took occasion to bring before the Board the very critical condition in which

their affairs stood, and urged upon them the necessity of immediately resolving upon a new rate of sufficient amount to liquidate their debts, and meet the demand on their funds for support of the destitute poor; and after much discussion, notice of motion was given for declaring on this day week a rate of 3s. in the pound on the property of the Union. This notice was much opposed on the ground of the large outstanding arrear, and of the necessity for a revision of the valuation before a new rate could be levied; and I fear there is little reason to hope that, under these circumstances, the Board will on the appointed day consent to strike a sufficient rate in time to meet the pressing wants of the Union.

I feel it necessary, with reference to my former communications on this subject, to reiterate my doubts, that in the present embarrassed state of the Union funds, it will be possible for the Guardians to make adequate provision for the relief of the poor; and I regret to add that the conduct of some Guardians and other persons, in withholding the amount of rates due by them, materially increases these embarrassments. The solicitor has been instructed to proceed against these defaulters, but it is uncertain how soon this may lead to a settlement of the present arrears of rate.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*February 12, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received their Inspector, Mr. Bourke's, report on the present financial state of the Tuam Union.

From this report it appears that the following were the net liabilities of the Guardians on the 31st January last:—

	£.	s.	d.
Due to Union treasurer	16	18	5
Provision, clothing, bedding, and other necessities, &c.	3,637	7	3½
Officers' salaries unpaid	410	10	8½
Due to other parties	754	2	1

Total liabilities on the 31st January . . . 4,818 18 6

To meet these liabilities, and to enable the Guardians to discharge their duty in relieving the wide-spread destitution now prevailing in the Union, a rate is in course of collection which was made in June last, and the warrants for collection of which were placed in the hands of some of the collectors in August, and of the others in September.

The entire rate so placed in collection, including the arrears of the former rate, amounted to 6748*l.*

Of that amount 2505*l.* still remained uncollected on the 31st January; and the collection of those arrears is now all the Guardians have to look to for funds to meet their liabilities and to relieve the destitute until another rate be made, which the Guardians have declared their opinion cannot be done until a revision of the valuation be effected.

For this revision the Guardians provided by the appointment of a revisor on the 29th January, and not before; although the Commissioners pressed on them the necessity of taking this step without delay on the 16th November last.

The Guardians have recently made representations to Her Majesty's Government of the appalling distress of the labouring classes in the Union, and have solicited assistance for their relief; a deputation from their Board having, as it appears on the minutes, waited on his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant for this purpose. His Excellency has also transmitted to the Commissioners a copy of a representation from the chairman of the Union, stating his conviction that no amount of rate which can be made available will enable the Poor Law Guardians to supply the wants of the destitute.

The Commissioners, on the 15th ultimo, addressed the Guardians on the very discreditable state of the collection of the rates, and especially regarding the default of persons of rank and station (some of them Guardians) reported by the collectors as not having paid their rates.

By a subsequent return, bearing date the 26th January, the Commissioners still find it reported that several of the Guardians of the Union remain defaulters, including the chairman of the Union, who it appears refuses to pay certain rates assessed on him as immediate lessor, on the ground that he is not liable; and another ex-officio Guardian is described as refusing payment on the same ground.

Tuam Union.

Other Guardians rated as immediate lessors, although still in default, are reported by the collector as not disputing their liability to pay the rates.

The Commissioners find, by reference to the recent minutes of the Union, that writs have been served on the Guardians for large sums in several instances, and that on the 10th January they directed their solicitor to give pleas of confession to all the creditors who had sued the Board.

Under these circumstances the Commissioners consider that proper exertion has not yet been made to levy rates for the relief of the destitute poor in Tuam Union. The insufficient rates heretofore made by the Guardians, the inactivity shown in collecting the rates when made, the example of default set to the rate-payers by the Guardians themselves, and the position in which the Board is placed in reference to its chairman and other members of its own body refusing to pay the rates; all these are facts which, while they account for the present financial embarrassment of the Union, inspire no confidence in the future proceedings of the Board in reference to the trying circumstances now before them.

On these grounds, as well as on other considerations arising out of their recent correspondence with the Guardians, the Commissioners feel that the time has arrived for discharging themselves of the responsibility placed on them by the 18th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, in any case wherein it shall appear to them that through the default of the Guardians, the duties of the Board of Guardians have not been effectually performed; and the Commissioners have accordingly dissolved the Board of Guardians of Tuam Union by an order under their seal.

A copy of the order accompanies this letter; and this order will be followed by one appointing paid officers to carry into execution in Tuam Union the provisions of the Acts in force for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland.

The COMMISSIONERS to Count STRZELECKI :—*February 12, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a letter which they have this day addressed to the Board of Guardians of the Tuam Union, accompanied by an order for the dissolution of the Board.

The Commissioners request that you will be so good as to give your attention to the circumstances of this case, and they would recommend that the Vice-Guardians of Tuam Union should be furnished with an advance of 500*l.*

The attention of the Vice-Guardians will be called to the propriety of making provision for the repayment of the advance at as early a period as practicable.

Count STRZELECKI to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply :—*February 14, 1848.*

I BEG to acquaint you, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that according to their wishes expressed to me in your letter of the 12th instant, I have authorized the Commissary-General this day to transmit to Richard Bourke, Esq., Ordinary Inspector of Tuam Union, the sum of 500*l.*, to be applied by him as directed in your letter, viz., that the sum is to be paid over to the Vice-Guardians of Tuam Union.

I have advised Richard Bourke, Esq., of the above.

KANTURK UNION.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*December 11, 1847.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 31st ultimo, we beg leave to submit to your consideration the following observations relative to the general state of the Kanturk Union, at the period when the administration of its affairs first devolved on us, and also on the condition of the Union at the present time.

Our attention was first directed to the financial condition of the Union. We found that a debt amounting to 5081*l.* had been suffered to accumulate, while the necessary efforts had not been made to balance the accounts of the collectors of the rate made in March last; that an efficient check and supervision of the several collectors' accounts had never been made; that, in fact, this important duty had never been attended to at all. It appears, on examination of the accounts, that in several instances, the collectors held considerable sums in hand of rates actually collected, and that in many instances, the warrants were not sealed, and the rate-books were full of clerical errors. It further appeared that the arrears of the rate made in November, 1846, were inserted in the subsequent warrants several weeks after they were signed, that the arrears had been omitted altogether from the rate-books, and that the amount of the arrears was not shown in any of the books. The result of this state of things is an actual loss of 23*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* In order to avoid delay in procuring funds, the whole of the rates uncollected, minus the clerical errors, were added to the rates last struck as arrears leviable from the respective parties.

With respect to the management of the workhouse, we beg to state that it would appear that the Board of Guardians had not exercised any of their functions in this respect. It would appear that a Visiting Committee had never been appointed, or if appointed had never acted, as the Visiting Committee's Report Book did not, on our arrival, contain a single report of any inspection having been made since the month of December, 1846, a period of 11 months. The result of this neglect was but too plainly apparent, in the general disorder and confusion which pervaded nearly the whole of the establishment.

The workhouse and its superadded accommodation contained, on our first inspection, 1534 paupers, 800 of whom were admitted in one day on a verbal order given to the master, to whom was entrusted the allocation of their chargeability; upwards of 500 of this number were sent into the dormitories, in their own wretched clothes, the master having none in his possession to give them. The result of this overcrowding of the workhouse has been attended with an alarming increase of fever and other diseases.

The able-bodied were comparatively idle, and the greatest insubordination existed, so much so, that we were compelled to prosecute several of the ringleaders for threatening language and demeanour towards ourselves. The schools were perfectly destitute of books and stationery, and it would appear that no inspection of them had been made by the Inspector of the National Board, for a period of nine months. No actual examination of the workhouse books had ever taken place. In the week ended the 6th October last, 38 orphans and destitute children under 15, and 44 women, with 120 children, were, at the instance of the Guardians, turned out of the workhouse to receive out-door relief: these persons were allowed to take with them the workhouse clothing and bedding. It also appears that on that occasion, a cheque for 25*l.* was drawn in favour of three Guardians, and distributed by them amongst the several persons so discharged, for the purpose of procuring them lodgings. The administration of out-door relief was left almost entirely to the discretion of the relieving officers; their books had, in the majority of instances, never been initialed, nor their accounts revised. The expenditure of the out-door relief under this system, amounted to upwards of 500*l.* per week. It is needless for us to remark, that the funds of the Union had been misapplied and relief had been administered, utterly at variance with the principles pointed out in the Commissioners' Circular Letter of the 14th August last. For instance, we ascertained, on a revision of the lists, that parties were receiving out-door relief who were employed by the master of the workhouse in tailoring and carpentering, and that these persons were in the receipt of, at least, 7*s.* per week for their labour. It

Kanturk Union.

would appear that the master was ignorant of these facts. On our expressing surprise at the iniquity of their conduct, we received for answer, "that as it was "going (the relief), they thought they might as well have a share of it."

Such was the state of the Kanturk Union, when we first examined into its affairs. Our first attention was directed to the examination of the accounts of the collectors, which we succeeded in closing after a week's close investigation. Our next care was to use all possible exertion in striking the rates necessary to pay the heavy debts of the Union, and to provide funds for the relief under the amended Irish Poor Relief Acts. It may be necessary to state, that although the present rates amount to 16,000*l.*, yet, owing to the liabilities of the Union and the present heavy weekly expenditure, the amount so raised will be exhausted in the month of March next. With the view of keeping the finances of the Union on a satisfactory foundation, we have required the collectors to enter into bonds (No. 7) to collect the rates within *three months*, from the date of their warrants (30th November).

Every care has been taken in making arrangements for the due and sufficient examination of the several collectors' accounts weekly, in accordance with the instructions given in the Commissioners' General Order of the 25th October last.

In proof of the progress which has been made by the collectors, we have the gratification of stating that within eight days (being, in fact, the first week of the collection), since the receipt by them of their warrants, they have collected and lodged with the treasurer of the Union 1476*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*

With regard to the management of the workhouse, we have to observe, that the state of the paupers now is much improved. They have been employed to the utmost extent possible under the circumstances. The able-bodied males have been required to break a given quantity of stones daily, and we purpose to erect a hand-mill capable of employing 40 men, in addition to the mills supplied by Sir Randolph Routh. We shall then be enabled to grind corn sufficient for the use of the workhouse. The women and several of the boys have been employed in making and repairing the clothing of the house.

The examination of the out-door relief lists has been attended with much labour and difficulty, owing to the false representations made by the recipients, their disorderly conduct, and their inability to speak English. By adhering in the administration of relief, to the principles pointed out in the Commissioners' Circular Letter of the 14th August last, the amount of the out-door relief has been diminished in the first week of our partial revision upwards of 100*l.*, and we may add that numerous cases came under our observation which tended to show that those who are not really destitute, will not accept relief in a workhouse.

We have taken and are fitting up a large store, in which we intend to place the children of both sexes. We also intend to remove the aged and infirm from the workhouse. By these arrangements, we shall be enabled to use the workhouse solely as a test for the able-bodied.

From observation when visiting the several rural districts, we consider that those who do not now come under the General Circular of the 14th August last, will soon from want of food be reduced to the same classes. Little employment is given, and in consequence, the labourers and their families are reduced to exist mostly on turnips obtained either from the farmers, or by stealth. Their clothes are ragged and scanty; the roofs of their cabins in a wretched state; fever and dysentery increasing. On every Board-day, several hundred persons assemble who do not come under the class for out-door relief, and from want of room within the workhouse, we are unable to admit them. Their demeanour and conduct are such that we consider it absolutely necessary to obtain the presence of a magistrate, attended with a military and police force.

From the clergy, magistrates, and gentry we have experienced the greatest attention and willingness to co-operate with us.

We cannot close our report without taking the liberty of expressing an anxious desire that the Commissioners would impress upon the Landed Property Improvement Department, the absolute necessity there is for facilitating the obtaining of money, to enable the landed proprietors of this Union immediately to give employment.

REPLY to the above:—*December 14, 1847.*

Kanturk Union.

THE Commissioners highly approve of the manner in which you have endeavoured to grapple with the difficulties of the Union.

As regards the want of employment in the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners will readily communicate with the proper authorities respecting the Landed Property Improvement Act, provided that the names of individuals are forwarded, who have complied with the requisite preliminary formalities, and who nevertheless have reason to complain of any unnecessary delay.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*December 28, 1847.*

WE have the honour to report, that for the week ended the 25th December, the collection of poor-rate for such week, has been 1147*l.* 12*s.*, making the sum collected in three weeks 3941*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*; and but for the illness of one of the collectors, the last week's collection would have been increased.

The general expenses of the house continue to occupy our attention, and we have made a further reduction this week in the weekly cost of paupers. Upon our appointment it was 1*s.* 8½*d.*; it is now 1*s.* 3*d.*

The state in which the paupers were, from want of clothing, the want of tools, and other articles absolutely necessary in the establishment, and the fitting up the store for additional house accommodation, will render the expenditure for these items heavy.

Upon Christmas day, we did not give any addition to the usual rations, on account of the general conduct of the paupers, and the state of the funds, but principally to try it as a test.

The result was 63 left the house.

This enabled us to have room to apply the workhouse test to applicants for outdoor relief, who when offered workhouse relief, refused to accept it, to the number of 50.

From the former management of the Union, we find it difficult to obtain articles at a fair price, in consequence of combination among those who tender for workhouse supplies, even among so respectable a class as millers; we therefore take the liberty of requesting the attention of the Commissioners to a resolution on the minutes for this week, for a consent to purchase without requiring sealed tenders.

The general conduct of the paupers is improving, although it requires the utmost firmness and determination on our part, to enforce attention to the necessary rules.

From the feeling existing among the paupers, we do not pass over the slightest dereliction of duty, lest it may be construed by them into fear on our parts.

The paupers are all employed, and were it not from neglect on the part of the manufacturer, we would have had a corn mill erected now.

MR. CRAWFORD, Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS:—
December 22, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I yesterday attended a meeting of the Vice-Guardians of the Kanturk Union.

The workhouse and all the additional accommodation remains filled to its utmost extent, and in my opinion, from the increasing destitution which prevails in the Union, it has become expedient to issue an order permitting the Vice-Guardians to give relief outside the workhouse to some of the classes not included within the 1st section of the Poor Relief Extension Act.

At present I do not think it advisable to extend the order beyond those classes mentioned in the orders issued to Fermoy and Killarney; but I much fear that a more extended order will soon become necessary.

I regret to say that as yet no employment is being found for the labouring classes by either the landlords or farmers of the district, little advantage having been taken of the provisions of the Land Improvement Act for that purpose.

Kanturk Union.

The progress of the collection of the rate is satisfactory, and there seems no opposition to its collection; but from the present large expenditure of the Union, it is not likely to suffice for a longer period than the month of March ensuing, when a new rate will most probably require to be struck, notwithstanding the Vice-Guardians, who are discharging their duties in a most efficient manner, are keeping down the expenditure as far as they possibly can, consistently with the maintenance of the population.

REPLY to the above :—*December 29, 1848.*

I AM to inclose herewith, for your information, a copy of an order which has been issued, authorizing the Board of Guardians to give out-door relief to certain classes not described in the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 5, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report for the week ended the 1st instant, that the collection of the rate in the Kanturk Union is proceeding to our entire satisfaction, the collectors having lodged with the treasurer of the Union during the week 1725*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, making the sum collected in the month of December 5,666*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* The accounts of the several collectors have been examined and prepared strictly in accordance with the Commissioners' instructions.

The conduct of the paupers in the workhouse is much improved. Fever and other infectious diseases are decreasing.

The pressure for out-door relief still continues, the order of the Commissioners authorizing out-door relief to widows with one child, and to orphans whose parents are both dead, has enabled us, by discharging these classes from the workhouse, to apply the workhouse test to a great many able-bodied applicants, and we are endeavouring to make the workhouse as extensively available as possible for the relief of this class.

We have to request the Commissioners' co-operation in enlarging the present workhouse as far as practicable, and we would suggest the propriety of erecting permanent buildings in the men and women's yards, each capable of containing 300 paupers,—the funds requisite for this purpose to be obtained, if possible, from the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners.

From the numerous complaints which have been made to us by the landed proprietors of the present valuation of the Union, and from our own observations in reference thereto, we have decided on appointing a competent valuator to make a complete revision or new valuation of the Union, and we have caused advertisements to be issued accordingly.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*January 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to the additional accommodation which you propose to provide at the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners approve of the addition of permanent buildings to the present workhouse, in pursuance of the original plan of the building; but they cannot hold out any hope that an application to the Public Works Loan Board for a loan for the purpose would be successful.

If you can obtain a loan or consider that the cost can be defrayed out of the current rates, the Commissioners are prepared to sanction arrangements for the purpose.

As regards the proposed revision of the valuation of the Union, I am to express the Commissioners' approval of the appointment of a fit person for that purpose.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 12, 1848.*

Kanturk Union.

WE have the honour to state as our report of the management of the affairs of the Union for the week ended the 8th instant, that the collection of the rates is very satisfactory, a sum of 1863*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* having been paid to the treasurer by the collectors during the week, making the collection for five weeks a sum of 7530*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, which has enabled us to pay 4300*l.* of the debts incurred by the late Board.

The order relative to widows with one child, and orphans whose parents are both dead, by extending to such out-door relief, has enabled us to apply the work-house test to upwards of 200 applicants, one-third of whom refused to avail themselves of this description of relief.

Destitution is on the increase, and we have again to state that, with few exceptions, the landlords and farmers are not giving the employment that the undrained and neglected state of their lands would enable them to do, and by so doing give to the humbler class their natural support, and increase the food of the country.

Your consent for additional permanent workhouse accommodation will enable us to apply for loans to private individuals, when your architect furnishes an estimate of the probable cost of the buildings.

The robbery of meal in its transit to and at the depôts has been met by the instant arrest of the parties who were prosecuted at the late sessions of Fermoy, two of whom have been sentenced to transportation.

There have been several rescues of property from collectors. In every instance we have directed the immediate prosecution of the parties, and the property rescued to be seized under a magistrate's warrant.

REPLY to the above :—*January 26, 1848.*

I AM directed to express the great satisfaction of the Commissioners at the efficient manner in which you ensured the collection of the poor-rates in the Kanturk Union, during the previous five weeks.

I am at the same time to submit, for your consideration, the arrangements proposed by Mr. Wilkinson for providing additional accommodation at the work-house.

ENCLOSURE.

OBSERVATIONS of the ARCHITECT.

1st Mode.—To carry out plans the same as at Limerick for, say 400 additional inmates, which will cost about 2500*l.*

New Board-room, offices, with room for relieving officers, clerk, and waiting hall for paupers, will cost about 500*l.*, altogether, say 3000*l.*

The present Board-room would be used for probationary ward purposes, and all the old clothes would be deposited in the entrance building.

2nd Mode of Enlargement.—Erect new buildings in front part of the house for the children; for 600 children the sum necessary to be obtained will be about 4000*l.* It should be submitted to the Guardians which arrangement of the two is considered preferable.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 20, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report for the week ended the 15th instant, that the collection of the rate is very satisfactory, a sum of 1507*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* having been lodged with the treasurer for the period in question. The collection for six weeks has realized the sum of 9037*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

The several accounts of the collectors have been strictly checked and prepared in accordance with your instructions, and the collectors are performing their duties to our entire satisfaction.

Destitution is so alarmingly on the increase in the Union, that we are induced to suggest to the Commissioners that the time has arrived when it is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life to give us a discretionary power to extend out-door relief to the able-bodied, exacting from each able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of the order, a task of work to be named by us.

Kanturk Union.

Before applying for this authority we have taken all the steps pointed out by the Commissioners for making the workhouse accommodation a test of destitution of the able-bodied, but the pressure for relief is so excessive, and the present workhouse accommodation so crowded, that we see no alternative but to grant immediate out-door relief to the class in question.

We may mention that the children of both sexes will be removed from the workhouse at the commencement of the next week, which will enable us to admit 400 paupers whose cases we have already investigated.

The great destitution prevailing in the Union is occasioned, in addition to the failure of the potato, by want of employment, and apathy on the part, with very few exceptions indeed, of the landed proprietors and farmers, who have thrown all the able-bodied on the rates in preference to giving them employment, and thus enable them to support themselves by the labour of their hands. We can see no other means of teaching the landed proprietors and farmers their duty towards their less fortunate fellow-creatures, than by levying rates for their support.

We have been requested by the principal landed proprietors and rate-payers of the Union, to transmit herewith a copy of resolutions adopted at a large and influential meeting of that body held on the 19th instant, relative to the destitution of the Union and the employment of the able-bodied.

We think it right to state that our present weekly expenditure is 700*l.*, and if it does not increase, and we can collect the whole of our present rate, it will carry us on to the 11th of March next. Should we find that the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied involve the additional expense we apprehend of, 400*l.* weekly, the period will be a fortnight earlier.

Our calculation for in and out-door relief, provided public or private works be not carried on, will be at the rate of 1100*l.* weekly, from the 1st of March to the 1st of August, being a period of 22 weeks—total amount 24,200*l.* This sum will require a rate of 4*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the net annual value.

As we consider it for the interest of the Union that funds should always be in the hands of the treasurer, and it being easier to collect the sum wanted by one than two rates, we propose making the next rate 4*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. The levy of so large a rate immediately after one of 4*s.* on one division, and 3*s.* in the remaining portion of the Union, the rate-payers will certainly consider very severe; we propose, with the Commissioners' consent, to direct our collectors not to levy at once the whole rate of 4*s.* 6*d.*, provided that within one fortnight after the rate being made one-third of such be paid, and the remaining portions at two separate periods to be named.

ENCLOSURE.

Resolved—In consequence of the increasing destitution, that it is the opinion of this meeting the magistrates and cess-payers of the respective baronies of this Union do take immediate steps to carry out the provisions of the Act lately made for the completion of the unfinished roads commenced by the Board of Works.

Resolved—That a Committee of the under-named gentlemen be appointed to carry the above resolution into effect:—

WILLIAM LEADER, Esq., J.P.
 RICHARD O. ALDWORTH, Esq., J.P., D.L.
 EDWARD D. FREEMAN, Esq., J.P., D.L.
 WILLIAM ALLEN, Jun., Esq., J.P.
 BENJAMIN LEADER, Esq.
 CHARLES DALY, Esq.

(Signed) RICHARD O. ALDWORTH, *Chairman*.

Resolved—That this meeting urge on the Vice-Guardians the necessity which exists for the Board of Works facilitating the obtaining the advances under the Landed Improvement Act, in this Union.

(Signed) RICHARD O. ALDWORTH, *Chairman*.

Resolved—That the Vice-Guardians be requested to impress on the Commissioners the absolute necessity of giving out-door relief to the destitute able-bodied, until the intentions of the foregoing resolutions be carried into effect.

(Signed) RICHARD O. ALDWORTH, *Chairman*.

REPLY to the above :—*January 22, 1848.*

Kanturk Union.

IN accordance with your request an order will be issued at once, authorizing you to give out-door relief to the able-bodied in the Kanturk Union.

A copy of a letter, which has been addressed to the Guardians of other Unions in which such an order has been issued, is enclosed herewith for your information.

Further Letter from the COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—
February 4, 1848.

THE Commissioners cannot sanction the assessment of a rate which could only be paid in instalments.

The Commissioners recommend you to levy a rate sufficient to meet the Union outlay for a portion of the present year, and to be ready for collection immediately after the 25th of March next.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*January 27, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report, for the week ended the 22nd instant, that the collectors of the Union have lodged with the treasurer a sum of 1220*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, making the collection for seven weeks 10,258*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* The accounts of the several collectors have been checked and prepared strictly in accordance with the Commissioners' instructions.

We would suggest for the Commissioners' consideration, that it is desirable to erect additional permanent hospital accommodation at the workhouse, with the view of discontinuing the several fever hospitals established under 10 Vic. c. 22. The estimates for this month, for the support of these establishments, amount to a sum of 300*l.*, being at the rate of 3600*l.* per annum, over which there is not any superintendence whatever, either by relief or finance committees.

We have to report, for the Commissioners' approval, the appointment of Mr. William Wilson to re-value the Union at a sum of 200*l.*, to be completed within eight months from the date of his appointment. We wish to observe, that Mr. Wilson was the best qualified of the numerous candidates who applied for the appointment, and that his proposal was much lower in amount than any of the qualified candidates. We enclose herewith his application, in which the Commissioners will observe that reference is made to them as to the manner in which he performed the duties of valuator in the several Unions in which he has been employed.

We are taking active steps in carrying out the views of the Commissioners, in reference to out-door relief to the able-bodied; and we hope to have all our arrangements made for this purpose in the course of two weeks.

REPLY to the above :—*February 2, 1848.*

THE progress made in the collection of the rate is most satisfactory.

Questions for answers, to be signed by yourselves and Mr. W. Wilson, who has been appointed to re-value the property in the Union, are forwarded, and when answered and signed, to be returned to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners are desirous of being informed whether you propose to make the next rate upon the present valuation.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 3, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report for the week ended the 29th ultimo, that the collection of the rate is very satisfactory. The amount 1352*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, making in eight weeks the sum of 11,610*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* The collectors' accounts have been checked pursuant to the Commissioners' orders.

Kanturk Union.

In order to carry out your order for out-door relief to the able-bodied, we have, as far as the heavy fall of snow did permit, inspected the several quarries in the vicinity of unfinished Public Works, with the view of employing those receiving relief; and also, ultimately, to dispose of the broken stones, and place the amount to the credit of the Union.

The examination of applicants as superintendents has occupied two days—upwards of 500.

We are happy to say that the workhouse continues in a very healthy state; and that the conduct of the inmates is much improved.

With respect to the inquiry contained in your letter, “whether we propose to make the rate on the present valuation,” we have to state it is our intention to do so, as we intend to have the new rate in collection early next month.

FINANCIAL RETURNS:—

[In continuation of Similar Series in Fourth Series of Poor Law Correspondence of the present Session.]

STATEMENTS showing—

- I. The Progress of the Collection of the Poor Rate in the several Unions in Ireland during the Months of December, 1847, and January, 1848; also the Amount disbursed by the Treasurers during those Months; together with the Amount remaining uncollected, and the state of the Balances at the close of each Month.
- II. The Total Amount of Poor Rate collected during each Month.
- III. The Amount of the Liabilities of the several Unions to Contractors and others in each Month, exclusive of any sum due to Her Majesty's Government for the Principal and Interest of the Workhouse Loan, or of Loans advanced by the Relief Commissioners or the Commissariat, or of any Loan obtained simply for Building Purposes.
- IV. Summary showing the Amount of Rate collected in each Month; also the Amount remaining uncollected, and the state of the Balances at foot of the Treasurer's Accounts, at the close of each Month.

FINANCIAL RETURN, DECEMBER, 1847.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of December.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected in the Ten Months ended 31st December.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 31st Dec., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 31st Dec., deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of December.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Co. Antrim.</i>	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Antrim . . .	1,050	901	901	400	681	9,183	3,086	..	..	2,414	591	..	310	100,611
Ballycastle . .	340	7	7	293	2,938	2,463	445	..	..	..	339	332	..	39,160
Ballymena . .	1,140	475	475	365	349	5,968	991	..	..	327	600	125	..	97,492
Ballymoney . .	752	719	722	356	5,893	2,666	..	998	1,506	..	467	..	255	73,086
Belfast . . .	2,222	1,227	1,269	1,860	5,600	19,144	230	..	2,475	..	2,284	1,015	..	271,915
Larne . . .	652	357	357	283	152	3,177	1,308	..	..	961	345	..	12	72,437
Lisburn . . .	1,500	541	574	376	2,907	3,900	..	892	1,321	..	338	..	236	186,397
<i>Co. Armagh.</i>														
Armagh . . .	1,300	834	982	1,075	20,575	7,872	35	..	1,977	..	1,313	331	..	174,572
Lurgan . . .	1,212	1,847	1,847	703	3,651	9,870	1,641	..	244	..	1,190	..	637	92,682
<i>Co. Cavan.</i>														
Bailieborough .	1,114	965	1,046	586	7,196	4,313	807	..	1,896	..	805	..	241	52,156
Cavan . . .	1,420	1,666	2,410	1,620	15,090	6,097	867	..	3,778	..	1,196	..	1,214	127,982
Cootehill . .	840	424	400	449	4,916	4,194	17	..	2,346	..	790	390	..	73,490
<i>Co. Donegal.</i>														
Ballyshannon .	800	1,003	1,007	982	6,287	2,347	25	..	323	..	236	..	772	51,435
Donegal . . .	550	381	381	52	822	2,884	489	..	446	..	79	..	302	31,639
Dunfanaghy . .	350	66	142	149	76	907	413	..	..	261	119	..	23	10,543
Glenties . . .	600	7	..	..	2,690	1,327	129	..	1,042	..	355	378	..	16,380
Inishowen . .	600	33	33	22	5,080	1,302	..	5	409	..	144	111	..	36,607
Letterkenny . .	570	147	120	26	2,424	455	96	..	568	..	191	71	..	31,835
Milford . . .	490	129	129	45	3,147	1,416	84	..	1,348	..	327	198	..	31,377
Stranorlar . .	400	96	80	36	1,380	1,764	..	241	590	..	142	62	..	29,402
<i>Co. Down.</i>														
Banbridge . .	1,168	833	833	889	4,226	4,743	..	1	1,342	..	1,292	459	..	123,970
Downpatrick .	1,060	1,064	1,064	324	2,574	2,276	1,268	..	..	1,031	501	..	563	167,393
Kilkeel . . .	390	291	291	324	413	1,534	266	..	12	..	221	..	70	36,931
Newry . . .	1,000	864	1,064	625	3,681	7,966	1,367	..	..	538	663	..	401	129,651
Newtownards .	1,165	664	664	487	728	7,153	15	..	588	..	465	..	199	118,460
<i>Co. Fermanagh.</i>														
Enniskillen . .	1,100	1,342	1,342	371	11,017	4,477	4	..	5,263	..	580	..	702	96,108
Linaskea . . .	784	361	413	..	7,181	3,052	..	54	1,080	..	276	..	137	46,919
Lotherstown . .	500	787	667	392	5,203	2,395	46	..	664	..	469	..	198	43,944
<i>Co. Londonderry.</i>														
Coleraine . . .	960	495	1,009	327	814	4,270	1,139	..	..	37	734	275	..	76,410
Londonderry . .	960	275	388	516	433	6,064	312	..	294	..	480	92	..	111,959
Maherakelt . .	1,240	1,079	1,200	472	4,584	4,651	1,225	..	..	403	416	..	784	75,339
Newtownlimavady	640	388	388	199	248	3,268	305	..	168	..	215	..	173	65,630
<i>Co. Monaghan.</i>														
Carrickmacross .	550	967	967	492	2,998	5,555	755	..	..	348	559	..	414	46,325
Castleblaney . .	860	1,603	1,600	754	4,321	5,379	32	..	1,335	..	1,562	..	38	65,478
Clones . . .	900	83	83	183	7,131	3,203	..	20	930	..	331	248	..	55,055
Monaghan . . .	976	2,108	2,105	750	7,041	6,410	1,558	..	..	966	465	..	1,640	94,431
<i>Co. Tyrone.</i>														
Castlederg . .	281	172	133	13	640	1,396	800	..	..	105	110	..	25	21,790
Clogher . . .	632	934	874	478	2,676	3,004	81	..	259	..	341	..	533	42,275
Cookstown . .	600	471	623	224	1,817	2,790	63	..	240	..	253	..	370	56,550
Dungannon . .	1,050	533	469	422	5,245	8,235	..	358	1,712	..	631	162	..	90,330
Gortin . . .	400	400	400	408	855	1,147	..	4	365	..	81	..	319	16,751
Omagh . . .	1,000	109	109	79	10,698	3,955	..	515	1,504	..	525	416	..	75,354
Strabane . . .	900	2,162	2,155	541	4,190	5,573	3,659	..	..	3,140	444	..	1,711	81,529
Total of Ulster	36,918	29,810	31,725	18,948	180,568	184,950	23,068	3,088	36,025	10,531	23,488	4,397	12,634	3,320,133

Financial Return, December, 1847—continued.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of December.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected in the Ten Months ended 31st December.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debt on 31st Dec., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 31st Dec., deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of December.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Co. Clare.</i>		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Ennis . . .	808	1,919	1,920	1,638	11,694	9,897	2,264	..	..	1,130	2,005	..	85	101,222
Ennistymon . .	650	1,093	1,093	1,356	10,726	5,987	42	..	955	..	937	..	156	67,486
Kilrush . . .	1,050	2,168	2,181	1,306	11,069	5,138	452	..	297	..	751	..	1,430	59,449
Scariff . . .	1,040	535	535	465	16,818	1,471	92	..	6,254	..	676	141	..	44,609
<i>Co. Cork.</i>														
Bandon . . .	1,075	1,580	1,314	1,534	8,023	8,401	3,211	..	..	2,432	1,612	298	..	136,166
Bantry . . .	736	771	522	186	6,113	1,949	481	..	4,346	..	615	93	..	41,829
Cork . . .	4,200	497	497	3,547	34,342	38,128	769	..	..	441	3,332	2,835	..	365,623
Dunmanway . .	615	613	613	412	6,055	3,153	22	..	330	..	391	..	204	44,084
Fermoy . . .	1,160	4,273	4,273	6,017	11,735	17,675	3,038	..	..	2,301	5,638	1,365	..	153,452
Kanturk . . .	1,040	5,677	5,683	2,914	11,170	13,607	2,779	..	3,900	..	2,426	..	3,257	106,114
Kinsale . . .	800	1,198	1,198	556	3,158	7,030	1,708	..	..	1,786	276	..	922	73,928
Macroom . . .	840	1,043	1,235	275	2,720	6,349	2,023	..	..	1,531	673	..	562	93,873
Mallow . . .	860	2,168	2,110	651	5,388	13,358	6,557	..	..	6,319	580	..	1,530	122,708
Middleton . .	1,286	6,720	6,720	899	15,838	12,123	6,631	..	..	5,596	817	..	5,503	163,070
Skibbereen . .	1,520	381	220	568	15,939	6,627	91	..	1,920	..	115	..	449	98,253
<i>Co. Kerry.</i>														
Cahiriveen . .	400	620	483	299	2,958	1,690	247	..	1,164	..	209	..	283	21,366
Kenmare . . .	540	735	703	728	2,866	2,012	258	..	1,282	..	284	..	419	24,669
Killarney . .	1,650	3,662	3,664	2,878	7,355	10,039	276	..	1,301	..	2,299	..	1,365	83,828
Listowel . . .	896	1,557	1,827	1,140	12,640	6,395	863	..	1,632	..	1,851	24	..	97,553
Tralee . . .	1,910	2,666	2,816	1,928	6,414	15,672	5,667	..	..	4,777	2,464	..	332	113,654
<i>Co. Limerick.</i>														
Kilmallock . .	1,050	2,472	2,482	1,987	8,931	12,776	2,357	..	..	829	1,935	..	547	177,580
Limerick . . .	3,100	5,901	5,901	1,235	28,156	25,176	3,529	..	..	1,205	2,401	..	3,500	206,861
Newcastle . .	710	2,820	3,064	4,214	9,091	11,031	..	10	3,992	..	3,250	186	..	109,499
Rathkeale . .	974	4,110	4,204	1,623	9,102	12,135	5,144	..	..	3,426	1,830	..	2,374	138,337
<i>Co. Tipperary.</i>														
Garrick-on-Suir .	960	1,864	1,753	1,904	4,702	7,522	671	..	750	..	474	..	1,279	89,871
Cashel . . .	819	2,694	3,101	2,030	12,397	9,693	2,403	..	482	..	1,678	..	1,423	150,293
Clogheen . . .	600	1,717	1,717	927	3,556	6,029	2,591	..	..	1,902	972	..	745	62,760
Clonmel . . .	1,600	917	917	1,697	4,300	15,491	4,548	..	..	3,031	1,179	262	..	91,108
Nenagh . . .	1,250	2,348	3,195	1,377	14,590	13,527	3,639	..	..	2,087	1,442	..	1,733	119,802
Roscrea . . .	1,060	3,130	3,111	2,783	11,126	9,505	292	..	133	..	677	..	2,472	102,171
Thurles . . .	960	1,672	1,692	1,113	16,300	6,675	671	..	935	..	827	..	843	108,931
Tipperary . .	1,160	2,034	2,035	2,650	12,070	14,731	4,175	..	..	2,579	2,213	178	..	148,326
<i>Co. Waterford.</i>														
Dungarvan . .	700	3,315	3,286	866	4,894	10,661	6,730	..	..	6,498	860	..	2,455	94,691
Lismore . . .	690	2,585	2,647	767	3,780	5,953	2,262	..	..	1,728	562	..	2,085	64,583
Waterford . .	1,670	1,753	1,753	836	7,560	9,399	2,285	..	..	..	800	..	953	193,771
Total of Munster	41,219	79,068	80,809	55,227	351,664	356,575	78,798	10	29,623	49,608	40,042	5,382	36,919	3,777,103

Financial Return, December, 1847—continued.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of December.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected in the Ten Months ended 31st December.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 31st Dec., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 31st Dec., deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of December.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Co. Carlow.</i>		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Carlow . . .	1,400	2,586	2,696	900	7,787	12,274	3,826	..	..	2,466	1,120	..	1,576	179,037
<i>Co. Dublin.</i>														
Balrothery . .	584	583	431	550	1,322	4,894	244	..	..	79	470	39	..	94,521
Dublin, North .	3,600	2,883	2,346	3,166	7,503	29,425	487	..	2,252	..	3,416	1,070	..	369,745
Dublin, South .	2,300	1,407	1,407	2,928	12,645	28,856	4,983	..	..	3,134	3,476	2,069	..	569,940
Rathdown . .	646	1,071	1,025	1,304	3,201	5,656	615	..	156	..	493	..	778	152,314
<i>Co. Kildare.</i>														
Athy . . .	970	1,533	1,533	1,264	9,225	4,522	285	..	1,572	..	979	..	554	102,881
Celbridge . .	519	25	25	33	6,465	2,953	68	..	1,166	..	334	309	..	130,776
Naas . . .	650	2,874	2,874	741	5,912	8,614	4,002	..	..	3,008	952	..	1,922	135,232
<i>Co. Kilkenny.</i>														
Callan . . .	890	1,857	2,080	2,092	7,820	7,395	1,279	..	..	121	1,398	..	682	84,103
Kilkenny . .	1,750	1,436	1,436	1,472	27,502	9,166	..	1,048	9,762	..	1,567	131	..	241,775
<i>King's County.</i>														
Edenderry . .	612	1,173	1,176	334	2,135	5,091	1,573	..	..	1,204	536	..	640	98,634
Parsonstown .	800	1,226	1,226	1,462	12,288	3,745	481	..	1,226	..	694	..	532	109,266
Tullamore . .	1,220	1,270	1,346	1,320	5,231	7,678	270	..	1,540	..	994	..	322	85,616
<i>Co. Longford.</i>														
Granard . . .	700	405	405	438	13,747	2,136	9	..	2,094	..	563	156	..	87,209
Longford . .	1,094	1,310	1,310	1,307	5,546	7,946	..	963	2,868	..	1,673	363	..	124,496
<i>Co. Louth.</i>														
Ardee . . .	970	1,653	1,653	1,024	1,858	9,408	1,714	..	..	..	460	..	1,193	93,047
Drogheda . .	940	1,713	1,713	959	5,209	9,476	1,586	..	615	..	1,439	..	274	136,604
Dundalk . .	943	360	394	901	3,160	5,747	..	83	594	..	762	368	..	106,680
<i>Co. Meath.</i>														
Donsbaughlin .	566	840	813	1,397	653	5,740	657	..	..	313	994	181	..	118,486
Kells . . .	980	1,354	1,354	1,417	4,448	6,461	257	..	1,265	..	1,293	..	61	123,939
Navan . . .	570	244	190	544	8,715	3,508	..	653	2,163	..	836	646	..	101,527
Oldcastle . .	644	1,224	1,131	638	2,503	9,675	3,660	..	..	1,563	1,167	..	57	79,721
Trim . . .	520	509	663	252	616	4,618	2,708	..	..	1,768	550	36	..	100,634
<i>Queen's County.</i>														
Abbeyleix . .	700	819	888	894	5,106	5,469	2	..	1,982	..	923	104	..	66,759
Mountmellick .	1,644	1,640	1,707	1,509	7,247	9,071	276	..	16	..	1,578	..	62	89,914
<i>Co. Westmeath.</i>														
Athlone . . .	1,048	283	283	449	2,379	5,433	..	925	3,949	..	565	282	..	103,078
Mullingar . .	1,016	273	273	1,137	2,031	6,523	244	..	541	..	1,012	739	..	190,944
<i>Co. Wexford.</i>														
Enniscorthy . .	1,039	2,131	2,158	2,124	12,725	7,094	507	..	1,352	..	580	..	1,551	126,921
Gorey . . .	660	329	329	649	724	5,826	353	..	..	30	783	454	..	94,001
New Ross . .	1,500	2,528	2,532	2,556	11,719	9,459	1,592	..	767	..	2,596	64	..	109,748
Wexford . . .	870	2,459	2,459	1,032	10,761	8,120	2,043	..	..	1,460	1,033	..	1,424	113,714
<i>Co. Wicklow.</i>														
Baltinglass . .	600	541	775	505	2,372	4,425	1,132	..	..	517	684	..	91	90,888
Rathdrum . .	722	378	478	655	2,180	6,633	1,510	..	..	1,207	490	112	..	153,246
Shillelagh . .	487	1,461	1,449	34	2,339	2,490	755	..	868	..	387	..	1,062	64,485
Total of Leinster	34,159	41,879	42,558	37,987	215,064	265,527	37,113	3,672	36,748	16,870	36,797	7,125	12,756	4,624,542

Financial Return, December, 1847—continued.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of December.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected in the Ten Months ended 31st December.	Balances at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 31st Dec., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 31st Dec., deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of December.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Co. Galway.</i>		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Ballinasloe . . .	1,120	2,820	3,030	860	17,094	11,408	4,248	..	..	3,479	639	..	2,391	151,664
Clifden . . .	360	282	282	192	2,656	917	94	..	585	..	132	..	150	22,426
Galway . . .	1,160	1,597	1,593	705	12,571	3,590	967	..	6,927	..	1,027	..	568	100,777
Gort . . .	850	427	423	428	1,000	2,918	3	..	3,027	..	502	79	..	53,037
Loughrea . . .	900	144	153	139	442	3,491	61	..	1,309	..	328	175	..	91,007
Tuam . . .	900	650	545	611	3,131	3,672	..	16	3,948	..	519	..	26	86,236
<i>Co. Leitrim.</i>														
Carriack-on-Shan- non . . .	860	1,379	1,379	1,009	10,623	2,692	686	..	3,264	..	392	..	987	61,450
Manorhamilton . .	790	460	467	41	5,999	1,675	1	..	2,120	..	189	..	278	47,284
Mohill . . .	700	169	177	166	1,156	1,955	52	..	2,548	..	230	53	..	57,778
<i>Co. Mayo.</i>														
Ballina . . .	1,554	1,910	1,967	1,736	9,236	4,748	392	..	1,741	..	1,270	..	697	95,774
Ballinrobe . . .	800	994	1,086	1,028	12,981	1,145	58	..	2,145	..	725	..	351	85,217
Castlebar . . .	750	563	563	No Return.	8,867	1,079	..	1,360	4,288	..	945	..	218	50,981
Swineford . . .	1,000	354	348	334	2,137	1,349	20	..	1,184	..	194	..	154	46,016
Westport . . .	750	875	813	812	7,510	1,067	5	..	3,242	..	1,000	187	..	38,876
<i>Co. Roscommon.</i>														
Boyle . . .	744	161	188	429	7,613	2,680	..	570	3,476	..	306	118	..	81,408
Castlerea . . .	1,050	1,662	1,662	1,693	12,848	5,154	..	72	3,191	..	510	..	1,152	114,349
Roscommon . . .	1,040	129	129	112	1,693	3,316	54	..	6,874	..	782	653	..	85,873
<i>Co. Sligo.</i>														
Sligo . . .	1,800	3,527	3,596	3,562	25,784	8,840	86	..	4,312	..	1,882	..	1,645	142,030
Total of Connaught	17,128	18,103	18,401	13,857	143,343	61,696	6,727	2,018	54,181	3,479	10,972	1,265	8,615	1,465,643

SUMMARY OF RETURN FOR DECEMBER, 1847.

		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
ULSTER . . .	..	29,810	31,725	18,948	180,568	184,950	23,068	3,088	36,025	10,531	23,488	4,397	12,634	3,320,334
MUNSTER. . .	..	79,068	80,809	55,227	351,664	356,575	78,798	10	29,623	49,608	49,042	5,382	36,919	3,777,112
LEINSTER . . .	..	41,879	42,558	37,987	215,064	265,527	37,113	3,672	36,748	16,870	36,797	7,125	12,756	4,624,530
CONNAUGHT . .	..	18,103	18,401	13,857	143,343	61,696	6,727	2,018	54,181	3,479	10,972	1,265	8,615	1,465,643
Total of IRELAND	..	168,860	173,493	126,019	890,639	968,748	145,706	8,788	156,577	80,488	120,299	18,169	70,924	13,187,421
Total for previous Month . . .	..	151,684	151,092	101,307	859,718	699,888	105,893	16,879	183,453	51,770	..	..	..	..

Amount of poor-rate collected during the month of December £. 168,860
 Amount lodged with the treasurers during the month, including other receipts than rate 173,493
 Amount disbursed by the treasurers during the month 126,019
 Amount of rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month 890,639
 Balance at foot of the treasurer's accounts, at the close of the month, in favour of 110 Unions 145,706
 Balance at foot of the treasurer's accounts, at the close of the month, against 20 Unions 8,788

The number of Unions in which the debts of the Guardians to contractors, treasurers, or others (exclusive of all loans obtained from Government, or from private parties, simply for building purposes), on the 31st December, exceeded the amount of money in the treasurer's hands, was 83; and the net amount of the debts of those Unions, deducting the money in their treasurers' hands, was 156,577
 The number of Unions in which the debts of the Guardians to contractors, treasurers, or others (exclusive of all loans obtained from Government, or from private parties simply for building purposes), on the 30th November, exceeded the amount of money in the treasurer's hands, was 91; and the net amount of the debts of those Unions, deducting the money in their treasurer's hands, was 183,453
 The number of Unions in which the money in the treasurers' hands on the 31st December exceeded the debts of the Guardians was 44; and the net amount remaining in the hands of the treasurers of those Unions, deducting the debts, was 80,488
 The number of Unions in which the money in the treasurers' hands on the 30th November exceeded the debts of the Guardians was 39; and the net amount remaining in the hands of the treasurers of those Unions, deducting the debts, was 51,770
 The current expenses of the month of December were about 120,299
 or £48,561 less than the amount of poor-rate collected during the month.
 The current expenses of the month of November were about 83,672
 or £68,012 less than the amount of poor-rate collected during the month.
 The current expenses of the month of October were about 67,170
 or £54,085 more than the amount of poor-rate collected during the month.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of January.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected in the Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1847.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 31st Jan., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 31st Jan., deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of January.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Co. Antrim.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Antrim . . .	1,050	562	585	637	95	11,134	3,053	..	..	2,377	632	37	..	100,611
Ballycastle . .	340	142	142	444	2,796	2,873	147	..	156	..	400	258	..	39,150
Ballymena . . .	1,140	176	176	635	172	6,668	532	..	56	..	559	383	..	97,492
Ballymoney . . .	752	1,979	1,976	572	3,914	3,223	405	..	..	177	993	..	1,683	73,086
Belfast . . .	2,222	2,892	2,958	2,602	13,549	22,251	586	..	3,313	..	3,796	838	..	271,915
Larne . . .	652	135	163	419	1,166	4,679	1,051	..	..	901	223	60	..	72,437
Lisburn . . .	1,560	1,634	1,634	443	1,873	4,278	..	302	948	..	661	..	373	136,397
<i>Co. Armagh.</i>														
Armagh . . .	1,300	858	1,000	929	19,615	8,763	106	..	1,627	..	650	..	350	174,572
Lurgan . . .	1,212	1,502	1,503	1,966	2,148	10,650	1,180	..	..	355	906	..	599	92,682
<i>Co. Cavan.</i>														
Bailieborough . .	1,114	863	907	1,313	6,809	4,863	401	..	1,852	..	863	..	44	52,156
Cavan . . .	1,420	8,949	8,949	3,872	6,141	6,652	5,944	..	..	3,971	1,200	..	7,749	127,382
Cootehill . . .	840	454	440	454	6,950	4,258	2	..	2,892	..	986	546	..	73,490
<i>Co. Donegal.</i>														
Ballyshannon . .	800	2,001	1,975	644	4,286	2,621	1,356	..	..	1,104	497	..	1,478	51,435
Donegal . . .	550	413	422	540	407	3,342	372	..	278	..	254	..	168	31,639
Dunfaughy . . .	350	41	31	85	34	976	358	..	..	192	99	68	..	10,543
Ghenties . . .	500	813	606	553	1,871	1,603	182	..	1,311	..	254	..	156	16,330
Inishowen . . .	600	131	65	74	4,949	1,523	..	14	528	..	185	120	..	36,607
Letterkenny . . .	570	496	381	170	1,927	956	307	..	610	..	423	42	..	31,835
Millford . . .	400	397	439	306	2,991	1,758	220	..	989	..	123	..	316	31,377
Stranorlar . . .	400	467	402	73	2,716	1,827	86	..	287	..	98	..	304	29,402
<i>Co. Down.</i>														
Banbridge . . .	1,168	1,075	1,074	822	3,128	4,987	198	..	803	..	538	..	536	123,970
Downpatrick . .	1,060	920	1,030	469	2,548	3,757	1,928	..	..	1,643	418	..	612	167,393
Kilkeel . . .	390	280	266	137	133	1,786	395	..	..	133	120	..	146	36,931
Newry . . .	1,000	753	733	644	3,150	8,904	1,489	..	..	450	853	100	..	120,651
Newtownards . .	1,165	388	388	397	340	7,969	12	..	607	..	411	23	..	118,469
<i>Co. Fermanagh.</i>														
Enniskillen . . .	1,100	2,396	2,243	1,765	8,621	5,719	482	..	3,733	..	714	..	1,529	96,108
Lisnakea . . .	784	1,067	1,085	1,017	6,113	3,079	67	..	286	..	392	..	793	46,919
Lowtherstown . .	500	1,216	1,292	806	3,990	2,430	532	..	..	225	601	..	691	43,944
<i>Co. Londonderry.</i>														
Coleraine . . .	960	329	549	781	3,028	5,355	907	..	..	240	345	..	204	76,410
Londonderry . .	960	426	430	558	3,463	6,391	185	..	789	..	926	496	..	111,959
Magherafelt . . .	1,210	653	647	483	3,930	5,312	1,447	..	..	860	433	..	214	75,339
Newtownlimavady	640	204	204	543	4,847	3,482	..	34	440	..	476	272	..	65,630
<i>Co. Monaghan.</i>														
Carrickmacross . .	550	1,155	1,167	441	1,843	6,119	1,481	..	..	930	584	..	583	46,325
Castleblaney . .	860	944	950	812	3,377	6,154	170	..	997	..	612	..	338	65,473
Clones . . .	900	559	558	277	6,572	3,325	261	..	755	..	383	..	175	55,055
Monaghan . . .	976	2,457	2,469	436	4,584	7,535	3,691	..	..	2,757	678	..	1,791	94,431
<i>Co. Tyrone.</i>														
Castlederg . . .	281	138	173	126	507	1,672	346	..	..	102	176	3	..	21,790
Clogher . . .	632	932	950	539	1,723	4,262	493	..	209	..	711	..	239	42,275
Cookstown . . .	600	469	469	159	1,347	3,179	374	..	..	170	399	..	70	56,550
Dungannon . . .	1,050	1,057	979	403	4,157	4,594	217	..	..	..	372	..	607	90,330
Gortin . . .	400	..	..	..	865	1,488	..	4	537	..	172	172	..	15,751
Omagh . . .	1,000	501	407	409	10,197	4,130	..	518	1,835	..	738	301	..	75,354
Strabane . . .	900	1,788	1,777	594	2,412	6,657	4,841	..	..	4,250	667	..	1,110	81,529
Total of Ulster	36,918	44,039	44,017	29,348	164,874	213,351	35,604	872	26,939	20,837	24,917	3,719	22,858	3,320,133

Financial Return, January, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of January.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected in the Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1847.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 31st Jan., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 31st Jan., deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of January.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Co. Clare.</i>	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Eanis . . .	808	3,542	3,542	2,253	8,051	10,715	3,548	..	..	2,117	2,565	..	977	101,222
Ennistymon . .	650	1,158	1,158	1,231	9,567	7,617	269	..	1,030	..	1,233	75	..	67,486
Kilrush . . .	1,050	1,314	1,314	1,622	9,755	6,877	144	..	1,066	..	2,083	709	..	59,449
Scariff . . .	1,040	3,253	2,771	1,932	13,565	1,685	930	..	5,093	..	1,615	..	1,156	44,609
<i>Co. Cork.</i>														
Bandon . . .	1,075	2,125	1,937	964	5,897	9,941	4,183	..	..	3,826	542	..	1,395	136,166
Bantry . . .	736	1,725	1,513	970	4,303	2,033	915	..	4,310	..	1,477	..	36	41,829
Cork . . .	4,200	3,808	3,813	1,933	32,171	46,192	2,649	..	..	2,425	1,828	..	1,985	365,623
Dunmanway . .	615	3,115	3,115	564	2,940	3,451	2,574	..	..	2,231	454	..	2,661	44,084
Fermoy . . .	1,160	1,532	1,532	1,551	10,197	18,616	3,019	..	..	1,081	2,751	1,219	..	153,452
Kanturk . . .	1,940	5,948	5,944	2,611	5,224	14,923	5,111	..	423	..	2,223	..	3,721	106,114
Kinsale . . .	800	896	896	305	2,262	7,832	2,300	..	..	2,026	623	..	273	73,928
Macroom . . .	840	717	598	876	1,993	7,413	1,745	..	..	1,438	640	42	..	93,875
Mallow . . .	860	1,967	2,016	1,812	3,566	14,619	6,791	..	..	6,479	856	..	1,160	122,708
Middleton . . .	1,286	5,922	5,922	2,388	9,915	13,361	10,166	..	..	9,061	2,458	..	3,464	163,070
Skibbereen . .	1,520	4,747	4,747	3,473	11,210	6,661	1,313	..	..	994	1,533	..	3,209	98,255
<i>Co. Kerry.</i>														
Caltraveen . .	400	507	507	261	2,895	1,690	493	..	948	..	291	..	215	24,366
Kenmare . . .	540	793	1,167	937	2,062	2,467	433	..	1,556	..	739	..	428	24,689
Killarney . . .	1,650	3,358	3,263	3,360	3,997	10,039	179	..	1,275	..	3,249	26	..	55,828
Listowel . . .	896	4,126	4,314	3,108	8,513	6,405	2,068	..	1,932	..	4,213	..	101	97,558
Tralee . . .	1,910	1,675	1,675	3,996	4,732	17,105	3,346	..	..	1,286	4,256	2,581	..	113,854
<i>Co. Limerick.</i>														
Kilmallock . .	1,050	1,801	1,696	2,948	7,129	14,211	1,105	..	171	..	2,697	1,001	..	177,880
Limerick . . .	3,100	4,503	4,203	4,428	24,400	27,051	3,304	..	..	2,230	3,178	..	1,025	206,861
Newcastle . . .	710	2,680	2,468	2,309	6,411	11,738	149	..	4,986	..	3,464	996	..	109,459
Rathkeale . . .	974	2,296	2,208	2,919	6,805	14,682	4,431	..	..	2,091	3,551	1,375	..	138,337
<i>Co. Tipperary.</i>														
Carrick-on-Suir .	960	1,409	1,709	1,399	3,202	8,019	981	..	286	..	1,245	..	464	89,871
Cashel . . .	819	2,027	2,027	2,879	10,392	10,731	1,531	..	264	..	1,509	..	218	130,293
Clogheen . . .	600	890	892	1,084	2,665	6,938	2,399	..	..	1,840	914	62	..	62,760
Cloumal . . .	1,600	757	757	1,102	3,544	16,889	4,202	..	..	2,478	1,310	533	..	91,108
Nenagh . . .	1,250	1,450	1,450	3,287	13,140	18,925	1,803	..	..	958	2,678	1,128	..	119,802
Roscrea . . .	1,060	1,851	1,735	417	9,273	10,395	1,516	..	..	141	698	..	1,037	102,171
Thurles . . .	960	2,510	2,510	2,434	18,790	7,655	748	..	322	..	2,539	29	..	108,931
Tipperary . . .	1,100	2,220	2,220	2,404	9,849	16,285	3,990	..	..	2,461	2,338	118	..	148,326
<i>Co. Waterford.</i>														
Dungarvon . . .	700	1,549	1,573	1,413	3,344	11,296	6,891	..	..	6,300	1,771	198	..	94,591
Lismore . . .	690	1,646	1,747	592	2,134	6,075	3,416	..	..	2,997	487	..	1,260	64,583
Waterford . . .	1,670	1,022	1,022	1,840	4,733	10,948	1,925	..	..	1,200	1,800	..	..	193,771
Total of Munster	41,219	80,839	79,961	67,657	273,631	395,939	90,586	..	23,667	55,710	66,124	10,172	24,785	3,777,103

Financial Return, January, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of January.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected in the Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1847.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 31st Jan., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 31st Jan., deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of January.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Co. Carlow.</i>		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Carlow . . .	1,400	1,858	1,858	1,907	5,929	13,823	3,778	..	..	2,335	1,989	131	..	179,037
<i>Co. Dublin.</i>														
Balrothery . .	584	458	568	406	864	5,886	407	..	..	7	689	71	..	94,521
Dublin, North .	3,600	3,989	3,952	2,884	32,355	31,242	1,554	..	1,985	..	3,685	..	267	369,745
Dublin, South .	2,300	1,908	1,908	4,662	10,737	32,400	2,329	..	..	1,260	3,782	1,874	..	569,940
Rathdown . .	646	704	629	359	2,497	6,663	876	..	168	..	596	..	33	152,314
<i>Co. Kildare.</i>														
Athy	970	1,783	1,777	1,472	7,442	5,229	590	..	801	..	1,006	..	771	102,881
Celbridge . .	519	1,105	1,105	820	5,360	2,957	354	..	170	..	350	..	755	130,776
Naps	650	2,790	2,790	878	3,122	9,514	5,914	..	..	4,641	1,157	..	1,633	135,232
<i>Co. Kilkenny.</i>														
Callan . . .	890	2,026	1,839	1,558	5,794	7,811	1,560	..	..	744	1,228	..	611	84,103
Kilkenny . .	1,750	5,389	5,402	4,893	22,112	9,405	539	..	6,584	..	2,225	..	3,177	241,775
<i>King's County.</i>														
Edenderry . .	612	532	532	163	1,602	5,530	1,942	..	..	1,452	284	..	248	98,634
Parsonstown .	800	3,260	3,260	1,991	9,027	3,945	1,750	..	..	1,334	700	..	2,560	109,286
Tullamore . .	1,220	1,702	1,724	1,608	3,528	8,214	386	..	1,056	..	1,240	..	484	86,516
<i>Co. Longford.</i>														
Granard . . .	700	744	744	556	13,003	2,755	220	..	2,089	..	738	..	6	87,209
Longford . .	1,094	794	794	765	4,752	8,795	..	934	3,943	..	1,380	586	..	124,496
<i>Co. Louth.</i>														
Ardee	970	456	456	1,049	4,269	9,828	1,121	..	No Return	..	850	394	..	93,047
Drogheda . .	940	1,891	1,891	1,073	3,318	9,476	2,404	..	121	..	1,397	..	494	136,604
Dundalk . . .	948	355	389	527	2,904	6,269	138	..	655	..	450	61	..	106,680
<i>Co. Meath.</i>														
Dunshaughlin .	566	279	306	711	374	6,201	252	..	130	..	750	444	..	118,486
Kells	980	1,109	1,109	1,138	3,339	6,580	229	..	1,574	..	1,419	310	..	123,339
Navan	570	1,601	1,576	1,186	7,115	3,971	..	264	1,868	..	1,281	..	295	181,527
Oldcastle . .	644	744	989	2,231	1,759	10,497	2,417	..	..	812	1,739	750	..	79,721
Trim	520	380	455	708	235	4,660	2,450	..	..	1,435	787	332	..	100,634
<i>Queen's County.</i>														
Abbeyleix . .	700	1,314	1,354	1,355	3,791	6,976	1	..	1,561	..	934	..	420	66,759
Mountmellick .	1,644	1,136	1,136	1,388	6,111	11,280	23	..	423	..	1,644	408	..	89,914
<i>Co. Westmeath.</i>														
Athlone . . .	1,048	259	259	422	2,119	6,379	..	1,088	4,223	..	544	285	..	103,878
Mullingar . .	1,016	546	546	1,038	1,484	7,074	..	247	1,116	..	1,121	575	..	190,944
<i>Co. Wexford.</i>														
Eaniscorthy . .	1,039	3,584	3,537	2,590	9,141	8,457	1,454	..	..	185	2,000	..	1,537	126,921
Gorey	660	211	230	610	4,698	6,619	31	..	926	..	1,187	957	..	94,001
New Ross . .	1,500	2,084	2,084	2,878	9,635	10,022	803	..	840	..	2,157	73	..	109,748
Wexford . . .	870	1,861	1,975	502	8,889	8,833	3,513	..	..	2,929	602	..	1,470	113,714
<i>Co. Wicklow.</i>														
Baltinglass . .	600	954	518	894	1,948	5,811	756	..	..	98	936	418	..	90,888
Rathdrum . .	722	384	384	728	1,793	7,816	1,166	..	..	651	939	555	..	153,246
Shillelough . .	487	631	643	1,084	1,707	2,577	694	..	253	..	407	..	236	64,485
Total of Leinster	34,159	48,821	48,716	46,939	202,753	293,649	39,051	2,533	30,496	17,883	41,943	8,224	14,997	4,624,542

Financial Returns, January, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of January.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected in the Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1847.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 31st Jan., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 31st Jan., deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of January.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Co. Galway.</i>		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Ballinasloe . . .	1,120	3,724	3,555	758	13,360	11,683	7,045	..	..	6,186	847	..	2,708	151,664
Clifden . . .	360	621	621	421	2,034	1,001	210	..	564	..	600	..	21	22,428
Galway . . .	1,160	1,588	1,882	1,105	10,995	3,796	1,722	..	6,475	..	1,431	..	451	100,777
Gort . . .	850	116	117	122	883	3,520	..	..	3,533	..	631	514	..	53,037
Loughrea . . .	900	392	392	235	12,564	3,534	218	..	1,586	..	669	277	..	91,007
Tuam . . .	900	763	716	833	2,369	3,703	16	..	4,819	..	544	..	172	86,236
<i>Co. Leitrim.</i>														
Carrick-on-Shan- non . . .	860	908	660	470	9,245	3,339	597	..	3,350	..	729	69	..	61,450
Manorhamilton . . .	790	1,312	1,312	1,013	4,687	2,013	90	..	1,254	..	355	..	957	47,284
Mohill . . .	700	162	116	301	6,813	2,411	363	..	3,600	..	1,200	1,084	..	37,773
<i>Co. Mayo.</i>														
Ballina . . .	1,554	1,626	2,383	2,472	7,610	5,168	409	..	746	..	2,206	..	177	95,774
Ballinrobe . . .	800	2,180	2,173	1,908	10,793	1,250	265	..	2,779	..	2,808	635	..	85,217
Castlebar . . .	750	560	620	..	8,306	1,167	..	..	5,168	..	1,500	880	..	50,981
Swinesford . . .	1,000	202	204	223	9,116	1,575	2	..	1,262	..	283	79	..	46,016
Westport . . .	750	1,219	1,458	1,338	6,290	1,067	137	..	3,498	..	975	..	493	38,876
<i>Co. Roscommon.</i>														
Boyle . . .	744	302	203	325	13,926	3,077	..	692	3,577	..	304	101	..	81,408
Castlerea . . .	1,050	1,446	1,446	1,673	11,402	5,638	..	298	2,628	..	884	..	562	114,349
Roscommon . . .	1,040	412	301	95	14,068	3,620	250	..	7,129	..	577	276	..	85,873
<i>Co. Sligo.</i>														
Sligo . . .	1,800	2,992	2,994	3,053	22,793	9,817	28	..	3,394	..	2,676	..	918	142,030
Total of Connaught	17,128	20,335	21,153	16,394	167,253	67,379	11,387	990	53,367	6,186	18,619	3,915	6,449	1,465,643

SUMMARY OF RETURN FOR JANUARY, 1848.

		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
ULSTER . . .	36,918	44,059	44,017	29,348	184,874	213,351	35,604	872	26,939	20,837	24,917	3,719	22,858	3,320,334
MUNSTER . . .	41,219	80,839	79,961	67,657	273,631	395,939	90,586	..	23,667	53,710	66,124	10,172	24,785	3,777,112
LEINSTER . . .	34,159	48,821	48,716	46,939	202,753	293,649	39,651	2,533	30,496	17,883	41,943	8,224	14,997	4,624,530
CONNAUGHT . . .	17,128	20,335	21,153	16,394	167,253	67,379	11,387	990	53,367	6,186	18,619	3,915	6,449	1,465,643
Total of IRELAND	..	194,054	193,847	160,338	788,511	970,318	177,228	4,395	136,469	100,616	151,603	26,030	69,089	13,187,421
Total for previous Month	..	168,860	173,403	126,019	890,639	..	145,706	8,788	156,577	80,488	120,299	18,169	76,924	..

Amount of poor-rate collected during the month of January £. 194,054
 Amount lodged with the treasurers during the month, including other receipts than rate 193,847
 Amount disbursed by the treasurers during the month 160,338
 Amount of rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month 788,511
 Balance at foot of the treasurers' accounts, at the close of the month, in favour of 118 Unions 177,228
 Balance at foot of the treasurers' accounts, at the close of the month, against 11 Unions 4,395

The number of Unions in which the debts of the Guardians to contractors, treasurers, or others (exclusive of all loans obtained from Government, or from private parties, simply for building purposes), on the 31st January, exceeded the amount of money in the treasurers' hands, was 78; and the net amount of the debts of those Unions, deducting the money in their treasurers' hands, was . . . 136,469
 The number of Unions in which the debts of the Guardians to contractors, treasurers, or others (exclusive of all loans obtained from Government, or from private parties simply for building purposes), on the 31st December, exceeded the amount of money in the treasurers' hands, was 83; and the net amount of the debts of those Unions, deducting the money in their treasurers' hands, was . . . 156,577
 The number of Unions in which the money in the treasurers' hands on the 31st January exceeded the debts of the Guardians was 53; and the net amount remaining in the hands of the treasurers of those Unions, deducting the debts, was 100,616
 The number of Unions in which the money in the treasurers' hands on the 31st December exceeded the debts of the Guardians was 44; and the net amount remaining in the hands of the treasurers of those Unions, deducting the debts, was 80,488
 The current expenses of the month of January were about 151,603
 or £42,451 less than the amount of poor-rate collected during the month.
 The current expenses of the month of December were about 120,299
 or £48,561 less than the amount of poor-rate collected during the month.
 The current expenses of the month of November were about 83,672
 or £68,012 more than the amount of poor-rate collected during the month.

Note.—See Letter from the Commissioners to Sir D. Le Marchant at Page 12.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RETURNS:—Showing the AMOUNT of POOR RATE COLLECTED in 1846 and 1847, respectively; and specifying the AMOUNT COLLECTED, the AMOUNT remaining UNCOLLECTED, and the state of the BALANCES at foot of the TREASURERS' ACCOUNTS, at the close of EACH MONTH in 1846, 1847, and 1848.

Month.	Amount of Rate collected during the Month.			Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at close of the Month.			Amount in hands of Treasurers of certain Unions at close of the Month.			Amount due to the Treasurers of the remaining Unions, at the close of the Month.		
	1846	1847	1848	1846	1847	1848	1846	1847	1848	1846	1847	1848
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
January	36,229	52,439	194,054	219,052	250,953	788,511	41,362	33,274	177,228	7,358	23,565	4,395
February	41,885	47,264	..	206,664	279,140	..	54,314	30,383	..	5,294	28,312	..
March, from 1st to 25th . . .	38,909	52,581	..	174,784	265,249	..	57,129	26,493	..	5,014	31,112	..
From 25th March to 30th April .	38,436	63,110	..	173,956	349,773	..	55,986	21,611	..	6,580	32,278	..
May	31,230	64,865	..	163,508	406,223	..	57,655	15,424	..	6,152	30,526	..
June	30,630	59,436	..	150,201	463,730	..	56,425	14,404	..	6,649	31,897	..
July	24,185	62,097	..	129,125	594,120	..	47,801	18	..	7,368	34,860	..
August	17,173	53,389	..	135,233	690,103	..	44,350	25,210	..	8,165	35,507	..
September	21,510	73,358	..	155,718	816,452	..	39,913	39,966	..	8,071	39,841	..
October	26,805	121,255	..	225,816	864,049	..	32,114	64,444	..	11,089	28,782	..
November	36,639	151,684	..	244,050	859,718	..	34,393	105,893	..	14,746	16,879	..
December	46,440	168,860	..	243,384	890,639	..	35,358	145,706	..	19,452	8,788	..
TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED .	In 1846, £390,071	In 1847, £970,318	In 1848, 194,054									

PAUPERS IN WORKHOUSES.

SUMMARIES of Weekly Returns of the Numbers of Paupers in the Workhouses in the several Provinces in Ireland, and Fever Hospitals connected therewith, in the Months of December, 1847, and January, 1848, and in the corresponding Weeks in the previous Years 1847, 1846, and 1845 respectively; showing the Amount of Workhouse Accommodation, Numbers of the several Classes of Paupers in each Workhouse, the Increase or Decrease thereof in each Week as compared with the previous Week of the Year, and also with the corresponding Weeks of the previous Years, the Numbers of Fever Patients, and of Deaths.

[In continuation of Returns in Fourth Series of Poor Law Correspondence of last Session.]

Week ended Saturday, December 4, 1847,

NAMES OF PROVINCES.	Population according to Census of 1841.	No. of Unions the Workhouse of which is situated in the Province.	Workhouse Accommodation.				Number of Paupers in the						
			No. of Paupers the Work-houses were originally calculated to contain.	No. the Fever Hospitals are calculated to contain.	No. for which additional Accommodation has been provided.	Total No. for which Accommodation is provided in each Province.	Able-bodied.			Children under 15 Years of Age.	Sick in the Workhouse Hospitals.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.		Fever Patients.	Other Cases.	Total.
ULSTER . . Sat. 4 Dec. 1847	2,362,132	43	28,200	2,820	4,969	35,989	1,581	4,204	5,785	14,775	2,439	2,309	4,748
" 5 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,115	3,058	4,173	10,329	257	1,767	2,024
" 6 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	424	1,119	1,543	4,300	49	996	1,045
MUNSTER . . " 4 Dec. 1847	2,435,347	35	26,210	1,830	8,536	36,626	3,039	5,539	8,578	15,843	910	3,556	4,466
" 5 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,595	3,918	5,513	13,250	707	2,450	3,157
" 6 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	632	1,515	2,147	4,856	103	1,339	1,462
LEINSTER . . " 4 Dec. 1847	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,266	5,533	33,949	1,788	4,708	6,496	13,569	2,072	3,779	5,851
" 5 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	849	2,843	3,692	10,719	503	2,904	3,407
" 6 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	490	1,563	2,053	5,802	131	1,744	1,875
CONNAUGHT . " 4 Dec. 1847	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,218	520	16,338	1,541	2,761	4,302	7,789	1,120	1,622	2,742
" 5 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	778	1,989	2,767	5,777	295	963	1,258
" 6 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	289	458	747	1,496	54	405	459
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 4 Dec. 1847	8,174,268	130	93,860	9,184	19,858	122,902	7,949	17,212	25,161	51,976	6,541	11,286	17,807
" 5 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,337	11,808	16,145	40,075	1,762	8,084	9,846
" 6 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,835	4,655	6,490	16,454	337	4,504	4,841

Week ended Saturday, December 11, 1847,

ULSTER . . Sat. 11 Dec. 1847	2,362,132	43	28,200	2,861	5,042	36,103	1,776	4,878	6,654	16,152	2,656	2,530	5,186
" 12 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,257	3,531	4,788	11,733	369	1,879	2,248
" 13 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	453	1,267	1,720	4,687	57	1,094	1,151
MUNSTER . . " 11 Dec. 1847	2,435,347	35	26,210	2,049	9,350	37,009	3,708	6,440	10,148	17,556	1,035	3,956	5,041
" 12 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,931	4,751	6,682	15,372	783	2,966	3,749
" 13 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	736	1,738	2,474	5,611	134	1,549	1,683
LEINSTER . . " 11 Dec. 1847	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,258	6,241	34,349	1,931	4,993	6,924	13,736	2,170	3,968	6,138
" 12 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	851	2,962	3,813	11,013	573	2,887	3,460
" 13 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	519	1,639	2,158	5,969	121	1,814	1,935
CONNAUGHT . " 11 Dec. 1847	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,228	520	16,348	1,258	2,484	3,742	7,451	1,161	1,473	2,634
" 12 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	637	1,695	2,332	5,092	274	1,068	1,342
" 13 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	289	443	732	1,431	43	426	469
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 11 Dec. 1847	8,174,268	130	93,860	9,396	21,153	124,409	8,673	18,795	27,468	54,895	7,072	11,927	18,999
" 12 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,678	12,939	17,615	43,210	1,999	8,800	10,799
" 13 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,997	5,087	7,084	17,698	355	4,883	5,238

Week ended Saturday, December 18, 1847,

ULSTER . . Sat. 18 Dec. 1847	2,362,132	43	28,200	2,857	5,456	36,513	1,758	4,896	6,654	16,038	2,608	2,665	5,273
" 19 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,343	3,857	5,200	13,208	424	2,153	2,577
" 20 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	468	1,283	1,751	4,630	54	1,105	1,159
MUNSTER . . " 18 Dec. 1847	2,435,347	35	26,210	1,899	9,820	37,929	3,394	6,096	9,490	16,248	932	3,756	4,688
" 19 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,801	4,526	6,327	14,638	1,065	2,599	3,664
" 20 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	709	1,636	2,345	5,256	117	1,412	1,529
LEINSTER . . " 18 Dec. 1847	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,308	6,430	34,588	2,118	5,197	7,315	14,030	2,172	4,080	6,252
" 19 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	896	3,077	3,973	11,230	618	3,105	3,723
" 20 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	565	1,678	2,243	6,090	131	1,848	1,979
CONNAUGHT . " 18 Dec. 1847	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,328	720	16,648	1,354	2,465	3,819	6,990	1,203	1,530	2,733
" 19 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	711	1,750	2,461	5,265	331	983	1,314
" 20 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	286	427	713	1,373	45	403	448
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 18 Dec. 1847	8,174,268	130	93,860	9,392	22,426	125,678	8,624	18,654	27,278	53,306	6,915	12,031	18,946
" 19 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,751	13,210	17,961	44,341	2,438	8,840	11,278
" 20 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,028	5,024	7,052	7,1349	347	4,768	5,115

Week ended Saturday, December 25, 1847,

ULSTER . . Sat. 25 Dec. 1847	2,362,132	43	28,200	2,877	5,491	36,568	1,827	5,006	6,833	16,310	2,486	2,871	5,357
" 26 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,389	3,836	5,125	13,161	367	2,417	2,784
" 27 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	456	1,260	1,716	4,652	59	1,198	1,257
MUNSTER . . " 25 Dec. 1847	2,435,347	35	26,210	2,035	11,418	39,663	3,797	6,487	10,284	16,192	1,064	3,920	4,984
" 26 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,836	4,575	6,411	14,256	1,111	2,860	3,971
" 27 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	714	1,589	2,303	5,294	157	1,436	1,593
LEINSTER . . " 25 Dec. 1847	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,568	5,816	34,234	2,146	5,340	7,486	14,438	2,114	4,295	6,409
" 26 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	986	3,191	4,177	11,534	680	3,261	3,941
" 27 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	616	1,800	2,416	6,323	155	1,904	2,059
CONNAUGHT . " 25 Dec. 1847	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,568	960	17,128	1,228	2,440	3,668	6,981	1,078	1,597	2,675
" 26 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	655	1,591	2,246	4,831	312	1,112	1,424
" 27 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	277	440	717	1,495	65	424	489
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 25 Dec. 1847	8,174,268	130	93,860	10,048	23,685	127,593	8,998	19,273	28,271	53,921	6,742	12,683	19,425
" 26 Dec. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,766	13,193	17,959	43,772	2,470	9,650	12,120
" 27 Dec. 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,063	5,089	7,152	7,764	438	4,962	5,398

* The numbers for Armagh, Cashel, Glenties, Granard, and Tralee, are not included.
† The numbers for Clifden, Granard, and Westport, are not included in the above.

RETURNS.

and corresponding Periods in 1846 and 1845.

Workhouses in each Province.			Total Number in Work-houses.	Total Number in Work-houses in last preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in present Week, compared with the preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Number of Paupers in Workhouses in present Year,		Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Head (exclusive of Clothing)	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals unconnected with Workhouses.			Number of Fever Patients.			Deaths		
All other Classes,						As compared with 1846.	As compared with 1845.		No. in the Week in present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Week of 1847.		No. in the Week in present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.	No. in the Week of present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.								As compared with 1846.	As compared with 1845.						
1,553	2,397	3,950	29,258	28,181	1,077	8,462	18,884	s. d.									
1,645	2,189	3,834	20,360	..	..	..	..	1 6 1/2	37	35	37	2,439	1,953	456	175	172	3
888	1,072	1,960	8,848	..	..	..	..	1 7 1/2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,419	3,498	5,917	34,804	33,520	1,284	5,051	20,759	1 7 1/2	149	96	141	910	834	76	183	169	16
2,461	4,121	6,582	23,502	..	..	..	..	1 9 1/2	53	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,529	2,002	3,531	11,996	..	..	..	..	1 6 1/2	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,563	3,326	5,889	31,803	30,872	933	8,750	18,310	1 9 1/2	217	204	217	2,072	1,958	114	240	199	50
2,295	2,942	5,237	23,055	..	..	..	..	2 0	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,769	1,996	3,765	13,495	..	..	..	..	1 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
634	1,062	1,696	16,529	15,661	868	4,473	9,282	1 7 1/2	48	42	48	1,120	1,035	35	113	87	26
442	588	1,030	10,832	..	..	..	..	1 9	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
157	198	355	3,057	..	..	..	..	1 7 1/2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,169	10,283	17,452	112,396	108,234*	4,162	26,736	67,235	1 7 1/2	451	377	443	6,541	5,860	681	722	627	95
6,843	9,840	16,683	82,749	..	..	..	..	1 9 1/2	74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,343	5,268	9,611	37,396	..	..	..	..	1 7 1/2	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1846 and 1845.

1,643	2,596	4,239	32,231	31,036	1,195	8,901	20,494	1 6 1/2	44	34	44	2,666	2,583	73	229	183	46
1,736	2,367	4,103	22,872	..	..	..	..	1 8	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
980	1,159	2,139	9,697	..	..	..	..	1 7 1/2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,572	3,762	6,334	39,079	37,199	1,880	6,132	24,967	1 6 1/2	146	33	133	1,085	951	134	240	191	49
2,704	4,440	7,144	32,947	..	..	..	..	1 9 1/2	113	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,639	2,184	3,823	13,591	..	..	..	..	1 7	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,583	3,351	5,934	32,732	31,805	927	9,195	1,885	1 9 1/2	218	200	217	2,170	2,072	98	259	249	10
2,294	2,937	5,251	23,537	..	..	..	..	2 0 1/2	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,776	2,039	3,815	13,877	..	..	..	..	1 8 1/2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
658	1,101	1,759	16,586	15,243	343	4,684	8,823	1 6 1/2	69	49	69	1,161	1,039	122	124	93	26
441	583	1,029	9,795	..	..	..	..	1 9	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
140	189	329	2,961	..	..	..	..	1 7 1/2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,456	10,810	18,266	119,628	115,283†	4,345	28,312	56,169	1 7 1/2	477	316	463	7,072	6,645	427	832	721	131
7,173	10,352	17,527	89,151	..	..	..	..	1 9 1/2	161	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,535	5,571	10,106	40,126	..	..	..	..	1 7 1/2	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1846 and 1845.

1,617	2,556	4,173	32,138	31,773	365	6,747	20,929	1 6 1/2	37	16	36	2,608	2,630	D. 22	276	237	49
1,859	2,547	4,406	23,391	..	..	..	..	1 8 1/2	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
941	1,171	2,112	9,652	..	..	..	..	1 7 1/2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,395	3,473	5,868	36,294	36,064	230	4,627	22,598	1 6 1/2	180	66	172	932	978	D. 46	252	214	38
2,633	4,405	7,038	31,667	..	..	..	..	1 9 1/2	114	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,632	2,161	3,793	12,923	..	..	..	..	1 7 1/2	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,611	3,399	6,010	33,607	32,732	875	9,171	19,646	1 9 1/2	210	201	208	2,172	2,170	2	271	259	12
2,397	3,113	5,510	24,436	..	..	..	..	2 0 1/2	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,764	1,985	3,749	14,061	..	..	..	..	1 9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
813	1,131	1,944	16,466	15,287	199	4,767	8,954	1 6 1/2	80	51	80	1,203	1,229	D. 26	132	132	..
463	627	1,090	10,130	..	..	..	..	1 10 1/2	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
154	201	355	2,889	..	..	..	..	1 9 1/2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,436	10,559	17,995	117,525	115,856†	1,668	23,312	72,027	1 7 1/2	507	334	496	6,915	7,007	D. 92	931	832	99
7,352	10,692	18,044	91,624	..	..	..	..	1 10	173	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,491	5,518	10,009	39,525	..	..	..	..	1 8 1/2	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1846 and 1845.

1,639	2,493	4,132	32,632	32,623	9	6,266	20,883	1 6 1/2	37	30	37	2,486	2,634	D. 148	343	281	62
1,811	2,609	4,420	25,480	..	..	..	..	1 9	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
955	1,199	2,154	9,779	..	..	..	..	1 8 1/2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,320	3,195	5,515	36,975	37,252	D. 277	5,678	22,830	1 7 1/2	202	73	188	1,064	1,002	62	301	276	25
2,497	4,162	6,659	31,297	..	..	..	..	1 10 1/2	129	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,556	2,097	3,653	12,843	..	..	..	..	1 10 1/2	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,721	3,444	6,165	34,498	34,361	137	9,376	19,783	1 11	161	152	156	2,114	2,193	D. 81	295	281	14
2,407	3,063	5,470	25,192	..	..	..	..	2 2 1/2	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,856	2,061	3,917	14,715	..	..	..	..	1 11 1/2	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
753	1,128	1,881	16,203	15,574	D. 369	3,914	8,625	1 7 1/2	62	40	62	1,078	1,135	D. 57	200	125	75
488	659	1,147	9,648	..	..	..	..	2 0 1/2	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
146	202	348	3,049	..	..	..	..	1 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,433	10,260	17,693	119,310	119,810§	D. 500	23,234	72,121	1 8	463	295	443	6,743	6,966	D. 224	1,139	963	176
7,203	10,493	17,696	91,547	..	..	..	..	1 11 1/2	167	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,513	5,559	10,072	40,386	..	..	..	..	1 10	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

† Boyle, Cahirciveen, Cashel, Granard, Macroom, Milford, and Westport, are not included in the above.

§ The numbers for Clifden, Lismore, Nenagh, and Westport, are not included in the above.

Week ended Saturday, January 1, 1848,

NAMES OF PROVINCES.	Population according to Census of 1841.	No. of Unions the Workhouses of which is situate in the Province.	Workhouse Accommodation.				Number of Paupers in the						
			No. of Paupers the Work-houses were origi-nally calcu-lated to contain.	No. the Fever Hospitals are calcu-lated to contain.	No. for which addi-tional Accom-modation has been provided.	Total No. for which Accom-modation is pro-vided in each Province.	Able-bodied.			Children under 15 Years of Age.	Sick in the Workhouse Hospital.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.		Fever Patients.	Other Cases.	Total.
ULSTER . . . Sat. 1 Jan. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,017	5,701	36,918	1,968	4,934	6,902	15,983	2,378	2,712	5,090
" 2 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,320	3,906	5,226	13,566	413	2,521	2,934
" 3 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	605	1,342	1,947	4,810	00	1,216	1,276
MUNSTER . . . 1 Jan. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	1,841	13,168	41,219	3,951	6,671	10,622	16,318	1,217	4,359	5,576
" 2 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,883	4,999	6,882	16,279	1,301	3,437	4,738
" 3 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	784	1,087	2,471	5,691	123	2,033	2,206
LEINSTER . . . 1 Jan. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,524	5,785	34,159	2,124	5,315	7,439	13,845	2,141	4,518	6,659
" 2 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	891	3,453	4,344	11,491	665	3,434	4,099
" 3 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	611	1,645	2,156	6,233	130	2,009	2,139
CONNAUGHT . . 1 Jan. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,568	960	17,128	984	1,953	2,937	6,185	902	1,688	2,590
" 2 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	549	1,539	2,088	4,824	236	1,362	1,598
" 3 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	226	388	614	1,470	47	392	439
Total of IRELAND { Sat. 1 Jan. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	9,950	25,614	129,424	9,027	18,873	27,900	52,331	6,638	13,277	19,915
" 2 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,643	13,897	18,540	46,160	2,615	10,754	13,369
" 3 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,026	5,062	7,088	18,204	360	5,700	7,060

Week ended Saturday, January 8, 1848,

ULSTER . . . Sat. 8 Jan. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,071	6,667	37,948	1,977	5,262	7,239	16,642	2,731	2,919	5,650
" 9 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,236	4,038	5,274	14,103	469	2,987	3,456
" 10 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	477	1,344	1,821	5,020	58	1,256	1,314
MUNSTER . . . 8 Jan. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	1,949	14,494	43,653	4,223	7,329	11,552	17,850	1,243	4,612	5,755
" 9 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,772	5,122	6,894	15,885	1,257	5,000	6,257
" 10 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	814	1,635	2,449	5,909	185	2,079	2,264
LEINSTER . . . 8 Jan. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,550	5,109	33,509	2,316	5,610	7,926	14,320	2,176	4,720	6,896
" 9 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	918	3,730	4,648	12,247	730	3,527	4,257
" 10 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	559	1,776	2,335	6,731	169	2,026	2,195
CONNAUGHT . . 8 Jan. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,508	1,020	17,128	1,220	2,264	3,484	6,277	857	1,775	2,632
" 9 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	553	1,701	2,254	5,175	246	1,435	1,671
" 10 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	193	390	589	1,448	166	400	566
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 8 Jan. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	10,078	27,300	131,238	9,736	20,465	30,201	54,989	7,007	13,926	20,933
" 9 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,489	14,591	19,080	47,412	2,702	12,939	15,641
" 10 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,043	5,161	7,194	19,108	578	5,761	6,339

Week ended Saturday, January 15, 1848,

ULSTER . . . Sat. 15 Jan. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,317	6,387	37,904	1,972	5,194	7,166	16,350	2,747	2,999	5,746
" 16 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,144	4,018	5,162	14,014	575	2,963	3,538
" 17 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	489	1,363	1,852	5,103	61	1,209	1,270
MUNSTER . . . 15 Jan. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	2,330	1,795	46,491	4,604	8,204	12,808	18,581	926	4,966	5,893
" 16 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,901	5,608	7,409	16,826	1,549	4,773	6,322
" 17 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	842	1,742	2,584	6,147	214	2,069	2,283
LEINSTER . . . 15 Jan. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,550	6,769	35,169	2,030	4,951	6,981	12,405	1,820	4,245	6,065
" 16 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	769	3,103	3,872	10,583	735	3,359	4,094
" 17 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	507	1,569	2,076	5,914	145	1,876	2,021
CONNAUGHT . . 15 Jan. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,268	1,520	17,328	1,528	2,822	4,350	6,940	1,064	1,804	2,868
" 16 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	612	1,908	2,520	6,553	270	1,497	1,767
" 17 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	213	436	649	1,568	150	416	566
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 15 Jan. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	10,405	32,627	136,892	10,134	21,171	31,305	54,281	6,557	14,014	20,571
" 16 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,426	14,637	18,963	46,976	3,129	12,592	15,721
" 17 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,051	5,110	7,161	18,732	570	5,570	6,140

Week ended Saturday, January 22, 1848,

ULSTER . . . Sat. 22 Jan. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,057	7,727	38,984	2,003	5,186	7,189	16,132	2,714	2,998	3,712
" 23 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,178	4,014	5,192	13,961	683	3,123	3,806
" 24 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	497	1,351	1,848	5,191	71	1,206	1,277
MUNSTER . . . 22 Jan. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	2,425	18,461	47,096	4,875	8,786	13,661	1,863	905	5,263	6,168
" 23 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,837	5,545	7,382	16,878	1,718	4,844	6,562
" 24 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	868	1,787	2,655	6,252	244	2,128	2,372
LEINSTER . . . 22 Jan. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,843	9,166	37,859	2,569	5,919	8,488	14,119	2,085	4,672	6,757
" 23 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	956	3,885	4,835	12,538	1,026	3,640	4,666
" 24 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	596	1,837	2,433	6,911	143	2,139	2,282
CONNAUGHT . . 22 Jan. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,498	1,580	17,678	1,407	2,578	3,985	6,262	926	1,984	2,910
" 23 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	585	1,752	2,337	4,922	281	1,552	1,833
" 24 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	206	406	610	1,384	147	377	524
Total of LAND. { Sat. 22 Jan. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	10,823	36,934	141,617	10,854	22,469	33,323	55,176	6,630	14,917	21,547
" 23 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,550	15,196	19,746	48,299	3,708	13,159	16,867
" 24 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,167	5,379	7,546	19,738	605	5,850	6,455

* The numbers for Castlebar, Gort, Lismore, and Westport, are not included in the above.

† The numbers for Ballycastle, Castlebar, Drogheda, Glenties, Kells, Kilkeenny, Lismore, Rathdown, and Westport are not included.

Returns—continued.

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

Workhouses in each Province.			Total Number in Work-houses.	Total Number in Work-houses in last preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in present Week compared with the preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Number of Paupers in Workhouses in present Year,		Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Head (exclusive of Clothing.)	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals unconnected with Workhouses.			Number of Fever Patients.			Deaths.		
All other Classes.						As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.		No. in the Week in present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Week of 1848.		No. in the Week in present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease	No. in the Week of present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.								As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.						
1,583	2,439	4,022	31,997	31,548	449	5,795	20,933	s. d.									
1,838	2,638	4,476	26,202	..	..	..	..	1 8	58	57	57	2,378	2,373	5	337	321	16
975	1,233	2,208	10,141	..	..	..	..	1 9½	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,480	3,354	5,834	38,350	37,487	863	4,617	24,219	1 8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,305	3,529	5,834	33,733	..	..	..	..	1 6½	197	63	175	1,217	1,690	127	382	315	67
1,375	1,574	3,249	13,617	..	..	..	..	1 11½	134	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,598	3,363	5,961	33,904	33,748	156	8,782	19,392	1 8	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,394	2,794	5,188	25,122	..	..	..	..	1 9½	179	163	174	2,141	2,088	53	420	292	128
1,832	2,152	3,984	14,512	..	..	..	..	2 1	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
678	927	1,605	13,317	13,832	D. 515	3,309	7,230	1 9½	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
465	579	1,044	9,554	..	..	..	..	1 6½	30	26	30	902	883	19	223	168	35
184	184	368	2,891	..	..	..	..	2 0	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
								1 7½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,339	10,083	17,422	117,568	116,615	1,468	22,503	71,774	1 7½	464	309	436	6,638	6,434	204	1,362	1,116	246
7,002	9,540	16,542	84,611	..	..	..	..	1 11½	155	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,366	5,413	9,809	41,161	..	..	..	..	1 8	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1847 and 1846.

1,720	2,627	4,356	33,887	33,083	804	6,262	22,440	1 6½	32	32	32	2,731	2,669	62	355	358	D. 3
1,937	2,833	4,770	27,625	..	..	..	..	1 9½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,054	1,281	2,335	10,490	..	..	..	..	1 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,872	3,639	6,511	41,668	39,156	2,512	6,027	26,724	1 7	211	33	193	1,243	1,217	26	438	390	48
2,670	3,935	6,605	35,641	..	..	..	..	1 11½	178	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,674	2,100	3,774	14,396	..	..	..	..	1 8	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,816	3,421	6,237	35,279	34,634	645	8,581	19,892	1 9½	179	160	166	2,176	2,224	D. 48	444	428	16
2,511	3,035	5,546	26,698	..	..	..	..	2 1½	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,955	2,171	4,126	15,387	..	..	..	..	1 9½	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
596	867	1,463	13,856	13,299	557	2,983	7,533	1 6	35	29	35	857	940	D. 83	232	219	14
565	692	1,257	10,367	..	..	..	..	2 0½	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
201	200	401	3,004	..	..	..	..	1 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8,013	10,554	18,567	124,690	120,172*	4,518	23,855	76,589	1 7½	457	254	426	7,007	7,050	D. 43	1,469	1,394	75
7,703	10,495	18,198	100,331	..	..	..	..	1 11½	203	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,884	5,752	10,636	43,277	..	..	..	..	1 8½	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,709	2,638	4,347	33,609	32,903	706	6,154	23,528	1 6	29	11	28	2,747	2,695	52	283	352	D. 69
1,934	2,807	4,741	27,455	..	..	..	..	1 9½	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,091	1,347	2,438	10,663	..	..	..	..	1 7½	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,760	3,750	6,510	43,796	41,668	2,128	5,979	27,972	1 6½	183	..	164	926	1,243	D. 317	444	438	6
2,833	4,422	7,260	37,817	..	..	..	..	1 11½	183	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,746	2,134	3,880	14,894	..	..	..	..	1 8	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,712	3,310	6,022	31,473	30,649	824	7,865	17,666	1 9½	184	170	180	1,820	1,822	D. 2	362	371	D. 9
2,219	2,840	5,059	23,608	..	..	..	..	2 1½	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,741	2,055	3,796	13,807	..	..	..	..	1 8½	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
633	935	1,568	15,726	14,997	729	4,190	9,260	1 6½	73	68	70	1,064	967	97	259	303	D. 44
599	737	1,336	11,176	..	..	..	..	2 1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
220	214	434	3,217	..	..	..	..	1 8½	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,814	10,633	18,447	124,604	120,217†	4,387	24,188	78,426	1 7½	469	249	442	6,657	6,727	D. 170	1,348	1,464	D. 116
7,590	10,806	18,396	100,056	..	..	..	..	2 0	220	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,798	5,750	10,548	42,581	..	..	..	..	1 8	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,700	2,600	4,300	33,333	32,335	978	5,754	22,230	1 6	27	D. 33	20	2,714	2,698	16	309	273	33
1,919	2,701	4,620	27,579	..	..	..	..	1 9½	62	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,085	1,378	2,463	10,779	..	..	..	..	1 7½	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3,008	3,674	6,682	45,174	43,796	1,378	7,122	29,924	1 7	231	9	194	905	926	D. 21	398	444	D. 46
2,757	4,473	7,230	38,052	..	..	..	..	1 11½	222	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,832	2,139	3,971	15,250	..	..	..	..	1 8	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,894	3,616	6,570	35,874	35,108	766	8,200	20,088	1 9½	188	141	186	2,083	2,175	D. 90	347	406	D. 59
2,500	3,135	5,635	27,474	..	..	..	..	2 2	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,917	2,243	4,160	15,786	..	..	..	..	1 9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
572	831	1,403	14,560	14,257	308	3,949	8,224	1 8	44	31	44	926	947	D. 21	255	230	25
523	666	1,189	10,281	..	..	..	..	2 1	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
184	184	368	2,886	..	..	..	..	1 7½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8,174	10,721	18,895	128,841	125,516†	3,425	25,026	80,466	1 7½	490	146	444	6,630	6,746	D. 116	1,309	1,353	D. 44
7,699	10,975	18,674	103,586	..	..	..	..	2 0	344	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5,018	5,944	10,962	44,701	..	..	..	..	1 8	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

† The numbers for Ballycastle, Castlebar, Clogher, Glenties, Kells, Lowerstown, Lismore, Manorhamilton, Mohill, and Westport are not included in the above.

Week ended Saturday, January 29, 1848.

NAMES OF PROVINCES.	Population according to Census of 1841.	No. of Unions the Workhouse of which is situate in the Province.	Workhouse Accommodation.				Number of Paupers in the						
			No. of Paupers the Workhouses were originally calculated to contain.	No. the Fever Hospitals are calculated to contain.	No. for which additional Accommodation has been provided.	Total No. for which Accommodation is provided in each Province.	Able-bodied.			Children under 15 Years of Age.	Sick in the Workhouse Hospitals.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.		Fever Patients.	Other Cases.	Total.
ULSTER . . Sat. 29 Jan. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,127	8,256	39,583	1,697	4,416	6,113	14,264	2,011	2,703	4,714
„ 30 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,029	3,359	4,388	12,353	548	2,705	3,253
„ 31 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	411	1,110	1,521	4,483	63	1,051	1,114
MUNSTER . . „ 29 Jan. 1848	2,436,347	35	26,210	2,235	20,327	48,822	5,197	9,312	14,509	19,209	1,003	5,475	6,478
„ 30 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,885	5,626	7,511	16,703	2,000	4,787	6,787
„ 31 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	898	1,843	2,741	6,380	264	2,177	2,441
LEINSTER . . „ 29 Jan. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,647	10,388	38,885	2,362	5,674	8,036	13,172	1,922	4,694	6,616
„ 30 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	877	3,727	4,604	12,315	855	3,673	4,528
„ 31 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	548	1,718	2,266	6,606	142	2,080	2,222
CONNAUGHT . „ 29 Jan. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,458	1,670	17,728	1,364	2,615	3,979	6,236	1,015	1,903	2,918
„ 30 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	582	1,697	2,279	4,984	368	1,472	1,840
„ 31 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	211	398	609	1,466	70	395	465
Total of Ireland. { Sat. 29 Jan. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	10,517	40,641	145,018	10,620	22,017	32,637	62,881	5,951	14,775	20,726
„ 30 Jan. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,373	14,409	18,782	46,356	3,771	12,637	16,408
„ 31 Jan. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,068	5,069	7,137	18,935	539	6,693	7,232

* The numbers for Armagh, Ballina, Ballycastle, Castlebar, Cavan, Clogher, Clones, Enniskillen,

Returns—continued.

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

Workhouses in each Province.				Total Number in Workhouses.	Total Number in Workhouses in last Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in present Week, compared with the preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Number of Paupers in Workhouses in present Year.		Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Head (exclusive of Clothing).	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals unconnected with Workhouses.			Number of Fever Patients.			Deaths.		
All other Classes.			As compared with 1847.				As compared with 1846.	No. in the Week in present Year.		Increase or Decrease in Week of 1848.		No. in the Week in present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.	No. in the Week of present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.	
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.								As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.							
1,615	2,400	4,015	29,106	28,516	590	4,735	19,419	s. d.	31	D. 6	25	2,011	2,024	D. 13	232	247	D. 15	
1,769	2,558	4,327	24,321	..	..	..	..	1 10	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
994	1,258	2,252	9,370	..	..	..	..	1 7½	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
2,871	3,669	6,540	46,736	45,174	1,562	8,248	29,980	1 6½	303	150	260	1,003	905	98	441	398	43	
2,910	4,577	7,487	38,488	..	..	..	..	2 0	153	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1,858	2,167	4,025	15,587	..	..	..	..	1 8½	43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
2,867	3,428	6,295	34,119	33,862	257	7,072	19,812	1 9½	224	191	214	1,922	1,891	31	348	320	28	
2,446	3,154	5,600	27,047	..	..	..	..	2 1½	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1,917	2,296	4,213	15,307	..	..	..	..	1 5½	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
620	916	1,536	14,669	14,683	D. 14	3,989	8,443	1 7½	21	18	21	1,015	1,035	D. 20	286	268	18	
552	751	1,303	10,406	..	..	..	..	2 1½	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
204	199	403	2,933	..	..	..	..	1 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
7,973	10,413	18,386	124,630	122,235*	2,395	24,094	76,654	1 7½	579	353	520	5,951	5,855	96	1,307	1,233	74	
7,677	11,040	18,717	100,262	..	..	..	..	2 0½	226	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
4,973	5,920	10,893	43,197	..	..	..	..	1 8½	59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

Glenties, Kells, Kilkenny, Lismore, Lowtherstown, and Westport, are not included in the above.

P A P E R S

RELATING TO

PROCEEDINGS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS,

AND

STATE OF UNIONS AND WORKHOUSES,

IN IRELAND.

SIXTH SERIES—1848.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:

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1848.

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

PROCEEDINGS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS,

AND

STATE OF UNIONS AND WORKHOUSES,

IN IRELAND.

SIXTH SERIES.—1848.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. HALY, Chairman of the British Association, to Mr. TREVELYAN:
March 17, 1848.

I BEG to send you a copy of a tabular statement which has been prepared and forwarded to me by Count Strzelecki, respecting the children receiving relief in the western Unions.

By this return you will see that the number of children in receipt of daily rations amounted, on the 1st instant, to 176,304, of which,

78,465 were relieved at Roman Catholic schools.
66,616 were relieved at National schools.
26,300 were relieved at Church schools.
2,260 were relieved at Presbyterian schools.
1,260 were relieved at Baptist schools.
1,056 were relieved at Wesleyan schools.

In my last letter to you upon the subject, I said I calculated that the number of children receiving relief, then amounting to 150,000, could not be much increased, it appears that it has been increased by nearly 30,000. The Committee has, however, now issued an order limiting the number of children on our relief roll to the present estimate.

The period must arrive when the exhaustion of the fund will preclude further relief from this Association, and it is thought necessary, in bringing to a close this very extensive relief system, that the committee should act with foresight and caution.

This order may, therefore, be considered as a preparatory step to those measures of *actual restriction* in the number of children receiving relief which will soon be necessary.

Might I ask that this tabular statement may be submitted to Sir George Grey for his information?

PAPERS RELATING TO THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS,

TABULAR STATEMENT showing the Number and different Denominations of Schools which have obtained Assistance from the Funds of the British Relief Association in each of the following Unions, the Number of Children attending such Schools to whom Rations are issued, distinguishing the Male and Female, and the Number of Children receiving Rations independent of Schools on the 1st March, 1848.

Unions.	National Schools.			Schools under the direction of the Established Church.			Presbyterian Schools.			Baptist Schools.						
	Number of Schools.	Number of Children.			Number of Schools.	Number of Children.			Number of Schools.	Number of Children.			Number of Schools.	Number of Children.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.
Ballina	27	1,750	1,617	3,367	22	761	799	1,560	14	591	729	1,320	10	457	320	777
Belmullet	12	837	610	1,447	5	329	256	585	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ballinrobe	4	463	339	802	4	336	285	621	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ballyshannon	29	2,096	1,986	4,082	11	412	413	825	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bantry	9	870	888	1,758	16	585	549	1,134	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boyle	43	1,960	1,050	3,010	15	600	450	1,050	..	..	..	..	2	70	70	140
Caherciveen	13	1,420	1,520	2,940	3	230	220	450	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Carrick-on-Shannon	32	1,120	1,120	2,240	19	665	665	1,330	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Castlebar	8	597	477	1,074	5	222	222	444	1	..	78	78	..	..	..	..
Castlerea	17	1,728	840	2,568	15	721	708	1,429	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clifden	3	218	223	441	9	509	665	1,174	3	218	222	440	..	..	..	..
Donegal	13	573	491	1,064	50	1,170	1,643	2,813	..	..	..	..	1	34	46	80
Galway	12	1,735	1,512	3,247	5	102	123	225	1	53	61	114	..	..	..	..
Glenties	55	2,425	1,918	4,343	15	632	527	1,159	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kenmare	7	461	399	860	4	201	149	350	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kilrush	16	1,265	1,397	2,662	8	147	155	302	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Listowel	15	1,917	1,703	3,620	2	50	34	84	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Milford	18	691	545	1,146	12	379	285	664	2	60	48	108	..	..	..	..
Mohill	12	598	494	1,092	13	254	477	731	1	..	40	40	..	..	..	..
Roscommon	4	361	337	698	5	222	188	410	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Skibbereen	47	5,183	5,414	10,597	49	1,485	1,598	3,083	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sligo	36	2,596	2,596	5,192	34	2,040	2,040	4,080	1	60	60	120	3	150	150	300
Swineford	20	1,798	1,832	3,630	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tralee and Dingle	16	1,081	1,205	2,286	21	624	517	1,141	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westport	20	1,340	1,110	2,450	11	376	280	656	1	20	20	40	..	..	..	..
Total	438	34,993	31,623	66,616	353	13,052	13,248	26,300	24	1,002	1,258	2,260	16	711	586	1,297

Unions.	Wesleyan Schools.			Roman Catholic Schools.			Number of Children receiving Rations independent of Schools.			Total Number of				Average Weekly Cost of feeding a Child.		
	Number of Schools.	Number of Children.			Number of Schools.	Number of Children.			Male.	Female.	Total.	Schools.	Male Children.		Female Children.	Children.
		Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.								
Ballina	..	..	..	..	70	4,151	3,854	8,005	..	..	..	143	7,710	7,319	15,029	2.
Belmullet	..	..	..	..	17	827	703	1,530	..	..	..	34	1,993	1,569	3,562	34
Ballinrobe	..	..	..	..	24	2,599	2,401	5,000	..	..	..	32	3,398	3,021	6,423	5
Ballyshannon	1	30	32	62	40	1,865	1,962	3,827	..	..	..	89	4,403	4,393	8,796	54
Bantry	..	..	..	..	42	3,257	2,697	5,954	..	..	..	67	4,712	4,134	8,846	44
Boyle	..	..	..	..	12	510	330	840	..	..	..	72	3,140	1,900	5,040	4
Caherciveen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	1,650	1,740	3,390	3
Carrick-on-Shannon	1	33	35	70	15	525	525	1,050	120	120	240*	67	2,465	2,465	4,930	42
Castlebar	..	..	..	..	31	1,889	1,709	3,598	..	..	..	45	2,708	2,486	5,194	3
Castlerea	..	..	..	..	63	3,798	3,053	6,851	..	..	..	95	6,247	4,005	10,252	34
Clifden	..	..	..	..	16	1,363	1,135	2,498	40	30	70*	31	2,348	2,275	4,623	45
Donegal	5	287	229	516	8	279	269	548	..	..	..	77	2,343	2,678	5,021	61
Galway	1	45	91	136	12	1,143	1,291	2,436	..	..	..	31	3,080	3,078	6,158	5
Glenties	2	46	90	136	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72	3,103	2,535	5,638	52
Kenmare	..	..	..	..	18	1,552	1,348	2,930	..	..	..	29	2,241	1,896	4,140	24
Kilrush	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	1,412	1,552	2,964	81
Listowel	..	..	..	..	3	131	100	231	..	..	..	20	2,098	1,837	3,935	45
Milford	1	45	41	86	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	1,085	919	2,004	34
Mohill	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	852	1,011	1,863	4
Roscommon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	583	525	1,108	34
Skibbereen	1	28	22	50	63	4,015	3,776	7,791	..	..	..	160	10,711	10,810	21,521	34
Sligo	..	..	..	..	44	2,644	2,636	5,280	..	..	..	118	7,490	7,482	14,972	34
Swineford	..	..	..	..	97	7,594	6,996	14,590	..	..	..	117	9,392	8,818	18,210	34
Tralee and Dingle	..	..	..	..	11	440	456	896	..	..	..	48	2,145	2,178	4,323	41
Westport	..	..	..	..	34	2,644	1,976	4,620	..	..	..	66	4,380	3,366	7,766	34
Total	12	516	540	1,056	628	41,258	37,207	78,465	160	150	310	1,521	91,692	84,612	176,304	48
																Total average.

* Sick.

Sir R. I. ROUTH to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 26, 1848.*

Miscellaneous.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, a statement of the provisions now in depôt at the Custom-house, and received from the United States for gratuitous distribution; and I request you will have the goodness to convey to me the recommendation of the Commissioners for its appropriation.

I beg to observe to you that I must be prepared to render an account of this appropriation to the donors.

Probably the part of Kilrush to which the whole of the supply can easily be forwarded, might be a central and convenient locality for its distribution. It is now ready for shipment.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing.

STATEMENT showing the Quantity of PROVISIONS received and remaining in Charge at the Dublin Depôt for Gratuitous Distribution.

Date.	Vessel.	Shippers.	Indian Corn.					Wheat.					Flour.					Beans.					
				Sacks.	Tons.	Cwts.	Quarters.	Lbs.	Casks.	Tons.	Cwts.	Quarters.	Lbs.	Casks.	Tons.	Cwts.	Quarters.	Lbs.	Barrels.	Tons.	Cwts.	Quarters.	Lbs.
1847.			Lbs.																				
Aug. 10	Ballinasloe	Twinnam & Co. Liverpool	{ 90 at 280 1 at 143	91	11	6	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Diamond	"	{ 167 at 280 1 at 244	168	20	19	2	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Aug. 20	Diamond	"	{ 213 at 280 1 at 198	214	26	14	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oct. 1	Emerald	"	{ 73 at 280 1 at 286	74	9	5	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oct. 11	Roscommon	"	{ 3 at 280 1 at 102	4	..	8	1	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Queen	"	{ 120 at 280 1 at 43	121	15	..	1	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1848.																							
Feb. 4	Britannia	"	{ 54 at 280 1 at 250	55	6	17	..	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1847.																							
Oct. 11	Roscommon	"	. .	..	..	..	..	..	37	3	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	"	"	. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	"	"	. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	3	17
				727	90	11	1	6	37	3	4	3	..	25	2	2	2	..	2	..	3	3	17

Commissariat, Custom House,
Dublin, 26th February, 1848.

(Signed) HENRY M. PURCELL.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, in which you request the Commissioners' recommendation as to the appropriation of the provisions which have been received from the United States for gratuitous distribution, and I am to express the thanks of the Commissioners for your offer. I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners deem it desirable that the provisions should be sent to Dingle for the use of Dingle Union.

Dingle is a district with the poverty of which you must be well acquainted; for reasons of general convenience, it has lately been detached from Tralee Union, and formed into a separate Union. But during the present season it will undoubtedly require assistance to a considerable extent; and the Commissioners think that the food placed at your disposal cannot be consumed more beneficially than in alleviating the distress at Dingle.

The Commissioners would wish that the food should be put at the disposal of Sir T. Ross, for the benefit of the Guardians, subject to the regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners.

CIRCULARS of INSTRUCTIONS to BOARDS of GUARDIANS and POOR LAW INSPECTORS, issued by the COMMISSIONERS.

APPLICATION of BALANCES of SUMS advanced by the RELIEF COMMISSIONERS on the CREDIT of the POOR-RATES.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
February 17, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners forward herewith, for the information of the Board of Guardians, a list of balances left in the hands of the treasurers of Relief Committees at the expiration of the Temporary Relief Act; and in reference thereto, the Commissioners desire to state, that by authority of the Relief Commissioners, conveyed in Circular 32, from their Accountant, it appears, that the Relief Committees were empowered to expend the balances under the control of the Finance Committee of the Union; also, that by the Act 10 Vict. cap. 22, sec. 15, such balances are applicable to the support of any temporary fever hospitals under the management of Committees; and they are further applicable for defraying the expense which such Committees incur in providing coffins pursuant to that Act.

When any Relief Committee shall not have acted on the authority so conveyed by Circular 32, referred to, such portion of the balance as may consist of advances from the Relief Commissioners on the credit of the rates should be handed over to the Board of Guardians of the Union, pursuant to the Relief Commissioners' Finance Circular 26, for the use of the electoral division for which the advances were made; and the remainder may be expended at the discretion of the Committee.

By Order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To

The Clerk of each Union.

USE of COOKED in preference to UNCOOKED FOOD, in administering Relief.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
February 19, 1848.*

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith, for the information of the Board of Guardians, an extract from a report of Mr. Bromley, Accountant to the Relief Commission, in which the advantages of cooked over uncooked food, in administering relief, are pointed out.

As the statements contained in the report, from which the enclosed extract is taken, are founded on the replies received from nearly 2000 Relief Committees, the Commissioners think that the testimony afforded by it to the advantages of cooked food, must be considered as entitled to particular attention.

By Order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To

EXTRACT referred to.

Advantage of Cooked Food.

THE almost universal opinion given by the Committees is in favour of cooked food in preference to raw meal; a strong feeling was at first excited against its adoption in most parts of Ireland, not so much from the destitute as from members of Committees, chiefly, as reported, "that they might be relieved from trouble."

The result, however, has proved its great advantage; diarrhoea and dysentery were stayed by it, and a great improvement was rapidly manifested, through its agency, in the general appearance of the people. It was found to be the most nutritious, the best test of destitution, and the most economical.

The saving of fuel to the people was a great desideratum—for that reason alone it was much preferred to the "steeped meal," in which state it was required to be issued, if not cooked, to prevent, if possible, its sale. The really destitute very soon became sensible of its benefits to them; and many persons whose names were on the Relief Lists, did not apply and take their rations, because they did not consist of raw meal.

In one Union, Dunfanaghy, the medical men reported that the people were never so healthy as since the use of cooked food.

The usual proportion for the one pound weight of raw or uncooked ration, was one-third rice, and two-thirds Indian meal, which being cooked with water, as "stirabout," swelled into a ration from three to five pounds in weight, which mixture was pronounced as beneficial to health.

Notwithstanding all these advantages, strange to say, that in many Unions, cooked food was not generally adopted, until the issue of a peremptory order for its use; and the Government Inspector had even been subject to threats of personal violence and conflict with members of Committees, in urging its adoption.

The soup originally issued, before the "stirabout" was brought into use, is reported to have been highly obnoxious to the people; and in Clare it was found necessary to discontinue it.

It is now admitted that, had the system of cooked food been generally adopted at first, much expense would have been saved; and it is strongly urged as the means of out-door relief on any future occasion.

In one Union, Macroom, a Committee reports, "that they were indisposed to the Relief Act before it came into operation, but have now great satisfaction in bearing testimony to its efficiency and economy; had they not witnessed it themselves, they could scarcely have conceived it possible that such a change for the better could have been brought about in the health and appearance of the poor in so short a time, and at comparatively so small an expense."

The strength of the labouring man does not appear to have been reduced, as the usual agricultural labour task has lately been performed with the usual spirit and ability. In consequence, also, from the use of cooked food, it is reported that fever has been less fatal, and dysentery has disappeared.

Robinson's Steam Cooking Apparatus appears to have effected a great saving of fuel, and succeeded admirably.

The women and children in particular much preferred cooked food, for it invariably secured to them their rations; not giving to a selfish husband or father the power of selling it, as was too often the case with raw meal.

CARE AND TREATMENT of IDIOTS and LUNATICS in the Workhouses in Ireland.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
February 25, 1848.*

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit to you herewith a copy of a communication which they have received from Dr. Nugent, Inspector-General of Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, relating to the arrangements for the care and treatment of idiots and lunatics in the workhouses in Ireland; together with observations by Dr. Phelan, Poor Law Inspector, upon the subject of Dr. Nugent's suggestions.

The Commissioners request that you will pay special attention to this department of any workhouse under your charge; and will see that damages to the surface of the floors, and defects of ventilation, are remedied; also that you will insist on the most regular and punctual attention being paid by the attendants to the renewal of the bedding, and to other means of cleanliness.

The medical officer's views, both as to diet and dress in individual cases, should be obtained, to guide the Board of Guardians in the management of this department of the workhouse.

By order of the Commissioners,

*To each Permanent and Temporary
Poor Law Inspector.*

W. STANLEY, Secretary.

ENCLOSURES.

Dr. NUGENT'S COMMUNICATION referred to in the foregoing.

*Dublin Castle, Lunatic Asylum Office,
January 14, 1848.*

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING in the course of the last 10 months inspected upwards of 70 Union workhouses, particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the kingdom, for the purpose of examining into the state of the idiots contained in them, I would respectfully direct your attention to the propriety of making some alterations, which, at a very trifling expense, would, I believe, tend much to the comforts of the unhappy class in question. In the present disorganized state of some Unions, beings naturally improvident of themselves, demand from others a particular regard to their social wants. In the discharge of my official duties, I have constantly represented to the masters, or noted for the respective Boards, the claims which the idiotic had on their benevolence,—in many places, as at Clonmel, Bandon, Limerick, Banbridge, &c., &c., I observed, not alone a desire to carry out original good intentions, but equally to adopt suggestions; whilst in others, I could not but regret, an almost total neglect of the idiot class. To gentlemen so thoroughly cognizant of the character and division of apartments in Union workhouses, I shall only remark, that those immediately intended for idiots require every facility for cleanliness, ventilation, and dryness; and as in the majority of them, I found the ground flooring very bad, made of mortar or composition, and worn into

Miscellaneous.

large irregular hollows, (during wet weather particularly objectionable,) I would propose a substitute flagging in the corridors, and in the sleeping cells the same material; or, if possible, tiles, such as are used at the Hardwicke institution. Both equally admit of being washed daily. A timber floor has, no doubt, some advantages, particularly as to warmth; but when on a level, and opening into yards, it soon gets crusted with mud, absorbs wet, and retains foul odours. Nothing can be more disagreeable than the pent up effluvia escaping from lunatics or idiots; and as the latter are very often of filthy habits, too much attention cannot be paid to their cleanliness. I would then, in bad cases, do away altogether with the use of straw as bedding, for unless changed every morning, it becomes so saturated with disgusting deposits as to be utterly insupportable, and a nidus of disease. I would advocate in place of straw, (as originally employed at the Hanwell and Gloucester, and at present in some of our own asylums,) moveable wooden frames, with strong canvas nailed to them, (parallelograms from 5 to 6 feet in length, and about 30 inches wide); when wetted or soiled, the frame can be removed, and the canvas well pumped on and mopped, an hour or two in the open air being sufficient to dry it. A single change would last an individual nearly a year, and at far less expense than the constant change of straw. A great advantage of the frame is derived from the ease it affords to epileptic cases, as dependent simply on the height of its support, it admits of being lowered to within any distance from the floor. With regard to the clothing of idiots, instead of freize, which is a receptacle for hidden dirt, I would recommend thick canvas blouses for males, and a similar style of dress for females, with shoes and stockings. The superintendence of idiot wards, I believe, might be more judiciously conducted; the care of them is generally entrusted to some aged person, who happens to be a veteran in the Union. I think a slight compensation should be secured as an encouragement to those on whom so troublesome a task is imposed. In some Unions, I am aware, extra diet, tea, sugar, &c., is given to the keepers; but the custom is far from universal. With regard to the cells, they are by no means sufficiently ventilated; a crevice in the wall, more adapted for a letter receiver than a window, is frequently the sole air passage to a cell containing three or four beds; a grating in the top of the doors would be a material improvement. In reference to dietary I should, without an exception, put idiots on the best and fullest the Union affords; for the most part, they are of delicate frame, ill-formed, or epileptic; mentally imbecile, they are physically weak, of which their mortality last year affords too ample proof. As the number of idiots, in proportion to the general population of Union workhouses, is at present *under* 1 per cent. ($\frac{1}{2}$), any amelioration of their state cannot be attended with much expense until some definite arrangement, which, I hope, is not far distant, takes place in their regard. I most respectfully submit the preceding observations to your notice, trusting you will give me credit for the motives which induced me to address you.

To

*The Commissioners for administering the Laws
for Relief of the Poor in Ireland.*

I have, &c.,

JOHN NUGENT.

DR. PHELAN'S OBSERVATIONS on the foregoing Communication.

Dr. Nugent's suggestions as to tiling would be an improvement; but I should consider that of flagging to be objectionable, as forming a cold floor; and as the idiots generally have no shoes, or if they had, would not wear them, such a floor would be injurious to them. I doubt that at present, we can do better than to give the idiots straw beds. The masters and matrons should be directed, and are by me, to see that those beds are changed often enough by the superintendents, several of whom do so very carefully, whilst others are much behind.

The number of idiots and lunatics in many houses is very small, and not considerable in more than very few; and in several, or in most, I think an improvement, as to their condition and keeping, is evident.

I quite agree in the necessity of shoes and stockings for all of this class that will wear them, and I always advise it; but Boards of Guardians, at present, cannot readily be got to order them. Perhaps, if the special attention of the district or Union Poor Law Inspector were called to the subject, those and other better articles of dress may be provided. But it will not, I fear, be an easy matter to induce Guardians to supply any other dress than that obtained for the other paupers; nor, indeed, does it appear to be necessary as regards the far greater number of those idiots, who are of such habits that a better would be soon spoiled.

I know of but few houses in which the cells are not sufficiently ventilated, were there only two idiots in each, and the windows and apertures kept open. It is only when in an overcrowded house the cell is overcrowded sometimes with other paupers, that the ventilation is insufficient.

The simple idiot class get the house diet, and do as well as the other paupers on it. The lunatics, or any that are ill, get better; and all are under medical supervision. Dr. Nugent's suggestion is correct; as a class, they require better diet than the other paupers; and, I think, are more attended to in the workhouses, with a few exceptions.

January 27, 1848.

D. PHELAN.

SUSPENSION of ORDERS for OUT-DOOR RELIEF to ABLE-BODIED PERSONS under the 2nd Section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

Miscellaneous.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
March 2, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration the subject of the duration of the out-door relief at present afforded to able-bodied poor persons in Unions in Ireland; more especially in reference to the labour wanted at this season of the year for the cultivation of the land, and the employment provided under the Land Improvement Act, 6 and 7 Vict. c. 32; also the assistance afforded to the labouring classes in 24 Unions, which comprise the most distressed parts of Ireland, by the rations given, from funds supplied by the British Association, to all children attending the public schools.

The Commissioners deem it desirable to determine, or to suspend, on the 18th of March instant, all orders under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men; and the Commissioners wish to know whether, in your opinion, there would be any decided objection to this course in the Union of which you are Inspector.

You will be good enough to report to the Commissioners on this subject at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.,
W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To
*Temporary Poor Law Inspector
of the Union.*

RETURN of WORK performed by ABLE-BODIED MALE PAUPERS in the Ballina Union.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
March 7, 1848.*

SIR,

WITH reference to the letter addressed to you on the 15th ultimo, relative to the regulations adopted in the Ballina Union for the employment of able-bodied male paupers, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a form of return of the work performed in each week in the Ballina Union, by the paupers in charge of each overseer.

By Order of the Commissioners,

To
Each Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

ENCLOSURE.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 12, 1848.*

WE beg leave to forward a form of Weekly Progress Book, with which we have supplied to the overseers in charge of working parties, all particulars to be filled for the weekly revision of the general overseer.

ENCLOSURE.

BALLINA UNION.—WEEKLY PROGRESS.

County of _____ Barony of _____ Electoral Division of _____ Depôt _____

Return of Progress made in the Week ending _____ by Out-door Able-bodied Paupers in charge with _____ Overseer.

Days of Week.	Days of Month.	State of Weather.	Name of Depôt and Electoral Division.	No. of Men Employed each Day in cleaning Quarry.	No. of Cubic Yards dug and removed 10 feet distance with shovels.	No. of Cubic Yards removed by harrows 7½ feet distance.	No. of Men employed in quarrying Stones, &c.	No. of Cubic Feet quarried by such.	No. of Men employed in removing Stones to Stone-breakers, and distance carried them.	No. of Men employed in Stone-breaking.	Dimensions of Pile broken each Day.	No. of Boxes or Tons in such Pile.	No. of Men employed at other Miscellaneous Work.	Gross No. returned for Work by Relieving Officer.	No. actually Working or employed.	No. disqualified for non-attendance, &c., &c.	No. absent through sickness, per Doctor's certificate.	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Total done in the Week, _____

I hereby certify that this account is correct, _____ Overseer.

EMIGRATION OF WORKHOUSE INMATES TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
March 7, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners forward for your information several copies of a communication made to Earl Grey by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, on the subject of young persons at present inmates of Irish workhouses who may be eligible for emigration to South Australia, together with an extract from a letter addressed by Earl Grey to Sir George Grey, and communicated for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, explaining the manner in which the emigration of such persons is proposed to be conducted.

The Commissioners are most anxious that advantage should be taken of this proposal of the Government, and that the selection of young persons should be so conducted as to ensure the complete success of the experiment.

You will have the goodness, therefore, to address yourself to this object with the least possible delay, and take such steps by communication with the Boards of Guardians in your district, or otherwise, as may enable you to point out the names of young persons eligible in all respects and willing to emigrate, for examination by the agent who may be authorized to make the final selection.

Your attention is especially called to that part of the letter of the Emigration Commissioners, which relates to the peculiar advantage of obtaining young females, eligible and willing to emigrate, in preference to males.

You will take care that such young persons are duly and properly apprised of the prospects which await them in the event of their availing themselves of the free passage to Australia; and you will ascertain from the Board of Guardians, distinctly, their willingness to bear the cost of outfit, and the expense of conveyance to the place of embarkation.

By Order of the Commissioners,
W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To
Poor Law Inspector.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS of COLONIAL LANDS and EMIGRATION to the UNDER SECRETARY for
the COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR, *February 17, 1848.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 1st instant, in which you inform us that Lord Grey is prepared to sanction the proposal of Governor Robe to expend, in emigration, the moiety of the South Australian Land Fund not specially appropriated to that purpose, and that his Lordship is of opinion that this expenditure should not be extended over a period of two years, but that the despatch of emigrants should be commenced and carried on as expeditiously as possible.

We shall not fail to use our best endeavours to carry out Lord Grey's wishes, and with that view we should propose to increase the number of ships to be despatched in the course of the present year to New South Wales, South Australia, and the Cape of Good Hope, from 54 to 72, sending them from England at the rate of six in each month. If our endeavours are as successful as we anticipate, we shall thus despatch upwards of 14,000 emigrants from this country in the course of the ensuing year, and continuing to regulate the numbers of emigrants obtained from Great Britain and Ireland by the relative population of these countries, we should hope to send to the colonies about 10,000 British and upwards of 4000 Irish emigrants.

In order, however, to succeed in obtaining so large a number of emigrants, it will be necessary to have recourse to some additional measures beyond those which we have hitherto employed; and we have, in accordance with Lord Grey's directions, inquired whether an eligible class of Irish emigrants might not be obtained from among the orphans now maintained in the Irish workhouses, of whom many are approaching the age of adolescence. We have the honour to report that the result of our inquiries leads us to hope that this will turn out to be the case.

We are inclined to think that males of this class approaching the age of 18, who, from no fault of their own, have been bred in a workhouse, receiving such education as is there given, and submitting to the restrictions imposed in it, might prove by no means inferior to the ordinary Irish labourer.

But we should anticipate a more decided benefit from the adoption of this plan in respect of female orphans. Lord Grey is well aware of the necessity which exists for preserving the proportion of the sexes in any large emigration to a new country. Single men willing to emigrate are to be found in abundance.

But we learn from the reiterated complaints of our selecting agents, that the difficulty of procuring single females of an eligible character, is one of the greatest embarrassments against which they have to struggle. It is said, however, that a large number of well-conducted

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young women are to be found among these orphans; the emigration of these persons will be of material service, by placing us at liberty to accept from other sources a corresponding number of young men whom we might otherwise have been compelled to reject. We have, therefore, drawn up a paper, which, with such modifications as Lord Grey may deem fit, might, we think, be transmitted to the Irish Government, with a request that they would take the proper means for communicating it to the Guardians of the different parishes from which emigrants may be expected. It is, we think, obvious that the character of this emigration, consisting entirely of young persons, will necessitate a closer moral and religious superintendence, than has hitherto been thought expedient or even practicable in emigrant ships.

And it has been suggested to us by this view, that a teacher should be attached to each ship. It will be observed, that in the enclosed memorandums we have adopted this suggestion, but we would submit that, considering the peculiar character of the emigration which renders this expense necessary, it could not with propriety be charged against the colony, and should therefore be defrayed from British funds; nor, (we may here add,) do we think it unfair that the parishes which will be relieved from the necessity of supporting these emigrants should have the expense of forwarding them to the port of embarkation. This suggestion we have therefore embodied in the paper which we submit for Lord Grey's approval.

We apprehend that under the local Act 5 Wm. IV., chap. 3, the governor would have the power of apprenticing these young persons as proposed in the 7th clause of the accompanying paper.

H. Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c.

We have, &c.,
(Signed) J. W. C. MURDOCK,
F. ROGERS.

Memorandum referred to in the foregoing Letter.

1. Her Majesty's Land and Emigration Commissioners having been instructed by the Secretary of State to make arrangements for a considerable emigration from Great Britain and Ireland to New South Wales and South Australia during the present year, and having been informed that an eligible class of Irish emigrants may be found among the orphan children now supported at the public expense in Ireland, will be prepared to offer to such of those persons as may, on inquiry, be approved, and as may be willing to emigrate, free passage to the above colonies. None will be accepted who are less than 14 or more than 18 years of age, and the nearest to 18 will be taken in preference.

2. In order that the persons in question may understand the nature of the advantages thus offered to them, it is necessary to state that the colony of New South Wales is divided into the Northern, Middle or Sydney, and Southern or Port Philip districts. It is to the two latter districts that emigrants are in the first instance conveyed.

The climate both of New South Wales and of South Australia is remarkably healthy, and suited to European constitutions. The soil is good, and produces in abundance, wheat, maize, barley, oats, and potatoes; provisions are much cheaper than in this country; clothing may be purchased at a cost but little in advance of the retail prices here, and the rates of wages at the date of the last advices, were in all cases much above those given for the same description of labour in this country.

Besides the money wages, labourers in the country are generally provided with a dwelling and the following allowance of provisions by their employers: 10 lbs. of meat, 10 lbs. of flour, 1½ lb. of sugar, and 3 oz. of tea per week.

3. The voyage to these colonies generally occupies about 100 days; and during that time the emigrants will be fed according to the annexed scale, at the public expense, subject, of course, to future modifications, if experience should show them to be for the benefit of the emigrants.

The males and females are intended to be conveyed in separate ships. Teachers will be appointed to them, and means will be taken to provide for the instruction of the emigrants in conformity with their respective creeds. The books furnished to the vessels will consist exclusively of those authorized by the National Board of Education. In those of the ships which may carry orphans (females) there will be a trustworthy matron to take charge of the emigrants, under the direction of the surgeon, who will be entrusted with the general management of every ship.

4. The emigrants' ships will be despatched every month during the present year from Plymouth, to which place emigrants must be conveyed at the expense of the Board of Guardians. Emigrant ships can be despatched from Plymouth only, because it is only at Plymouth (with the exception of London,) that the Commissioners have an emigrant dépôt which will enable them to collect the emigrants previous to embarkation, and officers under their control, who can ascertain by inspection that the emigrants are all in a fit state of health to embark, that their persons are clean, and their clothes clean and sufficient. The calamities which would result from the introduction of any infectious or contagious complaints on board one of those vessels, render this arrangement indispensable.

5. It will be necessary that each emigrant should be provided with the following articles, which compose the lowest outfit that can be admitted:—

For Males.—Six shirts; six pair of stockings; two pair of shoes;* two complete suits of exterior clothing, one of which must be made of some warm material.

* Shoes or slippers are more convenient for use on board than boots.

For Females.—Six shifts; two flannel petticoats; six pair of stockings; two pair of shoes; two gowns, one of which must be made of some warm material.

As a general rule, it may be stated, that the more abundant the stock of clothing, the better for health and comfort during the voyage. At whatever season of the year it may be made, the emigrants have to pass through very hot and very cold weather, and should therefore be prepared for both.

6. The governor will be directed, on the arrival of these emigrants in the colony, to make such arrangements in regard to their employment as may be most to their benefit, according to their age and circumstances.

7. Every pains will be taken to find the emigrants respectable employers; when their age and circumstances render it fitting, they will be bound apprentices, under laws which are in force in the colonies. It will be stipulated that fair wages shall be paid by the employers, according to the current rate prevailing in the district; and after deducting such portion as may be required to pay for clothes, and other current expenses, the remainder of their wages will be reserved, to be given to them at the expiration of the contract, or, in case of females, at their marriage, provided it be approved of by the Government, or by the Committee appointed to act on its behalf. A power will be retained of forfeiting the reserved wages of any of the children who may abscond, or whose indentures may be cancelled for misconduct.

8. The Governors of New South Wales and South Australia will be directed to appoint a Committee in each colony, at which they will request the co-operation of the Bishop of Australia and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, and in South Australia, of the Bishop of Adelaide and the Roman Catholic Bishop, to see that these stipulations are duly observed by the employers.

9. The Board of Guardians will determine whether, in order to obtain these advantages, they will provide the outfit and conveyance to the port of embarkation on behalf of the orphans in their respective workhouses; and on their communicating their decision to do so, to the Poor Law Commissioners, an officer will be deputed by the Emigration Commissioners to visit the workhouse, in order to ascertain whether they contain any suitable candidates for emigration of the above class.

10. This emigration will be watched with the utmost interest by all who are concerned in the colonies to which it is to be directed; and upon the manner in which it is conducted will depend the power of the Government to encourage its continuance.

The colonists are desirous of adding to their body, not the idle and the worthless, but those whose education and moral and religious training afford a reasonable guarantee that they will become active and useful members of a society which is in a state of healthy progress; and it will therefore be imperative on the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to select those young persons only whose education has been attended to, and of whose conduct they receive a satisfactory report from the competent authorities.

DIETARY SCALE for the AUSTRALIAN VOYAGE.

	Biscuit.	Beef.	Pork.	Preserved Meat.	Flour.	Raisins.	Suet.	Pean.	Rice.	Preserved Potatoes.	Tea.	Coffee, weight when Roasted.	Sugar.	Butter.	Water.	Vinegar.	Mustard.	Salt.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lbs.	oz.	oz.	Pts.	lb.	lb.	oz.	oz.	lb.	oz.	Qts.	Weekly.		
Sunday . . .	1	1	1	1	1	2	1½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Monday . . .	1	1	1	1	1	2	1½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Half-a-Pint.	Half-an-Oz.	Two Ounces.
Tuesday . . .	1	1	1	1	1	2	1½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Wednesday . . .	1	1	1	1	1	2	1½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Thursday . . .	1	1	1	1	1	2	1½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Friday . . .	1	1	1	1	1	2	1½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Saturday . . .	1	1	1	1	1	2	1½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			

ADVANTAGES of issuing BREAD RATIONS made from Rye Meal, or Rye Meal mixed with Indian Corn Meal or Barley Meal, to Persons receiving Out-door Relief.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
March 11, 1848.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request your attention to the enclosed extract from a Report which they have received from Captain Wynne, Temporary Poor Law Inspector for the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, pointing out the advantages to be derived from the issue of bread rations made from rye meal, or rye meal mixed with Indian corn meal or barley meal, to persons in the receipt of out-door relief.

By Order of the Commissioners,
W. STANLEY, Secretary.

To each Poor Law Inspector.

As the best means of achieving these important objects, I should strongly recommend the adoption of cooked food, in the shape of rye-meal bread, or bread made of that material mixed with either Indian corn meal, or, what is better and cheaper, barley meal. This bread possesses many advantages over any other form in which I have as yet seen food relief dispensed. Its appearance in a house at once stamps the owner as a recipient of charity, or it is evidence of fraud, which may easily be detected. It cannot be so easily converted into money as the raw material. It is decidedly the cheapest and most wholesome food, as is evident from the improved appearance of those children who have received it for the last 10 weeks in this Union, and is peculiarly suited to the present condition of the Union, where there are such vast numbers of the poor who have not any means of cooking meal, not having houses of their own, and, in many cases, not being able to procure lodgings.

Impressed with the value of this description of bread, as applicable to purposes of out-door relief under the Poor Laws, I have directed my attention this past week to the erection of ovens in the workhouse, and will transmit a plan and specification to the Commissioners in course of next week. I would propose to place them, four in number, off the mill-room, making that apartment available for fuel-room, &c., and a loft to be erected over it for bread and meal store. The cost would be about 50*l*.

The oven which I have been allowed by the Guardians to erect in the Boyle workhouse, together with the peel-room, will cost about 8*l*.; it is nearly finished, and will be in operation next week.

In this Union rye-meal bread is produced for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a penny per lb., as follows:—

Meal, per ton	£7 0 0	} Producing 3000 lbs. of bread at a little more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a penny per lb.
Salt . . .	0 1 3	
Baking, per ton	1 0 0	
	£8 1 3	

In the Boyle Union, where I bake in the workhouse, the baking costs but 5*s*. per ton, which reduces the bread to a little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ *d*. per pound.

Bread of rye and Indian meal in equal quantities stands $\frac{3}{4}$ of a penny in this Union, and something over $\frac{1}{4}$ in Boyle Union.

The weekly cost of the youngest class of children on my list is	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ <i>d</i> .	} In this Union, on bread of two meals, rye and Indian.
Second class	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Third class	4	
Average	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	

In Boyle it is less.

Weekly rations of rye-meal bread stand in the Boyle Union for—

Youngest class	2 <i>d</i> .
Second class	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Third class	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Average	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

The daily rations are 8 oz., 10 oz., and 12 oz.

VENTILATION of the HOUSES of the LOWER CLASSES.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
March 22, 1848.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith a number of copies of "Observations by Dr. Collins, President of the College of Physicians, on the prevention of Contagious Diseases by the effectual Ventilation of the Houses of the Lower Classes."

In these observations, Dr. Collins points out a very simple, easy and inexpensive mode of ventilation; and from the importance of this subject, and especially at the present time, the Commissioners transmit copies in sufficient number to admit of one being furnished to each of the Guardians and medical officers of the Union, in the hope that they will promote the object in view in their respective districts, by any means in their power.

The Commissioners are desirous, at the same time, of calling the special attention of Boards of Guardians and of medical officers of workhouses, to those parts of Dr. Collins's observations which tend to prove the great importance of good ventilation in lowering the rate of mortality in public institutions, such as workhouses and hospitals.

You are requested to furnish a copy of the observations to each of the *ex-officio* and elective Guardians, and to each medical officer of the Union.

By Order of the Commissioners,
W. STANLEY, Secretary.

To

The Clerk of each Union.

HOLIDAYS to be observed by Destitute Persons receiving Relief who are Roman Catholics.

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*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
March 28, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners having had their attention drawn to the employment of destitute poor persons professing the Roman Catholic religion on the 11 principal holidays of the Roman Catholic church, they deem it right to inform you that all such persons who are receiving relief in any Union should be allowed to observe those days in the same manner as Sundays, without being required to work on them as a condition of receiving relief.

By Order of the Commissioners,

To each Poor Law Inspector.

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

AGRICULTURAL CROPS, IRELAND, 1848.

CIRCULAR OF INQUIRY, TO POOR LAW INSPECTORS.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
April 22, 1848.*

The Commissioners will be obliged by your reporting to them, by the post of next Monday at latest, such information as up to the present time you may have acquired by personal observation or otherwise, regarding the general prospects of the agricultural crops, especially the potato crop, in your district.

PERMANENT INSPECTORS' REPORTS ON DISTRICTS OF UNIONS.

*Counties of Antrim, Down, parts of Armagh and Londonderry—Mr. Senior:—
April 23, 1848.*

Referring to your circular of yesterday's date, I have already reported on the breadth of land prepared for the potato. There is no distinguishing feature this year in the corn crops. The winter wheat looks generally well, but the constant wet has retarded spring sowing, which is not yet completed on the heavy lands. Though not bearing on the subject, I may perhaps be permitted to take this opportunity of observing, that the population of the north continues to be undisturbed and even unalarmed, ready however to come forward in support of the laws and existing institutions when required to do so.

REPORT above referred to.

GENTLEMEN,

Carrickfergus, April 14, 1848.

It may be desirable that I should report to you that the amount of land planted with potatoes this year is large—probably four times that of last season—quite sufficient, should the crop succeed, to restore it as an important, though not perhaps the chief, support of the lower class. The experience of the last year has proved that even without potatoes the introduction of Indian meal has rendered the support of human life as cheap as it was before the potato failure. The average cost of the maintenance of the paupers in the workhouse is in fact rather lower. With potatoes, the use of Indian meal, and the abolition of the corn laws, the cost of food next season will probably be lower than it ever has been, whilst the farmers without money will reduce their present small expenditure on labour. In the Unions where money is given as out-door relief, though confined to clause 1 of the Extension Act, there will be a strong tendency, if the Union is administered by elected Guardians, to make some indirect approach to a system of relief in aid of wages.

Again, the ordinary price of food fluctuates from 40 to 50 per cent. in different seasons of the same year, and as between year and year 100 per cent., which gives relief in kind a great advantage over money relief, which it is difficult to raise or reduce. Only one Union in my district at present gives relief in money, but I have a constant struggle to prevent its extension.

I am, &c.,

EDWARD SENIOR.

The Poor Law Commissioners.

*Counties of Cavan, Fermanagh, Monaghan, parts of Tyrone and Louth—
Mr. Barron:—April 23, 1848.*

With reference to your circular of the 22nd instant, I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I scarcely ever recollect any year in which a greater quantity of potatoes have already been planted than at present throughout the entire of my district. The crops in general have a most healthy appearance,

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and there is, I am truly happy to say, every prospect under Divine Providence of an abundant harvest. The potato plant looks well and healthy, and it is the general opinion that they will grow well this year.

There is a very large quantity of potatoes in the markets, and no one had any idea that there were such quantities in the country. They are good, and free in most cases from any disease whatever, and they are at a reasonable price.

*Counties of Londonderry, Donegal, Sligo, parts of Tyrone and Leitrim—
Mr. Otway:—April 24, 1848.*

In reply to your circular dated the 22nd inst., received by me on the 23rd, and which you request I will answer at latest by this day's post, I have to state that the prospects of the agricultural crops appear as good as usual at this time of the year in my district, and that a large quantity of potatoes have been sown, and are being sown; there is a general impression that the disease which has lately affected the potato crop has worn itself out, and that the crop this year will be a good one. All classes appear to labour under this impression, and the poorer classes are especially making the greatest exertions to make as large a planting of potatoes as possible. Seed appears to be found in abundance where least expected, and numbers are now producing their loads of seed that were supposed to be in extreme poverty; good seed cups in abundance can be bought in the markets throughout my district from 6½d. to 8d. a stone.

Counties of Mayo and Galway—Mr. R. Bourke:—April 24, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 22nd inst., requesting to be furnished with information as to the general prospects of the agricultural crop in my district, I beg to state that the result of my observation has been to satisfy me, that in the counties of Galway and Mayo the extent of land now under cultivation is not very much less than in ordinary periods. In the fertile portions of the county of Galway, which lie to the east and south, I believe it will be found that as large a breadth of grain has been sown as in former years, and when last I saw it the crop looked healthy. I have not been able to visit that portion of my district since the season arrived for potato planting, but I am informed that a large quantity has been put down. In the western and northern districts, comprising Connemara and Joyce's country, there has been but little corn sown, but potato planting is proceeding with great activity. Wherever sea-weed is to be procured large plantings are made; and even in the interior, where this manure is not available, the potato has been planted wherever it appeared likely to succeed. The same remarks apply to all the county of Mayo, except the barony of Tyrawly; there I regret to say very little appears to have been done. The land between the towns of Crossmolina and Killala is much in the same state as last year, and presents a most desolate appearance. It is for the most part unoccupied, and, except near the residence of a proprietor, shows no signs of cultivation. In addition to the land now under corn and potatoes, a considerable quantity is in course of preparation for turnips, and I think a larger supply of this crop may be expected to be sown this summer than during any former period.

Upon the whole, I think I may safely say, that in the plains of Galway much land is under corn as usual; that in the hill country and throughout the county of Mayo, the quantity is far below the average; but that in both counties a very considerable extent of land is now being planted with potatoes, and a quantity much larger than heretofore under preparation for turnips. It is difficult to form an opinion as to the proportion which the potato crop of this year may be expected (if successful) to bear to that of ordinary years; but I think it will not be unsafe to reckon it at one-half. The con-acre must be entirely omitted from the calculation, there will be none of it, neither will the very small farmers have much, for they have in general ceased to occupy the land held with their houses; but every person who has been able to retain his land will plant some, and speculative farmers will put down a much larger quantity than usual.

*Counties of Galway, Roscommon, Longford, Westmeath, &c.—Mr. Lloyd:—
April 24, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that from the information I have from time to time acquired, as well as from personal observation, that with few exceptions

the occupiers of land have made great progress in the cultivation of the soil—much more wheat than has hitherto been cultivated by occupiers of from five to ten acres has been sown, and generally in good time; oats and rye have been also sown, and potatoes are being daily planted; to purchase seed for the purpose many have sold their only cow.

As regards the numbers receiving out-door relief I can form no accurate opinion, but the impression upon my mind is, that such have not the ability to plant even the quarter rood they have retained after giving up the overplus to the landlord.

There is still time enough to get down potatoes and flax, and if such could be supplied by loan upon guarantee of landlord, such a measure would be, I think, desirable.

Counties of Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, &c.—Mr. Hancock:—April 23, 1848.

In reply to your circular I have the honour to report, that from conversation with the Guardians of the Limerick Union, I have been informed that although the weather has been hitherto unfavourable for spring labour, that preparations have been made for an extensive planting of potatoes; some of the Guardians have assured me to as great an extent as they have been hitherto planted. With respect to the agricultural crops generally, the opinion of those with whom I have conversed appears to be, that the usual quantity of grain has been sown, and that the appearance of the crops is as favourable as the backward and cold season might be supposed to allow.

Counties of Cork and Kerry—Mr. Crawford:—April 24, 1848.

In reference to your circular of the 22nd instant, requesting information as to the general prospects of the agricultural crops, especially the potato crop, in my district, I have the honour to state, that at the period of my departure from Cork on the 6th of April, considerable progress had been made in the spring cultivation, which had yet been much retarded by the wetness of the season.

The quantity of land under wheat is in my opinion considerably less than last year, in consequence of the smaller quantity of land manured last year for the purpose of green crop, which is the usual preparation for wheat.

Much land had been turned up for the purpose of sowing oats, but the state of the weather had materially interfered with its being sown up to the time I have mentioned.

With respect to the potato crop, preparation had been made to a great extent for its cultivation, and a good deal had been planted even at that early period. It was evident that the population was about making great efforts to renew the cultivation of this root, and a large quantity of ground will be placed under it, approaching that of former seasons, particularly round the coast districts, where the people were busily employed in the collection of sea-weed which is the manure principally relied on in those localities.

I cannot give any information with respect to the culture of turnips, the season not having been sufficiently advanced for the sowing of that crop.

I think, generally speaking, the farmers will be enabled to procure sufficient potatoes for seed; the very poorest, perhaps, will not be able to do so without some assistance; but from the great anxiety everywhere prevalent to plant this crop, I think even this class will be assisted by their neighbours to do so, it being the practice in this locality for farmers to let their potato land, not requiring payment until the crop had been matured.

*Counties of Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow—Mr. J. Burke:—
April 24, 1848.*

In reply to your circular of the 22nd instant, requesting me to report such information as up to the present time I may have acquired by personal observation or otherwise, regarding the general prospects of agricultural crops, especially the potato crop, in my district, I beg to say that—

1st. I do not consider that there is as much wheat sown as last year, nor do I think the crop looks as forward as it should at this season.

2nd. Oats will be more extensively grown than last year, but the wetness of the spring has interfered very much with the sowing of the crop.

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3rd. The people seem to be very generally employed in planting the potato, and from what I have observed, I should not be surprised if the breadth of land sown under that crop this year will amount to two-thirds or three-fourths of what it was in ordinary years before the failure. There is no want of seed, which is to be had for about 6d. a stone.

These observations apply of course to the counties comprised in my district.

Counties of Meath, Westmeath, Kildare, Dublin, Wicklow—Captain Huband:—
April 24, 1848.

In reply to your circular, relative to the agricultural crops, I have the honour to report to you that there has been a great breadth of wheat sown in my district, and that up to this time this crop is looking well.

The wet weather, which has occurred latterly, has, in some parts of my district, retarded the sowing of the oat and barley crop, but in the early-sown lands the oats are looking healthy.

Of the potato crop a large quantity is already in the ground. The wet weather has retarded the planting of much of this crop, for which the ground has been prepared; and when the planting has been completed in May, I consider that there will be nearly, if not quite, as much of this crop grown this year as there has been for these last few years previous to the general failure.

Although the small patches of potatoes are not now as numerous as formerly, I calculate that the increased breadth sown by private gentlemen and large farmers upon speculation, will bring up any deficiency which may arise from the falling off amongst the small growers.

TEMPORARY INSPECTORS' REPORTS ON PARTICULAR UNIONS.

Ballina Union—Mr. W. J. Hamilton:—April 23, 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular letter of yesterday's date, in which you request me to report upon the general prospects of the agricultural crops, especially the potato, in this district, &c.

As letters from Dublin are not delivered in Ballina until after the departure of the mail for Dublin, it is not in my power to reply to letters on the same day that I receive them, therefore I fear that the little additional information which I can give to the reports which I have already forwarded from time to time, will not reach you on the day you require.

I may mention that I have been constantly in communication with such of the landed proprietors and others who have shown any interest in the state of this Union, with the view of obtaining the most accurate information which it is in their power to give on various subjects, but more particularly on the subject of your letter, which must be regarded as one of the deepest importance. Last week I requested some of those gentlemen to have the goodness to communicate their opinions to me, as to the progress which has been made in their respective neighbourhoods in cropping the land; the proportion of potatoes which have been planted, and the quantity of land which is likely to remain unproductive, compared to last year and former years.

I have, however, as yet received only one statement (from Mr. Orme, of Owenmore, annexed A.), which I look upon as a very faithful report of what has already been done.

Owing to the constant severity of the weather, everything is in an unusually backward state; it is almost impossible, therefore, to say at present how much land will remain waste.

There can be no doubt from all accounts (as I was not here last year), that fully four or five times the quantity of potatoes have already been planted compared to last year, with apparently every prospect of success. From the class of persons who, as far as I can judge, have run the risk which must attend the experiment, it is greatly to be feared that success will lead to a return of their old habits, while on the other hand, failure will lead to their ruin, if not starvation.

I think, under all the circumstances of the Union, that more has already been done than was generally expected, but still the Commissioners must be prepared

to hear of large tracts of land remaining unproductive this year, the reasons for which may be attributed to the following causes, viz. :—

1. The broken-down state of the majority of the landlords, especially of some of those whose tenants have emigrated.
2. Tenants holding possession who are not in a position to cultivate the land.
3. Want of confidence in the landlord, which is frequently imaginary, and merely a cloak for a grievance or for idleness.
4. The operation of the quarter-acre clause. No person will take land which is covered with paupers.

Owing to the general want of skill and industry, and the complete dependence upon others for everything (except advice, which is rarely followed), with very few exceptions, the small farmers in this Union ruin their land without obtaining half of the crops which the land would yield if properly cultivated. I have no doubt that if anything can do good, the practical instructors will be the most likely means. Mr. Vaughan, who has recently arrived here in that capacity, speaks most confidently of the good which he has been able to effect through the medium of the Society of Friends' farms—they are, in fact, model farms—where he has opportunities of practically illustrating his various lectures.

I hope that in another fortnight or three weeks I may be able to give you more accurate information.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. ORME to Mr. HAMILTON:—April 21, 1848.

IN compliance with your request, I write to let you know the progress made by the peasantry here in cropping their ground.

The quantity of land lying waste, deserted by the occupier, and apparently forgotten by the proprietor, is at this season painfully evident. I am, however, happy to be able to say, that in the occupied districts all classes seem to exert themselves to the utmost in putting down their crops. Already a considerable quantity of grain has been sown, and a small patch of potatoes may be seen planted at almost every dwelling. The people seem aware of the benefit of turnip culture, and no doubt a large breadth of them will be sown.

The better class of farmers (of whom I lament to say there are very few) have in many cases received the same indulgence in the payment of rents as their poorer neighbours, and in consequence are improving in their circumstances; and they have also evidently received a stimulus from the dear-bought experience of the last year. The great majority of the inhabitants, however, occupy small portions of land from six acres downwards; with respect to these, I think that the fears I mentioned in my former letter will be verified.

The system of tillage has been heretofore a manured crop of potatoes, and a white crop alternately.

The people are now sowing grain crops on land already exhausted, without manure, or even the benefit of a winter's fallow. Their haggards are now consumed, and nearly all are in an impoverished state; they are consequently unable to bestow the necessary labour and capital which the proper cultivation of the land requires.

On the whole, I think there is no want of exertion this season in comparison with any preceding one on the part of the poor population of this part of the country, although at the same time I cannot but anticipate a very serious falling off of produce in the ensuing harvest from the exhausted nature of the soil, and want of manure and proper cultivation.

Further Letter from Mr. Hamilton to the Commissioners:—April 24, 1848.

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date, on the subject of the agricultural progress which has been made, &c., I beg to forward to you the annexed letters which I have received from Mr. Vaughan, practical instructor, and Mr. Orme, of Abbeytown, a most intelligent and active gentlemen.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. ORME to Lieutenant HAMILTON:—April 24, 1848.

I HAVE many apologies to make for not having sooner sent the report you asked for, but purposely deferred doing so until I had completed the inspection of this district on Saturday last. I am most happy to state, that there is a large quantity of corn already sown, and a portion of ground under potatoes, varying from a few perches to two and even three acres. On one property near Ballycastle, I find as much tillage as in any former year. Nothing can exceed the anxiety of the peasantry to procure potatoes, some having, I have good reason to believe, sold clothes and even bedsteads for that purpose.

Still it must not be concealed that vast tracts of land will be waste this year, particularly where the tenants were too poor to emigrate, or to cultivate their holdings, to the extent of perhaps half the barony.

Mr. PATRICK VAUGHAN to Lieutenant HAMILTON :—*April 24, 1848.*

As Practical Instructor of the Ballina district, I beg to state, that I have been over the greater part of the lands of this district, and can state from actual observation, that the people, generally speaking, are using the most extraordinary exertions to plant potatoes; and from all I can see, I have strong hopes that the potato will do well this season. But I fear that if there is not great exertion made to assist the people by employment, &c., to carry them through the intervening space between this and the harvest coming in, they will be reduced to the most extreme privation, as they are parting with every vestige in the way of value they are possessed of to endeavour to get the potato into the soil; I am also sorry to have to state that there is an immensity of land out of cultivation in this district, in many localities that I have visited, full two-thirds.

Belmullet District of Ballina Union—Mr. R. Hamilton :—April 22, 1848.

With reference to your Circular, which I this moment had the honour to receive, I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that as far as I can see and learn there will be but little grain crops sown in this district, but at the same time a much larger quantity of potatoes have been planted than ever was expected, and there is every probability of turnips being sown on a large scale.

With regard to the quantity of land which will remain waste, it is at present impossible to form any accurate estimate, owing to the backward state of cultivation, which has *always been the case in this district*, and more particularly this year; however, there is no doubt but it will be a large proportion. This evil may be attributed to some of the following reasons, viz :—Many of the proprietors having their entire estates in their own hands, and having no means to cultivate them; many other proprietors being in such distressed circumstances as to be unable to assist their tenants; and their tenants, who, perhaps, if assisted, would be able to cultivate a portion of their holdings, being afraid of so doing lest the crops should be seized for rent. The practical working of the quarter of an acre clause is likewise another impediment to the cultivation of the land.

Several of the proprietors, I am informed, *purpose converting their properties into grazing farms*, but as this will afford neither employment nor food for the poor of Erris, I see *but little* prospect of their being supported from the produce of the land for years to come.

Ballinrobe Union—Dr. Dempster :—April 23, 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge your Circular of 22nd instant, and beg to state that from personal observation and inquiry as I went through this Union, from competent persons, I consider that at least there are three-fourths more potatoes already planted than last year, but that four-fifths less corn have been sowed; this I had the honour of remarking in my report of yesterday.

Ballyshannon Union—Mr. D'Arcy :—April 24, 1848.

In reply to your circular I have the honour to report the state of the crops in this district, and to which I have directed much attention since the spring opened.

Wheat has been sown to a small extent; three weeks since it looked sickly, and I feared it would turn out a poor crop, but the late genial weather has quite recovered it, and now it is tillering, and presents a thriving and healthy appearance.

Bere and rye—none are sown.

Oats will not be as extensively grown as usual in this locality, owing to two causes—first, the very small holders are too poor to purchase seed, and do not possess it of their own; secondly, the farmers, a class above them, who hold five or six acres, have their land in such worn-out condition, that they fear the old broken land which has now given corn two years in succession is unable to bear oats, and they are breaking up any lea land on their farms, and, in some cases, their small pastures for the purpose of growing it. This system, if persevered in, will reduce the county to a barren waste. The immediate cause of this was the potato failure, which was the only crop they were acquainted with, the growth of which cleaned and manured their land, rendering it again fit for white crops.

Potatoes will be planted to an amazing extent, and it is surprising to see what a quantity of seed is now brought to market; a month since the price was 10*d.* to 1*s.* per stone; they came in that time in small parcels in panniers on donkeys' backs, now they come in cart-loads, and the price is reduced to 8½*d.*, and may, by the hundred weight, be had for less.

A very considerable breadth of early potatoes has been planted; I have seen some above ground and others coming up, and I never recollect to have seen a more promising appearance than they present, they are putting up strong stems thick at the but, and have evidently something to grow out of. During the years 1845, 1846, and 1847, although potatoes presented a luxuriant appearance, still I remarked, and also heard it noticed by others, practical farmers, that the shoot was weak, and when farther advanced in the year, that the tops, though long, had not the stamina of former years. The peculiar strength of bud and shoot this year induces me to hope that they will continue healthy, and if so, will be an abundant crop. No poor man that has land and can scrape the price of a hundred weight together that will not plant them, and to such an extent that they will add considerably to the stock of food which will be produced by this country.

The grain crops have been rather later than usual in time of sowing, but the vegetation is rapid beyond precedent, and I hope that they will make up for the difference of time. The grass is more forward through the county generally than I have seen it in other years on the 10th of May.

Bantry Union—Captain Gordon:—May 1, 1848.

I have the honour to report, in accordance with your communication of the 22nd April, that the potato crop is coming on very favourably, and more land planted with that root than has been known for years. Some few instances have occurred of the seed rotting in the ground from the heavy rains—and in these cases the land has been re-set. I state the foregoing from information upon which I can depend.

Cahiriveen Union—Colonel Clarke:—April 24, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, requesting information regarding the general prospect of the agricultural crops, I have the honour to acquaint you that there is little or no grain of any description grown in this Union; but it is generally admitted that there was never known so great a breadth of land planted with potatoes, which is still going on with great activity.

Some apprehension was entertained that the early-sown potatoes would rot in the ground, in consequence of the long continuance of wet weather; but I have this morning returned from visiting Valencia and the western part of the Union, and found those grounds first planted showing a healthy growth of vigorous plants.

Callan Union—Captain Evans: April 24, 1848.

In acknowledging your Circular of the 22nd instant, it gives me great pleasure to state—not alone from my own personal observations, but that of other gentlemen, with whom I come in contact daily—it has been remarked in this county that the agricultural crops this year far exceed that of former years; and as to the potato crop, I have seen in my travels through the country, particularly in that portion of my Union, Ballingarry, county Tipperary, the planting of this crop carried on very extensively, and at this season of the year to a greater extent than I saw it in the north of Ireland last year; but at the same time I must state, that no employment is given, as the families of the farmers do the work.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union—Captain Wynne:—April 25, 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, relative to the agricultural prospects in my district.

In many electoral divisions, I regret to say, the prospect is anything but cheer-

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ing, while in some there is nearly an average breadth of corn (for this country), and very great anxiety to plant the largest amount of potatoes their means of purchasing seed will admit of.

The breadth already planted in the district, with the exception of the electoral divisions of Carrick, Elphin, part of Killucan, and part of Drumsna, is not considerable.

The great obstacle will be found the procuring of seed, as this district produced scarcely any potatoes last year; and the small portions that now remain are of the worst description, scarcely to be depended on for seed, from their not having ripened sufficiently. Our market is supplied from the coast and parts of Mayo, where the potatoes did comparatively well last year. The market price here is 40 per cent. higher than in Swineford, or Ballaghaderreen.

I have no doubt but that if a facility of procuring seed were afforded, an average crop of potatoes might be reckoned on in the greater portion of my district.

There is at present available two years' manure, not however twice the quantity of ordinary years, as last year manure was not collected with as much industry as if the prospect of the potato crop had been different, but there is a large quantity available at this moment.

I do not think it will be found possible in this Union to organize a committee to enable us to take advantage of the opportunity of procuring seed which the Central Committee holds out. I have however done all in my power to promote its formation.

In the mountain districts some oats will yet be sown, and some barley in any land which may be suited to that grain; but I do not expect that the amount will be anything considerable.

I do not think that any turnips will be sown if potatoes can be procured for seed.

The corn crops, wherever over ground, appear healthy though backward, but from the temper of the soil and climate such is always the case.

Cashel Union—Mr. Robinson:—April 23, 1848.

In reply to Circular, dated April 22nd, directing me to report upon the general state of the crops in this district, I have the honour to state, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that owing to the severity of the weather there has as yet been very little done by the farmers in respect of the planting of potatoes or the sowing of oats. I have remarked, in going through the Union, that there is an immense deal of land ploughed up, in which it is intended to put oats or potatoes. This work must commence within 10 days or a fortnight, and will then, I trust, afford considerable employment to the poor. There are, however, some electoral divisions in this Union which I am afraid will be exceptions, viz., Killenaule, Kiltinan, part of Peppardstown, and Dangan. In these, from their being very mountainous, there is, and will be, very little tillage, and I fear very little employment will be given.

From what I can learn upon the subject, I consider that potatoes will be planted in this country to a very considerable extent. There is no scarcity whatever with regard to seed, and there is an abundance of both oats and potatoes in every market. Upon yesterday, (the market-day here), they were sold at the following prices:—oats, 9s. 4d. per barrel; potatoes, 7½d. per stone.

Castlebar Union—Captain Farren:—April 23, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, requesting information relative to the general prospects of the agricultural crops in my district, I beg to state that I have observed for some weeks past a much greater degree of activity in agricultural operations than at the corresponding period of last year. All the holders of land who have any means are exerting themselves to put a crop in the ground, and a very considerable quantity of potatoes has already been sown. It was usual in this district to sow a portion of the potato crop, the garden potatoes early, and the field potatoes late, about May; but now a greater portion has been put down at the early period than on any former occasion. Another month must, however, elapse before the full extent of the potato sowing for this year

can be ascertained. Barley has also been sown. The oat crop will not be so extensive as in former years, the land having been exhausted by a succession of grain crops. The people are now anxious to put down potatoes and turnips.

The potato produce of last season has been carefully hoarded, and many of the small holders have suffered great privation to preserve it for seed.

At the market yesterday there was a larger supply of potatoes than for many months past; they were brought in by strangers. There was a tolerable supply of oats and a little barley. The prices were as follow:—

	s.	d.	
Seed potatoes (lumpers)	0	7½	per stone.
„ (cups)	0	9	„
Seed oats	6	0	per cwt.
„ barley.	6	6	„

There is a great demand for potato seed. If a supply could be thrown into the market here at this moment it would be of great service.

I have not heard of any land having been set in con-acre. The cottiers, and those who in former years subsisted by that system (a very numerous class), are still unable to make any effort for the future.

The activity amongst the holders of land is however cheering. The apathy and despair which prevailed at this period last year do not now exist, and every man who can crop his land is doing so to the best of his ability.

Castlereagh Union—Mr. Auchmuty:—April 24, 1848.

I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have visited nearly the entire of this Union within the last ten days, and have been most particular in making inquiries everywhere I have been; also from what I have observed myself I am of opinion that there will not be near as much oats sown; this year as there was last season. The poor were not able to take con-acres; also there is a quantity of land waste, from tenants emigrating, or from evictions having taken place.

I was quite astonished to see the quantity of land under potatoes; I am informed that for the last 20 years there never was more planted any one season than there is in the Galway and Mayo portion of this Union. I have to observe that there is hardly any wheat sown in my district. Everything is very backward from the wetness of the season.

Clifden Union—Mr. Deane:—April 23, 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd April, requiring me to afford any information I have obtained, by person or observation or otherwise, regarding the general prospect of the agricultural crops (especially the potato crop) in the Union entrusted to my charge.

In reply thereto, I have to state that I have not failed to make accurate inquiry in reference thereto, and combined with the close observation I was enabled to make during my weekly journeys through the district, I am in a position to supply you with the following information.

First. Throughout the whole district there is a very large quantity of potatoes planted, more by those who have been enabled to make a tillage than for many previous years.

Secondly. There has been very little oats sown, and but a small proportion of barley, as compared with last year.

Thirdly. There has been, in consequence of the increased confidence in the success of the potato crop, a disinclination to grow green crops.

In reference to the planting of potatoes, I have known many instances of persons who disposed of their cattle to purchase seed; some parted with their furniture, while others, having saved seed since last year, witnessed their families in want of food rather than use it.

The oat crop will be a very small one, less indeed than for many previous years. The same observation will apply to barley. The confidence in the success of the potato crop has induced the people to rely upon it almost exclusively. The lives of thousands depend upon the experiment.

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I may here mention that a very liberal offer was made by the Central Relief Committee of Ireland, to aid two of the parishes in this Union, by an advance of 400*l.* for the purchase of seed. Security was required for the repayment of this sum. A committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements; but I have been informed by Dr. Suffield, who acted as secretary, that there was an indisposition upon the part of the landlords to make themselves perfectly responsible; Mr. Hyacinth D'Arcy being the exception.

Should you require more detailed information than that which I have had the honour to submit, in reference to the agricultural prospects of the Union, I think I can be enabled to supply it. During the period of my service in Inishowen Union last year I procured a return at a very trifling expense, of the quantity of potatoes and turnips sown in each townland in one or two electoral divisions. I shall feel happy to make a similar return for this Union should I receive your instructions to do so.

Clonmel Union—Captain Hill :—April 23, 1848.

In reply to Mr. Stanley's letter, dated yesterday, I beg to state that having since my arrival last month deemed my services more required in the town than the country, my personal observations as to the progress of agriculture have been limited to the immediate neighbourhood, the general prospect of good crops in which, I consider favourable, though the potatoes are rather late in being planted.

I have observed no land, bearing the marks of cultivation in previous years, lying waste, but all either already sown or in preparation for seed. The young wheat is looking healthy. The early potatoes in many fields are above the ground; and though the quantity of acres intended for this esculent is doubtless less than before the failures of recent years, there is a very considerable portion of the soil devoted to this purpose. I have consulted with many persons on this subject, on whose opinions I believe I can place reliance, and they accord with my own; whilst, from the reports I have heard relative to the rural parts of the Union, I think myself justified in stating that prospects of crops are also good, and the farmers looking forward with confidence to the probable decrease of their difficulties by that of potatoes, the cultivation of which they represent as "abundant."

Dingle Union—Captain Sir Thomas Ross, R.N. :—April 24, 1848.

In compliance with the directions contained in your Circular of the 22nd inst., I beg leave to acquaint you that in one of the electoral divisions of this Union (Castlegregory) there will be as great a breadth of land under potatoes this season as there has been during any period within the last ten years; and I believe the failure, while it was general in other districts in 1846 and 1847, was but partial in Castlegregory. Ballyduff, the adjoining electoral division, promises a good supply. In Ballinvoher, Ballinacourty, and Minard, every person holding land (and there were not so many evictions here as in the poorer districts to the westward) will plant more or less according to their means. In the neighbourhood of Dingle there is much activity with the potato crop, and in the electoral divisions of Kilquane, Dunorlin, Dunquin, and Ventry great efforts are being made to sow by those who continued in occupation of land; and I am glad to say that the greater part of the immense tracts which were lying waste about two months back have since been let to a more substantial class of persons, although I fear too late for extensive tilling; still, under all circumstances, there will I trust be by the exertions of the farmers themselves more tillage of every kind than I had anticipated, although the corn crop will fall very short of what it used to be in palmier days; indeed it never was a corn-growing country, potatoes, milk, and butter being the most profitable (because the least troublesome) sources of support. Even now, and notwithstanding the repeated and dreadful warnings of the last two years, it is really surprising the efforts that are being made by all classes to return to and restore this much loved root. Our very paupers are sowing a few perches of "con" or "score" ground; and repeated applications are made by our stone-breakers for permission to absent themselves for a few days for this purpose, which I invariably grant.

Donegal Union—Captain Herbert, R.N.:—April 24, 1848.

IN reply to your Circular of the 22nd instant, requesting to be furnished with the general prospects of the agricultural crops in this district, I do myself the honour to state my reports for the last three weeks will have conveyed to the Commissioners the gratifying assurance that the rural population had been generally employed in the cultivation of the land; and I am enabled to confirm, as well from personal observations as from concurrent testimony, that a larger breadth of land has been brought into cultivation than was in former years; green crops have been largely extended; but I do not consider the potato crop will be equal to two-thirds of that sown in 1846.

Throughout the Union of Donegal an improved mode of cultivation is very perceptible, and the rural population evince better spirit in the preparation of their land than last year.

Dunmanway Union—Major Stuart:—April 24, 1848.

IN reply to your letter, dated 22nd instant, requiring for the Commissioners, information on the general prospects of the agricultural crops, especially the potato crop, I beg to state that I have observed in this district the planting of potatoes very extensively.

I am informed that there have been a few cases of failure, arising from the great quantity of rain that has fallen; and I have heard the quantity of potatoes planted, variously estimated, at from five to ten times greater than that of last year.

The quantity of wheat and oats is stated to be very much less.

Dunshaughlin Union—Captain Flude, R.N.:—April 24, 1848.

IN reply to Circular requiring a report on the present state of the agricultural crops, I beg to state that a very small portion of this Union is under tillage, the great bulk of the land being appropriated to grazing. As far as my observations go, in travelling from place to place, the small patches of cultivated lands which here and there occur are either cropped, or in progress of being cropped, and in an average state of forwardness. There being few small holders of land, potatoes are consequently cultivated on a very limited scale.

Ennis Union—Mr. Cronyn:—April 24, 1848.

IN reply to the Commissioners' Circular, requesting such information as up to the present time I may have acquired, by personal observation or otherwise, regarding the general prospects of the agricultural crops, especially the potato crop, in this Union, I have the honour to state that very unusual exertions have been up to this time, and are still being made to insure a large agricultural supply.

I am credibly informed that, despite the difficulty many of the poorer class labour under, viz., that of not having the means to purchase potato seed (which however is very abundant, seed of best quality having been freely offered on Saturday last in Ennis market at 9d., 8½d., and 8d. per stone), still that so large a plant of potatoes has not been before known in this district. The wetness of the season has greatly interfered with the grain sowing; notwithstanding this impediment there is a great deal of land oat sown.

Preparations for turnip tillage, to which much of the land in this district is favourable, are being extensively made; but of wheat I regret to say there has not been much sown.

Altogether, I should say that, if blessed by bountiful Providence, the agricultural prospects in this locality would be fully as abundant as they ever were.

Fermoy Union—Major Bolton:—April 24, 1848.

IN reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that, from personal observation and inquiry, I

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am of opinion that double the quantity of land has this year been planted with potatoes, than there has been any season since the potato disease first commenced, and in consequence I am informed that other green crops will not be sown to the same extent as last year; but owing to the extreme wet of the past week or ten days, farming operations have been greatly retarded, and therefore it is impossible to say at present what quantity will eventually be sown.

The wheat crops are about the usual average.

Galway Union—Major M'Kie:—April 23, 1848.

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date I have the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that from personal observation, as well as from information I have gained from others, I am enabled to report that the greatest exertions are making throughout the Union to crop the land, especially with potatoes, of which a great breadth has already been planted. I have been credibly informed that many who have no seed have dug their land in the hope that they may be able to procure seed, and that the people are selling every available article they can dispose of to purchase seed.

The bay of Galway is daily covered with boats laden with sea-weed, which is extensively used as a manure for the potato.

I am informed there will be much less oats than usual, every one being anxious to plant potatoes.

Glenties Union—Captain O'Neill:—April 24, 1848.

In reply to your communication of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that from my own observations, and the inquiries which I have made regarding the agricultural crops in this Union, that the quantity of corn sown this season is about an average of the crop of last year. The people are making great efforts to plant a good number of potatoes, and I should say there are already *double* the quantity planted this year to what there were last; but there will be a great deficiency in the potato crop when compared to former years, from the inability of the poorer class to purchase seed. The general opinion, however, amongst the farmers is, that should there be no failure in the potato crop this year there will be a fair supply.

This Union being almost all mountain, and those parts of it which are under tillage being badly cultivated, the land is not in a fit state to yield corn; hence arises the deficiency in that crop.

Gort Union—Captain Hanley:—April 24, 1848.

In reply to your Circular, requesting such information as, up to the present time, I may have acquired, by personal observation or otherwise, regarding the general prospects of the agricultural crops, especially the potato crop, in this district; I beg to state that considerable portions of this Union remain uncultivated. The oat sowing, hitherto delayed by the inclemency of the weather, now rapidly progresses; as to green cropping it is very little practised, and this is not generally a wheat district, but where sown, the plant presents a healthy appearance; but in the culture of the potato the utmost activity prevails to plant on an extensive scale; and I am convinced a greater breadth of land has been cropped up to this early period, than in former years; and large tracts are in preparation, the people entertaining the most sanguine hopes of its success, and freedom this year from disease.

Granard Union—Captain Lang:—April 23, 1848.

In my report of the 21st instant (which, being too late for Friday's post, you will not receive before Monday) I have in part anticipated the information required by your Circular of the 22nd, received this morning.

In my progress through the district I have taken some pains to observe the general appearance and prospects of the crops in the ground, and of the state of preparation of the land for spring crops. Where the land has been clean and in

good tilth (as farmers call it), and the labour well performed, the wheat crops look well and vigorous, generally a little too thick, which is the general fault of Irish wheat sowing; under less favourable circumstances, and defective tillage, the crops look poor and bad. With regard to the oat crop, there is decidedly nothing like the breadth of land got in, as there was at the same period last season, the late wet spring has prevented much of the tenacious clay lands from being sown.

In the potato crop there is an increase in the quantity already planted, and there was some activity and exertion made to plant earlier than usual this season, but there is still a large breadth of land in preparation for planting which the heavy rains have retarded.

I have taken frequent opportunities of examining the quality of the seed potatoes, and I have not found any which were unsound or tainted with the disease of the last two years. The high price of seed potatoes in the markets, ranging from 7d. to 1s. per stone, has prevented the poorer and small occupiers from planting so much of this crop as in former seasons.

The majority of this class of occupiers and the cottier tenantry, indeed I may say the whole of them, with a few exceptions, are, as usual, idle, reckless, lazy, and improvident; many of them I could see as I passed along sitting idly smoking on the back of a ditch, without making the slightest attempt at even digging their gardens. They appear to depend on some future contingency, like the public works or temporary relief measure, to feed themselves and families.

A stranger among these people, and, strange to say, a Government officer, if he knows the tact of drawing them out, will always hear more of their real sentiments than a man of their own country. I seldom lose an opportunity of conversing with them on their affairs, and they readily and warmly enter into an argument, during the course of which you may acquire an accurate knowledge of all their feelings by a little management.

Extract from Captain Lang's Report of April 21, 1848, above referred to.

In my progress through different parts of the district I have directed my attention to the state of the cultivation of the land. There appears to be a greater breadth of potatoes planted than last year; but the frequent rains and the almost total neglect of drainage, which renders any farming operations both injudicious and laborious in a rainy season, have very much retarded the getting in of the spring crops. I have seldom seen any district in Ireland which exhibits a worse system of farming: the small occupiers, and even the larger class of farmers, appear to be ignorant of the first principles of good husbandry. When I first commenced the operations on the workhouse grounds, there was not one of the labouring men employed who appeared to have ever seen or understood any thing about sub-soiling and trenching; and I was obliged to give much of my time and attention to teaching them and superintending the work. In the course of its progress many of the neighbouring farmers have visited the ground, and appeared desirous of information as to its operation and its ultimate advantage; and I hope it will eventually prove a useful lesson. On some few of the gentlemen's demesnes there has been some improvement carried on, and consequent employment afforded. On Major Blackall's property in particular much has been effected and is going on; but a great deal of what I observed on other properties has been imperfectly executed, and on faulty principles. There are large tracts of rich alluvial land lying waste and unprofitable from the want of drainage. Where any has been attempted, the specimens I saw of drainage engineering are the most deplorable examples of incapacity and ignorance, and waste of money and labour, I ever observed in any country.

Kells Union—Captain Dent, R.N.:—April 23, 1848.

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, calling for an immediate report on the state of agriculture, &c., I am enabled to make a prompt reply as respects this Union, having made a point when going through the country to observe and make inquiries into the state of agricultural pursuits. I have also put myself into communication this day with several of the principal landlords and farmers of the neighbourhood; and from all sources I gain the gratifying intelligence that

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there is every prospect of an abundant harvest of every production of grain and vegetable. I am told that there is very much more land in culture than was ever known in this country; that the potato planting is on a most extensive scale, 20 times the amount of former (late) years.

Every one is most busy in clearing out their yards, and manure is being carried forth from every house in the town. I invariably stop and ask as I go to what purpose it is to be applied, and as invariably am answered, for the planting of the potato, with the reservation, "please God it will be a blessed season;" "the olden times are coming back," &c., &c. I am inclined to think that, save the small holder, the planting of this root is as formerly. Ground is also being prepared, and I am informed that green crops will be abundant. I write this in a hurry, thinking it may be at once required. I shall make a point of riding through the Union to-morrow and making further inquiries, which shall be reported on if anything transpires.

The Kells markets are abundantly supplied with seed potatoes. On all sides I am told there was no conception there was near so much potatoes in the country.

Kells Union—Further Report from Captain Dent:—April 24, 1848.

In continuation of my yesterday's report on the state of the agricultural labour in this Union, I have to inform you that I have devoted this day to going through the country in its length and breadth, and on all quarters the report is most favourable. Having called on sundry persons, and conversed with the farmers on their grounds, as well as communicated with the several police on my route, all agree that the quantity of land in tillage exceeds any former years. A gentleman in the Girley division, who has resided in that neighbourhood all his life, says that there are more potatoes being put in than he ever remembers, with the exception of the large coarse potato that used to be grown to feed the cattle; that large crops of parsnips and mangel-wurzel will be sown, but that a great deal of the ground that was in turnips last year will be planted with the potato. In the country round Moynalty, Carlonstown, and Feltown, there is not a plot of ground that is not being prepared; and I was informed that many small farmers who lacked money, have sold a beast for the purpose of buying seed potatoes. All the small plots in the rear of the houses in the towns are being planted; and while it is now out of the power of the very poor classes to plant, those who can are doing it on so extensive a scale as will greatly compensate for it. The people appear in much better spirits, and display an energy I have never seen of late among them; the only drawback is the chance of a failure in the crop. Should this unhappily occur, most of the small farmers will be totally ruined. A little open weather, and the country will wear a different aspect. I was informed that persons who heretofore put in a couple of acres, are planting to the extent of eight to fourteen.

Kenmare Union—Captain Ommanney, R.N.:—April 24, 1848.

Agreeably with your request contained in letter requiring a report on the prospects of the agricultural crops in this Union, the greatest confidence is reposed in the potato crop this year by all classes; it is planted more extensively than it has been for several years; and by every authority I am informed that so large a quantity was never known to be planted so early in the season as this year. Every one who has the means has made the utmost exertion to plant a crop of potatoes. The small holders of land have sacrificed all they possess to put in a crop, determined to struggle through the period up to harvest as they best can for subsistence.

The quantity of grain cultivated for this district is inconsiderable; there is a greater disposition in favour of the turnip crop than was ever manifested before.

Kilrush Union—Captain Kennedy:—April 25, 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular, dated 22nd April.

I have within a few days traversed the greater portion of the Union; and the general opinion is, that the wheat crop is looking well. Tillage is very backward,

owing to the frequent and heavy rains. The quantity of surface water on the land is very great, none of it being drained.

There is a great breadth of potato planted throughout the Union, particularly to the westward, where every green patch has been broken up for this purpose. I have no doubt that the quantity planted is equal to that of any season within the last 10 years.

The potato succeeded remarkably well in this district last year. Any quantity may be purchased at present for 6d. per stone. Those earliest planted look promising.

Listowel Union—Captain Spark, R.N.:—April 24, 1848.

In compliance with the directions contained in Circular, dated the 22nd instant, to report to the Commissioners such information as up to the present time I may have acquired, by personal observation or otherwise, regarding the general prospect of the agricultural crops, especially the potatoes, in my district; I have the honour to state that potatoes are being very largely planted in this Union by the farmers; and had not so much wet weather prevailed, there would have been by this time a greater breadth of this root in the ground than has been set for many years past. None are yet showing above ground.

Of corn crops very little have been sown at all, owing to the very unfavourable season and wet state of the ground. Those farmers who had intended sowing spring wheat have been obliged to abandon the idea, and they will sow oats or barley instead. On some lands the corn crops must be altogether given up I understand, and turnips or other green crops will be sown instead.

The cottagers and labourers are, some of them, planting a few cabbages; but in general they are so poor and destitute that they cannot obtain seed potatoes, or plants of any kind, and their small holdings must unfortunately be left untilled.

Longford Union—Mr. Downman:—April 24, 1848.

In reply to your Circular of the 22nd instant, I beg to inform you that from my observations, and from what information I could gain in the Union, there will be about one-fourth the quantity of ground under potatoes compared to years previous to the failure. The breadth of land under wheat will not be one-half, the land not having been manured. There is great want of means for procuring seed, otherwise I consider there would be more land under oats than any previous years, waste lands in many districts having been brought into cultivation in small patches.

Manorhamilton Union—Major Fitzgerald:—April 24, 1848.

In compliance with your Circular of the 22nd April, received yesterday, I have the honour to send you a short report regarding the general prospects of the agricultural crops, especially the potato crop, in my Union. The greatest efforts have been made by all parties to prepare and sow as much potato ground as possible this season, and I believe there is nearly four times the quantity sown that there was this time last year. The sowing of oats has been much impeded in consequence of the unusual wetness of the season. Great efforts are being made to sow, especially in the neighbourhood of towns and villages, which may be continued for some time during the month of May, but I apprehend that there is yet a deficiency of nearly one-third as compared with former years. Wheat is not looking very well in consequence of the superabundance of moisture this season; the sowings likewise were not early enough in October, however this is chiefly an oat not a wheat country. Green crops, such as carrots and parsnip, are not making much progress; the wet season has not been favourable to preparing the ground for them, and the people generally express fear of the early green crops, parsnips and carrots, being stolen. *The more general green crop, turnips, will I hope be cultivated in considerable quantity this year.* The people are not so afraid of this general crop being stolen, and the advancing period of the year will afford facilities for improved preparation of the ground.

It is of such essential importance to apply every incentive to the cultivation of

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this invaluable crop by the small farmer that I would suggest that instructions be given to Lord Clarendon's Practical Instructor to devote his time during the remainder of the season to furnishing information in various localities of the Union upon the best mode of preparing the ground and sowing the turnip crop. Mr. Wynne Boggs is the person referred to. He is, I believe, fully awake to the importance of confining his efforts to the above object at the present season, and has, I think, made judicious preparations for rendering his assistance as available as possible in the various localities of the Union most requiring it.

With a view to still further stimulate the cultivation of turnip amongst the poorest class of farmers, I am of opinion that it will be desirable to take advantage of the liberal offer of the Dublin Central Relief Committee, to grant supplies of seeds for distribution by Local Relief Committees, throwing upon the latter the responsibility of finding the proper objects to whom such assistance should be granted.

The supply should be only in turnip seed. There is not any general deficiency of grain or potato seed in the country.

Milford Union—Mr. Horsley :—April 24, 1848.

In obedience to the request conveyed in your Circular of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report as follows upon the "general prospects of the agricultural crops, especially the potato crop, in this Union:"—

In consequence of the backwardness of the season (occasioned by a long continuance of rain and of severe weather) farming operations have been much retarded, and although great exertions are now being made to complete the sowing of oats, much remains yet to be done in preparing the soil for the reception of the seed.

The farmers in this district are generally slovenly and dilatory, few of them ever turning up their land to receive the benefit of the winter frosts. The injurious consequences arising from the neglect of this golden rule in agriculture are twofold. 1st. The strength of the soil is taxed for the nourishment of a double crop, viz., a crop of grain, and a crop of weeds. 2nd. By leaving all tillage to be performed in spring the farmer is forced to work against time, and, consequently, he neither digs nor ploughs deep enough. The same shallow depth of soil is merely scratched and disturbed year after year, until it necessarily becomes incapable of affording a sufficient measure of nourishment to the seed committed to it.

The quantity of potatoes already set and to be set in this Union is fully three-fold that of last year. Seed potatoes in abundance are within the reach of the means of the small farmer, and of the cottier in employment, as the market price is only 5s. per measure of 120 lbs.

I cannot at present, as you require an immediate answer to your Circular of the 22nd instant, give you an approximation to the probable average which will be under potato cropping this year, but it will be very large.

From all that I can learn from good sources, and have observed myself, I beg to state that turnips, carrots, parsnips, &c., will be extensively cultivated this season, the farmers and the labouring population having from last year's experience learned the value of these roots.

Upon the whole I feel unable to report favourably of the agricultural prospects for the present year in this Union. Unless there should providentially be a long continuance of warm and genial weather during the summer months I greatly fear the grain crops will prove to be deficient in quantity and quality, and that the green crops, even if abundant, will be late in arriving at maturity.

Mohill Union—Major Haliday :—April 25, 1848.

I have the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that during the last two days I have remarked in every direction very gratifying indications of activity and exertion on the part of the people in tilling the land and putting in crop.

The accumulated manure heaps of the last two years are being brought forth in all directions, and women and children are busy putting in potatoes, of which there appears to be no scarcity of seed. In consequence of the spungy, wet, and

retentive soil of this county, the spring tillage is always late, and the heavy rains and cold weather of March, and the early part of the present month, have retarded it even more than usual; but if the present dry weather continue for a few weeks longer, I am confident that the estimate I stated in my weekly report of the 21st instant, will be found to fall short of rather than exceed the actual extent of land under crop, viz., that the quantity under potatoes will be not much short of two-thirds of the average of former years, and the breadth of land under grain crops will probably be more than double the former average. If the summer and harvest weather be favourable, the result will be that the total quantity of food thus gathered will be as great in proportion to the now much diminished population of the Union, as in the times when the potato was much more largely grown.

I have heard of a very few instances where the early planted potatoes have exhibited decay (in my opinion, from the cold and wet weather succeeding the time they were planted), but the seed generally is extremely good and sound.

The braird of all grain crops as yet above the ground is luxuriant and healthy looking, but there is as yet a good deal of oats to be sown.

Mullingar Union—Captain Telford:—April 24, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, I beg to inform you that from what has come under my observation, and the inquiries I have made, that the winter crops are very promising, and notwithstanding that spring business has been much retarded by the inclemency of the weather, the oat sowing is nearly brought to a close; and every one who can procure seed potatoes are making active preparations to have as great a breadth of land sown with them as possible.

The market of Mullingar has been abundantly supplied with potatoes from the King's County and remoter places, which have been purchased with the greatest avidity for seed: the impression being that until that esculent be restored again as the food of the bulk of the people, there will be no end to destitution and exorbitant poor rates.

There was no neglect as to the cultivation of the land last year in this Union, and great efforts are now being made, from the potato last harvest having proved so prolific a crop and free of disease, to cultivate it as largely as possible at present.

Nenagh Union—Captain Darley, R. N.:—April 24, 1848.

In reply to the Circular of the 22nd instant, I beg leave to acquaint you for the information of the Commissioners, that all agricultural work has been greatly impeded this season by the continued wet weather. Wheat has been partially sown, and although late, looks healthy. A very great breadth of land has been and is yet being sown with oats. The planting of potatoes is going on to a considerable extent, and much more seed potatoes has appeared in the markets than was supposed to have been in the country; all the better class of farmers are planting them to a considerable extent; the poorer class have not money to buy seed, nor were they provident enough to collect manure, which neglect is now severely deplored by them, as the general opinion prevails that this root will again succeed; if it do, I am borne out in the opinion by the most experienced farmers with whom I have spoken on the subject, that the quantity planted and being planted in the Union will have a material effect on the amount of food likely to be produced this year.

The price of seed potatoes in the Nenagh market on Thursday, the 20th instant, was from 6d. to 8d. the stone weight.

Newcastle Union—Captain Routh.

Extract from a Report from Captain Routh, dated Newcastle, April 19, 1848.

"The market last Saturday was well supplied and well attended. Seed potatoes were selling at 8d. per stone, and seed oats at 8½d. There was a large quantity of each purchased, which would show the intentions of the people."

Newcastle, County Limerick, April 23, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, I beg leave to inform you that from the inquiries I have made I find there is more preparation being made this year than last, and tillage has already commenced.

Owing however to the flatness of the country and the quantity of rain we have had, and the retentive nature of the soil, it has been impossible to sow very extensively up to the present period; and it is the opinion of those acquainted with the subject, that upwards of three weeks more must necessarily elapse before any considerable progress is made.

The greater number of those possessed of land are busily employed in cultivating it, taking advantage of any fine weather; unfortunately however the work is mostly done by the farmers, with the assistance of their sons and horses, and the destitute poor do not derive much benefit.

I can form no opinion as to the general prospects of the agricultural crops, as they have scarcely as yet made their appearance above ground.

Oats, potatoes, wheat, and barley, are what have chiefly been put into the ground, principally the two former.

New Ross Union—Captain Burmester:—April 23, 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, dated 22nd April, regarding the general state of the crops in this district.

From my own observation, and from all I can learn, I have to report that the crops promise well. The quantity of land planted with potatoes is at least double that of last year. There is more land sown with grain than usual, and less with green crops.

In the district of St. Mullins and Graigue, the poorest part of the Union, there is a very considerable quantity of potatoes sown. The crops are rather more backward than usual, owing to the cold weather that has prevailed.

Roscommon Union—Captain Musters.

Extract from a Report from Captain Musters, dated Roscommon,
April 24, 1848.

“From my own observation, as well as from inquiries I have made from intelligent persons in different parts of this Union, I find that very great exertions are being used generally in putting down crops of all kinds, particularly potatoes, which have been selling at a reasonable price, from 4s. 6d. to 5s. a cwt. in the Roscommon market. The wheat crop is also very considerable, and promising well; but I think there will be a deficiency in the oat crop, not only from the backwardness of the season, but from their having in a great many instances to sow land that is already completely exhausted, and which can yield but a very indifferent crop. On the whole, however, from what I can gather, should the harvest turn out well, I consider there will be a much larger supply of wheat than usual; and though the oats do not promise well at present, I think we may fairly presume on an average crop of corn, and certainly on nearly double the quantity of potatoes to last year’s crop, should that root not be again attacked with disease, and the general opinion is that it will not.”

Roscrea Union—Mr. Todd:—May 2, 1848.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular of the 22nd ultimo, and regret that my attention having been previously directed almost exclusively to the potato, I was not qualified to report upon “the general prospects” of other crops in this Union.

From my own observation and from the best information I have been able to obtain, I believe that this season there will be a very large tract of land planted with potatoes in this Union, fully one-third more than was last year, and within one-third of an ordinary year’s crop (prior to the appearance of disease). The potato crop of last year having proved more healthy than that of the two previous years, has led to sanguine expectations for the future on the part of many proprietors and farmers; and the class of small holders, already reduced to a state

of all but pauperism, are straining every nerve to plant potatoes as largely as possible, as a last desperate venture to retrieve their position.

The wheat sown in this district is almost all winter sown, and it has suffered a little from late hail storms and night frosts; these causes have thrown the crop back, but generally it is healthy and promises favourably; of other corn crops it would be premature to speak; I may add that there will be a very limited quantity of arable land out of cultivation this season in the Roscrea Union.

Scariff Union—Captain Hart :—April 24, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, I am truly happy to be able to state that the general prospects as regards the agricultural crops throughout this Union are most cheering.

I have every reason to know that a larger breadth of land will be put under cultivation this year than was ever known within the memory of man; and I am informed that the land is being cultivated with a degree of care and skill hitherto unknown in these parts.

As regards the potato crop, I learn from credible sources that fully as large a quantity will be planted this year as was usually the case four years ago.

A short time since on casually meeting a Roman Catholic clergyman, he addressed me as follows:—"Captain Hart, I am glad I met you before you left for Dublin (alluding to my recent visit), because I wish to tell you what you have done! in this Union—you have thoroughly convinced the people, and no mistake, that for the future they must rely upon their own resources only, and not be looking for help elsewhere; and the consequence is, that there will not be a sod of arable land left untilld this year; and next season, please God, we shall have potatoes again as plentiful as ever."

Skibbereen Union—Mr. Marshall :—April 24, 1848.

I have had the honour to receive your Circular of the 22nd instant, respecting the general prospects of the agricultural crops, especially the potato crops, in my district.

I have to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that an extraordinary exertion is making over this district generally to cultivate the land and plant potatoes; not so much wheat appears to have been sown as in other years, from the ground not having been manured last year.

The markets are wonderfully well supplied with seed potatoes; there is a greater quantity in the country than was anticipated.

In many cases farmers had two years' manure; and the sea-weed not having been cut last season increases the supply, and enables the farmers to manure the land better and plant a greater quantity.

The great advantage derived from the turnips sown last year, though badly managed, the people are inclined to sow them and other green crops again, and are preparing for this auxiliary also; on the whole it is most gratifying to witness, on going through the district, that a very great exertion is made by all classes to provide a supply of food for the future, and rely more upon their own exertions.

The potato crop will come in much earlier than usual, therefore by the 1st of August the supply is anticipated to be pretty general. A branch of the Belfast Flax Society has been formed in this Union, and a quantity of flax will be sown; this will tend to increase the resources of the district and give employment.

Sligo Union—Captain Gilbert :—April 24, 1848.

In reference to your Circular, I beg to state that the general prospects of the crops in this Union are not very flattering, or holding forth a hope of a sufficiency of food for next year.

The land is well sown by the more extensive owners and farmers with corn crops, and in most cases with a greater quantity of potatoes than I was led to expect from their scarcity last year; but the small farmers and the lower classes holding a small portion of land are so unable to purchase seed potatoes, from

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poverty and their high price in the market, that their plots remain unsown and waste.

To provide some seed for those poor persons I have applied, with a prospect of success, to the Society of Friends for a quantity of different seeds; and after their arrival, which is daily expected, I intend distributing them, on the certificate of the Agricultural Inspector, through the relieving officers, to each electoral division.

Swineford Union—Mr. Gibbons:—April 23, 1848.

I have the honour of stating in reply, that from all the information I have been able to obtain and from my own observations, it appears that there is at present more than the usual average crop of potato sown in this Union at this season, and that it is most probable there will be about one-half the usual crop matured.

The potato has been sown much earlier than usual in this Union this year, owing to the fact that the potato which was sown early last year succeeded, and those sown at the usual time failed.

Green crops are very deficient. Many are preparing the land for green cropping, but have not seed or means to purchase; had they seed or means to purchase there would be a considerable green crop sown within a short time.

If the potato succeeds this year there will be an abundance of provisions in this Union; but if the potato fails the people will be infinitely worse off than in former years.

Tipperary Union—Captain Haymes:—April 23, 1848.

In reply to the Circular of yesterday's date, requiring information respecting the state of the crops in this Union, I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that from personal observation and continued inquiries made on the subject, I am enabled to report that the wheat crop looks particularly well, and promises abundance. That the few potatoes which appear above ground look remarkably healthy and strong.

That potato planting to a very great extent has been, and is still going on in all parts of the Union, even to the detriment of the oat crop.

That the market of Tipperary continues to be supplied with seed potatoes at from 7d. to 10d. per stone according to quality, which meet a ready sale, and still the supply does not diminish on the following week, nor has the price varied these last three or four weeks.

It is computed from the great extent of planting, that should the crop succeed this year, there will be more potatoes in this Union than has been known for several years past.

I may add, in conclusion, that all ranks of society here appear to hold the opinion, that the people cannot exist without the return of the potato in the same abundance as they were accustomed to formerly; hence the extent of land thus occupied this year.

Tuam Union—Captain Labalmondiere:—April 24, 1848.

In reply to your Circular, dated 22nd April, I have to report that the crops generally in this Union appear to promise well, but are backward.

From all the inquiries I have made, and from personal observation, I may state that the planting of the potato equals, if it does not exceed, the extent of any previous years. From not having used it last year, the people have nearly double the usual quantity of manure; and I believe the breadth of land already under potatoes is unprecedented.

There is even a return I understand to the con-acre system.

Westport Union—Mr. Lynch:—April 24, 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and have to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that having paid particular attention to the state of the cultivation of the land in this Union, I am happy in being able to bear testimony to the extraordinary exertion

which is being made in several of the electoral divisions to secure an abundant crop in the ensuing season.

This applies to Westport, Aughagower, Louisburgh, Newport, Kilmeena, and Achil. In Islandeady and Kilmaclusser, as well as Ballycroy and Clare Island, very little progress has as yet been made, and I fear that a considerable portion of the four last districts is likely to remain again uncultivated; but in the first-mentioned electoral divisions the quantity of potatoes already planted is far greater than ever known at the same period of any other year; and while the poor people are thus actively engaged in the cultivation of the potato, they do not appear to neglect the sowing of the ordinary crop of corn, and I have no doubt as the season advances the same industry will be exhibited in the cultivation of the turnip.

Many instances have been reported to me where the greatest privations have been submitted to, in some cases amounting to absolute want, by poor persons, to enable them to purchase small quantities of potatoes for seed; they seem to me to be under the impression that their future prosperity solely depends on the re-introduction of their favourite plant.

USE OF RYE BREAD.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
April 26, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, having had their attention recently called to the quality of the rye bread supplied in a particular Union to poor persons in receipt of out-door relief, deemed it advisable to request the Inspector of that Union in which the bread was issued, to report to them on the subject. The Commissioners were subsequently furnished with the Inspector's report (together with samples of the bread), from which it appeared that bread of a similar quality had been supplied by the British Association to the children attending the schools in the Union, in whose appearance a marked improvement had taken place since such food was first adopted in the Union.

The Commissioners have since submitted the bread for the opinion of the Central Board of Health, and are now informed that the bread having been analyzed in the Laboratory of the Museum of Irish Industry, under the direction of Sir Robert Kane, one of the Commissioners of the Board of Health, had been found to be composed solely of rye meal of very good quality, and not to contain any adulteration or impurity.

The Board of Health, however, stated that it appeared that the bread had been imperfectly prepared and baked, and was not well raised or sufficiently spongy, although the fermentation had been allowed to proceed even too far. The process of baking had been too much hurried, and the fire had been probably too strong; the loaves, moreover, (which were of about 2 lbs. weight) were made of too great a size to allow of their being thoroughly baked, except by very cautious management.

The Board of Health are of opinion that it would be better to make up the rye bread in smaller loaves, or, as is done on those parts of the continent where rye bread is the ordinary food of the people, to form long slender rolls: these are well baked with a very moderate fire, the dough having been sufficiently raised; and the rye bread then forms a palatable, nutritious, and wholesome food.

It is deemed right to communicate to you these remarks of the Board of Health; and the Commissioners will feel obliged to you, if you will acquaint them with the result of your own observations and experience in any points connected with the baking rye bread properly.

By order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To

Each Poor Law Inspector.

POOR LAW COMMISSION.

UNIONS to which ORDERS have been issued authorizing RELIEF under the 2nd Section of 10th Vic., cap. 31.

No.	UNIONS.	Date and Period of First Order.	Classes to be Relieved.
1	Abbeyleix . . .	2 Dec., 1847, to 2 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident.—Renewed on 2nd February to 2nd April.
2	Athlone . . .	25 Feb. to 25 March, 1848.	Limited to widows with one child, and orphans, 1st to 30th April. All classes (not relieviable under section 1).—Renewed 25th March to 25th April. Renewed 26th April to 26th May.
3	Bailieborough . .	1 Jan. to 1 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Wives with a child or children dependent, their husbands being in gaol, or absent from Ireland, 8th January to 1st March. } Both orders renewed by one, 1st March to 1st April.
4	Ballina . . .	15 Dec., 1847, to 15 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relieviable under section 1).—Renewed 15th February to 15th April. Renewed 15th April to 15th May.
5	Ballinasloe . . .	21 March to 4 April, 1848.	All classes (not relieviable under section 1), except unmarried men, and married men having only two children. Limited to widows with one child, women with two children, their husbands being absent from Ireland, and able-bodied men with families affected by sickness or accident, 4th April to 4th May.
6	Ballinrobe . . .	2 Dec., 1847, to 2 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relieviable under section 1).—Renewed on 2nd February to 2nd April. Renewed 29th March to 2nd May.
7	Ballyshannon . .	16 March to 16 April, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans.
8	Boyle . . .	4 Feb. to 4 April, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, wives with a child or children dependent, whose husbands are in confinement, and orphans.—Renewed 4th April to 4th May. Superseded by order extending to all classes, except able-bodied single men above 18 years of age, and able-bodied married men having not more than two children dependent, 15th April to 15th May.
9	Cahirciveen . . .	4 Feb. to 4 April, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans.—Renewed 4th April to 4th June.
10	Callan . . .	15 Dec., 1847, to 15 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness. Extended to all classes (not relieviable under 1st section) 24th December to 24th February. Extended order renewed 25th February to 25th March.—Renewed 25th March to 8th April. Renewed 8th April to 8th May.
11	Carrickmacross . .	27 Jan. to 27 March, 1848.	Widows with a child dependent, and orphans.—Renewed 27th March to 27th May.
12	Carrick-on-Shannon.	31 Dec., 1847, to 29 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relieviable under section 1).—Renewed 29th February to 31st March. Revoked on 18th March, and order issued for all classes, except unmarried men above 18 years of age, and married men having only two children, from 18th March to 1st April.—Renewed 31st March to 1st May.
13	Cashel . . .	29 Dec., 1847, to 29 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relieviable under section 1).—Renewed 29th February to 18th March. Renewed 18th March to 1st April. Unmarried men excluded 1st April to 1st May.
14	Castlebar . . .	2 Dec., 1847, to 2 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relieviable under section 1).—Renewed on 2nd February to 2nd April. Revoked on 18th March, and superseded by order, excluding unmarried men above 18 years of age, and married men having only two children, 18th March to 1st April.—Renewed 31st March to 1st May.
15	Castlereagh . . .	26 Nov., 1847, to 26 Jan., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident.—Renewed on 25th January to 25th March. Renewed 25th March to 1st April. Renewed 1st April to 1st June. Special order for women with a child, their husbands being in gaol or absent from Ireland, 7th April to 1st June. Extended to all classes (not relieviable under section 1), 10th April to 10th May.
16	Cavan . . .	25 Jan. to 25 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident.—Renewed 25th March to 25th April. Renewed to 25th May. Women with a child or children dependent, whose husbands are in confinement or absent from Ireland, being substituted for class of able-bodied as in previous order.
17	Clifden . . .	31 Dec., 1847, to 29 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relieviable under section 1).—Renewed 29th February to 31st March. Renewed 29th March to 30th April. Renewed 27th April to 31st May.
18	Clogheen . . .	2 March to 18 March, 1848.	All classes (not relieviable under section 1). Limited to widows with one child, and wives with a child or children dependent, whose husbands are confined or absent from Ireland, and orphans, 18th March to 18th April.—Renewed 17th April to 18th May.

Unions to which Orders have been issued authorizing Relief, &c.—*continued.*

No.	UNIONS.	Date and Period of First Order.	Classes to be Relieved.
19	Clonmel . . .	27 Jan. to 27 March, 1848.	Widows without child dependent, and orphans. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 7th February to 7th April. Revoked on 18th March, and superseded by order, excluding unmarried men above 18 years of age, and married men having only two children, 18th March to 1st April.—Renewed 1st to 8th April. Renewed on 8th to 15th April. Renewed 15th to 22nd April. Renewed 22nd to 29th April.
20	Cootehill . . .	19 Feb. to 19 April, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, wives with a child or children dependent, whose husbands are in confinement or are absent from Ireland, and orphans.—Renewed 19th April to 19th June.
21	Dingle . . .	11 March to 21 March, 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).—Renewed 20th to 31st March. Renewed 30th March to 21st April. Renewed 20th to 28th April. Renewed 27th April to 5th May.
22	Donegal . . .	25 March to 25 April, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans.—Renewed to 25th June.
23	Drogheda . . .	19 Jan. to 19 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, wives with a child dependent, whose husbands are in confinement or are absent from Ireland, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families suffering from sickness or accident.—Renewed 19th February to 19th March. Renewed 18th March to 18th April. Renewed 18th April to 18th May.
24	Dunmanway . .	5 Feb. to 5 April, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 8th February to 8th April. Unmarried men over 18 years of age, and married men having only two children, excluded 7th April to 1st May.
25	Dunshaughlin .	20 Dec., 1847, to 20 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).—Renewed 19th February to 19th March. Renewed 18th March to 1st April. Limited to widows with one child, wives with a child dependent, their husbands being in gaol or absent from Ireland, and orphans.
26	Ennis . . .	17 Dec., 1847, to 17 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident.. Extended to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 4th January to 4th March.—Renewed to 18th March. Renewed on 18th to 25th March. Unmarried men over 18 years of age, and married men having only two children, excluded on 25th March to 25th April. Last order renewed 24th April to 5th May.
27	Enniscorthy . .	30 Dec., 1847, to 29 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident.—Renewed 29th February to 31st March. Limited to widows with one child, and orphans, 31st March to 30th April.
28	Enniskillen . .	16 Feb. to 16 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, wives with a child or children dependent, whose husbands are in confinement or are absent from Ireland, and orphans.—Renewed 16th March to 16th April. Renewed 15th April to 16th June.
29	Ennistymon . .	16 Dec., 1847, to 16 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident.—Renewed 16th February to 16th March. Renewed 16th March to 16th April. Renewed 15th April to 16th May.
30	Fermoy . . .	8 Dec., 1847, to 8 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 31st January to 31st March. Limited to classes in first order, 30th March to 30th April.
31	Galway . . .	8 Jan. to 8 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 24th January to 24th March.—Renewed 23rd March to 1st April. Renewed 29th March to 1st May.
32	Glenties . . .	15 Dec., 1847, to 15 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident.—Renewed 15th February to 15th March. Renewed 15th March to 15th April. Renewed 14th April to 15th May.
33	Gorey . . .	1 Jan. to 1 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans.—Renewed 1st March to 1st April. Renewed 31st March to 16th April. Renewed 15th April to 16th May.
34	Gort . . .	1 Jan. to 1 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Extended to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 6th January to 6th March.—Renewed on 7th to 18th March. Renewed on 18th March to 1st April. Renewed 29th March to 1st May.
35	Granard . . .	19 Nov., 1847, to 19 Jan., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident. Extended to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 18th December to 18th February. Extended order renewed 19th February to 19th March. Limited to widows with one child dependent, wives with a child dependent, whose husbands are confined or are absent from Ireland, and to orphans, 18th March to 18th April. Extended to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 14th April to 14th May.

Unions to which Orders have been issued authorizing Relief, &c.—*continued.*

No.	UNIONS.	Date and Period of First Order.	Classes to be Relieved.
36	Kanturk . . .	29 Dec., 1847, to 29 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 24th January to 24th March.—Extended order renewed 25th March to 30th April.
37	Kells . . .	14 Jan. to 14 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).—Renewed 14th February to 14th March. Limited to widows with one child, wives with dependent child whose husbands are in confinement, and orphans, 14th March to 14th April. Limited to widows with a child dependent, and orphans, 14th April to 14th May.
38	Kenmare . . .	15 Dec., 1847, to 15 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 21st January to 21st March. Limited to classes in 1st order from 20th March to 20th April. Limited order renewed 19th April to 27th April.—Renewed 27th April to 27th May.
39	Kilkenny . . .	29 Dec., 1847, to 29 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans.—Renewed 29th February to 31st March, and extended to able-bodied men, with members of their families suffering from sickness or accident.—Last order renewed 31st March to 30th April.
40	Killarney . . .	18 Dec., 1847, to 18 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident.—Renewed 18th February to 18th March. Renewed 18th March to 18th April. Widows with one child dependent, women with a child or children dependent, whose husbands are in confinement or are absent from Ireland, and orphans, 15th April to 18th May.
41	Kilmallock . . .	14 Dec., 1847, to 14 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident. Widows with one child dependent, and orphans, 14th February to 14th April.—Renewed 14th April to 14th June.
42	Kilrush . . .	20 Dec., 1847, to 20 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1). Limited to widows over 60 years of age. Widows with one child, women deserted by their husbands prior to 8th June, 1847, and orphans, 1st to 30th April. Extended to all classes as before, 10th April to 10th May.
43	Listowel . . .	7 Dec., 1847, to 7 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).—Renewed to 7th March; 7th to 18th March all classes, except unmarried men above 18 years of age, and married men having only two children. Renewed 18th to 25th March. Renewed 25th March to 1st April. Renewed 1st April to 1st May.
44	Longford . . .	17 Dec., 1847, to 17 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 4th February to 4th March.—Renewed to 4th April.
45	Loughrea . . .	19 Feb. to 19 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, wives with a child or children dependent, whose husbands are in confinement or absent from Ireland, and orphans. Extended to able-bodied men with dependent families affected by fever, 10th March to 10th April. First order renewed 18th March to 10th April. Both orders renewed by one order, 10th April to 10th June.
46	Lowtherstown . . .	27 Jan. to 27 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Discontinued till 12th April. Order issued for the same classes as above, 12th April to 12th June.
47	Macroom . . .	15 Feb. to 15 March, 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).—Renewed on 14th to 18th March. Renewed 18th March to 1st April. Renewed 29th March to 15th April. All classes, except able-bodied single men upwards of 18 years old, and able-bodied married men having only two children dependent, 14th April to 15th May.
48	Manorhamilton . . .	12 Jan. to 12 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans.—Renewed on 11th March to 11th May.
49	Milford . . .	8 Jan. to 8 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Extended to women upwards of 50 years of age with a child or children illegitimate, from 8th March to 8th May.
50	Mohill . . .	29 Dec., 1847, to 29 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 11 January to 11th March. Widows, wives whose husbands are confined or absent from Ireland, unmarried women, and orphans, 11th March to 11th May.
51	Mullingar . . .	13 Dec., 1847, to 13 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 20th December to 20th February. Extending order renewed 19th February to 19th March.—Renewed 18th to 27th March. Renewed 28th March to 28th May.
52	Naas . . .	13 Jan. to 13 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).
53	Nenagh . . .	23 Dec., 1847, to 23 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).—Renewed 23rd February to 23rd March. Renewed 23rd March to 1st April.

Unions to which Orders have been issued authorizing Relief, &c.—*continued.*

No.	UNIONS.	Date and Period of First Order.	Classes to be Relieved.
54	New Castle . .	1 Nov., 1847, to 1 Jan., 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).—Renewed 31st December to 11th February. Renewed 11th February to 15th March. Renewed 15th March to 1st April. Renewed 29th March to 9th April. Renewed 8th April to 1st May.
55	New Ross . .	17 Jan. to 17 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 5th February to 5th March.—Renewed on the 4th to the 18th March. All classes, except unmarried men above 18 years of age, and married men having only two children, 18th March to 1st April.
56	Old Castle . .	27 Oct. to 27 Dec., 1847.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 16th November to 16th January, which was renewed on 15th January till 15th March.—Renewed 15th March to 15th April. Renewed 14th April to 15th May.
57	Omagh . . .	21 Jan. to 21 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child, wives with a child, whose husbands are in confinement or are absent from Ireland, and orphans.—Renewed 22nd February to 22nd March. Renewed 22nd March to 22nd April. Renewed 22nd April to 22nd June.
58	Rathdown . .	11 Jan. to 11 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Extended to wives with dependent children, whose husbands are confined or absent from Ireland, 11th March to 11th April. Widows with one child dependent, and orphans, 12th April to 12th May.
59	Rathkeale . .	8 Dec. to 8 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident.—Renewed to 8th March. Renewed to 8th April. Limited to widows with one child, and orphans, 8th April to 8th May.
60	Roscommon . .	14 March to 14 May, 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).
61	Roscrea . . .	17 Jan. to 17 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 19th January to 19th February. Extended order renewed 19th February to 19th March.—Renewed 18th March to 1st April. Renewed 31st March to 1st May.
62	Scariff . . .	18 Jan. to 18 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 24th January to 24th March.—Renewed 23rd March to 24th April. Renewed 24th April to 24th June.
63	Sligo . . .	15 Jan. to 15 March, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, and orphans.—Renewed 15th March to 15th April. Renewed 15th April to 15th May.
64	Swineford . .	22 Jan. to 22 Feb., 1848.	Widows with a child, and orphans. Superseded by order extending to all classes, 31st January to 31st March. Revoked on 18th March, and superseded by order excluding unmarried men over 18 years of age, and married men having only two children, 18th March to 1st April. All classes from 1st to 22nd April.—Renewed 20th April to 6th May.
65	Thurles . . .	13 Dec., 1847, to 13 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 10th January to 10th March. Continued to all classes from 16th March to 1st April.—Renewed 30th March to 1st May.
66	Tipperary . .	7 Dec., 1847, to 7 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 13th January to 13th March.—Renewed on 14th March to 1st April. Renewed 1st April to 1st May.
67	Tralee . . .	17 Dec., 1847, to 17 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident.—Renewed 17th February to 17th March. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 21st February to 21st March. Limited to women who have not been married, widows, wives whose husbands are in confinement or absent from Ireland, deserted children, and orphans, 22nd March to 22nd April.—Renewed 22nd April to 22nd May.
68	Tuam . . .	5 Feb. to 5 April, 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).—Renewed 5th April to 5th May.
69	Tullamore . .	14 Dec., 1847, to 14 Feb., 1848.	Widows with one child dependent, orphans, and able-bodied men with dependent families affected by sickness or accident. Superseded by order extending to all classes (not relievable under section 1), 1st February to 1st April.—Renewed 29th March to 1st May.
70	Waterford . .	7 April to 7 May, 1848.	Widows with one child dependent.
71	Westport . .	7 Dec., 1847, to 7 Feb., 1848.	All classes (not relievable under section 1).—Renewed on 5th February to 5th April. Revoked on 21st March, and superseded by order excluding unmarried men, and married men, with a wife and only one child, and widowers having only two children, 21st March to 1st April. Renewed 1st April to 1st May.

(Miscellaneous.

UNIONS which have not received any ORDER for OUT-DOOR RELIEF under the 2nd Section of 10 Vict. cap. 31.

1. Antrim.	16. Castleblaney.	31. Edenderry.	46. Midleton.
2. Ardee.	17. Castlederg.	32. Gortin.	47. Monaghan.
3. Armagh.	18. Celbridge.	33. Inishowen.	48. Mountmellick.
4. Athy.	19. Clogher.	34. Kilkeel.	49. Navan.
5. Ballycastle.	20. Clones.	35. Kinsale.	50. Newry.
6. Ballymena.	21. Coleraine.	36. Larne.	51. Newtownards.
7. Ballymoney.	22. Cookstown.	37. Letterkenny.	52. Newtown Limavady.
8. Balrothery.	23. Cork.	38. Limerick.	53. Parsonstown.
9. Baltinglass.	24. Downpatrick.	39. Lisburn.	54. Rathdrum.
10. Banbridge.	25. Dublin, North.	40. Lismore.	55. Shillelagh.
11. Bandon.	26. Dublin, South.	41. Lisnaskea.	56. Skibbereen.
12. Bantry.	27. Dundalk.	42. Londonderry.	57. Strabane.
13. Belfast.	28. Dunfanaghy.	43. Lurgan.	58. Stranorlar.
14. Carlow.	29. Dungannon.	44. Magherafelt.	59. Trim.
15. Carrick-on-Suir.	30. Dungarvan.	45. Mallow.	60. Wexford.

UNIONS to which an ORDER for RELIEF under Section 2 of 10 Vict. cap. 31, was issued, but has expired, and has not been renewed.

Unions.		Order expired on
Bailieborough		1st April.
Ballyshannon		16th April.
Longford		4th April.
Naas		13th February.
Nenagh		1st April.
New Ross		1st April.

In Kilrush Union an order expired on 20th February; another order was not issued until 1st April.

In Lowtherstown Union an order expired on 27th March; another order was not issued until 12th April.

ANTRIM UNION.

COPY CONSTABULARY REPORT.

*County of Antrim.**Antrim, January 22, 1848.*

On the 21st a woman named Rose Dowdall died. The following is a copy of the verdict:—

“That her death was caused by exhaustion, brought on by the want of proper nourishment, and by the visitation of God.”

S. STUDDERT, S. I.

Inspector-General, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. SENIOR to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 3, 1848.*

WITH reference to the death of Rose Dowdall I enclose a written statement from the coroner, and the evidence of the daughter of the deceased. It appears clear, both from the coroner's letter and the daughter's evidence, that the death of the deceased is attributable to natural causes, disease and general decay, not to the want of the common necessities of life.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

I held an inquest on the body of Rose Dowdall, a pauper, at Randalstown. The verdict of the jury was, that “Rose Dowdall's death was caused by exhaustion, brought on by want of proper nourishment, and by the visitation of God.”

It was stated at the inquest, that deceased had applied for and got a ticket of admission to the workhouse in Antrim, and the day she was to have been admitted she died. There could be no blame attributable to any person; and it appeared that deceased's daughter with whom she lived was very kind to her, and supplied her with what food she could procure; but of late she could not take much food; and what little she took her stomach could not retain. She died on the 20th January last, and the inquest was held on the 22nd.

A. MARKHAM, *Coroner.*

II.

No. 5607/48.

Matty Quigly on her oath saith, the deceased Rose Dowdall was my mother; she has been sick since harvest; she applied twice for admission to the workhouse, as she stated to me, to Mr. Crawford, the warden, who sent her to Mr. Courtney, the Guardian, who said he did not know her. This was after harvest. The second time she applied to Mr. Courtney was about a month after her first application; and my mother said she had again been refused by Mr. Courtney, on the same grounds that he did not know her. The third time I applied to Mr. Courtney myself, which was about eight days before my mother's death. Mr. Courtney gave me a ticket of admission to the workhouse, and also got a ticket for the dispensary; the medical officer, Dr. Hill, said, it is nourishment your mother wants, not medicine. During the whole time since harvest I kept my mother in my house; and I received soup three times a week, and a portion of bread from Lord O'Neill's soup kitchen in Randalstown; and I also got a little money from washing and other means; my mother was ill of bowel complaint; she did not die of want, but she could not eat food, either stirabout or milk, and I gave her herrings and potatoes, and I gave her everything she wanted.

Witness, EDWARD SENIOR.

her
MATTY + QUIGLY.
mark.

Sworn before me at Antrim, February 3, 1848.

EDWARD SENIOR.

III.

Rose Dowdall died on 20th January last at Randalstown, not at Antrim. She resided with her daughter—herself a widow—and had been confined to bed for three months previous to her decease. Both were common beggars. The daughter during the illness of deceased procured for and administered to the latter, every comfort in her power; but the description of nourishment latterly obtained, while quite adequate to sustain nature in a healthy subject, was insufficient for that purpose in the present case, owing chiefly to the debilitated state of the digestive organs. Proper nutriment would have been provided for deceased had parties in the neighbourhood been apprised of her condition.

No application for relief was made to the Guardians in this case; but deceased had procured a few days before her death a ticket of admission into the workhouse, and which was in her possession at the time of her decease.

HENRY E. SCOTT.

February 3, 1848.

BALLINROBE UNION.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 1, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a letter from Mr. Brannick, poor-rate collector for the electoral divisions of Claremorris and Ballindine, for the information of the Commissioners, requesting that the Commissariat may be directed to become purchasers of farm produce seized by him for rates.

From the circumstances of *this* case a sale must be had as an example in that part of the Union; I therefore respectfully request instructions, being determined, by every exertion in our power, to get in the rates.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. P. BRANNICK, Collector, to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*January 29, 1848.*

I BEG leave to inform you that I attended this day to sell by auction farm produce on the lands of Lawan, seized by me, for poor-rates. There being no purchasers, obliged me to postpone the sale to Tuesday the 1st of February next. May I take the liberty of suggesting to you the necessity of the Commissary being in attendance to purchase on that day, as his doing so will produce the most beneficial results in the collection of the rates hereafter.

N.B.—The distress consists of hay and corn in stack. Amount of rate due—21*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*

Arranged to postpone till Monday 7th February.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 4, 1848.*

WITH reference to the sale of goods distrained for non-payment of poor-rate, I am to state, for your information, that the Commissioners have reason to know that a communication on the subject has been made to the resident magistrate, and they do not anticipate that you will find any further difficulty in the matter.

The Commissioners concur with you in thinking it of great importance that the payment of the rates should be effected as speedily as possible, by every means, at the disposal of the collectors and Vice-Guardians.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 5, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state that Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, who came here on a tour of inspection, having reported to me a case of very great apparent hardship which he was witness to "en route" from Maam—that of a man being compelled to level his cabin, and, in fact, from the man's story to him, set fire to it, before a surrender of his land would be accepted by his landlord, and thus become eligible for out-door relief—I proceeded to the district to ascertain the facts.

The man's name is Patrick Philton. He and his family had been receiving provisional relief; but when it was investigated by the Guardians, holding more land than allowed by the Act, he was struck off. He lived on the lands of Doughty, belonging to Sir Richard O'Donnell, but held the cabin and acre of land he occupied from a co-partnership of tenants, to whom he would pay no rent for several years; and being withal a very bad character, living by plundering his neighbours, they compelled him to leave the neighbourhood, and gave him the timbers of the cabin, which he was removing at the moment Mr. Dobree was passing, and to whom he told his *own tale*. I saw the relieving officer of the district of Cong, and had his name placed on the list for relief. This man is the husband of the woman mentioned by me in my report of 1st January, whom I saw almost in a state of nudity on the road; and I have since learned she was in the constant practice of so doing when strangers passed, to extort charity.

From the great distances some of the poor people of Joyce's country have to come to get the rations of meal, in many instances 15 miles, Mr. Dobree and I, agreed to recommend that the police station at Maam might be sanctioned as a dépôt, and the constable in charge should be appointed distributor, for I can

find no person in that part of the country to whom I would entrust the provisions. Constable Flynn was so employed under the Relief Act last year, and gave great satisfaction to all concerned.

I beg to state, that a further adjournment of the sale of stock was granted at the earnest solicitation of the owners; and as I am anxious, if possible, to prevent public exposure, I concurred with the rate collectors granting the time asked for, they having proper security for the forthcoming of the stock, or to pay the money *themselves*.

In the electoral division of Mayo, Mr. Walsh and his assistants were deforced and rescued on the 3rd instant. Informations were this day taken by the resident magistrate at the petty sessions of Hollymount, and the necessary steps have been taken to bring the parties to justice.

The amount of rates lodged for the week is as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Higgins	25	2	0
Mr. Walsh (and 60% too late for treasurer) . . .	148	1	9
Mr. Brannick.	54	6	10
	£227	10	7

A very inconsiderable amount when the number on relief list is taken into consideration. I beg to annex a return of the out-door relief to this date.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of an order for 200% worth of provisions from the British Relief Association, and which I handed to the Vice-Guardians for their disposal.

ENCLOSURE.

RETURN OF PERSONS ON OUT-DOOR RELIEF :—*February 4, 1848.*

Electoral Divisions.	January 21.	February 4.
Ballinrobe	2,174	2,718
Partry	917	1,051
Ross	1,543	1,674
Ballagholla	164	171
Mayo	1,300	1,472
Burriscarra	614	656
Cong	4,061	4,416
Kilmain	1,717	2,026
Shruil	2,191	2,422
Kilmolara	831	1,072
Hollymount	1,906	2,143
Claremorris	2,712	3,436
Ballindine	1,932	2,843
Robeen	1,357	1,448
Total	23,419	27,548
Increase	4,129	

JAMES DEMPSTER, M.D.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your weekly report to the 5th instant, in which you refer to a further adjournment of a sale of stock, at the request of the owners, of which you approved, from a desire to prevent public exposure, and as the collectors had taken proper security.

The Commissioners presume that this adjourned sale has been the cause of the release of stock impounded, of which the Vice-Guardians complain in a report of the 7th instant, this day referred for your observations.

The Commissioners are not at present prepared to say that arrangements of this kind should not be sanctioned under any circumstances, where the parties owing rate hold back until seizures are actually made. The expediency of sanctioning the collectors giving up seizures, without actual payment of the rates due, is however very questionable; and the Commissioners consider that in such cases the collectors should be left to act solely on their own responsibility; they also think that looking to the difficulty of collecting the rates, and

the necessity of making examples, as well as of dealing equally with all classes, no compromise should be assented to from a desire to avoid exposure of the defaulters.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 12, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I visited the electoral division of Kilmolara for the purpose of inspecting the work of those able-bodied who are receiving rations. I regret to state that the amount of labour performed is not at all in proportion to the time occupied, or the number employed. The same remark is applicable almost to every electoral division; and the Vice-Guardians' attention having been called to the circumstance, a stricter surveillance has been directed for the future, and the overseer ordered to be dismissed in the case of Kilmolara.

I then proceeded to Cong, to the relieving officer's store, to ascertain the actual number receiving rations, as I was not satisfied with the return sent in, there being 4416 so returned, being more than half of the population.

The true state is as follows:—

Adults	1436
Children	896
Total	2332
Making a difference of	2084

On a thorough investigation we found that no fraud had been committed, as the quantity of meal for which orders had been issued by the Vice-Guardians was exactly in accordance with the number now stated as receiving it.

The relieving officer, Mr. Joyce, who had Cong, Ross, and Ballagholla electoral divisions to superintend, had in a hurry added the whole as if belonging to Cong, although he only drew provisions for the actual numbers belonging to each, and thus the mistake originated; all is now rectified.

I visited the Claremorris and Ballindine electoral divisions. There were complaints preferred against the relieving officer as to the unsatisfactory manner of issuing the meal, the people having to wait so long in the street before they could get their rations. The fault lay with the contractor, who was disappointed by the cars breaking down between Westport and Claremorris. The amount of destitution is very great in Claremorris, and likely to increase; and it is under consideration whether a second relieving officer for that electoral division should not be recommended for appointment.

The amount of poor-rate collected this week, and lodged to the credit of the Union, is very small, not exceeding 239 $\frac{1}{2}$; but I trust next week's collection will be a large one.

I regret to report that, in consequence of the Vice-Guardians being unable to pay the meal contractors even a part of the money due to them yesterday, that they have refused to give any more credit, which will create great inconvenience in the Union, as the quantity of provisions required for the ensuing week will amount to nearly 70 tons for out-door relief, and unless some immediate steps are taken the distress will be dreadful.

I take leave to annex a letter I received this evening from the Roman Catholic curate of Joyce's country, the Rev. Mr. Robinson, on the subject, by which it appears one woman died in the street of Clonbur, and another person in Joyce's country, as he states, from want. The people in this locality are unable to go so far for their rations, as I stated in my report of the 5th instant; and I know of no other plan to relieve them except having the meal deposited in the police barrack at Maam, and being allowed the privilege of the constable in charge there to distribute it. There is no one we could trust in that part of the country except the police.

I presented two estimates, approved by the Finance Committee and myself, in favour of Ballinrobe and Kilmain fever hospitals to the Vice-Guardians, but for want of funds no money could be granted. I fear the contractors who supply these establishments will soon stop if they do not get paid.

ENCLOSURE.

Ballinrobe Union.

The Rev. W. F. ROBINSON to Dr. DEMPSTER :—*February 12, 1848.*

I BEG leave to call your attention to the present awful state of those persons who were receiving out-door relief. This week's supply has been stopped, as the contractors would not give the meal until they get the money due or part of it. I fear that unless the people get the meal, before many days you will hear of the death of some of them. This day a woman died in the street of Clonbur from destitution, and two days ago another person died in Joyce's country from real want. This is, without doubt, a horrid state of things.

Excuse this liberty, and believe me to remain yours very truly.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 15, 1848.*

I AM to state that application has been made to Count Strzelecki for a further advance of 400*l.* to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the relief of the destitute poor in the Union.

With regard to your suggestion as to the propriety of having the provisions required for the support of the poor in Joyce's country deposited in the police barrack at Maam, and permission being granted to the constable in charge to distribute it, I am to state that the Commissioners presume that the arrangement which you propose has been carried into effect; but if not, they request that you will apply to the County Inspector for the services of the constable referred to.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners consider it may now become necessary to re-model the relieving officers' districts, and they wish that you should formally consider the subject in conjunction with the Vice-Guardians, and report the result to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners are desirous that relief should be administered to all in the Union who are really destitute; and as the system of depôts from which relief is distributed in food by relieving officers admits of expansion to any extent which circumstances may render necessary, they rely upon such arrangements being made by you and the Vice-Guardians as will prevent the occurrence of any deaths from starvation.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 12, 1848.*

WE have the honour to inform you that 239*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* has been lodged to our credit during the last week by the rate collectors. We have paid 10*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* on account of the current expenses, 104*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* in part payment of the old debts at 50 per cent, and 123*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* for outstanding cheques some time issued, and not presented till this week for payment. In consequence of the illness of the clerk on the last Board-day, and for some days previous, he was not aware that any cheques were outstanding; the balance shown to our credit was therefore erroneous, and we drew for the above amount beyond our funds.

The number of destitute poor on the relieving officers' lists entitled to receive rations for the ensuing week is 25,764, and the quantity of Indian meal required for distribution is 70 tons 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 10½ lbs.; but we regret to have to state that we were totally unable to provide any portion of it. We have not received any grant in aid from the British Association, and you will perceive by the minutes of our proceedings that the contractors, all of whom are poor struggling men, dependent upon the merchants for credit, have declined to give any further supply till a considerable portion of the money now due to them for the meal already furnished for out-door relief, and amounting to 1300*l.*, shall be paid. Under these circumstances, should you be enabled to obtain a grant for the necessary supply from the British Association, we have arranged that one of us shall attend at Ballinrobe on Tuesday to receive your communication, and if an order for the food shall be sent, to take the proper measures for its distribution.

We forward the list furnished by Mr. Thomas Walsh, one of the rate col-

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lectors, with his remarks upon each case; and we would desire to call your attention to the observation upon that of Mr. Lynch of Partry, which has reference to the statement of Lord Lucan. We also forward a letter addressed to us by Mr. Walsh, with a copy of our letter in reply. We fear that, for the present, the rates will not come in as quickly as we could desire. All the rate collectors in the Unions under our management are, with two exceptions (Sir R. O'Donnell in Westport and Mr. Brannick in Ballinrobe), also collectors of the county cess, which must be paid in, before the coming assizes on the 6th of March next, and will retard the payment as well as the collection of the poor's rate. This subject we think is deserving of serious consideration in the future appointment of rate collectors. The county cess must be paid at the assizes twice in each year; and being in course of collection for a considerable time previous, it must have an injurious influence upon the collection of poor's rate when the same officer is the collector in both cases.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. WALSH, Collector, to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 11, 1848.*

I BEG to state that I proceeded to the electoral division of Mayo again yesterday to distrain for rates, with my assistant and eight men. We seized on a cow in the first village we went to, when, after some very violent language, several men and women assaulted my assistant, Pat Mahony, and our assistants; and stones of a large size were thrown at them; and Mahony got several blows on the body and head, and had his hand severely cut in my presence, and they threatened myself with the same treatment; and I very much feared the men would be severely injured, or perhaps some of them killed from the violent manner and language used on the occasion. During the row and fighting, the cow was driven off from us, and we could not prevent it; and all the other cattle were hid from us in houses locked up, or driven away. I then proceeded to other townlands and seized seven sheep, which we brought out to the road, when we were followed by a crowd of men and women, who ran after us, and came out from other villages, and got before the sheep, and with violent and threatening language forced the sheep down a narrow road to a village, where, if we followed, our lives would be in danger. I seized on the corn of the owner of the sheep, but could get no man to act as keeper, to mind it. As I proceeded through the electoral divisions, shouts and whistling went before, and screeching after us; and in all directions, and on all sides, men, women, and children were driving and running away with their cattle. I then seized on some small haggards of corn. If I had police and military to protect us, I will carry away their corn if they do not pay or give cattle to pay. I beg to know can I carry away their corn now under seizure, or must I wait to post notice of sale, and have an auction to sell before I can carry away; if not, I must wait to give six days' notice of sale. I much fear police or military protection will not enable me to make a seizure of cattle, for as soon as we are seen people will run before to give notice, and the stock will be driven out of our reach. I only succeeded in impounding two heifers. I fear the same conduct will be adopted in every electoral division. My assistant was several times before threatened and rescued, and swore his informations before the magistrates at Clare Petty Sessions, and again before Mr. Arabin, who issued his warrant.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to Mr. WALSH:—*February 12, 1848.*

UPON reading over your letter addressed to us yesterday, detailing rescues of property seized upon by you for poor-rates, and violent assaults committed upon your assistants by persons assembled upon that occasion, we consider that it is imperatively necessary that information of the facts be at once lodged before a magistrate, and that the parties implicated shall be sworn against and brought to justice. From your having been so long a collector of the county cess, we do not apprehend that there can be any difficulty to identify the persons engaged in this matter, as every rate-payer must be known to you and your assistants.

In conclusion, we wish again to impress upon you the absolute necessity of the utmost exertion upon your part to collect the poor-rate, and that you will not allow the collection of the county cess, in which you are at present engaged, to interfere in any way with a matter of such paramount importance.

BALLINROBE UNION.—*Ballinrobe, Partry, Cong, Kilmolara, Robeen, Burriscarra, and Mayo* Ballinrobe Union.
Electoral Divisions.

RETURN of POOR RATE uncollected, made by Mr. THOMAS WALSH, Collector for the above Divisions, this 4th day of February, 1848.

Persons from whom the Rate is due.	Amount of Rate due.			Observations as to Cause of Non-Collection, &c.
	Due for last Rate made.	Arrears of previous Rate due.	Total.	
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Lord Kilmaine, Neale Park	..	..	77 0 0	Promises to pay as quick as he can.
Lord Leitrim & Charlemont, Rosshill.	..	..	60 8 1½	Will be paid on the 16th instant, the agent promises.
Lord Oranmore, Castle Carrett.	..	..	22 4 10	Will be paid some time.
Sir Richard O'Donnell, Newport.	..	..	69 1 7½	Will be paid some time.
Martin Darcey, Esq., Houndswood.	..	..	106 8 2½	Part will be paid some time.
Deburgh Darcey, Castletown.	..	..	16 12 2	Collector will apply to him again.
Rev. William Cromie	..	..	7 1 11	Agent promises to pay; Mr. Clines in England.
David Courtney, Esq., Dublin.	..	..	15 11 11½	Agent will pay.
John F. Lynch, Esq., Partry.	..	..	21 5 6½	Has paid 10 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i> Dr. Dempster, as arbitrator, settled he was not to pay more, except the arrears.
— Latouche, Esq., Dublin.	..	..	..	
Mrs. Margaret Blake, Lakeview.	..	..	31 14 11½	Promising payment. Has paid.
V. O'Connor Blake, Esq., Tower-hill.	..	..	87 13 1½	Asking time; and states if he finds he is liable to the rates of tenants under 4 <i>l.</i> he will pay.
Rev. James Anderson, Ballinrobe.	..	..	14 6 9½	To pay on Monday, 5th February.
Mr. John M'Avilly, Ballyglass.	..	..	25 6 11½	Is a poor man; he promises to pay; says he gave up some land, and he won't pay all.
Charles L. Kirwan, Esq., Dalgan.	..	..	80 0 8½	Disputes this, many of the tenants having deserted their holdings, the rates of which are charged in this amount, he says he is not liable to.
George O'Malley, Esq., Newcastle.	..	..	22 19 5½	Has promised to pay.
Peter Bourke, Esq., Ballinew.	..	..	36 4 7½	Has promised to pay.
Total . .	..	..		

(Signed)

THOMAS WALSH, Collector.

REPLY to the foregoing:—February 14, 1848.

I AM to state that, under the circumstances reported, application will be made for a loan of 400*l.*, to assist you in relieving the destitute poor of the Ballinrobe Union. I am at the same time to state, in reference to Collector Walsh's inquiry, that he is not bound to sell the goods seized where he makes the distress, but may remove them to any convenient and fit place.

The Commissioners regret that any apprehension of the collector's activity should be entertained; and they can only recommend that he may be kept to the execution of his duty. They do not consider that the simultaneous collection of poor rate and county cess by one person should be more an impediment to the payment of the former than a simultaneous collection of the two assessments by two or more collectors.

With respect to the case of Mr. Lynch, of Partry, the Commissioners desire to observe that they have not had the particulars before them which would

Ballinrobe Union.

enable them to form any opinion on his objections, and it is not within the province of the Commissioners to entertain the case. On this head the Commissioners transmit a copy of a letter which they have addressed to Dr. Dempster.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*February 16, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration a communication made to the Vice-Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union by Mr. Thomas Walsh, one of the collectors of poor-rate in the Ballinrobe Union, from which it would appear that you have acted in the capacity of arbitrator in the case of Mr. John F. Lynch, of Partry, a defaulter of payment of poor-rate in the Union. The collector states that of 21*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, Mr. Lynch has paid 10*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, and that "Dr. Dempster, as arbitrator, settled he was not to pay more, except the "arrears." In reference thereto, the Commissioners desire to state that, although they are convinced that in the course which you pursued you acted with good intentions, yet the interference on your part was wholly unauthorized by the law, and you altogether exceeded your powers.

The responsibility of making and collecting poor-rates rests solely with the Vice-Guardians, and neither the Commissioners nor any of their Inspectors have authority to remit any portion of any rate which has been made on any individual, or in any way to alter the rate-book.

The Commissioners have to add that while the power assumed by you in Mr. Lynch's case was one to which neither you nor the Commissioners are entitled by law, they are of opinion, that the power is greater than can be exercised even by the Guardians themselves, when they have once signed the rate-books.

In your report of the 25th December last, the Commissioners observed that you used the expressions, "I arranged with Mr. Lynch to withdraw his appeal "against the rates, and he has left to my arbitration the settlement of the "matter, which I considered much better than going to the quarter sessions, "as all we require is what is legally due from the rate-payers, and I shall "try to enforce what should be collected from those entitled by law to pay "the rates."

The Commissioners refrained from writing to you on the subject at the time, because they presumed that the words you used referred to some point within your competence as an Inspector or a private individual, and it did not occur to them as possible that you would seriously undertake to remit any portion of a rate which had been made on any rate-payer by the Vice-Guardians.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 18, 1848.*

We have the honour to report, for your information, that 482*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, has been lodged to our credit by the rate collectors in the past week, and 400*l.* received from Doctor Dempster, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, as a grant from the British Association in aid of the destitute poor in this Union. We have paid thereout, for meal issued from the commissariat store-house, including cost of carriage and distribution, 382*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, and 300*l.* to contractors on account for Indian meal supplied by them to make up the deficiency of near 700*l.* worth required for the week's provision, as stated in our last report; of the old debts we have only paid 52*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*, and for current expenses 105*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

The numbers now on the books, entitled to receive out-door relief, are 21,166 adults, and 5584 children, total 26,750; requiring about 71½ tons for one week's food, being about 700*l.* worth.

We regret to have again to report that we are without funds to pay for any part, nor will the contractors give a further supply without prompt payment, neither can we ask them when so large an amount is due to them for what they have already advanced. By the above statement you will perceive that upwards of 300*l.* from the rates have been expended upon out-door relief for this week, and we have been thereby prevented from paying more than a very small sum on account of old debts, or anything in discharge of those contracted

by ourselves. Our position has therefore become extremely embarrassing from the incessant importunity of creditors, both in the Board-room and as we pass through the town; upbraided by the old creditors who freely entered into an arrangement proposed by us, and sanctioned by you; whilst others (who refused to comply) are proceeding at law to recover their claims, to which pleas of confession are now being entered by our solicitor, but payment must be made in April, and all the costs will fall on the Union.

We, therefore, feel called upon to report and explain our present position, that you may consider it, and determine in what way the immense amount of destitution, now ascertained, shall be provided for, and which from the latitude given to the interpretation of the 10th section of the Relief Extension Act, is still likely to increase to a very great extent, and which, you must now be aware, it is totally out of our power to meet, except means are placed at our disposal sufficient to procure the quantity of food required for each week's consumption.

One of our party will again attend here on Tuesday next, to receive and act upon any orders you may determine to send by that day's post, to provide for the requisite supply.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 21, 1848.*

I AM to state that the sum of 700*l.* will be remitted to-morrow, to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

I am at the same time to state that, on a consideration of all the circumstances of the three Unions of which you are Vice-Guardians, and of the great labour which is now thrown upon you by the increase of destitution therein, the Commissioners deem it desirable to detach the Ballinrobe Union from your district and to constitute you Vice-Guardians for Castlebar and Westport Unions alone. At the same time the Commissioners propose to transfer Mr. Fishbourne's services to Ballinrobe Union exclusively.

The Commissioners will take care that the total amount of your salaries shall not be in the least affected by this alteration previous to the 25th of the next month; but the Commissioners are desirous that, after that date, the present arrangement on this head should be open to revision, if it is your intention after that period to give the Commissioners the benefit of your valuable services.

The Commissioners will address Mr. Fishbourne on this subject by to-morrow's post.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 18, 1848.*

WE have the honour to forward to you the copy of a communication received from Mr. Thomas Walsh, rate collector, giving an account of his proceedings in enforcing the payment of the rates, and we have further to state that a similar demonstration will be made by another rate collector on Tuesday next, who intends to distrain some of the higher class who have available property.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. WALSH to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 18, 1848.*

IN consequence of the opposition I received in the collection of the rates as before reported to you, I gave a requisition to Mr. Arabin; R.M., who accompanied me with a party of military and police to the division of Mayo, taking a long circuit of over 20 miles' distance. I also had to engage an auctioneer and 12 carts at considerable expense. I made 14 seizures, 10 of which paid their rates; and we brought away three heifers to pay the rates of three persons, and four carts of wheat in sheaf, not sufficient to pay the rates of the fourth. This formidable party caused a great sensation all through the country, and though the amount collected is small, it will, I hope, be productive of good results in enabling me to collect the rates. I beg to mention I was, under the direction of Mr. Arabin, most efficiently supported by the military and police in a very harassing day's duty—out from day-light until after night-fall.

DR. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that on Monday, 14th instant, Mr. Walsh, rate collector, reported he had been

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deforced in the collection of rates in the electoral division of Mayo; and in consequence, having made the necessary deposition as to the facts before the resident magistrate, and handed in a requisition for protection, Mr. Arabin accompanied Mr. Walsh with a military and police force on Thursday, 17th instant, and made several seizures. His report I beg to annex, by which he considers he will have less trouble in future in the collection.

The collector of Kilmain and Shruil electoral divisions, under similar circumstances, will be accompanied by Mr. Arabin on Monday next 21st instant. The result I shall report.

On receipt of a communication on the 15th instant, stating that 400*l.* would be transmitted in aid of the destitute of this Union, I arranged with Lieutenant Stokes, R.N., the officer in charge of the Commissariat depôt, that meal should be at once issued to the relieving officers; and Mr. Lecky, Vice-Guardian, having arrived from Castlebar, the arrangements were completed and the meal given out; and from the state of funds of the Union at this moment a similar remittance will be required to prevent the people from starving. The number on the lists for next week being 26,750—adults 21,166, and children 5584.

Mr. Joyce, the relieving officer of Ross and Ballagholla electoral divisions, reported on the 15th instant that 10 persons had died in his district and two of these from want. His report I take leave to forward.

Having been called upon by the Chairman of the Cong and Kilmolara Committee to inspect the fever accounts, I did so, and will transmit the vouchers (I required stamp receipts for some items) next week for Mr. Bromley.

I visited Hollymount and Robeen electoral divisions, and saw the relieving officers performing their duties in distributing the meal; and also inspected the overseer's work in the same localities.

I went to Kilmain on like duty, and shall make a special report on the state of the temporary fever shed there next week.

I attended at the workhouse with the Vice-Guardians on Thursday, and handed to them 400*l.* that day received from the British Relief Association in aid of the destitute poor of this Union. The workhouse is greatly improved in every respect, and the hospital also. Fever on the decline in the house; but dysentery prevails to a considerable extent.

The meal contractors were very clamorous for payment of the advances they had made, and the old creditors of the Union most pressing in their demands on the Vice-Guardians, and several have commenced proceedings at law to recover their money.

The amount of rates this week handed in to the treasurer was 482*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*

Mr. Walsh—

	£.	s.	d.
Ballinrobe	274	19	2
Mayo	2	5	4½
Robeen	20	4	0½
Burriscarra	18	18	0
	297	8	7

Mr. Brannick—

Ballindine	141	14	10½
Claremorris	24	15	5½
	166	11	4

Which with the 400*l.* remittance has been divided amongst the creditors.

The quantity of meal for distribution during the ensuing week for the several electoral divisions amounts to 71½ tons.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. WALSH to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*February 19, 1848.*

I BEG to inform you that in consequence of the opposition I met with in the collection of poor-rates in the electoral division of Mayo, as before stated to you, I gave a requisition to Mr. Arabin, R.M., for military and police to protect me in the discharge of my duties, who accompanied me with a party of cavalry and infantry and police to the district. I engaged an auctioneer and 12 carts and additional men at considerable expense; and we took a circuit of

about 20 miles distance, and made 14 seizures: 10 of the owners paid their rates; and we took three heifers from three to pay their rates, and four carts of wheat in sheaf not sufficient to pay the rates, of the fourth—all purchased by Mr. Arabin; and though the amount of rates received was small, the appearance of so formidable a party caused a great sensation through the country, and will, I hope, be productive of good results in inducing the rates to be paid in. I beg to state I was most efficiently supported in this duty by Mr. Arabin and the military and police, who had a very long and harassing march—out from morning until after night-fall.

Ballinrobe Union.

Mr. JOYCE to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*February 15, 1848.*

I REGRET to state that within the last four days 10 persons have died in the electoral division of Ross. Those were people who continued in possession of their small holdings of land until they were nearly exhausted; then surrendered it to their several landlords; applied to me for relief, which was granted by the Vice-Guardians, and which they were now receiving.

18th.—Mr. Joyce states that two of the above died from want.

Showed this to Vice-Guardians 17th February, 1848.—J. D.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER in reply:—*February 21, 1848.*

I AM to state that the sum of 700*l.* will be sent on to-morrow to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

COPY OF OBSERVATIONS of Dr. DEMPSTER, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, on a communication from the Rev. Mr. PHEW, P.P., Shruil, in which he states that he is under the impression that the Poor Rate Collectors are not discharging their duties faithfully, as they take care to apply to the farmer who pays them at once, but are tardy enough to apply to the proprietor in fee, who may be a magistrate or some personage of whom they may be afraid.

THE reverend gentleman was in the Board-room last week when the following case was brought before the Vice-Guardians:—a parishioner of his, a rate-payer, named Connor, and a tenant of a Mr. Kenny, had been met on the road by the rate-collector. Connor was on horseback and carrying a bag with meal; the rate-collector seized the horse for rate and county cess; the man pleaded poverty and inability to pay, besides stating as he was on the relief lists, he was *not liable for rates*; the collector differed in opinion—kept the horse, and in a few minutes, when Connor found he could not escape, paid the amount on the spot. This man is of the class alluded to by Mr. Pheew, as being one of the farmers *applied to* and who pay at once: Connor was struck off.

The rate-collectors have instructions to make no distinction of parties, but to get the rates from all indiscriminately. And in the parish of Shruil the collector has been deforced and rescued, in consequence of which the resident magistrate, with military and police, is in that locality this day protecting the collectors.

February 21, 1848.

OBSERVATIONS of Dr. DEMPSTER on a communication from Mr. James Browne, of Claremont House, Claremorris, relating to the distress in the part of the County Mayo in which Mr. Browne's property is situated, and to abuses committed in placing persons on the relief lists who are not destitute, while others who are so have been denied relief:—*February 21, 1848.*

Mr. BROWNE is a *defaulter* in his rates, and has been called upon by Mr. Brannick, the collector, for payment.

We all think that many persons receiving out-door relief ought not to get it; but we can get no one to come forward and point out any specific case.

I called on the relieving officer of the Claremorris electoral division, Mr. Gibbons, to answer the allegations of Mr. Browne. He denies that any one is on the list to his knowledge, who is not a fit object. I admit that very great destitution prevails, but every precaution has been taken by myself and the Vice-Guardians (to whom I submitted Mr. Browne's letter) to carry out the

H

Ballinrobe Union. relief properly, and every attention paid to recommendations of the Roman Catholic clergyman of the parish and other competent persons.

The agent of Mr. Browne, Mr. Hewson, a justice of the peace for the county, came to Ballinrobe a short time ago to complain to the Vice-Guardians of the case of a widow with a large family, whom he represented to be in the greatest poverty and destitution and *not getting relief*. On investigation, the woman and all her children were on the books as residing in a certain townland in the parish and *receiving relief*; but she wanted to be placed again on the books to get double rations as if living in *another place*, only altering the respective ages of herself and of each of the children, who were all on the lists by the same christian names and in the same consecutive order. It is very hard to discriminate, and it is possible some cases may be as Mr. Browne represents; but all he or any other person has to do is to *point* them out, and immediate redress follows.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*February 21, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which they have received from Sir Randolph I. Routh, relating to deaths alleged to have occurred from starvation in the Ballinrobe Union; and in reference thereto I am to request that you will be so good as to explain fully the mode adopted in the Ballinrobe Union, of issuing rations to the classes relieved under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, distinctly from the able-bodied classes, to whom relief should only be given as their tasks of labour are performed daily.

ENCLOSURE.

Commissary-General Sir R. ROUTH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to lay before you, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, the annexed extract of a letter from Lieutenant Stokes, R.N., now in charge of the Commissariat duties at Ballinrobe, but without meaning to offer any opinion on that gentleman's suggestion.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant Stokes to Commissary-General Sir Randolph I. Routh, dated Ballinrobe, 15th February, 1848.

SINCE writing the above, I regret to say I have heard of a few deaths having taken place in one district of this Union from the want of food. They were persons receiving relief according to the present system. The allowance for seven days is given at one issue; and it appears the people, from improvidently using it, are frequently to be found fasting for the last day or two of the week, and to this cause I believe may be assigned the deaths I have noticed.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 24, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that in pursuance of my intention, as communicated to you on a former paper, I this day met the Finance Committee of the Ballinrobe Union, and in conjunction with Dr. Dempster, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, brought before them the subject of the temporary fever hospitals throughout the Union. After an attentive consideration given to the affairs of their establishments, the Finance Committee adopted the resolutions in reference to each of them, of which I now beg to enclose a copy, and request it may be forwarded to the Central Board of Health for their information.

The result of the deliberations of the Finance Committee is, that four of their hospitals shall be continued, and (subject to certain arrangements as to their accounts) should be supported from the poor-rates: that a fifth (which is not yet in operation) should be handed over to the Vice-Guardians, to be opened for the reception of patients when it is considered necessary, and that the remaining two should, for the reasons assigned by the Finance Committee, be discontinued or at least not provided with funds from the rates of the Union.

I entirely agree with the other members of the Finance Committee in the resolutions now adopted. I think the number of hospitals which they are prepared to call on the Vice-Guardians to support, ought to be sufficient for the

wants of the Union, and I trust that the Central Board of Health will not consider it necessary to insist upon any extension of these establishments beyond what the Finance Committee have been recommended.

Ballinrobe Union.

ENCLOSURE.

At a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Ballinrobe Union, held at Ballinrobe, on the 24th February, 1848,—Present—Alexander C. Lambert, Esq., Thomas Ellwood, Esq., Richard Bourke, Poor Law Inspector, and Dr. James Dempster, Temporary Poor Law Inspector,—the following resolutions were agreed to in reference to the fever hospitals, for which money was granted by the Relief Commissioners:

Resolved,—That the fever hospitals now established at the places mentioned in the margin be continued, and that, subject to certain arrangements entered into as to their accounts, the expenses be provided for by the Vice-Guardians, from the poor-rates of the Union, and that estimates for this purpose be duly forwarded by us.

That with regard to the hospital established at Claremorris, we respectfully request that it may be withdrawn from the management of a Relief Committee, and transferred to the Vice-Guardians, for the following reason, viz.:—That various representations have been made by one of our members, and by Dr. Dempster, to the present Committee, in order to induce them to send in an estimate, but as these have not as yet been complied with, we apprehend that under the present management, this hospital will not be made available for the poor of the district.

That with respect to the two hospitals named in the margin, we are of opinion that they are not required for the districts in which they are situated, and we respectfully submit that they should not be provided with funds from the poor-rates. Our reasons for this recommendation are as follows:—

The first of these hospitals which is represented to be intended for the poor of the electoral divisions of Cong and Kilmolara, is situated at the extreme end of the last of these divisions, within one mile and a quarter of the town of Ballinrobe. It is a thatched cottage alongside of the high road, ill adapted for the accommodation of fever patients, and so far distant from the principal portions of the district, that it would be as easy to send patients from thence into Ballinrobe, where they could be received at a good hospital already in operation. If this hospital should require to be enlarged in order to accommodate the patients from the Cong and Kilmolara districts, we are of opinion that this would be much preferable to the establishment and support of this hospital, under the circumstances we have mentioned.

The second of these hospitals was designed for the use of the poor of Ballagholla electoral division. This district is very thinly peopled, containing, by the census of 1841, only 1478 persons, and valued at 462*l*. We do not consider an hospital here to be by any means necessary, and we hope that we may not be required to forward estimates to the Vice-Guardians for its support. The district is divided from the electoral division of Partry, by a lake, across which there is an established ferry, and by this conveyance patients may be quickly and safely transported to the fever hospital at Partry, which is already in operation. The sum of 150*l*. was granted for this hospital by the Relief Commissioners, but up to this hour nothing has been done towards its erection but digging the foundations.

We trust that under the circumstances here detailed, the Central Board of Health will be of opinion that sufficient provision will be made by the foregoing arrangements, from providing fever accommodation for the poor of this Union.

No. 1. Clonbur.
No. 2. Kilmain.
No. 3. Ballinrobe.
No. 4. Partry

Claremorris.

No. 1. The Neale
No. 2. Churchfield.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BOURKE:—*February 26, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have communicated your report to the Board of Health, in accordance with your recommendation.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*February 25, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having observed by a resolution of the Vice-Guardians of Ballinrobe Union, on their minutes of the 10th instant, that they declare their inability to pay two sums required for support of temporary fever hospitals; an examination has been made of the collection of the rate, by which it appears that since warrants were issued on the 11th November last for collection of rates amounting to 14,127*l*., the amount brought in to the 5th instant is only 3,537*l*.; and it is also found that in the divisions of Ross and Ballagholla more than half the rate has been collected—while in the Mayo portion of the Union, the proportion collected is not a fourth.

The Commissioners request that you will examine strictly into the course which each of the collectors is taking; and that you will immediately recommend the Vice-Guardians to adopt such steps as shall appear to be necessary for enforcing a prompt performance of the collectors' duties, wherever the rates can be collected, by exercising the powers vested in these officers.

Ballinrobe Union.

Mr. Walsh.			
Ballinrobe	£.	s.	d.
Mayo	2	19	10½
Robeen	35	2	4½
Kilmolara	3	19	0
Cong	139	2	11½
	262	11	5
Mr. Brannick.			
Ballindine	48	13	10
Claremorris	4	4	2
	52	18	0
Mr. Fair.			
Kilmain	£.	s.	d.
Shruil	169	5	3
Hollymount	99	5	5
	107	3	8
	379	14	4
Mr. Higgins.			
Ross	8	0	0
Total	699	3	9

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that every exertion is being made to collect the rates of this Union. I beg to forward Mr. Arabin's report to me on the subject. The amount of rates lodged this week by the respective collectors is 699*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* as per margin.

I attended at the Commissariat dépôt, as to the issue of meal to the several relieving officers, with Mr. Lecky, Vice-Guardian, to whom I handed the 700*l.* sent from the British Relief Association.

I regret to state that from the great pressure on the stores from Westport and Castlebar, &c., some of our officers were unable to get their proportions till yesterday, and one for Ballindine only this morning, which is the cause of great outcry as against the relieving officers and distributors. I understand the tackling in the store having repeatedly broken during the week, was another cause of delay.

Mr. Bourke, Poor Law Inspector, having arrived here, Messrs. Lambert and Elwood, members of the Finance Committee, attended at my office, and we took into consideration the matters connected with the temporary fever establishments of this Union, and a special report was made.

I visited Partry fever hospital on Friday, and found it clean and in good order.

There was an inquest held on the body of a man named Patrick Gibbons, a patient in that hospital, on 25th instant, at the desire of the Rev. Mr. Conway, Roman Catholic curate of the parish of Partry.

The man was admitted on the 23rd instant, and died same day. He was reported on the hospital register ill fourteen days before admission. The jury found a verdict of "died from starvation."

This man lived on the lands of Druncoggy, the property of Sir Robert Lynch Blossie, bart. He was receiving relief with his mother and sister from 24th January to 21st February instant, when the relieving officer was called upon by the sub-agent of Sir Robert, who threatened to report him to the Vice-Guardians and Poor Law Commissioners for dereliction of duty in affording relief to persons holding so much land as he stated Gibbons was in possession of, upwards of three acres. Being poor and destitute, the relieving officer was justified in affording relief. The agent would not take the ground off the unfortunate people's hands, unless they threw down their cabin, which the sister did, and the man was removed to the hospital. It is quite clear starvation was not the cause, having been on the list, and the three receiving rations till the 21st instant; and the fact of stating to the porter of the hospital on admission, that the man was 14 days ill of fever; his sudden death is easily accounted for—removal in the worn-out debilitated state the man was, and bringing him upwards of three miles.

Two of the jurors, Pat Walsh and Richard Stanton, were very violent in demeanour, and in their observations, both declaring that no rates or cess should be paid in that parish till they got a relieving officer of their own—the same language as that made use of in the Board-room by the reverend gentleman a short time since.

It is in contemplation to ask permission of the Commissioners to appoint a head overseer, whose duties would be to constantly visit the gangs of men on the roads breaking stones, and to report to the Vice-Guardians weekly. I think it would be a desirable appointment, and recommend it.

There are 28,303 on the out-door lists for relief in the ensuing week, and we will require upwards of 70 tons of meal to supply their wants. The Vice-Guardians paid this week the sum of 1387*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* in old and new liabilities—of old 377*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*; of new 1009*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, which has left the treasurer without any funds.

Considering that Maam would be a place excellently adapted for forming a dépôt for distribution for the western portion of Joyce's country, and to save the poor creatures going so far as Clonbur for their rations, on your letter to me of the 15th instant, giving permission for such an establishment, I accordingly wrote to the County Inspector, Captain Blake, of Galway, on the subject, and requesting that the constable in charge there might be permitted to act as distributor. By that gentleman's answer, this day received, the Inspector-General regrets that the services of the constable cannot be spared for that duty. I

regret it also as does Captain Blake, J.P., of Doone, the only resident gentleman in that locality, under whom the constable acted in a like capacity last year, and gave the greatest satisfaction.

I shall visit Maam next week, and try to make some other selection.

N.B.—I take leave to submit a letter I received from the Rev. Mr. Phew, of Shruil, relative to the eviction of tenants in that parish. Mr. Blake, the landlord, is a defaulting rate-payer, and is to be sued for his rates.

Ballinrobe Union.

ENCLOSURES.

The Rev. MICHAEL PHEW to Dr. DEMPSTER.

*Shruil Electoral Division of Ballinrobe Union,
February 23, 1848.*

I BEG to inform you, the Inspecting Poor Law officer in this Union, that the sheriff of this county has on Monday last, the 21st of this month, come on the townlands of Moyne, in this electoral division, and there caused to be levelled to the ground the houses of seven families, and thereby left them unsheltered, and liable to die of hunger and cold for want of food and home. I would like you would come and see their condition. They were hitherto living on that farm, which is the property of Charles Blake, esq., Merlin Park, in the county of Galway; and I would be happy to know whether that gentleman has made any provisions to support them either in the workhouse of this Union, or on the out-door relief system. This I beg to communicate officially to you.

An Inquisition.

County of Mayo, } Indented taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen, at Portroyal, in
to wit. } the parish of Ballovey, and barony of Carra, in the county of Mayo, on the 25th day of February, 1848, in the eleventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria the First, by the Grace of God of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., before William Rutledge, esq., one of Her Majesty's coroners for said county, on view of the body of Pat Gibbons, then and there lying dead, upon the oath of Pat Casey and eleven others, at least good and lawful men of the said county, duly chosen, and who living there and then, duly sworn and charged to inquire for our said Lady the Queen, when, how, and by what means the said Pat Gibbons came to his death, do upon their oaths say that the said Pat Gibbons came to his death from starvation.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Pat Casey, | 7. Michael Philbin, |
| 2. Michael Burke, | 8. Thomas Burke, |
| 3. John Henaghan, | 9. Thomas Garry, |
| 4. Richard Stanton, | 10. Pat Burke, |
| 5. Peter Casey, | 11. Thomas Feeney, |
| 6. Pat Casey, jun. | 12. Pat Walsh. |

In witness whereof as well the said William Rutledge, Coroner, as the said Pat Casey, the foreman of the said jurors, on behalf of himself and the rest of his said fellows in their presence, have to this inquisition set their hands and seals the day, year, and place first above-mentioned.

W. RUTLEDGE, Coroner.

Pat Casey, Foreman.

County of Mayo } Informations of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf
to wit. } of our Sovereign Lady the Queen. touching the death of Pat Gibbons, at Portroyal, in the parish of Ballovey, and barony of Carra, in the said county of Mayo, on the 25th day of February, in the 11th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria the First, before William Rutledge, Esq., one of Her Majesty's coroners for said county, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of Pat Gibbons, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:—

Honor Gibbons sworn—Is mother to the deceased Pat Gibbons; says, that about three weeks ago she applied to get on the relief list herself and her son and daughter; was put on the list, and got meal three times; and says that the relief was kept from her again until she would throw down her house; and that part of the house her daughter threw down before, and on yesterday, the 24th, threw down the remainder; says it was Mr. Whitten got her off the relief list, although she gave the possession of her holding to him; she says that Mr. Arabin was in the village, but not in the house; but now says that Mr. Arabin was not at all in the village, and that she first thought it was Mr. Whitten we asked her about, and that her son was two days fasting before he was brought to the fever shed, on the 23rd day of February, and died on the same day; says he was not complaining of illness, but what was caused from hunger; and says she has not a morsel to eat at present.

her
HONOR X GIBBONS.
mark.

Pat Gibbons sworn—Lives at Drummoggy; says the deceased lived at the door with him, and according to the best of his judgment he died of hunger; he thinks if he got the meal the last time, he might live longer; about a fortnight ago her daughter threw down part of the

Ballinrobe Union. house, and threw down the remainder of it on the day before yesterday, and says that he did not see Mr. Arabin, the relieving officer, at all at the village.

his
PAT × GIBBONS.
mark.

Pat Shaughnessy sworn—Lives at Druncoggy, and corroborates the evidence of the last witness, Pat Gibbons; says he did not see the relieving officer at all in the village.

his
PAT × SHAUGHNESSY.
mark.

Stephen Dermody sworn—Is an overseer; says that the deceased and his mother applied to Mr. Arabin, the relieving officer, to get relief, and he put her and her son and daughter on the list, and they got relief. Mr. Whitten told Mr. Arabin to put them off the list, or he would report him, they holding land; and said that he would do the same with any other of Sir Robert Lynch Blasse's tenants who would not give up their land; says the relieving officer and himself went through the village of Druncoggy on Wednesday, the 23rd instant, and Mr. Whitten with them, and that Mr. Arabin was riding, but that he was not in that part called Tavanagh on that day, and that Mr. Arabin was not in the house of Honor Gibbons, as she was put on the list, nor did he go there on the next day; cannot say how many houses Mr. Arabin visited.

STEPHEN DERMODY.

I have examined the body, Patrick Gibbons, of Druncoggy, and cannot state the cause of his death.

February 25, 1848.

G. J. LYNCH, M.D.

(A Copy.)—W. RUTTLEDGE.

Mr. ARABIN to Dr. DEMPSTER:—February 25, 1848.

I RETURNED yesterday from my expedition to the parish of Shruil, I had 20 cavalry, 20 infantry, and 20 of the police. On Monday the collector drove to the neighbourhood of Kilmaine, the first place visited was the residence of Thomas Fair, Esq., of Fortville, a rich landholder, who paid in the course of the day. The party then proceeded to Coolisduff, where a strong disposition to resistance became apparent; a number of persons got together on a hill, and ventured to attempt a rescue from the drivers, some distance in the fields; this however was quickly repulsed, and did not occur again. I have been occupied three days at this duty, taking up my quarters at Shruil, from which place we took our departure every morning, and marching a distance of not less than 20 miles.

The result of this drive has been very satisfactory. Numerous seizures were made, but the parties mostly redeemed their cattle at the moment; a good many however were driven to the pounds, but the parties came in the next morning and released them; many parties also came in and paid voluntarily. The collector is in hopes of receiving a good deal of the rates without the application of force.

I could not finish this division this time, being called on to go with Mr. Walsh to Cong next Friday (to-morrow); and I am also called on by all the collectors, with whom I am endeavouring to make the most satisfactory arrangements.

REPLY to the foregoing:—February 29, 1848.

THE Commissioners are glad to perceive that the collection of poor-rates in the Union during the past week, is not quite so unsatisfactory as it has been heretofore. The Commissioners are awaiting the receipt of the information requested in their letter of the 19th instant to the Vice-Guardians, on the subject of the collection of the rates in this Union; and they are desirous that a strict scrutiny of the lists of defaulters in the Union should be made by the Vice-Guardians, with a view to their being the better enabled to direct and to stimulate the collectors to a prompt and energetic discharge of their duties, regarding only the ability of parties to pay their rates, and the necessity of providing funds to relieve the wants of the destitute poor of the Union.

The Commissioners take this opportunity of adverting to the fact, that in another Union, in which the population, area, and valuation, are not very dissimilar to the population, area, and valuation of the Ballinrobe Union, a sum of 10,258*l.* was collected in seven weeks; and a new rate is in progress of being made and collected. In the Ballinrobe Union, of a rate of 14,126*l.* made on the 15th October last, 10,351*l.* remained uncollected on the 10th instant.

The Commissioners regret the delay which occurred in the distribution of rations to which you refer. They have applied for an advance of 700*l.* in

money for this week's supplies, as recommended in a report which they have received from Mr. Bourke; and a copy of a report which Mr. Bourke has made on the subject of the temporary fever hospital of the Union, has been forwarded to the Board of Health.

As regards the case of a poor man named Gibbons, to which you refer, I am to draw your attention to the Commissioners' circular letter of the 15th instant, regarding the operation of the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and also to the terms of that section as to the affording relief in cases where the applicant is in occupation of more than a quarter of an acre of land.

The Commissioners approve the appointment of a superintendent of the overseers of labour in the Union.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

I BEG to state for the information of the Commissioners, in reply to your letter of yesterday, that every exertion is being made for the collection of the rates in this Union.

The resident magistrate, Mr. Arabin, with a strong force of military and police, was out on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd instant, in the electoral divisions of Kilmain and Shruil, protecting the collector and his assistants, the result was a lodgment of 375*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* with the treasurer.

That Mr. Arabin is at present in the electoral division of Cong, protecting Mr. Walsh with a like force; and he has made an arrangement with Mr. Brannick to attend him in Claremorris and Ballindine electoral divisions on Tuesday, the 29th instant.

These proceedings will show the Commissioners that no steps are omitted to be taken to endeavour to get in the rates.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 28, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners trust that the demonstrations which have been made in the Union will enable the collectors to obtain payment of the rates in future without extraneous assistance such as that to which you refer.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

WE have the honour to state for your information, that the collectors are now more actively engaged in enforcing payment of the rates, and have lodged during the last week 686*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*; and we have also received from Dr. Dempster, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, 700*l.*, granted in aid of destitution by the British Association. We have paid on the out-door relief account 822*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*; we have also paid on account of the old debts under 10*l.* and on the remainder at 50 per cent. 377*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, for the current expenses, 166*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, and for the audit account, 20*l.* 10*s.*

The gross numbers returned by the relieving officers to receive out-door relief for the ensuing week amount to 28,303, and the quantity of Indian meal required for their supply is about 74 tons, which being now sold by the Commissariat officer at 8*l.* 15*s.* per ton, 700*l.* will be sufficient to cover the expense. It is impossible to make the returns classified under the different heads as you require, most of the relieving officers not having yet made up their weekly relief lists, for which neglect of duty we have ordered by minute that they shall be summoned before the magistrates at petty sessions. We think it right to state that although we have had the selection of those officers from amongst the best of the class of men in this country who would accept of such appointments, and notwithstanding that we consider them trustworthy, yet we fear from the want of business habits of the greater number, they will never be able to keep their books in the prescribed forms, and that if better and more intelligent officers cannot be had, very great confusion and dissatisfaction must be the consequence.

On the arrival of the chairman here on Tuesday last, he was officially informed that collector Fair's deputy was out of the southern district, where he

Ballinrobe Union.

had gone on Monday morning under protection of the resident magistrate, attended by police and military; and on his return on Thursday evening we were happy to learn that he had been very successful, having collected about 400*l.*, besides carrying away a good many cattle. Collector Walsh, similarly attended, has gone out this day, and we hope will meet with equal success. Collector Brannick only waits to have the same protection, the first day the magistrate can attend him, to enforce the rates in his district, and Tuesday next has been fixed on.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 29, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have made application to the Count de Strzelecki for a further advance of 700*l.* to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners are still anxious that your energies should be steadily and perseveringly directed to compelling payment of the poor rates.

The Commissioners are desirous of having an *estimate* laid before them of the amount expended weekly for the out-relief of able-bodied men in the Union.

In reference to the relieving officers, the Commissioners cannot but think, that if the relieving officers have ordinary intelligence they will be able to keep their books correctly, provided that pains are taken to instruct them on this head in the first instance.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I visited the electoral divisions of Hollymount, Kilmain, and Shruil, in the early part of this week; saw the relieving officers and the several overseers on the roads with the *gangs* on the lines breaking stones. From the inquiry that was made of me, by one of the overseers, I think there is an indication of the men soon returning to field labour. Whether if those employed in breaking stones had their tasks completed early in the day they might be allowed to absent themselves for the remainder, or if they broke the complement required in *two* days they would be allowed to seek for employment for the other four? I directed the overseer to report to the relieving officer such men as left their work, whether they had completed their task or not, so that by thoroughly investigating into their respective cases their out-door relief could be suspended and reduce expenditure.

I visited the several schools in these districts. Since the issue of the rye-bread ration they are greatly increased in every direction. I have directed the relieving officers to inspect the lists of the schools and report the names of children appearing also on the relief lists with their parents, so that they may not receive double rations.

I likewise visited the division of Robeen for similar purposes, and I observed a greater amount of field labour going on than in any other district. The Earl of Lucan is giving a vast deal of employment in draining and improving waste lands.

I regret that the amount of rate lodged this week is very small, being only 245*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* (as per margin), and yet great apparent activity appears in the collectors.

I doubt much the compatibility of the same person being employed in the double capacity of county cess collector and poor's-rate collector. The reason assigned to me for the smallness of rates this week is, that they were *obliged* to have the cess with the treasurer of the county *before* the ensuing assizes, otherwise they lose their poundage, as the Grand Jury would not present for them unless they paid up the amount of the warrants. I observed that the pound here was crowded with cattle and sheep, and on inquiry, found they had been distrained for the county cess, and by our rate collectors. They, however, promise after the assizes that we shall have a large amount of rates.

On Thursday, the 2nd instant, a boy was reported found dead on the Roundfort road, near the town of Ballinrobe. I visited the place and investigated the case. He died from exposure to the severe weather and from want of clothing. He

Mr. Higgins.	£.	s.	d.
Ross . . .	10	0	0
Mr. Walsh.			
Ballinrobe .	27	17	3
Robeen . .	7	18	4½
Kilmolara .	31	6	6
Coyg . . .	55	12	2½
	122	9	4
Mr. Fair.			
Hollymount .	16	11	6
Shruil . . .	7	14	6½
Kilmain . .	33	14	3½
	56	10	4
Mr. Brannick.			
Ballindine .	18	9	9
Claremorris .	37	14	5
	56	4	2
Total . . .	245	3	10

appeared to have laboured under chronic disease for some time. I annex a copy of the verdict of the jury, with the medical officer's report. He was a stranger, and had not applied to any relieving officer.

Ballinrobe Union.

The number of applicants for out-door relief is not abated this week, and it will require as much meal for rations as the preceding. From the state of the Union funds the Vice-Guardians will require further aid.

The expenditure this week is as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Paid current expenses	42	3	10
Paid of old debts	145	12	9
Paid out-door	739	18	1
Paid Ballinrobe fever hospital	50	0	0
	977	14	8

which has exhausted the funds.

I was anxious, with the Vice-Guardians, to get a number of the inmates out of the workhouse so as to make room for a succession of those now claiming out-door relief. However, such as were selected and were willing to leave the establishment we found it impossible to discharge for want of clothing. Such coverings they had possessed on admission had been burned by order of the medical officer, at the time the house was overrun with fever, and we had no funds to purchase any clothing for them and their children. We could not possibly let them go out with the Union clothing, as that would, no doubt, lead to vast fraud and speculation.

I agreed with the Vice-Guardians to postpone for a short time the appointment of a head overseer, as perhaps a more advantageous arrangement for the Union may be effected.

ENCLOSURE referred to.

Verdict.

JOHN REGAN came by his death in consequence of having had a bowel complaint, not having sufficient covering, and being exposed to cold and inclemency of the weather, on the evening of Thursday, the 2nd day of March, 1848.

I, Hastings Twiss, M.D., sworn, depose, —That having made a *post mortem* examination on the body of John Regan, on the lands of Curnaroya, I am of opinion that he came by his death in consequence of the inclemency of the weather acting on an impaired constitution, having found the intestines evidently showing signs of disease.

HASTINGS TWISS, M.D.

(Copy.)

Received from the coroner, 2nd March, 1848.

J. D.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 10, 1848.*

I AM to state that a communication having been made to the agent of the British Association with a view to ascertain whether there was any supply of clothing at his disposal which could be appropriated for the Ballinrobe Union, the Commissioners have to-day received a reply, stating that the clothing which was at the disposal of the Association has been already distributed.

The Vice-Guardians must, therefore, make the best arrangements which the circumstances of the Union admit of for the discharge of some of the present workhouse inmates, to enable them to offer relief in the workhouse to persons now receiving out-door relief.

The Commissioners trust that your next report will be more satisfactory as regards the collection of the poor-rate in the Union. I am at the same time to observe, the collection of county cess and poor-rate by the same collector are presumed to proceed simultaneously, and should not, therefore, prevent the payment of poor-rate to the Union treasurer.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

WE have the honour to inform you that the rate collectors of this Union have lodged to our credit during the past week but 245/ 4s. 10d., although from their increased activity, and the demonstrations made with the civil and military powers, we had been led to expect a much larger amount would have been

Ballinrobe Union.

collected. The simultaneous collection of the county cess by the same parties, we feel satisfied has been the cause of the smallness of the amount of rate; and in this opinion we are strengthened by the admission of one of the collectors; this cause, however, will soon cease, and we will still continue to urge forward the collection by every means in our power.

Doctor Dempster, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, has handed us 700*l.*, granted by the British Association in aid of destitution in this Union. We have paid on account of out-door relief 739*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*; in part discharge of old debts 145*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*; for the current expenses 42*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, including the amount due by this Union to the Audit Fund; we have also paid 50*l.* to the Ballinrobe fever hospital.

The total numbers on the out-door relief lists are 25,466, and the quantity of Indian meal that has been issued for one week's consumption is 75 tons 5 cwts.; we therefore estimate that 700*l.* at the least will be required to provide for the necessary supply for the ensuing week.

The estimate of the amount expended for out-door relief called for in your letter, of the 29th February, is preparing for each week since the commencement, and shall be forwarded to you on the next meeting of the Board. The lists of immediate lessors and occupiers rated on a valuation of 10*l.* and above are also preparing with all possible expedition, and we expect to be enabled to forward them at the same time. Lists have already been handed to the solicitor to institute proceedings in the superior Courts. The rate collectors also state that several of the rate-payers owing large amounts of poor-rate, have promised to pay them at the assizes to be held at Castlebar on the 10th instant.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 7, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 200*l.* to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union in the ensuing week, in addition to a sum of 500*l.* already applied for.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

WE have the honour to forward to you the returns of the persons who have not paid their poor-rates in 12 of the electoral divisions of this Union; those for the divisions of Ross and Ballagholla have not yet been made out. The rate collector, Mr. Higgins, although written to requiring him to attend without delay, and explaining to him the urgency of the case, not having paid any attention to the directions he received. Mr. Donaghoe, deputy collector to Mr. Thomas Fair, sent in his lists, but did not since attend to fill up the column for observations. With the exception of Mr. Brannick, the lists are all without the observations you require; notwithstanding that the collectors, both verbally and by letter, were informed of the necessity of their doing so, and even the paragraph in your letter requiring those returns was read to them.

All the rate collectors, with the exception of Mr. Brannick, are also county cess collectors, and we have found it quite impossible to get the lists perfected by them, in consequence of their having been engaged in collecting that tax for some time past, and being now attending the grand jury assembled for fiscal business at Castlebar. We, therefore, have thought it best to send you the lists as they are, till such time as we can have others made out with the observations of the collectors in each case; and we respectfully suggest that you should return us those lists that we may have the observations of the collectors inserted; at the same time we beg to state that accurate copies have been made, which we retain.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the lists received with your report of the 10th instant,—containing the names of rate-payers of Ballinrobe Union who have not yet paid the sums charged against them as immediate lessors or as occupiers.

The Commissioners, although aware of the large amount of rates uncollected,

were not prepared for the state of facts presented by these lists, which they cannot regard without disappointment, as indicating neglect on the part of the collectors, that should not have been permitted, more especially in the months most favourable for the collection of rates in that Union.

It appears that in 10 electoral divisions, for which Mr. Fair and Mr. Walsh are collectors,—the amount due by immediate lessors, and occupiers of holdings valued at 10*l.* or upwards, is 3564*l.*,—and that in two divisions for which Mr. Brannick is collector, the same classes of rate-payers owe 1246*l.* These amounts exceed one-half of the total uncollected.

The sums due by immediate lessors, are separately denoted in only nine of the twelve divisions referred to. In seven of these, Messrs. Fair and Walsh have left due by 18 immediate lessors named, 817*l.*, and Mr. Brannick returns 30 as owing 491*l.* It is, however, to be observed in extenuation, that in such cases the collectors could only act as directed by the Board of Guardians where proceedings to enforce payment were necessary.

In the case of occupiers this extenuation does not apply; and it appears that Messrs. Fair and Walsh have allowed 1736*l.* to remain due by 359 occupiers of holdings valued at 10*l.* or upwards, who owe an average amount of nearly 5*l.*, and whose holdings average in annual value about 33*l.*;—while Mr. Brannick has left 755*l.* uncollected from 177 occupiers of the same class.

The Commissioners will not detain you by any further analysis of the arrears. Enough is given to show the necessity for the most prompt and energetic measures to secure payment of the rates outstanding; and the Commissioners rely on your taking proper steps for keeping the collectors to the performance of their duty.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners, that having accidentally heard on Sunday last, the 5th instant, that Mr. Sheridan, the County Inspector of Weights and Measures, had seized the scales and weights used by the relieving officer at Kilmain the day before, I proceeded to that place, and found the relieving officer busy distributing the meal to the destitute persons of that electoral division, and that the scales and weights then in use were accurate, but that those previously used by him had been placed in custody of the police, as being irregular, and that Mr. Fanagher will be summoned before the magistrates at next petty sessions at Kilmain, to answer the complaint of the Inspector. The scale in which the weights were put was lighter than the tin one in which the meal was weighed; but the relieving officer stated he always balanced the scales by putting a stone in the scale that was lighter than the other. Under the circumstances the Vice-Guardians and I have considered it right to appoint another person to distribute the rations, and to suspend Mr. Fanagher till the magistrates decide upon the case.

I beg to state that, on Monday, the 6th instant, I visited the electoral divisions of Kilmolara, Cong, and Ross. I inspected the workmen on the several lines of road, and met the overseers; all appeared attentive and busy. I also saw the relieving officers distributing the meal. I likewise visited the schools in these localities, and then proceeded to Maam. Next day I went to the extreme end of this Union, to the Killeries, inspecting the schools, and in many cases visiting poor people in their cabins reported ill of fever, for whom I prescribed, and left with the clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Robinson, some *medical comforts*, as entrusted to me by Count Strzelecki.

I made the following arrangements as to the distribution of out-door relief in these distant parts, which will add much to the comfort of the poor people, who heretofore had to come from the Killeries, and the adjacent townlands, to Clonbur, a distance of 18 Irish miles, and of course to return the same to their respective homes.

The relieving officer of Ross electoral division will attend at "The Griggins," about four and a half miles from Leenane, on one day weekly, at the house of a respectable farmer named Lally, who kindly consented to give the use of his barn for the distribution of the meal; by which, at the very least computation, two-thirds of their journey for the future will be saved to them.

I also arranged that the relieving officer of the Cong division should attend at Curnamona Bridge one day in the week, for the accommodation of the poor

Ballinrobe Union.

creatures who otherwise had to go to Cong to the depôt there for their rations, in some instances upwards of 12 miles. This will save them also better than two-thirds of the distance they previously had to march.

The relieving officer for Ballagholla is also for that division to attend one day at Churchfield, which will be a very great advantage to the people of that electoral division, who had to come to Clonbur for their meal, a long way; and if the weather was stormy, they must come round the lake, Lough Mask, which is upwards of 30 miles. I took the Rev. Mr. Robinson, the Catholic curate of Joyce's country, along with me, to whom, as well as to the people, these arrangements have given great satisfaction.

No. 240, 500*l*.
No. 267, 200*l*.

I handed to the Vice-Guardians two orders for provisions sent in aid from the British Relief Association for the destitute of this Union—amount 700*l*., as per margin.

As per sanction of the Commissioners, the Vice-Guardians have appointed two head overseers to inspect and report on the duties performed by the other overseers, to measure the work performed by the men breaking stones on the lines of road in the electoral divisions. The Union was divided into two districts—No. 1 comprising electoral divisions of Hollymount, Kilmain, Robeen, Burriscarra, Mayo, Claremorris, and Ballindine—Mr. Wayland; No. 2, Ballinrobe, Cong, Shruil, Kilmolara, Partry, Ross, and Ballagholla—Mr. O'Rourke; at salaries of thirty shillings per week each. They will be constantly on the road, and are to devote their entire time to these duties.

Electoral division
of Claremorris,
26*l*. 7*s*. 6½*d*.
Ballindine,
53*l*. 16*s*. 11½*d*.

I regret to state that only Mr. Brannick, the rate-collector, lodged any monies this week to the credit of the Union—80*l*. 4*s*. 6*d*. The other collectors have promised redoubled exertions after the assizes of Castlebar.

I beg to forward a copy of an inquest held at Kilmain on a strolling mendicant, sent to me by the coroner.

Referring to the rescinding of the certificates for the fever hospitals at the Neal and Churchfield, shall I call upon the Committee of the former to hand over the bedding, &c., so that they may be made available for the Clonbur hospital, which establishment requires such articles, and save the purchase under their estimate, as passed by the Finance Committee.

I have the honour likewise to state that it will require about 80 tons of meal to supply the wants of the destitute of this Union for the week ensuing; and as the funds in the treasurer's hands are almost exhausted, I trust for a further sum in aid.

ENCLOSURE.

William Roberts, sworn and examined, saith, that on the morning of Monday, the 6th inst., the deceased, Michael Conry, came to the house he resides in, and asked him for some relief—deponent gave him some bread—that the said Michael Conry then went down the road a few perches; that about two or three hours after, when deponent went out, he found deceased lying dead on the side of the road.

WILLIAM ROBERTS.

Patrick Keady, sworn, saith, that on or about ten o'clock, P.M., on the evening of Sunday, the 5th inst., he found the deceased lying in some straw in his garden; and on the following morning he also found him there; that he then brought him into his house, and gave him something to eat; that he, the deceased, then went down the road; and in about five or six hours after he saw him dead on the road side.

his
PATRICK × KEADY,
mark.

Bridget Moran, sworn, saith, that she is mother to the deceased; saith, that on Saturday the 26th of February last, he got half a stone of meal from the relieving officer at Hollymount, but got none since. Deceased was not in the habit of stopping with her, but going about as a mendicant.

her
BRIDGET × MORAN.
mark.

Henry Gardiner, Doctor of Medicine, sworn, saith, he examined the body of Michael Conry, and is of opinion that he died of starvation; he is strengthened in this opinion, having seen him a few hours before his death.

HENRY GARDINER, M.D.

VERDICT.

That the deceased Michael Conry came by his death from starvation, on Monday, the 6th instant.

JAMES SHAUGHNESSY, Foreman.

The above is a copy of the verdict and depositions of an inquest held on the body of the deceased Michael Conry. Ballinrobe Union

March 7, 1848.

W. RUTLEDGE, *Coroner.*

Received March 9,
J. D.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to Count De Strzelecki for a further advance of 700*l.* to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

Further LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER:—
March 16, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 11th inst.

They approve of the suspension of Mr. Fanagher, relieving officer, until the charge of his having used unbalanced scales shall be disposed of by the magistrates.

The Commissioners have observed with surprise that hitherto some of the paupers receiving out-door relief in the Union, obtained their rations at a station 18 miles from their homes, that others have had to attend at a station 12 miles from their abodes, while those in Ballagholla division have had in stormy weather, when they could not cross Lough Mask, to walk 30 miles to the relief station.

There appears to be no reason why the additional stations now formed should not have been established when the out-door relief commenced; and the Commissioners must regard with deep regret the hardship which the really destitute poor have suffered in having to travel so far for their food.

The necessary application will be made for the further aid required from the British Association, in addition to the provisions of the value of 700*l.*, the orders for which you have now acknowledged; but the Commissioners observe that although 80 tons of meal are required for the ensuing week, only one collector lodged money in the past week, amounting to 80*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, notwithstanding the very large amount of rate due by immediate lessors, and the occupiers of the principal holdings in the Union, to which the attention of the Vice-Guardians is specially directed by a letter of this date.

The Commissioners request from you further information respecting Michael Conry, who in the report of the Coroner's inquest, which you have transmitted, is declared to have died of starvation. You will have the goodness to ascertain whether after the 26th of February, on which day 7 lbs. of meal were issued to him, he applied for relief to the relieving officer of his district, or at the work-house; as supposing the issue on the 26th to have been for a week, he might be expected to have applied again on the following Saturday, the 4th instant, being two days before his death.

In reference to your inquiry as to Neal and Churchfield temporary hospitals, the Commissioners desire to observe that the Board of Health in rescinding the certificates on which the orders to establish these hospitals were issued, adopted this course with a view of enabling the Vice-Guardians to make the arrangements which they had proposed, and which therefore should now be carried into effect.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 2nd March inst., as to the continuance of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor persons in Unions in Ireland, I have the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that from the existing state of this Union I do not consider it would be prudent to stop the issue of food on the 18th instant. From personal investigation I have come to the above conclusion.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will not suspend the Order.

Ballinrobe Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*March 16, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which they have received from the Under Secretary's Office, relating to the decease of a man named Michael Conroy, who is stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body, to have died from starvation; and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Vice-Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

Ballinrobe, March 7, 1848.

An inquest was held on the body of Michael Conroy who died on the 6th inst.

Copy of Verdict.

"That decease came by his death from starvation."

JOHN R. BINDON, *Sub-Inspector.*

Inspector-General,
§c. §c. §c.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS in reply:—*March 18, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that in accordance with your letter, I proceeded on Monday last to Borrisearra, to the Rev. James Browne, P.P., to inquire as to the deaths reported by him to have occurred from starvation in his parish, and found that none of those mentioned in Mr. Browne's report belonged to the Union of Ballinrobe.

I visited the electoral divisions of Hollymount and Robeen, and attended the distribution of the meal to the poor of these localities, and found everything correct and satisfactory. I went to Kilmain to the house of Mr. Rutledge, the coroner, to obtain copies of inquests held by him on two persons found dead in the electoral division of Partry. One was a woman, a strolling beggar from Castlebar, verdict "starvation;" which was not according to evidence. The medical officer deposed, from finding food in the stomach and bowels, on autopsy, that she died from the "visitation of God." The other case, in the same locality, a man, likewise a mendicant from Westport, verdict, "died from dropsy and exposure to the weather."

I attended the distribution of the meal at the relieving officer's store in Ballinrobe, and found all correct, and although numerous complaints against that officer, which on investigation I found to be frivolous and vexatious; it is almost impossible to please all parties.

I beg to forward the required information regarding the case of Michael Conroy, reported as "dead from starvation." He was a strolling mendicant and of uncertain residence, although belonging to the parish of Hollymount.

I regret to report that I see no preparations for spring work going forward in this Union, the lands all lying waste and uncultivated; this is especially applicable to the small holdings.

The number returned for out-door relief for the ensuing week, is 29,825, which will require about 82 tons of meal. The issue of meal from the store this week consists entirely of rye meal, no Indian corn meal being left, the demands from Westport and Castlebar Unions having exhausted the stock in hands.

I handed to the Vice-Guardians an order for 700*l.* worth of provision sent to me by Count Strzelecki, in aid of the destitute poor of this Union.

None of the rate-collectors have attended this week, nor has any money been lodged with the treasurer; and it is my intention to summon them to show cause for apparent dereliction of duty. These officers have been attending at the assizes of Castlebar.

We are enabled to discharge 104 persons on Friday from the workhouse on out-door relief, allowing them a small sum for weekly lodging money, amount, 15*s.*; many of them got the dresses made up in the house, as stated in my letter 13th instant, and we expect by these means to test the able-bodied by offering to receive them into the workhouse.

I beg to acknowledge a copy of letter to the Vice-Guardians, and shall pay particular attention to it; as also to that to myself, with the returns of uncollected poor rate.

ENCLOSURE.

Ballinrobe Union.

Mr. LOOSKAN, Relieving Officer, to Dr. DEMPSTER:—*March 18, 1848.*

IN reply to your inquiry relative to the death of Michael Conroy, who it is reported by the verdict of a coroner's inquest, died of starvation, I beg leave to state that some time in the month of January last the deceased was met by me in Ballinrobe, begging. Knowing that he originally belonged to the Hollymount electoral division, I asked him to return home, and that I would get him relief. That on the 12th February he applied, and on the 17th was passed by the Board of Guardians for out-door relief; that on the next day of distribution he received his week's rations; that in consequence, as I believe, of his being a strolling beggar through the country, he neglected coming to me for relief from that to the time of his death. I also beg to state that he was a man of very bad character, having been several times convicted and confined for larceny.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 17, 1848.*

WE have the honour to state that the rate collectors have again placed us in the very disagreeable position of being obliged to inform you that they have not lodged any sum on account of their collection, since our last report. We constantly urged them in the strongest terms to a more active exertion; but for some time past they appear to have devoted their entire attention to the collection of the county cess; we have therefore determined to bring them before the Board at its next meeting (by summons from the Temporary Poor Law Inspector), to account for their neglect, and we will follow up our inquiry by taking the most stringent measures in our power to compel them to do their duty.

Doctor Dempster has handed us an order for 700*l.* worth of provisions, granted by the British Association, for the maintenance of the destitute poor in this Union, and we have issued orders to the officer in charge of the Commissariat dépôt here, for 80 tons, 12 cwt., 2 qrs. of rye meal, and 2 tons of Indian meal, costing 580*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, leaving 129*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* worth towards the next week's supply.

We have placed 561 persons on the out-door relief list this week; the total now being 29,845; but, as many will be struck off at the next Board, for refusing or neglecting to work during the week, we do not anticipate that more than 600*l.* will be required for the ensuing week, in addition to the balance before stated.

We have discharged 104 persons from the workhouse, in the manner mentioned in our last weekly report; and we have determined to make arrangements to place at least 100 more on out-door relief next Board-day, that we may be able to offer the workhouse as a test in all cases where we think it desirable.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 20, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners await your further report with regard to the collectors of poor-rate.

I am at the same time to direct your attention to the circumstance, that the collectors cannot take proceedings to compel payment of the rate due by immediate lessors without your specific directions in each case; and you should closely watch the proceedings in all such cases, from the date on which you direct proceedings to be taken. That date should be immediately after the first ineffectual application of the collector for the rate. In attaching blame, therefore, to the collectors, it will be necessary for you to show when the collectors made application in each case, and when you gave directions to them to take proceedings. Hitherto the collection has been extremely unsatisfactory in the Ballinrobe as well as the Castlebar and Westport Unions.

The Commissioners will apply for a further advance of 600*l.*, to enable you to afford out-door relief in the Union. They desire me at the same time to inquire whether a daily distribution of rations takes place in the Union in accordance with their wishes, as an expression in your report would lead to the supposition that the distribution was weekly, and not daily.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I attended at Kilmain petty sessions about the case of Mr. Fanagher, the relieving officer, who is accused of having used light weights and a false balance

Ballinrobe Union. in the distribution of the meal to the poor of that electoral division; only *one* magistrate, the stipendiary, being present, no decision was had, therefore the suspension of the relieving officer still continues.

The amount of rates collected this week and lodged with the treasurer was far from satisfactory; and having called the collectors together, I, in presence of the Vice-Guardians, urged the necessity of their using more exertion, and of taking every means in their power to bring in the money; and I think from what was said to them we are likely soon to get in a large amount.

Total lodged 246*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, as per margin—all of which has been expended by the Vice-Guardians.

Having received from Count Strzelecki an order for 600*l.* worth of provisions on the Commissariat depôt here, I handed same to the Vice-Guardians.

Mr. O'Rourke, the Supervisor of Works, having struck off a number of men in the electoral division of Partry, for not working, and refusing to do so, he has been threatened if he goes again to that locality; and one man named Derrig, for working, having been beaten by others, I sent for Derrig, and brought him before the stipendiary magistrate to lodge informations for the assault, but we could make nothing of him, and were obliged to dismiss the case.

Mr. Wayland and Mr. O'Rourke both gave very satisfactory reports as to the inspection of their divisions; and the Vice-Guardians with myself consider their appointments most useful to the Union.

In the case of the woman Philbin, of Partry, who complained of the relieving officer, Mr. Arabin, for making use of language of a hasty and intemperate nature to her, in compliance with the orders of the Commissioners that officer was severely reprimanded and admonished by the Vice-Guardians and by me, in presence of all the other relieving officers.

From complaints made against Mr. Gibbons, relieving officer of Claremorris electoral division, for giving persons not entitled by law to receive rations, we have suspended him till I investigate the charges, which I purpose doing early next week, and have directed the parties complaining to meet me at Claremorris—the result I shall inform you of.

The Vice-Guardians have dismissed an overseer named Hennely, in the Kilmain electoral division, for being a road contractor, and denying to me that he was so, when questioned on the subject some time ago; for he could not attend to the duties required by us of him, and mind the mending of his roads in the same locality.

I regret to state that the number requiring out-door relief is increased this week—being 30,415; and the quantity of meal for their support amounts to nearly 87 tons.

I take leave to forward a return showing the numbers in each electoral division.

ENCLOSURE.

Electoral Divisions.	Numbers on last Week.	Numbers put on this Week.	Total.	Quantity of Meal required.
				Cwts. qrs. lbs.
Ross	1,268	21	1,289	87 2 0
Ballagholla	193	23	216	15 0 0
Cong	2,768	45	2,813	140 0 0
Kilmain	2,322	105	2,427	27 2 0
Order this Week.				
Kilmalora	1,216	10	1,226	65 0 0
Kilmain	..	..	..	115 0 0
Shruil	2,648	47	2,695	127 2 0
Partry	1,492	29	1,521	82 2 0
Hollymount	2,617	65	2,682	242 2 0
Robeen	1,978	79	2,057	92 2 0
Mayo	1,827	49	1,876	87 2 0
Burriscarra	709	16	725	35 0 0
Ballindine	3,515	23	3,538	187 2 0
Claremorris	4,076	191	4,267	255 0 0
Ballinrobe	2,973	110	3,083	175 0 0
Total	29,602	813	30,415	1,735 0 0
				86 tons 15 cwt.

Balance in store last week 118*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

25th March, 1848.

JAMES DEMPSTER, M.D.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 28, 1848.*

Ballinrobe Union.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 25th instant, relating to the Ballinrobe Union, in which you state that Mr. O'Rourke, Supervisor of Works, has been threatened for striking off a number of men in the Partry electoral division for refusing to work, and in reference thereto I am to state that the Commissioners trust that the Vice-Guardians will not fail to cause vigorous and effective steps to be taken to ensure due attention to the performance of the labour required by the Commissioners' Order, as a condition of the relief to be afforded.

I am at the same time to state that if the Superintendent is apprehensive of violence, he should apply for protection in the ordinary manner. The Commissioners consider it unfortunate that you were not able to bring any of the parties concerned in the assault referred to in your report to punishment.

If violence is used in any district by able-bodied persons in the receipt of relief, the Commissioners deem it advisable that all relief to the able-bodied in that district should be at once suspended.

The Commissioners have again to recommend that all the relief stations should be regularly visited and examined both by yourself and the Vice-Guardians.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

WE have the honour to inform you that Mr. Fair, rate-collector, has lodged since our last report 100*l.*; Mr. Walsh, 105*l.*; and Mr. Brannick, 40*l.*—on account of their collections. They have pledged themselves to use every exertion from henceforward; but they complain that when they make seizures and that a sale takes place they cannot find purchasers at more than a nominal value, the proceeds in some instances scarce paying the expense of auctioneer's fees (two guineas)—a licensed auctioneer having to be brought from Tuam.

We have paid on the out-door relief account 28*l.* 11*s.*, to overseers of labour for salary due them; also, 89*l.* 7*s.*, for carriage and distribution of food; and for the current expenses of the house, 118*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*

The pressure from persons who have tendered possession of their holdings and reported as destitute having much increased, the numbers now on the out-door relief lists are 30,413.

We have received from Dr. Dempster an order for 600*l.* worth of provisions, granted by the British Association: we had besides a balance to our credit of last week's grant, of 118*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; but to provide the food required this week we have been obliged to draw upon the officer in charge of the Commissariat dépôt for 759*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* worth, leaving a balance now due to him of 40*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* Under these circumstances we estimate that should out-door relief continue on its present scale, that 800*l.* will be required to provide the food for the week ending the 8th of April, and make good the deficit of this week's order.

The daily distribution of rations has not been practised in this Union: we began it in the Castlebar Union and entered into contracts for the daily issue of rye bread to the able-bodied and their families; but from the very great confusion and the frauds attempted to be practised by numbers endeavouring to draw daily and afterwards weekly rations, we have not been able to extend it as yet beyond two electoral divisions. However, agreeable to your wishes, every effort shall be made to establish the distribution of daily rations of cooked food to the able-bodied and their families in this Union so soon as we can enter into the necessary arrangements.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 800*l.* to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

I am at the same time to request that you will have the goodness to make a close revision of the relief lists, for which purpose it will be necessary that you should visit the several relief stations with the Inspector.

As regards the distribution of rations to the persons in the receipt of out-

Ballinrobe Union. door relief, the Commissioners consider any other than a daily issue of food incompatible with the due administration of out-door relief to able-bodied persons.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

REFERRING to the order for out-door relief which will expire on the 2nd proximo, I would recommend that it should be renewed for another month from that date.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 29, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have given directions for the renewal of the order for one month.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 1, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I visited Kilmain and Ballindine electoral divisions on Monday last, saw the men at labour on the roads breaking stones, and that the overseers appeared attentive to their duties. I attended the store in Ballindine, and saw the meal distributing, which I found correct and orderly. I also visited the schools on the line from Ballinrobe to Ballindine; the result I purpose informing the Count Strzelecki of in a distinct report.

On Tuesday I went to Claremorris by appointment, to investigate a charge preferred against the relieving officer of that electoral division by Sir Robert Lynch Blosse, Bart., a report of which I had the honour of transmitting to you on 31st ultimo. I have subsequently received a letter on this subject from the Rev. James Hughes, P.P., of Claremorris; being addressed to the Vice-Guardians, I directed the clerk of the Union to acknowledge the receipt of it, and at our next meeting shall lay same before them for consideration.

I met Mr. Brannick, the rate-collector, in Claremorris, who was about proceeding with a military escort to enforce the rates from defaulters in his district, which military party under Mr. Arabin, the stipendiary magistrate, was afterwards to march on Hollymount electoral division, to protect Mr. Donohoe under like circumstances.

The amount of rate lodged with the treasurer this week amounts only to 200*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, as per margin. I expect a more satisfactory collection next week, as our creditors, especially the meal contractors, are becoming very urgent for payment.

Our numbers are increased this week, being, as per return herewith forwarded, 31,291, and will require 85 tons of meal for their support next week. We are preparing for next week to get tenders for baking, and intend commencing giving daily rations in bread in the electoral division of Ballinrobe, from which we can gradually extend ourselves to the adjacent districts.

It is, however, very satisfactory to have it to remark, that the general appearance of the recipients of the Government bounty in this Union is greatly improved.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

Sir R. L. BLOSSE to the VICE-GUARDIANS of Ballinrobe Union:—*March 22, 1848.*

I BEG to call your attention to what I conceive to be a very gross neglect of duty on the part of the relieving officer for the Claremorris electoral division, in the Ballinrobe Union, a man of the name of Gibbons.

A tenant of mine, James Brady, of Barnacarroll, has been and still is, as I am informed, receiving out-door relief; he holds on lease about 156 acres, the yearly rent of which is 84*l.* He now owes me 319*l.* rent, to recover which I have been compelled to take legal proceedings against him; I have not yet obtained possession of my land. He has made no surrender of it.

On Wednesday, the 15th of this month, at Claremorris, my bailiff spoke to Gibbons, and stated these facts to him, stating at the same time that he understood that Brady was receiving out-door relief; this Gibbons admitted, but said that he would continue to allow Brady out-door relief. I feel convinced that the Vice-Guardians will agree with me in considering that this is not a proper case for out-door relief, and that the person who has acted in such a manner is unfit to hold the situation of relieving officer.

Answered 25th March, that I would attend at Claremorris on 28th, and requested the bailiff to come before me.

J. D.

Mr. Walsle.			
	£.	s.	d.
Mayo . . .	18	15	4½
Robeen . . .	33	12	0
Burriscarra . . .	7	10	5
Cong . . .	6	9	7½
Ballinrobe . . .	10	18	8½
Partry . . .	21	12	4½
	95	18	6
Mr. Brannick.			
Ballindine . . .	10	18	0½
Claremorris . . .	92	15	10½
	102	13	11

II.

Ballinrobe Union.

10th and 11th Victoria, chap. 90.

County of Mayo, } The Deposition of William Nally, Bailiff to Sir Robert Lynch Blosse,
to wit. } Bart., of Athavallie, in said county.

Ballinrobe } Deponent, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, saith that he
Union. } made application to Mr. Patrick Gibbons, relieving officer of the electoral
division of Claremorris, relative to a person named James Brady, a tenant
of the said Sir Robert Lynch Blosse, who holds in his possession a farm containing upwards of
100 acres of land, which said Brady, deponent heard, was receiving out-door relief from said
Patrick Gibbons; deponent states that he spoke to said relieving officer on the subject, who
replied that he would give relief or meal to Brady, and that he would not ask deponent's leave
for so doing, or Sir Robert's leave either; deponent replied he would report Gibbons to Sir
Robert and to his agent; Gibbons said he did not care, and to do my best, meaning deponent's
best; deponent did report said Gibbons to Sir Robert.

Duly read by deponent before signing.

Sworn before me at Claremorris, this 28th day of March, 1848.

JAMES DEMPSTER, M.D.,

WILLIAM NALLY.

Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

Ballinrobe, March 31, 1848.

The relieving officer, Patrick Gibbons, being called on by me to explain why he gave the relief to said Brady, states that during the time he has given it Brady was, and is, a destitute person in his opinion.

On looking over the Distribution Book kept by Gibbons, no man named James Brady, of Barnacarroll, appears on that book; page 61, No. 919, a person named James Reany appears in Gibbons's writing as receiving relief, and he states that by that name he gave the relief to James Brady, knowing the fact of his going by that name of Reany; Gibbons considered it immaterial what name he went by. Gibbons states that the reason he did not change the name of Reany to Brady, although he, Brady, lives within a few fields of his own residence, and was perfectly cognizant of the fact of said Brady, under the name of Reany, getting out-door relief, was, that Brady was ashamed to be known to require relief, although a very destitute person.

On parading James Brady I found him a person as well dressed as myself, and although he may be poor he certainly did not come under the denomination of destitute, and has relatives well able to assist him in his distress.

The Rev. James Hughes, P.P. of Claremorris, attended and offered to be sworn (which I declined doing), and stated that to his knowledge Brady had no land, and that he was not possessed of a horse, a cow, a pig, &c., although he continued to reside in the house on the lands of Barnacarroll.

A Mr. Kelly, an attorney, also attended and wished to be examined. I likewise refused to tender an oath to him: he stated that he held in his possession a deed of assignment (here he produced a document) from Brady of all his title and interest in said lands and farm to himself; and he told Sir Robert L. Blosse that he, Sir Robert, should never get a perch of said land, and that he, Kelly, placed Brady as a care-taker into his own house, at a salary of so much per week, which alone would disentitle Brady to relief.

Sir Robert L. Blosse stated that the land is his property, and that Brady is his tenant, and had taken legal proceedings to recover possession, and that Brady was giving him every opposition through Mr. Kelly, and would neither pay rent or give him his ground.

I told Mr. Kelly and the Rev. Mr. Hughes that I merely came to ascertain whether the relieving officer had been giving relief to a person not entitled by the law to receive same, and that I had no power to sit judicially to determine whose tenant Brady was, and that I did not consider myself authorized to go further in the case than I had, but if they wished, they might attend the Board of Vice-Guardians at Ballinrobe on the next day of meeting, to whom I would submit the matter previously to forwarding a statement to the Poor Law Commissioners; and that I would continue the suspension of Gibbons especially for giving meal to Brady under a false name.

I have carefully considered this case, and am of opinion that the relieving officer should be dismissed by order from the Commissioners.

Ballinrobe Union.

March 31, 1848.

Electoral Division.	Number on last Week.	Number put on this Week.	Total.	Quantity of Meal required.
				Tons, Cwt, Qrs.
Ballinrobe . . .	3,019	118	3,137	8 15 0
Partry . . .	1,521	55	1,576	4 12 2
Ballagholla . . .	231	46	277	0 17 2
Ross . . .	1,347	106	1,453	4 12 2
Hollymount . . .	2,683	46	2,729	7 5 0
Robeen . . .	1,958	37	1,995	5 10 0
Burriscarra . . .	724	41	765	2 0 0
Mayo . . .	1,674	55	1,729	4 12 2
Kilmain . . .	2,380	183	2,563	7 12 2
Shruil . . .	2,736	76	2,812	6 10 0
Kilmolara . . .	1,226	52	1,278	5 7 2
Ballindine . . .	3,538	88	3,626	9 5 0
Claremorris . . .	4,336	106	4,442	12 15 0
Cong . . .	2,803	106	2,909	7 5 2
Total . . .	..	..	31,291	85 0 2

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to your report of the 1st instant relating to the Ballinrobe Union, in which you advert to the investigation made by you into the charge preferred against the relieving officer for the Claremorris electoral division, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that a sealed order for the dismissal of Patrick Gibbons, the relieving officer, will be issued.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 1, 1848.*

WE have the honour to inform you that Mr. Brannick has lodged 103*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* and Mr. Walsh 96*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* for poor-rates collected since our last report. Mr. Donohoe, deputy collector to Mr. Fair, is at present out collecting under the protection of Mr. Arabin, R.M., the result of which we hope will be favourable. We have directed the collectors to proceed by distraint in several cases against occupiers, and have also by minute requested your sanction to take proceedings in the Superior Courts against others as immediate lessors.

The applicants for relief were extremely numerous this week; 1117 have been added to the out-door relief lists, and about 150 ruled for admission to the workhouse; there are now 31,291 to receive food out of the workhouse. We, therefore, estimate that 800*l.* will again be required to maintain them for the week ending 15th of April.

We have received from the British Association an order for 800*l.* worth of provisions on the Commissariat dépôt here, and we have drawn for 761*l.* worth, leaving a balance of 39*l.* towards next week's supply.

We have paid 109*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* for current expenses of the Union, and 92*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* on account of out-door relief.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 4, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 800*l.* in provisions to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

REPORT of Head Constable IRWIN.

*County of Galway,
Barony of Ross, Union of Cong, March 20.*

JOHN KIBBIN, a wandering beggarman, died from starvation in the neighbourhood of Galway, on 17th instant.

No inquest held, and the body has been interred without the coroner.

ALEXANDER IRWIN, 2nd Head Constable.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 5, 1848.*

Ballinrobe Union.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that the man named John Kibbin, reported by head constable Irwin to have died in the barony of Ross, in this Union, of starvation, never made any application at the workhouse here or to any relieving officer of this Union for relief.

I ascertained yesterday at Maam, in Joyce's country, where said Kibbin died on the 17th ultimo, that he was from the neighbourhood of the town of Galway, and was a man possessed of money, which he lent out to the poor people at usurious interest, and had arrived in the Ballinrobe Union two or three days previously on his periodical journeys to collect his interest. He was a miser, and denied himself the necessaries of life, which he was well able to afford, and well known to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*April 7, 1848.*

WITH reference to the communication referred to the Commissioners on the 20th ultimo, relating to the decease of a man named John Kibbin, in the Ballinrobe Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a report which the Commissioners have received from Dr. Dempster, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, on the subject.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*April 6, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the resolution contained in minutes of your proceedings on the 30th ultimo, requesting the Commissioners' sanction to proceedings being instituted by you under the 2nd section of the 6 and 7 Vict., cap. 92, in the Superior Courts of Record in Dublin, against the following persons who are defaulters in the payment of poor rate in the Ballinrobe Union, namely: David Courtney, Charles L. Kirwin, Valentine O'Connor Blake, Martin Darcy; and the Commissioners hereby signify their consent to your bringing an action in any one of the Superior Courts of Record in Dublin against the said David Courtney, Charles L. Kirwin, Valentine O'Connor Blake, Martin Darcy, for the recovery of the arrears of poor rate made on them respectively as immediate lessors in respect of certain property situated within the Ballinrobe Union.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 15, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that on the 8th instant the cars conveying meal from the dépôt here for the destitute in Mayo and Burriscarra East Division, were attacked within four miles of Ballinrobe, in the parish of Robeen, and six sacks, containing 15 cwt. meal, carried off. The relieving officer came to me on Sunday, the 9th, when I brought him to the resident magistrate, who received his informations, and from the steps pursued some of the perpetrators are in custody, and I expect more will be so next week.

I stopped the issue of rations in the Robeen division to the able-bodied until they showed an anxiety to bring the parties to justice; but I was obliged to allow the relieving officer to give the meal to the infirm and children.

I visited Kilmain and saw the issue of the meal in progress, and then went to Shrub, for the like purpose; all correct. I then went to Hollymount and Robeen, and returned to Ballinrobe by a long circuit of the Union; I found the men, generally speaking, at work breaking stones. I visited Claremorris, and attended at the store; there is a great amount of destitution in that district. I afterwards went to Ballindine. The cause of the great increase of the relief list this week is, that great numbers have surrendered their holdings who clung to them all the winter, but are unable longer to do so.

Several applicants for relief brought declarations made before a magistrate that they had no land or stock, &c., and were starving. The acting relieving officer at Claremorris went to inspect their residences, and although it was a fact a surrender of one farm had been made, and on which the aforesaid declaration was

Ballinrobe Union.

grounded, yet he found the parties in possession of several acres of land and 12 head of cattle. These circumstances will be more fully brought before the notice of the Commissioners by the Vice-Guardians, to whom I have handed the declarations.

Mr. Brannick.

	£.	s.	d.
Ballindine	11	12	1
Claremorris	28	13	0
	40	5	1

Mr. Walsh.

	£.	s.	d.
Robeen	9	13	6½
Mayo	39	8	9½
Burriscarra	71	19	1½
Ballinrobe	13	15	8
Cong	15	18	0
Kilmolara	0	9	7½
	151	4	9

The number for relief next week is 33,447, and will require about 90 tons of meal for their support. I handed the order for 800*l.* worth of provision, sent in aid from the British Association to the Vice-Guardians. The amount of rate lodged this week is only 19*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, as shown in the margin, and active steps are now being taken to get in the arrears.

The workhouse is now in a most creditable state in every respect, and means for thorough ventilation are in progress of completion. The men and boys all at work on the grounds, levelling and digging, and parterres, with evergreens and flowering shrubs, have been made, and a good many trees have been planted. In the hospital measles are now abated; very few cases of light fever, and dysentery principally prevails.

ENCLOSURE.

NUMBER ON OUT-DOOR RELIEF to April 15, 1848.

Electoral Division.	Number on last Week.	Number put on this Week.	Total.	Quantity of Meal required.		
				Tons.	Cwt.	Qrs.
Ballinrobe	3,144	79	3,223	9	0	0
Partry	1,537	27	1,614	4	15	0
Ballagholla	292	38	330	1	0	0
Ross	1,468	76	1,544	4	15	0
Cong	2,992	92	3,084	7	15	0
Hollymount	2,811	161	2,972	7	10	0
Robeen	2,080	37	2,117	3	10	0
Burriscarra	782	176	958	2	10	0
Mayo	1,788	82	1,870	5	12	2
Kilmain	2,753	143	2,896	8	15	0
Shruil	2,760	60	2,820	6	15	0
Kilmolara	1,308	25	1,333	3	10	0
Ballindine	3,724	47	3,771	9	15	0
Claremorris	4,336	579	4,915	14	10	0
Total	..	1,622	33,447	89	12	2

JAMES DEMPSTER, M.D.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 22, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that on Monday last, the 17th instant, I went to the electoral divisions of Kilmolara, Cong, and Ross; saw the relieving officers distributing the meal; went to the several gangs on the roads, and saw the men at work. I met the supervisor, Rorke, on his tour of inspection. In consequence of the newspaper reports that the rye bread issued to the children attending the schools in this Union was producing disease, I visited every school, Protestant and Catholic, from Ballinrobe to the "Joyce's country," and found them all in rude health; and the only complaint against the bread was the quantity not the quality thereof. I was ordered to reduce or limit the issue to the schools, and in consequence many expostulations on the subject have reached my office from the respective clergymen of the Union, but no account of any death has been sent in.

I beg to state that Mr. Donohoe, the rate-collector, was out on duty under protection of Mr. Arabin, the R. M., with police, in the electoral division of Hollymount, on 17th and 18th instant; that he again seized the stock of Mr. Bowen, late collector, and was paid in the field. However he accepted a receipt for Mr. Bowen's arrears, signed by that gentleman, and which is for a larger sum than what was returned in arrear by Mr. Bowen. I objected to the receipt, as I consider Mr. Donohoe ought to have kept the stock till paid the full amount in his rate book, as against Mr. Bowen.

The amount of rates lodged this week amounts to 210*l.* 3*s.* 6½*d.*, as per margin. The treasurer of the Union being in Dublin attending the courts as evidence in the cause of the "Guardians against Bowen and Linsky," I received the money, which I shall hand over on his return to Ballinrobe.

Mr. Donohoe.

	£.	s.	d.
Hollymount, E. Division	40	1	9

Mr. Brannick.

	£.	s.	d.
Ballindine	16	17	10
Claremorris	29	15	10½
	46	13	8½

Mr. Walsh.

	£.	s.	d.
Robeen	85	9	5½
Mayo	13	11	0
Burriscarra	0	11	4
Ballinrobe	11	4	0½
Cong	9	18	0
Kilmolara	2	14	0
	117	8	1

I received an order for 800*l.* worth of provisions from British Relief Association, as a further grant in aid of the destitute of this Union, which I handed to the Vice-Guardians.

Ballinrobe Union.

It has been reported to me by the relieving officer for Mayo and Burriscarra that the woman who was sent to gaol for assisting in the robbery of the meal on the 8th instant, has been tried at the Westport Quarter Sessions, and convicted. I attended the Petty Sessions at Hollymount this day, when one man was fully identified as one of the perpetrators in this outrage, and committed for trial at next Quarter Sessions.

I regret to state that the numbers for relief in the ensuing week have increased to 34,789, and it will require 91 tons of meal for their support. The relieving officers state that the cause is, the poor creatures are being turned out of possession under decrees obtained for non-payment of rent. Where this will end I cannot see.

ENCLOSURE.

BALLINROBE UNION, April 22, 1848.

Electoral Division.	Number on last Week.	Number put on this Week.	Total.	Meal required.		
				Tons.	Cwt.	Qrs.
Ballinrobe . . .	3,225	22	3,247	8	0	0
Cong . . .	3,054	47	3,101	7	10	0
Hollymount . . .	2,972	90	3,062	7	15	0
Partry . . .	1,614	59	1,673	4	17	2
Burriscarra . . .	589	154	1,043	3	0	0
Mayo . . .	1,870	103	1,973	4	10	0
Shruil . . .	2,810	119	2,929	7	0	0
Ballindine . . .	3,771	154	3,925	10	5	0
Kilmain . . .	2,898	54	2,952	8	10	0
Kilmolara . . .	1,333	43	1,376	3	12	2
Robeen . . .	2,117	52	2,169	6	2	2
Claremorris . . .	4,864	107	4,971	13	12	2
Ross . . .	1,682	276	1,958	5	2	2
Ballagholla . . .	343	67	410	1	0	0
Total . . .	..	1,347	34,789	90	17	2

JAMES DEMPSTER, M.D.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER:—April 27, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 22nd instant, relating to the Ballinrobe Union, and I am to request that you will be good enough to inquire upon oath, and report to the Commissioners, upon any cases of eviction which come under your observation.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 28, 1848.

WE have the honour to state that Mr. Walsh has lodged 83*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*; Mr. Brannick, 20*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*; and Mr. Donohoe, 37*l.*; poor rates collected since our last weekly report. We have paid for carriage and distribution of last week's food, 49*l.* 17*s.* 8½*d.*; on account of current expenses, 20*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*; to Dominick E. Blake, solicitor, amount of execution and costs in the case of "Wilson v. Union," 89*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, being a debt due by the late Board of Guardians; and we retain 8*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* to pay another execution, obtained in the case of Daniel, also a debt of the late Board.

We have received from Dr. Dempster, Poor Law Inspector, an order for 800*l.* worth of provisions granted by the British Association, and we have drawn on the Commissariat depôt for 718*l.* 4*s.* worth, in addition to 97*l.* 13*s.* worth remaining to our credit since last week, still leaving a balance in our favour of 81*l.* 16*s.* towards next week's supply. 955 persons have been added to the out-door relief lists, and 766 have been struck off for non-attendance at work, leaving 35,200 to receive food to the 6th May, and we estimate that 750*l.*, with the balance above stated, will be required for the week ending 13th May. Applications for relief continue to increase; numbers have been lately dispossessed by their landlords,

Ballinrobe Union. others offering to surrender their holdings, retaining a quarter acre and their house, of which they either produce proof, or make a declaration before a magistrate. The latter we have discouraged by every means in our power without effect, but we expect to check it by having a man prosecuted who has made two declarations of his utter destitution, although we are informed it is well known, and will be proved, that he holds a farm, and has several head of cattle and other means

We regret to say we see no prospect of employment for the people; the sowing of corn, which has been very limited (at least three-fourths less than last year), and the planting of potatoes, which has been tolerably extensive (about three-fourths of the average of other years), is now nearly over, after which very little will be done on the land until the harvest.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*May 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 28th ultimo, relating to the management of the affairs of the Ballinrobe Union, and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for an advance of 700*l.*, to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

BALLYSHANNON UNION.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 7, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report upon the proceedings of the Board of Guardians at their meetings held on the 4th and 5th instant.

Friday the 4th, the Board was solely occupied in the examination of the books of the relieving officers, preparatory to their usual meeting upon Saturday; and all, with the exception of the Bundoran books, were initialed by the chairman.

Saturday, the 6th instant, was fixed to receive tenders to supply clothing, bedding, &c. &c., so very much required to enable the Guardians to admit the numbers for which they have provided additional accommodation; and in this and next week the articles will be furnished by the persons who have obtained the contracts.

The system I had recommended to the Guardians, that cheques should only be given on one Board-day in every month, they have begun to act upon; and on Saturday the expenses of the past month were discharged by cheques; that for the first time for years the treasurer had funds in his hands to liquidate immediately they were presented.

On the motion of Mr. Bloomfield, a cheque to repay the advances under the Temporary Relief Act was drawn for the electoral division of Belleek; as that had been estimated for when the rate was made, beside what appeared sufficient to meet the current expenses for six months. The whole of the rate on this division will be collected within two months from the date of the first payment; and I do not hesitate to say that the same might have been effected generally through the Union, had the other collectors been as determined and energetic as Johnson, who collected this.

The collection the last week was smaller than it should have been, had due exertion been used; and I have spoken to some and written to others of the collectors, to warn them that they will be subject to dismissal if it does not progress more rapidly; and I trust that next week this may produce a larger sum.

The pressure for relief has again been rather increased the past week; and I attribute this solely to the people getting intelligence that the workhouse was full, or nearly so, as I invariably remark, when such is the case, that the number that claim relief are doubled, and all in hope of obtaining out-door allowances. The Guardians are so convinced of this, that they have resolved on taking a large store, which is at present a little out of order; but a small outlay would render it fit for occupation. This will be the third house rented by them; the male and female workhouse schools having been already removed to separate houses. I have much pleasure in stating that now there is a prospect of speedy improvement in and about the workhouse, as Sergeant Healy, who has been selected as an assistant to the master, is active and determined in application of labour as a test of destitution: heretofore the master had far too much to do otherwise, to exact a fair day's work from the paupers; and beside, the Guardians had, till latterly, the house crowded with old infirm persons, incapable of labour to any extent; hence improvements I had projected have not been advanced as rapidly as I could have wished.

At the meeting of the Board on Friday, one of the Guardians, Mr. Gallagher, stated to me that a man named Keenan, who resided near him, had died of destitution and want of food; and Saturday, before the Board met, I drove to the house to inquire into the circumstances. I found, on examination, that the wife had previously died, and that five children were left in a state of the most melancholy misery; the father, it was evident, had fallen a sacrifice to the determination to hold his land (2½ acres) sooner than come with his family to the workhouse for relief, and resign what could have been no use or benefit to him or them; as his poverty was so great, that last year he had no crop, not even a patch of turnips, and without the slightest prospect of being able even to seed it.

Ballyshannon
Union.

A man holding ten acres of land applied to the relieving officer of that district for relief, some days since, stating he had offered the bailiff possession of house and land to entitle him to it. The bailiff could not take it without permission from the agent, who resides in Dublin; and the relieving officer assured me that he believed the man and his family would die from starvation before he could legally obtain relief.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 10, 1848.*

IN reference to your statement, that a cheque was drawn to repay the advances in Belleek electoral division under the Temporary Relief Act, I am to express the great satisfaction of the Commissioners at the manner in which this electoral division has faithfully discharged its liabilities, and at the efficient manner in which the rate has been collected; and I am to request that you will be so good as to report whether, in your opinion, it is owing to default of the Board of Guardians that the rate has not been equally well collected in the other divisions.

As regards your statement, that a tenant holding ten acres of land offered possession of his house and land, in order to entitle himself to relief, but that the bailiff could not take it without permission from the agent in Dublin, I am to state that the mere refusal of a landlord to accept a surrender of land does not disqualify a person who has ceased to occupy more than a quarter of an acre of land from receiving relief.

By the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act it is merely the occupation or non-occupation of a quarter of an acre of land which is made a criterion of destitution, provided that an applicant for relief may otherwise be deemed entitled to it.

Hence the Guardians, as far as that clause is concerned, are warranted in relieving any body who is not in such occupation; and they are not bound to investigate title at all, or to ascertain whether the tenant's interest has been legally determined by surrender or otherwise.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 13, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit my weekly report of the matters connected with the business of this Union. Wednesday the 9th instant I attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians; plans were laid before the Board, of buildings to enlarge the workhouse, and advertisements ordered in accordance with them.

A report was made by the schoolmaster that Dr. Simon Sheil had required returns of the state of health of the children in his school, the size of the apartments, &c.; and the Board recorded upon their minutes the inconvenience of attending to his requests; in fact, a party in Ballyshannon wish to force the Guardians to remove the children. I have heretofore stated my views on this point, and shall not now reiterate them.

An assistant matron was chosen by the Board; I have heard a good character of her, and see no reason to refuse to recommend a confirmation of her appointment.

Friday, the 11th instant, the day was occupied in examination of the relieving officers' books; that day each week being solely set apart for the purpose.

Saturday, the 12th, that portion of the books which was unfinished the previous day was completed, and initialed by the chairman.

The letter of the Commissioners dismissing M'Gloin, the collector for Glenade, was read by the clerk, and the sealed order produced, and directions for electing another collector, Wednesday, the 16th instant, were issued by the Board. Whilst on this subject I shall take the opportunity of replying to the Commissioners' letter dated 10th February, in which I am directed to report "my opinion whether it is in consequence of the default of the Board of Guardians that the rate has not been as speedily collected in the other divisions as in Belleek." I beg to state that except in Glenade I cannot complain of any remissness, and of that division, as I have just stated, the collector was on my report dismissed. The Guardians or magistrates never interfered in any division to aid the collection so far as I can learn; leaving the matter entirely

to me to urge the collectors to do their duty, and take and direct such steps as I thought best, with the exception of Belleek, in which Mr. Bloomfield resides; there I was assisted by him in every way, and he used the most strenuous exertions as a magistrate to hasten the collection; he was the first to pay himself, and not only supported the collector with his authority and influence, but exercised a constant and daily surveillance of his efforts; the collector is an energetic, fearless man, and to the combination of these circumstances is to be attributed the more advanced state of the collection in Belleek than any other division.

I reported to the Commissioners the violence and threats used by a member of this Board in reference to the payment of his rate; the course pursued by the Commissioners upon this report of directing the collectors to state which of the Guardians in his district had omitted to pay the rate, as well as the intimation that should it be unpaid to any extent by members of the Board, that the Commissioners would consider their powers under the 18th section of the Irish Extension Act, had the effect of producing immediate payment by almost every Guardian; having thus in the first instance, under these circumstances, paid in place of remaining to the last as they have heretofore done, (the rate made nine months previously being due by many of them when I arrived here)—they are now anxious enough that it should be speedily collected, but they have not energy, or in fact, sufficient interest in the success of the law, to induce them to use personal exertion in aid of the collection, as Mr. Bloomfield has done; and I am of opinion that some of them think they do enough if they do not embarrass or obstruct it.

I must confess I had hoped the Commissioners would have considered the collection in this Union had progressed, with the one exception, speedily; a sum of 3,904*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, has been paid since the 18th of December, 1847, to the 12th of February, 1848, inclusive, being a period of nine weeks; during the four and a half previous years, that is to say from the half year ending the 29th of September, 1843, to that ending the 29th of September, 1847, the total sum collected was but 4,825*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*; thus in four years and a half, the collection only exceeded by 921*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, that of the last nine weeks. I have omitted no means in my power of hastening the payment of rate; and any week it has been smaller than I considered it should be, never neglected to communicate personally with the collectors. In my last report, I mentioned that I thought the collection of the previous week under what it should have been, and that I at once wrote to some, and spoke to others, of the collectors, saying I would expect larger weekly payments; and although this week has been stormy, which always interferes as it is not possible in such weather, so great an extent of country can be travelled, yet the collection has exceeded that of last, by nearly 100*l.* I had hoped that this and next month would complete the collection of the rate, but I fear from the county cess being now called for, and the landlords also becoming urgent in their demands, that some portion of it may not be paid so soon; however I still expect by far the greater part shall have been received by that period.

The proposition to commence immediately to build an addition to the workhouse, and to declare the contractor on Wednesday next, has been postponed at my request until the Guardians have laid the plans before the Commissioners, and received their sanction or views upon the subject.

The clerk applied for an increase of salary, in consideration of his greatly increased duties; it is also postponed for a fortnight, pursuant to a resolution upon their minutes, that of all applications involving increased expenditure, the Board should have so much notice.

The Guardians are, I think, inclined to accede to his request, and I must say it is richly deserved, as he is a most pains-taking, indefatigable, and correct person in the performance of his duties.

The cases of two persons refused relief in Donegal Union, on the ground that they belonged to this, although one had resided in it for three years, and the other for five months, came before the Guardians, and they directed the clerk to draw the attention of the Donegal Board to the Circular of the Commissioners on this subject, directing that the Union in which persons became destitute, was the Union in which they were to receive relief.

The Guardians resolved to apply to the Commissioners to obtain their sanction to the establishment of an agricultural school, and combining the Unions

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of Donegal, Manorhamilton, and this, into a district for that purpose, by the powers vested in them under the 10th Vict., cap. 31, sec. 24. Was any recommendation of mine likely to have weight, in inducing the favourable consideration of the proposition, I should most cheerfully add it, as I am firmly persuaded it is alone by improving the knowledge of agriculture, and developing the industrial resources of the country, that it will be enabled to sustain the burden of its poverty: whilst I am equally assured, that a little exertion on the part of proprietors in extending employment, and encouraging improved husbandry, would enable the poorest Unions in Ireland (and with most of which I am acquainted), to sustain their population, and afford relief under the existing Poor Law, without such pressure upon their rates, as would justify them in seeking external aid.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 18, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to assure you that they are thoroughly satisfied with your successful exertions in pressing forward the vigorous collection of the rates, and they deem it highly creditable to your efficiency that the Guardians should now have a net balance of about 1100*l.* in their treasurer's hands, whereas the balance against the Guardians when you first went to the Union as Inspector was no less than 1071*l.*

In regard to the proposition of the Guardians to unite with the Manorhamilton Union for the purpose of establishing an agricultural school, the Commissioners regret to state that in the present state of the law they are not able to act in accordance with the views of the Guardians; at the same time, it is possible that a proposition for the alteration of the law on this point may be submitted to Parliament during the present session.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 20, 1848.*

ON Friday, the 18th, and Saturday, the 19th instant, I attended meetings of the Board of Guardians, and have the honour of forwarding my report.

Friday was occupied entering, examining, and initialing the books of the relieving officers.

Saturday the Board, on my request, passed a resolution, that the extension they contemplate of their workhouse should be of a permanent description, and requesting the Commissioners' architect would forward plans and sections of an addition to be placed either along the yards of the boys' and girls, or men's and women's portion of the house, as he may see fit; but requesting him to bear in mind that economy is essential in the present distressed state of the Union, and that unless his estimates are framed strictly so, they will be useless to the Guardians, as they cannot supply funds to carry out any but moderate improvements and additions. If the Commissioners could obtain a loan from the Treasury for this purpose, the Guardians would be most willing to undertake its repayment, and in that case would build more extensively than they can afford to do under present circumstances.

A very serious charge was made by a Guardian against a relieving officer, which is to be investigated on Friday, the 25th instant, after which I shall report the result.

The Board was informed that the milk supplied to the workhouse was of an inferior description, and that the contractor was in the habit of having it skimmed before he sent it to the workhouse, and directions were issued to summon all the parties before the magistrates' bench on Tuesday next.

The contractor who had supplied ticking for beds I found had sent in an article inferior to the sample, and I brought the matter before the Board, and had it examined into, and the price on 1500 yards was reduced three half-pence per yard in consequence. I find it most necessary to keep a sharp look-out on all workhouse contractors, as they are much inclined to take advantage.

The condition of the workhouse is not what I could wish, as the contractors have not yet sent in the clothing; but this week I trust we shall receive it, and I look forward to an immediate improvement.

A vote of thanks to the British Association and Count de Strzelecki was passed by the Guardians for the relief afforded the Union through the medium of food to schools. I applied some time since to Count de Strzelecki that the ration of bread might be increased to 1 lb., and he at once consented; and this system is now, in consequence, become a substantial support to the destitute, and at the same time has greatly relieved the pressure that otherwise must be borne by the rates.

A proposition to sell stones broken by the paupers to road contractors was made by one of the Guardians; but I showed them it was first required that the yards and precincts of the workhouse should be repaired and completed with stone before they sold any; and then the consideration would be involved, how far workhouse labour would thus interfere with the employment of the country, and whether this mode of proceeding was at all advisable.

The dismissed collector (M'Gloin) paid a sum of 41*l.* which he had in hand, and gave up his books to the clerk. I have heard a very good character of Tiffoney, the person chosen to fill his place by the Guardians, during my absence on leave last Wednesday, and would recommend his immediate sanction by the Commissioners, as further delay in the collection of this division is to be deprecated.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 24, 1848.*

WITH reference to the Guardians' resolution to permanently enlarge the workhouse, and to their request for plans for this purpose, I am directed to state that the Commissioners will communicate with their architect on the subject. They have already addressed the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury on the subject of a loan for the purpose, but they are not authorized to hold out any expectation that a loan can be granted.

With reference to your recommendation for the immediate sanction to the appointment of Mr. Tiffoney as collector, in place of M'Gloin, I am to state that the Commissioners will give their immediate attention to the appointment of Mr. Tiffoney, on receiving replies to the usual inquiries, which have already been forwarded.

MR. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 27, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to send my weekly report of the proceedings of the Guardians and condition of this Union.

Friday and Saturday, the 25th and 26th instant, I attended the meetings of the Board of Guardians. Friday the books of the relieving officers were examined and initialed; and the charge I alluded to in my report of last week against a relieving officer was cleared up. Mr. Hea, one of the Guardians, had charged Mr. Rogers, the relieving officer for Devenish and Churchill, with impropriety and embezzlement, and it was arranged the matter should be investigated this day; but Mr. Hea came forward of his own accord, and stated that he regretted exceedingly he had been betrayed into the statement he had made; as, on inquiry, he found that the information he had received was totally unfounded; and indeed the opinion I had formed of Mr. Rogers previously led me to suppose that the charge could not be maintained. Saturday the routine business of the day having been disposed of, the question of an increase in the clerk's salary was brought forward. It was proposed that it should now be made 80*l.*; an amendment was then put that it should be 60*l.*; and, on a division, the numbers were equal—seven and seven. Mr. Dickson and other members of the Board were absent that had declared their determination to support the original proposition; and I have no doubt had it been a fuller Board, that it would have been carried. The clerk has expressed to me his determination to resign if his salary is not increased to what it was proposed to make it. He is most zealous and attentive in the performance of his duties, and omits not the smallest minutiae; in fact, should he resign just now, the consequences to the Union would be very serious, as it would be impossible any new clerk could for a considerable time acquire a knowledge of, and perform with accuracy the many duties attendant on this office. Under all the circumstances, considering the clerk's merits, and the loss the Union would sustain should he resign, in consequence of insufficient payment for the

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very laborious duties he has to perform, I would recommend that his salary should be increased to the sum of 80*l.* per annum, to which one-half the Board consented, and indeed were anxious to raise it; whilst even the dissentient portion admitted the justice of the principle, although not to that amount. The sum paid the treasurer of the Union this week by the rate collectors, amounted to 469*l.*; and the balance to the credit of the Guardians on the 26th instant was 2298*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* The collectors for Bundoran, Ballyshannon, and Ballintra divisions, I think have not these two past weeks made the exertions they should have done, and I have written to urge them to greater activity. I still calculate the whole rate will have been collected before the middle of April. The number in the workhouse on Saturday evening was 830; those receiving out-door relief, 874, and children fed by the British Association, 8140. The cost of out-door relief for the past week was 24*l.* 4*s.* As yet very little activity prevails in preparation of the land for spring crops, and I anticipate that the distress will be somewhat lessened next month by the necessary employment for that purpose; still I cannot hope for any permanent improvement of the condition of the people from this cause, and cannot conceal that I think if the charity now received from the British Association were suspended, the pressure upon rates from want of employment would be greater than the Union could bear; at the same time, if the landlords employed even one-half the number of hands that they might do, and that profitably to themselves, I have no doubt that the really destitute would be supported at an amount yearly that very moderate rates would produce. It is but reasonable to expect if employment is neglected, that rates must be high; and I conceive that it is only where labour is sufficiently in operation, and taxation at the same time excessive, that rate-payers can complain.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 1, 1848.*

WITH reference to the proposed increase to the clerk's salary, and to your recommendation that it be raised to 80*l.*, I am to state that the Commissioners are prepared to sanction a salary of 80*l.* If you are confident that the proposition would be carried if brought forward at another meeting, the Commissioners would prefer that mode of proceeding.

If, on the other hand, there is a reasonable probability that the Board may adhere to their former resolution, the Commissioners would prefer raising the salary by a sealed order at once.

EXTRACT from CONSTABULARY REPORT.

*County of Fermanagh,
Derrygonnelly, February 18, 1848.*

A WOMAN calling herself Kerrigan, was found dead on the roadside in the townland of Muckenagh. The following verdict was returned :—We find that the deceased woman, who said her name was Kerrigan, came by her death at Muckenagh, in the parish of Innismacsaint, barony of Magheraboy, on Tuesday, the 15th day of February, 1848, by hunger and cold.

WILLIAM HAMILTON ROWAN,
Sub-Inspector, 3rd Rate.

*The Inspector-General,
&c. &c. &c.*

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. D'ARCY thereon, the Extract having been referred to him by the COMMISSIONERS.

I CAME to this by Derrygonnelly to inquire into the circumstances of this woman's death. I find that she had been in the Ballyshannon workhouse, and whether she left it of her own accord, or had been amongst those put out on an allowance, I cannot say; she was admitted on the application book of the Bundoran relieving officer; at the time of her death she was going, as she stated, to a person named Cox, four miles from Garrison; she did not apply to the relieving officer for Innismacsaint, who resides in Garrison, for relief; she had been refused

by the persons residing on the road admittance to their houses or relief, and I have no doubt she lost her life as stated in the verdict of the coroner's jury. On my return to Ballyshannon, I shall ascertain all the particulars of her admission and discharge from the workhouse, and report them.

Enniskillen, February 29, 1848.

JAMES D'ARCY.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. D'ARCY:—*March 2, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your observations on the report of Sub-Inspector Rowan, relative to the death of a woman named Kerrigan, at Muckenagh, in Ballyshannon Union; and I am to state, that the Commissioners will feel obliged to you for a full report on the case when you have obtained the requisite information at Ballyshannon.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 5, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward my weekly report.

I returned here yesterday morning from Enniskillen, and attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians on the same day. The cheques for the liabilities of the month were drawn upon the treasurer. Contracts for meal and bread for hospital purposes were taken; and, on my suggestion, the Guardians resolved to purchase 10 tons of rye meal from the Commissariat stores in Sligo, and make a trial of it as food. I find that the 4 lb. loaf made of it can be had for two-pence and four-sevenths, which is cheaper than any other description of food that could be used, and will effect not alone a saving in the article of food itself but in fuel. I have made the above calculation, taking into consideration the price of meal per ton 7*l.*, carriage 10*s.*, baking 1*l.* 7*s.*, which latter is what I pay for the bread baked for the schools which are being supplied by the British Association.

I find a ton of meal, when well baked and managed, produces one ton and a half of bread. Thus we should have that quantity at 8*l.* 17*s.*, as shown above, and the 4 lb. loaf as nearly as possible at the price I have stated.

We got a considerable supply of the clothing that had been contracted for during the week, and the paupers are all now well clad, and the establishment presents a quite different and improved appearance in consequence.

I had for some time past impressed upon the matron the value of industrial employment; and, as a commencement, she has had made in the workhouse within the last week 130 bed-ticks, 126 pair of sheets, and 100 shifts. Breaking stones, as a test, is closely attended to by the assistant-master who was lately appointed, and I must say he is giving me much satisfaction.

I have had the girls removed to the workhouse from the school-house in the town, and sent over the oldest of the female paupers in their stead, and find it a better arrangement. The Guardians have promised to make the improvements I suggested in the auxiliary workhouse in the town, and I trust that I shall be shortly able to report that they are completed.

The balance to the credit of the Union the 4th instant was 2607*l.*, the collection during the week being smaller than usual. In a degree this is owing to the fact that all the larger sums of rate are paid in this Union, and that the collection is now going on amongst the poorer class of rate-payers. The Belleek division I may say is collected, and that also has its effect in lessening the weekly amount. In addition to these the assizes of Enniskillen were going on, and two or three of the collectors had business there. And although in future, for these reasons, we cannot expect such large sums as heretofore, still I think a communication direct from the Commissioners to the following collectors, urging increased activity, would be of service—Kelly, for Ballyshannon; Daly, for Bundoran; Farry, for Devenish; Wilson, for Churchhill; and Mackey, for Ballintea; the last particularly, who, with a good division, is considerably behind, and has all through been slow in his collection: if he used proper exertion he would be enabled to lodge 60*l.* or 70*l.* weekly. Tiffony, the new collector for Glenade, made a small lodgement this week; and I trust the example given by the dismissal of his predecessor will have its effect on him and the other collectors.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners will address the collectors as you recommend.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 7, 1848.*

In reply to your letter, dated the 2nd of March, directing me to report at length, when I had obtained the necessary information regarding the death of a woman, named Kerrigan, reported by Sub-Inspector Rowan, and which took place at Muckenagh, near Garrison, in this Union; I have now the honour to transmit all the information I have been unable to obtain on the subject.

Susan Kerrigan, the deceased, applied upon the 12th of January, to Mr. Michael Daly, the relieving officer of the Bundoran district, and on the 13th she got admission to the workhouse. February the 7th ultimo, at her own request, she was discharged, and no more was heard of her until the report of her death by Sub-Inspector Rowan. I have no doubt that want and cold caused it, but the relieving officer did his duty by her, and so did the Guardians of the Union. It was her own free will and choice to leave the workhouse, and no one is to blame in the matter, as she had immediate relief upon her application for it.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 12, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward my report for the past week.

I attended meetings of the Board of Guardians on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Thursday I was present at the petty sessions where some rate cases were to be heard, and one or two in which rescues of cattle seized by the collector had taken place.

A case arose about which the magistrates had some doubts, and begged I would write, stating the circumstances, and obtain a reply. A man was summoned for rate of a holding valued under 4*l.*, and although he was valued elsewhere above 8*l.*, he disputed payment; both the holdings were in the same electoral division, but not held under one landlord. It appeared to me if his holdings in the Union computed together exceeded 4*l.* value, he was liable for each separately.

I have much satisfaction in stating, that considerable progress has been made towards the improvement of the workhouse and yards. The workhouse has been undergoing a thorough cleansing and whitewashing. The wooden fever-sheds are in progress of improvement, and being covered with tar and canvas. Stone-breaking under the superintendence of the assistant-master, is closely attended to; the female paupers employed in making-up clothing for the inmates; and I trust the result will be, that the entire establishment will shortly present a very different and greatly improved appearance.

I think that the time has arrived when an extended order, permitting widows with one child and orphans to receive out-door relief might be issued in this Union, as it is not possible that greater workhouse accommodation can be provided than there is at present, and putting such cases into the workhouse precludes the possibility of the test so necessary to able-bodied. I am in hope that the relief afforded by the British Association, with the employment that the opening spring work will produce, may have the effect of relieving the rate-payers of the burden of supporting this class for some time to come, and I only regret that a Union so highly capable of permanent and remunerative improvement should remain in the neglected condition, that sooner or later, and when extraneous aid is withdrawn, must inevitably throw the able-bodied as well as the infirm upon the rates for support.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 16, 1848.*

WITH reference to your inquiry as to the liability of an occupier of a tenement valued at less than 4*l.* per annum, to the rate made in respect of such tenement, he being valued elsewhere above 8*l.*, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that there is no doubt that if the aggregate value of the rateable hereditaments occupied by him in the Union is greater than 4*l.*, he is liable to the rate, and the immediate lessor ought not to be rated, even though the annual value of any one or more of the holdings may be less than 4*l.*

The Commissioners have directed that an order be prepared in accordance with your suggestion, permitting widows with one child and orphans, to receive out-door relief in Ballyshannon Union.

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Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 14, 1848.*

HAVING heard of the death of a woman in the division of Boho, which was attributed to starvation, I thought it my duty to inquire into the circumstances, and for that purpose proceeded yesterday to Cornacully or Tibawn, where it occurred, and have the honour to forward the information I obtained.

The deceased woman, Mary Hart, had but 10 days recovered from fever, and on Sunday morning, the 12th instant, had gone to the house of Mr. James Magrath, the Guardian of the electoral division of Boho, for the purpose of receiving a portion of a sum of 4*l.* which her husband had sent her from America, and placed for safe keeping in the hands of Mr. Magrath. During her illness, from time to time, he had supplied her with meal, money, and the various necessaries she stood in need of, and on this occasion gave her 15*s.* The country about this place is hilly or mountainous, and she lived a couple of miles from the high road and near the summit of the hills; there being no road or pathway to follow, and that I might ascertain the fullest particulars, I left my car on the high road, and took the direction which she did on her return from Mr. Magrath's house, until I arrived at the spot in which the body was found. It appears to me that although she had recovered the fever, that she was in a weak state, and the walk down the hills and then the return up them had exhausted her; and a small swamp lying in her way she tripped in stepping from place to place to get over it dry, and fell on her face, and had not strength to recover, and was either drowned or suffocated. The coroner had not arrived up to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and as I had a drive of some 15 or 16 miles to return I did not wait longer. I saw, however, all the persons who could give any information in regard to the circumstance, and have, no doubt, that she did not come by her death owing to want, but that it was accidental, and probably consequent on her weak condition from her previous illness.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

In my report, which will be forwarded at the close of the week, I shall advert to the system of baling by contract, which the Guardians have resolved to adopt, and state my opinion of the advantages over its performance in the workhouse. Kelly, the collector for Ballyshannon division, waited on the Guardians and stated that he had just experienced a very determined rescue of cattle he had seized for rate; and that this so frequently occurred now, that unless force was given to protect him, he could not collect the balance of rate still outstanding. The magistrates who were present said they were willing to afford him every assistance, but feared the police officer would not accompany him without directions to that effect from head quarters. I think that a show of force for one day would have the effect of proving the folly of resistance, and I have no doubt that alone is required to produce again a peaceful and general payment of the rate. Up to this the collectors have been receiving from the most wealthy, and more difficulty will be experienced with those persons from whom it is now due.

The Guardians requested me to inquire whether persons guilty of permitting their families to be relieved in the workhouse are all to be sent to this county gaol; as the Union extends into three counties, they think it hard that a person whose family belongs to either of the others should be committed in Donegal, and thus throw the expense of maintaining all such cases solely upon it.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 21, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have forwarded a copy of that part of your report respecting the difficulty experienced by the collector of the Ballyshannon electoral division in the collection of the rate, to the Under-Secretary, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

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Further LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to Mr. D'ARCY :—*April 19, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration that part of your report dated the 16th ultimo, in which you request to be informed whether persons guilty of permitting their families to be relieved in the workhouse are all to be sent to the county gaol of Donegal, the Union extending into three counties, and the Guardians being of opinion that it is hard that a person whose family belongs to either of the other counties should be committed in Donegal, and thus throw the whole expense of the case upon that county.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that the question appears to be one which is for the consideration of the convicting magistrates. The Commissioners presume, however, that the gaol to which persons convicted of deserting or neglecting to maintain their families should be sent is the gaol of the county in which the offence was committed.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 19, 1848.*

Mr. GREEN, of Ballyshannon, a very extensive baker, has contracted to supply storage for rye-meal, and bake it for the use of the workhouse, at 25s. per ton, engaging to return 3200 pounds of bread for each 2240 pounds of meal (otherwise ton,) that he received from the Guardians. He stated that he might be able to make a greater return, even so much as 3300 pounds and upwards; but that he would not bind himself to more than the former quantity. The Guardians now propose to lay in a supply of rye meal from the Commissariat stores at Sligo, and have ordered 30 tons, and will make this bread the principal food of the workhouse.

I cannot suppose that it is possible to supply a cheaper article of food. The meal here, carriage included, will stand in 7*l.* 10s. per ton, baking and storage 1*l.* 5s.; and thus give 3200 pounds of bread for 8*l.* 15s., which will be but a minute fraction above one halfpenny per pound.

I am inclined to think that the supply of bread by contract, is preferable to the erection of ovens in workhouses, even were it practicable in all; here it would not be so, without building for the purpose: by the one system the cost can be exactly calculated, by the other it cannot, as fuel, &c., &c., and the other matters required (independent of meal), are supplied the workhouse in large quantities, and the precise amount of each used in the baking would not be known; add to this that no species of labour is more open to peculation, and that it would surely be practised if the most careful and constant surveillance was not exercised.

It is of course easy to enter into calculations of what each ton of meal baked would cost, or rather should cost, but I think the actual expenditure would exceed the calculation. By contract, it is an ascertained matter, that there can be no mistake about; the cost of the four-pound loaf of rye bread, at the price we pay for meal, baking, &c., being exactly 2*d.* and five-twelfths, and I am convinced that baking by contract will, on the whole, be found more economical and satisfactory.

Mr. Otway attended the Board this day, and seeing how cheaply this bread was produced, and being convinced by a specimen of it, which was exhibited, that it was wholesome and nutritious food, strongly recommended to the Guardians that it should be given in place of money for out-door relief; upon his pressing it, and plainly showing the advantage of relieving in food, it was resolved that this course should in future be adopted.

I regret to say, at this advanced period of the spring, little is yet done in the way of cropping the land. In the electoral division of Glenade, I have reason to believe, that little or no grain crop will be sown, as it is a very poor and mountain soil, and is so worn with white crops, that the people fear to sow them. Potatoes they will plant as far as they can possibly obtain seed; and the hope in their success is now very general, from the sound and healthy appearance they have preserved to the present period.

The introduction of rye bread will serve to accustom the people to a food that moory and mountain soil will produce, and which may be sown with certainty of success where barley or oats might be doubtful, and thus, in some degree, supply the loss of the potato in such districts. Laying aside altogether its economy as

workhouse food, I hold its use under the peculiar circumstances of the country as most valuable.

I would beg to remark the great benefit that might be derived from the visit of a practical instructor to this Union, and would recommend it to the notice of the Commissioners.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. D'ARCY:—*March 22, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report which refers to the use of rye bread in the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners learn, with great satisfaction, that rye bread has been introduced as an article of food for the inmates of the workhouse, and for those who are on the out-door relief lists, as the Commissioners are convinced that it will be highly beneficial to the population generally, if it is found practicable to introduce gradually a rye diet in certain parts of Ireland.

In regard to the expediency of Guardians undertaking to bake their own bread in workhouses, the Commissioners have to observe, that they have never laid down any regulation on this point, and that they deem it advisable to leave it open to the discretion of each individual Board of Guardians. The Commissioners have had occasion more than once to consider this question on which there has been ample experience; and the conclusion at which they have arrived is, that with first-rate workhouse officers bread may be baked in a workhouse with some advantages; but, on the other hand, the system opens the door to so many irregularities and to so much malversation, that it would not be found to answer, if introduced universally.

The Commissioners will communicate your views to the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society, as to the importance of sending a practical instructor in agriculture to the Union.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 2, 1848.*

I FOUND that no Board meetings had been held on the Wednesday and Friday as usual, and which have not before been omitted since I first recommended to the Guardians the adoption of that measure. I found it impossible to transact the business as it arose unless this was done, without the risk of its getting into arrear, and at the same time it was a security against provisional relief becoming extensive, as few cases, although they might be urgent, could be so sudden that they required it without an order of the Board, where its decision might be obtained three times a-week.

Under these circumstances, I impressed on the Board the necessity of regular meetings in future, three times, or at least twice a-week, and I have every reason to believe they will again regularly hold them.

Tenders were received for the supply of rye-meal bread to be given as out-door relief in place of money, and Mr. Greene, of Ballyshannon, was declared the contractor at 3d. the 4lb. loaf, to be delivered at the depôts in each division to the relieving officers; and I must say I think this very cheap, when the carriage is taken into account.

I am happy to say, that the use of this bread, as food in the workhouse, is found to answer, and that the general health of the establishment has improved within the past fortnight, which shows that it is wholesome, and if not so palatable as other food, it will become an additional test of destitution.

The collection of the rate is not so far forward as I expected, and proves I was right in the opinion I expressed to the Commissioners in January, that if the spring sowing commenced before its completion, greater difficulty would be experienced; still, on the whole, I cannot complain. 6037*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* having been paid to the treasurer from the 18th of December last up to the 1st instant; thus in a period of little more than three months 1211*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* has been collected more than what was paid during the four years and a-half preceding the 29th of September last, as up to that date the sum brought to account amounted only to 4825*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, and I think this remarkable as evidencing what may be done by showing a determination to enforce the payment of rate without respect to persons; and I am glad to say, that the Board seem now satisfied of the

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benefit the Union has derived from the adoption of this course. On Saturday Mr. Dickson, in much too flattering terms as regarded me, admitted the improved condition of the Union, and many of the Guardians thanked me for the persevering determination with which I had urged the collection of the rate against them as well as others; being now convinced of the benefit of that course, although at first they had spoken to me, and of me, in no very measured terms.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the resident magistrate to whom I applied for protection to Kelly, the collector for the Ballyshannon division, on a sworn information, refused till he applied to head quarters, and I would beg to impress on the Commissioners, that these delays are most eagerly seized by the people, as indications of doubt as to the enforcement of the rate. It is now a fortnight since I reported the necessity of aid, and we have not been able to obtain it since; the last week rescues were made in Kinlough, Churchill, and Innismacsaint, and I do believe it to be in consequence of the collector having been foiled in this division. In fact they have grown bold by success and impunity. If the aid I require for the collectors is promptly afforded, I will undertake that within a mere trifle, all the outstanding rate shall be collected; but should delays and obstruction take place in obtaining aid, I fear little indeed of what now remains due will be recovered.

When the rescues were made, had instant protection been given to the collector to enable him to levy a distress next day, it would have had a salutary effect, and we should not have had those which have followed.

I trust that the Commissioners will be good enough to give this matter immediate attention, as it is important that further delay should not take place.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 6, 1848.*

The Commissioners will forward a copy of your report to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 9, 1848.*

THE collector of the Ballintra division suffered rescues of cattle distrained in five separate cases on Friday, and I am informed was much abused and beaten. Had more prompt assistance been rendered when the collector for the Ballyshannon division swore informations, matters would not now wear so threatening an aspect, and I again must repeat my conviction, that a very little determination exhibited in the first instance would have saved much trouble now, and every day that passes without steps being taken to uphold the collectors, and enforce the law will but increase the difficulty.

The health of the inmates of the workhouse is much improved, and the number in the fever sheds and infirmary considerably decreased; on the 11th of March, 227 were under medical treatment, and on the 8th instant, 112.

Fever is on the increase generally through the country, and it cannot be expected that the workhouse should be exempt.

The schoolmistress has been in fever, but is now recovering.

The master is still unable to attend to his duties, and I fear his perfect convalescence is more remote than I had supposed, however, I trust, that at the farthest a week or ten days will complete his recovery.

The pressure for relief has somewhat lessened since the opening of spring labour, the number in the workhouse on the 8th being but 712, but this will not be of long duration, and from the middle of May till the 1st of September, it will again considerably increase.

I beg again to draw particular attention to the backward state of culture of the farms of the small holders. I drove during the week, some 80 or 90 miles backwards and forwards visiting schools, and it is quite alarming to see how little is done at so advanced a period; in fact, nothing is done in the way

of corn sowing, with the exception of a little near the town of Ballyshannon and Bundoran; potatoes will be planted as far as they can procure seed; some holders of four and five acres told me they would not attempt to raise any other crop, that the land was too much worn out to give corn; in some instances I found them breaking fresh lea land, and on enquiry why they did so, the reply invariably was, "the old land is not able to give a crop, and we must break this."

This state of things has entirely resulted from the loss of the potato, which was the only means they were acquainted with of manuring the land, and bringing it into that state of tilth which would render it fit to bear white crops. Unless an exertion is now made to stimulate them, and improve their knowledge in this respect, each succeeding year matters will become worse, till at last the land of the small holders will be reduced to a mere *caput mortuum*.

I am quite aware that the landlords and proprietors are the parties who should for their own sakes, as well as that of their tenantry, endeavour to remedy this state of things, but just now were a practical instructor sent here, it would have the effect of rousing the attention of the people, and I have no doubt that considerable benefit would be produced by his visit.

Little or no improvement of a permanent nature is in progress; the only persons who took money under the Land Improvement Bill are Messrs. Bloomfield Dickson and the late Captain Johnston. No Union, perhaps, in Ireland, presents at so small expense so wide a field for improvement, and this by no means of a doubtful or speculative nature; the mere drainage of the arable land alone, without attempting the reclamation of bog or mountain, would for a considerable time to come give employment, and would greatly more than double the produce of the land; three-fourths of the land I may say is literally floating in water, with falls for drainage to be had on every side, and an abundance of stone.

Complaints are daily made of the pressure of rates, and statements of the necessity of the Government doing something to assist in alleviating the burden, and this by the very persons who will by no means be induced, in the smallest degree, to clap their own shoulders to the wheel.

REPLY to the foregoing :—April 12, 1848.

THE Commissioners will communicate with his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant on the subject of the rescue to which you advert.

They will also forward an extract from your report to the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society.

MR. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS :—April 16, 1848.

I FORWARD a copy of informations sworn by Kelly, the collector for Ballyshannon division, and beg to impress on the Commissioners that unless assistance is given at once, the collection of the rate may be considered at an end in this Union. Messrs. Atkinson, Davis, Allingham, and Dickson, the magistrates who were in attendance as *ex-officio* Guardians on Friday and Saturday, all said they did not consider that the collector's life would be safe, did he attempt further to levy distresses, and I am decidedly of opinion, had a little assistance been afforded earlier, it would have obviated the necessity for much greater now; those who have paid their rates, complain and think fairly that they are or will be sufferers, should the law not be fully enforced against those who are now giving opposition, and I would respectfully impress on the Commissioners the importance of prompt and vigorous aid.

REPLY to the foregoing :—April 18, 1848.

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have transmitted a copy of that portion of your report which relates to opposition to the collection of rate, together with a copy of the depositions of the collectors forwarded by you, to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. D'ARCY:—*April 20, 1848.*

ADVERTING to their letter of the 18th instant, in reply to your communication on the subject of the collection of rates in Ballyshannon Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they are desirous that whenever a collector has reasonable grounds for requiring the assistance of the police or military in the discharge of his duty, he should make formal depositions for that purpose accordingly before magistrates, and if these depositions are disregarded, the Commissioners do not doubt that his Excellency will deal with the case as the circumstances may require.

The depositions of Edward Kelly and James Flanagan transmitted by you in your letter of the 16th instant, do not seem to the Commissioners to be a formal foundation for requesting the assistance of the police, but to have been rather a foundation for proceeding against the parties mentioned in these depositions as having violated the law.

Mr. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 23, 1848.*

SATURDAY, I attended the meeting of the Board, and after the routine business had been transacted, the books of the relieving officers, &c. examined, and initialed, considerable discussion arose respecting the taking of Mr. Greene's store as an extension to the workhouse accommodation, as suggested in a letter from Dr. Simon Sheil to the Commissioners. I pointed out to the Guardians that it would be well to be prepared for the pressure which I anticipated would arise, when the work occasioned by the sowing of the crops ceased; and also stated, that I must gradually reduce the issues of food to the schools until it should finally cease the 1st of July, when there was no doubt, that many now supported by charity must then be supported by rates. The Guardians acknowledged this, and said they were quite ready to take the question of additional workhouse accommodation into consideration, but they were not at all prepared to do so on the suggestion made by Dr. Sheil; and Mr. Allingham again stated, that the store was liable to be under water at high tides, and in his opinion unfit for the purpose; however, after much discussion, the Guardians resolved to take timely steps to meet any pressure that may arise; and although in the first instance, when some months since, I proposed that they should take additional workhouse accommodation, they were much opposed to it; they now see the advantage it has been to the Union, and will, I am satisfied, readily increase its extent when it becomes necessary.

I have been anxiously looking forward to the completion of the collection of the current rate, or at least so much of it as it will be possible to make available, and I regret to say, that the hope I had entertained, that this month would have brought it to a close, will not be realized. The arrear of the last rate amounted to nearly 200*l.*, and to that, will in all probability be added 200*l.* more of this rate; so that something over 600*l.* is still outstanding, which I think it is possible to collect. In the Ballyshannon and Bandoran divisions, on which the greatest sum is still due, there are many holdings occupied as grazing farms, and these will not be stocked for the summer, until the 10th or 12th of May; so that at present, distresses cannot be found on the premises. Other cases have arisen where distresses may be found, but difficulties have arisen, and rescues have taken place, which have retarded the collection; however, as there is a handsome balance still to the credit of the Guardians, in the hands of the treasurer, this delay is not of such serious importance as it otherwise might be.

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Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 5, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of my appointment as Temporary Inspector of this Union; and I have the honour to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I arrived here upon the 3rd instant to commence the duties of my office.

I have been engaged during yesterday and to-day in visiting the Union workhouse, the state of which is very far from satisfactory. The hospital and infirmaries are crowded to excess. The men and boys had been moved to a house taken by the Guardians for additional accommodation; and the men and boys' wards are filled with women and children, who, from want of clothing, have not yet been classified, and whose appearance is truly miserable.

In the other side of the house, where the women and girls are in a degree classified, the wards are very clean; and although the clothing of the paupers is in a wretched state, they are in comparative comfort to those in the men's wards.

The Guardians having at length been induced to order a supply of clothes, they are being made as fast as possible; and I am turning my first attention to getting the paupers clothed and classified, and the repairs required in the additional house completed.

I find that the Guardians have appointed a certain number of stewards under each relieving officer, for the purpose of employing the men who are receiving out-door relief at stone-breaking.

I have directed the relieving officers to send me a return of the number of stewards appointed under each, the number of men told off to each steward, and the locality where each gang is employed. I have insisted upon every man who is receiving relief being compelled to perform a good day's work at breaking stones; and I purpose visiting each district to see my directions properly carried out.

From having been here for so very short a time, I am unable at present to state as fully as I could wish, the condition in which I find this Union; but I hope after the next Board day to make a more full and satisfactory report to the Poor Law Commissioners, and to lay before them what I have done and purpose doing; in order to have their instructions and wishes carried into effect.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 11, 1848.*

I YESTERDAY attended the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians for this Union.

There are at present 1190 paupers in the workhouse, that number being 290 more than it is intended to contain. There are 260 men and boys in that part of the additional house that is at present completed. The hospital and infirmaries are crowded to excess.

I have visited the house every day since my arrival here, and it is almost impossible to describe the disorder and confusion that exist in every part of it. In fact I can safely state, that with the exception of the clerk's office and the girls' school there is not one department of the house in which the business is carried on in the manner in which it ought to be.

The Guardians appear hitherto to have performed their duty in a most negligent and irregular manner. There is no entry in the visiting-book since the year 1846, and I understand that although Visiting Committees were frequently formed at the meetings of the Board they rarely if ever made an inspection of the workhouse.

A supply of clothing for the paupers has long been required, but the Board delayed so long in ordering it that at present nearly one half of the inmates of the house wear their own clothes, and consequently cannot be classified; and those that have the workhouse dress are almost in rags. However I trust that

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in less than a fortnight this will be remedied, as the Guardians have at length consented to order a supply of materials, which are being made up as fast as possible.

The master has only been appointed a few weeks, and although very inexperienced is an active intelligent man, and seems most anxious to do his best, and I think that when he has had a little more practice he will perform his duty satisfactorily.

I have assembled all the relieving officers of the Union, and have explained to them the manner in which the test of stone-breaking is to be applied to those men receiving relief under the 2nd section of the Act. I directed them to require from each of the stewards appointed to superintend the different gangs a return at the end of every week, stating the number of days' work performed by every man, and that for every day that a man has omitted to come to work, a day's rations is to be stopped from himself and his family.

I propose visiting every district myself, and examining the relieving officers and stewards' books, and I have no doubt that when the system is rigidly enforced, the numbers receiving relief will very quickly diminish.

I find that of the rate struck in May, 1847, there is at present uncollected a sum of about 9435/. I have directed all the collectors to assemble here on Wednesday next, and to have a list made out of the persons who have not yet paid the amount of their rate. I shall by that means ascertain who are the principal defaulters, and what course it will be advisable to pursue in order to enforce the collection of the remainder.

I stated yesterday to the Board of Guardians the condition in which I found the house, and requested that they would appoint a Visiting Committee who would undertake to inspect it regularly. A Committee was accordingly formed, who have promised to attend twice during the week, and I purpose accompanying them, and trust that in that way we shall by degrees get the house cleaner and into better order, and the inmates properly classified.

I then suggested that this Committee should be empowered by the Guardians to make what arrangements they considered necessary for getting the additional house completed, and prepared for the reception of women as well as men. I laid before the Board a plan that I considered advisable, by which the house might be arranged so as to contain about 400 men and boys, and 140 women; and if my proposal was carried, we should have room for and be able to apply the workhouse test to about 100 men with their families, who are now in receipt of relief under section 2 of the Act. This was also consented to by the Board, and I hope in less than a fortnight to have my intentions in that respect carried into effect.

The Board of Guardians quite agreed with me as to the disorderly state of the workhouse, and I am happy to say that I found them most willing to second me in everything that I proposed for its improvement; and if the same feeling should continue to exist, I have no doubt but that I shall be able very soon to effect the changes that I wish, and that the affairs of the workhouse and the Union will assume a very different aspect.

I trust that the course which I am at present pursuing will meet with the approbation of the Poor Law Commissioners.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 17, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners approve the steps you have taken, and they trust that your presence and exertions in Cashel Union will be the means of producing a more satisfactory state of things than at present exists in that Union.

With reference to your statement that there are at present 1190 paupers in the workhouse—290 more than it was intended to contain—the Commissioners request you will be so good as to state whether any part of this number is contained in additional buildings recently obtained by the Guardians. The Commissioners on the 24th March last issued an order limiting the number to be accommodated in the buildings which were then available to 900, and they have had such decisive experience of the evil effects of over-crowding workhouses that they could not give their consent to the reception of any greater number than 900, unless additional accommodation were provided.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 14, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that the men and boys, to the number of about 270, who had been removed from the workhouse to the auxiliary house in this town, broke out this morning, and proceeded in a body (shouting and creating great disturbance) to the workhouse, into which they forced their way through the gates and over the walls, and took possession of the men's yard and old men's ward.

The master and porter endeavoured to make them leave, but were unable to do so, as the men positively refused to move.

Upon hearing of the circumstance I immediately went to the workhouse and spoke to the men, and asked them the reason of their conduct, and they said the place they were put to live in was unhealthy, and they would rather die than return there. I endeavoured to collect a sufficient number of the Guardians to form a Board; but being unable to do so I went to Mr. French, the stipendiary magistrate, and requested he would send a sufficient number of police to clear the house and yards. He immediately turned out the police, and accompanied me back to the workhouse, when we found that the men and boys had left, and it was thought had gone back to the auxiliary house. We followed them, and found that about one-half had returned; the rest are still about the town, but I have no doubt will come back before night.

With the assistance of the master, we selected four men who had appeared most active in the disturbance, and in forcing the gates: these we sent to the bridewell, and the master swore informations against them. The matter stands thus till the meeting of the Guardians on Thursday next.

I do not know what can be done to the remainder of the men for their disorderly conduct. It would be impossible to punish them all, by turning them out of the workhouse with their families, as they would starve; and I have to request that the Poor Law Commissioners will be pleased to give me their instructions upon the subject.

I am sorry to say that the male paupers in this workhouse are very unruly, and have not the slightest respect for the authority of the master; but I hope that punishing severely the leaders of the disturbance to-day will have a good effect.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 16, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners approve of the course adopted by you in obtaining the services of the police, and in endeavouring to collect a sufficient number of Guardians to form a Board; and they regret that you were not enabled to obtain the immediate attendance of a sufficient number of Guardians to constitute a Board.

In regard to the paupers of the workhouse the Commissioners would suggest that, besides the ringleaders, any other individuals amongst them who were distinguished by taking a prominent part in the uproar might be taken before the magistrates for punishment under the 58th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act.

The Commissioners await your report of the proceedings of the Guardians at their meeting to-morrow.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 18, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I yesterday attended the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians.

The numbers in the house are 1138; being 238 more than it ought to contain. There are 227 in the auxiliary house, in addition to those in the workhouse.

A contract has been entered into with a builder in this town for the completion of the auxiliary house, which I trust will be ready on the 4th of March. I purpose then removing the nursery there, and reducing the workhouse to its proper number, viz., 900.

I am of opinion that the present unhealthy and disorderly state of the house is mainly to be attributed to the fact of the Guardians not having complied with

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the order of the 4th of March last, limiting the number to be admitted to the house to 900.

The hospital, I regret to say, is still crowded to excess, and a very bad fever has made its appearance among the paupers, which affects their head almost immediately, and they become quite delirious, and have to be secured to their beds a few hours after they are first taken ill.

I have visited the workhouse almost daily, and I am glad to say that a slight change for the better is already to be seen in the arrangements.

On Saturday last about 172 of the paupers received new clothing, and as it is issued to them they are classified.

I have directed the master to have the house whitewashed from top to bottom; and glaziers are at present employed in putting some perforated zinc into all the windows. I have had small holes bored in the bottom of all the doors, and thus ensured the proper ventilation of the different wards.

The Guardians at their meeting yesterday resolved to have the whole of the woodwork of the house painted anew, and the whole of the drains and cess-pools cleaned out; and the clerk has advertised for proposals to have the same performed by contract.

On Wednesday last I assembled all the collectors and examined their books. I found that there appeared a sum of about 9435*l.* uncollected—but of this about 679*l.* was not included in their warrants, as it was arrears due by former collectors which could never be recovered, therefore the amount still to be got in is about 8756*l.* I stated to the collectors that they were bound by their bond to have had the whole collected by December last; and that therefore if I found that any of them made any unnecessary delay, I should recommend the Board of Guardians to proceed against them or their securities for the amount.

I stated to the Guardians yesterday that the Commissioners had not sanctioned the burial ground adjoining the hospital in the workhouse grounds, and therefore I requested it might be given up and another one procured; this they resolved to do.

I also informed the Board of Guardians that the Poor Law Commissioners would not sanction Stokes' house, at Fethard, being used as a temporary workhouse; and I recommended that it should be given up forthwith. The Board then came to a resolution, that having had possession of the house for six weeks, they were bound to pay the owner compensation. The sum of 40*l.* was awarded to him, as the Board considered that he had been put to great loss and inconvenience by the alterations he had made in his premises, for the purpose of letting them for a workhouse.

With regard to the outbreak of the male paupers on Monday last, the four men who had been arrested were brought up before the magistrates, at the petty sessions on Wednesday last, when I also attended. The magistrates were of opinion that the only punishment they could inflict would be imprisonment without hard labour (there being no tread-mill in the gaol); and as that was very slight punishment, they recommended that the men should be allowed to return to the workhouse, and be dealt with in the same manner as the remainder of the paupers. I am happy to say, however, that the fact of the police being brought into the workhouse on Monday last, and taking some of the men prisoners, has had a very good effect. The paupers have since been much more orderly and show more respect for the authority of the officers.

Owing to the absence of some of the members of the Relief Committee, the Guardians deferred taking the building of the temporary fever hospital into consideration until their next meeting. I will then inform the Poor Law Commissioners of the result.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 23, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement, that there are 238 more in the workhouse than sanctioned by the Commissioners' order of 4th March last, I am directed by the Commissioners to request that you will be so good as to bring the evil of over-crowding the workhouse strongly before the Guardians, and that you will take care that no further admissions are allowed until the number is reduced to that sanctioned by the Commissioners' order.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:— *February 25, 1848.*

I HAVE to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I yesterday attended the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians.

The number in the workhouse at present is 1,127; and the auxiliary house 207. I regret to say that the hospital is still very much crowded, and that the numbers attacked with fever do not appear to diminish.

The workhouse, I am happy to say, is becoming gradually cleaner and into better order; the inmates are nearly all clothed; and I have caused all the children between the ages of two and five to be formed into an infant school, and have moved some of the youngest girls into it, and thus given more room in the girls' school-room, which before was very much crowded. The nursery has been moved into the probationary wards, to remain there until the auxiliary house is completed, when they will be moved into it.

The house is being lime-washed all through; and the Guardians have this day entered into a contract to have the wood-work painted. When that is done and the numbers in the house reduced to the proper complement I trust that the establishment will assume a very different appearance from what it does at present.

The amount of rate collected during the last week was 283/. I have pressed upon the collectors the necessity of immediately enforcing the payment of all that is due; and I have given them instructions respecting every case in which they had any doubt as to how to act. As far as I have seen, they appear to be tolerably active and efficient in the performance of their duty.

I stated to the Guardians that the period named in the order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied poor would expire on the 29th instant; they resolved to apply to have it renewed for two months longer. This I consider to be necessary, as the number receiving relief in this Union under the 2nd section of the Act is very great, and at present I do not see any prospect of its diminishing.

The Guardians also passed the following resolutions, viz.:—

That an assistant-clerk be appointed at a salary of 25/. a-year.

That an additional fever hospital be erected in the workhouse grounds.

That the walls of the workhouse be raised to the height of 10½ feet the whole way round.

With respect to the assistant-clerk, I consider the appointment to be a very good one. The person appointed is most efficient and intelligent, and had been employed as an assistant for two or three years by the late clerk. He during that time was a pauper boy in the house, and the Guardians have now struck him off the list of paupers and appointed him (as aforesaid) assistant-clerk. I think that one clerk would be unable to perform the work required in this Union; and the Guardians have made a very judicious selection in the appointment of an assistant. They would have deferred doing this until after the election of a clerk on Thursday next, but by their at once appointing the assistant he can also perform the duties of returning officer.

With regard to the additional fever hospital, I stated to the Guardians that as they were about to build sheds for the accommodation of the patients at present in the temporary fever hospital, it would be most advisable that they should be made of a sufficient size to enable the fever patients at present in the infirmary to be moved into them, as it was not right or safe that fever cases should be thus left in the body of the house. It was therefore resolved that they should be built for 120 patients, and according to the plans sent last year by the Relief Commissioners to the different Relief Committees.

As to the workhouse walls being raised to the 10½ feet all round, this I consider to be absolutely necessary. The walls in some places are so low that any one can get over them; and on one night last week they were crossed by some boys who took several loaves of bread from the store by breaking the window and putting their arms through it. Unless the walls are raised it is impossible to prevent the paupers getting in or out of the workhouse as often as they please.

The test of stone-breaking is working very well in most districts of this Union. Numbers of men do not attend to perform their day's work, and consequently lose their rations and that of their families.

The order for the loan of implements from the Board of Works has not yet

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arrived, which causes some inconvenience, as the implements at present in use are only borrowed and not nearly sufficient for the number of men at work.

In compliance with the instructions contained in the letter from the Commissioners of the 18th instant, I represented the necessity of paying the sum due by the Union to the Audit Fund. The clerk was accordingly directed to pay the amount forthwith.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 1, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have extended the order authorizing the continuance of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor until the 18th instant.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners trust that it will not be found necessary to continue out-door relief to the able-bodied poor for so long a period as proposed by the Guardians, and the Commissioners trust that at the expiration of that period there will be sufficient employment to enable the Guardians to dispense with the authority conferred by the present order.

The Commissioners understand that the requisite orders for implements for employing the able-bodied paupers were forwarded to you from the office of the Board of Works on the 25th ultimo, and they presume therefore that you received them after you wrote your report.

As regards the appointment of assistant-clerk, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they have felt bound to decline giving their sanction to John Tubridy's appointment, as they invariably object on general principles to the appointment of persons who have been paupers in the workhouse to paid offices in the Union.

The Commissioners have written to the Guardians to this effect, and have requested them to reconsider John Tubridy's appointment.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 3, 1848.*

I THINK that in the beginning of next week we shall be able to move all the youngest children, and some of the women into the auxiliary house, and have also room to admit a number of able-bodied men and their families. It will be seen by the minutes of the proceedings of the Guardians that there are 1108 in the workhouse, and 195 in the auxiliary house.

The numbers in the workhouse have decreased by 19 since last week, which leaves only 208 at present in the house, over the proper number.

I visit the house continually, and am happy to find its appearance daily improving. I have had holes bored at the bottom of all the doors as suggested by Mr. Wilkinson, and am getting perforated zinc inserted into all the windows, and find great benefit to arise from these alterations. I also found that the water-pipes and drains were stopped up; these I have had repaired, and the house is now supplied with water from the cisterns, instead of having it brought in (as was the custom) by a horse and cart at great expense. The Guardians have entered into a contract to have the cesspools cleaned out, which is very much required and is to be done immediately.

I have turned my attention very much to the manner in which the test of stone-breaking is carried out, knowing that its being strictly enforced is the only way to keep improper persons off the out-door relief list.

I am glad to find that upon the whole it is working satisfactorily. I require the relieving officers to send me in a weekly return of the number of men who ought to be at work in the different districts, and the number of those men who were absent during the week. In the week ending Saturday, February 26, there were in this Union 1215 men on the stewards' lists, who should have attended daily at the work; and at the issue of meal on the Monday following, there appeared to have been 1040 men's rations (besides those of their families) stopped for non-attendance at work during the previous week.

I drew the attention of the Guardians to the circular of the Commissioners of the 25th of February, directing lists of the persons receiving relief to be printed and posted. The relieving officers have been directed to prepare the lists accordingly.

I called the notice of the Guardians to the fact that in September last they had

received an order from the Commissioners directing the salary of Richard Keefe, the relieving officer of the Knockgraffon district, to be raised from 25*l.* to 35*l.* a year. This has never been complied with, and upon my bringing it before the Board yesterday, they said they considered 25*l.* a year sufficient pay for the work he had to perform, and would not raise it. I would beg to bring this before the notice of the Commissioners, and request their instructions on the subject.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to your request for instructions in regard to the salary of the relieving officer of Knockgraffon district, which has been fixed by the Commissioners at 35*l.* per annum, while the Guardians refuse to pay a higher salary than 25*l.*, I am to state that the regulation of the salaries of Union officers is by law vested in the Commissioners, and that as a general rule they have determined that 35*l.* ought to be the minimum salary paid to any relieving officer. There have been some few exceptions to this rule, and the Commissioners will readily attend to any statement which the Cashel Board of Guardians may wish to make on the subject in the present instance. But in the absence of any peculiar circumstances to justify a departure from the rule laid down, the Commissioners will deem it desirable to adhere to their former decision, and they propose therefore to issue a sealed order, fixing the salary at 35*l.* per annum, which order will be enforceable by mandamus in the Court of Queen's Bench. Before issuing such order, however, the Commissioners wish you to invite the Guardians to make any statement in support of their views, and the Commissioners will also be glad to receive your own views on the subject.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

I HAVE to report for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I yesterday attended the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union.

It will be seen that a great difference appears on the minutes between the number in the house this week and the last, the reason of which is, that since the resignation of the last master, none of the workhouse books could be made up; and a clerk has ever since been employed in putting them into order. They were only finished on Friday last, and I then ordered the house to be counted out, and found that the number on the books exceeded by 154 the number actually in the house; and consequently all the returns lately sent up to the Commissioners have been incorrect. The master's books are not quite correct and in good order, and the number at present in the house and hospital is 928; and as the house and hospital are calculated to hold 1019, it is now 91 under its proper number.

The auxiliary house is now completed, and capable of containing 580 persons. There are at present only 217 in it, and there is room for 363 more: consequently we can admit now 454 persons; and the relieving officers were directed to strike that number off their out-door relief list, and to send them into the workhouse.

With reference to the circular of the Poor Law Commissioners, No. 219, dated March 2, directing me to report upon the subject of discontinuing out-door relief to the able-bodied poor upon the 18th instant, I have to state, that I consider that from the immense number of poor in this Union, receiving relief under the 2nd section of the Act, and from the great want of employment in this part of the country, the greatest distress would ensue, if they are deprived of the relief they are at present receiving.

There are beyond 1000 men and their families, on the out-door relief lists; and I regret to say that but a very small portion of these are likely at present to be employed in the cultivation of the land.

Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that it will be absolutely necessary that the order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied poor in this Union, should be extended beyond the 18th instant.

The Guardians yesterday entered into a contract to have a fever shed, capable of containing 120 patients, built in the workhouse grounds adjoining the fever hospital.

This is quite necessary, as the hospitals are crowded to excess; and there are

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some cases of fever in the infirmary, which ought not to be left there; and I think it most advisable that the additional shed should be commenced as soon as possible.

I stated to the Guardians that the Commissioners would insist upon the salary of Richard Keffe, the relieving officer for Knockgraffon electoral division, being raised to 35*l.* a year, unless the Guardians could show any good reason for not doing so. They said that the work to be performed in that district was very trifling, compared to many others, and that should he resign there would be no difficulty in procuring a competent person to fill his place at 25*l.* a year.

This may be the case, but at the same time I think it can hardly be expected that any man can properly perform the duties of relieving officer, and give up his whole time for that purpose, for so small a remuneration; and if that system were acted upon, an inferior class of men could only be obtained to fill the situation; and the business connected with the office would not be carried on in a correct or satisfactory manner.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

WITH reference to your recommendation that the order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied should be extended, I am to state that the Commissioners will give directions for its extension to the 1st April; and I am to request that you will report to the Commissioners whether in your opinion the state of the Union will then be such that the provisions of the accompanying order to Listowel Union would be carried into effect.

It will be observed, that under that order single men and men with only two children would be thrown on their own resources.

As regards the objection of the Guardians to the payment of 35*l.* per annum to the relieving officer for the Knockgraffon district, I am to state that as the district is small the Commissioners will sanction the payment of only 30*l.* a year, in order to meet the views of the Guardians.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I yesterday attended the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union.

There being now room in the auxiliary house for about 170 men and their families, the relieving officers have been engaged, according to their instructions, in striking that number off their out-door relief lists, and offering them admission into the house.

This, however, has been refused by most of those to whom it was offered, and they have consequently received no relief this week. This clearly proves how much more efficacious the workhouse test is than any other, and the great advantage derived from being able to apply it to any persons respecting whose claims for relief the relieving officers have any doubt. The relieving officers have been directed to continue giving tickets for the house, until it is filled; and, consequently, I have no doubt the reduction on the out-door relief lists, during next week and the one following, will be very great.

I have, this week, examined minutely the collectors' books, and find an arrear of rate to be collected, amounting to about 6818*l.* I have given the collectors instructions as to how to act, with regard to any cases concerning which they had any doubt. They are, in general, getting in the rates as well as can be expected, but, in one instance, in which I thought the collector was not as diligent as he might be, I brought him before the Board of Guardians, when it was decided that he should be only allowed one month more to complete the collection, and, failing in that, should be proceeded against, as he was bound by his bond to have the amount collected within a certain time, which period has long since expired.

I have been also employed in giving the new clerk all the assistance in my power in filling up the different returns required by the Poor Law Commissioners, especially the one referred to in Circular No. 256, relating to the probable expenditure of the Union, up to the end of next September.

I have inspected the workhouse two or three times in every week. It is

improving daily, as regards cleanliness, order, and the clothing and classification of the inmates.

It is not yet quite in the state I should wish it to be; but as soon as the fever-shed is built, which will enable us to remove the patients at present in the infirmary, and as soon as the cleaning of the cess-pools and the painting of the house is completed, I trust that the whole establishment will assume quite a different appearance to what it hitherto has had.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 21, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, in which you request that I will report to the Poor Law Commissioners whether it is my opinion that the state of this Union will be such upon the 1st of April that the provisions of the accompanying order to the Listowel Union could be carried into effect.

In reply I have the honour to inform you that I consider that, from the increased accommodation provided in the workhouse, and from the employment that will be given by the 1st of April, that single men and married men with only two children may at that time be refused out-door relief. But I am also of opinion that it will be quite necessary that the order should be extended for persons at present receiving relief under section 2 of the Act, but who are not included in either of the above-named classes.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to inform you that, on the expiration of the present order, the Commissioners will issue an order similar to that issued to Listowel Union, to which you refer. If, however, in the meantime any circumstances should come to your knowledge which may induce you to change your views, as stated in your report, the Commissioners request you will be so good as to report at once to them on the subject.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

THE additional room that has been provided in the workhouse has been the means of greatly reducing the number on the relief lists. About 600 men have been offered admission, and refusing it, have been struck off the list, and there is still room for a great number.

The persons to whom the workhouse was first offered were single men, and in almost every instance it has been refused; and I recommended to the Guardians, at their meeting to-day, that the relieving officers should be directed to offer it next to married men with only two children. This was done; so that next week these two classes will either be received into the workhouse, or thrown upon their own resources.

In visiting part of this Union the day before yesterday, I was most happy to find that one electoral division (viz. Cloneen) was very much relieved by all the able-bodied men being given employment by the Earl of Clare, who is going to drain the whole of his property in that part of the country, and is about to expend a large sum for the purpose. This will be of the greatest possible benefit to the division; and it is very much to be regretted that works of the same description are not carried on in other parts of this district.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 26, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, referring to my report of the 21st instant, in which I had stated "that I considered that relief might be refused to single men and men with only two children," and informing me that the Poor Law Commissioners would issue an order to that effect when the present order for out-door relief expires, and directing me if any circumstances came to my knowledge for inducing me to alter my opinion, as stated in that letter, to report to the Commissioners accordingly.

In reply I have the honour to state, that I find the number on the relief lists of

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the above-mentioned classes to be much greater than I then had reason to think. The relieving officers have been directed by the Guardians, at their last meeting, to offer them the workhouse; and I think, from the information I have received from the relieving officers, that there is a possibility of a sufficient number of them availing themselves of it to fill the house, and some of the remainder might suffer greatly from distress if it was out of the power of the Guardians to afford them out-door relief.

Under these circumstances I would respectfully recommend to the Poor Law Commissioners that married men with only two children should not be excluded in the order about to be issued, extending the out-door relief in this Union. At the same time I will take care that this class is not relieved out of the workhouse while there is any room available within it, and that the order allowing them to receive out-door relief shall only be acted upon in case of urgent necessity.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 29, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have directed that an order be issued continuing for a month all the authority to grant out-door relief under the 20th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act.

Single able-bodied men will, however, in accordance with your suggestion, be excluded.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 31, 1848.*

THE relieving officers have, during the last week, in compliance with their directions, refused out-door relief, and offered the workhouse to all single men, and married men with only two children. These persons, however, have not as yet availed themselves of the permission to come into the house, and there is, to-day, room for above 200 paupers.

Previous to the resolution of the Guardians to refuse the out-door relief to these two classes, (viz., single men, and men with only two children), they had directed the relieving officers to offer the test of the workhouse to a certain number receiving relief under section 2 of the Act; most of these persons refused it, and some of them were men with very large families; and at the meeting of the Guardians yesterday they came to the determination (as will be seen by the minutes), to re-admit such persons on the out-door relief lists. I do not consider that this was advisable, while there was any room available in the house, and I endeavoured to dissuade the Board from doing so, as although I know that numbers of the people are in the greatest distress, I think that out-door relief should not be given to them when they refuse to come into the workhouse. I do not think, however, that under existing circumstances, this proceeding is of material consequence, as during the ensuing week the house may become full by the admission of those persons with only two children; and should that not be the case, I will, at the next meeting of the Guardians, get them to order the relieving officers to refuse out-door relief to men with only *three* children, and so on by degrees either fill the house, or strike off the relief lists all those at present relieved under section 2 of the Act.

I am glad to be able to say, that the state of the workhouse is, of late, very much improved. It is now kept exceedingly clean, and the entire building is being whitewashed and painted, which will soon be completed. The paupers are all properly classified, and I have induced the Guardians to order a sufficient supply of clothing which is being made up in the house, and a number of the elder boys are employed under a master in tailoring and shoemaking, where they are taught their trade.

The paupers (with the exception of those admitted during the week) are all clothed, and they are now perfectly healthy both as regards adults and children. I do not mean that the hospital and infirmary are not occupied, for they unfortunately are still very much crowded; but when the fever-shed which the Guardians have resolved to build is erected, it will be of the greatest possible benefit to the house, as the fever patients at present in the infirmary may then be moved out, and that building used as it was originally intended it should be.

As the boys have been moved to the auxiliary house, I have formed in their school-room an infant-school composed of children under five years of age. This is in charge of the mistress as well as the girls school, and we have found it to be

of the greatest advantage, as it has reduced the numbers in the girls' school, which before was very much crowded. The paupers, both men and women, are kept employed all day; but, during this week, I found a slight symptom of insubordination among some of the men. The assistant-master reported to me that two of them refused to work, as they were ordered, at breaking freestone. I went with him, and in my presence they refused to work; I then immediately ordered the master to put them in confinement according to Article 41 of the Workhouse Rules, and to bring them before the Board at their next meeting; this was done yesterday, and they were committed to gaol by order of a magistrate, to be prosecuted at the petty sessions in accordance with the 58th section of Act 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 56. This will be a good example to any of the paupers who might be inclined to act in the same manner, and I have no doubt will quite prevent a recurrence of such conduct.

I have been able to effect a most useful change in the manner in which the Board of Guardians perform their business. They used not to meet till near 1 o'clock, and then a great part of the day was lost in unnecessary discussions.

This always made it necessary to have an adjourned meeting next day, when they used to sign the relieving officers' books, and when there were generally only three Guardians present. This also was a great loss of time to the relieving officers.

I have now induced the Board to meet at 10 o'clock, and to examine the relieving officers' books before any other business is transacted; and I endeavour, as far as possible, to have whatever is before the Board attended to, and to prevent all useless discussion. The consequence is, there is much more system and regularity in the proceedings, and the necessity for an adjourned meeting is obviated.

I may also remark here, that in this as well as in everything else I have been engaged in, I have received the greatest aid and co-operation from Mr. Keating, the Chairman, who is always most ready to devote his time and influence in assisting me to carry out whatever I may consider beneficial to the Union.

I have, during this week, carefully examined the collectors' books.

They have collected during the week beyond 450*l.*, and I think are using their best exertions to collect the remainder.

They have great difficulty to contend with from the extreme poverty of numbers of the rate-payers, and in parts of the Union can obtain nothing without distraining.

There are one or two points respecting the collection of rates in this town, concerning which, I would request the instructions of the Commissioners.

In the case of a house being untenanted for several years, is the landlord, during that time, obliged to pay rates for it; and if not, when it becomes occupied, can the collector distrain for the arrears due upon it as well as for the present rate?

Also—Does a court-house come under the head of “buildings used exclusively for public purposes,” and become thus exempt from rate?

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 5, 1848.*

THE Commissioners entirely approve of the prompt steps taken by you to check the insubordination which was apparently arising in the workhouse. They think, also, that the change in the hour of meeting from 1 o'clock, P.M., to 10 o'clock, A.M., as suggested by you to the Guardians is judicious.

With reference to your questions regarding the collection of the rates, I am to state, that the Commissioners are of opinion that a house unoccupied at the time the rate was made was not properly rateable; and although a rate is payable until quashed or amended on appeal, the Commissioners would not recommend the Guardians, under the circumstances stated, the house having been untenanted for several years, to take any proceedings to enforce payment.

This observation, however, does not apply to a furnished house in possession of a caretaker, for which, when untenanted, the landlord is liable to be rated as an occupier.

The Commissioners believe that a court-house comes within the proviso to the 63rd section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, and is therefore exempt from poor-rates, except as regards any beneficial occupation beyond that which is necessary to the discharge of the duties of the offices connected with it.

The Commissioners enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter which they

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have this day addressed to the Board of Guardians in reference to their resolution to re-admit on the out-door relief lists certain parties who had refused relief in the workhouse.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*April 5, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received a report from their inspector, Mr. Robinson, in which he adverts to a resolution passed by the Board of Guardians of Cashel Union on Thursday last, to re-admit on the out-door relief lists a number of able-bodied men who had previously been receiving out-door relief, but having been offered admission into the workhouse had refused it.

The Commissioners deem it necessary to request that the Guardians will be so good as to re-consider this resolution. It appears obvious on a consideration of the terms of the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, that the Legislature did not contemplate out-door relief being given to the able-bodied in any case in which the workhouse could be made available for their relief.

Now, in the present instance, it appears there was room in the workhouse for above 200 persons, and although the Guardians have, at present, authority to administer out-door relief under the 2nd section, the Commissioners think that that authority should not be resorted to in new cases, while there is so large an amount of available room in the workhouse.

The Commissioners attach much importance to this point as they fear the tendency of the Guardians' resolution may be, to materially weaken the efficacy of the workhouse as a means of checking and preventing imposition and fraud. All experience has shown that many able-bodied men will accept relief out of the workhouse, rather than endeavour to support themselves and their families by independent labour, but that rather than accept relief in the workhouse they will use every means in their power to obtain employment; and it appears to be proved by experience, that if they failed in doing so and are really destitute, they will accept relief in the workhouse. The workhouse thus acts as a stimulus to industry in such cases, but it would not so act and might be altogether inefficacious, if it were generally supposed by the able-bodied poor, that on refusing relief in the workhouse, they would be granted relief out of it.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 7, 1848.*

THE Commissioners' letter was read to the Board, stating their disapproval of the course pursued by the Guardians at their last meeting, viz., admitting persons on the out-door relief, who had refused the workhouse test. I pointed out to the Guardians the absolute necessity of applying the workhouse test to persons on the out-door relief list, and the injustice towards the rate-payers, of permitting out-door relief to be going on, while there was any room available in the house, and I induced them to pass a resolution, directing the relieving officers to cease re-admitting on their out-door relief lists, those who had refused the workhouse test, and further, not to give out-door relief under section 2 of the Act, to any fresh applicants, until the workhouse is filled. I am sorry to say that I met a great deal of opposition from several of the Guardians respecting offering the test of the workhouse to the poor, some of them said, that when a man came into the workhouse, his own house was always pulled down, and thus he was made a permanent pauper: others said, that it was a greater expense relieving a person in the house than out of it; and on my wishing them to order the test to be applied this week, to that class, viz., men with only four in family, they came to the determination to defer doing so until the next Board-day. They have, however, promised that if by that time the house is not filled, they will issue that order, and, as I think there is little probability of its being then full, I will bring the matter again before the Board, and will inform the Commissioners of the result. There is at present room in the house for beyond 200 persons.

I attended at the petty sessions this week, where the men whom I mentioned in my last report as having refused to obey the master, were brought up before the magistrates; one was sentenced to a month, the other to three weeks' imprisonment with hard labour; there has been since then no appearance of insubordination among the men, and they are now very obedient and orderly.

I have to request that you would inform me, whether the Commissioners will sanction the building of the timber shed the Guardians have resolved to erect in the workhouse grounds. I am sorry to say, that I fear that fever is rather increasing than diminishing in this country, and this, as well as the crowded state of our infirmary, makes it most desirable that this shed should be completed as soon as possible.

I have also to request that you would have the goodness to have forwarded to me, an account of what is due by this Union and each electoral division respectively, for advances made to them by Government, under the Temporary Relief Act. There is no document whatever in the hands of the Guardians showing this; and I can get no information here upon the subject: and as the Guardians purpose, either this month or next, striking a new rate, it is essential to know the amount for which the Union is in debt, in order that repayment of the advances may be provided for, in any electoral division, in which the rate required for ordinary expenditure does not amount to 2s. 11d. in the pound.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 12, 1848.*

WITH reference to the objections made by the Guardians to offering the workhouse to the able-bodied, I am to request that you will again urge the views of the Commissioners in this respect on the Board of Guardians, and explain to them that the point is one on which neither the Commissioners nor the Guardians have any discretionary power. You will observe that the second section of the Irish Relief Extension Act is clear and express upon this point, and only empowers the Commissioners to authorize out-door relief to the able-bodied, in case it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners, that by reason of want of room in the workhouse, adequate relief cannot be afforded therein, or in case the workhouse, by reason of fever or infectious disease is unfit for the reception of poor persons. Now the Commissioners are not aware that fever or infectious disease prevails in the workhouse, and you inform them in your report that there is room for more than 200 persons; and under these circumstances, it is a question with the Commissioners, whether they ought not to rescind their order, authorizing out-door relief in the Cashel Union, under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act. The Commissioners, however, have not done so, because they do not wish to embarrass the Guardians, but at the same time, they can only consent to the continuance of the authority, on the distinct understanding that the workhouse is to be made as extensively available as possible for the relief of the able-bodied, before the authority given by the order to relieve that class out of the workhouse is resorted to.

With reference to the statement, that the expense of relieving a person in the workhouse is greater than it would be to relieve him out of it, I am to draw your attention to a letter addressed by the Commissioners to the Rathkeale Board of Guardians on this subject in November last, and printed on the Fourth Series of Papers presented to Parliament, relating to proceedings for Relief of the Distress in Ireland (page 162).

A copy of the letter in question is enclosed, as it is possible that you may not have the printed correspondence at hand.

The Commissioners trust that the prompt steps taken to put down the insubordination in the workhouse, and the punishment which has been inflicted on some of the ringleaders will have a beneficial effect on the discipline of the establishment.

With reference to the proposed timber shed for the reception of fever patients, the Commissioners do not, under the circumstances stated by you, offer any objection to the erection of the shed, but they advise that it should be so placed, and so economically constructed, as not to be reckoned as part of the workhouse buildings available for general purposes hereafter.

The Commissioners have directed that a statement be prepared, and forwarded to you, showing what is due by the Union and each electoral division, for advances under the Temporary Relief Act.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. ROBINSON:—*April 17, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a constabulary report which they have received from the Chief Secretary's department, relating to the death of Michael Dwyer on the 6th instant in the Cashel Union, and I am to request you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case.

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EXTRACT from CONSTABULARY REPORT.

County of Tipperary, S. R., Killenaule, April 10, 1848.

AN inquest was held on the 7th instant on the body of Michael Dwyer, who died on the 6th; and two of his children have since died of diarrhoea. He was receiving out-door relief.

Copy of Verdict.

That deceased died from want of a sufficiency of nutritious food after recovering from diarrhoea.

*Inspector-General, &c. &c.**JAMES MONOHAN, Sub-Inspector.*

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 19, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated April 17th, enclosing a constabulary report relative to the death on the 8th instant of Michael Dwyer in the Cashel Union, and requesting me to report to the Poor Law Commissioners as to the facts of the case; and, in reply, I have the honour to state, that I have examined the relieving officer of the electoral division of Killenaule upon the subject, and find that Michael Dwyer was receiving out-door relief for himself and his family up to the day of his death. He had applied at one time to be taken into the workhouse, and the relieving officer offered him admission for himself and his family, but this he refused, as he wished to be taken in himself and to leave his family out.

He had been ill from diarrhoea, but had never made any complaint to the relieving officer as to the description of food he was receiving.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 14, 1848.*

I AM happy to be able to state that the proceedings at the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians were much more satisfactory than those of the former meeting. I informed the Board of the contents of the Poor Law Commissioners' letter to me, respecting the continuance of out-door relief while there was any room available in the house, and I explained to them the illegality of such a proceeding, and the folly (as well as the injustice to the rate-payers) of incurring such a very great expense for out-door relief, when it might be so materially diminished by the workhouse test being properly applied.

I said I did not consider it advisable to cease giving out-door relief under section 2 of the Act all at once, but that what I wished was that it should be done by degrees, and the test offered to different classes every week (according to the size of their families), and thus to continue, until the house was filled, or the out-door relief lists cleared.

With one or two exceptions the Guardians agreed with me; and it was resolved that "the relieving officers should be directed to offer the workhouse test to, and strike off the out-door relief lists, all men with only four dependents who are at present receiving relief under section 2 of the Act."

If this does not fill the house by the next Board-day, I will recommend that the same order be issued with respect to men who have only five or six dependents. The relieving officers were also directed, for the present, not to send into the workhouse persons who were sick and infirm, and receiving relief under section 1, as it is desirable to reserve the available room in the house for the purpose of testing the able-bodied. There is at present room in the house for 204 persons.

I found that the collectors and some of the relieving officers were very irregular in their attendance at the workhouse to have their books examined by the clerk, and I, therefore, appointed the days and the hours for the attendance of each, and a resolution was passed yesterday by the Board directing them to attend accordingly; and they have all been warned that, in any instance of the order not being complied with, the officer so neglecting it will be prosecuted, in accordance with section 102 of Act 1 and 2 Vic., c. 56.

The propriety of striking a new rate was yesterday discussed by the Board. Some of the Guardians were of opinion that it should be done at once; but the majority decided that it would not be advisable to do so at present, while there is such a large amount of arrears uncollected.

There appears an arrear at present of beyond 6000*l.*, but the warrants

include 679*l.* which was embezzled by former collectors, which leaves 1531*l.*, and of this there is a great deal which can never be collected—from mistakes in the valuation, the great poverty of parts of the Union, houses that have been pulled down, &c.; and I do not think that it can be calculated that more than 4000*l.* can ever be got in from this rate.

I do not think that the collectors are neglecting their duty. I frequently and carefully examine their books, and urge upon them the necessity of making every possible exertion to compel the collection, and give them instructions as how to act in cases of any difficulty. I have to request that you would inform me of the opinion of the Poor Law Commissioners respecting the propriety of striking a new rate in this Union, under existing circumstances.

I stated to the Guardians that the Commissioners would sanction the building of the fever shed, and the contractor was ordered to commence it forthwith; but, at my suggestion, it was agreed with him that, when one-half was completed, if the Guardians found that fever was very much on the decrease, and they considered the other half was not required, it would be optional with them to stop its being built, and one-half of the sum agreed upon in the contract should in that case only be charged.

I fear that fever is on the increase in the country at present; but by the time that one-half of the shed is built, the Guardians will be better able to judge as to the increased accommodation they may require for fever patients.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 19, 1848.*

WITH reference to your question, as to the expediency of striking a new rate, the Commissioners would not recommend, that with so large a sum as 6000*l.* remaining on the books, 4000*l.* of which is said to be collectable, the present collection should be stopped, for the purpose of making a new rate, but as it is of the greatest importance that sufficient rates should be made to keep the Union in funds, and enable the Guardians efficiently to carry on the relief of the destitute poor in the Union, the Commissioners suggest, that the amount of the new rate which will be required should be taken into immediate consideration; that when the poundage is determined on, the new rate books should be at once put in course of preparation, that a definite time should be fixed for closing the present rate, within which time the collectors should be urged to complete the collection as closely as possible, and by the expiration of which time the new rate books and collecting books should be ready; the collectors should then close their accounts, and hand over the old collecting books, and the outstanding arrear could then be carried forward into the new books, and the new rate be put in course of collection.

MR. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 14, 1848.*

IN accordance with Circular, dated April 11, I have the honour to forward to the Poor Law Commissioners the name of a pauper in this Union, applying for relief, for the purpose of emigration, and to request that you will inform me whether, under the circumstances of the case, the Guardians will be authorized in granting the relief required.

ENCLOSURE.

LIST of PERSONS applying to the Board of Guardians for Relief for the purpose of Emigration.

Name.	Names of Children.	Age.	Electoral Division in which the Applicant Resided previous to Admission to Workhouse.	Townland or Street.
Mary Connell .	. . .	40	Cashel . . .	Boherclogh-street.
	Margaret .	14		
	James . .	11		
	Mary . . .	9		
	Michael .	5		
	Joanna . .	3		

Cashel Union.

This woman's husband is in America, and has sent to her to go to him. He paid the passage-money for herself and family to the captain of a ship now in Waterford. The relief she applies for is, to enable her to get clothes and provisions for the voyage.

I have seen the persons named in this list, and consider them fit and proper persons to emigrate; and I have no reason to doubt, that the able-bodied of the family ought to be able to provide by their labour for the maintenance of the whole.

One child at present is ill in fever, but it is hoped will soon be sufficiently well to be removed.

April 14, 1848.

HENRY ROBINSON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

REPLY to the foregoing:—April 18, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that there are strong objections to the expenditure of the poor-rates, in defraying the cost of emigration under such circumstances. It would, in fact, operate as a direct premium on desertion, by leading husbands and parents to expect, that if they themselves emigrated, they could have their families sent after them at the cost of the Union.

Moreover, the Commissioners consider that there can be no security that a man who would desert his family, and leave them chargeable upon the poor-rates in this country, would not as readily leave them unprovided for in America, at any time that it might suit his interest or his inclination to do so.

The Commissioners must therefore decline to sanction the expenditure of any sum from the poor-rates, in defraying the cost of the emigration of Mary Connell and her family.

MR. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 22, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inform the Poor Law Commissioners, that at the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians, held upon yesterday, and at which I was present, a number of men, amounting to about 100, (who had been struck off the out-door relief lists, and offered admission to the poor-house,) assembled round the door, and demanded out-door relief, but refused to come into the house. The Board sent for two of them, and we explained to them that it was out of our power and contrary to law, to give them out-door relief, while we had room in the house, and we offered to take them all in; and we said, that was the only answer we could give to them all. Shortly after, the mob began to be rather noisy, and suddenly forced through the open door, and rushed up to the Board-room, filling the passages and the hall.

They were mostly all armed with hammers and sticks; there was no magistrate present at the time, and fearing that they might break into the body of the house, I ordered the master to go round, and lock all the doors and gates in the house, and I spoke to the men, and told them, that if they would leave the Board-room and passages, I, with the Guardians, would explain the matter to them outside. This I persuaded them to do, and when I got them out, I told them it was totally out of our power, to do what they wanted, but that they should all be relieved in the house if they wished.

They would not hear of this, and said, what they required was, immediate out-door relief, and finding that some of them were becoming rather violent, I begged of the Guardians present to keep them quiet as long as they could, and I went to Mr. Ffrench, the resident magistrate, and told him I considered it would be necessary to have some force ready in case of a riot.

This he immediately ordered, and returned with me to the workhouse. We met the Rev. Mr. Ryan, P.P., who accompanied us, and they both explained to the mob, that what they wanted could not possibly be granted, and that the only relief the Guardians were entitled by law to give them, under the present circumstances, was admission to the house.

After a great deal of persuasion and talking, Mr. Ffrench prevailed upon the mob to disperse, and out of the whole number only four or five came into the house, showing evidently by this, that the object of the whole was merely to intimidate the Guardians, and force on out-door relief; they also seemed to have formed an idea, that the numbers who were being refused out-door relief every week, was owing altogether to my influence, and that I might order it

to be continued to any person I pleased; I am sorry to say that I have remarked this feeling in several parts of this Union, and I believe it has arisen from this fact, that I suspect some of the Guardians and others have been in the habit, when complaints have been made to them by the poor, of laying the odium totally upon me, instead of giving the proper reason, viz., that we are all obliged to obey the law, and the different orders we from time to time receive. I believe it is also well known that some of the elected Guardians would have been willing to continue out-door relief, even while there was room in the house, and that I have been obliged to use every exertion, and insist that the law should be carried into effect. I consider all this particularly unfortunate, as it lessens the influence I might have with the people, when they think it is in my power to grant what is refused, or that there is a possibility of my being forced into compliance. I hope, however, that our having been firm with them yesterday, and positively refusing their demands, will have a good effect upon them, and prevent a recurrence of such scenes.

At the meeting of the Guardians yesterday, a resolution was passed, requesting the Commissioners to renew the order for out-door relief to the 20th of May.

I consider that this will be necessary, as there is a number at present receiving out-door relief, whom it would not be possible to strike off, also there is a number of able-bodied women, receiving relief under section 2 of the Act, to whom the workhouse test has not yet been offered. The order being renewed, will not, I think, prevent the Guardians from gradually reducing the out-door relief lists until the house is filled.

The letter from the Commissioners, stating that they disapproved of additional diet being allowed to paupers employed in responsible situations in the house, was read to the Board, and the master was ordered not to issue such extra rations in future, except to two men, who are employed in whitewashing the fever hospital, to whom the Board considered it would be most advisable to continue it, as the work they are engaged in is quite different from that of any of the other paupers, and their having extra diet, would lessen to them the danger of infection.

I think the view the Guardians have taken of this is just, and that (if the Commissioners would sanction it), men employed in the fever hospital might be considered exceptions to the general rule.

The relieving officers in this Union receive daily applications for relief from women whose husbands have deserted them. They have hitherto given them relief, as otherwise these women and their children would starve, but as a general rule, I think it is very objectionable, as it encourages men to desert their wives and children, knowing that when thus left, they will receive relief from the rates. In every case an attempt is made to discover where the husband has gone to, in order that he may be prosecuted, but in general without any success.

I have to request that you would inform me, what, in the opinion of the Poor Law Commissioners, it would be most advisable to do, under such circumstances.

Since I have written the above, I have received an anonymous letter, stating "that if I did not give relief to the poor, death would be my lot, and that all the army in Cashel would not save me, so that I might get my coffin ready." I mention this to the Commissioners, as it entirely corroborates what I before stated, that the people all are of opinion, that it is altogether in my power to stop or to continue issuing out-door relief as I think proper.

The Commissioners, however, may rest assured that these circumstances shall not in the least intimidate me in the performance of my duty, or induce me to follow any course different from what I may consider it most advisable to adopt.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 24, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners much regret that you should have been exposed to attempts at intimidation in the honest discharge of your duty; but they do not doubt that the magistrates of the Union will give you that protection which the circumstances of the case may require.

The Commissioners deem it highly desirable that not a single Guardian

Cashel Union.

shall have reason to assert that he is ignorant of the provisions of the law respecting out-door relief, and they have accordingly sent to each Guardian in Ireland a little manual containing information on the subject; but the Commissioners have more than once addressed the Board of Guardians thereon, in order that no means may be left untried for removing misconception amongst the labouring classes on this head.

Further LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to Mr. ROBINSON :—

April 26, 1848.

ADVERTING to that part of your report of the 22nd instant relative to Cashel Union, on which you state that the Guardians have passed a resolution requesting the Commissioners to renew the order for out-door relief to the 20th May, and you recommend compliance with their request, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they have given directions for the preparation of an order in compliance with the Guardians' request. The order will be issued before the existing order expires, and the Commissioners will address the Guardians by this night's post, urging upon them the importance of making such arrangements as will enable them, by the time the renewed order expires, to provide sufficient relief for all the destitute poor in the Union without having further recourse to the provisions of the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act.

The Commissioners will raise no objection to the extra diet which has been allowed by the Guardians to the men who are employed whitewashing the fever wards, provided the medical officer is of opinion that such extra diet is necessary under the circumstances, and is calculated to lessen the danger of infection.

The Commissioners concur with you in thinking that affording relief to women and children whose husbands and parents have deserted them may operate as an encouragement to desertion. Still, where the destitution of such women and children is undoubted, it is the duty of the Guardians to relieve them. The Commissioners would recommend that in all such cases the relief afforded should be in the workhouse; that efforts should be made to discover the husband or parent with a view to his being punished, under the 2nd section of the Irish Vagrant Act (10 and 11 Vic., c. 84); and with this view hand-bills might be circulated, offering a reward for his apprehension; the relief in such cases might also be deemed to be given by way of loan, and the cost price of such relief would then be recoverable, under the 55th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, from the husband or parent.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—*April 26, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received a report from their Inspector, Mr. Robinson, in which he adverts to the resolution passed by the Board of Guardians of the Cashel Union on the 20th instant, requesting that the order authorizing out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act may be continued until the 20th of May next, and Mr. Robinson recommends that this request be complied with.

The Commissioners have accordingly given directions for the preparation of an order, in compliance with the Guardians' request, as they are apprehensive, from the large number of persons who are receiving out-door relief in the Cashel Union, that the sudden withdrawal of the authority to administer such relief might be attended with inconvenience and embarrassment to the Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners, however, desire to impress upon the Board of Guardians the great importance not only to the rate-payers, but also to the poor themselves, that an effort should be made at this period to break through the habit of dependence on the rates for support, and to induce the able-bodied poor to rely more upon their own exertions. With this view, the Commissioners would recommend the Guardians gradually to reduce the out-door relief lists, by striking off from time to time such of the able-bodied recipients as there is reason to believe could obtain independent employments if they exerted themselves for that purpose, and by making the workhouse as extensively available

as possible for the relief of the able-bodied men and their families, and, if necessary, by taking steps to increase the existing workhouse accommodation; so that, on the expiration of the time to which the new order will be limited, the Guardians may be in a position to administer adequate relief to all the destitute poor in the Union, without having further recourse to the provisions of the 20th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 27, 1848.*

A LARGE number of men, amounting to about 150, from the electoral division of Fethard, who had been struck off the out-door relief list, came to the door of the workhouse to demand relief. I had been informed by the relieving officer that he knew they intended to do so, and therefore I sent for some police in case they might attempt any violence. We then told them that they would be taken into the house when they brought a ticket from their relieving officer, and came with their families, but we refused to give them out-door relief or to admit them without their families.

The relieving officer for Fethard was present, who informed us that he had told them before that they could not be admitted to the house without their families; it was therefore evidently a scheme, got up in order to try to fill the house, and thus to force on the out-door relief. When they found the Guardians were determined about the matter they dispersed, and said they would return to-morrow with their families, but I do not think that many will do so, and if they should, I have no doubt but that we shall be able to admit them all. I am quite sure that if they do come in most of them will not remain more than a day, as it is evidently a plan, fixed upon by them, to endeavour to fill up all the available space in the workhouse.

There was little business of importance transacted by the Board this day, as they were engaged nearly the whole day in examining and accepting tenders for meal and other provisions for the ensuing month.

I brought before the notice of the Board the financial state of the Union; the very large amount of its liabilities, and the very small amount of the weekly collections. It was resolved, that the collectors should be ordered to make out lists of all persons owing rate to the amount of 2*l.* and upwards. This list will be laid before the Board at their next meeting, and such directions given to each collector with respect to the different defaulters as will leave him no choice as to how he must act.

I have been in the habit of doing this myself every fortnight, but I anticipate good results from its being done by the Guardians, who, of course, must have much more local knowledge than I can have, and be better aware of the circumstances of the different persons who will appear on the collectors' lists.

The Guardians, at my request, resolved on next Thursday to elect an assistant porter to take charge of the gate at the auxiliary house. This duty has been performed hitherto by a pauper, but the house is situated in the centre of the town, and I consider that it is not advisable that the situation should be filled by any other than a paid officer, who must be responsible for what passes in or out of the workhouse.

Mr. ROBINSON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 28, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report to the Poor Law Commissioners, that upon yesterday evening, I again received a notice, threatening my life. I annex a copy of the letter (as nearly as I can write it).

Mr. Hancock, Poor Law Inspector, was here at the time, and at his recommendation I have lodged information upon the subject, with the stipendiary magistrate, to whom I have given the original letter.

Both he and the police officer are of opinion, that there is a possibility of finding out the person by whom it was written. It was evidently in the same handwriting as the one I had received upon that day week.

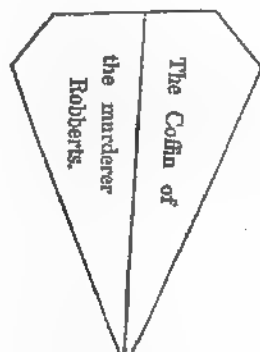
“ ROBERTS, I again caution you for this time and no more, i have given you a chance, and you did not take that chance, but by the Emmaculate God you may Prepare your coffin,

P

Cashel Union.
—

i have left wide in the shoulders for you have narrow and vagabond shoulders, mark my words for this.

“ A Cashel man shall crush your feet you Ruffin.”



A true Copy.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*May 2, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners feel much concern that you should have again received a threatening notice; they are glad, however, to learn that there is a probability that the writer will be discovered, and they do not doubt that every necessary protection will be afforded to you by the magistrates and the police.

ENNISKILLEN UNION.

Mr. D'ARCY, Temporary Inspector of Ballyshannon Union, to the
COMMISSIONERS:—*March 2, 1848.*

IN obedience to your commands I came to Enniskillen on the 28th ultimo, and have now the honour of reporting generally on its condition, the state of its funds, amount of liabilities, and the relief which is being afforded to the destitute.

Immediately on my arrival I went to the workhouse and inspected every part of it. The house itself is well kept, clean, and orderly; and the master seems attentive and intelligent. The yards and sewerage are in a wretched state.

The clothing of the paupers is very defective, being much worn and not sufficient in quantity. The master told me there was not a change of linen for the females whilst that which was soiled was being washed.

When I had finished the examination of the house I sent for the clerk, who had not left it long before; and when I obtained his attendance, I commenced arrangements to enable me to obtain the necessary information upon which to make this report, and directed him to communicate with the several collectors that I should require their attendance at the workhouse on Wednesday, the 1st of March instant, with their collecting and receipt books.

Tuesday, the 29th of February, I again visited the workhouse, and commenced the examination of the documents calculated to show the state of the Union as regarded its debts, and ability and prospect of discharging them. As I was thus engaged some of the relieving officers entered the Board-room, and I took their Application and Report Books to ascertain what amount of relief was afforded, and on what principle; and I must say I found it totally inadequate to support the recipients—in some cases not so much as 3d. for each individual of a family being allowed weekly,—and of which I give the following instances, as taken from the books of the relieving officers then present:—

Manor of Carrick Relief District.

- Catherine Smith (widow) with six children, weekly allowance, 1s. 8d.
- William Ross (lame and infirm) with wife and five children, weekly allowance, 2s.
- Anne M'Kinley (widow) with two children, aged respectively 14 and 12 years, weekly allowance, 1s.
- Pat Curren (dropsical) wife and five children, weekly allowance, 2s.

Ballyreagh Relief District.

- Miles M'Cann (in fever) wife and six children, 2s. 4d. weekly allowance.
- Catherine Bannon (widow) and four children, 1s. 4d. weekly allowance.
- Sarah Donnelly (widow, sickly) with two children, aged respectively 14 and 11 years, 1s. weekly allowance.

Tempo Relief District.

- Rose Maguire and three children (widow, this is a case of great distress,) allowed weekly 1s. 4d.
- Elizabeth Maguire and three children (widow, has been in Armagh asylum nearly two years and continues ill,) 1s. weekly allowance.

Holywell Relief District.

- Andrew Millar (widower, ruptured,) with four children, 1s. 8d. weekly allowance

Enniskillen Union.

I could multiply instances such as the foregoing; in fact all the cases that came under my observation were of the same sort, and about the same scale of allowance, except single individuals, old and infirm; that description of case being allowed 8*d.* per week. The general rule they adopt is to allow 8*d.* for adults, and 4*d.* for those dependent upon them; but should the family be large they throw out the youngest or two youngest of the children, not even allowing the miserable weekly sum of 4*d.* for them all.

As I was thus engaged with the books of the relieving officers the Guardians began to assemble, as it happened to be Board-day. I stated to them that I did not attend or come here as Inspector; that I came for the purpose of examining the condition of the Union generally, and I should therefore retire to the clerk's office to prosecute my inquiry, which I accordingly did.

After some time the clerk came to me saying that the Guardians wished to see me, and I at once returned to the Board-room. The Chairman asked me, if from what I saw of their workhouse, &c., I had anything to suggest to them. Again mentioning I did not do so at all in the capacity of Inspector, I told them I thought the out-door relief afforded by them quite insufficient; and that they should make provision for the relief of persons in fever; that the relieving officers told me "that fever and other infectious disease was very prevalent in their several districts, and they found the guardians so stringent that they were afraid to afford medical relief." I pointed out the awful consequences that must ensue should cholera visit this country and find the inhabitants predisposed to its influence from these causes. I then directed their attention to the great want of sufficient day-room accommodation in their workhouse, especially for females and children. The number of the former in the house was 368, and of the latter (that is, infants under two years) 45. The female day-room is only 28 feet 4 inches long by 15 feet 10 inches wide, and the nursery 17 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 6 inches. I told them I had been through the workhouse the previous evening, and that I saw the women sitting on the floor in the day-room packed as closely as possible—in fact wedged together—and that this must be a fruitful source of disease; the doors and windows of the room were all open, and still the smell was most offensive.

I inquired of them had they made any provision for additional workhouse accommodation; they replied they had not, that it could not be obtained in Enniskillen. This, I said, I could hardly understand, as it is a town of considerable size; and in Ballyshannon, so much less, and so miserable compared to it, the Guardians had taken two houses, and found owners just now very glad to get tenants.

When I left the Board-room, Dr. Nixon, the medical officer, asked me if I had any objection to go with him through the infirmary and hospitals, and I at once accompanied him.

To explain how the hospitals are situated as regards the workhouse, it is necessary to describe the position it stands in: Lough Erne, which washes Enniskillen, separates the town from the workhouse, and a boat is kept by the Guardians to convey persons backwards and forwards.

The first of these auxiliaries to the workhouse infirmary which I shall notice is that called Hall's-lane fever hospital, and is in the town.

The second stands on the workhouse ground, and is a thatched cabin, dignified by the appellation of the cottage.

The third is a wooden building, also on the workhouse ground, called the recovery, or wooden house.

The total number under medical treatment upon this day was 242; of these 107 were in fever and small-pox, which cannot now be stayed by vaccination, as the doctor told me he has been obliged to give that practice up, from the reduced condition of the children from want of food and sufficient diet, as the incision made in the arm to receive the infection becomes a sloughing gangrene, which produces almost certain death.

Upon entering Hall's-lane fever hospital, I found but one room habitable, as the roof of the rest of the house had fallen in, (the particulars of which will be found in extracts from Dr. Nixon's reports, which I transmit); in this room were 13 fever patients in seven beds.

The cottage contained 44 patients and two assistants in 20 beds; of this number 29 were in one room, 18 feet long by 16 wide. Immediately previous to my visit there had been *five children in one bed, three of whom were in fever and two in*

small-pox; they had just been removed as I entered the room—two still remaining, one in fever and one in small-pox.

No statement of mine can convey an idea of the wretched condition the inmates of this house were in; I have frequently heard the horrors of Skibbereen quoted, but they can hardly have exceeded these.

The recovery-house, so called, contained 39 persons, when I went through it; the doctor assured me more deaths had taken place here in consequence of dropsy and dysentery, induced by the damp, than from actual fever.

I was informed by Mr. Fee, one of the Guardians, that from the 1st of January, 1847, to 1st of October following, 800 deaths had occurred amongst the workhouse paupers. The papers which follow, marked Enclosure No. I., are extracts from the doctor's reports to the Board.

Wednesday, the 1st of March, I went by appointment to the workhouse, to meet the collectors, and I desired they should make me out a list of the Guardians who owed their rates upon the 29th of February, and also the immediate lessors. I found great reluctance on the part of some to do so, evidently wishing to screen the parties; and I warned them to be cautious how they attempted to deceive me, as I would swear them to the truth of their lists. One or two stated that the landlords would not pay for the tenants under 4*l.* value, for whom they were liable, and insisted they should levy it off the tenants; another collector, Mr. Morrison, stated, that even the magistrates did not support the collectors; and gave an instance, where he had summoned for rates on the 26th ultimo, the magistrates refused to go into the cases, and adjourned them for three weeks.

This moment, as I write, I am informed that Guardians and immediate lessors are making, or are about to make payments, hoping to avoid my returning them in arrear; and I am told, in consequence, this week's collection will be three times larger than last. If I am permitted I shall return here for a day in the next week to report the sum so paid, and the difference as between it and that of the previous week's collection. The lists of arrears here follow, Enclosure, No. II., and the names of Guardians who have not yet paid.

The Enclosure III. is a statement in tabular form, showing the date the rate was made, and its amount collected and uncollected up to the 31st of January last: the last monthly accounts are not yet completed.

Enclosure IV. is a statement of the liabilities of the Union, &c., and the sum, if they were discharged, that would remain for the purposes of relief.

Upon a careful consideration of the position of this Union, and a general review of its affairs, I am satisfied it must proceed from bad to worse if the Commissioners do not exercise some control; and I am equally convinced that a little energy and determination would speedily collect the present rate: were that once accomplished, and a different system pursued in future, that is to say, to purchase for cash, and not on credit of a doubtful description; to estimate carefully and strike sufficient rates to meet demands; to attend regularly as a Board, determined to perform their duty and overcome their difficulties; I am convinced, I say again, that such a course would enable the Guardians of this wealthy Union to maintain their paupers on very moderate rates; but if the former course is persevered in, and contractors paid double prices for every article consumed, it must finally result in the bankruptcy of the Union, and the ruin of the rate-payers.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

Copies of Reports made to the Enniskillen Board of Guardians by the Medical Officer, in the months of January and February of the present year:—

Tuesday, January 4th.—Had to order plank down to the recovery-house, as there is not a portion of the floor dry in the male side except where the beds are standing. This order bears date the 3rd.

Have to report that the roof of one-half of the temporary fever hospital in Hall's-lane fell in yesterday; the other half is unsafe, and can only contain about 15 patients in a miserable way.

Would wish to know how the cases of fever now arising over 100 are to be provided for, as I am ordered not to admit more than that number.

Tuesday, 11th.—Have to report that the roof of the temporary fever hospital further gave way on the evening of the 7th instant; in consequence was obliged to have most of the patients brought across the lake, in the rain, at 11 o'clock at night, to their great injury. Since then

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have had it partially shored up. Further, the accommodation for fever patients is quite insufficient for the cases arising in the house, and there is at present a person affected with that disease seeking admission. Under these circumstances, would wish to know how I am to act, as those at present suffering from fever are in a miserable state for want of room.

January 16th. (Read to Board on 18th).—Most of the deaths occur in the fever department, and are caused by those in the recovery-house getting improper diet. This morning one died in consequence. The causes before mentioned also affect the inmates of same materially.

Tuesday, 25th.—Have to report again the want of accommodation for fever patients, nothing having been done since last meeting. On Saturday night was called up to Hall's-lane hospital, another portion of the roof of which was giving way; had to get assistance and plank to prop it up; and on Sunday had to get more assistance for like purpose. It is more than probable that the house will all fall in when the thaw comes on after this severe frost.

February 16th.—The accommodation for fever patients and small-pox still continues insufficient. There are 37 patients in 18 bedsteads; some of them afflicted with small-pox. The latter disease is increasing.

26th.—The want of clothing, particularly for children, is such that cleanliness cannot be observed.

Tuesday, 29th.—I beg to report that some additional accommodation should be at once provided for persons affected with fever and small-pox, the latter of which is increasing. In consequence of the hospital in Hall's-lane, the cottage on shore is over-crowded; there being at present 46, and only room for 20 bedsteads; some in small-pox, some in fever.

The medical Poor Law Commissioner reported this house only fit for 20 patients.

In the emergency, ordered one probationary ward to be allocated for the reception of persons affected with small-pox until the meeting of the Board this day.

GEORGE ALCOCK NIXON, M.D.

March 1, 1848.

II.

Enniskillen Union.

LIST of ARREARS due by Ex-officio and Elective Guardians up to 29th February.

Electoral Divisions.	Townlands.	Names.	Amount of Rate.
Tempo	Lettan	Henry Armstrong	£. s. d. 2 12 1
Manor of Carrick . .	Lisbellaw	James Copeland, a portion due . .	..
Clabby	Clabby Green	John Monaghan	2 12 3
Enniskillen	Main Street	Edward Rogers, Esq. . . .	6 0 4
Ditto	Silverhill	Ditto	2 11 9
Ditto	Windmill Hill	Ditto	0 10 2
			9 2 3
Ditto	Derrycharrow	William A. Dane, Esq. . . .	2 16 6½
Florence Court . . .	Drumoghill	Alexander Wilson	2 17 1
Kinawley	Crocknacreevy	Robert Crozier	1 15 9
Killinagh	Loughen	Patt M'Govern	6 0 0
Ditto	Loughen	Richard Tubman	6 0 0
Ditto	Barran	Ditto	1 19 0
Ditto	Thornhill	Ditto	4 14 0
Ditto	Unshogagh	Ditto	3 14 0
			16 7 0
Glen	Lisnagrove	Late Guardian, Terence Magovern, paid part.	..
Tullynamoltra . . .	Drumlaydon, or Bone- brook.	Nathaniel Maguire, Esq. . . .	4 16 4
Ditto	Leetra	Ditto	1 13 0
Ditto	Curleigh	Ditto	1 10 0
Ditto	Lananeriagh	Ditto	1 7 3
			9 6 7
		<i>Ex-officio Guardians in Arrear.</i>	
		Earl of Enniskillen	..
		Edward Archdall	..
		John H. Story	..
		Charles Faussett	..

LIST of ARREARS due by Immediate Lessors to 29th February, 1848.

Electoral Divisions.	Townlands.	Names of Immediate Lessors.	Amount of Rate.
Tempo	Glen	Mr. Richards	£. s. d. 4 0 0
Ditto	Drumackin	Ditto	2 0 0
Ditto	Coolcran	Ditto	6 0 0
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	2 0 0
			14 0 0
Manor of Carrick . .	Killee	Rev. Mr. Porter	2 10 0
Ditto	Cloghtogle	Ditto	3 10 0
Ditto	Tattygar	Ditto	2 0 0
Ditto	Mulley	Ditto	3 0 0
			11 0 0
		<i>Guardians in Arrear.</i>	
Tempo	Lettan	Henry Armstrong	2 12 1
Manor of Carrick . .	Lisbellaw	James Copeland, portion still due . .	..

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Enniskillen Union.

List of Arrears due by Immediate Lessors, &c.—continued.

Electoral Divisions.	Townlands.	Names of Immediate Lessors.	Amount of Rate.		
			£.	s.	d.
Kilskeery . . .	Relagh . . .	John H. Story, Esq. . . .	12	0	0
Ditto . . .	Derryallen . . .	Ditto	9	0	0
Ditto . . .	Realtons . . .	Ditto	1	16	0
			22	16	0
Ditto . . .	Effernan Glebe . . .	Rev. John Grey Porter . . .	4	0	0
Ditto . . .	Derryallen Glebe . . .	Ditto	0	17	0
Ditto . . .	Kilskeery Glebe . . .	Ditto	2	7	0
Ditto . . .	Clooncaldra Glebe . . .	Ditto	4	10	0
			11	14	0
Ditto . . .	Dreigh . . .	Colonel Archdall	2	10	0
Ditto . . .	Rossnareen . . .	Rev. Mr. Gresson	2	10	0
Ditto . . .	Kilnock . . .	Ditto	2	10	0
Ditto . . .	Ditto . . .	Ditto	1	5	0
Ditto . . .	Lifford . . .	Ditto	6	0	0
			12	5	0
Clabby . . .	Camgart . . .	Rev. John Grey Porter . . .	2	5	0
Ditto . . .	Glegesh . . .	Thomas Kernaghan	2	13	7
		<i>Guardian who has not paid his Rates in Clabby Electoral Division.</i>			
Clabby . . .	Clabby Green . . .	John Monaghan	2	12	3
Ballyreagh . . .	Killee . . .	Alexander Betty, Esq. . . .	4	6	5
Ditto . . .	Cavanalough Glebe . . .	Rev. H. Burke	4	2	0½
Ditto . . .	Ballydoolagh . . .	Earl of Enniskillen	1	9	10
Ditto . . .	Breacha . . .	Ditto	6	3	0
			7	12	10
Ditto . . .	Drummurry . . .	Andrew Crawford, Esq. . . .	0	19	3
Ditto . . .	Curran . . .	Ditto	0	7	10
Ditto . . .	Cleenaghan . . .	Ditto	0	10	2
Ditto . . .	Killymitten . . .	Ditto	0	15	6
Ditto . . .	Beaugh . . .	Ditto	4	0	7
Ditto . . .	Knockmanowl . . .	Ditto	0	8	1
Ditto . . .	Salry . . .	Ditto	0	8	2
			7	9	7
Ditto . . .	Coagh . . .	Mr. Crozier	6	2	3
Ditto . . .	Cavantillycormic . . .	Ditto	1	2	6
			7	4	9
Ditto . . .	Drumreany . . .	John Collum, Esq. . . .	2	3	1
Ditto . . .	Drumslow . . .	Ditto	2	7	5
			4	10	6
Ditto . . .	Drumkeen . . .	Mrs. Anderson	5	2	3
Ballicassidy . . .	Shanmullagh . . .	Edward Archdall, Esq. . . .	3	5	7½
Ditto . . .	Ballicassidy . . .	Ditto	2	16	6½
Ditto . . .	Kilgartnaleague . . .	Ditto	0	11	1½
Ditto . . .	Cloughbally . . .	Ditto	0	4	5½
Ditto . . .	Monolla . . .	Ditto	0	5	6½
Ditto . . .	Trory . . .	Ditto	0	11	0½
			7	14	4½

List of Arrears due by Immediate Lessors, &c.—*continued*.

Enniskillen Union.

Electoral Divisions.	Townlands.	Names of Immediate Lessors.	Amount of Rate.
Ballycassidy	Mullaghmeen	Earl of Enniskillen	£. s. d. 0 12 3½
Ditto	Relaugh	Ditto	0 12 3½
			1 4 7
		<i>The above are ex-officio Guardians.</i>	
Enniskillen	Dame-street	Representatives of Dr. Collum	4 0 0
Ditto	Main-street	Ditto	0 18 0
			4 18 0
Ditto	Pudding-lane	Rev. Mr. King	2 10 0
Ditto	Galbraiths'-row	Captain Galbraith	10 3 4
Ditto	Tonystick	Town Commissioners	3 12 0
Ditto	Barrack-lane	Rev. John Auchinleck	1 6 0
Ditto	Tolls and customs	Earl of Enniskillen	1 8 6
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	28 10 0
Ditto	Boston	Ditto	10 0 0
Ditto	Cole-street	Ditto	1 10 0
			41 8 6
		<i>Guardians in arrear.</i>	
Ditto	Derrycharrow	William A. Dane, Esq.	2 16 6½
Ditto	Main-street	Edward Rogers, Esq., representative of William Kidney.	6 0 4
Ditto	Silver-hill	Ditto	2 11 9
Ditto	Windmill-hill	Ditto	0 10 2
			9 2 3
Castlecoole	Castlecoole	Representatives of Earl Belmore	151 4 0
Laragh	Derryagna	Commissioners of Education	0 14 0
Ditto	Sessiaugh	Ditto	4 10 0
Ditto	Drumbargy	Ditto	2 4 0
Ditto	Rossdoney	Ditto	0 6 0
Ditto	Derryinch	Ditto	0 5 0
Ditto	Clonatrigh	Ditto	0 3 0
			8 2 0
Kinawley	Derryheeny	Earl of Enniskillen	0 3 5
Ditto	Clondarvel	Ditto	0 10 2
Ditto	Clonliff	Ditto	1 8 0
Ditto	Crocknacreevy	Ditto	0 5 6
Ditto	Stragowna	Ditto	0 4 9
			2 12 7
Ditto	Drumbrughas	Commissioners of Education	4 8 0
Ditto	Derryhawlaght	Ditto	3 0 0
Ditto	Crummer	Ditto	2 6 0
Ditto	Cornacreea	Ditto	0 7 2
Ditto	Cullatagh	Ditto	4 5 0
Ditto	Teesnaghtaw	Ditto	1 12 0
Ditto	Largincarran	Ditto	2 0 0
Ditto	Knockbodara	Ditto	3 0 0
Ditto	Legaduff	Ditto	1 17 6
Ditto	Moheranea	Ditto	2 0 0
Ditto	Greaghavockan	Ditto	2 0 0
Ditto	Mullan	Ditto	0 10 0
			27 5 8
Ditto	Rosatumoan	Ditto	2 16 0
Ditto	Gortnacarn	Ditto	2 0 0

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Enniskillen Union.

List of Arrears due by Immediate Lessors, &c.—*continued*.

Electoral Divisions.	Townlands.	Names of Immediate Lessors.	Amount of Rate.
			£. s. d.
Kinawley . . .	Keenaghan . . .	Commissioners of Education . . .	2 10 10
Ditto . . .	Corranabeen . . .	Ditto . . .	0 16 6
Ditto . . .	Drumcullion . . .	Ditto . . .	0 15 0
Ditto . . .	Derrylea . . .	Ditto . . .	1 3 0
			37 7 0
Ditto . . .	Drumhariff . . .	Andrew Crawford, Esq. . .	1 7 0
Ditto . . .	Corraheen . . .	Ditto . . .	0 9 0
Ditto . . .	Moher . . .	Ditto . . .	0 10 0
Ditto . . .	Rooskagh, North . . .	Ditto . . .	2 5 0
Ditto . . .	Drumlisk . . .	Ditto . . .	1 9 0
Ditto . . .	Cornaskeoge . . .	Ditto . . .	5 11 4
Ditto . . .	Coragh . . .	Ditto . . .	0 16 0
Ditto . . .	Drumbinnis . . .	Ditto . . .	1 7 0
Ditto . . .	Shanrad . . .	Ditto . . .	1 12 6
Ditto . . .	Caldragh . . .	Ditto . . .	18 0 0
Ditto . . .	Corradreen . . .	Ditto . . .	2 0 0
			35 6 10
		<i>Guardian in arrear.</i>	
Kinawley . . .	Crocknacreevy . . .	Robert Crozier . . .	1 15 9
		<i>See Recapitulation Sheet of Guardians.</i>	
Florence Court . . .	Mullaghbane . . .	Earl of Enniskillen . . .	1 0 0
Ditto . . .	Rossoy . . .	Ditto . . .	0 10 0
Ditto . . .	Knockageehan . . .	Ditto . . .	0 10 0
Ditto . . .	Brookfield . . .	Ditto . . .	0 12 0
Ditto . . .	Deerpark . . .	Ditto . . .	6 0 0
Ditto . . .	Tullyhona . . .	Ditto . . .	2 0 0
Ditto . . .	Finlane . . .	Ditto . . .	2 10 0
Ditto . . .	Gortnacally . . .	Ditto . . .	1 1 4
Ditto . . .	Florence Court . . .	Ditto . . .	45 10 0
Ditto . . .	Drumlaghey . . .	Ditto . . .	0 10 0
Ditto . . .	Tullogh . . .	Ditto . . .	2 10 0
Ditto . . .	Marlbank . . .	Ditto . . .	0 8 0
Ditto . . .	Croughrim . . .	Ditto . . .	0 18 4
Ditto . . .	Drumoghill . . .	Ditto . . .	0 5 6
Ditto . . .	Derryhowlagh . . .	Ditto . . .	0 2 9
Ditto . . .	Bumpers Lodge . . .	Ditto . . .	0 5 6
			64 13 5
Ditto . . .	Mullinavigh . . .	Commissioners of Education . . .	3 5 0
Ditto . . .	Larginacarran . . .	Ditto . . .	0 7 9
Ditto . . .	Gortaluhamy . . .	Ditto . . .	0 19 0
Ditto . . .	Drumcannon . . .	Ditto . . .	2 0 0
Ditto . . .	Gallagh . . .	Ditto . . .	1 0 0
Ditto . . .	Derrylester . . .	Ditto . . .	0 4 0
Ditto . . .	Greenan . . .	Ditto . . .	1 2 0
Ditto . . .	Ervony . . .	Ditto . . .	1 11 0
			10 8 9
		<i>Guardian in arrear.</i>	
Florence Court . . .	Drumoghill . . .	Alexander Wilson . . .	2 17 1
Carn . . .	Drumkirk, Lower . . .	Thomas M. H. Jones, Esq. . .	0 16 3
Ditto . . .	Legnagaymore . . .	Ditto . . .	0 6 4
Holywell . . .	Lurgan . . .	Ditto . . .	0 2 7
Ditto . . .	Toppan . . .	Ditto . . .	1 12 0
Ditto . . .	Carraglass . . .	Ditto . . .	0 18 0
Ditto . . .	Cavancorough . . .	Ditto . . .	0 12 0
Ditto . . .	Gortin . . .	Ditto . . .	0 5 10
Ditto . . .	Drumonelly . . .	Ditto . . .	2 0 0
Ditto . . .	Corralea . . .	Ditto . . .	0 10 0
Ditto . . .	Corraderrabrock . . .	Ditto . . .	0 10 6
Ditto . . .	Belcoo, East . . .	Ditto . . .	2 0 0
Ditto . . .	Belcoo, West . . .	Ditto . . .	0 16 6
			10 10 6

List of Arrears due by Immediate Lessors, &c.—*continued.*

Enniskillen Union.

Electoral Divisions.	Townlands.	Names of Immediate Lessors.	Amount of Rate.
			£. s. d.
Carn	Carrickbeg	Colonel Perceval	0 6 8½
Ditto	Kocknahinshin	Ditto	9 19 1½
Ditto	Royfad	Ditto	15 14 11
			26 0 9
Holywell	Drumman	Representatives of the late William Hassard, Esq. . . .	9 12 0
Ditto	Gardenhill	Ditto	13 3 5
Ditto	Carrickmacdoherty	Ditto	3 15 9
Ditto	Carrownaleg	Ditto	3 3 0
Ditto	Carrickaloughan	Ditto	2 14 9
Ditto	Gortnadarg	Ditto	6 10 6
Ditto	Carrontreemall	Ditto	3 8 3
Ditto	Aughrim	Ditto	7 9 9
Ditto	Templenaffran	Ditto	10 8 6
Ditto	Carrickadrantan	Ditto	2 15 10½
Ditto	Killycreen	Ditto	1 2 6
Ditto	Tullybrock	Ditto	1 10 10
Ditto	Mullylusty	Ditto	6 12 9
Ditto	Killycreen, East	Ditto	1 3 3
Ditto	Crottan	Ditto	1 9 9½
Ditto	Cornagee	Ditto	0 4 2
Ditto	Greenahoe	Ditto	6 19 8
Ditto	Gardenhill	Ditto	0 4 8½
Ditto	Drumcoo	Ditto	0 1 10½
Ditto	Ora Beg	Ditto	0 10 10
Ditto	Mullylusty	Ditto	1 0 3
Ditto	Mullan	Ditto	0 12 0
			84 14 5
Letterbreen	Lisbofin	Charles Faussett, Esq. . . .	4 10 9
Ditto	Gortahurk	Ditto	2 11 4
Ditto	Drumacolin	Ditto	2 0 7
Ditto	Mullygarry	Ditto	1 5 3
			10 7 11
			These lands are all in Mr. Faussett's own possession.
Killinagh	Termon	Mr. O'Brien	1 0 0
Ditto	Cornahow	Ditto	8 0 0
			9 0 0
Ditto	Dernaseer	Mr. Dickens	3 0 0
Ditto	Correevan	Ditto	5 0 0
Ditto	Corralea and Corraquigly	Ditto	5 0 0
Ditto	Tullynamoil	Ditto	6 0 0
Ditto	Upper Kilduff	Ditto	3 0 0
Ditto	Middle Kilduff	Ditto	9 0 0
Ditto	Dowra	Ditto	8 0 0
Ditto	Derrynalester	Ditto	1 0 0
Ditto	Corrakelldrum	Ditto	7 0 0
Ditto	Tullynafrieve	Ditto	2 0 0
Ditto	Tullintinty	Ditto	2 0 0
			51 0 0
Ditto	Carricknagrow	Messrs. Nixon	10 0 0
Ditto	Stranamart	James Moreton, Esq. . . .	6 0 0
Ditto	Gubaveeny	Colonel Cullen	7 0 0
Ditto	Killycarney	— Saunders, Esq. . . .	2 0 0
Ditto	Loughen	Pat M'Govern	6 0 0
Ditto	Loughen	Richard Tubman	6 0 0
Ditto	Barran	Ditto	1 19 0
Ditto	Thornhill	Ditto	4 14 0
Ditto	Unshogagh	Ditto	3 14 0
			16 7 0
			Mr. Magovern and Mr. Tubman are the Guardians of this Electoral Division.

Enniskillen Union.

List of Arrears due by Immediate Lessors, &c.—*continued.*

Electoral Divisions.	Townlands.	Names of Immediate Lessors.	Amount of Rate.		
			£.	s.	d.
Glen	Derrylahan	Lord Ansley	4	19	0
Ditto	Creagh	Ditto	1	17	0
Ditto	Cornafin	Ditto	2	10	1
Ditto	Legnagrowe	Ditto	2	11	0
Ditto	Gub	Ditto	2	2	0
Ditto	Derrynakever	Ditto	5	7	0
Ditto	Tullytiernan	Ditto	1	0	2
Ditto	Derrynanta, Lower	Ditto	2	6	0
Ditto	Upper	Ditto	1	1	0
Ditto	Knockgeeran	Ditto	0	7	6
Ditto	Carrick, West	Ditto	1	6	0
Ditto	Correenmackin	Ditto	1	5	0
Ditto	Garvalt, Lower	Ditto	1	10	0
Ditto	Copenaghmore	Ditto	0	18	0
Ditto	Copenaghbane	Ditto	0	16	0
Ditto	Curraha	Ditto	2	15	0
Ditto	Gowlat	Ditto	1	0	0
Ditto	Cappagh	Ditto	3	5	0
Ditto	Drumhoora	Ditto	9	0	0
Ditto	Derrynatoon	Ditto	0	6	9
			46	2	6
Ditto	Bussan	Dr. Collins	1	1	0
Ditto	Tullynaross	Ditto	2	9	0
Ditto	Knockgoran	Ditto	0	17	0
			4	7	0
Ditto	Moneensauran	Arthur Magovern	2	13	0
Ditto	Curraghlass	Ditto	2	7	0
			5	0	0
Ditto	Ballbally, Upper	Mr. Beasford	3	4	0
Ditto	Ballbally, Lower	G. M. Knipe, Esq.	1	4	2
Ditto	Drumakeever	Ditto	3	14	0
			4	18	2
Ditto	Carrick, West	Representatives of Captain Alexander Hassard.	2	0	0
Ditto	Arshalla	Ditto	0	3	0
Ditto	Artuashee	Ditto	1	14	0
			3	17	0
Ditto	Corraleckagh	Mr. Dickens	3	12	0
Ditto	Moncenteriff	Ditto	6	10	6
Ditto	Curratubber, Upper	Ditto	7	4	0
Ditto	Corraleckagh, Lower	Ditto	3	12	0
Ditto	Curratubber, Lower	Ditto	8	2	0
Ditto	Cashelbane	Ditto	5	17	4
Ditto	Garvagh	Ditto	7	18	4
Ditto	Straghanagh and Cur-lissbane.	Ditto	6	17	0
			49	13	2
Ditto	Mully, Lower	Robert Gamble	1	5	0
Ditto	Leglass	Ditto	1	3	0
			2	8	0

SIR,

Enniskillen, March 1, 1848.

I RESPECTFULLY beg leave to acquaint you, that I demanded payment from the agents of the above-mentioned landlords of the rate due by them as immediate lessors; they directed me to go to the tenants, as they had got no rents from them for some back.

(Signed)

THADY GALLON.

Late Guardian in arrear.

Terence Magovern paid in part.

List of Arrears due by Immediate Lessors, &c.—continued.

Enniskillen Union.

Electoral Divisions.	Townlands.	Names of Immediate Lessors.	Amount of Rate.
			£. s. d.
Swanlinbar . . .	Gurteenagilough . . .	Richard Hassard, Esq. . . .	2 0 0
Ditto	Aboy	Ditto	0 10 0
Ditto	Gubnafurna	Ditto	0 13 0
Ditto	Gubrawooly	Ditto	2 0 0
Ditto	Comas	Ditto	1 10 0
			6 13 0
Ditto	Mullyduff	Rev. George Leslie Gresson	0 18 0
Ditto	Gortchashel	Ditto	0 7 0
Ditto	Furnaceland	Ditto	0 10 0
Ditto	Swanlinbar	Ditto	0 15 0
			2 10 0
Ditto	Gub	Parsons Crofton, Esq. . . .	0 8 0
Ditto	Drumcask	Ditto	0 5 0
Ditto	Drumcullion	Ditto	0 10 0
			1 3 0
Ditto	Rockwood	Francis Hassard, Esq. . . .	12 18 8½
Ditto	Newtown	Ditto	0 8 0
Ditto	Gortmore	Ditto	0 9 0
Ditto	Maughrea	Ditto	0 10 0
			14 5 8½
Ditto	Gorteen	John Reycroft, Esq. . . .	0 9 2
Ditto	Finahoo	Ditto	4 4 0
			4 13 2
		<i>Ox-officio Guardian in arrear.</i>	
Ditto	Brackley	John Finlay, Esq. . . .	1 5 6
Ditto	Cannick, East	Ditto	0 8 10
Ditto	Gortnavreehan	Ditto	1 9 0
			3 3 4
Tullynamoltra . . .	Ardmoneen	Lord Primate	1 1 10
Ditto	Curranerna	Ditto	0 5 1
Ditto	Curralechan Beg	Ditto	0 11 1
Ditto	Gariawerry	Ditto	1 4 0
Ditto	Lananenagh	Ditto	6 0 0
			9 2 0
Ditto	Culliagh	Nathaniel Montgomery	2 0 0
Ditto	Bellaleenan	A. R. Slack, Esq. . . .	0 6 10
Ditto	Cornagunleog	Ditto	3 2 4
Ditto	Strandaragh	Ditto	1 13 0
			5 2 2
Ditto	Gorolagh, South	Mrs. John Hassard	3 0 0
Ditto	Corratillan	Sir Thomas Finlay	3 0 0
Ditto	Teeboy	Ditto	2 0 0
Ditto	Owen Carn	Ditto	2 0 0
			7 0 0
Ditto	Tullywarn	George Finlay, Esq. . . .	1 14 0
Ditto	Corracamera	Ditto	3 0 0
			6 14 0

Enniskillen Union.

List of Arrears due by Immediate Lessors, &c.—*continued*.

Electoral Divisions.	Townlands.	Names of Immediate Lessors.	Amount of Rate.
		<i>Guardian in arrear.</i>	£. s. d.
Tullynamoltra . . .	Drumlaydon or Bonebrook.	Nathaniel Maguire, Esq. . .	4 16 4
Ditto	Leetra	Ditto	1 13 0
Ditto	Curleigh	Ditto	1 10 0
Ditto	Lananeriagh	Ditto	1 7 3
			9 6 7

III.

STATEMENT of POOR RATE collected and uncollected of Enniskillen Union up to 31st January, 1848.

Electoral Divisions.	Date on which Rate was struck.	Amount of Rate per £.	Net Amount of current Rate.	Amount of Rate collected.	Amount remaining uncollected.
	1847. 7 Sept.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Tempo	7 Sept.	2 1	343 1 8½	46 0 0	297 1 8½
Kilskerry	„	2 11	291 15 1	13 0 0	278 15 1
Clabby	„	2 6	242 2 9	30 0 0	212 2 9
Manor of Carrick	„	2 10	824 2 11	156 0 0	668 11
Enniskillen	„	3 2	2,246 6 10½	1,335 10 10	910 16 0½
Castlecoole	„	1 10	459 4 8½	157 11 5	301 13 8½
Ballycassidy	„	2 2½	376 16 9½	180 18 3	195 18 6½
Ballyreagh	„	3 0	602 0 10½	128 9 0	473 11 10½
Laragh	„	2 4	635 1 8½	194 14 4	440 7 4½
Kinawley	„	2 9	603 9 9	44 6 10	559 2 11
Florence Court	„	1 10	703 13 11½	203 14 11	499 19 0½
Carn	„	2 5	355 10 11½	195 6 11	160 4 0½
Holywell	„	1 6	293 7 6½	132 8 5	160 19 1½
Letterbreen	„	1 10	373 0 9	277 8 10	95 11 11
Killinagh	„	3 0	736 13 0	189 0 0	547 13 0
Glen	„	3 0	323 18 1½	52 0 0	271 18 1½
Ely	„	2 7	869 7 8½	„	869 7 8½
Rahalton	„	3 0	784 15 6	„	784 15 6
Swinlinbar	„	2 2½	506 10 11½	98 0 0	408 10 11½
Tullynamoltra	„	2 10	584 16 7½	62 0 0	522 16 7½
			12,155 18 3½	3,496 9 9	8,659 8 6½

IV.

STATEMENT of LIABILITIES of Enniskillen Union, to 31st January, 1848.

	Amount of Rate struck to repay Government Advances under the Temporary Relief Act.
	£. s. d.
Tempo	96 1 3
Kilskerry	141 14 1
Clabby	96 17 1
Manor of Carrick	288 2 6
Enniskillen	„
Castlecoole	„
Ballycassidy	66 18 4
Ballyreagh	233 19 1
Laragh	136 9 3
Kinawley	201 3 3
Florence Court	„
Carn	134 8 1
Holywell	„
Letterbreen	„
Killinagh	363 11 0½
Glen	161 19 0½

Statement of Liabilities of Enniskillen Union—*continued*.

Enniskillen Union.

	Amount of Rate struck to repay Government Advances under the Temporary Relief Act.
	£. s. d.
Fly	363 15 3½
Rahalton	392 16 9½
Swinlinbar	161 18 8½
Tullynamoltra	275 14 0
Amount due to contractors, officers' salaries, &c. &c. &c. .	3,115 7 9½
Due to Government	4,216 2 2
	300 0 0
Deduct amount in hands of treasurer	7,631 9 11½
	482 5 1
Net amount of liabilities	7,149 4 10½
Probable amount of rate which will be made available .	8,000 0 0
Deduct amount of liabilities as above	7,149 4 10½
Balance which would have remained for the purposes of relief on the 31st January, was the above sum of £8,000 then collected.	850 15 1½

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the GUARDIANS:—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians:—March 6, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state for the information of the Board of Guardians of Enniskillen Union, that the Commissioners have had under consideration a report which they have received from their inspector, Mr. D'Arcy, on the state of the Union, which leaves the Commissioners no alternative but to dissolve the Board and appoint paid officers to carry into execution in Enniskillen Union the Laws for the Relief of the destitute Poor in Ireland.

An order dissolving the Board will be issued by to-morrow's post, and will be accompanied by a letter to the clerk of the Union, setting forth the grounds upon which the Commissioners have resolved to take this step.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*March 7, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have already announced to the Guardians of Enniskillen Union their intention to dissolve the Board of Guardians, and an order to that effect is enclosed herewith.

The Commissioners now proceed to state the grounds on which they have determined to take this step.

It appears that on the 7th September the Guardians determined on making a rate which, together with the previous arrears, amounted to 12,831*l*.

The warrants appear to have been given to the collectors in most of the nine districts in the latter part of November and the beginning of December last; in one district on the 2nd of January; and in another the warrant has not yet been placed in the collector's hands, in consequence of the previous collector being a defaulter and refusing to produce his books.

On the 31st January last it appears that 8,621*l*. still remained uncollected; the liabilities of the Union at that date being as follows:—

	£
Due to contractors, and for officer's salaries, &c.	4,216
For advances under Temporary Relief Act	3,115
To Government	300
Total	7,631

To meet these liabilities and to provide for the relief of the destitute poor the Guardians had credit at the same date with their Treasurer for 482*l*.

Supposing, therefore, the whole of the outstanding rate to be collected, a balance not much exceeding 800*l*. would remain available for the purposes of relief;

Enniskillen Union.

and yet from the backward state of the collection new rates could not be placed upon the books at present, without including a most disproportionate amount of arrears.

The Commissioners regret to learn from Mr. D'Arcy's report that some members of the Board of Guardians, both *ex officio* and elected, have not set a good example to the rate-payers by an early payment of their rates, and that several of them remain defaulters in electoral divisions for which the warrants have been for some time in the hands of the collectors.

Mr. D'Arcy reports that in his examination of the relieving officers' books he found that the out-door relief in the Union has been conducted on a most inadequate scale; the amount allowed in many instances being quite insufficient to support the recipients.

The inmates of the workhouse also are represented as being very badly supplied with clothing; what they have is stated to be much worn and not sufficient in quantity; and the female inmates were not provided even with change of linen while that which was soiled was being washed.

The Commissioners regard the defective state of relief as arising not from the absence of humane and benevolent feelings on the part of the Guardians, so much as from the financial embarrassment into which the Union has fallen through the neglect of the Guardians to make in due time sufficient rates, and to enforce their collection.

The inspector reports that some of the departments of the workhouse were much overcrowded, the Guardians not having provided themselves with any additional workhouse accommodation; and he dwells especially on the wretched state of the buildings which are in use for the reception of fever patients, pointing out at the same time that their dilapidated and miserably defective condition has been the subject of continual reports from the medical officer to the Guardians, from the commencement of January to the date of his (the inspector's) visit to the Union.

Under the circumstances thus represented to them as attending the administration of relief to the destitute poor of Enniskillen Union, the Commissioners are bound to state that in their opinion the duties of the Board of Guardians have not been effectually discharged; and they have therefore felt themselves called upon to dissolve the Board of Guardians and to appoint paid officers to carry into execution in that Union the acts in force for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

IN pursuance of the order of the Commissioners, bearing date the 15th instant, we beg to state for their information, that on our arrival here on Wednesday last, we proceeded to visit the workhouse.

That we are sorry to have to report, that in addition to the want of accommodation, we found everything in a very disorderly state, and deficient in almost everything necessary for such an establishment, the paupers deficient in clothes and cleanliness, and the state of the yards intolerable, from the very imperfect state of the sewerage, the cesspools being stagnant in the centre of the yard, and no fall whatever from them; and all the grounds, with the exception of the master's garden, in the rough state in which the contractor left them, and the walls of separation so low that it will be difficult to keep up the regular classification of the inmates.

That it appears to us that the funds of the Union have been extravagantly misapplied, all the contracts above market price, and some of the late Guardians indirectly supplying the articles themselves.

That the children seem orderly in their school-rooms, but sickly in their appearance, the house being surrounded by water in the winter months, and approachable only by a boat; there is no way of giving the children sufficient walking exercise, and the yards being in a very rough state, and the children without shoes, makes the matter worse.

That we find the accommodation in the fever hospital very insufficient, and beg leave to call the attention of the Commissioners to the necessity of sending down a plan for a new hospital, as no proposals can be received from contractors until that is done. The Vice-Guardians regret to learn that the sum of 800*l.* only was applied for by the late Board, as they believe that sum will prove in-

adequate for the purpose, in a Union of such extent, the more so as they find it impossible to procure temporary accommodation for fever patients in the town or neighbourhood of Enniskillen. Enniskillen Union.

That although we find the collection of the rates in a backward state in several divisions, we do not apprehend much difficulty on that score. We had a meeting of the collectors yesterday, examined their books, and appointed an early day for the lodging of the collections in the hands of the Treasurer.

That we are happy to be able to state that confidence amongst the contractors and the public generally seems restored since our arrival here.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

WE beg to report that we have in some degree set the workhouse in order, and the machinery of rate collection into active operation, and for the purpose of applying the workhouse test on as large a scale as possible, we are making every exertion to procure accommodation in the town of Enniskillen until the contemplated erections at the workhouse are completed.

That taking into consideration the present state of the hospital, as well as the low state of the funds of the Union, we have thought it our duty to dispense with the services of the temporary medical assistant appointed by the late Board, and to contract with some respectable wholesale house in Dublin for medicine, which we deem necessary to have compounded in the workhouse by and on the responsibility of the medical officer of the establishment.

That we consider for the well working of the schools that they should at once be put under the superintendence of the National Board of Education.

That we have not sufficient confidence in the ability of the master, matron, or porter of the house; they seem deficient in system, and to want the tact necessary to ensure obedience to orders, but we are disposed to give them a fair trial.

That we are most desirous of calling the attention of the Commissioners to the very defective state of the sewerage of this workhouse, and to beg respectfully to suggest the propriety of sending down some competent person to superintend the whole new modelling of the drains, which were never from the first of the least use; on the contrary, the filtration in several places being in the direction of the house, thereby causing a most offensive smell, which must, when the weather gets warm, be productive of the worst consequences to the health of the inmates.

That we deem it necessary for the purpose of keeping a proper check on the relieving officers, to attend occasionally at the respective relief stations throughout the Union; we are of opinion, from complaints received from different quarters, that such a course would be attended with good results, and we are disposed to follow it up should it meet the approval of the Commissioners.

We further beg leave to report, that on Monday last a female pauper was detected in the act of stealing articles of food and clothing from the workhouse, and not considering that any punishment we had the power to inflict was commensurate with the crime, she was sent before the magistrates at petty sessions who declined to take examinations against her.

That we are glad to be able to state, on the information of our solicitor, that the sureties of the defaulting collector for the Ely district are about forthwith to pay up the amount of his deficit.

That we have further to state, for the direction of the Commissioners, that the relieving officers of the following districts, viz., John Gibson, of Tempo; William Betts, of Tullynamoltra; James Wilson, of Killinagh; and William Skelton, of Ely, have been guilty of neglect of duty and of disobedience to orders, in not attending at the workhouse on the 22nd and 23rd instant, for the purpose of transferring therefrom to out-door relief in their respective districts, the aged and infirm paupers to make room for the able-bodied in the house.

We have to report that there are in the workhouse 973 paupers; in the fever hospital and convalescent house, 89, and 12 in small-pox, in a ward set apart for the purpose, making a total of 1074. We are happy to state that both fever and small-pox appear to be on the decline.

Since our arrival here, on the 15th instant, we have paid to contractors, &c., 1084*l.*, and have now in the hands of the treasurer 1034*l.*; we hope in another week to have the state of the funds much improved.

For the purpose of applying the workhouse test more effectually we have this

R

Enniskillen Union. day entered into a contract (subject to the approval of the Commissioners) for a large store in the vicinity of the workhouse, at 25*l.* for six months, it is well floored and admirably ventilated; one of its apartments is 120 feet long by about 15 feet wide, and the other about 25 feet square. These houses can be kept very clean as the house is nearly new.

We are also in treaty for a large good house for a fever hospital, which will be capable of containing at least 100 patients; we hope to get it for about 40*l.* per annum, should it meet your approval.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your reports of the 18th and 25th ultimo, respectively, relating to Enniskillen Union, and the Commissioners observe with much satisfaction the several steps recorded, also in your minutes of 17th, 21st, and 28th ultimo, as tending to introduce important improvements in the condition of the Union.

In regard to the provision of fever hospital accommodation, I am to state that the Commissioners have understood that additional accommodation for fever cases is much required; but as it cannot be made available by the erection of a new building for a considerable period, the Commissioners consider that you have taken a most desirable course in taking steps to provide immediately additional accommodation for fever patients.

The Commissioners understand from their architect that plans for a permanent fever ward were sent to the clerk of the Union, in March, 1847, to be laid before the then Board of Guardians. The formal consent of the late Board of Guardians has been given under section 36 of 1 and 2 Vict., cap. 56, to the expenditure for the erection of the hospital, any excess in the expenditure for this purpose over the sum of 800*l.* being payable out of the rates; and the late Board have made application for the loan, and executed the deed of security for repayment of the same. It is desirable that immediate steps should be taken to procure tenders for the erection of the building, for which purpose the plans will be requisite; but if they be not forthcoming, the Commissioners, on receiving a further report from you, will communicate with their architect relative to the preparation of fresh plans for the purpose.

With reference to the state of the sewerage of the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners have communicated with their architect on the subject, and have received his observations thereon.

The specifications received from Mr. Wilkinson are also enclosed herewith.

The Commissioners approve of your taking the store adverted to for the purpose of providing additional workhouse accommodation.

In respect to the relieving officers whom you report for neglect of duty, I am to state that the Commissioners will be prepared to remove any officer who perseveres in such neglect; and the Commissioners request you to caution the officers in question accordingly.

'The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 1, 1848.*

WE hope early in the ensuing week to be able to detach to our auxiliary accommodation, in the town of Enniskillen, 100 boys.

The collection of the rates is progressing satisfactorily, and the credit of the Union seems re-established.

Should we be obliged to have recourse to legal proceedings for the recovery of rates, we apprehend it will be chiefly among those whose high station affords a very bad example.

We have set all the able-bodied men and women to labour on all the available ground about the workhouse in carrying out manure, planting potatoes, &c., &c., and we are sorry to have to report that our space for that purpose is so scanty.

We beg to call the attention of the Commissioners to a piece of ground close to, and immediately opposite the door of the workhouse, on which stands an excellent limekiln and abounding with limestone of good quality, which we would strongly recommend to be purchased; it would afford a very remunerating employment for the paupers of all classes.

We thought it prudent, before the setting in of warm weather, to order the cesspools and privies to be cleansed out, which proves a most arduous and un-

healthy undertaking from the length of time they have been allowed to remain in their present filthy state. Enniskillen Union.

We find that numerous thefts are being committed, partly from the want of a boundary wall, insomuch that we will find it necessary to place sentinels to prevent an intercourse between the townspeople and the paupers.

We propose (under the sanction of our medical officer) an immediate change in the dietary of the house, which will afford more nutritious food with little if any additional expense.

To the mode of giving out-door relief in cash we have been giving our anxious consideration, and we greatly fear that it will prove too attractive in a Union where every shift is used to avoid the little work that is offered.

We regret to state that so far as we can yet judge, the demesnes of the gentry and the land generally in the Union are in a wretched state of cultivation, although naturally fine and improvable, not a labourer is employed upon them beyond the very scanty number absolutely necessary for putting in the crops.

We are happy to state that our medical officer reports fever to be on the decline.

We continue a strict scrutiny and revision of the relieving officers' books, but we regret to say that the respectable farmers in the Union appear to have but little confidence in the integrity of some of them.

One of our rate collectors was brought up before the magistrates, assembled at petty sessions, charged with a serious assault in the discharge of his duty. One of the Vice-Guardians, with the clerk, attended. The case was dismissed with costs.

We regret to state that the town of Enniskillen is infested with beggars and low prostitutes, and we fear that some of them have been recipients of out-door relief.

In our next report we shall be able to lay before you the details of the proposed alterations in the dietary of the house, and to enter fully into matters of finance.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 6, 1848.*

THE Commissioners recommend you at once to enforce the payment of rate by persons of the class referred to in your report.

With regard to the purchase of the piece of land adjoining the workhouse, with the limekiln thereon, I am to request that you will ascertain on what terms the land in question could be rented or procured.

I am also to state that the Commissioners regret the absence of a boundary wall, but they fear that the present financial state of the Union will not admit of this defect being remedied during the present season.

As regards the giving of out-door relief in money, I am to state that all out-door relief given under the order of the Commissioners, dated the 16th March last, to classes not included in the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, should be in food as therein directed, and you have a discretion in regard to giving relief in food or otherwise to classes in Section 1, but the Commissioners strongly recommend the substitution of food for money in the generality of cases.

With reference to the statement in your report that the respectable farmers appear to have but little confidence in the integrity of some of the relieving officers, I am to state that the conduct of the relieving officers should be closely watched, and the Commissioners, as already intimated, will be prepared to remove any who may be shown not to be trustworthy.

Respecting the beggars which infest the town of Enniskillen, I am to call your attention to the provisions of the Vagrant Act respecting beggars, of which a copy is enclosed herewith.

FERMOY UNION.

Major BOLTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a great portion of my time during the past week has been occupied in consequence of dissensions amongst the Guardians of this Union, particularly with regard to the electoral division of Mitchelstown, in which district the able-bodied paupers have been allowed out-door relief, and have been sent on the public roads to work, notwithstanding there was room in the workhouse. This arrangement has caused considerable expenditure for out-door relief, and great dissatisfaction. I consider the Guardians in the above-named district have not acted according to the Commissioners' instructions, and in consequence I have directed a portion of the said able-bodied paupers to be sent to the Union house at once, and the remainder next week. I have also directed that the able-bodied paupers receiving out-door relief should not continue to work on the public roads, as I know from experience it tends to idleness and demoralization. Breaking stones by measure I have strongly recommended as most suitable.

I have every reason to hope the arrangements I have made will have a good effect, and restore that unanimity amongst the Guardians which is so desirable.

I have examined into the internal economy of the workhouse, and have great pleasure in reporting that your instructions (with a few exceptions) have been strictly obeyed. My attention will be directed to carrying out your views on every point.

The accounts, &c., of the rate collectors have been duly examined by the clerk, under my superintendence, and found to be correct, but there are some irregularities which I have pointed out and rectified.

I have not had time during the past week to inspect the relieving officers' books and accounts, but I shall take the earliest opportunity to examine them.

Fever is on the decrease in the Union, but dysentery is prevalent.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 20, 1848.*

I AM to state that the course proposed by you to the Board of Guardians for checking out-door relief to able-bodied persons, by offering admission to the workhouse, is fully approved of by the Commissioners, under the circumstances reported by you.

Major BOLTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that affairs in this Union are proceeding in a satisfactory manner. The Guardians appear to act with more unanimity, and generally approve the course I have recommended for checking out-door relief to able-bodied persons, by offering admission to the workhouse. It has already had a very beneficial effect in suppressing the impositions which have been practised.

My attention during the past week has been principally directed to the books, &c., of the relieving officers; and I purpose continuing my inspection through the electoral divisions, in order to see that the regulations under which these officers act, are strictly obeyed.

I have found it necessary to caution the relieving officers to exercise a rigid scrutiny, and to make themselves personally acquainted with the circumstances of each applicant, in order to guard against the impositions which I fear have been practised in many instances.

From the information I have received, I do not consider it will be necessary at present to renew the General Order of the 31st January last, for out-door relief to able-bodied persons, as I am of opinion they will be able to obtain employment should the weather continue favourable for farming operations.

I beg to recommend a renewal of the limited order of the 8th December, 1847.

On Wednesday I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians; the collectors were present, when their books, &c., were examined, and I consider they are performing their duty in a satisfactory manner.

I beg to bring to your notice that the sum of 6*l.* 18*s.* 7½*d.* was found in the

possession of Catherine Guiry, a pauper in the house, and that the said sum has been placed by an order of the Board of Guardians to the credit of the electoral division of Kilworth, to which division the woman is chargeable. I request you will be pleased to inform me if the Board of Guardians have acted correctly in this case.

I request you will be pleased to inform me if I am empowered as Temporary Inspector to sign accounts and documents relative to the Finance Committee, in the absence of Mr. Crawford.

Fermoy Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 29, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have given directions for a renewal of the Order authorizing out-door relief in the Fermoy Union.

Major BOLTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 30, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have continued my visits over the Union during the past week, and have examined the relieving officers' books, &c. The result of my inspection has been satisfactory. The officers generally are intelligent men, and appear zealous in the performance of their duties, but as great deception is often practised by persons seeking relief, I have recommended the Guardians to cause a total revision of the relief lists to be made as soon as possible.

I beg permission to remark, with reference to the electoral division of Mitchelstown, that, on my arrival, I found the expenditure for out-door relief for the week ending 11th March amounted to the sum of 64*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*, and, in consequence, I immediately ordered the able-bodied men receiving out-door relief into the workhouse, the result is, that the expenditure for the week ending the 25th March has been reduced to the sum of 43*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, which shows a decrease in the expenditure between the week ending 11th and 25th March of 21*l.* 9*s.*

The able-bodied labourers have generally refused to enter the workhouse, and I fear that great deception has been practised in this district, particularly by persons seeking out-door relief.

I beg to inform you that farming operations have generally commenced throughout the Union, and I trust the able-bodied labourers will obtain employment for some time.

I regret having to report that the collectors have not exerted themselves in the performance of their duties to my satisfaction during the past week, the total amount lodged with the treasurer appears to be only 262*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* I have called the particular attention of the Board of Guardians to this important subject, and I expect it will have the desired effect.

I am sorry to inform you that a charge of drunkenness has been made against Francis Foley, relieving officer for the Glanworth division; he admits the charge; but as I find, on inquiry, it is not an aggravated case, and the man is very sorry for his conduct, I am of opinion a severe reprimand will have a proper influence over him for the future.

I beg to state that a deserted male child, aged one week, was admitted into the workhouse on the 24th instant, and as the father and mother of the child are unknown, I request you will be pleased to inform me if the child is to be baptized by the Protestant or Roman Catholic chaplain.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 30th ultimo relating to the Fermoy Union, and with reference to the charge of drunkenness preferred against Mr. Foley, relieving officer of the Glanworth electoral division, I am to state, that as it appears that Mr. Foley has heretofore been well conducted, the Commissioners consider that, under the circumstances, a reprimand from the Vice-Guardians will be sufficient.

With reference to your inquiry as to whether a deserted child, which has been admitted to the workhouse should be baptized by the Protestant or Roman

Fermoy Union.

Catholic chaplain, I am to state, that the child should be baptized by the Protestant chaplain.

I am at the same time to state that it would be advisable to have provisions made for the child's maintenance, under the Grand Jury Act, 6 and 7 Will. IV., cap. 116.

Major BOLTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 6, 1848.*

THE sealed order of the Commissioners, dated 30th March, 1848, was read yesterday at the Board, enabling them to administer relief out of the workhouse in food to certain classes of destitute persons for the period of one month from the date of the order.

Upon the important subject of the collection of rates, my endeavour to stimulate the collectors in the execution of their duties has generally had a good effect. The sum of 680*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* has been paid into the treasurer's hands to the 5th instant inclusive.

I regret having to report, that the paupers generally in the workhouse have shown a disposition to create disturbance during the past week; and yesterday the men refused to work. I immediately proceeded to the workhouse, and inquired the cause of such conduct. The men complained that the daily allowance of food is insufficient, and that they refused to work in consequence. I pointed out to them the culpability of their conduct in disobeying orders under any circumstances, and that I was determined not to attend to any complaint until they showed contrition for their conduct, and returned to their work, and that speedy punishment should follow any disobedience of my orders. I am happy to say, the peremptory manner in which I was obliged to act has had the desired effect. The men have returned peaceably to their work; and I have requested the Board of Guardians to cause immediate inquiry to be made relative to the complaint made by the paupers of the insufficiency of the diet used in the workhouse.

ENNISTYMON UNION.

Mr. LLOYD to the COMMISSIONERS—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians:—*
February 21, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners that I attended the Ennistymon Board of Guardians on Friday the 18th inst.; that I found relief had been administered during the last two months in money, and that the allowance granted was not sufficient in amount; that on the lists for out-door relief, were dealers, tradesmen, fishermen, and persons in employment; that the number relieved during the week ending the 11th February, amounted to 13,599, out of a population of 49,935, being 1115 more than the quarter. Amongst the number reported sick and infirm, were able-bodied persons, who when put upon the lists were considered sick and infirm for want of food.

The Union has no money to its credit in bank. A few gentlemen, in their respective districts, advanced money during the week to the relieving officers, to pay the persons whose names are on the lists.

About 1500*l.* of the rate made previous to the 1st October last, is still outstanding. The warrants for the rate made 1st October, not yet given to the collectors.

I expressed my surprise to the Guardians that relief should have been given in a manner totally at variance with the sealed order. They informed me they considered it was the least expensive way. I endeavoured to impress upon them that such was not the fact; that experience had proved that food in a cooked or wetted form was by far the least expensive, as the destitute alone sought for it; that the order of the Commissioners was peremptory; and I trusted that the Board would not put their judgment in competition with men, who, independent of competency to direct the Guardians, had also the practical experience of the working of the Poor Laws in 130 Unions under their care.

I recommended the Guardians, if possible, to procure more extensive work-house accommodation, to test the able-bodied; and I directed them to furnish me with lists of implements required, to keep them employed at stone-breaking.

I inspected the house, which was in pretty good order.

On Saturday morning I sent for the clerk of the Union, to arrange about providing money for the out-door relief for the coming week; and having two of the collectors present, I informed them that if they did not get in the rates in time for the payment of out-door relief, I should report the neglect. I sent a similar message to the other collectors.

I received a list of tools required for the able-bodied, but it was so excessively extravagant, I returned it for revision.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—*February 23, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received a report from their Inspector, Mr. Lloyd, in which he states that he attended the Ennistymon Board of Guardians on the 18th instant, that he found relief had been administered under a sealed order of the Commissioners during the last two months in money, and that the allowance granted was not sufficient in amount; that on the lists for out-door relief, were dealers, tradesmen, fishermen, and persons in employment.

The Commissioners feel called upon further to state, that in making the last rate on the 1st October, 1847, the Guardians violated the sealed order of the Poor Law Commissioners, prescribing the form in which rates should be made; as it appears that the arrears of the previous rates were not carried forward into that rate, and the collectors are even now collecting under the warrants issued for the collection of the previous rate.

In addition, however, to the violation of the order of the Poor Law Commissioners, in respect of the rate of the 1st October last, the omission to carry into it the arrears in due course, and to put it *bonâ fide* in collection, has left the Guardians without funds to administer relief, it appearing that there was no

Ennistymon Union. money in the treasurer's hands, that the debts of the Union are no less than 1030*l.*, and that private gentlemen had found it necessary to advance money to the relieving officers to enable them to afford the necessary relief to the destitute poor, which the Guardians had neglected to provide.

Upon a review of these facts, the Commissioners have come to the conclusion that the Board of Guardians departed from the line of their duty in two most material points:—

1st.—In administering relief in a manner contrary not only to the order of the Commissioners, but contrary to the express provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, the 2nd section of which expressly provides that all relief given under the authority contained in that section, shall be given in food only.

2ndly.—In neglecting to take proper steps for providing sufficient funds to continue the due and efficient relief of the destitute poor in Ennistymon Union.

They are of opinion therefore that through the default of the Guardians the duties of the Board of Guardians have not been duly and effectually discharged according to the intention of the several Acts which are now in force for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland; and the Commissioners have deemed it their duty therefore to exercise the power given to them by the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and they have accordingly given directions for the preparation of an order dissolving the Board of Guardians.

This order will be issued by to-morrow night's post.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LLOYD:—*February 24, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Board of Guardians, in which they inform the Guardians that they have given directions for the preparation of an order dissolving the Board; and I am at the same time to state that it appears desirable that you should proceed at your earliest convenience to Ennistymon, and give such provisional directions to the officers, and make such provisional arrangements, as may be requisite for carrying on the affairs of the Union, pending the appointment of Vice-Guardians.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners, that during the past week we have carefully examined the interior arrangements of this workhouse, and have to submit the following observations:—

We found the dormitories very badly kept, the floors and platforms badly swept, the straw in the beds excessively dirty, and collections of dust and filth under almost every bed.

On inspecting the laundry we found the clothes which had been washed and were in process of drying completely covered with vermin, and the persons and clothes of the paupers generally neglected. On remonstrating with the master and matron as to the state of filth in which we found the house, they stated that the filthy clothes all came from the infirmary; we therefore sent for the medical attendants, and informed them of the statements made by the master and matron, and at the same time called their especial attention to the necessity of seeing that the clothes and bedding of the paupers in the hospital be kept perfectly clean.

We have also the honour to enclose for information of the Commissioners, the report of the inspector of national schools, as to the state in which he found the schools of this house, and as to the qualifications of the schoolmaster and schoolmistress; and from our own observation, we are able fully to confirm his report as to the unfitness of both teachers.

The schoolmistress is completely ignorant of the national school system of education, neither grammar, geography, nor writing is taught in her department; and the boys have not made that progress in their education which might have been expected, nor are they kept so clean and orderly as they ought to be. We therefore recommend their dismissal, or that they be advised to resign.

We have further to state that we have felt it to be our duty to suspend the

relieving officer for the division of Ennistymon, in consequence of the gross neglect of his duties. Numbers of the very destitute have not been relieved, and we have reason to suppose that a system of favouritism has been throughout pursued by him. Ennistymon Union.

We have appointed another person to perform his duties until such time as we may receive the instructions of the Commissioners on the subject.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

THE Commissioners regret to learn that the workhouse is in such an unsatisfactory state as you describe; the master and matron must be held strictly responsible for having the workhouse kept in a thoroughly clean and proper state, and the discipline and classification always maintained in accordance with the regulations of the Commissioners; and the Commissioners request that you will admonish the master and matron on this head, and warn them that the only condition on which they can be allowed to retain their present situations is, that the house be immediately brought into a more satisfactory state than it is at present, and that cleanliness, order, and discipline are in future duly attended to and enforced.

The Commissioners have in accordance with your recommendation called upon the schoolmaster and schoolmistress to resign their situations; and if the Guardians desire it the Commissioners will request the Commissioners of National Education, to recommend competent persons to succeed them.

The grounds on which you have deemed it right to suspend the relieving officer of Ennistymon division, viz., gross neglect of duty, many of the very destitute not having been relieved, and there being reason to suppose that a system of favouritism has been throughout pursued by him, are of such a nature, that the Commissioners have deemed it right to direct that an order under seal, removing him from his office be prepared. On receiving this order you will be good enough to take the necessary steps for making a new appointment.

The Commissioners observe by the agreement which you have entered into for the occupation of the house at Lahinch that it is contemplated to have a lease prepared, and the Commissioners wish to be informed whether any instructions have been given for preparing such lease.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

WE have the honour to enclose a communication we have this day received from Messrs. Bannatyne and Son, who have been supplying a portion of the meal for the out-door relief in this district, in which they gave notice that after Monday next they will not be able to forward any further supplies for the out-door relief in this Union, if they do not hear from us in the meantime satisfactorily as regards money.

We have also the honour to enclose a communication from Mr. Cronyn, the inspector at Ennis on the same subject.

The balance in the treasurer's hands to the credit of this Union, is at present under 250*l*.

We have given to Mr. Daly, the other contractor for supplying meal for out-door relief, a cheque for 50*l*., but he is very clamorous for the balance due to him.

From the state of confusion in which we found every thing here on our arrival we have been unable to strike a rate until yesterday; we have now done so as you will perceive from the minutes of yesterday's transactions, and hope soon to have it in course of collection.

We have therefore the honour to request that the Commissioners will be pleased to inform us how we are to act under the circumstances, as if from any cause the out-door relief should cease to be issued, the consequences may be expected to be very serious.

Ennistymon Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that they would recommend you to borrow money if possible from the treasurer or other party, and to repay the loan from the proceeds of the new rate, or if you will undertake to repay the sum advanced, the Commissioners will apply to the British Association for a loan of 500*l.* to you as Vice-Guardians of Ennistymon Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 31, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 28th instant, in which we are recommended to borrow money for the present wants of the Union from the treasurer or other party, and to repay the loan from the proceeds of the new rate; and stating that in the event of our not being successful in so doing, the Commissioners would apply to the British Association for a loan of 500*l.* to us, as Vice-Guardians of Ennistymon Union, on our undertaking to repay the sum advanced.

We have now the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that, agreeably to their recommendation, we immediately made application to the treasurer of the Union (Mr. Copland having gone to Ennis, for the purpose of having a personal interview with him) for a loan, on the security of the rates, to enable us to meet the most pressing demands of the Union, until such time as the new rate should come in; but we regret to say that he held out no hopes whatever of our request being acceded to by the directors of the Provincial Bank, in fact, he distinctly stated that in his opinion such an application would be at once refused.

Under these circumstances we respectfully suggest to the Commissioners the necessity of immediately applying to the British Association for an advance of money, we of course undertaking to repay the same.

In our opinion, however, 500*l.* will not be a sufficient sum to meet the demands which will be made upon us before the new rate can be made available—we think 1000*l.* will be required.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 3, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have, in accordance with your suggestion, made application to the agent of the British Relief Association, for an advance of 500*l.*, to be repaid out of the rate now about to be put in course of collection; and the Commissioners have reason to believe that a draft for that amount will be forwarded by to-night's post to Mr. Cronyn, the Temporary Inspector of Ennis Union, with whom you are requested to communicate on the subject. I am at the same time to state that if it be necessary the Commissioners will afterwards apply for a further loan.

The Commissioners request that you will be so good as to record on your minutes a resolution acknowledging the receipt of the above sum as a loan, and undertaking to repay it out of the rate about to be collected.

GALWAY UNION.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major M'KIE :—*February 2, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith, a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have received from the Under Secretary's Office, relating to the decease of a man (name unknown) who is stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body to have died from want; and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Vice-Guardians of the Galway Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

County of the Town of Galway.

Galway, January 24, 1848.

Copy of verdict of an inquest held on the body of man unknown, who was found dead :—

"That the said deceased man unknown at Clybain, parish of Rahoon and county of the town of Galway, on the 23rd of January, 1848, died from want of the necessities of life and being exposed to the severity of the weather."

JOHN LYNCH.

Inspector-General.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 11, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 2nd instant, forwarding copy of a letter from the Under Secretary's Office, I have to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that after due inquiry I have been unable to procure any additional particulars relating to the death of a man (name not known) who is stated by the verdict of a coroner's jury to have died at Clybain, parish of Rahoon, county of Galway, on the 23rd January, from want and exposure.

The relieving officer did not see the body; but would have relieved him had he applied. The Vice-Guardians had no knowledge of the case.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 5, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant. We are of opinion that proceeding for rates before the magistrates at Petty Sessions would not be very efficacious, from the uncertainty in the attendance of the local magistracy, and the possible refusal, as in a recent instance at Oranmore, where the magistrate refused to hear 48 cases, by which there was a fortnight lost; at the end of which time, when the cases were heard, the magistrate refused to issue his warrants until the next court day, by which there was a month's delay in the collection of the rates, and this at a time when such destitution prevails in the Union. We would also add that we fear that feelings of delicacy in adjudicating on the cases of persons in their own class, might have the effect of retarding that prompt and rigorous decision which the circumstances in which the Union is placed require. We are of opinion that proceedings in the superior courts (after due notice), against some of the highest rate-payers in the Union, would have a most salutary effect, and in the western part of the Union particularly. We are of opinion that to distrain under a 15 days' notice would be difficult and impossible without a large military force.

We consider the seizure made by Mr. Martin, our collector, will have a most beneficial effect; indeed it has already proved so, as many persons from whom he could scarcely think it worth while to demand rates, have since come in and paid. The property seized consisted principally of hay; it was sold by auction in this town, and brought a higher price than could be got for it at market. There was great competition, and no combination amongst the people.

We are unable to give any satisfactory explanation as to the death (as alleged from starvation) of the man at Clybane, in the electoral division of Galway. Our relieving officer for that district, had the man applied, would have given

Galway Union.

him relief provisionally, as is in every case done where our relieving officers see an urgent necessity for it. All we heard of it was, that he with three others came to the town of Galway from a distant part of the county to beg. We have given the strictest directions from the commencement, to our officers to afford instant relief in every case where there was any apparent necessity for it, and which we have good reason to know has been done.

We have made every arrangement for putting the able-bodied paupers on the out-door relief books to break stones on Monday, the county surveyor having consented to furnish us with the tools he has belonging to the Board of Works, although he has not received any order for their issue. The able-bodied paupers in the workhouse have been set to dig the ground attached to the house, until we commence quarrying on Monday, when a portion of them will be employed in breaking stones.

We have been applied to by the Town Commissioners for men to sweep the streets of this town. If the Poor Law Commissioners would permit the out-door able-bodied paupers to perform this work, we consider it would be of the greatest use in preserving the health of the inhabitants, and could not in any way interfere with legitimate labour, as the Town Commissioners have no funds to employ workmen; and we are confident it would be the severest test that could be put to a certain class of the able-bodied male paupers.

We regret to have to report that our collection for this week must be deficient, in consequence of two of our collectors having been subpoenaed to Dublin to attend a crown case as witnesses in the Court of Exchequer.

We beg to refer the Commissioners to a proposal from Major Geoghegan, for the house and premises at Dangan, on more eligible terms than offered by Mr. Redington, inasmuch as he (Major Geoghegan) proposes to let it on lease, with a clause of surrender. We are informed Major Geoghegan holds the property in perpetuity.

ENCLOSURE.

Major GEOGHEGAN to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 4, 1848.*

WITH reference to my conversation with you yesterday on the subject of your taking this place, as extra-accommodation for the poor, I beg to submit for your consideration the following terms:—

1st. The premises at present in my occupation, viz., the house, offices, &c., and 16 acres of land, Irish plantation measure, for the annual rent of 200*l.* sterling.

2nd. The house, offices, garden, with one acre of land additional, for 140*l.* sterling per annum.

Should you not find it convenient to take the whole of the land, you can have any quantity of it at the rate of 7*l.* per Irish acre, being the amount usually paid for con-acre in this locality.

With respect to a lease, I am willing to grant one for a term of 21 years, with a clause of surrender every three years.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to the proposal for the employment of able-bodied persons receiving out-door relief to sweep the streets of the city, I am to state that the Commissioners will not object to that arrangement, provided that strict precautions are taken that the work shall be duly performed, and that it shall not be a mere excuse for idleness.

I am at the same time to express the Commissioners' sanction of the proposal to take the house and premises at Dangan from Major Geoghegan, to be used as an auxiliary workhouse for the Galway Union.

Count STRZELECKI to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 4, 1848.*

I REQUEST you will be pleased to issue the necessary instructions to Major M'Kie, the new Inspector at Galway Union, that he may undertake the administration of the relief which heretofore was afforded by the Association to schools of the Union, through the instrumentality of the late Captain Hellard.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major M'KIE:—*February 8, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a letter which they have received from the Count Strzelecki, and I am to

request that, in accordance with the desire expressed in that communication, you will have the goodness to undertake the administration of the relief afforded by the British Association to schools in the Galway Union.

Galway Union.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 10, 1848.*

I ARRIVED at Galway on the 3rd instant, and immediately put myself in communication with the Vice-Guardians, and entered on the duties of my office.

My attention being called to the insufficiency of the workhouse accommodation, and to the necessity for increased means of offering the workhouse test, I accompanied the Vice-Guardians to inspect a house in the occupation of Major Geoghegan (Dangan), which they considered well adapted to the reception of children admitted to the workhouse; in this opinion I concur, the situation is open and healthy, the house large and well ventilated, having been occupied until lately, as a nunnery.

The only question appears to be that of expense; but as the Vice-Guardians have submitted the terms on which it has been offered, it is unnecessary for me to report on that point, further than to state, that as far as I have been able to ascertain there is no other place available, so well adapted to the purpose; it would accommodate about 600 children.

On the 4th instant I inspected the workhouse, and was well pleased to find it generally clean and in good order, the dormitories particularly so.

A great number of the inmates were in their own ragged clothes, the workhouse clothing being insufficient. The Vice-Guardians entered into a contract on the 2nd instant for a supply of clothing, and the contractor states that the articles are on the road from Dublin, and will be here in a day or two.

With respect to the hospital and the present number of patients, many of them fever cases, I think the utmost attention on the part of the surgeon is called for, and that he should visit it *at least once a day*. I find that this has not been the case; and that from the first to the ninth, Dr. Browne visited the hospital on six days only, and some of those did not exceed half an hour. With the sanction of the Commissioners I should wish that I might be allowed to call for a regular attendance on the part of Dr. Browne, and that the duties of visiting the sick should not be left to the apothecary.

I found on my arrival, that the town of Galway was inundated with paupers, and the streets swarming with beggars, presenting a scene of squalor and misery that can scarcely be imagined. I waited on the town Commissioners on the subject, and requested them to endeavour to put a stop to it. Their statement went to show that the gaols were crowded to excess, and that in consequence, it would be useless to attempt to put the Vagrant Act in force. They also stated that many of the inmates of the gaol were committed for petty thefts, that on their discharge they were let loose on the town, and thus tended to throng the crowd of beggars in their streets, as they were not furnished with the means of returning to their homes; that the greater number of persons, &c., discharged, and of others begging through the town, came from Connemara (Clifden Union). I saw myself yesterday, several cars loaded with prisoners going to the gaol, and was told they came from that district.

It is expected that the employment of paupers in cleansing the streets, will have a considerable effect in preventing the influx of paupers, and I hope to be able to arrange with the Town Commissioners that they shall supply carts, scrapers, &c., &c., for this purpose.

As a sanitary measure, the cleansing of the streets is much required; I have never seen so filthy a town in any part of the world I have visited.

There was a difficulty about procuring tools to set the able-bodied to work at stone-breaking, but by an arrangement with the county surveyor, on my receipt, he has given some tools, pending the receipt of the application from the Guardians in the prescribed form, and gangs are now at work, and will be increased in number daily.

The employment of out-door paupers on this labour, gives rise to the question, what amount of food will be a sufficient ration for a man employed in labour for eight hours, and on this question I hope to be favoured with the instructions of the Commissioners. The Guardians think not less than 2 lbs. of meal, or an equivalent, and I do not think they can work on much less.

Galway Union.

The amount of rate collected during the last week, is 533*l.*, but for the absence of two of the collectors who were unable to attend to the collection, would have been considerably more, there remains to be collected 10,422*l.*; strict orders have been given to the electors to enforce the collection, and that they should commence with the highest ratepayers.

I am unable to report the number on the out-door relief list, as the accounts are not yet rendered by the relieving officers, not one of whom attended for that purpose on Tuesday; I fear it cannot be less than 5000. These officers, state that it is impossible for them to attend as directed, that the amount of work is more than they can get through; there is much truth in the statement, and it is deserving the consideration of the Commissioners, whether it be not advisable to allow some assistance as storekeeper, to take charge of and distribute the bread. Some of these officers have 1000 names on their relief lists, they have not much less than 20 miles to come to attend the Board. The registering the names by the clerk, is from the numbers, a tedious process, this, together with the revision of the lists, and taking their accounts, occupies much time; the consequence is, that the business which should be brought to a close on Wednesday, will not be finished till Friday. The relieving officers generally, are not intelligent, or fitted for the office, particularly at the present time, with such an amount of destitution as prevails in the Union, rendering it imperative on the Guardians, to leave more to their discretion, than would be the case in ordinary times.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 10th instant, relating to the Galway Union, and with reference to the want of attention evinced by the medical officer of the workhouse to the patients in hospital, I am to state that the medical officer is by article 66 of the workhouse regulation, bound to attend the hospital inmates at the times fixed by the Board of Guardians. The Commissioners consider that this attendance should not be *less* in any case than once in every day, and that in cases of serious illness the attendance should be more frequent. They desire to refer to the weekly medical report (form 18 appended to workhouse regulations), in which the medical officer should show the actual attendance on each inmate of the hospital, through the week; and they recommend that the Vice-Guardians be moved to give special directions to the medical officer in pursuance of the workhouse regulations.

As regards the number of mendicants who it appears have crowded into the town of Galway, the Commissioners consider it of importance that the Vagrant Act should be enforced in Galway, with a view of checking the spread of disease, and of relieving the ratepayers from the charge of mendicants from other electoral divisions and Unions; and although the ordinary prison may not afford room for the committal of these mendicants, the Commissioners consider that by taking any building in the town suitable for a house of correction and temporary imprisonment, the magistrates may put the law in force, and probably a few examples made from time to time, would prove sufficient for the purpose.

With reference to the quantity of food proposed to be allowed to the persons who have been placed on the out-door relief list, the Commissioners recommend the Vice-Guardians in apportioning rations for able-bodied persons employed in stone-breaking, not to exceed the allowances fixed by the Relief Commissioners in 1847, which were generally considered sufficient, and were approved by the Board of Health.

In reference to the directions given to the collectors, the Commissioners desire to draw attention to the powers given to collectors, by the 73rd section of the Act 1 and 2 Vict., cap. 56, under which they can enforce payment of poor's rates by all the means which the law provides for recovery of county cess; and it will be observed that under the first provision of the 152nd section of 6 and 7 Will. IV, cap. 116, (Poor Law Compendium, page 130,) county cess may be immediately enforced by distress.

The Commissioners request that you will be so good as immediately to move the Vice-Guardians to consider the duties and extent of the districts of the

relieving officers, also the fitness of the persons now so employed for the very responsible duties they have to perform.

The Commissioners will be prepared to sanction any changes in the districts and officers which the Vice-Guardians may consider necessary, and the appointment of so many additional officers as may be requisite during the present pressure of distress. You will, however, have the goodness to observe that the Commissioners object to the appointment of assistant relieving officers in the districts already formed, and in every case desire that the additional officer shall be responsible for a district, for which object the existing districts may be altered.

Galway Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 12, 1848.*

We beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant. We annex a letter from Major Geoghegan, respecting the house and premises at Dangan, and we are about procuring an estimate as to the cost of the necessary alterations.

We have made an arrangement with the Town Commissioners, as to cleansing the streets, and have insisted upon their carrying into effect one of their bye-laws, prohibiting the citizens from permitting any nuisances to remain in the streets, which hitherto has been little attended to. They are to supply the necessary implements, and to cart to the workhouse as much manure as will be required for the ground attached thereto. This permission thus granted, will be of the most beneficial effect, and be so felt by the inhabitants of the town.

We are of opinion, that from the great pressure that exists, it is indispensably necessary to appoint four additional relieving officers. We are also of opinion that the salary of 30*l.* a-year, is not sufficient remuneration to secure the services of efficient persons to discharge the arduous duties of the office; we therefore recommend that 50*l.* a-year, at least, be fixed as a salary for each relieving officer. From the smallness of the salary allowed by the late Board, efficient persons could not be had, and the result is, that some of the relieving officers are detained from three to four days in town, making up their books. We propose to dismiss some of those persons, and to appoint competent men in their place. Mr. Bourke, Poor Law Inspector, concurs in opinion with us, that the present number of relieving officers is not sufficient for the Union during the present emergency.

We beg leave to bring under the notice of the Commissioners a very considerable evil, which we feel at a loss to correct. For some time past, great numbers of vagrants have been sent into Galway, committed by the magistrates under 10th and 11th Vict., cap. 84. The greater number of these persons are from Clifden, and other Unions. When they are discharged from prison in a state of disease and utter destitution, they apply in crowds at the workhouse for relief; they are provisionally relieved, with an injunction to return to their own localities; but instead of doing so, they remained begging through the streets of Galway, and hence the different inquests that have been lately held. The county prison originally intended to receive 250, now contains upwards of 1000 prisoners.

We are of opinion that 1 lb. of bread is not sufficient to support an able-bodied man at full work.

ENCLOSURES.

Major GEOGHEGAN to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 9th instant, informing me of your having obtained the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners, to accept of my offer of the premises of Dangan, as contained in my letter of the 5th instant.

I beg to acquaint you that I shall be prepared to give you possession of the place on the 1st of April next; and in the mean time you can proceed with any alterations or improvements which you may consider necessary.

Will you do me the favour of ascertaining if it is the intention of the Commissioners to take the whole of the premises in my occupation, or merely the house, offices, garden, and one acre of land—this not being distinctly stated in your letter under reply.

I would here beg to observe that there are four marble chimney pieces in the house, and as they are easily injured, and cannot be of much use in a poorhouse, I hope you will have no objection to my having them removed, with a view to their preservation.

Galway Union.

To the VICE-GUARDIANS of the Galway Union.

The Memorial of LAURENCE FINERTY, Relieving Officer of the Galway East Electoral Division,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—

THAT when memorialist was appointed by the late Board of Guardians to the situation of relieving officer at the very inadequate salary of 30*l.* per annum, it was not their intention to administer out-door relief, and that even under such circumstances, the rate-payers in general regarded the amount of remuneration fixed upon as meant rather only to procure inefficient officers, so that the law might be defeated, than as a fair compensation for the discharge of the duties of in-door relief; that since your superseding the last Board, the system of out-door relief having been most extensively carried out, it has imposed upon your memorialist an amount of toil and labour, and exposure to infection from the dens of wretchedness and disease which he has to visit, perfectly overwhelming, requiring not only the sacrifice of his meal hours, but even a great portion of the time for natural rest; that under these circumstances, he confidently hopes you will take his case into favourable consideration, and recommend to the Poor Law Commissioners to award him something like an adequate salary for the exceeding danger he has to expose himself to, and the excessive toil he has to undergo. And your memorialist is in duty bound to pray.

LAURENCE FINERTY.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 15, 1848.*

I AM to state in reply that the Commissioners approve of the appointment of additional relieving officers in the Union, at an increased rate of salary, according to your suggestion.

I am at the same time to observe that the relief districts of the Union should be reconstructed in such a manner, as that each relieving officer may be responsible for a particular district, which will not be too large for his sole superintendence.

Such of the relieving officers as you shall deem to be unfit for the office, you are recommended to suspend, and if they do not then send in their resignation the Commissioners will be prepared to remove them by an order under seal upon receipt of a report from the Union Inspector, recommending that course to be adopted.

The Commissioners have addressed Major M'Kie respecting the mendicants in the town of Galway, to whom you advert in your report.

With regard to the quantity of food to be allowed to able-bodied men who are receiving out-door relief, I am to state that 1 lb. of meal was the daily ration allowed to persons above nine years of age by the Relief Commissioners in 1847, and was approved of by the Board of Health. The Commissioners further believe that it was the general experience of the Relief Committees under the Temporary Relief Act, that the allowance was amply sufficient.

Further LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—
February 24, 1848.

WITH respect to the premises at Dangan, proposed to be fitted up as an auxiliary workhouse, I am directed to state that your report has been referred to Mr. R. Bourke, Poor Law Inspector, who is of opinion that not more than one acre of land should be taken at present with the house. The Commissioners request that they may be furnished with your observations on the subject.

I am also to request that you will have the goodness to state specifically the terms upon which it is proposed to rent the premises.

With reference to the proposed appointment of four additional relieving officers, I am to state that the Commissioners are desirous of being informed for what districts you propose to appoint the additional officers. The Commissioners are also desirous of being furnished with a list of the districts as now divided for relief purposes.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 17, 1848.*

Galway Union.

THE Vice-Guardians were engaged yesterday and this day in the usual routine of the Board, ascertaining the numbers on the relief lists, and investigating the cases of applicants, which are so numerous, that it is impossible for the clerk to have the accounts made up at the appointed time. Forty-three persons have been admitted into the house, 33 discharged and 25 died during the week; leaving the number on the 16th, 1087 in the house, and 10,095 on out-door relief.

The destitution is daily on the increase; frequent deaths occur; and many of the applicants admitted into the workhouse and on the out-door relief, are in such a state of exhaustion, that there is little hope of saving their lives.

There are at present 334 able-bodied men employed in stone-breaking; but as far as I have been able to ascertain, it has not acted so well as a test as admission into the house.

The out-door relief is becoming so heavy, that the Vice-Guardians are considering the propriety of giving Indian meal instead of bread, hitherto issued at 1½d. per lb.

The Vice-Guardians are endeavouring to arrange a better division of electoral divisions, some of which are too extensive for one relieving officer; they are also endeavouring to replace some of the present relieving officers by more efficient persons.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February, 22, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 17th instant, relating to the Galway Union; and in reference thereto, I am to state that the Commissioners are averse to the issue of uncooked food to persons receiving out-door relief under the second section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act; and they request that you will have the goodness to render the Vice-Guardians all the assistance in your power to enable them to have the daily rations to the persons receiving out-door relief in the Union issued in cooked food. A copy of a circular which has been issued by the Commissioners on this subject is enclosed herewith for your information.

The Commissioners will be glad to receive your further observations with respect to the operation of stone-breaking as a test of destitution.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant. We have divided the Union into districts, adding three additional ones for the purposes of out-door relief; notwithstanding the increased number of relieving officers, they will have quite sufficient work in taking down the names and visiting the applicants for the present. When the pressure is over, it is hoped the number can be decreased. We shall, we fear, have to recommend some of the present officers to resign.

The out-door paupers are breaking stones and sweeping the streets of Galway; a number have refused to work in both cases, particularly at the latter employment; they have consequently been deprived of their rations. We have given directions to the relieving officers to give tickets of admission to the workhouse to all able-bodied single paupers between the ages of 16 and 55 years, and to take their names also off the out-door list.

We are strongly of opinion that Indian meal in its raw state should be substituted for bread, as affording a more substantial and economical ration, and also in consequence of the great difficulty there is in getting bread to the distant districts, and the almost impossibility of transmitting it regularly to the islands, whereas the meal could be stored on the islands in large quantities; the people having plenty of fuel, it would be an advantage to them to cook their own food; and independent of any other consideration, there would be a saving to the Union of at least 25 per cent. In case the Commissioners approve of this change, it would be well to obtain permission from the proper authorities to store the meal at the coast guard or police stations.

T

Galway Union.

We are making every exertion to get in the rates. On the 10th November, 1847, when the present rate was struck by the late Board of Guardians:—

	£.	s.	d.
The uncollected rate and arrears amounted to . . .	14,225	5	8
From the 10th November to the 3rd of January, 1848, the amount collected was . . .	1,713	14	8
From 3rd January to 12th February, 1848, collected . . .	2,611	8	3
Uncollected on the 12th February, 1848 . . .	9,900	2	9

It was unfortunate the rate was not struck in the month of June last, when, with due diligence in the collection, we have little doubt that the arrears at present would be very trifling. We have directed the collector for Annaghdown (who has sworn informations that he could not collect in part of his district without assistance) to apply to the resident magistrate at Tuam for a force to enable him to collect the rates. Mr. Brereton, R.M., has appointed Friday and Saturday next, the 25th and 26th instant, to meet the collector in that part of his district.

We are of opinion that it would be very desirable, and tend much to the regularity of the hospital, to have paid a nurse in each ward; and we are also of opinion that it would promote the good order and regularity of the house generally, if there were steady, well-conducted persons put in charge of the dormitories, who, being allowed a small sum, would have an inducement to fulfil a duty, which in various instances we have ascertained, has been hitherto very inadequately performed.

We enclose herewith a list of the number of persons on out-door relief to this date.

ENCLOSURE.

RETURN of the NUMBER and COST of SUPPORT of PAUPERS on Out-door Relief for the week ending February 12, 1848, and of the Number added to the List for week ending Saturday, February 19, 1848.

Electoral Divisions in the Union.	Number of Paupers Relieved for week ending Saturday, Feb. 12, 1848.	Cost of Support for week ending February 12.	Number of Paupers placed on List for week ending February 19,	Gross Number now Relieved in each District.
		£. s. d.		
Galway	1997	63 17 6	913	2,910
Moycullen	1368	31 14 0	241	1,609
Killannin	1965	46 6 3	256	2,221
Oughterard	1840	47 16 4	423	1,763
Annaghdown	493	15 1 8	313	806
Lackagh	254	7 3 7	125	379
Clare-Galway	337	9 16 4	134	471
Athenry	231	6 3 0	71	302
Oranmore	328	11 5 0	252	580
Stradbally	25	0 13 3	31	56
Ballinacourty	51	2 5 3	58	109
Arran	..	..	..	..
Union at large	6	0 5 10	..	6
	8395	242 8 0	2817	11,212

I certify the above to be correct,
THOMAS J. REED, Clerk of the Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—February 22, 1848.

THE Commissioners consider that it is most desirable that the daily rations of the persons receiving out-door relief in the Union under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, should be issued in cooked food, and I am to enclose herewith for your information a copy of a circular which has been issued on the subject by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners wish that you should take such steps as you may deem to be necessary to make arrangements for the issue of the rations in cooked food; and they are convinced that this mode of affording relief will be found in the long run to be the most beneficial to the Union, both as regards real economy and other important considerations.

As regards the collection of the rates in the Union, the Commissioners request that you will impress upon each of the collectors the necessity for their proceeding with energy and dispatch to close the collection of the present rate in their districts respectively; and the Commissioners are desirous of being furnished with lists of the several immediate lessors in the Union who are defaulters in the payment of poor-rate, and with a brief statement in each case, showing the proceedings which have been taken, and the stage in which such proceedings are, for enforcing payment of the rate. Forms for this purpose are enclosed herewith.

The Commissioners wish to be informed of the number of paid nurses and ward-masters, or ward-mistresses, whom you would propose to appoint, and of the salaries which you would recommend to be allowed to them respectively.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 24, 1848.*

My attention has been directed to the accounts of the fever hospitals in the Union and their management, with which I am far from satisfied.

On my arrival, I found that objections had been made by the late Captain Hellard and the Finance Committee, to the accounts of the fever hospital at Oranmore, which in consequence had not been audited since the 30th September last, at which time a balance remained in the hands of the treasurer amounting to near 300*l.* There are several charges in the account for which there are no vouchers nor receipts; and on the 15th of January the account was returned by the Finance Committee for revision. They have been brought before the Finance Committee twice since my arrival (but in the same unsatisfactory state) by the treasurer, Mr. Atley. In addition to the balance they have on hands, they require 93*l.* to pay liabilities incurred to the 31st December.

Until this account is amended, funds will be supplied to meet the expenditure since the 1st of January only. The number of patients in this hospital on the 15th February was 51. The medical officer, Dr. Whistler, has also charge of the temporary dispensary, and receives a salary of 10*s.* per day for the two; there is, in addition, an apothecary at 5*s.* per day. Dr. Whistler does not consider it to be his duty as dispensary officer to attend on patients who may be taken ill at their homes, and unable to attend at the dispensary.

This fever hospital had only 17 female patients on the 22nd. The hospital was not completed, and there is no ward for male patients. The medical officer, Dr. Davis's salary 5*s.* per day—no allowance for compounding. The treasurer had a balance on hand on the 30th September of 159*l.*; a small balance still remains.

Has the account settled to the 1st January, had a balance of 378*l.* on the 30th September, and has received from the Guardians 22*l.* The medical officer is Dr. Hutchinson, who resides at Spiddal, has charge of the fever hospital at that place, receiving 5*s.* per day for each hospital, and 5*s.* per day for compounding medicines at Spiddal, and keeping the accounts, being 15*s.* per day. I find that Dr. Hutchinson claims 5*s.* per day for compounding medicines for Moycullen. The distance from Spiddal to Moycullen is 11 miles over mountain. I visited this hospital on the 22nd instant, and beg particularly to call the attention of the Commissioners to the following facts that come under my notice.

On looking at the visiting book I found that Dr. Hutchinson had visited the hospital on the 15th January; on the 1st of February Dr. Munn visited the hospital for Dr. Hutchinson; on the 16th, 17th, 19th, and 20th Dr. Hutchinson visited. I understand Dr. Hutchinson had been ill. The hospital having been visited but once in a month, I asked who prescribed for the sick, and was told by the nurse she had. She had also admitted patients, ordered all supplies, and had the charge indeed of all.

I think it desirable that this hospital should receive other medical attendance.

This hospital had a balance in hand of 135*l.* on the 30th September, and has received 123*l.* from the Vice-Guardians. The account has been settled to the 20th January.

Galway Union.

One Committee manages both hospitals in the town. The expenditure of this hospital from 1st October to 6th January, has been 253*l*. The average number of patients about 100; of these the return shows 10 cases of fever, 90 convalescents. The medical officer, Dr. Colchen, has been called on to explain how the convalescents have so large a proportion to the sick. Dr. Colchen receives 5*s*. per day for medical attendance; he has also charge of the permanent fever hospital in the same place at a salary of 50*l*. per annum. The apothecary receives 5*s*. per day, and for the permanent hospital 30*l*. per annum. The sheds are erected in the yard of the permanent hospital.

The sheds are erected contiguous to the workhouse walls. The expenditure from the 1st of October to 9th February, 330*l*.; the average number of patients about 80. Dr. Browne is the medical attendant, at 5*s*. per day, with an apothecary at the same rate of pay.

Dr. Browne receives a salary of 100*l*. per annum as the medical officer of the workhouse, with an apothecary at 40*l*. per annum. It appears to me that the temporary hospital, being so contiguous, might be attended by the medical officer and apothecary of the establishment without additional pay; the Vice-Guardians are of this opinion also.

The aggregate amount now required of the Guardians to pay off the liabilities of the several fever hospitals is about 700*l*., and the amount already paid by them 546*l*. These sums, together with the balances in hands on the 30th September, will make a total of about 2000*l*. for the maintenance of these hospitals since the 1st of October—say five months—and the average number of patients 351. The above does not include the salaries of the medical officers.

It has been stated that in the hospitals there are persons who are not in fever; I confess I am not prepared to say that this may not be the case; and if I may be permitted, would suggest that some medical officer should inspect and report on these hospitals.

On the 19th contracts were made by the Fever Committee for the supply of all articles of consumption required for the hospitals, on which I expect a considerable saving.

I attended the Board of Guardians yesterday until late, but the accounts of the relieving officers were not checked. Several of those men must be dismissed for inefficiency. Candidates' applications for the offices have been received, but few of them can be depended on. The office at present is a most laborious one, and is not sought after by men who are qualified for it. The weekly expenditure on out-door relief is very heavy, the gross number for the week ending 19th instant, was 11,212, at a cost of about 390*l*.; the number in the workhouse being 1135, at a cost of 90*l*.

I found at Moycullen the soup kitchen in good order, with the boilers set; and I have heard that the greater number of those which were in use under the Relief Act are still available. The relieving officers have been directed to examine and report on them. If these are brought into operation it will effect a considerable saving.

The rate collected during the week amounts to 478*l*. 5*s*. 1*d*., leaving the outstanding debt 9425*l*. 1*s*. 4*d*. The collectors state that many of the rate-payers have no goods nor produce of any kind. Parties of military are out weekly protecting the collectors.

I have not been able to induce the magistrates to enforce the Vagrant Act; and when I suggested the hiring of some building for a house of correction, they say they have no funds, and who is to pay for it?

The town continues to be crowded with mendicants.

I find that the county gaol, which is situated within the town of Galway, and which I am informed was built for 110 prisoners, contains at this moment 946 adults and 51 children—total 997 persons. I am also informed that one-half of this number are from Connemara, and three-fourths of that half from the Union of Clifden. The crowded state of this gaol requires attention. The deaths that have taken place within its walls since the 1st instant are 116—a fearful result of its crowded state—added to which, numbers have died (on being discharged) before they returned to their homes, and vast numbers remain to beg through the streets of Galway.

I am endeavouring to get the labour at stone-breaking and sweeping the

streets into a regular system, so that the effect as a test may be correctly ascertained. In three gangs for one week I have a report as follows:—

Galway Union.

Taylor's Hill, Galway,	103	sent to work,	6	left.
Ballyhown,	do.	118	do.	78 do.
Oranmore,	do.	52	do.	10 do.

I have no report yet on three other gangs, as they have not completed a week. Out of 20 men sent to sweep the streets, 10 left work the first day.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 29, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 24th instant, relating to the Galway Union, and I am to state that the Commissioners have drawn the attention of the Central Board of Health to your observations on the subject of the temporary fever hospital in the Union.

The Commissioners are prepared at once to remove any of the relieving officers of the Union who do not discharge their duties efficiently.

An extract from your report relating to the crowded state of the county gaol, has been forwarded to the Government.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

WE have received your letter of the 24th instant. We have agreed to rent the house, premises, and one acre of land, at Dangan, for three years at 140*l.* per annum. We propose to have the necessary alterations made immediately: the expense will be moderate. We are decidedly of opinion that the entire of the remaining land, 15 statute acres, should be taken, and which we think could be had on advantageous terms. The premises are within a short distance of the workhouse, and we consider that the paupers could be both usefully and healthfully employed in the cultivation of the land.

We have appointed additional relieving officers, and beg to refer you for the particulars to the schedule annexed.

There are only 25 aged and infirm paupers now remaining in the workhouse, and these could not well be removed.

On the day the order came down for the dismissal of the master we had all the inmates brought out to the yards, and on reckoning them we found a deficiency of 41, compared with the number that appears on the books.

We have had Mr. Bell Martin, of Ballinahinch Castle, served with a 15 days' notice, and we beg to annex a copy of a note received from him respecting the payment of his rates.

We enclose a report from our medical officer as to the state of the hospitals. We are of opinion that it would be desirable to have a resident apothecary to make up and dispense *our own* medicines, and which we are convinced would tend much to the care and attention of the patients. We think 10*l.* a-year with rations would be a fair salary for a head nurse, and we have written to the different hospitals in Dublin to procure one that can be well recommended. We propose to appoint four wardmasters at a salary of 5*l.* a-year with rations.

We find that sweeping the streets has been a good test, as the persons appointed to that duty only remain a few hours at the work, when they give up.

We are decidedly of opinion that cooked food is best, both as being more wholesome and more economical: we were only induced to recommend the distribution of raw meal from a consideration of the difficulty and expense of erecting the necessary boilers, &c., &c.; but as we now find that in most parts of the Union, they still remain as left by the Relief Committees, we are making every exertion to have them put into operation with as little delay as possible.

Galway Union.

We are urging the collection in every manner in our power. The military were out in Annaghdown on yesterday and this day, we do not know as yet with what result, but fear from the information we have obtained that the difficulties of collection will increase weekly. Mr. Martin has informed us that it is useless his taking out the military again into the rural parts of his district, as that part of the country is quite exhausted.

The expenses of the temporary fever hospitals seem to us to be enormous. We are now called upon for upwards of 700*l.*, which is a heavy draw upon a falling exchequer.

ENCLOSURES.

Extracts from Minutes of 24th February, 1848.

Resolved—That the following persons be appointed relieving officers for the Galway Union, at the yearly salary of 50*l.* each, and that the salaries of the other relieving officers of the Union be raised to the same amount.

Nicholas Burke,	Patrick Turke,	Patrick Kinneen, and
Michael Duffy.	John Kearns,	James Campbell.
Walter Amos,		

Resolved—That the relief districts of the Galway Union be remodelled, and that the following be the relief districts, with the relieving officers whose names are set forth opposite each district attached thereto, viz :—

1 Galway, East	Laurence Finerty.
2 Galway, West	Nicholas Burke.
3 Moycullen	Morgan Darcy.
4 Killanin, South	Patrick Turke.
5 Killanin, North	Martin Griffin.
6 Killanin, West	Francis O'Connor.
7 Oughterard, North	Walter Amos.
8 Oughterard, South	John O'Connor.
9 Oughterard, West	Michael Duffy.
10 Annaghdown	Matthew Craven.
11 Clare, Galway	James Morris.
12 Lackagh and Athenry	John M'Donough.
13 Oranmore	John Kearns.
14 Ballinacourty and Stradbally	Patrick Kinneen.
15 Union at Large	James Campbell.

Resolved—That Michael Dowling, relieving officer for Galway, and Thomas Francis for Oranmore, be called upon to resign, they being incompetent to discharge the duties of their office.

COPY of a LETTER from ARTHUR G. B. MARTIN, Esq., to the VICE-GUARDIANS, as to payment of Poor Rates.

THE impossibility of getting in my rents (without enforcing payment by severity, which would throw a vast mass of destitution on the Union) has prevented my paying the rate assessed against me. May I beg you to give me time, and to allow me to pay you by weekly instalments of 30*l.* If you cannot accept this proposal, I shall be obliged to increase the number of paupers in the Union beyond the power of support for them.

MEDICAL REPORT of the State of the GALWAY UNION HOSPITAL.

February 26, 1848.

THE number of patients in hospital this day are 255, including 48 fever patients in the fever wards at Straw Lodge; the whole number of fever cases are 100; dysentery 105, other cases 50. The number of deaths reported for the week ending on Saturday the 19th, were 19; from which date up to the present Saturday 26th, there have been 20. I consider this mortality exceedingly small, if the state of the inmates on their admission be considered; they come in reduced to the lowest state of debility and emaciation, from dysentery, want of food, and clothing, and having been exposed for weeks to cold and wet. They are brought directly from the probation wards to the hospital, and die in the course of a few days notwithstanding the most careful medical treatment; it is also to be remarked, that it will be found by a reference to the "records of deaths' book," that almost all the deaths are amongst those admitted from the southern part of Killanin and Oughterard electoral divisions, and scarcely any of the old inmates; the average time of their being in the house is about three weeks; the whole of the females in the establishment appear more healthy than the males; the latter seem to suffer more from dysentery and want of proper clothing than the former. The

persons in course of daily admission to the house are wretched beyond description, and are almost immediately in hospital; this of course must be expected from the great increase of destitution abroad and the extreme inclemency of the weather. The number of deaths for the last month have been 64; the average number in the house about 1200. I have been informed that the average number in the county prison are about 960, and the average number of deaths have been about 35 weekly; taking into consideration that their dietary is considerably better than ours, the class of persons admitted much above ours, (except those committed as vagrants,) I think the Vice-Guardians must be satisfied with the result of the management of the hospital.

Galway Union.

J. V. BROWNE, *Medical Officer.*
Workhouse hospital, February 26, 1848.

(Copy.)

THOMAS J. REED, *Clerk of the Union.*

RETURN of the NUMBER and COST of SUPPORT of PAUPERS ON OUT-DOOR RELIEF for the Week ended Saturday, 19th February, 1848, and of the Number added to the List for Week ended 26th February, instant.

Electoral Divisions in the Union.	Number of Paupers relieved for week ended 19th February, 1848.	Cost of Support for week ended 19th February, 1848.	Number of Paupers placed on Out-door Relief Lists for week ended 26th February, 1848.	Gross Number now relieved in each Electoral Division.
		£. s. d.		
Galway . . .	2,838	97 7 6	874	3,712
Moycullen . . .	1,406	54 2 8	296	1,702
Killanin . . .	2,210	83 3 1½	410	2,620
Oughterard . . .	1,756	63 17 8½	346	2,102
Annaghdown . . .	793	26 18 3½	216	1,009
Clare, Galway . . .	450	15 3 5½	150	600
Lackagh . . .	374	13 0 0	87	461
Athenry . . .	301	10 17 0	79	380
Oranmore . . .	586	18 3 0	273	859
Ballinacourty . . .	166	3 8 6½	324	490
Stradbally . . .	72	1 6 6½	21	93
Arran . . .	..	..	..	..
Union at Large . . .	6	0 4 9½	..	6
	10,958	378 12 7½	3,076	14,034

THOMAS J. REED, *Clerk of the Union.*

REPLY to the foregoing:—February 29, 1848.

WITH reference to the proposed occupation of some land at the house at Dangan, which has been taken by the Vice-Guardians as an auxiliary workhouse, I am to state that as a general rule the Commissioners deem it undesirable that Boards of Guardians should take land with a view of affording employment to able-bodied inmates of a workhouse, as all experience has shown that attempts to provide such employment in the cultivation of land belonging to the Union, weaken the efficiency of the workhouse as a test of destitution. The Commissioners however think that a limited quantity of land may be advantageously appropriated to the purpose of employing the boys in a workhouse and giving them some knowledge of agricultural labour.

So far therefore as it may be necessary to take land for this latter purpose, the Commissioners will acquiesce in such arrangements as the Vice-Guardians propose.

The Commissioners approve of the remodelling of the relief districts of the Union, and of the appointment of additional relieving officers.

As regards the proposed appointment of a resident apothecary in the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners have usually objected to the residence in a workhouse of any person who does not come under the control of the master and matron; and for this reason, as well as for some other considerations, the Commissioners must decline to accede to the appointment of a resident apothecary to the workhouse. They approve however of the appointment of a non-resident apothecary to the workhouse, for the purposes proposed by you. The Commissioners have no objection to the allowance of a salary of

Galway Union.

10%. or 15%. with rations, for the services of a competent hospital nurse; and they desire me to express their sanction of the appointment of four wardsmen, at the salaries proposed, for such time as their services may be necessary; but you will probably be enabled to dispense with some of these assistants when a good master and matron of the workhouse have been appointed, and have had a sufficient opportunity of restoring the workhouse establishment to order.

The Commissioners perceive with satisfaction that you are making arrangements for affording out-door relief to the able-bodied in cooked food. The Commissioners are aware that there are some peculiar difficulties in that respect to be overcome in the Galway Union.

The Commissioners trust that your advice and instructions will stimulate the collectors to an active and impartial discharge of their duties, and that they will make prompt and energetic exertions for the collection of the rates outstanding, having regard alone to the ability of the parties to pay, and to the necessity of obtaining funds for the support of the destitute poor of the Union.

The Commissioners are desirous of being furnished with a list of the several immediate lessors in the Union who have not paid their rates, showing the amount due by each, and the steps which have been taken in each case to obtain or to enforce payment of the rates.

Forms for this purpose are enclosed herewith, and the collectors, or some of them, will perhaps be enabled to furnish the lists in the course of the ensuing week. The lists will be found useful in enabling you to direct proceedings to be taken, or to be pressed in cases wherein it may appear to you to be necessary to stimulate the collectors.

The Commissioners regret that the expenses of the temporary fever hospital in the Union should reach so large an amount as that to which you advert, and they will call the attention of the Board of Health to the subject.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 6, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant.

In reply, I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that however desirable it may be to suspend all orders under the second section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, I am of opinion that it might be attended with serious consequences in this Union, more particularly in the western districts, if carried into effect so early as the 18th of the present month. The season has been unusually wet, and it has been impossible to prepare the land for sowing. I passed over about 20 miles in Clare Galway and Lackagh on the 3rd instant, and in that journey did not see 30 men employed in any way.

I should suggest that, so soon as the weather becomes more favourable, all able-bodied men without families be first struck off the relief lists of all the eastern divisions. If operations are commenced on the drainage of Lough Corrib so soon as the present high flood shall subside, a great portion of the able-bodied, if not all in the county of the town, will find employment. The cultivation of the land will call for labour in the eastern districts to some extent; but in the electoral divisions of Oughterard, Killanin, and part of Moycullen, I greatly fear there is no chance of employment for the labouring poor. The people to the west are in a wretched state of poverty, being mostly small cottiers who have given up their holdings, which will in all probability be left waste for some time to come.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 8, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will have the goodness to state whether the state of the Union is such that the provisions of the accompanying order to Listowel Union could be carried into effect.

It will be observed that, under that order, single men, and men with two children, will be thrown on their own resources.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 6, 1848.*

WITH reference to the proposed occupation of some, and in addition to the house and premises at Dangan, we beg leave to annex a proposal from Mr. Redington, who is the owner in fee, and who has taken a surrender from Major Geoghagan, subject to the agreement for the lease to the Vice-Guardians, of the house, garden, and one acre of land, for a term of 21 years, at the yearly rent of 140*l*. We are decidedly of opinion that it would be advantageous to accept the offer made by Mr. Redington of this land, as its occupation will not only provide useful and healthful employment for the boys, but also afford a desirable opportunity of giving them some knowledge of agricultural labour, and training them in industrial pursuits, in which the peasantry of this country are generally so deficient.

We are making every preparation for cooking food for the out-door relief. A number of the boilers put up by the Relief Committees are out of repair, and others have been taken down and removed for security. We trust in our next report to be enabled to state that some of them are at work. We have been at the Commissariat store here to look at samples and to ascertain the prices of Indian and other meal. We found there a large supply of excellent biscuit, which we consider would be a capital substitute for soft bread until we get our cooking operations into full work, being cheaper and so much easier to transmit to the distant districts and the islands; besides a large quantity can be stored in these localities, which cannot be done with soft bread.

We have discharged the last of the aged and infirm paupers, having put them on the out-door relief list, allowing them a small weekly sum for lodging and fuel.

Our contractor for clothing has furnished a good portion of his contract, and is sending in a supply weekly. The miserable state of filth and rags in which the paupers appear was most disgraceful to such an establishment as this.

We will have the male paupers at work forthwith at the hand corn-mill erected in the workhouse; we had hoped to have it at work before this, but there was considerable difficulty in procuring the proper stones for it. We anticipate this description of labour will not only turn out profitable but be a capital test. In connection with this we are anxious to establish the baking of bread in the workhouse, which besides affording a more wholesome article, would be attended with a considerable saving. The principal difficulty we feel is the want of a good plan for an oven; if this could be had (with the sanction of the Commissioners) we should commence the plan with as little delay as possible.

We have not yet been able to visit the most distant relief depôts, our whole time and attention being required to keep the workhouse in any state of regularity, in consequence of the incompetency of the late master; but we intend to make regular visits to those districts when our new master and matron (who are to be elected on Wednesday next) get into the working system of the establishment.

We are using our best exertions to get in the rates; the collectors are with one exception diligently endeavouring to do their duty. When we consider the extreme laxity which was countenanced, and in many instances positive directions given not to press particular parties, we cannot but give them some credit for their present weekly collections. It is with the greatest anxiety we contemplate the large sums we have to pay weekly on account of the out-door relief; and we greatly fear unless we obtain assistance as other Unions have, we shall fail to carry out the intentions of the Commissioners. We cannot avoid stating our opinion, from local knowledge and the best information, that some of the electoral divisions in this Union are in a state of pauperism.

We are continually called on by the creditors of the late Board of Guardians for payment of their demands, amounting to upwards of 8000*l*. This we are totally unable to comply with, owing to the increased expenditure, nearly 500 per cent. since our appointment; we are barely able to meet our weekly engagements.

We have suffered considerable inconvenience during the last week in consequence of three of our relieving officers being in fever, and those in the western parts of the Union, where the greatest destitution prevails. We have not lost any time in sending out persons to superintend the districts and the issue of rations. It has occurred to us that it would be desirable to appoint a supernumerary relieving officer, not confining his duties to a particular district, and who would

Galway Union.

be ready at all times to proceed to any locality where his services might be required.

Last week we directed the relieving officers to strike off their books all single able-bodied persons between the ages of 16 and 50 receiving out-door relief, and give them tickets for the workhouse.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners request that you will propose to Mr. John Redington, a modification of the proposal to let his house at Dangan, with 16 Irish acres of land, in perpetuity, at a rent of 200*l.* a-year. The Commissioners are restricted by law to 12 statute acres, as the extent which may be held with the workhouses of any Union; but they may take an additional quantity of three acres, which latter may be used either for general purposes or for a cemetery, or for hospital-ground. You will therefore have the goodness to arrange with Mr. John Redington for so much of the land as you may consider absolutely necessary, and as with the quantity around the present workhouse shall not in the whole exceed 12 statute acres; reserving the power of holding the further quantity of three acres for a cemetery in any eligible locality.

The Commissioners fully approve of your making arrangements, as stated, for issuing cooked food, and also for having bread baked in the workhouse, with a view to which latter object they have notified to their architect your desire to be provided with the plan of an oven.

They consider it to be of much importance that you should visit the out-relief stations as proposed, with a view to the maintenance of a due check on the relieving officers; and you are requested to give your attention also to the work stations, and the regulations for enforcing the labour test, seeing that rations shall be withheld from the able-bodied men who do not work. When your weekly expenses for these objects, (confined to travelling only,) can be averaged, an equivalent allowance will be sanctioned.

The Commissioners observe with satisfaction the progress made by the collectors, with one exception; and when you shall be constrained by want of funds, notwithstanding due exertion on the part of the collectors, the Commissioners will be prepared to entertain your application for a loan. They rely, however, on your having all the means placed at your disposal, strictly applied to enforce payment of the rates.

They approve of your employing an additional relieving officer as proposed,—and trust that in every case of ascertained inefficiency or irregularity, you will take steps for superseding the officer and providing another.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 11, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 8th instant I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that with exception of the electoral divisions of Oughterard, Killanin, Moycullen, and county of the town of Galway, I am of opinion the provisions of the order to Listowel Union of the 7th instant may be carried into effect in this Union.

Having communicated with Mr. Roberts, Superintendent of the Drainage of Lough Corrib, he informs me that, until the purchases of the property required for the proposed works are completed, he cannot employ more than 60 men. I do not, therefore, think it would be advisable to include the electoral division of Galway in the order.

As it is the intention of the Vice-Guardians to take Dangan House from the 1st proximo, for the reception of the children at present in the Union workhouse, they will then be enabled to put the workhouse test to a number of the single able-bodied men, and those having but two children, in the divisions not included in the order.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have given directions for the renewal of the order.

The Commissioners are not empowered to restrict the operation of the order to

any particular electoral divisions, but they rely on the exercise of due discretion on the part of the Vice-Guardians, in either withholding or affording out-door relief to the able-bodied, according to the peculiar circumstances of each case.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

WE have received your letter of the 8th instant. We have communicated with Mr. J. Redington as to a modification of his proposal to let the house and land at Dangan in perpetuity, but we have not yet heard from him on the subject.

We are making every exertion to establish in the different districts the necessary arrangements for the issue of cooked food, but have been greatly impeded this week in consequence of three of our relieving officers being in fever, and being obliged to call upon two others to resign from incapacity and irregularity in their accounts. We find it most difficult to provide suitable persons for the performance of this duty, and fear we shall still have to make further changes.

We have solicited the most respectable ratepayers in the different localities to give us immediate information as to any abuses, and we have directed the relieving officers to give such persons every possible facility in examining their books for that purpose. We are having lists printed of the names of the persons now receiving out-door and in-door relief, to be posted in each district; and those lists we propose should be renewed every fortnight, so that the ratepayers may be kept informed of the changes that may take place in the lists. Since the commencement of the out-door relief we have anxiously sought information as to any abuses existing in the administration of the relief, but hitherto we have received little or nothing tangible, although so obviously the interest of the ratepayers to afford it.

We propose on Monday visiting some of the out-relief stations to facilitate the preparations for the issue of cooked food, and enforce the regulations with respect to the work of the able-bodied. We were prevented leaving Galway early this week, as we intended, in consequence of the inconvenience produced by the resignation and illness of the relieving officers, and the difficulty we had in replacing them.

We have given a list of the defaulting immediate lessors to our solicitor, Mr. Blakeney, with directions to apply to them for their rates, and if not paid, to take immediate proceedings against them. We are of opinion that some of them must be proceeded against in the superior Courts.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 11th instant; and in reference thereto I am to state, that the Commissioners trust that you will eventually succeed in obtaining the services of duly qualified persons to discharge the duties of relieving officers in the Galway Union. The Commissioners think that great care should be taken that the relieving officers should not be interfered with by rate-payers who have been selected for the purpose of giving information in the several relief districts, as it is important that the relieving officers should be made fully to understand and to feel that they are individually responsible for the performance of their duties. Your occasional inspection of the relief depôts, the application of the workhouse test, and the enforcement of the labour test, will, it is hoped, be sufficient to expose and to check abuses. At the same time there is no objection to permitting respectable ratepayers to examine the relief lists, if they can be relied on for giving useful information to check abuse.

As regards the immediate lessors who are defaulters on the payment of poor-rate, I am to request your attention to the Commissioners' letter of the 22nd ult., and to state that the Commissioners are desirous of being furnished with copies of the lists of defaulters.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the Board of Guardians on Wednesday, 15th instant.

The deaths during the week were 33.

The collection for the past week amounted to 139*l.* only. One collector, Mr. Walsh, did not come in. The collection made by Mr. Amos was but 20*l.* for the

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three divisions, viz., Oughterard, Killanin, and Moycullen. I had before occasion to notice the inefficiency of this officer; the neglect I complained of was not serving immediate lessors with 15 days' notice when directed.

I should recommend that a second collector be appointed to these divisions, as they are in my opinion too extensive for one man, and the Vice-Guardians appear to doubt if it would be advisable to dismiss Mr. Amos, when he has a rate partly collected, although fully sensible of his inefficiency.

The Vice-Guardians are much pressed for payment of sums due, particularly debts incurred by the former Board, and, in one case, notice has been given of an intention to take out legal proceedings if prompt payment be not made. There remains in the hands of the treasurer this day 314*l*.

The amount due by the Vice-Guardians, and requiring early payment, is about 1300*l*; this does not include the salaries of officers, or debts incurred by the former Board.

I think the time has now arrived to solicit assistance from the British Association, in aid of the rates, and request the Commissioners will be pleased to favour me with their instructions on this point.

The food hitherto issued for out-door relief has been wheaten bread, on contract, at the rate of 6*d*. per 4*lb*. loaf; this food is expensive and liable to much abuse. I regret that the issue of cooked meal or bread made of meal (rye and Indian) has not yet been substituted. The cost of bread now issued to the children, which is much liked, is 3½*d*. per *lb*.; the saving in each ton of meal would be 8*l*. 5*s*. I pointed out the advantage of this description of food soon after my arrival here.

A second superintendent of labour has been appointed by the Vice-Guardians, the Union being too extensive for one person to attend to, and I hope this will bring stone-breaking more extensively into operation. I have submitted to the Vice-Guardians the necessity of stricter measures, and the adoption of forms and reports sent down by the Commissioners, but have not been able to obtain their decision. I fear the relieving officers have given relief to the able-bodied who did not produce a ticket from the overseer, and have cautioned them on this head.

The relieving officers have hitherto given out the bread instead of employing storekeepers; this is liable to great abuse, and I should be glad to see storekeepers appointed. Applications were received for the office on the 8th instant, but the appointments have not been yet made.

The contractors for bread will not undertake to deliver it to recipients of relief on tickets from the relieving officers.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 21, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 16th instant, in which you express your regret that the issue of cooked meal, or bread made of meal (rye and Indian), has not yet been substituted for the wheaten bread, which has heretofore been used in giving out-door relief in the Galway Union.

The Vice-Guardians inform the Commissioners that they have received tenders for bread made of barley and Indian meal mixed, but that the arrangement cannot be brought into operation until the contracts with the bakers expire on the 25th of this month, which fully explains why the use of wheaten bread has not been superseded heretofore.

The Commissioners are also informed by the Vice-Guardians that they will select from the candidates as many persons as they may require to act as storekeepers, when they have ascertained their fitness, and that they have already appointed six, who have been acting for some time.

With regard to the mortality in the workhouse the Commissioners request that you will draw the special attention of the medical officer to the necessity of adopting whatever precautionary measures may be in his power to maintain the inmates in the most sanitary condition. The Commissioners apprehend, however, that the cause of the mortality may be attributable to the exhausted state of the constitutions of the poor persons who seek admission into the workhouse.

The Commissioners will address the Vice-Guardians on the subject of the collection of the poor-rate in Mr. Amos's district.

As regards the collection generally the Commissioners request that you will examine strictly into the course which each of the collectors is taking; and that you will advise with the Vice-Guardians as to the adoption of such steps as shall

appear necessary for enforcing a prompt performance of the collectors' duties wherever the rates can be collected, by exercising the powers vested in these officers.

The Commissioners are desirous of receiving information respecting the amount due by each immediate lessor, and by occupiers rated on a valuation of 10*l*. and above in each electoral division of the Union. The Vice-Guardians will afford the Commissioners information with respect to those immediate lessors against whom their solicitor has taken proceedings, and the Commissioners will be glad to receive your report as to the other cases.

The collectors may be summoned successively, and, if requisite, you can examine them upon oath as to any matters upon which they may not be able to satisfy you. It should be shown in every case why the rate has not been collected; and in each case, according to the circumstances, directions should be given for proceedings to enforce immediate payment of the rate.

It will be found useful if each collector is required to hand to the Vice-Guardians at each weekly meeting the names of the 10 highest rate-payers in each of their electoral divisions who have not paid their rates, and the Vice-Guardians will then be enabled to give such directions as may be necessary to enforce payment in each particular case.

The Commissioners will make application for an advance of 500*l*. worth of provisions to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing out-door relief in the Galway Union; but they are desirous of receiving a report from you as to the steps which are being taken to compel immediate payment of the arrears of rate in the Union before they make application for any further advance.

You will probably be enabled to report on some of the electoral divisions by the end of this week or the beginning of the next.

The Commissioners recommend that you should visit the several relief depôts in the Union, and examine into the manner in which the labour test is applied and relief afforded, and then you will be the better enabled to bring specifically under the notice of the Vice-Guardians the particular abuse or abuses which in any case may require to be remedied.

The Commissioners will forward a copy of this letter to the Vice-Guardians as expressing their views as to the course which they wish to be pursued with respect to the collection of the rate and other matters.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 20, 1848.*

WE beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and also that of the 15th instant.

We have been enabled to improve our staff of relieving officers by calling on some to resign, which they have done, and electing others; still we are by no means satisfied with those at present in office. It is next to an impossibility to procure persons properly qualified for the situation, in a great measure owing to the frightful destitution and sickness which prevail in the Union. From the first we gave strict directions that no directions from any quarter should influence them in giving relief without first visiting the parties and ascertaining if they were fit objects. We shall use every exertion in working the out-door relief, both as to affording it to, and withholding it from, the able-bodied paupers as the case may be. In no part of our duties do we exercise greater caution.

We have received tenders for baking bread composed of barley and Indian meal mixed. It will not be more expensive than bread made from rye and Indian meal, to which we have an objection. This arrangement cannot be brought into operation until the contracts with the bakers expire, which will be on the 25th of this month.

We have received Mr. Wilkinson's plan for an oven, which we shall set about erecting forthwith. We are satisfied the bread baked in the workhouse will be of better quality and cheaper than can be obtained outside. We regret it will be necessary to remove the mill which has been at work, as the position occupied by it is the place marked out on the plan for the situation of the oven; however, this will not be attended with much trouble or expense.

We are anxious to get a French hand corn-mill from the Commissariat department; the two mills will give much employment to the paupers, and will be a capital test.

We have had numerous applications for the situations of storekeepers, and will

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select as many as we may require when we ascertain their fitness for the office: it being one of considerable trust, we are unwilling to make a hasty selection. We have already appointed six who have been acting for some time.

We travelled upwards of forty miles on Monday the 13th instant, visiting the depôts in the western districts. We are happy to have to state that many of the small farmers are tilling their ground, planting potatoes, and preparing to sow corn, which operations were so sadly neglected last spring, and hence in a great degree the fearful destitution which has visited those districts particularly.

We regret to state that the balance to the credit of the Union has been reduced very much.

	£
On the 15th instant the balance in our favour was . . .	695
Amount of cheques drawn the same day . . .	423
Leaving a balance of . . .	272

And we fear there is not much hope that the collections will materially improve for some time.

We enclose a list of the defaulting immediate lessors who have been applied to for payment by our solicitor, to whom we have given directions to take immediate proceedings if the rates be not at once paid, but we fear if the small farmers were proceeded against at present, it would have the effect of paralyzing the exertions very generally making to get a crop into the land.

We beg leave to enclose a modified proposal from Mr. John Redington for the land at Dangan. We consider the offer reasonable, and we have ascertained that part of the same land has been let at 7*l.* per acre without any buildings whatever.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 21, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners rely upon your discretion in affording out-door relief in the Union. The Commissioners trust that you will be shortly enabled to report that the daily distributions of rations is given in cooked food in all parts of the Union where it is practicable. An extract from a report on the subject of cooked food from Captain Wynne, Temporary Poor Law Inspector of Carrick-on-Shannon Union on the subject of the use of cooked food is enclosed herewith for your information.

An extract from your report with regard to the oven to be erected at the workhouse will be forwarded to the Commissioners' Architect, and the Commissioners will make application for two French hand-mills for the employment of able-bodied persons in the workhouse.

The Commissioners perceive with satisfaction your account of the progress which is being made in the cultivation of the land in the western district of the Union.

As regards the collection of the rates, the Commissioners are anxious that your continued attention should be directed to this important point, that the proceedings of the collectors should be closely watched, and that they should be stimulated to a faithful and energetic discharge of their duties, regarding alone the ability of the rate-payers to pay their rates and the wants of the destitute poor of the Union.

The Commissioners are informed by Major M'Kie that he has more than once had occasion to notice the inefficiency of collector Amos, and he recommends that a second collector should be appointed in Mr. Amos's district.

The neglect of which Major M'Kie has now to complain is, that Mr. Amos has not served the immediate lessors in his district with the fifteen days' notice when directed to do so.

Major M'Kie states that you appear to doubt the expediency of dismissing Mr. Amos, although fully sensible of his inefficiency. He states as your reason for this doubt that Mr. Amos has partly collected the rate.

The Commissioners find that there is about 2500*l.* uncollected in Mr. Amos's district, and they think that the subject should be taken into your immediate consideration with regard to the expediency of at once dismissing Mr. Amos and appointing one or more collectors in his room. He and his sureties would still remain liable for any amount of the rates which may ultimately be lost by his

neglect of duty or default, and sufficient remains uncollected to remunerate other collectors who might be appointed.

Mr. Amos's dismissal, moreover, by an order under seal, would probably have a good effect as an example to the remaining collectors.

The Commissioners are prepared at once to dismiss him upon the fact stated by Major M'Kie if you should recommend that he be removed, as it is necessary that the collectors and the rate-payers should see that a determination exists to compel the collectors to discharge their duties with zeal, fidelity, and promptitude.

The Commissioners trust that you will see that your solicitor allows no unnecessary delay to elapse in vigorously pursuing to a successful issue the proceedings which he has been directed to institute for recovery of the rates.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 23, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Vice-Guardians on Wednesday. The clerk of the Union was absent, attending the assizes in this town, and I have not been able to ascertain the number receiving out-door relief. The total number in the workhouse was 1167, of which 290 were in the hospital. I am happy to be able to report a considerable decrease in the mortality during the past week, the number of deaths being 18.

The amount of rate collected is only 93*l*. Mr. Martin, the collector of Galway, did not bring in his account; and on inquiry yesterday evening, I learnt he had been violently assaulted and severely beaten, together with his assistant, in Quay-street, in the town of Galway, on the 20th instant, when distraining for rates. Mr. Martin states, a large mob assembled and joined in the assault. Information was laid before Mr. Kernan, resident magistrate, who has issued warrants against the parties.

The test of labour has not been fully applied in all the divisions to the able-bodied labourers. In Lackagh and Athenry no overseers have been appointed. The Vice-Guardians think the people are so much scattered, that it would incur too much expense to appoint overseers for the number of able-bodied in the two divisions (145). I have advised that the workhouse test should be given for these districts, which will be done as far as practicable.

I find also that the relieving officers delay sending the lists of able-bodied men to the overseers for some days after they have been sanctioned by the Vice-Guardians—giving them, in the meantime, a week's relief in bread: for instance, one officer stated he had 267 men on his list, and on referring to the return of labour I found only 164 for the last week, the additional list having been given to the overseer only on the 21st instant. The Vice-Guardians have again warned the relieving officers not to give relief to the able-bodied unless they produce an order from the overseer.

Since my last report I have again advised with the Vice-Guardians on the advantage of issuing bread of mixed meal, and called their attention to Captain Wynne's report; and I have to report that they have resolved to adopt the use of this bread, and have advertised on the 21st instant that they will receive tenders on the 5th of April next, for the supply of bread of a mixture of Indian meal, rye meal, and barley meal—the contractor to be required to deliver the bread at the different food depôts of the Unions free of all expense, and to be distributed by him or his clerk to the out-door paupers, on tickets issued by the relieving officers.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 25, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 23rd instant, relating to the Galway Union, and they regret to observe the small amount of rate collected during the last week, and the opposition offered to one of the collectors. They trust that you will direct your continued attention to the collection of the rates in the Union, and they have to observe, that in another Union where much opposition existed to the collectors, very beneficial effects resulted from the Inspector having accompanied the collector in the discharge of his duties.

As regards the labour test, the Commissioners are of opinion that whenever out-door relief is given to the able-bodied, arrangements should be made for enforcing the performance of the amount of work required by the Commissioners' order, and

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they are desirous that you should without delay visit the districts referred to in your report, and assist and advise the Vice-Guardians in making the necessary arrangements for the strict application of the test. The Commissioners rely upon the success of your endeavours in this respect: at the same time they fully approve of the intention of the Vice-Guardians to apply the workhouse test to the full extent of the means at their disposal.

The Commissioners consider it of great importance that you should visit the several relief depôts regularly, in order to satisfy yourself that the labour test is in full and effective operation, and to remedy any defects which may be found to exist. It may be so arranged that every depôt may be visited and thoroughly examined, at least once in each week, either by yourself or one of the Vice-Guardians, so that a continual check may be kept upon the local officers, and abuses be at once corrected or defects be at once remedied. The Commissioners will forward a copy of this communication to the Vice-Guardians, as expressing their views on the subject.

The delay on the part of the relieving officers in sending to the overseers the lists of persons to be relieved is extremely reprehensible, and means should be forthwith adopted to remedy this defect, and also to ensure the daily distribution of food. The Commissioners object to the issue of weekly allowances of food to the families of able-bodied persons, and they wish your particular attention to be directed to this point.

The Commissioners will be glad to receive a report from you on the several matters above referred to as soon as you have succeeded, with the assistance of the Vice-Guardians, in making satisfactory arrangements in each respect. The Commissioners desire me at the same time to state that they are fully aware that there must necessarily be many matters requiring much arrangement and attention in organizing an extended system of out-door relief, and it is to the remedy of the defects that present themselves that they wish your endeavours to be directed.

The Commissioners have read your observations with regard to the use of a mixed meal bread in giving out-door relief with satisfaction. They were apprised of the intentions of the Vice-Guardians on the subject in their last report.

LIST of IMMEDIATE LESSORS to whom professional applications have been made for payment of Poor-rates by Messrs. Blakeney, on 14th March, 1848.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Michael Glynn	55	3	6	Thomas Kelly	12	16	3½
John O'Hara	19	10	9	William Kelly	19	10	0
Lord Dunsandle	31	0	3	James French	14	9	6
Robert Whaley	16	16	9	Lord Clanmorris	16	9	8
John Stephens	20	1	6	Valentine O'Connor Blake	13	5	8
Andrew Monks	13	1	6	Walter Wm. Lynch	34	7	0
Peter Martyn	16	11	9	James S. Lambert	16	6	6
Peter Comyn	17	14	0	Walter Lambert	52	10	1
James Kilkelly	12	12	0	Randall Athy	50	9	1
George E. Bourke	10	7	9	Richard D'Arcy	31	14	1½
Christopher St. George	128	7	8	Walter Blake	6	14	9
Martin Morris	15	1	0	James Butler	8	6	11
P. O'Flaherty	11	9	4	James Cuffee	17	4	10
Pat. Blake	36	1	11	Rev. Daniel Foley	10	17	6
Thomas H. O'Flaherty	17	3	3	Henry Townsend	13	0	0
Martin O'Malley	16	7	10	Henry Shaw Jones	25	13	3
Arthur Bell Martin	255	17	6	Richard Stoner	17	14	9
Colonel Rochford	48	16	4	Rev. Robert H. Maunsell	29	18	6
John Butler	27	0	0	Pat. L. M'Donogh	10	14	6
Mark Lynch	9	4	2	Richard Molloy	7	7	6
Mrs. John Nolan	18	2	1	Austin Semple	11	2	0
Rev. John O'Rorke	7	18	11	Rev. Peter Daly	10	8	6
Joseph French	15	16	3	Barbara O'Flaherty	5	10	9
Francis Blake	14	13	4	Board of Erasmus Smith	6	7	6
John French	20	5	0	John J. Gunning	90	18	6
Lord Oranmore	25	4	6				
Representatives of Pat. Kirwan	45	9	3				
Captain Browne	8	4	3				
					£1468	0	0½

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them the list of immediate lessors in the Galway Union referred to in your report of the 20th instant, to whom application has been made by your solicitors for payment of the rates due by such immediate lessors respectively. The list does not however show the particular course which it is proposed to pursue in each case to enforce payment of the rates.

The Commissioners enclose a copy of the list herewith, as the information contained therein will probably be required by Major M'Kie, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, in the investigation which he is about to make into the accounts of the collectors of poor-rate.

The Commissioners observe that the total amount of rate included in the list is only 1468*l.* 0*s.* 0½*d.*, and they conclude that this does not comprise the whole of the rate due by immediate lessors in the Union.

I am directed to draw your attention to this point, as it is necessary in every case in which the rate has not been paid on demand by immediate lessors, that one of the three courses by legal proceedings to obtain payment should be *at once* commenced, the proceedings being open to more delays of form than in the case of rate due by occupiers.

In any cases in which you may determine to apply for the Commissioners' consent under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Amendment Act to take proceedings against immediate lessors in the superior Courts of Record in Dublin, the requisite particulars in accordance with the Commissioners' circular of the 14th January should be transmitted to the Commissioners with your application *without delay*, in order that the necessary consent may be given, and proceedings commenced, so that the writs may be returnable on the 15th April next. If that period should by any mischance be permitted to elapse, great inconvenience will arise in the delay which will take place before the commencement of the following Term.

The same kind of necessity for despatch exists in cases where civil bill processes before the quarter sessions are resorted to.

Vigorous proceedings should also be pressed to obtain payment of the rates due by occupiers; the ability of parties to pay, and the necessities of the poor of the Union, whom want of employment and other causes of destitution may throw upon the poor-rates for relief, being the only points of consideration which can legitimately influence the course to be pursued by the Guardians of a Union.

The Commissioners take this opportunity of drawing your attention to the necessity for making preparations for striking a new rate in the Union immediately after the 15th April, when the law proceedings for recovery of the outstanding portions of the existing rate may be expected to enforce payment in the majority of cases.

If in the rate of November, 1847, provision was not made for repayment of the advances under the Temporary Relief Act, it will be now necessary to make such provision in addition to the current Union expenditure; but if in any case the amount necessary for both purposes shall exceed 3*s.* in the pound, this amount of rate only is to be levied in any such division.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major M'KIE:—*March 25, 1848.*

MAJOR M'KIE is requested to report his opinion as to the time for which a renewal of the order for out-door relief will be necessary.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply:—*March 27, 1848.*

I THINK it will be necessary to renew the order to the 1st of May. I have advised with the Vice-Guardians, and it is intended, so soon as the house at Dangan is available, to give the workhouse test to the able-bodied males in the eastern districts.

Galway Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major M'KIE:—*March 29, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have given directions for the renewal of the order for the period recommended.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 28, 1848.*

ON receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, I summoned the collectors to attend in succession, that I might inquire into the course they were taking for the collection of the rates, naming the 25th and 27th instant for their attendance, and sending blank forms to be filled in with the names of immediate lessors and occupiers rated at a valuation of 10*l.* and above.

I regret to report that these officers have failed to attend to these instructions, and that I am consequently unable to forward the returns as early as directed, while I have to regret that I have been unnecessarily prevented from attending to other duties by their neglect.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 29, 1848.*

I AM to state that unless you shall have received some satisfactory explanation of the neglect of the collectors to obey your directions, it appears to the Commissioners to be expedient that you should take steps to have them punished summarily, under the 100th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major M'KIE:—*March 30, 1848.*

WITH reference to the letter recently addressed to you on the subject of the collection of the poor-rates in the Galway Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to draw your attention to the circumstance that Mr. Martin, collector for the Galway division, collected in the week previous to the meeting of the Vice-Guardians on the 22nd instant, only 40*l.*, leaving 3476*l.* uncollected.

The Commissioners cannot consider that the same causes exist in the Galway electoral division as have been alleged to exist in other divisions of the Union for the non-collection of the rates, and they are anxious that you should use your best endeavours to have the rate collected in this division with the least possible delay. In another Union in which opposition to the collection was alleged to exist, the Inspector having accompanied the collector, the rates were at once paid.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 31, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward returns of rates due by immediate lessors and occupiers rated at a valuation of 10*l.* and above, in the electoral divisions of Clare, Galway, Annaghdown, Lackagh, and Athenry.

The cause of non-collection is stated in each case; some of the road contractors and others have promised to pay after the assizes, but there are many who will not pay until compelled, and the collector asserts that the presence of the military is absolutely necessary.

The resident magistrates have been prevented from attending with the military in consequence of the assizes; but as they have now terminated, I hope no further delay will take place.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to return herewith the lists of defaulting rate-payers enclosed with your report of the 31st ultimo, and I am to request that you will have the goodness to obtain and forward to the Commissioners the information required by the headings of the additional columns appended to the lists of immediate lessors from whom rate is due.

In any case in which it is proposed that proceedings in the superior Courts of Record should be taken against immediate lessors, the Vice-Guardians should forthwith apply for the Commissioners' consent to proceed, and in order that the lists may be returnable on the 15th instant, no delay on the part of the solicitor should take place.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major M'KIE:—*April 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a communication which they have received from the Under Secretary's office relating to your report with reference to the eviction of tenantry on the estate of Mr. Christopher St. George, in the Galway Union; and I am to request that you will be so good as to furnish the Commissioners with a report on such of the statements of Mr. St. George as may appear to call for remark.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER ST. GEORGE to Mr. REDINGTON:—*March 28, 1848.*

I BEG to observe, in relation to your letter of the 25th instant, that I am of opinion that the Poor Law Commissioners should have communicated with me at the time, February 3rd, of sending the Inspector, Major M'Kie, to investigate into the statement of the "Galway Mercury" of January 29th. The Poor Law Commissioners should have acted impartially; and they would have more amply vindicated the interests they are concerned for, by affording an opportunity to the accused, as well as accusers, to be present at the inquiry at Costello Bay.

They have thought fit, in a most unbecoming manner, to be lavish of the character of an individual fully as respectable as themselves, by inserting, without one precaution, statements unsupported for the most part by facts.

Because I have not entered into a newspaper squabble, the allegations of certain journalists are supposed to be true. I left London on the 8th instant for Ireland to attend the County Galway Assizes, and to further some matters of great private interest. On my arrival in Dublin I heard of the extreme illness of a near relative; I a few days subsequently was informed of her death in Rome; and but for such bad tidings I would in my place in Parliament have disproved any foul aspersion that could be cast on my character by pretended Irish philanthropists.

I shall now, for his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant's information, proceed to narrate to him all I myself know or can ascertain relating to the matters he has inquired of. I have to thank his Excellency for the courtesy he has evinced towards me on this occasion, which exhibits a glaring contrast with the conduct of the Poor Law Commissioners of Ireland.

Mesdames Jane O'Flaherty and E. O'Shaughnessy, in the year 1836, obtained from my father, the late Arthur F. St. George, a lease of the district of Letterman Garomba, and other denomination of land thereto appertaining, at the yearly rent of 837*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, and 20*l.* duty turf. On the 1st of May, 1847, there being unpaid to me by the aforesaid person 1255*l.* 18*s.*, I was obliged to bring in Easter Term, 1847, against the premises ejectments for non-payment of this to me very considerable sum of money. Every person living on or at all interested in those lands was served with copies of ejectments. At least 600 householders were served on the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th of last May; and in Trinity Term following I obtained judgment in ejectment, and thereby was concluded the entire interest of Mesdames O'Flaherty and O'Shaughnessy, and the several tenants to the full extent, that until the sum of 1255*l.* 18*s.*, and all accruing rent and costs of ejectments, was paid, the lessees or their tenants were not entitled to reside on, or in any degree to enjoy the possession of, the premises. Beside the sum of 1255*l.* 18*s.*, and 65*l.* costs at law, and 30*l.* duty turf owed me, I was obliged to pay Mrs. O'Flaherty 150*l.* in order to obtain possession of my property.

The aggregate quantity of money owed to me and expended for the recovery of my estate was 1500*l.* 18*s.*

On the 15th of last August I proceeded to Letterman and Garounna. I inquired into the circumstances of the tenantry; I found their condition indeed bad, arising from the neglect of the Mesdames O'Flaherty and O'Shaughnessy. I discovered in those districts persons residing, who, the outcasts of all other estates, had come from all parts of Ireland, chiefly pending the litigation between me and the Mesdames O'Flaherty and O'Shaughnessy. I was informed by the more respectable portion of the tenantry and by their priest, the Rev. Mr. Horan, that nothing could exceed the depredations of the persons termed "squatters." A flock of upwards of 800 sheep existed amongst the tenants; not one now remains; many cows have been killed and carried off. I informed the tenantry that 1500*l.* 18*s.* was due to me off the lands of Letterman. I investigated their accounts, and found they owed Mesdames O'Flaherty and O'Shaughnessy as much more as was due to me. I inquired of them how they were disposed to act towards me. I stated to them I had the full ability of dispossessing them all. They entreated me not to do so. I considered their sad condition; and at length informed them that if I was paid 400*l.* within three months I would remit 1100*l.* The tenants and the priest considered my offer most liberal. The tenants informed me they would pay me 400*l.*, provided I got rid of the "squatters" and of all bad characters. I engaged to them to do so. I have here to say, I have not as yet received 400*l.* as promised me. On the 30th of September last, and for two or three days subsequently, the deputy sheriff County Galway was occupied in executing the *habere* had against the lands of Letterman, &c. I accompanied the sheriff on the 30th, when possession was taken from some persons, who were permitted to return to their dwellings in character of caretakers. I explained to several persons who were pointed out to me as very objectionable persons that I could not allow them to remain on my property. I gave them money to enable them to remove elsewhere. Since the 30th September the power of the *habere* has been occasionally put in force. The badness of the district required the deputy sheriff not alone himself to act, but to grant specialties to carry out the intention of the law.

Galway Union.

Several persons have been dispossessed; but I am informed no act of inhumanity has been perpetrated in the removal, unless in the most urgent cases. The ability which I possessed, and still possess, to keep on my property such persons as I may deem fit shall remain, has not been acted upon.

I shall now apply myself to the report of Major M'Kie, and send certain affidavits to show that no person was illegally dealt with, and that no act of cruelty has been perpetrated.

I have great confidence in the prudence of my manager, Mr. John Lennan, of Letterman House, and I am certain he can qualify fully any act of his. I have looked through the book kept as to service of ejectments on the lands of Letterman, and I find the statements—

Thomas M'Donough, doctor, served personally on the 18th May, 1847.

Jane Connor.

The district called Garvinha comprises many denominations of land. If I was aware of the exact part Michael M'Donough claims to be of, I could inform you whether or not he was served with a copy of ejectments. This matters not, for judgment had on the ejectment concluded the entire interest of all parties.

I am quite averse to acts of cruelty. I regret the state my property is in in Connemara; such is ascribable to the sad middlemen system in Connemara. I have got rid of this class of tenants, as in one instance. Connemara is an extraordinary country, and requires more than private enterprise to uphold its inhabitants, and regenerate its circumstances. I have borrowed 6000*l.* under the Land Improvement Act, and have appropriated 1500*l.* to Letterman, and 1000*l.* to the other parts of Connemara. I have not received any rents, and have paid an immense poor-rate—oppression when a proprietor cannot realize anything from his property. Elsewhere—in Queen's County, and other parts of County Galway—my property is in a fairly wholesome condition. I pay weekly from 50*l.* to 60*l.* in different parts for the employment of my tenants. I feel indignant at being called a bad landlord. I scorn any charge of dereliction as to the duties of my position in society.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. M'KENNA:—*April 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a communication from Mr. Christopher St. George, with respect to the report of Major M'Kie, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, relative to the eviction of tenantry on Mr. St. George's estate in the Galway Union; and I am to state, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that the Commissioners will again communicate with Major M'Kie on the subject of the evidence in the case.

The Commissioners deem it right, however, in justice to Major M'Kie, to transmit, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a communication received from him, dated the 18th ultimo.

This communication is as follows, namely,—“I saw Mr. St. George in Galway at the time the notes of evidence were being copied by the clerk. Mr. St. George had come in to make application to the Guardians for a revision of the valuation of his property. I took the opportunity to speak to Mr. St. George on the subject of the evidence taken at Derricaine Lodge, and offered him the perusal of it.

“Mr. St. George not only read the evidence, but left a person to copy it (I believe his steward): he had two persons with him. Mr. St. George led me to understand that any defence he had to make would be made in another place (i. e., the House of Commons).”

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst., forwarding me a letter addressed by Christopher St. George, Esq., to T. N. Redington, Esq., &c., &c., relative to the ejectments on his estate, and referring to my report of the 19th of February last, on which I have to offer the following remarks:—

At the time I proceeded to Costello Bay to hold the inquiry directed in your letter of the 3rd of February, I understood that Mr. St. George was in England; before, however, I had written my report of the evidence above alluded to, viz., on the 16th of February, the notes of evidence taken at Costello Bay were shown to Mr. St. George, and every explanation afforded him that it was in my power to give, and Mr. St. George left a person to take a copy, which he did.

Mr. St. George called on me on the 30th ultimo, and informed me that he had ample proof of the two witnesses having committed perjury. I remarked that I had given him full opportunity to put in any contradictions; and that had he expressed a wish to that effect, I should have delayed my report to enable him to do so. I was, indeed, most anxious that statements from both Mr. Blake and

Mr. St. George should have gone up with my report; and I delayed sending it to give time to Mr. Blake, who had stated that he would send me an affidavit.

Galway Union.

Mr. St. George did not, I confess, lead me to expect anything from him, as he stated in the Union Board-room on the 16th February that he should reply in another place, by which I understood him to mean the House of Commons; and that he would not enter into explanation elsewhere.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 13, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 4th instant, relating to the eviction of tenantry on the estate of Mr. St. George in the Galway Union, and I am to forward herewith for your information a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Under Secretary for Ireland on the subject.

LETTER above referred to.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*April 11, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter dated the 4th instant, which they have received from their Inspector, Major M'Kie, in reference to the letter addressed to you by Mr. St. George on the 28th ultimo, in reference to the eviction of tenantry on his estate in the Galway Union.

The Commissioners sincerely regret that any injustice should have been done to Mr. St. George through inadvertency on their part. At the same time they feel bound to state that the complaints of Mr. St. George against the Commissioners appear to the Commissioners to be founded on a misapprehension of the course usually pursued in similar cases.

It is by no means the general practice of the Commissioners, when they give instructions for an inquiry into disputed facts, to write from their office in Dublin, to give notice to all the parties whose character may be involved in that inquiry. It is their custom to give instructions in each case to one of their Inspectors, in the full confidence that he will not make his report on the subject until he has given an opportunity to all parties concerned to offer explanations or to tender evidence.

This confidence in the instance under consideration appears to have been not misplaced. It is distinctly stated by Major M'Kie that, before he made his report, he showed the depositions to Mr. St. George; and as Mr. St. George had the opportunity of tendering either his own evidence, or the evidence of his stewards, the Commissioners do not think that there is any ground for the charge of want of impartiality towards him.

The Commissioners have to add that they will readily give due publicity to Mr. St. George's letter; at the same time they cannot forbear from expressing their surprise that it contains no allusion to the very material fact that Mr. St. George had been permitted by Major M'Kie to read the depositions in manuscript three days before the day of the date of Major M'Kie's report.

Major M'KIE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 2, 1848.*

IN reply to a letter of the 30th ult., I have the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, in further explanation of my report of the 19th February last, that the persons whose houses were thrown down at Tully were the tenants of Mr. Patrick Blake, of Gortnamona: he is the landlord, as stated by the witness John Costello. Mr. James Blake is the uncle of Mr. Patrick Blake, and his agent. As far as I have been able to understand, they were all tenants of Mr. Patrick Blake, of Gortnamona. Mr. James Blake holds a farm there at Inver, and it is possible some of the persons may have been his tenants; but my impression is, that they held the land from him as agent to his nephew, Mr. Patrick Blake. In either case there have been no ejectments served at Tully.

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466-70.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 10, 1848.*

I AM to state that on the receipt of your report a copy was forwarded for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

DINGLE UNION.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 25, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter of the 7th instant, as also the accompanying resolution, I beg to acquaint you that, having previously to the meeting on the 15th requested of Captain Hotham to press the consideration of the subject upon the Board, and it appearing that, notwithstanding the division which took place (there being 12 to 12), they consented to reconsider the whole case at their next ordinary meeting, and which, in accordance with their resolution, I attended. Having afforded such information and explanation as was deemed necessary, the Board, after some discussion, unanimously resolved to place the sum of 300*l.* at my disposal, being the amount I considered necessary for fitting up two temporary workhouses in Dingle, supposed to be capable of receiving about 400 paupers.

As I cannot calculate upon assistance or co-operation from the Committee of Guardians, I apprehend that the responsibility of directing and superintending the necessary alterations and repairs will devolve upon myself. I shall, therefore, feel obliged by the intended visit of Mr. Wilkinson being hastened, in order that I may have the benefit of his suggestions and advice.

My absence from Dingle from Monday to Thursday night has necessarily delayed the revision of the relief lists. I resumed it, however, on Thursday at Inniscaul, where the Guardians and ratepayers of the district met me by appointment. That part of my duty once completed, I should have more time to hurry on the fitting up the temporary workhouses, and correct the abuses at the schools, which appear to require it as much as any other matter connected with the administration of relief in this most unfortunate district, there being hundreds of children receiving rations whose parents are in comparatively comfortable circumstances, to the exclusion of the children of paupers, who are supported by the funds provided by the rates.

With reference to your circular of the 19th instant, I beg respectfully to state that, although I am well aware of the advantages of cooked as compared with uncooked food, yet considering that I am now about to enter upon the arduous task of organizing a Union, without being in a position to call to my assistance even the advice of one efficient person; and bearing in mind that in the rural districts there is almost a total absence of gentlemen, or others who would be willing to co-operate with me, I trust you will be pleased to allow me to postpone the carrying out that principle, however desirable, for six or eight weeks, when I hope the pressure of my duties will have been so lessened as to enable me to undertake it with more prospects of success than if I commenced now, without machinery and without funds. In the mean time I am doing the next best thing, namely, purging the lists, and removing every person who is not by law entitled to relief. I believe I have already struck off 1500 persons.

Saturday morning.

I have just received a communication from Captain Hotham, informing me that the order for dividing the Union immediately had arrived, and of some of the arrangements consequent upon it. They are all embarrassing enough in our present unprepared state, without a workhouse—without officers—without money—without Relief Committees—without soup-kitchens; but that which I fear will prove the most embarrassing of all is, to the order to the Visiting Committee of Tralee workhouse “to give every encouragement to the paupers to quit it,” and this after the able-bodied shall have been turned out. That they will encourage them to leave there can be no doubt, as they are already delighted at the proximity of a separation; but as the Tralee Union is rich (*vide* rates struck) and Dingle miserably poor, I would entreat of you to require the Tralee Board to retain our infirm paupers until we have a place prepared for their reception.

Gentlemen, it will of course suggest itself to you, under all these circumstances, the absolute necessity of providing funds from some other source than the very remote one of the rates; for, although something might be collected about June or July, when the farmers will have made something by milk and butter, and again after harvest, the attempt to do so now would be worse than useless. Another result from the immediate division it would seem is, that out-door relief by the Tralee

B ard will cease immediately here. Now, with a debt impending over us to that Board, an exhausted treasury, and no credit from the contractors, you will see the embarrassing position which an immediate division will place us in, and the indispensable necessity of providing funds, to the amount of 1000*l.* at least, to begin with. I respectfully solicit your serious consideration to these several matters.

Dingle Union.

ENCLOSURES.

TRALEE UNION.

COPY of a RESOLUTION passed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Guardians, held on Tuesday, 15th February, 1848.

Resolved,—That the Commissioners' letter of the 7th instant, on the subject of fitting up a temporary house at Dingle, having been read, and having also heard Sir Thomas Ross's letter to Captain Hotham on much the same subject, this Board, not being able to come to any conclusion upon so serious a subject at a moment's notice, deem it prudent to postpone to next Board-day the consideration of the subject, and if it be not inconvenient to Sir Thomas Ross, that he do attend this Board next Board-day; and that he do in the mean time obtain such information with respect to rent of the proposed store, and all other matters of expense connected with the fitting up the same, and whether a more suitable one may not be had at Dingle.

W. O'CONNELL, Clerk of Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Count STRZELECKI:—*February 29, 1848.*

I AM directed to forward to you the enclosed extract from a report which the Commissioners have received from Sir T. Ross, the Inspector in charge of Dingle Union, relative to the necessity of providing funds for the maintenance of the destitute poor in that district.

I am at the same time to inform you that Dingle has lately been separated from Tralee Union, that there is, therefore, no workhouse for the reception of the poor, who are in the utmost state of destitution; and I am to request that you will be so good as to take the circumstances of the case into your consideration, and advance out of the fund at your disposal the sum of 1000*l.* for the support of the poor of Dingle Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 1, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report, dated the 25th ultimo, relative to Dingle Union; and they have made known your wishes in regard to the architect's visit to Dingle, and the fitting up the temporary workhouses, to Mr. Wilkinson.

With reference to your observations as to the difficulty of commencing the administration of relief in cooked food, the Commissioners trust to your discretion in not postponing the introduction of cooked food longer than may be absolutely necessary under the circumstances.

As regards the division of the Union, the Commissioners have to state that the course taken by them in establishing the new Dingle Union has resulted from the provisions of the original Poor Law Act, which it was imperative on them to follow out; and they do not see any occasion to apprehend serious embarrassment in effecting the change.

The rates struck by the Tralee Board on the Dingle divisions will remain for consideration by the new Board, when fully constituted, as it will not be advisable for the *ex-officio* Guardians to make any rate until the Board is complete; neither would the Commissioners recommend that more paid officers than may be absolutely necessary should be appointed before the 25th March. Perhaps *pro-tempore* appointments until that period will suffice of such officers as must be immediately appointed.

Captain Hotham has been informed that the Dingle inmates should, in the opinion of the Commissioners, remain in Tralee workhouse until premises have been provided at Dingle to receive them; and that if the Guardians take any premature step to discharge destitute persons from their workhouse, they will be answerable for any evil consequences which may ensue.

The Commissioners have applied to Count Strzelecki to advance out of the fund at his disposal the sum of 1000*l.* to you for the support of the poor of Dingle Union. They rely on your administering the expenditure of that sum with the utmost caution and economy; and they would wish you to avoid, as far as is possible, the making it generally known that so large a sum has been advanced by the British Association in aid of the poor-rates in Dingle Union.

Dingle Union.

Sir T. Ross to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 29, 1848.*

IN reference to your order for dividing the Union, bearing date the 22nd instant, received last night, I beg to state that it appears by a second note received from Captain Hotham, his own views of the arrangements consequent upon the order above alluded to, are those which he sets forth and not the Commissioners'. I have, therefore, written a respectful remonstrance to the Tralee Board, and protesting against (as appears to me) the proposed inhuman act of ordering or using any influence, directly or indirectly, to get rid of our *infirm* paupers, and turning them upon the world houseless and friendless; at any rate until the subject was brought before the Commissioners, and their pleasure made known, even the able-bodied paupers whom it is proposed shall be discharged immediately, will be similarly circumstanced, having, when they accepted the workhouse, surrendered their wretched cabins, so that they are either in the occupation of others or razed to the ground. I do not, however, so much complain of this, as we are giving out-door relief to all classes; but I do complain of the Tralee Board withdrawing the revisor, who is now engaged revising this Union, it being absolutely necessary preparatory to arranging the new rate-books, that the land and houses lately vacated should be made available for the rates, and which they properly cannot be until *revised*. I believe the other measures contemplated by the Tralee Board are in accordance with law, however hardly they may press upon us, and therefore I do not find fault.

If the Board should decide at its meeting this day to discontinue relief to the poor of this Union, I have given the contractor to understand that I would hold myself responsible for any meal he may issue until I receive your instructions; and I have convened a meeting of the *ex-officio* Guardians for an early day for the purposes suggested in your letter of the 26th instant. I expect the attendance of two, or at most three.

Our prospects are gloomy, but I do not despair of working through every difficulty, and by perseverance bringing them to a successful issue.

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir T. Ross:—*March 4, 1848.*

ADVERTING to your report, dated the 29th ult., relative to the division of the Tralee Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they have received a copy of the resolution passed by the Board of Guardians of Tralee Union, on the 29th ult., setting forth the arrangements they propose as consequent upon the separation of those portions of the Union which now constitute the Dingle Union.

The Commissioners have already, in their letter to you of the 1st instant, apprized you that steps have been taken for placing funds at your disposal, to enable you to carry on the relief of the destitute poor in Dingle Union, and they presume that by this time the money is available to you for that purpose. The Commissioners have also, as stated in their letter of the 1st instant, informed Captain Hotham of their opinion that the Dingle inmates should remain in Tralee workhouse until premises have been provided at Dingle to receive them, and that if the Guardians take any premature step to discharge destitute persons from their workhouse, they will be answerable for any evil consequences which may ensue. Beyond this it does not appear to the Commissioners necessary for them to take any step with reference to the resolutions in question.

In reference, however, to that part of your report in which you complain of the Tralee Board withdrawing the revisor who is now engaged revising the Union, the Commissioners desire to observe that the withdrawal of the revisor does not constitute any ground of complaint against the Tralee Board of Guardians, but flows as a necessary consequence from the separation of Dingle from Tralee Union. The revisor of Tralee Union is the officer of the Tralee Board of Guardians, and as such he has no authority to revise the valuation of Dingle Union, nor have the Guardians of Tralee Union any authority to direct him to do so. If, however, from the local knowledge which the revisor has of Dingle Union, and from the experience which he has gained respecting the district when revising the valuation of it as part of Tralee Union, it is thought that there will be any advantage to Dingle Union in securing his services with a view to

the first rate to be made in Dingle Union, the Commissioners do not doubt that some arrangement by which that advantage may be secured can be effected, and they trust that if such arrangement is thought advisable, the Tralee Board of Guardians will do all in their power to facilitate it.

Dingle Union.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 29, 1848.*

IN compliance with the directions contained in your letter of the 26th instant, requesting that I would make a separate report on the subject of some remarks cursorily made by me on the back of a weekly return on the 20th instant, I beg to inform you that it has come to my knowledge that daily instances occur of unfortunate cottier tenants, whose holdings average from "the grass of half a cow to two cows" (for such is the way land is let here), surrendering them, in order to qualify themselves for out-door relief as hitherto administered. This is followed up quickly by the presentation of a document at the Committee-room from either the landlord or agent, to the effect, "that bearer had given up possession of his land;" and the fact of such surrender is in most cases evidence of the destitution of the person applying, having held the land until the cravings of hunger, together with all hope of being enabled to crop it, compelled them to give it up.

Thirty families residing upon a farm in the electoral division of Kilquane (Ventry trust property) were ejected by habere about a fortnight back; and the unfortunate people, amounting in all to about 150 souls, were exposed for several nights on the road-side to the inclemency of the weather, having no protection or covering than such as they could erect in the form of tents with the fragments of their miserable furniture and blankets; some have since obtained temporary house room from their acquaintances, others have erected huts, and until within a few days very few have applied to us for relief, being deterred from so doing under the apprehension that the Committee would have been informed by the *drivers* of the property (for we encourage the attendance of such persons when revising the lists) that a few miserable sheep, valued at about 2s. each, still remained among them.

Thousands of acres are and will be waste this year unless something be speedily done by either the landlords or the Government, to provide seeds for those who are still in occupation; and a strong feeling exists on the part of those who would otherwise be willing to take the vacant farms against doing so, in consequence of the alarm caused by the amount of rate struck for the support of the poor, and the apprehensions that matters will not mend for some time. In fact, the evil has arrived at such a pitch that it behoves the Government or landlords, or both, to come forward with some measure of reproductive employment of the people, otherwise the increased demand for relief next winter will completely absorb the entire property of the barony, but more particularly five of the electoral divisions whose ratings vary from 6s. to 14s. in the pound.

The large proprietors are my Lords Cork and Ventry (the Ventry trust property being nearly half the barony), and the Rev. Fitzgerald Townsend.

If I have stepped out of the course of my duty in any of the foregoing remarks I trust the urgency of the case will plead my apology.

P.S.—I should have mentioned, in justice to the receiver under the Courts, that the persons ejected paid little or no rents during the last two years; and that, as an inducement to give up the peaceable possession, he offered to each person holding the grass of one cow 1l., and so on, for any quantity over, which they refused.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 6, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have forwarded a copy of your communication to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Dingle Union.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

SINCE the rather unexpected division of the Union, and the determination of the Tralee Board of Guardians to cast us off in the midst of our difficulties, despair and disappointment pervaded the minds of all classes in the Dingle Union; and so far from results of an embarrassing nature being likely to arise from communicating to the assembled Guardians the timely relief to their besieged garrison, I do believe that it will have a directly contrary tendency; as I took the opportunity of impressing it upon them, that the advance was so *munificent* it was not at all likely that any further aid would be given, and that the rates, which would not *now* be more than the property could bear, *should* be made available for the relief of destitution; and here I may be permitted to ask if the gratuitous distribution of food is intended to be confined to the electoral divisions in proportion to their poverty and inability to pay high rates, or is it to be general over the Union, observing that they vary from 5*d.* to 14*s.* in the pound.

The clouds which overhung us are now happily dispelled and confidence restored. I beg to congratulate you, therefore, upon the carrying out of a measure which already bids fairly to be of great advantage to the property as well as to the poverty of the Union.

I have in almost every particular anticipated the instructions you sent me for the guidance of our *pro tempore* Board of Guardians, having made no appointments, except that of a clerk, at 10*s.* per week, which I beg you will be pleased to confirm. He will by this night's post transmit to you the minutes of our proceedings, by which you will perceive that Mondays are fixed for the weekly meetings of the Board.

I now proceed to report my own more immediate acts for the week. The schools entrusted to my superintendence required reform. I have accordingly applied myself to the task, and removed about 120 children from the rations lists of the schools in and near Dingle, and transferred thereto a like number from the relief lists. I believe every school in the Union requires a similar purging, which I will attend to as opportunities offer. On Tuesday and Wednesday was engaged revising relief lists and getting them into order. On Thursday at Annascaul, where I met the Guardians of the district and rate-payers, by appointment, to revise lists, struck off 200 persons. Friday our first Board day. This day engaged from 11 to 6, investigating the claims of paupers for relief; and I have the satisfaction to say, that in Dingle electoral division alone the expenditure has been reduced, within one month, from 116*l.* to 50*l.* per week.

I shall take care upon the Board being duly constituted, to bring under its immediate consideration the necessity of proceeding with the revision of the electoral divisions which were not completed by Mr. Roche, and to strike rates sufficient in amount to meet the expenditure up to the 1st of October next, making due allowance for the advance by the British Association and the expected bread-stuffs.

Your admonition to the Tralee Board as to our Dingle paupers will, I have reason to believe, have the best effect.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 8, 1848.*

IN reference to the inquiry whether the gratuitous distribution of food is intended to be confined to the electoral divisions in proportion to their poverty and inability to pay high rates, or whether it is to be granted over the Union. I am to enclose, for your information, a printed copy of correspondence which has taken place between the Commissioners and Count Strzelecki, regarding the distribution of such advances.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to your circular of the 2nd instant, as also your letter of the 4th instant, I beg to acquaint you that I have not been unmindful of the importance of the subject to which they refer; but as they involve considerations of so serious a nature, I thought I should be held excused if I deferred returning a reply, until by further inquiry and observation I could form an opinion which I should not afterwards have occasion to regret giving expression to. And although

my present opinion would incline me to suggest that relief to the able bodied may be suspended in the electoral divisions of Castlegregory, Ballyduff, Ballinvoher, Ballinacourty, and Minard, on the 18th instant, and that it ought to be continued in the remaining, or five western electoral divisions, yet I am anxious that you would allow me a few days longer to make a final report.

The reasons which suggest themselves to me for adopting this course are the following:—In the first named five electoral divisions the population, as compared to estimated value, is as one to one pound, whereas in the remaining five it is as three to two, added to which the land in the first five is more fertile, and divided into larger farms, and is nearer to Tralee, a good market-town.

To the latter five (if in the meantime I should not see reason to change my opinion) the labour and cooked food tests could be applied, and I believe with good effect. In fact, we have already commenced with the former, as will appear by the minutes of our proceedings, which will be forwarded to you by this night's post.

I find on looking over your letter of the 4th instant, that the foregoing has almost exclusive reference to circular of the 2nd; but you will perceive from its tenor that relief has been given under the 2nd section of Poor Law Extension Act in this Union; and I respectfully recommend that you will be pleased to sanction its continuance until the 21st instant, by which time I hope to be in a position to recommend that it may cease in five electoral divisions at least, if the law will admit of such an arrangement.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners cannot limit the application of an order authorizing out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act to particular electoral divisions. They have issued an order, as you suggest, authorizing out-door relief in Dingle Union until the 21st instant; and on receiving your further report they will again consider the subject.

Should it be necessary to continue the authority for any further period it will be within the discretion of the Board of Guardians to abstain from availing themselves of it in any electoral divisions in which they are satisfied that there is sufficient employment for the able-bodied, and that none of that class are actually destitute.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 19, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th instant, as also your order of same date authorizing relief to the able-bodied of this Union, under section 2 of Temporary Poor Law Extension Act, until the 21st instant, I beg respectfully to suggest that you will be pleased to extend this authority to another month, ending 21st proximo, particularly as you state, "the Guardians may abstain from availing themselves of it in any electoral division in which they were satisfied there was sufficient employment for that class, and that none are destitute." I brought the subject under consideration at our meeting yesterday, and it is intended that relief shall cease to the able-bodied in the Castlegregory and Ballyduff electoral divisions on the 21st instant.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 24, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that an order authorizing the continuance of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor to the 31st instant, had been prepared before your report was received. The Commissioners will be prepared to renew it for a further period if you think it necessary; and they request you will be so good as to report further to them, so that your report may reach this office, at latest, by the day before the present order expires.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Sir THOMAS ROSS :—*March 23, 1848.*

WITH reference to your suggestion that the British Relief Association be requested to place a sum of 125*l.* at your disposal, for the purpose of procuring clothing for the adult paupers in Dingle Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to transmit for your information, a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from Count Strzelecki on the subject, from which it appears that the British Relief Association have no funds at their disposal applicable to such an object.

The COUNT STRZELECKI to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 20, 1848.*

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 18th instant, accompanied by an extract from a report by Sir Thomas Ross, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, in which he suggests that the British Relief Association should be requested to place a sum of 125*l.* at his disposal, for the purpose of procuring clothing for the adult paupers in Dingle Union. In reply I have to acquaint you, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that the Association have no funds at their disposal applicable to such an object.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 28, 1848.*

THIS being the assizes week, Lord Ventry was the only Guardian who attended the ordinary meeting of the Board yesterday. I have since the division of the Union requested the attendance of Mr. M. Gallway, an ex-Guardian, because as his re-election is certain I thought it advisable that he should be acquainted with our proceedings during the interim of the division of the Union and the assembling of the new Board, and because I found him on all occasions inclined to act a fair and honourable part in the discharge of his duty as a Guardian.

After disposing of the routine business, I brought before the Board the subject of forming new districts, together with the amount of salary which in my opinion ought to be paid to each relieving officer; they are embodied in resolutions entered on our minutes, copies of which will be forwarded for your approval by this night's post. I have abstained as much as possible, and consistently with the administration of the law in relieving the wants of the poor and a proper regard to economy, from any interference with what will more properly be the duty of the Board, but I considered that as we had entered upon another financial year no time ought to be lost in paying off all legal claims and balancing our accounts; and that by introducing a better arrangement of districts, regulating the salaries of relieving officers upon more economical principles, I should be best consulting the interests of all parties, particularly as these matters are within the province of the Guardians, and may be set aside if they should think fit.

The medical officer attended at my request and submitted his report, by which it appears that fever is much on the decline, although of a dangerous type, whilst dysentery is much on the increase, the hospital, which is only capable of accommodating 40 patients, being full. Lord Ventry having left the meeting at 4 o'clock I was engaged investigating the claims of paupers, assisted by ratepayers, until 7 P.M., and here I may remark that the question will probably suggest itself, "how is it that so much of Sir T. Ross's time is occupied in investigating the cases of paupers?" I answer, that the greater proportion of those who present themselves are persons seeking to have additional members of their families placed on the lists, whilst others who have been struck off wish to be restored; instances have occurred of persons having been improperly removed from the lists by the representations of unfeeling ratepayers, but I can safely say that so searching are our inquiries not one has been admitted who is not an object and by law entitled to relief.

In reference to your sealed order, authorizing relief to the able-bodied of this Union, under section 2 of the Irish Poor Law Extension Act, I beg to reiterate the suggestions I took the liberty of offering in my letter of the 19th instant, recommending its extension to the 21st April, as I see nothing in the circumstances of the Union to justify a discontinuance of relief to that class; but I will take care to remind the Guardians from time to time that whenever they are satisfied there is sufficient employment in any electoral division relief may cease.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 1, 1848.*

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I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, in which you recommend that the order authorizing out-door relief in Dingle Union be continued until the 21st instant, and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have issued an order accordingly.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 2, 1848.*

WE had an adjourned meeting of the Board on Wednesday last, as agreed upon, to examine tenders for supplying the workhouse with clothing, and I beg to refer you to minutes of our proceedings for the particulars of the business transacted. There being but few samples of freizes, flannels, and linens exhibited for examination, I directed the clerk to advertise for tenders for a farther supply of those articles, and to make it known in every way that he could by posting notices, &c., that it was the wish of the Board to give every encouragement to home manufacture, particularly linen, with a view, if possible, to revive the growth of flax, which, in days of yore, was a source of comparative wealth in this part of the country; and I have reason to believe that, as we have evinced a desire to circulate our money within the Union (provided it proves the cheapest market), we shall be enabled to complete our supplies on next Board day.

On Thursday I crossed the far-famed "Connor Hill," one of the levies of Kerry, being the direct road to Ballyduff, where I inspected the whole of the schools in that electoral division, and where, as usual, I discovered jobbing, and robbery of the food of the unfortunate children. I did what I considered necessary to mitigate the evil, by giving directions to have the meal placed in charge of the Coast Guard; the officer having kindly promised to see each day's ration weighed for the two schools in the vicinity of his station, and otherwise to assist in carrying out the benevolent intentions of the British Relief Association.

The weather having taken up a little, I was happy to observe great activity in preparing for and planting potatoes, and, from inquiry, I have every reason to believe that every person in the Union who holds land will plant to the utmost of his means. I have heard of an instance of a family living upon one meal a-day for the last three weeks rather than encroach on their little store of seed potatoes, upon which it appears they have cast their lot whether for weal or woe. The effort to return to the potato cultivation will not be confined to holders of land, as I believe numbers of the unfortunate people who either surrendered their holdings or were evicted, and now receiving whatever relief, will sow more or less within the quarter of an acre, as allowed by a resolution passed at our Board on the 15th ultimo.

I do not fail to impress it upon them, that they ought not to be too sanguine of the success of the potato, and that they ought rather to reserve part of the land and manure for turnip growing, telling them at the same time that so little do I rely on the potato myself, although I hold over 160 acres, I do not intend sowing more than a few barrels, whilst I am preparing several acres for turnips.

Yesterday engaged inspecting the progress in the repairs and alterations of temporary workhouses, examining and paying tradesmen's bills, &c. Visited the meal depôt at Ballyduff and Dingle; found that the week's issue was not according to sample in my custody, and for which I shall take care to bring the contractor to an account. Everything else, I am happy to say, goes on satisfactorily. I purpose having another revision of the relief lists, by which, as there is some employment now, I hope to be enabled to strike off a few hundreds.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 18, 1848.*

THE Dingle Board met yesterday for the first time; there was rather a good attendance, and, with the exception of Messrs. Gallwey, M. Moriarty, and H. M'Cann, were composed of the most respectable class of freize-coated farmers in the Union. As a specimen of future promise, I may mention that one of the number could not speak a word of English, and a second, when asked how he intended to vote on a certain question then before the Board, replied that "he would vote with the majority." However, if the *ex-officio* Guardians attend, and give their assistance, I do not despair of the business of the Union being carried on in a satisfactory manner, saving and excepting the providing funds,

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which, in its present impoverished condition, none of us can contemplate without anxiety and alarm.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Deputy Vice-Chairman, under the late regimen selected, and for the business transacted, I beg to refer you to minutes of proceedings forwarded by this night's post.

I have not failed to impress upon the Board the necessity for frequent meetings until the Union is properly organized, the clothing prepared, and the temporary workhouse completed with every requisite for occupation, and certain days have been set apart for revising relief lists and investigating the claims of applicants for relief, which latter, I am very sorry to say, continue as numerous as heretofore, the poor people having, under the advice of the Roman Catholic clergy, either by an offer of surrender of their holdings, or disclaiming the occupation with the exception of their cabins, and thereby becoming eligible for relief. This ingenuous arrangement, in the present state of the law, places the landlord in the peculiar position of not being able to let the land to other persons without having recourse to the expensive process of ejectment: one thing, however, is certain, that there has been a considerable increase in our expenditure in consequence of this combination, if I may so term it.

I have, in my letter of the 16th instant, informed you of the number of children in the Union who receive school relief, and I have the honour to inform you that the number of persons who receive out-door relief are 9220, amounting in all to nearly 12,000, being very nearly one-third of the population; of this number I hope during the present and ensuing weeks, by a revision of the Unions, to be able to strike off at least 1000.

I had hoped, as the spring season advanced, a perceptible proportion of the able-bodied would be absorbed into private and self-supporting labour, but so long as the authority exists for giving out-door relief to that class (and I am by no means prepared to recommend its discontinuance), so long will they remain a burthen upon the charity. The experience, however, of the success of the experiments resorted to by the Government in the spring and autumn of 1847, by the almost sudden stoppage of both systems of relief then in operation, induces me now to state as my opinion that, unless some bold and vigorous measures be adopted upon the responsibility of the Commissioners, there is not the most remote prospect of effecting any considerable diminution in the expenditure, as arguments and reasoning have altogether failed in persuading the people that they must rely on their own industry for the support of themselves and families. With this view therefore I would respectfully bring under the notice of the Commissioners whether it would not be advisable, after the 21st instant, to authorize a modified system of relief to the able-bodied, by withholding it altogether from single men, and married men having no children dependent upon them, or by allowing a reduced portion of the present scale of rations to all able-bodied who shall not be in permanent employment, with the understanding that they will be permitted to avail themselves of an occasional day's work for wages to assist in maintaining themselves and families.

It is scarcely necessary to remark that, although we have a labour test in full operation in several districts in the Union, notwithstanding every effort is used to check it, many of the labourers absent themselves on the plea of illness, &c., when there can be no doubt they were employed either for their victuals or hire. No doubt the workhouse test, when it can be applied, will operate as a wholesome check against imposition of this sort, but it must necessarily be limited, as I believe we shall not have accommodation for more than 350, or at most 400.

I throw these suggestions out for consideration of the better judgment of the Commissioners.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 27, 1848.*

IN regard to your suggestion that after the 21st instant a modified system of relief to the able-bodied should be authorized, withholding it altogether from single men and married men having no children dependent upon them, the Commissioners desire to observe that under the present Irish Poor Laws it is a part of the duty of the Commissioners to see that persons really destitute receive relief either in or out of the workhouse. If there is any class of persons such as single men or married men with not more than two children, who might if they exerted themselves obtain employment, the Commissioners would not regard

them as really destitute, and would on your recommendation (if made after due inquiry and consideration), omit them from the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men.

The Commissioners object, however, in the strongest manner to the alternative suggested of allowing a reduced portion of the present scale of present rations to all able-bodied who shall not be in permanent employment, with the understanding that they shall be permitted to avail themselves of an occasional day's work for wages to assist in maintaining themselves and families. Such a system would be fraught with dangerous consequences, and would, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be seriously injurious to the permanent welfare of the Union, it would in fact be a very near approach to, if not an actual adoption of one of the most objectionable practices under the old system of English Poor Laws, viz., the practice of giving relief in aid of wages—a practice which it is the duty of the Commissioners and their Inspectors to exercise the utmost vigilance in preventing.

With regard to the labourers absent from stone-breaking on the plea of illness, when there is no doubt that they are in employment for victuals or hire, the Commissioners desire to point out that such parties should be at once struck off the Relief lists. Indeed the Commissioners do not see how such an abuse can exist to any considerable extent if a proper system of relief has been organized in the Union; and the Commissioners earnestly request your special attention to this point, in order to prevent such an abuse in future.

The Commissioners had, previously to the receipt of your report, issued an order continuing the authority to grant out-door relief to the able-bodied in Dingle Union until the 28th instant, and they have now given directions that the order be continued for a week beyond that period, and they request that you will report specifically before the renewed order expires, as to the necessity of a further renewal of the order, and as to any modification of it which you may consider practicable.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 25, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that stone-breaking by task is being carried on in every district throughout the Union where out-door relief is authorized to be given to the able-bodied, although many difficulties present themselves in enforcing the task-system with any degree of regularity, many of the labourers being physically incapacitated from performing what ought to be considered a fair day's work. We are however improving in organization and discipline; and considering that my staff of assistants is not as efficient as I could wish, and that our performances do not recommend themselves in the absence of neatly printed forms and printed instructions, yet I do believe that we can show as good returns as any other Union having the same number of persons employed.

Adverting to your observations that the material is generally available, I take leave to say that, with the exception of those cases in which we found stones on the unfinished Board of Works roads, our material will not, I fear, be available for some time to come, or at any rate until the barony is in a position to resume those works from funds raised by local taxation, as both sea and river gravel is found in great abundance, scarcely anything else being used on the contract roads. I am therefore confining our operations as much as possible to the new roads, where I find large quantities of stones deposited.

Relative to the subject of cooked food, I need hardly assure you that I am as sensible of its many advantages as the Commissioners themselves can possibly be; but when I inform you that every available means were resorted to by the Relief Commissioners to put it in operation in this Union last year, when there were ample funds, Relief Committees, &c., without succeeding in even one instance, you can judge of the difficulties I have to encounter, without the co-operation or assistance of a single individual of influence; without money, without a police establishment in the rural districts to protect the depôts, and though last not least, having still the practical working and carrying out the details of the Union on my own hands, and thereby rendering it difficult for me to absent myself from head quarters sufficiently to hire suitable places to superintend the fitting up boilers, organized staffs, &c., for cooking food for 9000 individuals in a wild and mountainous country. Still I feel that at any sacrifice the attempt should be made; and if the necessary funds are placed at my disposal, I will, without a

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moment's further delay, undertake the task even if I should sink under it, more however with the view to the preservation of the lives of our poor recipients of relief than as a test of destitution, because I am perfectly convinced from what I am a daily witness to, that such is the state of wretchedness and misery they are now struggling against, and so low is the standard of morality to which a succession of suffering during the last two years has reduced them, that no matter how unattractive the test, they will gladly accept as a condition of obtaining rations. I participate, therefore, in the higher feelings and motives with which the Commissioners are influenced, in offering my best efforts to establish the system of cooked food, namely, that it will materially conduce to the preservation of the health of many who must otherwise fall a sacrifice to dysentery and diarrhoea, which are now very much on the increase.

According to a rough calculation I have made, it will require about 130*l.* to procure the required number of boilers, pay for carriage, fitting up, &c.; but if they could be procured in Cork or Limerick, and sent round by the Government steamer, it would lessen the expense materially and be a very great convenience, as there is scarcely any intercourse with those places and this remote corner of the globe.

If I may calculate upon the co-operation of the Commissioners by requesting the Commissariat officers in Limerick and Cork to procure the boilers, I would send the dimensions and number required, but without money I can do nothing; meantime having ascertained that a hooker belonging to Dingle is now in Cork for a general cargo, I have ordered a ton and a half of rice upon my own responsibility, and will have it mixed in small proportions with the rations of persons affected with dysentery, which I trust will have a good effect.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*May 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report dated the 25th ultimo, relative to Dingle Union.

The Commissioners do not doubt that the difficulties which you experience in the organization and enforcement of the rules under which out-door relief to the able-bodied is to be administered are great, but they trust, that with the co-operation of the Board of Guardians, and by a continuance of energetic measures on your part, those difficulties may be overcome. In reference to your observation that you have the practical working and carrying out the details of the Union on your own hands, and that it is therefore difficult for you to absent yourself from head-quarters sufficiently to organize the introduction of the cooked food system, the Commissioners trust, that now the new Board has met and commenced its functions you will not fail to point out to the Guardians the absolute necessity of their attending to the duties of their office, and that you will explain to them that you cannot undertake the performance of their duties without prejudice to your own more immediate duties as Inspector.

In regard to your statement in reference to the stones broken by the paupers that the material will not be available for some time to come, except in those places where stones were found on unfinished roads, the Commissioners desire to state, that this is a secondary point, to which they attach but very little importance. The advantages of stone-breaking over other descriptions of employment, as a condition of relief are so great, that the Commissioners think it should be adopted wherever the materials are available, that is, wherever they are easily procurable, without reference to the question of whether the stones, when broken, can be advantageously disposed of.

The Commissioners have applied to the Count Strzelecki to place, at your disposal, a further sum of 500*l.*, in order that you may be enabled to commence the cooked food system at once, and they will apply to Sir Randolph Routh to know whether he can, under the circumstances of the case, assist you in obtaining the boilers.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 30, 1848.*

I MAY have been wrong in holding out a hope of any further aid from the British Relief Association, but the almost indescribable poverty and misery of the Union demands from me that I should be explicit upon this point, and when I

inform you that, at this moment, almost every available shilling is in requisition for the laudable purpose of cropping the land, encouraged as it has been by the respite given through the generous contributions of others, I need scarcely say, that to attempt to collect a rate, would not only prove unavailing, but would be a heavy blow and great discouragement to the extraordinary efforts that are being made by all classes to make the land productive, and to which alone they look forward to relief from the pressure of taxation. In their behalf, then, I respectfully but earnestly appeal for further assistance from the British Association, and when it is borne in mind, that nearly half the money already received was necessarily expended in fitting up workhouses, procuring furniture, clothing, &c. I trust you will give us credit for having exercised a rigid economy, and upon the whole, we have entitled ourselves to your sympathy, and that you will be pleased to recommend a further grant of 500*l*.

I shall feel obliged, by being informed, whether, as a medical officer was elected yesterday for the workhouse, and our sick poor were removed to the workhouse hospital, the services of the gentlemen appointed by the Board of Health are now to be dispensed with, and also, if a nurse and nurse-tenders are to be selected from the paupers who may be found fit, and if they are to be paid salaries.

I shall be glad also to be informed if hospital accommodation is in future to be confined exclusively to paupers, recipients for relief.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*May 4, 1848.*

WITH reference to your request for further assistance from the British Relief Association, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they cannot recommend that aid be given to the Union, in order to prevent or postpone the necessity of making rates for the relief of the destitute poor; the conditions on which it was originally arranged that the British Relief Association would afford assistance to certain distressed Unions, were as follows,—“assistance will be granted to a Union only at a period when the Board of Guardians have made proper exertions in the working out of their own arrangements, and when it is clearly ascertained and certified by the inspector that these efforts have been made, and the extent of distress really exceeds all their power of relief duly and fully exerted.”

The Dingle Union has, however, been particularly circumstanced, and has to some extent been made an exception to the general rule; but now that a Board of Guardians has been constituted, and the Board has commenced the exercise of its functions, the Commissioners could not properly recommend further assistance without your certificate that due efforts have been made by the Board of Guardians. The Commissioners think therefore that the preparation of the new rate should be urged forward with as much dispatch as possible, and if before the rate can fairly be put in collection, further assistance should become necessary, or if when put in collection it is found that sufficient funds cannot at present be raised for the due relief of the destitute poor in the Union, the Commissioners will recommend a further advance to be made.

A sum of 500*l*. has been remitted to you since the date of your Report, so that there can be no immediate necessity for a further advance, but should it become necessary for you to apply for such further advance, you will be good enough to forward with your application an estimate of the weekly sum which in your opinion will be required in order to preserve from starvation the destitute poor who are entitled to relief in your district, forming a separate estimate for each of the three following heads:—

1. Relief in the workhouse.
2. Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.
3. Relief to able-bodied persons entitled to such relief under the 2nd section of that Act.

In reply to your inquiry as to whether the services of the gentleman appointed by the Board of Health are now to be dispensed with, a medical officer for the workhouse having been elected, and the sick poor having been removed to the workhouse hospital, I am to state the fact of the workhouse being opened, does not in any way affect the position of the medical officer of the Board of Health. If, however, you are of opinion that the medical relief afforded in the workhouse

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is sufficient for the wants of the Union, the Commissioners will on receiving a Report from you to that effect, represent the case to the Board of Health, who will doubtless adopt such course as the circumstances of the case may seem to require. You are of course aware that officers appointed under the Board of Health, are paid from the Consolidated Fund, and not from the poor rates.

As regards the nurses, the Commissioners think that as a general rule, it is important that the workhouse hospital should be placed under the care of a respectable and competent person at a fair salary. The nurse might have the assistance of such of the paupers as may be fit for the duty, but under no circumstances could a salary be allowed to a pauper.

No person should be admitted into the workhouse hospital who could not properly be admitted into the workhouse as a pauper on the ground of destitution.

GORT UNION.

Captain HANLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 24, 1848.*

THE general state of the workhouse here has improved *considerably* since my last report; as yet much remains to be done.

I have had much fault to find with the female portion of the house, as to *order and cleanliness*; but the matron who has proved unfit for her situation, has sent in her resignation, and a notice for a successor will appear in the next "*General Advertiser*."

I am using every effort to have the rate-books completed; books for three electoral divisions were signed on Friday, and I have the collector of that portion of the Union actively at work.

The number in the workhouse is 999, receiving out-door relief 7,029. From the loose manner in which I find that out-door relief has been hitherto granted (on the mere representation of relieving officers,) I have no doubt many of the recipients should not have been admitted; however, with the stone-breaking test, (having received a supply of tools from the store of the Board of Works,) I hope soon to be able to check it.

The state of the sick for want of hospital room is *deplorable*. We have 128 fever cases huddled into a small space, and the doctor has this day reported to me, that the apartments occupied by 58 dysentery patients, are not suited with safety to receive more than 20.

The doctor requires a supply of rice for which there is no provision. *I beg to know am I at liberty to order it.*

No step was taken by the late Board of Guardians relative to the erection of a fever shed, as approved of.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 25, 1848.*

WITH reference to the crowded state of the hospital of the workhouse, I am to suggest that the Vice-Guardians should immediately take steps to relieve out of the workhouse such of the present inmates as will enable them to provide sufficient accommodation for the sick. The Guardians are fully authorized to provide the classes coming under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, with allowances for lodging, fuel, and clothing, as well as food; and they request your particular attention to their circular letter of the 18th ultimo, on this subject.

It will be desirable that you should consult with the medical officer of the workhouse as to the best mode of separating the infectious cases in hospital, so that the workhouse may not be rendered unavailable as a test of destitution. It will probably be found practicable to make arrangements for this purpose in the buildings at present available; but if not the Vice-Guardians should endeavour to hire a house or houses for the purpose.

The Commissioners think it probable that the Vice-Guardians may not yet have funds to enable them to have the necessary steps taken promptly in the present emergency, and the Commissioners have therefore applied for a sum of 500*l.*, to be placed at your disposal for the purpose.

This sum should be repaid out of the current rates with as little delay as possible.

The sealed order of the Commissioners issued yesterday, will have enabled you to give orders for such of the provisions required for the relief of the poor, as contracts have been made for.

The Commissioners think it may be useful to you to have the enclosed observations of the Board of Health, as to the steps which they recommend to be taken in cases where infectious disease may be prevalent in a workhouse.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Captain HANLEY :—*February 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to call your attention to the fact that the Commissioners' order of the 6th instant, authorizing out-door relief to the destitute poor in the Gort Union, will expire on the 6th March; and I am to request that you will inform the Commissioners if, in your opinion, there is any necessity for a renewal of the order.

Captain HANLEY to the COMMISSIONERS in reply :—*February 29, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of yesterday's date, I beg to state that it will be necessary, in my opinion, to obtain a renewal of the order authorizing out-door relief in this Union for a period of two months longer, to enable the Vice-Guardians to effect a gradual reduction in the number of able-bodied persons receiving out-door relief, without at the same time overcrowding the workhouse, which in its present state must be avoided.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 3, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have given directions for the preparation of an order authorizing out-door relief until the 18th instant only; I am at the same time to request your attention to the Commissioners' circular of the 2nd instant, relating to the duration of out-door relief in the different Unions in Ireland.

Captain HANLEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 1, 1848.*

HAVING communicated with Mr. Hall, Vice-Guardian, we deemed it advisable to visit the temporary hospital at Kinvarra, with a view of ascertaining the best mode of carrying out your instructions as to providing increased hospital accommodation.

We were accompanied this day by Dr. Nolan, the medical gentleman in charge.

On arrival at Kinvarra, we made inquiry as to the fever committee, hospital arrangements, books, &c., but could obtain no information beyond the fact that everything was being carried on by Dr. Hynes, the medical attendant, and that the committee had long ceased to act.

On proceeding to the hospital, which was attentively examined by Mr. Hall, the same irregularity seemed to exist; no matron or respectable person in charge, want of cleanliness, regularity, and ventilation prevailed all through.

In the small yard attached I was shocked and astonished by the porter or servant applying to me "to know what he was to do with *four* bodies, (patients who had died in the hospital) which he had in an out-house, one of them for upwards of *four days*." He stated that the cemetery was so *crowded* that he could not, nor *dare not*, bring them there; however, Dr. Nolan gave him directions on that head.

Fever to an *alarming* extent prevails in that very destitute, populous, and impoverished district, in which a well-regulated hospital with 100 beds would scarcely meet the emergency; to the providing of which, under *competent direction*, I cannot too earnestly recommend attention.

The present hospital is not calculated to receive more beds. Dr. Nolan is in temporary charge, in the absence of Dr. Hynes.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 4, 1848.*

I AM to state that a copy of your report will be forwarded to the Central Board of Health.

I am at the same time to forward herewith plans for a temporary fever hospital, and I am to state, that if there are not at this time funds at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians to defray the expense of erecting such a building, the Commissioners will endeavour to obtain an advance of the amount which you may report to be requisite, provided the Vice-Guardians will repay the sum out of the current rates.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 9, 1848.*

Gort Union.

IN reference to your communication of the 6th instant, requesting a report to be continued weekly of the state of the collection and the financial affairs of the Union generally, we beg to state that immediately on assuming the duties of the office of Vice-Guardians our attention was called to the necessity of ascertaining the actual amount of the liabilities of the Union, as well as the means available for discharging such liabilities, and instructions were accordingly given to the clerk to prepare the information required so far as relates to the debts of the Union, with the utmost accuracy, and with the greatest possible despatch. We hope in a few days to be furnished with the necessary particulars to enable us to make the required report.

As regards the state of the collection we beg to observe that there appears to have been a degree of looseness in transacting the monetary affairs of the Union, which renders it difficult to arrive at a true knowledge of the amount which may be available to the Vice-Guardians, either of the arrears of former rates or of the rates now being made. The new rate on three electoral divisions has been made and is now in course of collection, and the books for the other seven divisions will be ready for signature on to-morrow, when also two collectors for these latter divisions are to be appointed. When these arrangements shall be completed, and an opportunity afforded us of examining the rate-books and the collectors' last accounts, of which no statement has yet been laid before us, we will make the required report as fully and accurately as possible.

Captain HANLEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 13, 1848.*

WITH reference to your circular of the 2nd instant, regarding the cessation of out-relief to certain classes of the destitute poor on the 18th instant, I beg to observe, after mature consideration, and consultation with the Vice-Guardians on the subject, I have come to the conclusion, that under the present circumstances of the Union and of the workhouse, in the former of which destitution is not diminishing, and in the latter contagious disease is increasing, I could not advise the cessation of out-relief on the 18th instant.

I much fear, from the extent of disease in the house, that it will be necessary to discharge the greater number of its present inmates before contagion can be so entirely removed as to make the institution available as a test of destitution.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM to inform you, that in accordance with your recommendation, the Commissioners have given directions for a renewal of the order.

Captain HANLEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 15, 1848.*

AIDED by the Vice-Guardians, I am using every effort to get the very neglected affairs of this Union into some order—indeed a difficult task, from the irregular and deranged system heretofore practised in every department.

The general state of the house, wards, yards, &c., &c., exhibited a decided improvement; but I lament to say, that disease, fever, and dysentery, as yet unchecked, prevails to an alarming extent. Every thing that order and cleanliness can suggest is being adopted, but the crowded state of the house, and the distressing want of hospital accommodation, mar our best efforts.

The urgent necessity of procuring land for a cemetery was brought forward by the late Board of Guardians, and a resolution passed to rent three acres from Lord Gort, at same rate as now being paid for the workhouse site (about 7*l.* 2*s.* the Irish acre).

Mr. Hall, Vice-Guardian, and myself, accompanied Major Vereker, his Lordship's son, and agent, to view some waste land adjoining the workhouse premises the day before yesterday, which we considered suited for the purpose. The Major said he should consult his father, and yesterday I received a message, "that as yet his Lordship has not made up his mind." Really it is hard, the case pressing, willing to pay an enormous rent, and to meet with such difficulty and delay.

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The numerous interments in the confined grounds about the house (which we are now having covered with additional earth), are quite enough to create contagion, and would be fearful in warm weather.

By getting the land convenient to the workhouse, fever sheds could be got up and so ease the hospital of the pressure now on it.

From the reports of the relieving officers, and my own observation, few Unions can be in a more deplorable state—fever and dysentery raging in every quarter, and a distressing appeal to provide coffins meets you at every point.

The state of this Union too truly indicates the necessity which exists of providing further permanent workhouse accommodation; the system adopted almost generally by the proprietors, will make it imperative: the able-bodied out of doors can find no employment; and when driven to seek relief at the workhouse, their cottages are pulled down, and they are thrown with their families a perpetual burden upon the Union.

The excellent working regulations of the Ballina Vice-Guardians I shall endeavour to carry out here; and when the clerk of works (whose arrival we daily expect to superintend alterations we have in view) affords us assistance, I hope a workhouse bakery will supply the wants of the establishment.

I cannot too warmly express my high opinion of Mr. Hall, Vice-Guardian: his unceasing efforts and perfect knowledge of all matters connected with the workhouse in detail, have had the best effect in correcting the abuses which prevailed.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 22, 1848.*

WITH respect to the want of temporary hospital accommodation, it appears that a certificate had been issued by the Board of Health for increased accommodation, and that the late Board had made arrangements for erecting a shed, which it is desirable that the Vice-Guardians should have constructed with the least possible delay.

The Commissioners trust that the arrangements for a cemetery will now be speedily completed.

The Commissioners are not aware that the practice of pulling down houses of persons going to the workhouse to apply for relief has been general in the Gort Union; but when any specific case of this kind comes under your notice, the Commissioners wish that you should take evidence upon oath as to the facts, and then report them to the Commissioners.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

IN conformity with the instructions contained in your letter of the 6th instant, that we should report on the state of the Gort workhouse when we commenced the performance of our duties, and also on its present state, we have taken the earliest opportunity which our numerous other urgently pressing duties would permit, of complying with the Commissioners' directions.

We consider it right in the outset to premise that in consequence of the extraordinary state of irregularity and confusion into which the workhouse and the establishment generally had been allowed to fall previous to the dissolution of the late Board of Guardians, no very marked change could be expected for the short period we have been in office. We are however taking the necessary steps to base the system of management on the Commissioners' regulations, which seem to have been heretofore in a great measure neglected; and we hope, notwithstanding the many difficulties with which we are beset, to effect a decided improvement in a comparatively short period. Under the circumstances we consider it more advisable in the present report to state the evils which exist or have existed, and the remedial or corrective measures we have deemed it expedient to adopt.

The house appears to have been well executed, but scarcely any of those minor matters appear to have been attended to which are always required after the erection of a building of any magnitude, and in workhouses are absolutely necessary for health and cleanliness; for example, neither the small probationary yards nor the small yards adjoining the washhouse and kitchen have been paved, nor have the passages from the main building to the men's and women's yards. The surface may have been levelled, and possibly have received a coating of broken stones, or

perhaps the rubbish of the building; on our arrival however the places we have mentioned were rough and uneven, particularly the kitchen and washhouse yards, and passage from the main building to the women's yard, which were broken into numerous hollows, containing stale soap-suds, or green and stagnant water; and at the women's side matter of a more offensive and injurious description. To remedy these evils we have made an arrangement for having the respective yards and passages paved; and in the meantime we have caused the hollows to be filled and the surface covered with broken stone and refuse lime; at the same time prohibiting under severe punishment the deposit of urine or other offensive matter in any but the proper receptacle.

The boys' and girls' yards, and the yards of the lunatic wards and infirmary, remain to the present period without a coating of broken stone; the surface has been levelled, but being composed of ordinary soil it becomes soft in wet weather, and gets into puddle. In this case we have directed that the earth be altogether removed from the yards and placed to the depth of two feet at least on the graves of those deceased inmates of the house who have been buried on the workhouse site; to be replaced in the yards by stones detained in grubbing and digging up the land attached to the building, and to be afterwards covered with fine limestone gravel, thereby providing a dry, hard, and level space, available to the persons occupying those portions of the workhouse.

Several other matters of detail not necessary to be mentioned here, remain still unexecuted. Our best efforts will be directed to the completion of these with the utmost despatch—as tending to promote the health of the inmates and establish regularity and cleanliness in the institution.

The several sewers from the building discharge themselves into open drains at a short distance from the walls of the house, and these again fall into a deep ditch filled with water, which on one side forms the boundary of the premises. We intend to take the necessary steps for having the drains covered in to the ditch, and for sinking the latter as much as possible to draw off the water which would otherwise become stagnant in summer and probably cause malaria, prejudicial to the health of the inmates of the house.

Closely adjoining the infirmary and temporary fever sheds on the same side of the building, is a very large heap of manure, the fetid exhalations from which must certainly be injurious to the occupants of that portion of the institution. It will be our duty to have this nuisance removed without delay.

On going over the workhouse grounds immediately after our arrival, we became aware of a practice which it appears has prevailed here for the last six years, and which, independently of its injurious moral tendency, will, we much fear, operate most prejudicially on the health of the inmates of the house. We allude to the fact of the greater number of the deceased inmates of the workhouse having been buried in the workhouse land, and in many cases within a very short distance of the building, from the opening of the house up to the present period. After careful inquiry and inspection of the record of deaths we are led to believe that at least 1000 bodies have been disposed of in this manner, by much the greater portion victims of the vastly increased mortality which has taken place in the workhouse since last spring having been interred within the last 12 months. This practice is rendered much more objectionable and dangerous by the slight covering of earth which the coffins receive—not more than 18 inches. We regret to say that we have not yet been able to provide a remedy for this great evil; we have however in conjunction with Captain Hanley, inspector of the Union, made use of every effort to induce Lord Gort to complete the arrangement entered into with the late Board, for letting three acres of land to be used as a cemetery for the deceased inmates of the workhouse. We have reason to hope that the matter will be finally settled in a few days, and the ground available for the required purpose. In the meantime we have directed that all new graves be made of a sufficient depth, and that those existing at the period of our arrival be covered to the depth of two feet more with earth taken from the boys' and girls' yard as hereinbefore mentioned.

We next come to the workhouse buildings which we ascertained were intended to accommodate 500 inmates. No permanent additional accommodation has been provided, although at many other workhouses on which the pressure of destitution has not been greater, or perhaps so great as on this, additional buildings have been erected. For temporary accommodation we found two sheds similar to those recommended for temporary fever hospitals last year, each capable of containing

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about 100 persons. One of these, situated in the yards of the infirmary buildings and lunatic wards, was finished, and occupied by fever patients; the other, which is placed inside the wall of the women's yard, was left unfinished about three weeks before our arrival. We have caused it to be completed and divided into two portions: one to be occupied as a day-room by infants under two years of age with their nurses, and the other by female convalescents from dysentery; the great increase of this disease within the last few weeks having rendered additional apartments more necessary for the dysenteric class than for any other.

A house has been taken in the town of Gort for the female school children and the schoolmistress. It will afford accommodation in day or schoolroom, and sleeping apartments for 200 or 250 persons, together with an apartment in which the children's food is prepared, and which is also used as a washhouse. The building appears to be well adapted for the required purposes, except as regards the supply of water for drinking or culinary purposes, there being none now available but that of a river which runs by the house and which in summer may perhaps be unwholesome. We hope however it will not be necessary to put it to the test, as from inquiries we have made we have learned that there was at one period a pump on the premises, the well of which is still in existence. For this we shall immediately cause diligent search to be made, and thus relieve ourselves from all apprehension on the score of the supply of water.

On taking charge of the Union our attention was at once directed to the ventilation of the workhouse. Upon examination we found that notwithstanding the repeatedly urged requests of the Commissioners that additional ventilation should be provided for, and notwithstanding the vast amount of disease which has existed in the house, and caused such a very great mortality for the last 12 months, no measures had been taken for furnishing the inmates with a sufficient supply of fresh air. Even the quantity of ventilation originally intended was not available, as many of the windows could not be opened, and several of the wall ventilators were out of order. To remedy this evil as much as possible, we have caused all the windows to be opened, whether they could or could not be again closed; and we have at the same time applied to the Commissioners' architect for the services of a competent person to superintend a general and thorough ventilation of the workhouse buildings.

We learn that for a considerable period the probationary wards have not been available for the reception of paupers, or for relieving the pressure on the house, having been applied to a different purpose altogether from that which they were intended for. The upper male ward had been converted into a waiting-room for the relieving officers, and the upper female ward into a paupers' clothes store. From the former a doorway had been opened into the Board-room for the accommodation of the relieving officers; and in the latter the accumulated old clothes of the last six years were thrown in a heap, without having undergone any cleansing or disinfecting process whatsoever. The apartment over the Board-room which was originally intended for a store for the old clothes of the paupers was occupied with the workhouse clothing. We remedied these irregularities as much as possible, by causing the doorway from the male probationary ward to be built up; the workhouse clothing to be removed to the clothing store; the paupers' old clothes to be opened and sprinkled with a disinfecting solution, previous to their removal from the ward, and by causing a quantity of lumber which had been allowed to accumulate in the lower probationary wards to be removed.

In going through the house we discovered that three stoves originally placed in the rooms on the ground floor of the infirmary, and four stoves in the rooms on the ground floor of the main building had been removed for the purpose of substituting grates, which however have not been put up; and in consequence the fires in these apartments, including two dormitories in the infirmary, the aged male and female dormitories, and the boys' and girls' schoolrooms, are made on the hearth; whereby, in addition to a vastly increased consumption of fuel, the smoke from the fires had discoloured the walls and ceilings, and the quantity of ashes produced on the floor, renders it impossible to keep the rooms in a satisfactory state as to cleanliness. We have ordered grates to be placed in the several apartments abovementioned.

We were much surprised to discover that the workhouse land has not yet been completely fenced in. The boundary on one side is still an almost imaginary line. Our attention will be directed to this matter at an early period.

At the time of our arrival there were 1082 paupers on the workhouse books, of whom 162 were in the additional building taken for the female school children at Gort; 270 were in the infirmary and fever sheds, leaving 650 persons in the main building, nearly double the number that portion of the house was intended to accommodate. We immediately made arrangements for discharging on out-relief those classes for the proof of whose destitution the workhouse test is not so necessary as for able-bodied males and able-bodied single females, these being the only classes we were anxious to retain in the house; yet, although we have been enabled by this course of proceeding to discharge about 300 persons, so great is the pressure of destitution, that the vacancies thus created were immediately filled up by the classes to whom the application of the workhouse test is considered desirable. In this state of things we have been under the necessity of giving out-relief to many able-bodied men and their families, the condition of its receipt being, that all the able-bodied males should work at least eight hours a day at stone-breaking, or such other labour as might be provided. In our report on the general state of the Union we will enter more at length on the extent of destitution and its probable continuance for a considerable period, being the natural consequence of causes which are now in active operation.

Our attention was directed at an early period to the state of the infirmary, temporary sheds, and to the state of the sick generally. We found 270 persons on the medical officer's books, of whom 100 were in the temporary fever sheds, while the remainder, consisting of dysenteric patients, convalescents from that disease and from fever, children suffering from measles, and the ordinary cases of sickness, with two cases of small pox, were crowded together in the infirmary and idiot wards; thus in fact huddling together 170 persons in apartments which were intended to accommodate not more than 60; and in this instance the original extent of accommodation has been diminished by appropriating the two day-rooms on the ground floor, one for the purposes of a surgery, and the other as a kitchen or cooking-house for the hospital. In the male and female idiot cells, intended to contain 12 persons, we found 53 patients labouring under dysentery. There is no day-room available. Every apartment is a dormitory, in which the inmates sleep three or four, or more, in a bed; and the result is obvious; relapses are most frequent, and the mortality excessive.

The causes which have tended to place the infirmary department of the workhouse in its present peculiarly difficult position may be briefly explained here, although it may be considered that the subject more properly belongs to our report on the state of the Union generally. In consequence of there being no other institution in the Union for the reception and treatment of contagious diseases (except the small temporary fever hospital at Kinvarra, which is always full), the practice heretofore has been to send to the workhouse all diseased poor persons, no matter in what part of the Union they may have been taken ill, thereby, in fact, making it the cesspool of contagion for the entire Union. At the same time no arrangements were made for the proper treatment of such a mass of disease. The only step taken was the erection of temporary sheds with sleeping rooms for 100 fever patients; but no day room was provided; no wards were provided for convalescents; nothing was done to prevent communication with the body of the house; nor were there any decisive measures adopted to prevent the spread of contagion among all the inmates. No separate washhouse, store-rooms, or cooking apparatus were procured, except a small boiler or two for heating water or making whey. The clothes belonging to the patients were scattered carelessly about the yards of the infirmary without having previously undergone any cleansing or disinfecting process. In short, from the operation of all these causes, coupled with the overcrowded state of the house, the want of a proper supply of clothing, and the deficiency in ventilation, the cases of fever and dysentery occurring among the inmates, were so numerous and so frequent, that it may almost be said that the entire institution was one mass of contagious disease.

The difficulty that met us here was greater than any other. Additional space was absolutely necessary to give the sick a chance of recovery; yet in the town of Gort we could not obtain a house of any description for the sick; in fact the bare mention of such an idea caused a kind of ferment among the inhabitants. We could not even learn of any proper building in the country which would be let for such a purpose. We could not introduce the sick into the main building, which was still overcrowded notwithstanding the large number we had discharged; nor could we even obtain a house or houses sufficient for the accommodation of

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the school boys, whom we were most anxious to send with the master from the workhouse. Under these circumstances we have advertised for a house in any part of the Union, and in the meantime, in order to relieve the pressure on the hospital department, we have prepared the upper male and female probationary wards, and half the new shed in the women's yard for the reception of convalescents. We have also instructed the relieving officers not to send sick persons to the workhouse henceforward, but to relieve them in their own residence, reserving the hospital accommodation at the workhouse for the inmates of the institution. Cases, however, we regret to say, occur almost daily, where persons, generally strangers in the locality, are found lying sick on the streets or on the road side; to these no one will give admission even for payment, and we are therefore reluctantly compelled to receive them into the workhouse.

We readily admit that the arrangements we have just mentioned are merely makeshift expedients to meet the pressure for the moment. After mature consideration we are satisfied that to remove contagion from the workhouse, and to arrest its progress throughout the Union, decided and energetic measures must be adopted. We propose, with the sanction of the Commissioners first obtained, to erect on a portion of the three acres of land about to be taken from Lord Gort, temporary sheds for the accommodation of at least 300 persons, with apartments for the medical officers and nurses, a washhouse, kitchen, and storeroom, in the manner pointed out in Mr. Wilkinson's communication to Captain Hanley, the inspector of the Union. To these sheds which will be placed at a sufficient distance from the workhouse to prevent communication, and still near enough to allow constant supervision, we propose to remove from the workhouse and sheds adjoining all the fever and dysenteric patients, now amounting to nearly 200, with the hospital nurse and her staff. The spare room in the new sheds will be available for persons not being inmates of the house, suffering from either of the above diseases, and for whom at present there is no hospital accommodation. The workhouse buildings will thus be freed from all cases of contagious disease, and the whole house, including the new apartment to be erected over the idiot wards and sheds and the temporary shed in the woman's yard will be available to test the destitution of the able-bodied. There may perhaps remain in the infirmary a few persons labouring under chronic disease, or afflicted with sores of a peculiarly malignant character, who cannot be properly relieved outside. The sheds to the rear of the infirmary we propose to retain as recovery rooms for convalescents from fever or dysentery, in which they may remain for some short period previous to their admission into the body of the house, or to their final discharge from the institution.

At Kinvarra, a most impoverished district, in which fever prevails to an alarming extent, we propose to erect sheds to accommodate 100 patients, retaining the building now used as a temporary hospital for the purpose of a convalescent ward after providing therein a room for the medical officer, a kitchen, washhouse, and store-room.

By these arrangements, if sanctioned by the Commissioners, we hope we may be able to provide for the more destitute portion of the sick poor in this Union. If, however, the increase of contagious disease should require further accommodation, we shall be prepared to suggest the erection of temporary hospitals in other parts of the Union, or the extension of those now proposed, as may seem most expedient.

At the same time we strongly recommend, that in addition to raising a story over the idiot wards and sheds some further permanent enlargement of the workhouse should be made. We have good grounds for believing that from causes which are now, and for some time past have been in operation, and which we will fully explain in our report on the state of the Union generally, that for some years to come the number of able-bodied who will require relief will be very considerable.

Having now disposed of the workhouse buildings, &c., we come to the management of the institution; with regard to which we feel bound to say, though with reluctance, that the greatest possible neglect has been manifested by the late Board of Guardians. The admixture of the classes appears to have been almost general; discipline had disappeared; cleanliness was altogether neglected; and idleness would seem to have been the general rule, the exceptions to which were very few indeed. Through the exertions of Captain Hanley, previous to our arrival, whitewashing had been commenced, and some of the tables and forms

subjected to a cleansing process, but the general appearance of the workhouse and its inmates were dirty in the extreme. This, however, was not a matter of much surprise, when we discovered that scarcely half the inmates had a full suit of the workhouse clothing; most of them wore one or more articles belonging to themselves. The quantity of clothing in the house was altogether insufficient. The total number of shoes belonging to the Union was three pairs, and there was not a single man's cap in the workhouse. A change of linen or any other article of dress was very seldom obtained; and it was stated, that on some occasions several of the inmates had been for days without either shirts or shifts. The officers of the house were overworked. The only assistance they could procure was that of paupers who were allowed some extra diet or small pecuniary payment, but whose services in such cases are seldom of much value. The schoolmaster was ill of fever. The master had some time previously recovered from a severe attack of that disease. The matron had resigned, and the hospital nurse had preceded our arrival but a few days; the former nurse having been dismissed for incompetency. Bakers' bread, of nominally the best quality, was the principal article of food for dinner, yet there was no contract for its supply, and the quality was very inferior though the price was excessive. Neither was there a contract for groceries, oatmeal, turf—the only article of fuel in use since; or the numerous other small articles constantly required at a workhouse. The only articles for which contracts existed were Indian meal, new milk, meat, soap, salt, and coffins, the prices being generally high, and the quality indifferent. These contracts had not been regularly executed, being merely accepted tenders. No fixed dietary could be said to be observed. The quantity of food supplied to the able-bodied did not appear to be excessive, yet the average weekly cost was very high. In short, the entire institution was in a state of the greatest irregularity and confusion.

The books of account and other workhouse and Union books betrayed the same negligence and mismanagement. The half-year's accounts up to the 29th September last have not yet been audited. Many entries in the Provision Books, Admission and Discharge Books, and relief lists were made in pencil; and the blots, mistakes, and irregularities were so numerous and so glaring, as to prove that no proper supervision had been exercised over them for the last 10 or 12 months, and that any attempt to put them in order now would be a hopeless task. The workhouse register was similarly circumstanced; intended for 8000 names, the entries in it had ceased at 6440, and a new register had been commenced. The clerk's books were not exempt from the general charge of irregularity and confusion; the ledger had not been properly entered up since the termination of the last half-year; scarcely any entries of payments had been made, and no entries whatsoever relating to out-relief, though it has been in operation for many weeks. The minute was also defective in several particulars. The relieving officers' Application and Report Books and relief lists were not properly entered up. The classification on the statistical side of the latter was absurd. The rate books and collecting books were irregularly filled up. The rate receipt check books were not numbered or initialed. There was no mark on the latter, or on the collecting books, to indicate that they had been subjected to the weekly or monthly examination. Arrears which had been struck off by the former Board as not recoverable, were still carried forward in the accounts; and scarcely any lodgments of rate had been made with the treasurer for the last six months, the sums collected having been handed to the clerk who paid away the amount on cheques drawn by the Board or on bills furnished. The monthly return of liabilities showed the debts of the Union to be much under their actual amount, from a practice which prevailed of not calling for or including many current accounts till the termination of the half-year. It appeared that large sums had been advanced to the master to purchase provisions, &c., for which he was not required to account for a long period. But it is unnecessary to proceed further, the instances we have adduced will afford a sufficient insight into the manner in which matters were managed in the Gort Union.

Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, it appears to us that the irregularity and confusion may in a great measure be attributed to the late Board of Guardians, who introduced into the workhouse nearly double the number of inmates it was intended to contain without making any provision for their accommodation or proper treatment; who, on the appearance of fever in the Union instead of requiring Relief Committees to do their duty and establish temporary hospitals in their respective localities, through a mistaken spirit of economy, allowed

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the workhouse to become, with one trifling exception, the general receptacle for the contagion of the entire Union; who allowed the workhouse to be used by the Relief Committee as a dépôt for the distribution of food under the Temporary Act, thereby materially interfering with the discipline of the inmates; and who, notwithstanding the certainty of very great destitution, and the probability of an extensive spreading of disease, made no adequate preparations for providing funds to meet the emergency, but left the Union in debt at least 5000*l.*, and left the workhouse and its inmates in such a state that a further outlay of perhaps 1500*l.*, is necessary to provide a sufficient quantity of bedding, clothing, furniture, and utensils for the institution.

We have spared no exertion to remedy the evils we have mentioned, and lay the foundation of a proper system of management based on the Commissioners' regulations. It would be useless to enter into the detail of each particular matter, but it is right to add, that in all our proceedings we had the full concurrence and co-operation of Captain Hanley, the Inspector of the Union, who has afforded us the most valuable assistance and support since our arrival.

We have not as yet suggested the removal of any of the officers; we wish to give them an opportunity of doing their duty properly, proper means being afforded them. If, however, the duty shall not be efficiently performed, we shall not hesitate to recommend their dismissal.

We request the Commissioners' opinion on the suggestions made in the present report, and also their advice generally on the subjects we have referred to.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 27, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 16th instant, on the state in which you found the workhouse of Gort Union, when you entered on the discharge of your duties as Vice-Guardians, and the means already taken or proposed to be immediately adopted for rendering the workhouse more fit for the relief of the destitute poor.

The Commissioners fully approve of the steps already taken, more particularly the precautionary measure of having additional earth placed over the graves in the workhouse ground, where you found that so many bodies had been interred at a depth of only 18 inches; also the course you propose to adopt for relieving the overcrowded sick and idiot wards, by constructing on the additional ground agreed to be taken from Lord Gort, temporary sheds for 300 persons, to which you intend to remove all patients in fever or dysentery.

The Commissioners, however, have not sufficient information before them to enable them to judge of the expediency of the hospital extension proposed to be made at Kinvarra, for 100 patients. There being a temporary hospital at that place under the control of the Board of Health, any extension of it to be made should have that Board's sanction; and the Commissioners recommend that application be made to the Board for a requisition to authorize it, otherwise any hospital to be established there by you, should be considered as one under the 16th section of the Act 6 and 7 Vict. cap. 92; and the medical officer appointed and paid by the Board of Health might object to attend to the patients.

The want of cleanliness which you found in the workhouse must be considered as inexcusable; but the irregularity in the clothing and classification is ascribed to the great number of admissions and discharges made in each week by the late Board, from the extensive application of the workhouse test. Allowance must also be made for the great extent of sickness which prevailed in the workhouse before October, 1847.

The supply of clothing, deficient from want of funds, owing to neglect in the collection and levying of rates, was, as the Commissioners have been informed, in course of being replenished when the order for dissolving the late Board of Guardians was issued, a stock of clothing materials having been purchased, and being then about to be prepared.

The irregularities in the changes of pauper clothing, the overcrowding of the workhouse, the neglect of ventilation, the waste of fuel for want of grates, and the very serious mismanagement in obtaining supplies, as well as the reprehensible practice of employing the clerk to receive payments from the collectors, and apply the funds in discharge of cheques previously issued, or accounts already

due, all appear to have arisen from neglect in the collection and levying of sufficient rates.

The irregularities in the accounts show neglect in the officers of the Union, as well as in the late Board of Guardians; but the Commissioners approve of your proposal to allow them an opportunity of fully executing their duties on being afforded proper means.

The close investigation of neglect and abuse which you have made, and so amply reported, gives the Commissioners assurance that through your exertion, the administration of relief in the Union will be steadily advanced to a state of conformity with the law, and with the regulations of the Commissioners.

Captain HANLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter of the 13th instant, accompanying a communication which the Commissioners had received from the Under Secretary's office, relative to the decease of a man named Foley, who was stated to have died from want and destitution, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have caused diligent inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the case, and have learned the following particulars relative to the deceased person.

Michael Foley, aged 14, was the son of Michael Foley, of Caherfonvose, in the parish of Killeevy, in this Union; he did not however commonly reside with his father, but was in the habit of rambling about. On the 1st of February last, he was committed by Mr. Lambert, J.P., of Aggard, to the county gaol at Galway for one month, for begging in the village or street of Croughwell, where he was arrested by the police of that station. On Sunday, the 27th February, he called at the house of one Michael Connolly, of Tullanroe, being then apparently suffering from severe illness. In reply to questions put by Mrs. Connolly, he stated, he had been discharged from Gaol on the Friday or Saturday previous, and that he had slept at one Michael Kelly's, of Caldwood, on Saturday night. He got some oaten bread at Connolly's, whose family were most anxious for his departure, being afraid of taking the disease under which he appeared to be labouring. After leaving Connolly's, he was not seen until Tuesday the 29th February, on which day about 11 o'clock, he was found dead in a field at the distance of a quarter of a mile from Connolly's house, by Michael Connolly, who immediately gave information to the police. When discovered he appeared to have been dead for some time, *and had a piece of the oaten bread given him by the Connollys in his pocket.*

Subsequently to the commitment of the deceased, his father, Michael Foley, applied for relief to the relieving officer of the district, and in two or three days after was admitted into the Gort workhouse, where he and his family now are.

Under all the circumstances, it appears probable, that the boy, Michael Foley, got ill in Galway gaol, where disease now prevails to a great extent; in consequence whereof, and from the over-crowded state of the prison, he was discharged a day or two before the expiration of his period of imprisonment; and that he died from the effects of disease, cold, and exhaustion, and not from starvation, as reported by the sub-inspector, soon after leaving Michael Connolly's, not having been able to obtain admission into any house in the neighbourhood, the people having the greatest dread of persons supposed to be labouring under sickness.

He made no application to the relieving officer, nor was any application made on his behalf after being discharged from prison, or previously to his commitment.

Captain HANLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

IN consequence of destitution prevailing to a vast extent in this Union, and very little employment being afforded by the proprietors or farmers, together with the want of room in the workhouse, in which disease is prevalent, I beg to recommend a further extension of the order sanctioning out-door relief to the able-bodied.

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It is difficult under existing circumstances to fix the precise time for which the renewal may be necessary; but at present I will say for one month (from 1st April to 1st May), for which period I am quite certain it will be required.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 29, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have given directions for a renewal of the order for one month.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

IN conformity with the instructions of the Commissioners conveyed to us in your letter of the 6th instant, that we should report weekly on the state of the collection of the poor-rate in the Gort Union, and that it would be desirable in our first report to advert to the state of the affairs of the Union generally, we beg leave to submit our first communication on the subject.

We fully concur in opinion with the Commissioners that we should, at the outset, have under review the general state of the Union. From the peculiar position in which the country is now placed, and the extent to which relief under the Poor Law must be carried into operation, the social relations and conditions of the people, and the circumstances of the Union generally, will either influence, or be influenced, by the proceedings consequent thereon; it is, therefore, most desirable that the condition of the district should be accurately known and carefully considered, preliminary to the adoption of any decided course for providing and administering relief to the destitute, in order that the measures to be taken may have a fair chance of success.

The necessity for a thorough knowledge of the state of the Gort Union was forcibly impressed on our minds when we commenced the performance of our duties. We were, moreover, desirous, that our first communication to the Commissioners on the subject should be as ample as possible, and we have, therefore, devoted much of our attention to the acquisition of the requisite information. We now proceed to state the result of our investigations.

The Gort Union, situated in the counties of Galway and Clare, the greater portion, however, in the former county, contains a population, according to the census of 1841, of 43,543 persons, its estimated extent is 108,975 acres, and its net annual value, according to the last made rate, is 52,965*l.* The face of the country is considerably diversified, in some districts rising into ranges of hills of some height, and in others, stretching away in an almost level plain; broken ground or isolated hills are not unfrequent, and in these latter localities are numerous bogs and lakes of greater or less extent. The extended chains of hills, or, as they are called here mountains, consist chiefly of bog and coarse pasture, with occasional patches of arable land. The broken or hilly country is, perhaps, about equally divided into pasture and tillage; the level ground, or extended plains, are principally devoted to agriculture. The soil in the plains and broken districts is apparently light, though it is said to bear reasonable crops when properly cultivated, and where laid down in grass it affords good pasture for sheep. Good stock, including black cattle, are also produced on the large grass farms in that part of the Union which is situated in the county of Clare. A considerable portion of the land is susceptible of improvement by grubbing, draining, and sub-soiling; there are districts, however, covered with immense blocks of stone and boulders, or in which the subjacent rock appears on the surface, altogether irreclaimable.

On examining the rate-books, or in going through the Union, it is impossible to avoid being struck with the number of small occupiers, and the almost total absence of that class which forms the link between the upper and lower, and which is one of the most important in its relation to the poor-rates in some other Unions, we allude to the large tenant farmer class, which if it ever had existence here is now entirely extinct, there being scarcely a substantial yeoman to be met with in the Union. The land is in consequence occupied either by proprietors or small farmers, the former of whom hold large tracts principally devoted to the feeding of sheep, and, in some instances, black cattle, with portions of tillage occasionally, while the latter occupy small lots, which are tilled where practicable,

and used as pasture for a few sheep, or perhaps a cow, where cultivation is impossible.

The following particulars from the valuation and rate-books will exemplify the foregoing statement:—

Gort Union.

Total number of hereditaments rated in the Union	6733
Total number, the net annual value of which is over 20 <i>l</i> .	396
Number valued at and under 20 <i>l</i> .	6337

The extent to which sub-division has been carried in the Gort Union will also appear from the following abstracts from the rate-books:—

Total number of persons holding land	5554
Number holding not more than 10 acres	2986
Number holding not more than 20 acres	4466

When it is considered that the average net annual value of land, including the buildings thereon in this Union, is but 9*s*. 1*d*. per acre, giving a total net annual value of 9*l*. 1*s*. 8*d*. for a farm of 20 acres, it will readily be perceived that the general size of the holdings is small, and the value low, as compared with the more extensive and more valuable farms in other districts.

Another circumstance which immediately strikes the observer is the almost universal absence of those comfortable looking farmsteads so frequent in other counties, scarcely any, even the most distant attempts at ornament or neatness can be seen, except in the immediate neighbourhood of towns. The cottages and farm-houses partake alike of the same dilapidated impoverished appearance, forming a striking contrast to the generally well-planted, well-fenced, and improved extensive sheep-walks and grass farms of the occupying proprietary. It may be said that indifference to comfort and carelessness as to appearance are characteristic of some parts of Ireland; but we are satisfied that the desolate appearance of the dwellings of the small farmers and labourers in the Gort Union is in a great measure caused by their poverty, and the fact of a considerable portion of the land of the small holders being uncropped last year is another proof of their destitution.

A considerable number of the occupiers in the mountain districts add the cutting and sale of turf for fuel to their own avocations, and there are some who support themselves exclusively by this branch of industry. Many of these persons are, however, very poor, having to convey the article in baskets on the back of an ass, and receiving perhaps but a few pence for the load.

There are other classes besides those we have named which is necessary to refer to in giving an account of the Union. The first is that which comprises shopkeepers, persons in trade or business, and other residents in the several towns and villages in the Union. Many of these, in addition to their ordinary callings, occupy more or less land principally in the neighbourhood of the towns in which they reside, and which is generally of a good description. Of these it need only be said that persons in business, particularly in the interior of the country, when connected with any branch of the provision trade, have not in general been injuriously affected by the failure of the potato crop.

The next class comprehends tradesmen and mechanics, carpenters, smiths, masons, tailors, shoemakers, and weavers, &c. Many of these, more especially the three latter, a considerable portion of whom depended for employment on the labouring and poorer portion of the population, have been reduced to poverty and destitution within the last two years.

Of the class of labourers holding no land we have reason to believe that the number is considerable, that it is rapidly increasing from the operation of causes which we shall hereafter advert to, and that they are in general completely destitute.

Along the shores of the bay of Kinvarra and bay of Galway, which form a portion of the boundary of the electoral divisions of Kinvarra and Killeenavarra, reside a considerable number of persons, some with and some without land, who have heretofore supported themselves by fishing, and by the sale of sea-weed for the purpose of manure. The failure of the potato crop in 1845 and 1846, by its discouragement to the planting of potatoes, completely paralysed the operations of the latter, who are now in a most abject state.

The only portion of the population remaining to be noticed is that which com-

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prises the miscellaneous class of pedlars, hucksters, small dealers in fruit or vegetables, and mendicants, all of whom are affected by the general poverty of the district, and are mostly in a destitute condition.

As regards the prospects of the Union for the ensuing harvest, we have learned that a considerable quantity of wheat has been put down by the larger farmers, but it is certain there will not be anything approaching to the breadth of corn of the past year. On the other hand, it would appear from the reports of the relieving officers, and from personal observation, that the general success of the potato crop in 1847 has encouraged the larger holders of land to make arrangements for planting a greater quantity in the present spring. Many, however, of the smaller farmers will, we fear, be unable to set any, in consequence of the scarcity and high price of seed, added to their inability to purchase manure, and it is therefore to be apprehended that a much greater quantity of land will remain uncultivated this year than last. In former years most of the labouring population had potatoes in con-acre, but their impoverished condition now renders them incapable of making any preparations for having a crop in the present season. Even if they were able to procure seed and manure, they have no means of support while engaged in their cultivation.

The amount of agricultural employment at present is very trifling, and we regret to say that after making the most minute inquiries we have no reason to hope that the demand for labour will be much increased for a considerable period. We have learned that loans under the Acts for the Improvement of Land and for Drainage have been granted to persons in the Union, and that in some instances the works are in operation. Their effect however in relieving the pressure on us is unfortunately very slight, from the practice that prevails in this as in some other districts of employing the small farmer tenants of the persons by whom the loans are obtained, in the execution of the works. It is to be feared that the same course will in general be pursued when the other works for which grants have been made shall be proceeded with.

We have made particular inquiries as to the probability of an increased demand for labour when the ordinary farming business of the country shall be in full operation; and we regret to say it is not expected that agricultural employment will have any very beneficial effect on the present depressed condition of the labour market. It is most likely that the occupying proprietors will employ their own poorer tenantry on any farming operations in which they may be engaged; and it is certain that farmers generally will execute the greater portion of their tillage by means of horse work where practicable, and where manual labour is unavoidable they will work themselves and employ the members of their own family. On the whole, it is to be feared that no great portion of the unemployed labour will be in any manner absorbed in this Union during the ensuing spring, summer, and harvest. It may not be out of place here to observe, as indicating the probability of increased destitution, that many persons are now discharging their domestic and farm servants, male and female, in consequence of their stock of provisions being nearly exhausted, and their anxiety to retrench their expenditure.

We cannot omit adverting to another matter which will very materially increase the pressure on the poor rate, and add to the difficulty of our position. A course of proceeding has been adopted and is still in operation to a greater or less extent in several parts of the Union, which is calculated not only to add to the existing amount of destitution, but to impose a permanent dead weight on the rate-payers. We allude to the practice of dispossessing small holders of land and then throwing down their houses, whereby, in a district situated as the Gort Union now is, with no employment obtainable, and lodgings procured with great difficulty, the parties are thrown immediately on the poor rate for support without a chance of their being able to retrieve their condition. In these cases possession is not always obtained by a regular process of law—other means are employed. In some instances the remission of rent is held out as an inducement; in others, the parties have been allowed to take away a portion of the crop of their little holdings, or a small sum of money is given; but it appears to us that the most powerful means which has been adopted, and that which has been most generally successful in inducing the small farmers to give up their house as well as their land, is the refusal of the landlord to take the latter if the former be not also surrendered. As the surrender of land is almost always made for the purpose of qualifying the occupier to receive relief under the poor law, his destitution

compels him to submit to any condition whereby such relief may be obtained; and thus deprived of both house and land, without a field for his labour or hope of employment, he becomes a permanent burden on the community. The evils of this course of removal would be in some degree mitigated if the land so given up were devoted to agricultural purposes, whereby employment might be afforded; but it is to be apprehended that a considerable portion of it will, after no great lapse of time, be converted into sheep walks, as was done with land in the adjoining county of Clare, about 15 or 16 years since, from which the occupiers were removed.

There are numerous cases also in which the tenant has been allowed to continue in his house after surrendering his land. In such instances we require to be satisfied by the best proof available that the surrender is actual before we order relief. There are some cases in which, from the peculiar circumstances of the property, the absence of the landlord, or his agent, or from other causes, a regular surrender of the holding is impossible. Under such circumstances we require that the applicant should prove to us that he has done everything in his power to divest himself of the occupation before we recognise his claim for relief. The parties so peculiarly situated are generally very poor, and were we to withhold all relief from them, death from starvation or disease would, in many instances, be the consequence.

In reporting on the state of this Union in relation to the Poor Law, there is one material element of destitution now in active operation which must not be passed over. We advert to the prevalence of contagious disease in the workhouse and in the Union generally. We believe that no other circumstance in connexion with our duties will have so important an effect in preventing our placing the relief under the Poor Law on a satisfactory footing within a comparatively short period. The extent to which fever and dysentery exist in the workhouse, prevents our making use of the institution as a test for the able-bodied and for all doubtful cases, and the spread of disease throughout the Union, more especially amongst the very poorest classes, without any adequate means of relief, increases the very weighty claims on our resources. The mortality, we regret to say, is great, and when one of the principal members of a family dies, the others become almost inevitably permanent burdens on the poor rates.

It may not be out of place here to advert to the course of proceeding which it appears to us has in a great measure contributed to the extraordinary spread of contagion in the workhouse, and to some extent in the Union generally.

In common with many other parts of Ireland, in the spring and summer of the past year, the Gort Union was affected with fever and dysentery; and as there was no permanent fever hospital in the Union, no effective mode of relieving poor persons suffering from these diseases was in existence. To remedy this state of things, and with a view of not only providing relief for the sufferers, but also of preventing the diseases from spreading, the Relief Committees then existing in certain districts were authorized and directed to provide hospital accommodation and other means of relief for the sick poor. The Relief Committee for the electoral divisions of Kinvarra and Killeenavarra received these instructions, as did also the Relief Committee for the electoral divisions of Kilmacdooagh, Beagh, Kiltartan, and Kilbeakanty. In pursuance of such instructions the former Committee fitted up a building near Kinvarra for the purpose of an hospital to contain 50 patients; the latter, however, through a mistaken idea of economy, declined to fit up a separate institution, but with the consent of the late Board of Guardians, adopted the workhouse hospital as the fever hospital of their district, in direct violation of the express provisions of the statute, and sent all their patients thither. The workhouse was over-crowded at the time, and fever and dysentery prevailed therein to a frightful extent. The only additional accommodation provided was the erection of sheds to contain 100 persons, placed in the infirmary and idiot yards, immediately to the rear of the infirmary buildings. By this course of proceeding the workhouse became the reservoir of contagion for the entire Union, except Kinvarra and Killeenavarra, and their hospital being speedily filled, the sick poor of those impoverished districts were added to the general current. The consequence may be readily anticipated, the workhouse accommodation for the sick was soon exhausted, all parts of the building became infected, no sufficient arrangements were made for meeting such a mass of disease, which rapidly assumed a malignant character, and the mortality became very great, deaths to the amount of 60 or 70 a week having occurred in the institution. Such of the

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inmates as were not yet materially affected with the diseases, became alarmed. Many of them departed from the house carrying with them the seeds of contagion to all parts of the Union. Fever and dysentery rapidly increased, and there being no effectual relief available, deaths became frequent and destitution more general.

Such was the existing state of the workhouse and of the Union at the period of our arrival at Gort, and it was with the mass of disease and destitution we have described that we were called upon to deal.

Since making our report on the state of the workhouse, we have not seen any reason for modifying or altering the suggestions we then offered for providing accommodation for the sick poor and for relieving the destitute. We are still of opinion that extensive arrangements should be immediately adopted for the reception and treatment of febrile and other contagious diseases, and that increased workhouse accommodation of a permanent nature should be provided.

At present our attention is mainly directed to the removal of disease altogether from the house, so as to make it available as a test of destitution, to which purpose it cannot at present be applied from the prevalence of contagion. We are, in consequence, under the necessity of giving out-relief to a greater extent than would be required if the workhouse test could be applied to all doubtful applications. We continue to discharge on out-relief, in money or food, all those entitled to relief under the first section of the Poor Relief Extension Act who can be properly provided for outside, together with orphans and such other inmates as we are satisfied are destitute and incapable of supporting themselves by their own exertions. We are at the same time limiting our admissions as much as possible, and have prohibited the relieving officers from sending sick persons to the workhouse, except in cases of the most urgent necessity, preferring to relieve them in their own houses than to add to the already over-crowded state, and consequent increased mortality of the medical department of the institution. There are instances, however, in which we must either admit persons suffering from fever and dysentery or allow them to die on the street or on the road. Cases occur in which persons labouring under either of these diseases are forcibly put out of their lodgings or out of the houses in which they have previously resided, and left on the road or at the gate of the workhouse in a dying state. In such circumstances, we cannot always find persons willing to admit them into their houses even for payment, and we are, therefore, compelled to take them into the workhouse, where they usually die after a very short period, and thus swell the amount of mortality. Persons getting out-relief have been put out of their residence in this manner, and the near relatives of the sick person have not scrupled to act in the way we have mentioned.

We shall now report on the state in which we found the financial affairs of the Union on our arrival. On the 21st of May, 1847, a rate, amounting in the aggregate to 3015*l.*, was made, being about 1*s.* 1½*d.* in the pound on the entire valuation. There were arrears of previous rates then due, which brought up the whole sum to be collected to 3404*l.* 1*s.* 7½*d.* Of this amount there had been—

Collected and paid to the treasurer up to the 29th February, 1848

Collected and paid to the treasurer up to the 29th February, 1848	£2,573	2	9
Collected and held by collectors	97	17	4½

Total amount collected	2,671	0	1½
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Leaving uncollected a balance of	733	1	5½
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Of which balance there was struck off as arrears not recoverable by a Committee of the Guardians, appointed at a meeting on the 4th February (as appears by a resolution on the Minute Book for the formation of the Committee, and the clerk's report of their proceedings), of the sum

Of which balance there was struck off as arrears not recoverable by a Committee of the Guardians, appointed at a meeting on the 4th February (as appears by a resolution on the Minute Book for the formation of the Committee, and the clerk's report of their proceedings), of the sum	163	13	1
Net amount of recoverable arrears uncollected	569	8	4½

There were three collectors at the time; the state of their respective collections will perhaps be best shown by the following summary:—

District.	Name of each Collector.	Total Amount to be Collected.	Collected and paid to the Treasurer.	Collected and held by Collectors.	Declared not Recoverable.	Recoverable Arrears not Collected.
No.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1	E. O'Shaughnessy	1,094 8 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	713 2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 17 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 3 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	297 4 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
2	John Slator . .	1,321 13 8	1,140 19 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 7 6	115 11 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
3	Michael Taylor .	987 14 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	719 1 5	54 19 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	156 11 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
		3,404 1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,573 ■ 9	97 17 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	163 13 1	569 8 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

The uncollected arrears have accumulated since September, 1845, and include those of a rate then made, of a rate made in October, 1846, and of a rate made in May, 1847. On examining the returns of rates not collected, made by the collectors previous to the 4th of February last, we find that the arrears declared not recoverable consist principally of rates made on unoccupied tenements, houses which are now down, small spots of unoccupied land, and on premises the persons in possession of which are either gone away altogether, or too poor to pay. The arrears brought forward are chiefly rates made on small holders of land, and on the poorer class of occupiers in towns and villages. There are also a few immediate lessors in arrear, principally of a minor class. On a general review of the subject it appears to us that there has been a great want of energy in enforcing the payment of the rate. If a proper degree of activity had been exercised, we are of opinion that a great portion of the recoverable arrears might have been collected during the last harvest. Some of the districts were perhaps too large, one was certainly so, and we have in consequence divided it, and appointed three collectors for that portion of the Union. We hope that this course will considerably facilitate the collection of the present rate.

On the 4th of February last, a rate of 3s. in the pound on each electoral division in the Union, was struck by the late Board of Guardians, and on the 18th of February, the rate-books for three divisions, forming the collecting district of Mr. John Slator, were signed, as were also the collecting books for the same divisions. The other books were not then ready, and on examining the progress which had been made in their preparation at the period of our arrival, we observed certain irregularities which we directed to have remedied, lest advantage might hereafter be taken of them. For example, we discovered that immediate lessors had been rated in several instances for hereditaments of a greater net annual value than 4*l.*; that in numerous cases the word "ditto" had been substituted for the name of the person rated, instead of repeating the name, and that neither the barony or parish were inserted in any of the books. The books for the remaining seven divisions being thus properly filled up, were signed by us on the 10th instant. We had in the mean time recommended the re-appointment of Messrs. Taylor and O'Shaughnessy, the former to the district for which he was before collector, and the latter to two of the divisions only of the district in which he had previously acted. For the two remaining divisions we received proposals in reply to our advertisement from two, as we believe, very eligible persons, who each offered to collect one division, but was not willing to undertake more, and as we had no other tender that we could deal with, we accepted their proposals and recommended their appointment to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners having sanctioned the re-appointment of Messrs. Taylor and O'Shaughnessy, we lost no time in causing them to execute their bonds, and in signing their warrants, so that they might proceed with the collection at once. Mr. Taylor received his collecting book on the 21st instant, and Mr. O'Shaughnessy on the 24th. We think it right to observe with respect to the bonds of the collectors, that the forms of bond heretofore in use in this Union were No. 1, being a continuing security; we have however considered it advisable to adopt the form No. 2, to collect within a specified time. The period we have allowed is three months. Mr. Slator having entered his sureties before our arrival, is bound in No. 1 form. The following table shews the extent of each collector's duty according to present arrangements.

Gort Union.

Collectors' Names.	Number of Rated Hereditaments.			Amount to be Collected.								
	By Occupiers.	By im. Lessors.	Total.	New Rate.			Arrears of former Rates.			Total.		
				£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
E. O'Shaughnessy	999	408	1,407	1,453	11	8½	124	2	5½	1,577	14	2½
John Slator . .	1,202	729	1,931	2,198	12	5	115	11	11½	2,305	4	4½
Michael Taylor .	1,530	349	1,872	2,710	10	6½	156	11	8½	2,867	2	2½
Terence Hynes .	356	271	1,127	1,114	10	5	132	16	5½	1,247	6	10½
Myles O'Brien .	252	144	396	474	9	10½	40	5	9½	514	15	8
	4,839	1,894	6,733	7,942	14	1½	569	8	4½	8,512	3	4

The present rate and arrears of former rates, amounting as above to 8,508*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, will not be sufficient for the exigencies of the Union up to the ensuing harvest. We have therefore come to the determination of making another rate of similar amount about the beginning of June, by which time we hope that a great portion of the present rate and arrears will be collected.

From the number of small occupiers, the minute sub-division of the land, and the absence of a substantial yeomanry class, we imagined that the difficulty in collecting the rate, particularly at this period of the year, would be very great. As compared with other Unions the average net annual value of each hereditament is very low, not amounting to 8*l.*, and when the principal occupying proprietors are taken away, not exceeding 6*l.* Moreover the average net annual value of land with the buildings thereon, as we have already stated, is only 9*s.* 1*d.* per acre. These circumstances led us at first to feel great doubts as to the probability of any considerable amount of rate being got in before the crops were available; when, however, we came to examine the rate-books more closely we found that although the total number of hereditaments rated was

Immediate lessors were rated for 6733
1890

And occupiers for 4843

The rating of the immediate lessors for such a large number of hereditaments, and those of course of the poorest class, is evidently calculated to facilitate the collection, the collectors' greatest difficulty being the small holders. The total number of hereditaments rated at and under 4*l.*, is

Of which immediate lessors are rated for 3254
1890

Leaving the number of occupiers rated at and under 4*l.* 1364

A difficulty is frequently experienced in collecting the rate at any period of the year from small holders having no land. By the following summary it will appear that the number of persons included in that class in the Gort Union is not great:—

Total number of rated hereditaments with no land attached 1179
Of which there are rated over 4*l.* 619

Number rated at and under 4*l.* 560
Immediate lessors rated for 415

Occupiers at and under 4*l.* rated 145

The 619 hereditaments without land rated on a net annual value of more than 4*l.*, are principally houses in towns and villages occupied by persons in business, or respectable tradesmen, from whom, in general, we think the rate may be got without much difficulty.

Taking all the circumstances into consideration, we would say that by adopting an energetic course of proceeding a great portion of the rate may now be collected; and by making immediate and judicious arrangements for relieving the sick, removing contagion from the workhouse, and providing extended accommodation, so that the workhouse test may be efficiently applied to all able-bodied applicants, we shall be able to meet the actual destitution of the Union—the greatest obstacle we have to overcome being the debts of the former Board, and the outlay required to put the house and its inmates in a proper condition. In regard to the latter, we

are taking the necessary steps for the purpose; we have worked up all the material in the house, and have given notice for a considerable additional supply; we have a master tailor and master shoemaker employed to instruct a certain number of boys, and to superintend the work of any of the inmates who may belong to those trades; we have had two carpenters and a mason almost constantly engaged in completing the sheds and executing necessary alterations and repairs; we have also contracted for a number of tables, forms, and bedsteads, which were urgently required.

Our attention was early directed to the debts of the late Board, and on examining the return for the month ended the 31st of January last, we found it stated that the net amount of liabilities at that period was 3538*l.* 14*s.* 11½*d.* A cursory examination of the ledger and other books of account, to the irregularity of which we have adverted in our report on the workhouse, led us however to believe that the debts were considerably higher than was stated on that document. We therefore at once directed the clerk to procure all outstanding accounts and calculate the several salaries and other items of expenditure up to the 29th of February, when we took charge of the Union; and we find by a return made to us on this day that the actual amount of the ascertained liabilities up to the above date is 6563*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* The clerk states that he does not recollect anything else being due, but it is possible that other bills may come in. However, admitting that the above sum is correct, and adding thereto 1500*l.* to provide a sufficiency of bedding, clothing, furniture, utensils, &c., for the inmates of the house: to liquidate the entire amount a rate of 3*s.* per pound on the whole Union would be necessary.

It is evident that this large amount of debt cannot be immediately discharged. Perhaps the better course would be to pay off at once the smaller bills which are generally those of the most needy creditors, and to discharge the larger claims by instalments. It is probable that this arrangement would generally be acceded to, although we have already received a solicitor's letter on behalf of one claimant. However, they may fairly wait for a short period before their entire demands are cleared off, as the prices charged for many of the articles supplied are from 20 to 25 per cent. over the ordinary rate of the market.

Having thus furnished the Commissioners with a view of the state of the Union and its financial affairs, we have now to report the proceedings we have recently taken in the execution of our duties. We have at last succeeded in obtaining a house for the schoolmaster and boys: it is situated in the town of Gort, but off the street, and has a well walled-in garden and an open space in front. There was at one time a pump on the premises, and we expect that the well may be still made available. The house and offices will accommodate from 150 to 200 of the class for which it is designed. Some repairs and alterations will be necessary. We are to get possession in a day or two, and will then immediately proceed to place the building in a proper state for the reception of its intended inmates. Rent 42*l.* per annum.

We have also, after considerable delay, finally arranged with Lord Gort for three acres of land for a cemetery. It is situated near the Loughrea road, something over a quarter of a mile from the workhouse, and about the same distance from the town. The soil is as deep and as free from rock as any in the neighbourhood, and is, moreover, perfectly dry, with a sufficient inclination to carry off rain. We are to get it up in a few days, and we shall then at once proceed to wall it in and occupy it. The rent we have agreed upon is the same as that for the workhouse site.

The shed in the women's yard is completed and now occupied, one portion by children under two years of age and their nurses, and the other by convalescents from dysentery. The probationary wards have also been cleared out, and while the lower apartments are reserved for admission, the upper rooms are occupied by convalescents from the infirmary and sheds. By this arrangement the pressure on the hospital department of the institution has been considerably diminished; and we expect that by the removal of the infants and nurses to the shed in the women's yard, the mortality among that class will be reduced.

We have prepared a well ventilated shed in the men's yard for the paupers' own clothing, to which receptacle the articles are removed, having previously undergone a disinfecting process.

Grates are now being placed in the fire-places of the several apartments, where heretofore the fires were made on the hearth. We hope, in addition to cleanliness, a saving of fuel will be effected by this arrangement.

Gort Union.

Gort Union.

The small yard adjoining the cooking house or kitchen is being paved, which will prevent the collection of water or filth in that department.

The workhouse generally has been thoroughly whitewashed, and certain portions are now undergoing that process a second time.

The graves of deceased inmates buried on the site are being covered with earth from the boys' yard, which is replaced by broken stones.

We have made contracts for bread, turf, groceries, oatmeal, &c., at 25 per cent. lower than the former prices. When the existing contracts for the other articles of large consumption shall expire, we hope to renew them on equally favourable terms.

Much of our attention has been directed to the correct keeping of the workhouse and Union books, and we have spared no trouble in pointing out to the several officers the proper method of performing their duty in this respect. From the great number of admissions and discharges which occurred for some weeks previous to our arrival, we suspected that the register and other workhouse books did not show a correct return of the inmates; we therefore gave directions that a scrutiny of the workhouse paupers should be effected in order to discover any irregularities which might exist in this respect. The scrutiny is now in progress.

It is unnecessary to mention several other minor matters of detail which have been executed, or are in progress, and which will materially assist in establishing cleanliness, order, and discipline.

We shall not at present trespass any further on the Commissioners' time with a statement of our proceedings, but henceforward we shall make our regular weekly report after the ordinary day of meeting. Our present communication was delayed in order that the information it contains regarding the affairs of the Union might be as correct and as ample as possible. In fact, we did not until this day obtain from the clerk a return of the liabilities of the Union up to the period of our arrival.

We request the favour of the Commissioners' opinion on the suggestions we have thrown out, and their advice as to our future proceedings generally.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 7, 1848.*

WITH reference to your observations on the subject of the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, I am to state, that the only question which a Board of Guardians has to consider with reference to the provisions of that section is, whether or not the party seeking relief ceases to occupy a greater quantity of land than a quarter of an acre; and further than this it is not in their province to enter into questions as to the legal surrender of the land above that quantity.

As regards the practice of sending fever patients to the workhouse, I am to state, that the Commissioners are informed by Mr. Bourke that the practice referred to was discontinued in September or October last. An extract from your report with respect to the prevalence of disease in your Union has been sent to the Board of Health. The Commissioners trust that you will continue to devote your best endeavours to the remedy of the serious evils in that respect to which you advert.

The Commissioners trust that you will see that the collectors exert themselves with promptitude in the collection of the present rate, without favour or distinction, regarding only the ability of the parties rated to pay their rates, and the necessities of the destitute poor in the Union.

It appears desirable that you should come to some regular understanding with the creditors of the late Board of Guardians, based on the principle of discharging small debts, and arranging for the gradual liquidation of the remainder. Perhaps it will be expedient for you to advertise for the several creditors to send in their accounts, with a view to the proposal of an arrangement for the gradual liquidation of the debts.

The Commissioners await the receipt of specific particulars as to the cemetery which you propose to occupy at once.

When the particulars and a map of the land are furnished, the Commissioners will give directions to their solicitors to prepare the necessary lease.

Captain HANLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 28, 1848.*

Gort Union.

IN reply to your letter of the 24th instant, accompanying a copy of a communication from the Under-Secretary's office, relating to the death of a man named Michael Hanburry, in the Gort Union, I beg to state that having made diligent inquiry into the circumstances attending the decease of the above-named individual, I have learned that Michael Hanburry was a single man, aged nearly 70 years; he generally resided at or near Tubber, with some of his friends, who were numerous in that locality, not having any residence of his own. On Monday, the 6th instnt, he applied for relief to the relieving officer of Beagh electoral division, in which Tubber is situated; the officer considering from his appearance that he was in want of food, and having regard to his great age, gave him provisional relief in meal, with which he expressed himself satisfied.

The case was brought before the Vice-Guardians on the following Friday, who ordered out-relief to be continued.

On Monday, the 13th instant, Hanburry called at the depôt and got his week's supply of meal.

On the following day the relieving officer met him on the road, and in the course of conversation was informed by him that his sister, who lives near Tubber, and with whom he used occasionally to stop, had quarrelled with him and turned him out.

The relieving officer then considered he was going to the house of some other of his friends, as he made no complaint of being unable to provide a lodging; Hanburry had a portion of the meal with him at the time.

It appears he proceeded to the house of a cousin of his, named Flanagan, who however refused to let him remain for the night, and about nightfall he departed, it is believed with the intention of going to the house of a man named Mullins, where he had a box. He did not, however, arrive there, but was found the next morning on the road quite dead.

The relieving officer states, "that the man was rather an oddity, difficult to agree with, and having a large appetite."

He considered his death was probably accelerated by eating too much Indian meal, perhaps not sufficiently cooked.

Under all the circumstances, it does not appear that Hanburry died of starvation.

The CLERK of the UNION to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 2, 1848.*

IN answer to letter, 24th March, inquiring as to the cause of the death of a man named Michael Hanburry, I am directed to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that the deceased Michael Hanburry was an infirm man, aged nearly 70 years, receiving out-door relief; that he had been supplied with seven pounds of meal on the day but one previous to his death; that from all the Vice-Guardians have been able to learn, the cause of his death was his being turned out of his lodging by a near relative, added to infirmity and old age.

I am also directed to state, in answer to your letter dated 29th March, making inquiry respecting the death of a man named John Davis, that the deceased John Davis was admitted as a fever patient into the workhouse hospital on the 5th ultimo, and that he was discharged, cured, on the 15th. He then went to live in the house of a widow Hynes, at Gort, with whom he had previously resided; on the 18th he applied to the relieving officer, Forest, for relief, being apparently in a delicate state of health; he wanted to come into the workhouse, but the place being over-crowded the Vice-Guardians ordered him out-relief in cash; he got 1s. 6d. on that day, and the same night he was surreptitiously admitted into the fever shed by the dismissed nurse, E. Fitzpatrick, who kept him there, without the knowledge of the head nurse or medical officer until the 21st or 22nd, when, getting fearful of the consequences, she removed him to a disused privy at the rear of the sheds, where she furnished him with straw for a bed, blankets, sheet and quilt. He died there the next day. It appears that he was treated in the same manner as the other inmates, except as to medicine.

Gort Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*April 12, 1848.*

WITH reference to the communication referred to the Commissioners on the 20th ult., relating to the death of a man named Michael Hanburry, in the Gort Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant, a copy of a report on the subject which they have received from Captain Hanley, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, together with an extract from a communication from the Vice-Guardians of the Gort Union.

It appears that the poor man was relieved provisionally by the relieving officer, and that he expressed himself satisfied with the relief afforded.

The relief was continued by the Vice-Guardians when the case was brought before them.

I am at the same time to observe, that the Constabulary Report does not appear to the Commissioners to give an accurate representation on the subject.

The report is as follows:—

“On the 15th instant Michel Hanburry died near Tubber; he had refused going into the workhouse. The coroner states, that deaths from starvation are now so frequent that it is impossible for him to attend them all.”

Captain HANLEY to the the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 1, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that the Vice-Guardians are proceeding with the utmost zeal in the management of the affairs of this Union, and in every department the most satisfactory results are evident.

The minutes of the Board will detail all our proceedings, and I can only add, that every exertion is being made to improve the condition of the house, and to restore it to a sanitary state.

The collection of the rate in one division is proceeding satisfactorily, the collector having lodged this week 690*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* The other collectors recently appointed are taking the preliminary steps necessary.

I shall not fail to press the collection forward in the most expeditious way.

I have received several applications earnestly soliciting I would apply to the British Association to extend aid in food to the children at the different schools in this Union. From the poverty and destitution which prevail, I must say, if such could be obtained, it would be truly desirable.

The applications for relief this week were not numerous; still the vast number of 10,091 are receiving out-relief at an expense of 335*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* weekly; and as there should now be an immense reduction, particularly of the able-bodied, I purpose in the next week visiting all the depôts and relieving stations, and testing the appearance of the recipients.

The state of the hospital is still unsatisfactory, but improved ventilation and other matters under the direction of the clerk of works, who is busily engaged with his arrangements for that purpose, will, I trust, ere long enable me to report an amendment.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 5, 1848.*

I AM to inform you, that the attention of the British Association has been drawn to your suggestions relative to affording aid in food to the poor children in the different schools in the Gort Union.

BALLINA UNION.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 5, 1848.*

In making my weekly report I wish to lay before the Commissioners a few observations regarding the present state and future prospects of this district. Erris.

In the electoral divisions of Belmullet and Binghamstown, as far as I can ascertain, there are only 16 farmers who are able to cultivate more land than they would require for their own support; and some even of these, terrified by taxation, are anxious to get rid of their holdings; however, they would not at any rate, cultivate more than 20 acres each; and they have not as yet commenced any agricultural operations; besides the above, there are many small occupiers who could sow from one to four acres of land, but are afraid of doing so, lest the crops should be seized.

There are only 320 persons employed in the district, 220 in the construction of a canal near the town of Belmullet, and 100 under the Land Improvement Act.

The cabins of the people are miserable; bad as they are, the proprietors and lessees are rapidly depriving them even of this shelter. One proprietor (Mr. Walsh) lately unroofed upwards of 80 cabins at Mullaghroe in one day, as I mentioned in my report of the 1st January.* The village of Carnboy in the Belmullet division, out of which 150 persons were relieved during last summer, has also been unroofed; and everywhere the demolition of houses is steadily going forward; upwards of one-third of the cabins in the district are unroofed.

There is hardly any food, the turnips being now exhausted.

The people are miserably clothed; their appearance is frightful, especially the children, many of whom are little better than living skeletons. I found five out of one family which had been ejected out of Mullaghroe, lying on the road side last Wednesday, near the workhouse; they were carried into it by my orders, but I fear only to die.

Fever and dysentery prevail to an alarming extent.

With the best assistance it would be difficult to deal with this state of things. The class of persons here who offer themselves as relieving officers, are ignorant, stupid, and corrupt, and if not closely watched would relieve all those who do not require it before they attend to those in actual want. I anticipate being able to do but little good until I can get a better class of men to work with.

The difficulty of affording relief is greatly increased by the wholesale system of ejectment carried on, and the most frightful misery is the result; the wretched creatures deprived of shelter, spend their nights in the streets, and howling at the door of the relieving officer's residence; no workhouse accommodation would afford shelter to such numbers.

The auxiliary workhouse is not capable of accommodating more than 100 in its present state. The illness and death of the person placed in charge of the premises has hitherto reduced the capability of accommodation to about 80.

From the great difficulty of coming at the truth of statements of others, I purpose personally inspecting the townlands in company with the relieving officers, and have recommended their duties to be confined to receiving applications, and reporting on them.

Upwards of 2000 children are relieved at schools in the district.

* In a communication of the 21st February, Mr. Hamilton states that on local inquiry since the date of this Report, he has found that the unroofing of the cabins occupied a few weeks.

Ballina Union.

REPLY to the above :—*February 9, 1848.*

THE Commissioners acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 5th instant, which they have read with the deepest concern.

It appears to the Commissioners evident that the destitution at present existing in your district can only be relieved by very extensive arrangements, similar to those which were adopted last year; and the Commissioners request therefore that you and the Vice-Guardians will organize a system of depôts of cooked food to be distributed in rations to the really destitute. The Commissioners will not object to any reasonable increase in the staff of relieving officers which may be recommended by you and the Vice-Guardians for this purpose; and the Commissioners will endeavour to secure the services of three efficient and trustworthy individuals as relieving officers, to be sent down to you from Dublin.

The Commissioners have at the same time made application to the British Association for an advance of 400*l.* on account of your Union, in the full reliance that such an advance will not in the least cause you to slacken your exertions in compelling the payment of the poor rates by the rate-payers who are in arrear.

The Commissioners request you to supply them with an estimate of the weekly sum which in your opinion will be required, in order to preserve from starvation, the destitute poor who are entitled to relief in your district, forming a separate estimate for each of the three following heads :—

1. Relief in the workhouse.
2. Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.
3. Relief to able-bodied persons entitled to such relief under the 2nd section of that Act.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. R. HAMILTON :—*February 10, 1848.*

WITH reference to your report of the 5th instant, and to the letter addressed to you thereon of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that as you consider the present relieving officers for Belmullet and Binghamstown electoral divisions unfit, the Commissioners will be prepared to remove them, if, when required, they shall not resign.

I am further to observe, that as you are of opinion that local persons cannot be relied on, the Commissioners recommend you to apply to Mr. Henry Brett of Castlebar, the county surveyor, under whom the Public Works of Mayo were carried on last year, for reference to intelligent and trustworthy persons suitable for the duties of relieving officers, who may have been employed under him, and are desirous of employment at present, at the salaries which can be allowed for the duties to be performed, which should be stated to Mr. Brett, and who should be apprised that application is made to him at the desire of the Commissioners.

If the parties reside near Ballina they should be referred to the Vice-Guardians there, and an immediate appointment being necessary, your earliest attention is requested to the object.

FURTHER LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to Mr. R. HAMILTON :—
February 10, 1848.

IN reference to your report of the 5th instant, the Commissioners desire to state that there appears to them, that there must be want of common shelter in your district for some of the destitute poor, and they desire to know whether there are any houses which you would be able to hire for the use of the poor whose cabins have been unroofed.

The Commissioners likewise wish to know whether, in your opinion, the evil might be remedied by the erection of temporary sheds, or whether any other plan has occurred to you as suited to the peculiar circumstances of your district.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 6, 1848.*

Ballina Union.

WE beg leave to enclose to you a copy of some further instructions issued by us to our relieving officers, with respect to landholders who are applicants for relief. We issued such, finding that many bailiffs were attempting, and sometimes successfully, to have persons removed off the lists on the mere faith of their word; and feeling that if the 10th section is to be acted on, the landlords should at least take the trouble of satisfying us that its provisions were infringed, and that, as appears just, the *onus probandi* should in all cases lie on them. On their coming before us and making their complaint, we fix a day, and sending for the applicant, judge of how we should act, requiring in every case that it should be fully and incontrovertibly proved that the applicant was still in possession before we deny him relief. On the other hand, we consider a certificate signed by the agent or bailiff to the effect that the applicant had given up possession, should be deemed conclusive and construed in his favour, unless the relieving officer has good reason to believe to the contrary.

ENCLOSURE.

Further Instructions to Relieving Officers.

1st. In case of any bailiff or agent desiring a relieving officer to strike a destitute person off his list because such person retains possession of land, such request is not to be attended to, it being highly improper that a relieving officer should act in such an important matter upon the mere word of a bailiff or agent, but the relieving officer should refer him to the Vice-Guardians to lay his complaint before them, and satisfy them of its truth.

2nd. In case any destitute person produces a certificate, signed by his landlord, agent, or bailiff, stating that such person "has given up possession of his land;" unless the relieving officer is well aware that such is not the fact, the certificate may be considered conclusive, and relief administered, provided the possession of the land had been the only reason for its being hitherto refused.

By order of Vice-Guardians.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 10, 1848.*

I AM to state, that the mere refusal of a landlord to accept a surrender of land, does not disqualify a person who has ceased to occupy more than a quarter of an acre of land from receiving relief.

By the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, it is merely the occupation or non-occupation of a quarter of an acre of land which is made a criterion of destitution, provided that an applicant for relief may otherwise be deemed entitled to it.

Hence, as far as that clause is concerned, you are warranted in relieving any body who is not in such occupation, and you are not bound to investigate title at all, or to ascertain whether the tenant's interest has been legally determined by surrender or otherwise.

A copy of the first instruction to relieving officers, forwarded with your report as approved by the Commissioners, is enclosed herewith.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 9, 1848.*

THE funds in the hands of the treasurer to the credit of the Union are nearly exhausted. Mr. Richard Hamilton and Mr. Waters applied for money yesterday to enable them to provide the necessary supplies in Erris. The Guardians, however, had not sufficient to give them; and as the Commissariat officer has orders not to advance 1 lb. on credit, and Mr. Richard Hamilton had exhausted his private means in providing food last week, I lent them 100*l.* out of a balance to my credit of the funds of the British Association, which they will repay as early as possible. I have written to Count Strzelecki on this subject.

In consequence of a communication which I have received from Count Strzelecki, I would beg to recommend that application be made to the British Association for a loan of 1000*l.* for this portion of the Union, and 500*l.* for Erris.

Ballina Union.

I submit that this step cannot be taken with too much secrecy, as the moment it is suspected that funds can be provided in any other way than out of the rates, there will be hopes encouraged which it is not desirable should be the case. The rate-payers will hold back, and there will be a *general* attempt at jobbing.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February* 10, 1848.

THE Commissioners have made application for an advance of 400*l.* for the Ballina Union, to assist the Guardians in providing for the relief of the destitute poor.

The Commissioners will make a further request for a sum of 200*l.*, to be forwarded to you for the same purpose. These moneys, as well as any former advances, should be duly brought into the Union accounts as loans.

The Commissioners wish to be furnished, with as little delay as possible, with a list of all the immediate lessors in the Union from whom rates are still due, and a list of all other rate-payers who owe more than 5*l.* on account of poor-rates.

The stage in which the proceedings to enforce payment are in each of these cases should be stated on the list.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February* 7, 1848.

I REGRET to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that a verdict of "died from lingering starvation" has been brought in in the case of Honor Feery, a pauper in receipt of out-door relief in the electoral division of Kilgarvan.

The relieving officer was not called upon by the coroner to give evidence; however I will lose no time in requiring a written explanation from him, which I will forward for the Commissioners' information.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February* 10, 1848.

WITH reference to my letter of the 7th instant, respecting the verdict of a coroner's jury on the case of Honora Kerrigan (which by mistake I called Honor Feery), I beg to annex the explanation of Mr. O'Flynn, the relieving officer of Kilgarvan electoral division.

As Captain Drought was the Vice-Guardian who disposed of the Kerrigan's application for relief, and the explanation called for by him on the annexed letter (A) from the Rev. Mr. Egan, P.P., of Kilgarvan, was, I am informed, given verbally to Captain Drought, who is now at Athlone, I think, if the Commissioners wish for any further report on this case, it had better be referred to Captain Drought, as he may remember the circumstances.

I am exceedingly anxious that there should be the fullest inquiry into every case of alleged neglect. As soon as the present coroner was elected, I lost no time in putting myself in communication with him, and I requested him to acquaint me with any circumstances which might come to his knowledge in which there was reason to suppose that proper relief had not been afforded to all applicants legally entitled to it. It is necessary, however, to be very guarded in attributing blame to relieving officers without a most searching investigation. I may mention as an instance, that, on the 8th instant, I heard a most heart-rending account of a person who it was alleged had dropt down in the streets of Ballina in a state of starvation, and had been carried to the workhouse infirmary in a dying state. I immediately went to the infirmary and saw the woman. I asked her whether she had ever applied to the relieving officer for relief: she stated to me that she had not. I found that she had 3*s.* 1*d.* in her pocket when brought into the house; so that, without venturing an opinion as to whether she had allowed herself to starve, it clearly would be unjust to blame the relieving officer in her case.

ENCLOSURES.

Ballina Union.

(A.)

ANDREW KERRIGAN and wife, residents in Kilgarvan, are both labouring under severe indisposition. Although the case has been reported on yesterday to Mr. O'Flynn, the relieving officer of the district, yet they have been refused relief, because (feeble and weak although they are) they have not come into the workhouse on yesterday, the day fixed on by Mr. O'Flynn to distribute rations in said electoral division. Mr. O'Flynn states he received orders to this effect on Tuesday last from the chairman of the Union.

Kilgarvan, January 7, 1848.

BERD. EGAN, P.P., Kilgarvan.

To the Chairman of the
Ballina Poor Law Union.

Mr. O'FLYNN to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—February 9, 1848.

IN the case of Andrew Kerrigan and Honor Kerrigan, on the 14th of December, 1847, they applied to me for an order of admission to the workhouse, which I gave them; and on the 24th December, 1847, I gave them out-door relief for the week ending 25th December, which is continued weekly to them as appears at foot, and will from my book also. On the 4th January, 1848, I brought my books for revision before the Board. Captain Drought, the then chairman, ordered them into the workhouse, which I offered them on the 6th January, but refused it in presence of Thads. O'Dowda, jun., Esq., Bonneconlan House. They applied to the Rev. Mr. Egan to get them meal, contrary to the order of the Board. I refused to out-step it. He then reported me to the Board. They ordered me to revisit them, and give provisional relief if necessary. I did so; and, on the 11th, the Board allowed them 14 lbs. weekly.

It can be proved to the satisfaction of Mr. Hamilton and the Vice-Guardians that Honor Kerrigan was sickly for three years previous to her death; also that it was not a case for an inquest.

Particulars of Relief given to Andrew Kerrigan and family, to the 5th February, 1848.

1847.—For week ending the 25th December	. . .	28 lbs. meal.
„ 1st January	. . .	21 „
„ 8th „	. . .	8 „
„ 15th „	. . .	14 „
„ 22nd „	. . .	14 „
„ 29th „	. . .	14 „
„ 5th February	. . .	11 „

Total amount of meal given up to the 5th Feb., 1848, 110 „

Dated February 9, 1848.

THOS. O'FLYNN, Relieving Officer.

GEELLIN BARONY.

Inquest on the body of Honor Kerrigan, of Kilgarvan, parish of Kilgarvan, on the
4th of February, 1848.

Verdict.

“ Came to her death by lingering starvation.”

CHAS. ATKINSON, Coroner.

DEAR SIR.—At top you have the particulars of the death of Honor Kerrigan, as promised.

Sincerely your's,

CHAS. ATKINSON.

To Captain Hamilton, Poor Law Inspector,
Ballina.

February 8, 1848.

Mr. O'FLYNN to Captain HAMILTON:—February 9, 1848.

I MOST respectfully take leave to enclose to you my report relative to the death or case of Honor Kerrigan, of Kilgarvan, on whose body an inquest was held at the special instance and requisition of the Rev. Mr. Egan, instead of that of a policeman. I beg to refer you to Sergeant Ward, stationed at Bonneconlan: he can prove it was not a case for an inquest, therefore he refused to give a requisition.

Captain DROUGHT to the COMMISSIONERS:—February 23, 1848.

IN reply to the file, herewith returned, I beg to say that, at this distance of time, I cannot speak confidently as to the verbal answer Mr. O'Flynn, the relieving officer, gave to the Board in reply to the letter marked (A), sent by

Ballina Union.

us to him for explanation and information ; but the impression on my mind is, that in ordering the 14 lbs. of meal weekly it was only provisionally, until Mr. O'Flynn had time (under the then existing pressure of business) to make further inquiries into the circumstances of the Kerrigans, as they had refused to come to the workhouse. And all the relieving officers received strict directions from the Board that, if they found the quantity ordered by us at any time was not sufficient, to give what would be so until they next appeared before us, when, on proper explanation, we would sanction it and revise the quantity previously ordered in their books.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 10, 1848.*

EVERYTHING connected with the house is in a satisfactory state. The cases of fever are very few indeed, and we are still in a position to admit persons whom we consider require the "test."

We regret to state that our weekly liabilities are far exceeding the amount of rate lodged by our collectors; and we cannot say that we have the least expectation of being able to meet them, if we are entirely to depend upon the amount of rate collected weekly. Our contractor's demands are necessarily very high, and they reasonably expect prompt payments, it being on those terms that they entered into contracts requiring great outlay and unremitting attention on their part. We must state that the latter is fully afforded by these gentlemen, who seem as anxious as we could be to prevent any abuse in carrying out the details of the system we have organized in this Union.

We summoned all the collectors to attend last Monday, and having impressed upon them the necessity of further exertion, informed those whose accounts were not satisfactory, that if their lodgments were not considerably increased in amount next week, we should forthwith dismiss them, and put their sureties in suit; the excuse that they had hitherto of "having no court," being now removed.

We obtained about 100 decrees at the last Court, which are now in course of execution. Our system of labour test works well. The weekly report for a small portion of the Union shows 700 absent out of 1200 employed.

Much evil has arisen from our not being supplied with implements; but we hope this will be speedily remedied, as we have sent forward a requisition for the quantity required.

We have had occasion to dismiss several overseers for not enforcing sufficient work from those employed, stopping in each case the amount of salary due to them. This course, we anticipate, will have the desired effect of making their successors more careful in the discharge of their duties. We fear that great abuse exists in some of our divisions, and for this reason are anxious for your approval of the appointment of Mr. John Palmer as revising officer, as we have no doubt this step will be attended with much good; he being a person to whom, judging from our experience of him, and the high character he bears, we can with confidence entrust such important duties.

We beg leave to forward a report furnished by him relative to some cases of gross imposition which he detected in his own division, and we very much deplore the evidence that is thus laid before us, that a gentleman, whom a sense of duty, if not a feeling of what is conducive to his own interests, should urge to check abuse, could be found base enough to sanction it in the most direct manner.

We would be sorry to suppose that conduct such as this was not rare; but even one instance is sufficient to prove to what a state of degradation the country is reduced, and to cause us to feel but little astonishment at the many flagrant attempts at imposition which are daily practised by those in a lower sphere of life.

We have calculated that the expense of printing the necessary forms for relieving officers of every class will average about 3*l.* weekly; and we are desirous of ascertaining if you will sanction this outlay, remarking at the same time that we consider it necessary, and that it shall be conducted with a strict view to economy.

ENCLOSURES.

Ballina Union.

Remarks as to annexed Report and Certificates.

THE person who has signed the annexed certificates is the son of Captain Knox of Greenwood, who is a magistrate and deputy lieutenant. On questioning the relieving officer we have ascertained that this person has been duly authorized by Captain Knox to act for him in all matters relating to his tenants; and that Captain Knox himself directly informed the relieving officer that he might rely upon any representations made to him as to his tenants by this person.

PETER BURROWES,
WILLIAM GERAGHTY, } *Vice-Guardians.*

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
&c. &c. &c.

Certificates.

No. 281.

John Gillaspay, of Fairfield Upper, and Pat. Brown, of Fairfield Lower, have no land or means of support.

Woodville, December 21, 1847.

W. KNOX.

No. 500.

Mary Reap, of Fairfield, has no land.

Woodville, January 29, 1848.

W. KNOX.

No. 229.

Thomas M'Namara, of Fairfield Lower, has no land, and is starving.

Woodville, December 19, 1847.

W. KNOX.

No. 365.

Pat. Garrick, of Fairfield Upper, has no land.

Woodville, December 28, 1847.

W. KNOX.

No. 362.

Daniel Doherty, of Fairfield Upper, has no land.

Woodville, December 28, 1847.

W. KNOX.

Tom Mohan, of Fairfield, has no land or means of support for a large and weak family.

Woodville, January 17, 1848.

W. KNOX.

No. in Application Book, 843.

SIR,

Roosky, February 3, 1848.

AGREEABLE to your desire I hasten to furnish below, as shortly as possible, a sketch of my doings on the evening of the 1st instant. May I request your forgiveness if the novelty of those disclosures will not admit of a greater brevity than in my present haste I can command.

I forward by bearer the return, as ordered by the Commissioners.

I am, &c.,

JOHN PALMER,

R. O., Kilfin E. Division.

Peter Burrowes, Esq., Chairman Vice-Guardians,
Ballina Union.

Townland of Fairfield.

Patrick Quech, landlord's certificate, No. 365, was tested in poor-house for 10 days, and after ordered to working party. On the 1st instant sent assistant relieving officer into this townland, who, after some inquiries, discovered that the said Patrick Quech was a pensioner in the receipt of 6d. per day, and that he had two cows. I had previously paid two visits into this locality, but failed to learn anything beyond poverty, and so forth.

Daniel Doherty, landlord's certificate, No. 362, was tested in workhouse and ordered to join working party. On the same day my assistant discovered that he was in possession of a cow, and in rather comfortable circumstances.

Thomas Mohan, landlord's certificate, No. 843, offered workhouse and refused. On the evening of the 1st accompanied my assistant into this townland, and found this family seated round a cheering fire, with an immense wooden dish of stirabout before them. There were three sheep and a large quantity of new thrashed straw in the lower part of this house. This man had a stack of corn in haggard, which he said was seized on by landlord for rent.

Ballina Union.

Thomas M'Namara, landlord's certificate, No. 229, offered workhouse and refused; called at his house on same evening, and found there an *ass* and rather a poor house. This man told us that *only now* all his resources were run out, and that I should give him a ticket of admission to workhouse shortly, which, as in *duty bound*, I promised.

Patrick Brown, landlord's certificate, No. 281, in workhouse, but left. On same evening found in his house a cow, calf, and ass.

In the course of our rambles said evening, visited John Gillaspys house, who had applied for relief, but did not as yet bring the landlord's certificate. Here we found a cow and horse, and comfortable house.

Our next visit was to Francis M'Namara's house, another applicant, but not having as yet obtained the landlord's certificate. Here we found a cow and comfortable house.

We proceeded next to Mary Reap's house who would, if *she could*, persuade us that she was a poor widow, and brought us a landlord's certificate, No. 500. We found her *husband*, Michael Quinn, comfortably seated by a roaring fire, after having returned some hours from his daily labour with his landlord.

N.B. You will perceive that all these cases refer to the same townland and under the same landlord. I only hope my disclosures may be of benefit to my electoral division, as I am certain they were as unexpected as they were *merited*.

JOHN PALMER,
R. O., Kilfian E. D.

Peter Burrowes, Esq., Chairman Vice-Guardians,
Ballina Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—February 11, 1848.

WE have already reported "that our weekly liabilities were far exceeding the amount of rate lodged by our collectors, and that we had not the least reason to hope we would be able to meet them, if we were to depend entirely upon the amount of rate to be collected."

We have now the honour to enclose a letter received from the Vice-Guardian at Belmullet, requiring 300*l.* immediately; at the same time stating, he was obliged to borrow 100*l.*, for the re-payment of which his credit is pledged.

Our contractors' demands on to-morrow will be 800*l.*; Mr. Waters requires 300*l.*; our fever hospital, 100*l.*; our relieving and other officers, who have had the payments of their respective salaries postponed, in order to enable us to meet our contractors as long as possible, will require 300*l.*, thus making a sum of 1500*l.*, exclusive of liabilities incurred by the former Board.

To meet these demands we have in bank 113*l.*, so that it is quite evident that the time has arrived when we must request *immediate* assistance to enable us to carry on the affairs of the Union with credit; and we are anxious to ascertain to what extent, and when, we may expect such will be afforded.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. WATERS, Vice-Guardian, to the VICE-GUARDIANS, Ballina Union:—
February 9, 1848.

I WILL feel much obliged by your remitting me immediately 300*l.*, as I want to pay some demands that are pressing. Were it not that Mr. Hamilton handed me this day 100*l.*, I do not know what I should have done, as Mr. Fortescue refused to give me any more credit: I had to borrow some from a person in this place on Monday.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—February 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that Mr. Reilly, a respectable merchant residing in the town of Belmullet, having undertaken to provide and distribute any number of rations that might be required at the several stations named by the Vice-Guardians for 1½*d.* per ration, consisting of one pound of meal made into stirabout, and as Mr. Waters and myself considered this proposal most advantageous, I thought it necessary to proceed to Ballina last Monday for the purpose of laying it with other matters before the Board.

Erris.

The Guardians immediately agreed to it, and I have no doubt but this will be the means of checking imposition to a great extent.

I brought before the Board the necessity for the appointment of additional relieving officers, at the same time naming distinct districts to be placed under the charge of each officer, on which they advertised for two.

I likewise applied for funds sufficient to meet the expenses of the current week, which the Guardians were not prepared to give; and had I not obtained 100*l.* from Lieutenant Hamilton, besides other sums borrowed, all relief in the district must have ceased, the Commissariat having refused to issue provision to the Guardians on credit; and there being no supply in the hands of merchants, the Vice-Guardian here is at this moment nearly 500*l.* in debt for provisions placed in the hands of relieving officers.

I have written to Count Strzelecki, recommending him to place funds at my disposal for the purpose of lending to the Vice-Guardians, in case of such an emergency.

I returned from Ballina on Tuesday, in company with Mr. Wilkinson, and have been principally occupied with him during the remainder of the week.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 15, 1848.*

I AM to state that application has been made to Count Strzelecki for a further advance of 500*l.* on account of the whole Union.

I am at the same time to request your attention to the Commissioners' letter of the 9th instant, on the subject of providing funds for the maintenance of the poor in the Ballina Union.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 14, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letters of the 9th and 10th instant, I beg to Erris. state, for the information of the Commissioners, that arrangements will be completed in about 10 days for distributing cooked food at nine depôts in this district, which at present I consider sufficient; and the localities selected for these depôts will not require any pauper to walk an unreasonable distance for his food.

It is extremely difficult to form anything like an accurate estimate of the probable expenses for relief in these two electoral divisions; but judging from the relieving officers' books, and my own observations, I consider the following is as near a calculation as at present can be made of the amount which will be required for the weekly support of each class named in your letter:—

1st. Relief in the workhouse	£ 30
2nd. Out-door relief to persons entitled under 1st section of 10 Vict., cap. 31	110
3rd. Out-door relief to persons entitled under 2nd section of 10 Vict., cap. 31	175
Total	<u>£315</u>

Independent of the above, about 17*l.* per week will be required for the payment of salaries to relieving officers and their assistants, exclusive of the workhouse establishment, and a further sum of 20*l.* weekly for wages to mechanics employed at the auxiliary workhouse.

With regard to providing accommodation for the poor people whose cabins have been unroofed, I beg to state that there are no houses in the district applicable for the purpose which could be hired; and even if such could be procured, I doubt whether it would be desirable to crowd a number of these people together, covered with filth of every kind, and suffering from disease. In about a fortnight a comfortable thatched house will be completed in the outside garden, attached to the auxiliary workhouse, 313 feet long by 16 broad, which was intended for school-rooms, day-rooms, &c.; but, in order to meet

Ballina Union.

the present pressure, I should recommend it being appropriated as sleeping apartments for the able-bodied men and boys above a certain age. The buildings in the inner yards to be reserved for infirm men, women, and children, and also for hospital accommodation. Sheds can easily be erected for school-rooms, &c. I think it would be desirable the Commissioners should consult Mr. Wilkinson on this subject, as he is acquainted with the building to which I refer.

I take this opportunity of drawing the Commissioners' attention to the only agreement entered into between the Guardians and the late proprietor of the auxiliary poor-house, which I submitted through Mr. Wilkinson for their consideration some time ago. I am convinced, from the state of this district, a long period must elapse before it can be dispensed with.

Immediately on receipt of your letter I placed myself in communication with Mr. Brett, in order to obtain his assistance in procuring a proper class of persons as relieving officers.

In consequence of the Vice-Guardians at Ballina having declared their inability to supply the requisite funds to meet the current expenses of this district, I purpose going there on Thursday next to consult Lieutenant Hamilton on the subject.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 17, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will have the goodness to make a close scrutiny into the cases of the parties who are receiving out-door relief in the Union, and that you and the Vice-Guardians will press forward vigorously the collection of the rate.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners have made application to the British Relief Association for the sum of 200*l.* for the district of Erris, to assist the Vice-Guardians in their present embarrassments.

For the future, the course which the Commissioners are prepared for a while to adopt is, to undertake to make weekly advances for the relief of the able-bodied men out of the workhouse, provided that the Vice-Guardians will relieve from the poor-rates able-bodied men and their families in the workhouse, and destitute persons entitled to relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act out of the workhouse.

The Commissioners request you to supply them on Saturday in each week with an estimate of the weekly sum which, in your opinion, will be required in order to preserve from starvation the destitute poor who are entitled to relief in your district, forming a separate estimate for each of the three following heads:—

- 1st. Relief in the workhouse.
- 2nd. Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.
- 3rd. Relief to the able-bodied persons entitled to such relief under the 2nd section of that Act.

An extract from your report relating to the auxiliary workhouse has been forwarded to Mr. Wilkinson.

MR. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 16, 1848.*

I HAVE delayed sending a weekly report until I could furnish you with a return of all defaulters of poor-rate, owing over 5*l.*, showing the steps which have been taken, &c.

Although I had lists in my possession I thought it better to require the collectors to furnish me with corrected returns to the latest period, copies of which I now beg to annex with the exception of Mr. Thady Foody's district, for which a new collector has not yet been appointed. I likewise annex a return showing the numbers at present receiving out-door relief in each electoral division; together with the number of children attending schools, and receiving relief from the British Association.

The Vice-Guardians are much embarrassed for want of funds to meet their weekly liabilities. The rates are coming in very slowly, as will be perceived by the annexed return. I have placed at their disposal the order transmitted

to me for provisions by Count Strzelecki; but as the issue of rations both in a raw and cooked state has hitherto been carried out by contract, an entire change of system will have to be adopted if funds cannot be procured; the present system has worked so well, that I shall be sorry if circumstances render it necessary for the Vice-Guardians to make any change.

The Vice-Guardians have recently dismissed five overseers for disobedience of orders in permitting the working parties to follow their own inclinations and do nothing; two of these overseers have this day been committed to gaol for issuing orders for bread on the contractor subsequent to their dismissal; fortunately in every instance notice has been given to the contractor of each dismissal, therefore the fraud was discovered. It is almost impossible to get overseers who will do their duty; there is not the same excuse here which I have heard urged in other places, "that a man's life is not safe if he does his duty;" the people are quietly disposed, but the most idle and corrupt set I ever had to deal with, and the overseers are little or no better. Although I write thus harshly of these poor people, I feel that there is every allowance to be made for them; indeed, so much so, that in many localities, for want of a good example, and brought up in the most deplorable ignorance, it would only be surprising if they were any better than they are.

As regards the state of the workhouse and Union in general (except Erris), I think that, with the exception of the finances, matters are in every other respect very much more satisfactory than they were two months ago. The law is fully and fairly in operation; and although it is not giving satisfaction, it is giving relief. I do not think that anything short of universal relief would give general satisfaction.

ENCLOSURES.

(A.)

STATEMENT of the COLLECTION of the POOR RATE in the Killala, Lackan, Kilfian, Ballysokeery, and Ballycastle Electoral Divisions, Ballina Union. PALMER KIRKWOOD, Collector.

Total amount of warrant, including arrears	£3947 13 11½
Amount of arrears of three former rates	322 19 6½
	3624 14 5
Amount of same collected	2023 18 4½
	1600 16 0½
Amount of annexed return due by lessors	1061 12 1
	£539 3 11½

Of the 1061*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* due, as per return annexed, I shall be able to recover about 200*l.*

Of the 539*l.* 3*s.* 11½*d.* (due by persons rated as occupiers and lessors, in sums varying from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.*, against whom I hold 28 barrister's decrees, 73 magistrate's warrants, and 35 summonses, to be adjudicated on in Ballycastle on the 16th instant,) I shall be able to enforce payment of about 200*l.*

February 13, 1848.

BALLINA UNION.—Killala, Lackan, Ballysokeery, Kilfian, and Ballycastle Electoral Divisions.

A LIST of the Principal DEFAULTING RATE-PAYERS, February 14, 1848.

P. KIRKWOOD, Collector.

Names.	Rate.	Observations of Collector.	Observations of Solicitor.
Mr. David Hughes . . .	£. s. d. 6 10 4	Has no property whatever.	Proceedings.
John Knox, Esq. . . .	137 9 7½	A receiver under the Courts.	Proceedings.
Colonel A. Knox Gore . .	54 2 10½	Ditto ditto.	Time to 5th March.
William Orme, Esq. . . .	18 12 0½	Got time from Guardians.	Proceedings.
H. W. Knox, Esq. . . .	56 7 7	In hands of solicitor.	* This was due for tenants who retained possession of waste holdings. I spoke to Lord Arran's agent about it this morning, and he at once paid the money.
Lord Arran*	17 3 8	Due for occupiers over 4 <i>l.</i> , who gave up possession.	W. J. H.
John and William Palmer .	22 3 11½	A receiver under the Courts.	Proceedings.
Thomas Palmer, Esq. . . .	58 15 5	In hands of solicitor.	Proceedings.

A List of the principal Defaulting Rate-payers—*continued*.

Names.	Rate.	Observations of Collector.	Observations of Solicitor.
St. George Stock, Esq. . .	£. s. d. 19 11 4	Absentee.	Guardians ordered collector to notice occupiers.
Mrs. Armstrong . . .	33 16 9½	Ditto.	Same rule as above.
Minor John Ormsby . . .	28 19 1	Ditto.	Proceedings.
Denis Bingham, Esq. . .	22 10 4	Ditto.	Proceedings.
Rev. Richard Handy . . .	10 1 3	Ditto.	Noticed as occupier ordered by Guardians.
William H. Orme, Esq. . .	4 19 11	Ditto.	Same.
Miss Palmer . . .	19 8 9	Ditto.	Dead. Person liable not known.
Captain W. Knox Orme . .	8 0 11½	Ditto.	Notice on occupiers.
W. Chevers . . .	10 18 2½	Ditto.	Application to Court to oblige receiver to pay.
Miss Handy . . .	22 5 6½	Ditto.	Proceedings.
Miss D. Handy . . .	10 12 0½	Ditto.	Proceedings.
Mrs. Irwin . . .	24 17 3	Ditto.	Paid 39l. 2s. 11d.; objects to pay this balance, saying that the lands have been leased. Tenants ordered to be noticed.
Captain Knox . . .	39 1 6½	Ditto. Hay under seizure.	
Mr. Phibbs . . .	18 9 8	Ditto.	Out of the country.
William Gardiner, Esq. . .	13 3 11½	Noticed and summoned.	Proceedings.
Captain John Knox . . .	11 2 10½	Receiver under the Courts.	Proceedings.
Richard C. Greene . . .	28 12 6½	Solicitor proceeding.	No. He has been ordered to be summoned by collector.
William Kirkwood, Esq. . .	29 19 6	In hands of solicitor.	
James Ramsay . . .	10 17 7	Noticed and summoned.	
Pat. Quinan . . .	16 17 5	Summoned and decreed.	
Mrs. M'Donnel . . .	13 17 11½	Summoned.	
John Bourke, Esq. . .	36 0 10	In hands of solicitor.	Proceedings.
Ecclesiastical Commissioners	6 5 2½		
Moy Salmon Fishery . .	62 10 0	Ditto ditto.	Occupiers and non-resident. Distress only course.
Mervyn Pratt, Esq. . .	4 16 11½	Ditto ditto.	Proceedings.
William Ormsby . . .	23 9 9½	Sheep under seizure.	Proceedings.
Widow Nolan . . .	6 16 10	In hands of solicitor.	To be summoned.
Henry Crofton, Esq. . .	5 10 0	Ditto ditto.	Got a short time for this, having paid 32l.
Thomas Bourns . . .	36 3 5	Levy warrant obtained.	
Mrs. Bourns . . .	5 1 0	Noticed and summoned.	
Thomas Waldron, Esq. . .	22 4 0	Ditto ditto.	
Charles Goodwin . . .	17 2 4	In hands of solicitor.	Proceedings.
Henry Goodwin . . .	14 6 9	Ditto ditto.	
William Gardiner, Esq. . .	12 9 8½	Ditto ditto.	No.
H. Rogers . . .	13 0 10	Went on the land. No property.	
Robert Gardiner . . .	9 15 8	Ditto ditto.	
Duke Ormsby . . .	9 5 8	Ditto ditto.	
John Lynch . . .	7 13 3	Levy warrant obtained.	
	1061 12 1	Deduct 17l. 3s. 8d. W. J. H.	

BALLINA UNION.—*Ballina and Backs Electoral Divisions.*—R. MACANDREW, Collector.

Trustees of Moy Fishery . .	210 18 9	Not resident. Don't know how this rate is to be recovered.	Occupiers and non-resident. Distress only course.
Captain Atkinson . . .	106 1 3½	Proceedings by solicitor.	Proceedings.
Colonel G. V. Jackson . . .	44 17 1½	Got time from Guardians.	Got time.
Robert Jones, Esq. . .	8 7 10	Not resident.	Out of the country. Outlawry.
John F. Knox, Esq. . .	45 16 0	Noticed, and to be summoned for next Petty Sessions Court.	
John Bourke, Esq. . .	89 12 9	Proceedings by solicitor.	Proceedings.
Harbour Commissioners . .	22 10 0	Summoned.	Object to pay. I think they are not rateable.
Colonel Knox Gore . . .	77 6 5	Proceedings by solicitor.	Proceedings.
Lord Clanmorris . . .	9 15 11½	Ditto.	Proceedings. Some difficulty in this case.
Henry W. Knox, Esq. . .	18 19 11½	Ditto.	Proceedings.
James Anderson, Esq. . .	72 5 0½	Ditto.	Ditto.
John Orme, Esq. . .	19 4 7	Got time from Guardians.	Time to 5th March.
Mrs. Ormsby and W. Knox, Esq.	16 16 4½	Distress made; goods to be auctioned on Tuesday next, if amount not paid.	Wm. Knox, dead. Premises to be distrained.
Miss Rodgers . . .	27 10 4	Magistrate's warrant obtained. No goods to be found.	Magistrate's warrant against her.
Mrs. Howly . . .	10 18 10	This is a balance of her rate, for which she promises payment.	
Robert Moore . . .	9 14 0	Noticed.	
Mrs. Atkinson . . .	8 0 8	Summoned.	

A List of the principal Defaulting Rate-payers—*continued*.

Names.	Rate.	Observations of Collector.	Observations of Solicitor.
	£. s. d.		
Oliver Jackson, Esq. . . .	18 0 0	Noticed, and to be summoned.	Got time for this, which is only a balance. Not to be found.
John M'Hugh, Esq. . . .	9 9 0	Got time for this balance.	
P. Grace	12 11 2½	Not resident.	
A. Joynt	9 9 6	Summoned.	
John Tolan	7 19 9	Magistrate's warrant.	
Denis M'Enna	7 19 9	Summoned.	
Mrs. Conway	9 18 0½	Magistrate's warrant.	
James Higgins	7 13 0	Promised to pay this week.	
Mrs. Porteus	9 0 0	Magistrate's warrant.	
Matthew Devitt	12 7 6	Summoned.	
Daniel J. Cruise, Esq. . . .	6 15 0	Got time from Guardians.	
Mrs. Dr. Caldwell	8 2 1½	Not resident.	
Mr. Robert Jones	5 12 0	Promises payment when he is paid by the Guardians for his services as relieving officer.	
Dr. James M'Naird.	5 8 0	This amount is, I understand, stopped by Guardians out of his salary.	
Thomas Gillespie	5 12 8½	Magistrate's warrant executed, and goods to be sold if not paid.	
	934 13 6		

BALLINA UNION.—*Ardnaree Electoral Division*.—JOHN IRWIN, *Collector*.

Robert Jones, Esq.	30 15 8½	Handed to solicitor.	Out of the country. Outlawry. Not returned to me.
Edward Atkinson	40 18 1½	He has promised me payment as soon as he will get the first payment from the Guardians.	
Trustees of Moy Fishery . .	187 10 0	Handed over to solicitor.	Occupiers and non-resident. Distress only course.
John Fair, Esq.	61 16 0	As occupier, has served the regular notices upon him.	
Mr. Michael Howly.	13 4 9	As lessor and occupier.	Writ issued against him for the entire amount he owes in the Union. Did not think it right to take part, without getting all.
Colonel Knox Gore	32 3 11½	In the hands of solicitor. Has offered me payment, but would not be allowed to receive it by solicitor.	
Doctor White	14 0 9	His store engaged, and has promised payment on being paid by Guardians.	Chargeable against him as deriving a profit rent from barracks occupied by military. His name not appearing in rate-book, barrister refused to decree.
Mr. Thomas Dillon	5 0 0	I have noticed him, and will have him summoned for the next Court.	
Mr. Charles Atkinson	7 5 0	I had processed him, by order of solicitor, and he had dismissed us.	Writ issued against him.
Mr. Samuel Strudgeon	10 16 0½	I had him summoned, and decreed him 8 <i>l.</i> 18 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> , which decree I did not get from clerk of petty sessions yet.	
P. C. Howly, Esq.	13 11 2	It being a balance due on him, has paid 19 <i>l.</i>	
Thady May	5 8 6½	As lessor for houses, Ardnaree.	
Robert Jones, Esq.	9 15 6	As lessor for Bunree House.	
Rev. John Lindsay	6 14 0	As lessor and occupier for Quignaleek.	
William Ormsby, Esq.	109 5 9	As lessor and occupier, and is handed over to solicitor.	
James Bourns	33 8 1	As lessor and occupier, and for which I have magistrate's warrant.	
William Hamilton	11 12 2	Has absconded. Holding waste.	
Mrs. Mary Winters	16 7 1	As lessor and occupier, noticed.	
John Strong	5 0 0	Decreed.	
Henry Strong	6 3 0½	As occupier, noticed; and summons to follow.	
George Smyth	9 0 9	As occupier and lessor, and for the part he is occupier he is decreed.	
Minor Smyth	9 15 3	Paid by Oliver C. Jackson 10 <i>l.</i> , on this Minor Smyth's part, leaving 9 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> due.	

A List of the principal Defaulting Rate-payers—*continued*.

Names.	Rate.	Observations of Collector.	Observations of Solicitor.
Robert Verschoyle, Esq. .	£. s. d. 10 4 8	Paid 15 <i>l.</i> by Oliver C. Jackson, leaving due 10 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	
Thos. and Mat. Kilgallon .	6 0 6	As occupiers.	
Mr. Robert Scott . . .	10 1 8½	As lessor and occupier.	
Mr. William Ham . . .	7 4 9½	As occupier Ardnaree.	
	663 3 4½		

BALLINA UNION.—*Kilgarven and Attymas Electoral Divisions*.—JOHN IRWIN, Collector.

Thadeus O'Dowda, Esq. .	40 11 7	Lessor for 35 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i> , and for which I have him decreed.	
Thomas Paget, Esq. . .	7 11 6½	As lessor.	Paid what he owed in the other divisions on my application; objects to this, pro- perty being leased.
George Fenton, Esq. . .	9 8 4	As occupier. Noticed.	
Colonel A. Knox Gore . .	10 8 6	And which sum his agent had offered to pay me, but the soli- citor would not allow me to take it, as there were proceed- ings taken against him for all that was due on him throughout the Union.	See Note on Ardnaree division in this case.
Mrs. Margaret Howly . .	11 17 8½	As lessor. Noticed.	
Ditto	2 10 0	As occupier.	
Mrs. Atkinson	18 17 9	As lessor, and for which I have her decreed.	
Captain Moore, Madras .	20 1 2	Receiver under the Courts; and by the order of the Guardians wrote to him, but got no answer.	
Captain Lyndsay	12 16 9½	His agent, Charles C. Cromie.	
Edward Orme, Esq. . . .	8 5 3½	Rated as lessor.	
Francis Evans, Esq. . .	24 17 5	Edward Deane, Esq., of Carrow- gowan, receiver under the Courts.	Proceedings against receiver.
Henry Wills	11 14 1	Rated as lessor and occupier. Noticed.	
George H. Moore, Esq. . .	28 6 4½	He is Member of Parliament.	Paid to me.
Samuel Robinson	4 6 7	Rated as lessor.	
Mr. Paget Strudgeon . .	13 18 6½	As lessor and occupier.	
Widow of Wellington Strud- geon.	5 2 6	As lessor and occupier. Noticed.	
Colonel Browne	8 1 1	As lessor. George Clendining, his agent.	
William Orme, Esq. . . .	22 8 6½	As lessor and occupier.	Got time to March.
	261 2 9½		

BALLINA UNION.—*Crossmolina Electoral Division*.—WILLIAM CORCORAN, Collector.

Mervyn Pratt, Esq. . . .	112 0 0	Solicitor has this in hand.	Proceedings.
John Walsh, Esq. . . .	15 11 7	Same rule.	Proceedings.
Wm. Orme, Esq.	18 17 1	Got time from the Guardians till 3rd March.	Got time till 5th March.
Minors Ormsby	29 17 4	O. C. Jackson, Esq., receiver over the property.	Proceedings.
Captain Knox and H. W. Knox, Esq.	22 14 2	Solicitor has this in hand.	Proceedings by application to Court against receiver.
W. H. Orme, Esq.	79 5 0	Same rule.	Tenants to be noticed.
Mrs. Jackson	6 4 9	Cannot form an opinion how recoverable.	Wrote to Mr. Clendining, the agent, which was the extent of my instructions.
Representatives of W. Ormsby	11 5 2	This property is in the hands of O. C. Jackson, Esq.	Not returned to me.
Counsellor Bourke	7 1 8½	Recoverable by writ being served on him.	Wrote him as directed.
Wm. Knox Orme, Esq. . .	16 14 0	Not in the country. The money will be paid instantly by F. Knox Orme, Esq.	Occupiers ordered to be noticed.
Mrs. Atkinson	7 13 0	Recoverable by civil bill.	Notice and summons ordered.
Pat. Gallagher	5 0 0	Same rule.	Not returned to me.

A List of the principal Defaulting Rate-payers—*continued*.

Names.	Rate.	Observations of Collector.	Observations of Solicitor.
George Irwin	£. s. d. 22 8 6	Recoverable by civil bill.	Notice and summons ordered.
Charles O'Donel, Esq.	22 9 0½	A captain in the Bengal service, now in India. Cannot say in what way recoverable.	Notice on occupiers ordered.
Widow Nolan	18 18 5	Cannot say how recoverable.	Notice and summons ordered.
Wm. Johnson	10 9 8	Civil bill decrees taken out at last sessions against him, which are in the hands of solicitor.	
Hugh Ganet	6 7 0	Ditto.	
Lord Arran	13 16 9	Recoverable by service of writ.	Not returned to me.
Minors Joynt	6 1 8	In hands of solicitor.	Wrote to Dr. M'Naird. Application to Court ordered.
Pat. Fergus	5 15 0	Recoverable at petit sessions.	Distress ordered.
George Mostyn, Esq.	5 0 0	Same rule.	Not returned to me.
Dr. M'Naird	5 12 8½	Ditto.	Ditto.
Mr. H. Joynt	..	Owes 4 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>s.</i> ; under 5 <i>l.</i>	Ditto.
Robert Kirkwood, Esq.	9 16 0	Recoverable at petty sessions.	
Mrs. Pew	9 3 1½	Cannot form an opinion how recoverable.	
Manus L. O'Donel, Esq.	6 0 0	Recoverable by civil bill.	
	474 1 8		

BALLINA UNION.—*Belmullet and Binghamstown Electoral Divisions*.—JOHN COSGRAVE, Collector.

Denis Bingham	120 18 2	Lessor.	Proceedings.
John Walsh, Esq.	48 18 0	Ditto.	Ditto.
Messrs. Dean	20 12 0	Ditto.	Ordered by Guardians to be summoned.
Jaspers V. Fowler	20 9 0	Ditto, absentee.	Proceedings.
Henry Bingham	20 0 0	Ditto.	Not returned to me, ordered by Board to be summoned.
Mrs. Connel O'Donel	20 0 0	Ditto absentee.	Not returned to me.
Charles Coyne, Esq.	14 6 0	Ditto.	Ditto.
Thomas Cormick	13 5 10	Ditto.	Ditto.
Captain H. Bingham	16 13 2	Ditto, lives in Dublin.	Ditto.
Mrs. H. Bingham	16 17 5½	Ditto.	Ditto.
Mrs. H. Short	13 0 0	Ditto.	Ditto.
F. B. Knox	9 15 0	Ditto, Dublin.	Wrote to him, shall see him if not paid.
J. W. Richards	8 18 10	Ditto, Dublin.	Not returned to me.
Matthew Atkinson	8 1 0	Ditto.	Wrote to him, which was the extent of my instructions, then paid 10 <i>l.</i> , leaving this balance.
Cornelius O'Reilly	6 3 6½	Ditto, Galway.	Not returned to me.
Messrs. Irwin	7 4 0	Ditto.	Ditto.
Captain W. Bourke	5 0 0	Ditto, Killala.	Ditto.
Mr. G. Follett	5 3 4	Ditto.	Ditto.
Dominick O'Donel	5 1 4	Ditto.	Ditto.
	380 6 8		The proceedings taken by solicitor could not possibly have been made effective last term, but shall be so in April.

THOMAS MAC ANDREWS.

Ballina Union.

(B).

RETURN showing Population 1841, Number receiving Out-door Relief, and Number of Children attending Schools.

	Population, 1841.	No. receiving Out-door Relief.	No. of Children attending Schools.	Total.	Remarks.
Ballina	12,176	3,243	1,885	5,128	
Ballisokeery	6,084	1,198	1,243	2,441	
Killala	6,208	1,524	752	2,276	
Lackan	7,697	689	693	1,382	
Ballycastle	4,819	334	1,493	1,827	
Kilfian	8,147	1,808	920	2,728	
Crossmolina	12,221	3,654	2,130	5,784	
Backs	6,551	1,116	1,296	2,412	
Belmullet	13,345	3,090	..	3,090	Not in my district.
Binghamstown . . .	9,428	2,043	..	2,043	Ditto.
Attymas	3,435	412	579	991	
Kilgarven	4,158	425	835	1,260	
Ardnaree	7,407	1,056	626	1,662	
Dromore, West . . .	4,041	309	602	911	
Easky	6,349	254	994	1,248	
Killglass	4,941	873	459	1,332	
Castleconnor	3,830	320	632	952	
Total	120,787	22,348	15,139	37,487	

N.B.—The average expense of each child receiving relief is 3½d. per week.

Ballina, February 15, 1848.

W. J. HAMILTON.

(C.)

RETURN showing the Amount of Rate paid to Treasurer each week.

	£.		£.
Week ended August 2, 1847	35	Week ended November 22, 1847	287
9, ,, ...	47	29, ,, ...	326
16, ,, ...	80	December 6, ,, ...	406
23, ,, ...	47	13, ,, ...	645
30, ,, ...	89	Period 23, ,, ...	508
September 6, ,, ...	45	Week 30, ,, ...	135
13, ,, ...	136	January 6, 1848	647
20, ,, ...	175	13, ,, ...	472
27, ,, ...	87	20, ,, ...	300
October 4, ,, ...	127	27, ,, ...	252
11, ,, ...	165	February 3, ,, ...	180
18, ,, ...	120	10, ,, ...	183
November 1, ,, ...	413	14, ,, ...	174
8, ,, ...	266	Total	£6662
15, ,, ...	315		

W. J. HAMILTON, T. P. L. Inspector.

Ballina, February 15, 1848.

REPLY to the foregoing:—February 21, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 16th instant, in which you state that the Vice-Guardians of Ballina Union are now much embarrassed for want of funds, as the rates are coming in very slowly.

The Commissioners observe by one of the statements appended to the report, that (in addition to 1389 inmates of the workhouses in the Union) the Vice-Guardians give out-door relief to 22,348 persons in a population of 120,787, whilst in your portion of the Union the funds of the British Relief Association provide rations for 15,139 children attending the National schools, which, with the children similarly subsisting in the Binghamstown and Belmullet, must, when added to the number of persons on the pauper relief lists, form a total exceeding one-third of the population.

The Commissioners further observe that in this Union, possessing rateable property of the annual value of 95,774*l.*, estimated on a very moderate scale—the rates collected since the 2nd of August last amount only to 6,662*l.*, out of 13,869*l.* assessed by the late Board of Guardians.

Without adverting to the services rendered by yourself, the Commissioners recognise in the advance of the weekly collection, since the appointment of the Vice-Guardians, evidence of the exertions which these officers have made, at once manifesting the important utility and necessity of their services, without taking into consideration the advantages derived from their organization of the measures essentially requisite for an effectual administration of the laws for relief of the destitute poor in the Union.

The Commissioners are made fully aware of the difficulties with which the Vice-Guardians have to contend, when your lists of the persons owing rates, amounting to 5*l.* or upwards, show that in such amounts there is uncollected 3775*l.*, out of rates struck in July, 1847, averaging only 2*s.* 10*d.* in the pound. As this large sum appears to be due by many of the owners of property and principal landholders in the Union, the Commissioners would have hoped, looking to the extent of destitution to be relieved, that no legal proceedings could be necessary for obtaining the discharge of liabilities so created.

The Commissioners observe that there are several cases in your lists where payment has not been promised, and directions for proceedings have not been given. The Vice-Guardians will no doubt in these and all other cases adopt such course as may be requisite for recovery of the rates;—and in reference to the cases in which distress must be resorted to, the Commissioners desire to draw attention to the powers of the collectors under the 73rd section of the Act 1 and 2 Vic., c. 56, combined with the 152nd section of the 6 and 7 Wm. IV., c. 116, the first provision in which latter enactment, enables them to levy by distress, without first summoning the defaulters before the magistrates.

The Commissioners have perceived with much satisfaction the promptness of the course adopted towards the overseers who failed to perform their duty with integrity, as well as those who subsequently attempted the fraud of giving orders for food after their dismissal. Such decisive measures, and a cautious selection of the persons employed to carry out the orders of the Vice-Guardians,—present the only means of securing a faithful execution of the duty to be performed.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 21, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have been at Ballina for the last two days, in order to facilitate the necessary arrangements for carrying out the Commissioners' instructions relative to the issue of cooked food throughout my district, as well as obtaining a regular supply of funds to defray the current weekly expenses, such as additional buildings, &c., at the auxiliary workhouse, expenses of in-door relief, cost of staff, and other contingencies. In my report of the 14th instant, I stated the probable amount on these heads. I find that it is quite out of the power of the Vice-Guardians, under present circumstances, to undertake to remit funds sufficient to meet these demands with any degree of regularity; and as Commissary-General Dobree has informed me that any assistance which may be given will be only in food, I see no alternative, so far as this portion of the Ballina Union is concerned, but at once proceeding to strike and levy (*if possible*) another rate; however, before recommending the Guardians to take so important a step, I should feel obliged by your acquainting me with the Commissioners' wishes on this subject.

With reference to your letter of the 17th instant, respecting the enforcement of the rates and the revision of lists, the Commissioners may feel assured that every step has been taken to carry out their instructions. Three new relieving officers were appointed on Thursday, two of whom were recommended by Mr. Brett, and a third has been acting as an assistant in the Ballina electoral division, they are all very young and inexperienced, but they were the best that offered. I asked the Vice-Guardians to send Mr. Palmer, who has a general superintendence of the Union, to devote a week in order to give these young men a fair start, but he is at present correcting abuses, and they seem to think he has enough to do.

With respect to the line drawn between the relief afforded by the Guardians and that derived from other sources, I beg to state I have consulted Lieutenant Hamilton on the subject, and we fully agree that owing to the state and

Ballina Union.

prospects of this Union it is a step which we apprehend may be attended with dangerous results. If we could place any dependence on the rate-payers it would no doubt be a great boon to the Guardians, and much facilitate the administration of relief; but as a very large majority of the rate-payers appear blind to their own interests, and to embarrass rather than assist the working of the Act, we fear that whether under the name of loan or otherwise, so long as the funds did not come out of their own pockets, the demands for relief would be excessive and steadily increase. We would, therefore, prefer that any assistance which may be afforded to the Guardians should be unconditional, to be applied by them to the general purposes of the Union, and become a charge as such. In offering these suggestions we are not aware whether the Commissioners have ulterior objects in view, but, at the same time, we wish to lay before them our opinion without reserve.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners are of opinion that a new rate of at least 3s. in the pound should be made on the Belmullet and Binghamstown electoral divisions when the present rate is collected.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners would wish to know the precise sum required for the out-door relief of destitute able-bodied men in your district, with a view of having data for regulating the amount of advances for your district, which they would recommend to the favourable consideration of the British Association.

The Commissioners do not contemplate a specific appropriation of such advances; but they are desirous that the rate-payers should provide funds adequate to the due relief of the workhouse inmates, and of persons relieved out of the workhouse, under the first section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 22, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 15th instant, calling my attention to the operation of the labour test as a means of checking applications for relief from persons not in a really destitute condition, and inviting me to offer any suggestions that may occur to me with regard to the manner in which the details of such a system of employment may be most advantageously conducted, I have the honour to state that I have attentively considered the working of the system in Ballina Union, and both by examination of the persons now at work there, and of the Labour Books recording their attendance, I have arrived at the conclusion that the employment of the able-bodied paupers, as conducted at Ballina, does operate as a sufficient check to applications from persons not in a destitute condition. The general appearance of the paupers employed in the working parties which I visited, marked them as being in destitute circumstances, and I could not hear of any cases where it was alleged that persons not requiring relief were thus receiving it. Indeed I think that the nature of the relief, and the terms upon which it is granted, make it highly improbable that any persons who were not in great want would seek it by this means. The ration for an able-bodied man is no more than 1½ lb. of the coarsest bread daily; and to entitle himself to this he must perform a task of work which requires some industry to complete. The details of this system were arranged by the Vice-Guardians with my concurrence, and I do not at present see any manner in which they could be much improved. Their greatest defect appears to me to be want of simplicity, but I am not prepared to suggest any method by which this could be remedied without diminishing the checks against fraud which they were framed to secure. If, indeed (as you have suggested in a paper lately referred to me), one description of work could be adhered to, and the paupers kept solely at breaking stones, I think the test would become more stringent; for there is much more opportunity given for an indolent man to escape performing a full task of work when employed at labour, the result of which is not easily capable of regulation by measurement. And with this view the Vice-Guardians of Ballina and other Unions are now, at my suggestion, advertising for contracts for the supply of stones for the use of the working parties, and if these are obtained on easy terms, I anticipate

great advantage from the plan. I think it very possible that such contracts may be obtained from road contractors.

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The numerous instances in which men have left the working parties after one or two days' trial of them, affords in my opinion some additional evidence of the good effects of this test, and is corroborated by the increased activity which I think I can observe among small holders of land in preparing for a spring crop. However, of this I cannot speak with much confidence, as I am unable to judge of it relatively with what takes place in other years, from being but slightly acquainted with this district of Ireland.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 24, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, forwarding for my information an extract from a report which the Commissioners have received from the Vice-Guardians of this Union, relating to the employment of poor persons receiving out-door relief in the Union, and stating that the Commissioners desire to draw my attention to the operation of the labour test, as a means of checking applications for relief from persons not in a really destitute condition; and that the Commissioners will be glad to be furnished with any suggestions which I may wish to offer on the subject of the manner in which the details of such a system of employment may be most advantageously conducted.

I beg to say that having, from the commencement of the out-door relief, been in almost daily communication with the Vice-Guardians, any suggestions as to details which I had to offer, I made to them, and that I fully approve of their arrangements, which only require, in my opinion, a trustworthy staff to make as perfect as any system of such magnitude can be; at present, however, there is a great deficiency of implements. All the exertions of the Vice-Guardians to prevent imposition by enforcing a sufficient task of work in return for the relief afforded are in vain, as they are powerless from want of implements. They received orders from the Board of Works on the storekeepers at Ballina and Killala; from the former they only received part (and the greater part useless), from the latter they received but a small portion, partly useless.

Every hour brings in applications and complaints from the overseers, the justice of which cannot be denied, particularly as the Vice-Guardians hold them strictly accountable for any irregularity or insufficiency of work.

Although Dromore West and Easky were mentioned in the application to the Board of Works, we have neither received any tools, nor any reply from them.

At those stores on which orders have been received, the storekeepers refuse to deliver tools until exorbitant demands for rent shall be satisfied. The Commissioners will thus perceive that it is very discouraging, after having organized a good system of checking abuses, to have it in a great measure rendered unavailable for want of machinery.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 24th instant, relating to the operation of the system of out-door relief established in the Ballina Union, and I am to state that the Commissioners have called the attention of the Board of Works to that part of your report which relates to the deficiency in the supply of implements required to employ the able-bodied poor receiving relief.

The COMMISSIONERS to COUNT STRZELECKI:—*February 26, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith for your information, a copy of a communication which they have received from Lieutenant Hamilton, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, relating to the state of the finances of the Ballina Union, and I am to request that you will be good enough to take the circumstances of the case into consideration, with a view to the application of Lieutenant Hamilton being complied with.

Ballina Union.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 27, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of the Commissioners, that the various departments of the workhouse of this Union are in a satisfactory and healthy state. The mortality in the infirmary has been trifling considering the number of patients and the state to which some of them are reduced by dysentery and hardship. I think the medical officer is very attentive to his duties, in which opinion I am strengthened by the fact that the patients invariably seem to be most thankful to him for his exertions and kindness. The workhouse schools are in my opinion cleaner and better managed than any of the schools (national or otherwise) that I have seen in the Union.

I am sorry to say that our assistant-master, three of our relieving officers, and the porter at Binghamstown, are in fever.

I yesterday visited the working parties at Kilglass and Dromore West. I must own I was agreeably surprised at finding the progress which had been made. Mr. Burrowes (Vice-Guardian) writes me word that he visited the pits at Killala, and that everything seemed satisfactory. The Vice-Guardians have called for a return of 200 *single* men, able-bodied, at present on the works, for the purpose of giving them all orders for admission to the workhouse; ten men from each working party will give the number; they purpose repeating the dose once a fortnight. I hope that this may drive some of them to seek for employment, which I fear, notwithstanding what may be said to the contrary, is very sparingly offered; however, if we do *our* best, and try to make the subordinates do their best, I think the ratepayers will only have themselves to blame if one man for whom there is employment at profitable work, be permitted by them to be fed at their expense at unprofitable work. While on this subject, I may mention that offers have been made by road contractors to lay down stones for the paupers to break, for which they are willing to pay a certain limited sum per ton.

I have replied to some very plausible applications that I considered pauper labour cannot be applied too unprofitably, but that if the county surveyor will point out any roads upon which contracts have expired, and any saving to the Union will result, I thought the Vice-Guardians would have no objection to have stones broken for their repair; but I set my face against contractors being permitted to derive any benefit by getting the work done cheaper than they would be forced to pay for legitimate labour.

I have been seriously thinking whether or not it would be expedient to limit the out-door relief to able-bodied to the expiration of the current two months' order. It is a subject of deep importance. On the one hand there are thousands of acres lying waste, and on the other, thousands are supported for whom there is an abundance of employment. If the ratepayers would only see their own interests and exert themselves a little, I have no doubt that we could manage very well to relieve under the 1st section of the Act all proper objects who are legally entitled to relief; however, the landholders say that they neither have nor can they get the means to give employment: some of those who can best afford to do anything are not doing as much as those who can badly afford to pay their weekly labour bills; so that I fear there is very little prospect of any early improvement in the present deplorable and ruinous state of affairs.

To show how completely the exports and imports of corn have changed in the last three years, I give the following statement, which I extracted from the collector's books of the Harbour Commissioners:—

Bread stuffs imported into the port of Ballina from			
1st January, 1845, to 1st January, 1846	.	.	None.
Ditto exported	ditto	from	
1st January, 1845, to 1st January, 1846	.	.	9480 tons.
Bread stuffs imported into the port of Ballina from			
1st January, 1847, to 1st January, 1848	.	.	7631 tons.
Ditto exported	ditto	from	
1st January, 1847, to 1st January, 1848	.	.	455 tons.

By this it may easily be seen how the tide has turned.

I purpose visiting the district of Erris in company with Mr. R. Hamilton during the ensuing week. He and Mr. Waters are so completely thrown upon

their own resources, that I may be of use to them in various little matters of detail connected with their very painful duties. I have requested that my letters may be addressed to Belmullet up to Saturday next.

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REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 29, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' satisfaction at the course pursued by you with regard to the proposals of the road contractors to lay down stones for the paupers to break, which is entirely in accordance with the Commissioners' views.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners think that the Vice-Guardians should be careful not to sell broken stones below the market price.

The Commissioners would propose to limit the out-door relief order to the 18th March, at which time the Commissioners trust that the able-bodied paupers in the Ballina Union may be thrown for awhile on their own resources.

MR. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 26, 1848.*

REFERRING to your letter of the 10th instant, relative to providing accommodation for the poor whose cabins have been *unroofed* in this district, and to my reports of the 14th and 21st instant, I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that upwards of 35% is now due to the mechanics employed in making available the buildings attached to the auxiliary workhouse, independent of bills due for materials, &c., and as the Vice-Guardians have hitherto been unable to meet these liabilities, I should feel much obliged if you would have the goodness to inform me of the Commissioners' wishes regarding the *carrying on of these works*.

I may remark that within the last few days three persons have been found dead on the road-side in the vicinity of the workhouse, whose death I attribute to want of common shelter, as on referring to the relieving officers' books it appeared they had regularly received the relief allowed for their support; and I this day brought into the poor-house three persons (from Mullaghroe) in a dying state, who I was informed had slept under a hay-rick for *three* nights; two of these I consider past all hope of recovery.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 2, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 26th ultimo, relating to the Ballina Union, and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have made application for an advance of 400% for the purpose mentioned in your report.

MR. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 26, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that in consequence of the owners of the houses in which the boilers are in belonging to the British Association, having refused to give them up, or let them be made use of, until all manner of old outstanding claims be liquidated, a sufficient number could only be obtained for the issue of stirabout rations at three depôts in this district during the past week. I attribute this unwillingness to give up possession of the boilers to a combination against the issue of cooked food which appears pretty general; however, no exertion shall be spared in order to carry out the Commissioners' instructions on this point with as little delay as possible, and I am in hopes a supply of boilers may shortly be obtained from the neighbourhood of Ballina.

Great difficulty has been experienced in carrying out the labour test, principally owing to our not being able to procure from the Board of Works' store a sufficient number of hammers, and the great expense of bringing other requisites for this purpose from Ballina. All the able-bodied paupers in the vicinity of the auxiliary workhouse are employed in various kinds of useful

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works on the premises, and considering these people have been hitherto so little inclined to labour, they appear to be getting on pretty well.

I regret but little progress has been made during the last fortnight in the collection of rates in this district, owing principally to the collector not having the power of taking summary proceedings against defaulting landlords; however, the requisite notices have been served, and proceedings will be immediately taken for the recovery of nearly 200*l.*; this course would have been adopted some time previous, only the Guardians were then of opinion proceedings in the superior Courts against these parties would be preferable; there is still 380*l.* due by landlords, 127*l.* by tenants, and 483*l.* being collected, makes the total of the rate 990*l.*

I regret the relieving officers have not as yet brought in their books, consequently I am unable to prepare the estimate required by your letter of the 17th instant, but I hope to forward it by Monday's post.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 6, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of the Board of Works has been drawn to the necessity of supplying the implements required for the use of the Union.

I am at the same time to state, that the boilers mentioned in your report belong to the Vice-Guardians.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 1, 1848.*

WE have to report most favourably as to the state of the poorhouse. Commissary-General Dobree visited it lately, and expressed himself highly satisfied at the regularity and cleanliness which prevailed.

The amount of rates paid in weekly by the collectors is sadly inadequate to meet our demands. Every exertion has been made, and is making, to render the collection more satisfactory; but we do not calculate on receiving much before the 15th April, on which day we purpose revising the cases of those in default, and issuing such further instructions as may seem necessary.

We are endeavouring to satisfy our contractors by making small payments on account, as our funds enable us; but it is vain to hope to succeed in doing so much longer without considerable assistance. Our meal contractor declared this day his inability to supply us further without payment, there being due to him over 1,200*l.*; and we believe would have ceased to honour our orders were it not for the timely assistance afforded us by Mr. Hamilton, which has set things right for some little time longer.

You may with confidence rely that any assistance which may be afforded, shall not cause us to relax our exertions in compelling payment from defaulters, but on the contrary will stimulate us to greater, as it will afford us prospects of being able to carry on the relief of the destitute.

We can report favourably as to the working of the out-door labour test: it is answering our expectations.

Many complaints are made by farmers and landholders of the difficulty of procuring labourers, in consequence of the superior attraction our employment offers; but on inquiry we invariably find that the rate of wages offered by such persons is totally inadequate to enable the object of their kindness to support their families from starvation—the real motive being, to obtain relief in aid of wages.

Feeling that it is now necessary to force persons who may not be inclined, through idleness, to seek employment in the fields, we are making arrangements to provide room in the house for 200 able-bodied *single* men, or married without families, and to refuse such out-door relief, leaving them the alternative of being admitted to the poor-house, or using *exertion* to find employment.

We persist in giving *bread* only to the able-bodied labourers, although the expense is one-third more than meal; but we calculate that the evil of such extra expense is fully counterbalanced by the stringency of the test. A manifest improvement has taken place in the health of the able-bodied, though fed on bread alone, of which we can produce ample testimony.

We are gradually finding a good class of overseers; and if any peculiar instances of good conduct and attention appear, we use our discretion in reward-

ing such person by advancing his pay from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day during pleasure.

Every day brings in instances of attempted frauds and forgeries, but which rarely succeed. We enclose you specimens of such, and copies of instructions we have issued to protect ourselves as much as possible, which we hope will meet with your approbation.

We have much reason to feel satisfied at the appointment of Mr. John Palmer as revising officer. His exertions have produced much good in checking abuse, and directing relief to the proper objects.

In conclusion, we are happy to be able to state, that although abuses may exist, the general impression through the country seems to be, that our first and most important object is attained, "that of meeting destitution."

ENCLOSURES REFERRED TO.

Ballina Union.—Crossmolina Electoral Division.

Able-bodied.

17th day of February, 1848.

To Mr. H. Charleton, Storekeeper, Crossmolina Division.

GIVE bearer for Michael Caden, he having completed his task, fourteen pounds of bread.

OLIVER ROE,
Overseer in charge of Working Party.

No. 727, in Crossmolina Electoral Division.

(Hours of attendance at depôt from 10 to 4 o'clock.)

Ballina Union.—Crossmolina Electoral Division.

Able-bodied.

18th day of February, 1848.

To Mr. H. Charleton, Storekeeper, Crossmolina Division.

GIVE bearer for William Murphy, he having completed his task, fourteen pounds of bread.

MARTIN M'GURRIN,
Overseer in charge of Working Party.

No. 28.—Crossmolina Electoral Division.

4 lbs. (Hours of attendance at depôt from 10 to 4 o'clock.)

Ballina Union.—Crossmolina Electoral Division.

Impotent Poor.

22nd day of February, 1848.

To Mr. H. Charleton, Storekeeper, Crossmolina Division.

DELIVER to Bridget M'Hugh seventeen pounds of meal, allowed by Vice-Guardians for her support for week ending 26th day of February, 1848.

THOMAS TIGHE, *Relieving Officer.*

(Hours of attendance at depôt from 10 to 4 o'clock.)

Ballina Union.—Crossmolina Electoral Division.

Able-bodied.

22nd day of February, 1848.

To Mr. H. Charleton, Storekeeper, Crossmolina Division.

GIVE bearer for William Foy, he having completed his task, sixteen pounds of bread.

OLIVER ROE,
Overseer in charge of Working Party.

No. 478, in Crossmolina Electoral Division.

(Hours of attendance at depôt from 10 to 4 o'clock.)

Ballina Union.

Ballina Union—Crossmolina Electoral Division.

Able-bodied.

24th day of February, 1848.

To Mr. H. Charleton, Storekeeper, Crossmolina Division.

GIVE bearer for Patt Monaghan, he having completed his task, seventeen pounds of bread.

PATT KELLY,
Overseer in charge of Working Party.

No. 935, in Crossmolina Electoral Division.

7 lbs.

(Hours of attendance at depôt from 10 to 4 o'clock.)

To Messrs. WILLIAM and GEORGE MALLEY, Contractors for Meal and Bread.

GENTLEMEN,—As cases of the forgeries of tickets are occurring every day, particularly of those signed by Overseers, we have directed a circular to be issued, ordering each overseer and relieving officer to write the word which signifies the amount of food in *red ink*, and in large letters, so as to occupy the entire space. If you detect any person offering a ticket which is evidently a forgery, lay it aside, and refuse *any food* to all such persons for that day. If the false ticket has been paid in the press of business, and the forgery is afterwards discovered, refuse to honour the ticket that may be next presented by the same person, even though it be a true one. This will serve as a punishment, and replace what you already distributed improperly. I think our adopting this plan, and punishing the overseers, unless their instructions as to writing the amount, &c., are attended to, will serve to check the abuse without resorting to the measure of striking the offenders' names off the lists, which might be attended with most serious consequences.

You will please circulate this among your storekeepers.

CIRCULAR sent to all OVERSEERS and RELIEF OFFICERS.

As many forgeries of tickets are daily committed, you are requested in future, when filling each ticket, to write the word which shows the amount of food in *red ink*, and so as to fill the entire space, as also the number; the remainder of the ticket may be written in *black* or *blue*. In no case is an overseer to give a ticket for more than one day's rations except on Saturday, when he gives three.

In case any person, who has not been employed before during the week, applying for the *first time* on Saturday, he may be set to work, but is only to receive *one day's rations*.

You are again requested to be careful in filling the tickets correctly, as the storekeepers have received instructions to refuse any that are obliterated or are not plainly written.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 2, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have applied for an advance of 400*l.* to assist you in your present difficulties.

I am at the same time to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the arrangements made by you for the relief of destitution in the Union.

The Commissioners are convinced that you will do everything in your power to prevent frauds upon the rate-payers, and they approve of the course which you have adopted in reference to the particular kinds of frauds mentioned in your report.

Mr. R. HAMILTON and Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—
March 2, 1848.

Erris

ON our return yesterday from visiting the depôt at Aughtram, we found a crowd of persons collected under the windows of the relieving officer's residence in Binghamstown, all of whom appeared in a state of starvation, and were most *clamorous* in their complaints against the relieving officer for the manner they were kept waiting for days, in order to *obtain* their tickets on the storekeeper. One man was lying exposed in the street, I may say dead, apparently without any attention having been paid to him. We brought the relieving officer over to this man, and asked him what he had done for him. He said he had *given him a ticket on the storekeeper*, which, of course, was no use, as the man was actually dying at the time. With some difficulty we persuaded a resident in the town to take this poor man into his house, and attend to his wants for the present.

In consequence of this occurrence, together with the youth and inexperience of the relieving officers lately sent down here, we thought it prudent to write the

annexed letter to the Vice-Guardians, which we hope the Commissioners will approve of.

We again visited the Binghamstown depôt this day, and were not at all satisfied at the manner the relieving officer was attending to the wants of the poor.

Ballina Union.

LETTER referred to.

The TEMPORARY POOR LAW INSPECTORS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*March 1, 1848.*

WE have the honour to request that, if possible, you will on receipt of this communication send Mr. John Palmer to take charge, *pro tem.*, of the Binghamstown electoral division.

We are aware that Mr. Palmer is at this time most actively employed in detecting abuses; but in this case it is a matter of life or death, so that we trust on your co-operation.

Mr. Palmer will have to remain here for a fortnight. We will recommend to the Poor Law Commissioners that he be allowed a fair sum for his trouble and expenses.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to state, that the Commissioners fully approve of the course which you adopted under the circumstances represented in your report; and they are prepared to sanction any reasonable allowance to Mr. Palmer for the extra expense which he may incur in carrying into effect the instructions which he may receive.

The Commissioners presume that steps are being taken to replace the inefficient relieving officer to whom you refer; and the Commissioners await your report of his name, with a view to the issue of an order under seal for his dismissal.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to send you the annexed letter which I have received from the Vice-Guardians.

I beg to recommend that an order for 500*l.* worth of provisions may be forwarded for the use of my district of the Ballina Union.

LETTER referred to.

Mr. BURROWES, for Vice-Guardians, to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*March 3, 1848.*

WE will require *immediately* some assistance in provision, as the amount of our last order on the Commissariat stores is nearly exhausted, and our bread contractor must cease supplying us forthwith, unless he is provided with funds. He has given formal notice that he will cease on this day week, unless his demands are met.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 8, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 500*l.* to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 4, 1848.*

As the season is now advancing, and the period for sowing will soon have come and passed, we are particularly anxious to curtail the out-door labour test, which has answered its purpose so far, and to extend the in-door test to the utmost of our power.

We are of opinion, that if we were in a position to offer workhouse accommodation to one thousand persons, we would be able to reduce the numbers relieved at present by at least *five thousand*.

We would first throw upon their own resources all *single* able-bodied men; next, all those married, *without families*; and so on, according to the smallness of the number of dependents; as such will be able to support themselves upon the wages usually given in the country, and should be compelled to *seek* for such support.

Ballina Union.

We are daily weeding the workhouse, so that we shall have room for 400 shortly. We would also wish, if you approve of it, to rent a store in this town capable of accommodating at least 600 persons. The title to it is doubtful, being the store for which Colonel Gore disputes his liability to pay rate; but we consider, if he would give us an undertaking for quiet enjoyment we might with safety treat for it.

It is admirably adapted for our purpose, there being boilers already set, used by the late Committees.

This would accomplish our object, but a serious difficulty presents itself; we have clothing for only 50 men, in addition to the present inmates. We might turn out 50, and thus provide for 100, but no more. And our funds will not permit of our incurring the serious expense of providing clothing for so many. We are anxious to know if we could look forward to receiving any assistance to enable us to take a step so important to the welfare of the Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 7, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will be good enough to furnish the Commissioners with an estimate of the clothing which will be required to carry out the arrangements suggested in your communication.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 6, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have passed the last week in the district of Erris, and that I have, in company with Mr. Richard Hamilton, visited several localities in the electoral divisions of Binghamstown and Belmullet.

I find that the general distress which he has to provide for is with difficulty met; and in some localities it is to be feared that, notwithstanding every exertion, and I may say almost unlimited relief, the heartless conduct of Mr. Walsh has brought many poor persons to a premature grave. On the last occasion of my visit to Erris, I felt so strongly on this latter subject that I did not trust myself to write to you with reference to it until some days after my return to Ballina: I find, however, that the same system of eviction is still going on; and I cannot be an eye-witness to the terrible results of it without expressing my horror at the barbarous manner in which many poor persons have been treated. I have less hesitation in doing so, as I am aware that this report will probably appear in some future blue book, and that Mr. Walsh will have an opportunity of defending himself, if he can. Giving him credit for having received every provocation, I must record my humble opinion, that no man possessed of common feeling would have acted as he has done.

A Mr. Lyons, a middleman, is following Mr. Walsh's example upon a small scale. Mr. Hamilton and myself picked up one of his outcasts a few days ago in Binghamstown, laid out as a corpse in the centre of the streets, and to all appearance dead: however, through the exertions of a person whom we persuaded to take the poor man in, he was, I may say, brought to life again, although the doctor whom we met on the road a few minutes previously, first told us he was dead, and then said that he was past all hope. The man is now in the workhouse doing well.

In this wretched place one hears of nothing but deaths or disease; such is the demoralized state of the people that dead bodies and frightful objects are paraded to excite compassion; every person one meets has some complaint to make, about one in a thousand of which there is any foundation for, or any grounds over which we have control. As I have said of the people of my own district, there is every allowance to be made for all this; it would only be wonderful if they were anything better, considering the examples which they have before them; it is in fact the blind leading the blind.

With reference to my own immediate district, to which I propose returning on Tuesday, I have every reason to believe that all is going on well. The Vice-Guardians have acquainted me that they have called upon Mr. Tighe, the relieving officer of Crossmolina electoral division, to resign, in consequence of his inability to perform his duties. I think that they have done quite right; if I had been

able to prove any specific charges against Mr. Tighe, I would have had him dismissed long ago.

The Vice-Guardians also report, that some of the relieving officers' books are in arrear. Although this is to be deplored, yet I think that, considering the pressure which has been on them for the last four months, and their great previous inexperience, much allowance is to be made. That pressure is happily very much abated, and I have no doubt that everything will be satisfactory in a short time.

I have received your letter of the 2nd instant, relative to the suspension on the 18th instant of the order under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and "expressing the Commissioners' wish that I should state whether there "would be any decided objection to such a course in the Ballina Union." I do not see any objection to such a course; on the contrary, I think that the suffering which would again result from allowing the land to be waste for another year, which would practically be the effect of continuing out-door relief to the able-bodied, will far exceed the distress which will no doubt be caused in many instances by the proposed suspension of relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act on the 18th instant.

I will endeavour in some measure to mitigate this distress, by providing increased relief through the medium of schools. I have written on this subject to Count Strzelecki, and as soon as I shall receive his reply I will put myself in communication with the Vice-Guardians with the view of obtaining lists, &c., of the most destitute.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

THE Commissioners request that you will state whether Mr. Walsh and Mr. Lyons reside in Ballina Union, and on any part of the lands which they have been depopulating, or elsewhere in Ireland; also, whether they have paid any rates charged on them, and, if not, how much is due, and what proceedings have been taken to enforce payment.

I am at the same time to state, that, in accordance with your report, the Commissioners will suspend on the 18th instant the order authorizing the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union to give out-door relief to the able-bodied.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 6, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, I beg to annex, for the Erris. information of the Commissioners, a return made by the collector a few days ago of the immediate lessors in this district *who still owe their rates*, and the amount of rate due by each respectively; and as I have but small hopes of this amount being collected for a length of time, I should feel inclined to recommend the Vice-Guardians to make a new rate at once, without waiting for the entire collection of the present rate, as unless the Commissioners can procure a loan I do not see how the establishment of the auxiliary workhouse can be supported. Most of the persons taken into it require peculiar attention from their previous privations, and as the Vice-Guardians here cannot obtain any nourishing food on credit, the dietary has not hitherto been calculated to restore the health of the inmates.

The Vice-Guardians at Ballina, as I have before stated, have on several occasions declared their inability to provide the funds required to meet the current expenses of this district, and Mr. Waters is at this moment in debt to the amount of nearly 400*l.*, viz.:—

1. Lieutenant Hamilton	£101
2. Mr. Carey	90
3. Mr. Lyons	99
4. Sundries	100

The first three items were obtained at a time when all relief must have ceased had it not been for the accommodation afforded by these parties. The fourth item is for sundry expenses connected with the administration of relief.

Ballina Union.

ENCLOSURE.

A LIST of DEFAULTERS owing 5*l.* and upwards in Belmullet and Binghamstown Divisions.

	£.	s.	d.	
Denis Bingham, Esq. .	120	18	2	Notices served by the collector on 24th February; has also obtained summons; sessions held on 25th March next.
John Walsh, Esq. . .	48	18	0	Proceedings in Superior Courts.
Jasper V. Fowler, Esq. .	20	9	0½	Ditto ditto.
Mrs. Edward Deans . .	20	12	0	Notices served by collector; summons served; sessions on 25th March.
Henry Bingham, Esq. .	20	0	0	Notices served by collector; summons served.
Mrs. Connell O'Donnell .	20	0	0	Now in possession of Mr. Ritchie; application to be forthwith made.
Charles Coyne, Esq. . .	14	6	0	To be proceeded against at Quarter Sessions on 5th April.
Mr. Thomas Cormick . .	13	5	10	Cattle rescued; collector to serve a month's notice previous to distraining again.
Captain H. Bingham . .	16	13	2	Month's notice; owner in India.
Mrs. W. Bingham . . .	16	17	5½	Notices served by collector; summoned for 25th March.
Mrs. H. Short, Ballina .	13	0	0	Ditto ditto; 10 <i>l.</i> paid.
F. B. Knox, Esq. . . .	9	15	0	Mr. M. Atkinson will pay.
J. W. D. Richards, Esq.	8	18	10	Application to be made to his agent, Mr. Crampton (just appointed).
Mathew Atkinson, Esq. .	8	1	0	To pay shortly.
Cornelius O'Kelly, Esq. .	6	3	6½	Address not known.
Mrs. Irwin	7	4	0	Notices served by collector; summoned for Petty Sessions on 25th.
Captain Walter Bourke .	5	0	0	Solicitor to apply to representatives.
Mr. George Follett . . .	5	1	4	Solicitor to apply.
Mr. Dominick O'Donnell	5	1	4	
	380	1	8½	
Entire amount of the rate	990	18	10	
Amount collected . . .	483	0	0	
Due . . . £	507	18	10	

JOHN COSGRAVE, *Rate Collector.*REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners observe that six persons only out of the whole number mentioned in the list have been served by the collector with notices to pay the rate, and they wish to be informed of the stage at which proceedings now are in each of the other cases to enforce payment of the rate. The Commissioners also wish to be informed whether the Mr. John Walsh, who is returned as a defaulter in the sum of 48*l.* 18*s.*, is the person who is referred to in a report which they yesterday received from Mr. W. J. Hamilton as having ejected tenants under circumstances of peculiar hardship.

The Commissioners consider that such further rates as may be necessary should be made; but that the most vigorous proceedings should be prosecuted, with as much despatch as possible, to compel payment from all those persons who are defaulters in the current rate, keeping in view alone the ability of the parties to pay and the wants of the destitute poor.

With regard to the supply of money for the support of the auxiliary workhouse at Binghamstown, and to pay the debts already incurred on account of it, amounting to 384*l.*, I am to state that the Commissioners will have the attention of the Vice-Guardians drawn to these important considerations by Mr. Bourke, the Inspector for the district.

Erris.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 7, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd, relative to the suspension of relief under the provisions of the 2nd section of 10 Vic., cap. 31, on the 18th instant; and in reply I beg that you will acquaint the Commissioners that, general as the distress is in this district, I think it would be very unadvisable to offer any opposition to so desirable a course; at the same time, uncared and unprovided for as the people in this locality are by those who ought to be at their posts, and the natural protectors of their tenants, I fear that

the only change will be the issuing of relief under the first instead of the second second of the Act. Perhaps there is no part of Ireland so unfortunately circumstanced as Erris, therefore the same drawbacks may not exist elsewhere.

Ballina Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

THE Commissioners do not precisely understand what you refer to in the passage wherein you state that you fear that the only change will be the issuing of relief under the first instead of the second section of the Act.

The Commissioners for a short time propose to suspend the order, under the second section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, but they do not intend to be parties to any violation or evasion of the law by which out-door relief to able-bodied men is illegal, except under the provisions of such an order.

THE COMMISSIONERS to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON:—*March 8, 1848.*

THIS statement is deserving of inquiry; and probably Mr. Richard Hamilton can, without much difficulty, obtain a list of the landlords of property within the electoral divisions of Belmullet and Binghamstown, stating their residences, and expressing an opinion as to their capability and disposition to have the lands cultivated which have now been surrendered, or have otherwise got into their actual possession. He will be so good as to supply the information, if attainable.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing.

Mr. DOBREE to Sir R. I. ROUTH:—*February 15, 1848.*

A BUILDING belonging to a Mr. Bingham, at Binghamstown, three miles distant on the Mullet, has been hired as a poor-house of ease to the Ballina Union, for the barony of Erris, and is fitting up for the accommodation of 400 persons, at present it is occupied by 80 children. In this district, consisting of the two electoral divisions of Belmullet and Binghamstown, a rate of 1s. 6d.,^a averaging 850l.,^b was struck in July last; 500l.^c have been raised up to this time, and every opposition is thrown in the way of collecting the remainder. ^{1s. 8d.} Property is being freely distrained on defaulters, and it is fearlessly purchased when put up to ^{990l.} public auction without any vindictive consequences. ^{* Nearly.}

There are 27 schools,^d with 2350 children being fed with a ration of 11 ounces of bread; and the recipients in the several schools of the district which I have visited, seem by their destitute appearance and condition to be the legitimate subjects for this relief, which was not the case in some other Unions. ^{* These are now increased.}

Mr. Atkinson is the only landlord now giving employment under the Improvement Act. Mr. Carter has applied for and obtained 5000l. The canal cutting through the Isthmus, to unite Blacksod Bay with Broadhaven, employs 200 men at 1s. per day.

The farmers are busy in collecting seaweed and preparing their land;^e and the certainty of having a supply of seed placed at their disposal betimes would stimulate them to greater exertions, and induce others, who are despairing of being furnished with such, to follow their example;^f of course the poorer classes will sow nothing; and there is every prospect in this barony that many of the small holdings, which are now generally in possession of the landlords, will remain uncropped; these persons have not the means of stocking and cultivating their estates now that they have them mostly in their own hands. ^{* I doubt this.} ^{* I have no doubt of this, but is it expedient?—W. J. H.}

The market is entirely supplied with meal from Ballina and Westport by hookers; it is now selling at 10l. per ton. There are fewer small dealers in the rural districts of this barony than in any other part of the country I have visited, except Achill. There are about 7000 persons on the relief lists; and the Poor Law Inspector calculates that he will require, from our depôt weekly from the present time, about 20 tons of meal for the Union, and four for the schools. Arrangements are making for setting up nine boilers in central situations, and issuing cooked food to the recipient of out-door relief.

Read—see remarks in the margin.

March 9, 1848.

W. J. HAMILTON,
Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I visited the workhouse at Ballina, and the auxiliary workhouse at Ardnaree, on Wednesday and Thursday last, and found both houses in excellent order. There was nothing requiring my presence on the spot, as the schools were amply provided for; and the Vice-Guardians informed me, with the exception of abuses which are

Ballina Union.

being daily put a stop to, and a scarcity of funds, everything was going on in a most satisfactory manner.

I informed the Guardians, that should the Commissioners determine upon the cessation of relief, under the provisions of the 2nd section of the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31, in the Ballina Union, Lieutenant Hamilton and myself would be prepared, through the British Association, to relieve the children of all destitute able-bodied paupers in our respective districts, and I requested that directions should be given to have us supplied with lists for this purpose.

On Thursday evening I returned to Belmullet, where I considered my presence was more required than at Ballina.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 11, 1848.*

Erris.

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th instant, I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that what I intended to express in my report of the 7th instant was, that such is the state of destitution to which the people in this district are reduced, that any cessation of relief to a very large majority of the now able-bodied, would reduce them to such a state as to entitle them to legal relief under the provisions of the 1st section of 10 Vic., cap. 31; at the same time I wished to express that I thought it desirable that excuses which may hereafter be made by landlords, that the Poor Law interfered with the labour of the country, might be removed.

If the Commissioners, however, should be of opinion that by such a course the intent of the law would in any way be violated, I can only say that it will be very unsafe to withdraw the order for relief under the 2nd section of the Act in this district. It is impossible to say, with the present prospects and the present proprietors, when the extraordinary amount of relief now issued can be safely diminished.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 14, 1848.*

THE Commissioners request you to report whether any complaints have yet been made, which appear to be well founded, of inability to obtain labourers in Belmullet or Binghamstown electoral division, in consequence of the receipt of pauper relief by able-bodied persons.

The Commissioners also request you will consider and state whether the relief may safely be withdrawn from able-bodied men who are unmarried, or who have but a wife and one child.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 11, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 8th instant, I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that the solicitor to the Vice-Guardians has been directed to take legal proceedings against those parties who have not been served with notices; but I cannot state the exact stage at which these proceedings are, until I communicate with Mr. M'Andrew. I may state generally, however, that the solicitor in whose hands the parties are, is using due diligence.

With regard to the Commissioners' wish to be informed whether the Mr. John Walsh, who is returned as a defaulter in the sum of 48*l.* 18*s.*, is the person who is referred to in a report which they yesterday received from Mr. W. J. Hamilton, as having ejected tenants under circumstances of peculiar hardship; I beg to say he is the same individual; and I have, on more occasions than one, mentioned in my reports the difficulty experienced in providing proper relief for the poor from his property, owing to their having been deprived of their cabins, and consequently applicants for in-door relief, when no in-door relief could at the time be provided.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing my strong indignation at the course which has been pursued by Mr. Walsh, which has almost daily brought under my notice the most horrifying sights. No later than yesterday I saw in the infirmary a poor man named Coyle, from Mulloghroe (a tenant of Mr. Walsh's), who I saw three months ago in his own house, a strong healthy man. From the time his cabin was unroofed (about Christmas), he has been begging.

about, seeking shelter for himself and family wherever he thought he could find it. He applied frequently to be taken into the auxiliary workhouse, and was taken in the moment there was any room for him, but it was too late. This poor man received out-door relief regularly up to the time of his admission to the workhouse.

Ballina Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 11th instant, relating to the ejection of tenants from the property of Mr. John Walsh, who it appears is a defaulter in the payment of poor rate in the Ballina Union; and I am to request that you will communicate with Mr. W. J. Hamilton and the Vice-Guardians, without delay, with a view to the most stringent and prompt measures being prosecuted, to compel immediate payment of the rates due in this case, as well as in other instances.

I am at the same time to request that you will have the goodness to take evidence upon oath respecting the ejection, in order that there may be no doubt what the real facts of the case are.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, requesting that I will state whether Mr. Walsh (of Castlehill), and Mr. Lyons, to whom I alluded in my report of the 6th instant, reside in this Union, or in any part of the lands which they have been depopulating, &c.; also whether they have paid any rates charged on them; and if not, how much is due, and what proceedings have been taken to enforce payment. With respect to Mr. Walsh, I beg to state that he has a residence not far from Crossmolina, in this Union; but from a letter which I read in the public journals, addressed to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, denying certain statements contained in a pamphlet published by Mr. Tuke, I am led to believe that he at present resides in Dublin. However, I conclude that he cannot be ignorant of the state to which his tenantry have been reduced, as I am credibly informed that his son has been an eye witness to several of the evictions which have taken place.

Up to the period of my leaving Ballina a few days ago, Mr. Walsh had not paid any part of the two years' rates, viz., 5*d.* and 1*s.* 3*d.* on his property in the electoral division of Binghamstown, amounting to 48*l.* 18*s.* The solicitor of the Vice-Guardians made two applications to Mr. Walsh to no effect, upon which proceedings were commenced for this amount, together with a balance of about 15*l.* in the electoral division of Crossmolina.

Mr. Lyons has paid his rates. From his residence in the wretched village of Binghamstown several of the unroofed cabins of his evicted tenantry are visible. Mr. Lyons appears to think himself deeply aggrieved by his tenantry; perhaps he has been, but he most assuredly has had his revenge.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will draw the immediate attention of the Vice-Guardians to the case of Mr. John Walsh, with a view to the most prompt and effectual steps being prosecuted to enforce payment of the rates due by him, by every legal means in their power.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

IN consequence of a communication which I have received by this night's post from the Chairman of the Vice-Guardians, acquainting me that the contractor has refused to issue any further supplies, I have only a moment to request that the Poor Law Commissioners will recommend assistance from the British Association to the amount of 1000*l.* worth of provisions, which I have no doubt will be urgently required by the Guardians.

Ballina Union.

I have likewise received by this night's post 500*l.* in cash, of the prospect of which I advised the Vice-Guardians by yesterday's post. I trust, therefore, that they will be able to prevent any evil consequences.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 13, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 1000*l.* to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 14, 1848.*

As I anticipated in my letter of the 11th instant, the Vice-Guardians have made the annexed application to me for 1000*l.* worth of food, which I beg to submit for the Commissioners' favourable consideration.

I returned here yesterday and was glad to find that the contractors had not carried their threat into execution. I attended the Board at which Mr. Richard Bourke was present; I find that the Vice-Guardians are opposed to the stoppage of out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Act, and Mr. Bourke considers it "extremely hazardous."

Although I do not wish the Commissioners to think that I in any way change my opinion as to its being most desirable to stop relief under the 2nd section, yet as the Vice-Guardians state to me that they have not made any report on the subject, I take this opportunity of acquainting you with their opinion, that it is desirable, but not practicable.

Mr. Bourke has reported on the subject, and as I have no doubt that the Commissioners will attach far greater weight to his opinion than to mine, I shall not be surprised if I should hear further from you on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*March 13, 1848.*

To enable us to carry on the relief of the destitute poor in this Union, it will be absolutely necessary that we should be supplied with 1000*l.* in money, or so much in meal, on or before this day week.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 16, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have given directions for the continuance of the order authorizing out-door relief to destitute able-bodied persons in the Union.

I am at the same time to request that you will have the goodness to state whether the state of the Union is such, that the provisions of the accompanying order to Listowel Union could be carried into effect.

It will be observed, that under that order, single men and men with only two children, would be thrown on their own resources.

If you are of opinion that the provisions of this order could not be immediately acted on, you will be so good as to state whether in your opinion, there may safely be a suspension or modification of the order authorizing relief to the able-bodied poor, under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, on the 1st April next.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the annexed application from the Vice-Guardians for assistance to the amount of 500*l.*, on or before the 24th instant, which I beg to recommend to the favourable notice of the Commissioners. I would further recommend that this assistance should be in money.

ENCLOSURE.

Ballina Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*March 15, 1848.*

WE have been enabled by the order for 1000*l.* worth of meal, received yesterday, to continue relieving the able-bodied destitute. We wish to acquaint you, that in order to enable us to give relief to the impotent class, we will absolutely require 500*l.* in money on or before the 24th instant, as an assistance to the rates.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 18, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 500*l.*, to assist the Vice Guardians of the Ballina Union in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, in which you request that I will state whether the state of this Union is such that the provisions of an order which has been issued to Listowel Union could be carried into effect.

In my opinion the provisions of the order issued to Listowel Union can be acted on with safety in this Union. I think the sooner the better. It appears to me that frauds have recently increased to such an extent that the distress which exists is by no means the most alarming feature.

The Vice-Guardians acquaint me that they attribute the majority of the abuses which have crept in to the delay in procuring implements from the Board of Works. This, no doubt, has, in some measure, encouraged abuses; but I am afraid that the difficulty of procuring efficient and trustworthy subordinates is the chief cause. At all events almost every person in search of or in receipt of relief would deceive us as to their real circumstances, if they could by the grossest perjury do so; and they would receive infinitely more assistance in doing so than we should in detecting them.

It is dangerous to attempt to prevent abuses by passing very stringent rules, for although hundreds might be deservedly punished by them, others might perish.

P.S.—Of course I do not include the Erris district in this report.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 21, 1848.*

I AM to state that as this arrangement does not include the Erris electoral divisions, and an order for out-door relief cannot be issued for part of any Union,—the Commissioners request that you will propose to the Vice-Guardians to restrict the out-door relief to the able-bodied classes described, in the Ballina portion of the Union, and if any others apply for relief to offer it in the workhouse.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 20, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that on my return from Erris last week, I found everything much in the same state as when I left Ballina. I was however struck with the improved appearance of the people generally. I think that considering the prevalence of fever and dysentery, they look wonderfully well.

The workhouse is clean and healthy. The mortality in the infirmary is very much less than might be expected: last week there were only four deaths.

I annex copies of some communications which I have received on the subject of the progress which has been hitherto made in the ordinary farming operations compared with this time last year and previous years.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from WILLIAM ORME, Esq., of Owenmore.

"I WISH to confine the observations I make solely to this barony of Tyrawley, in which I constantly reside.

Ballina Union.

"It is only at this advanced period of spring that the great majority of farmers commence the cultivation of the soil; and from the continued severity of the weather, little has been yet done. They all however seem determined to exert themselves to the utmost, and I doubt not will use every energy they possess to crop their lands.

"The next subject demands the greatest consideration, and is of a much more serious character. The worn-out state of the land generally, the impoverished condition of the landlords, and their consequent inability to procure seed or manure in sufficient quantity, forbid the hope that the land thus occupied can yield anything like an average crop. I may also add, that the scarcity and consequent high price of potatoes for seeds will cause corn crops to be again sown on the land that has already been producing them for the last two seasons; and this vile system of farming may be expected to produce disastrous results. There is, however, another class of landholders even less likely to crop their lands fully. I allude to a large number of the landed proprietors whose estates have been deserted, and are now wholly or in great part waste. This is the natural consequence of the immense emigration and mortality of last year, and also partially increased by the operation of the present Poor Law. The proprietors into whose hands these large tracts have fallen are for the most part unable to meet their legal demands, much less to incur the large outlay that would be required for so extensive a system of tillage as would be necessary. The quantity of land in this state I have no means of accurately stating; but I think I am not estimating too highly when I compute that at least one-third of the land of this barony will either be wholly waste, or so imperfectly cultivated as to produce no food for the population.

"The number of offers of land free of rent made to the Society of Friends in their present benevolent undertaking is a proof of the little value of land here at the present moment; and I am sure that instead of 500 acres required, 5000 would be placed at their disposal by a public notice of only one week. These opinions, although hastily written, are formed upon the closest consideration, and I doubt not are for the most part correct. What is to become of the country involved as it is in such a mass of poverty, is a question which I shall not attempt to solve."

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Colonel VAUGHAN JACKSON.

"I AM happy to say that I consider the cultivation of the soil much more advanced than this time last year, and the population appear disposed to make every exertion in the matter. I think every man that possibly can will make a sowing."

EXTRACT of a LETTER from JOHN SYMES, Esq., Agent to the Earl of ARRAN.

"I REGRET to say, from the present appearance of the land, and from inquiries I have made, I do think there will be a considerable deficiency in the quantity of land sown with barley and oats, as compared with the years 1846 and 1847—I would say one-fourth. I draw this conclusion from seeing the immense tracts of waste lands not occupied, and from inquiries no chance of their being cultivated. I am also aware that a great majority of persons receiving out-door relief, who have small holdings, are not in a position to sow, not having means, money, or seed. With respect to green crops, I should say there will be a considerable increase over the two last years, both in the potato and turnip crop; but at this early period it is difficult to form an opinion on those crops. The inclemency of the weather for the last three weeks, with constant rain, has stopped the digging and ploughing of the land in many parts of this Union, and will cause the spring works to be very backward. I hope, in the course of 10 days, to be able to give a more accurate statement of the cultivation of the lands in this Union."

EXTRACT of a LETTER from HENRY BRETT, Esq., County Surveyor.

"I THINK the progress in the preparation of the land for tillage is far behind what it ought and used to be in ordinary years; it is however much greater than it was at this time last year, and would be far more forward but for the dreadfully inclement season we have had. I think, that in most parts of Mayo, great efforts will be made to put down a crop; but there are other districts, such as Erris, Achill, the Islands, and parts of Tyrrawley and Gallen, &c., that must, of necessity, lie waste. Very much will depend on the weather for the next month."

EXTRACT of a LETTER from THOMAS HOWLEY, Esq.

"I THINK that a smaller portion of land in the barony of Tyreragh is at present in course of cultivation than I have observed at the same period in former years; but this, in a great measure, I attribute to the extreme severity of the season, and to the number of holdings left unoccupied by the former proprietors having either died, emigrated, or thrown themselves for support upon the rates of the Union. I think, however, that such of the tenantry as are engaged in the cultivation of their lands are doing so in a more painstaking and workmanlike manner than heretofore; and I trust, that although a smaller breadth of land may be cultivated this season, that owing to the good example and advice of the Society of Friends, a more than usually productive crop may be expected from the land brought under cultivation."

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Mr. MARTIN, Practical Instructor.

"FROM what I have seen and heard relating to the usual time of cultivating the land in this Union, my opinion is, the few occupiers are tilling their land better and earlier than heretofore; yet the number of small tenants who have given up their land, and cast themselves on the relieving officers of the Union, will cause a deficiency in the breadth of land as sown last year; consequently there will not be so much land cropped. This deficiency will be, in a great measure, lessened in this locality by the kind exertions of the Society of Friends; and I have noticed through the country their example of deep cultivation is followed by the small farmers in each locality where the Society are carrying on their useful operations."

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Mr. BLEWET, Superintendent of Overseers.

"I REGRET to state that in the eight electoral divisions between the River Moy and the boundary of Erris there is scarcely any work done, except what is done by the landed proprietors, and a very few landholders. There is a likelihood of very little being done, as the greater part are paupers.

"Ardnaree, Attymass, Kilgarvan, Castleconnor, Kilglass, Easky, and Dromore West, are a little more forward in the farming operations; but, in fact, the best advanced districts are far behind previous years."

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Mr. PETER HOPKINS, an extensive Farmer in Tyreragh Barony.

"IT is now far advanced in the spring and there are not 10 acres of land ploughed or dug for miles around me, or a grain sown, or a kitchen-garden set, except a very few gentlemen farmers, and two or three middle-class farmers. We had 200 acres of corn down before the 20th of March in 1847, and may add, we never had more corn down any one year in my recollection than we had in 1847. I may safely vouch for it, that we had five acres to every one we will have this year. All the tenant-class farmers seem very anxious to plant potatoes this year; but I fear it will be almost out of their power for want of means to purchase seed, which already brings too high a price in the market. I think we will put down more turnips this season than usual, the seed being much cheaper than any other. If the landlords do not provide seed oats and potatoes for their small tenants, it is woeful to contemplate the misery we may calculate on; but I must admit it is not easy for the landlords to do so on any large scale, as they are virtually getting no rents in this locality, not as much as will pay the poor-rate and county cess on their properties. Emigration is now the topic of the day in this locality; but not more than 1 to every 10 or 15 will be able to go out, compared to last year, for want of means. Very many who could have gone last year could not attempt it this. If something is not done in the way of giving seed, we shall not have three months' provisions in this parish next season, and landlords need not expect a penny of their rents, or even the rates."

I acquainted Mr. Hopkins, in reply to this, that I wished him to understand clearly that no assistance in the way of seed, or in any other way, was to be expected from Government.

W. J. H.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a report which they have received from Mr. W. J. Hamilton, Temporary Poor Law Inspector of the Ballina Union, relating to the progress which has been hitherto made in the farming operations for this year, compared with this time last year and previous years.

I am at the same time to enclose a copy of the observations of Mr. R. Bourke, Poor Law Inspector, on this report, from which it will be perceived that Mr. Bourke places particular reliance upon the opinions given by Mr. H. Brett, County Surveyor, and Mr. Blewet, a Superintendent of Overseers of labour in the Union.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. BOURKE:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AGREE generally with the observations made by Mr. Hamilton's correspondents. The best opinions are those of Mr. Brett, County Surveyor, and Mr. Blewet, both practical men, who do not judge of a whole district from the circumstances of their immediate neighbourhood, but have opportunities of observing the state of things in all parts of the Union. There is but little doubt that the truth is to be found in their joint statements.

R. B.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you, for the favourable consideration of the Commissioners, the accompanying application from the Vice-Guardians of this Union for 500*l.* in cash and 500*l.* worth of provisions, which they state they will require by the 1st of April.

Ballina Union.

ENCLOSURE referred to.

Mr. BURROWES, Vice-Guardian, to Mr. HAMILTON:—*March 22, 1848.*

WE are indebted to our meal contractor for the out-relief to the amount of 2000*l.*, and to our bread contractor not much less. We have been able to continue the supply of food to those entitled to out-door relief in this Union, by making payments to those contractors to enable them to continue their weekly expenditure; such payments being made from the funds placed by you at our disposal.

We have made and are making a great reduction in the numbers receiving out-door relief, and, consequently, in the weekly expenditure; but as we cannot calculate on receiving weekly a greater amount of rate than will enable us to make payments weekly on account to our other contractors for the supply of meal, milk, bread, &c., for the use of the poor-house, we beg leave to inform you, that to enable us to support the impotent and able-bodied poor who are still entitled to out-door relief, we will absolutely require on or before Saturday the 1st April 500*l.* in money, and also an order for 500*l.* worth of meal.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 500*l.* in money, and 500*l.* (in provisions) to assist the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

WILL you have the goodness to give me some information on the following point:—There can be no doubt that workhouse accommodation is and will be much required for at all events the next few years in this Union, even making allowance for the contemplated new workhouse in Erris. I believe that Mr. Wilkinson has prepared plans and estimates for adding to the present workhouse, and now is the time to commence any permanent building; but before I take any steps in the matter, I should like to know if there would be any use in applying for a loan to the Board of Works for the necessary funds on the usual terms.

I think (but I am no architect) that for 3000*l.* the present workhouse could be made to afford ample accommodation for 2000. A boundary wall is much required; at present, however, it is useless to think of anything but feeding and clothing the paupers.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have no hope that an application to the Public Works Loan Board for a loan to make additions to the workhouse of Ballina Union for ordinary purposes would be successful.

I am at the same time to state, that the Guardians can legally borrow from any source from which they can obtain it, any sum which the Commissioners may, with their consent, direct them to expend for that purpose; and they may charge the repayment of the amount, with interest, on the future rates of the Union at any time within 20 years.

You will perceive by a letter this day addressed to the Vice-Guardians that the Commissioners will be able to obtain a loan of 1500*l.* for erecting a permanent fever ward to the workhouse.

Mr. WATERS, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

Erris.

FOR the information of the Commissioners I have to state, that according to my directions the poor-rate collector for this district (John Cosgrave), on the 20th instant, proceeded to Binghamstown, to have a summons served on Denis Bingham, Esq. (a magistrate of this county), for the sum of 120*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, due by him for poor-rates.

The collector has reported to me that on his assistant going into the town he was met by a number of men and women who struck him several times, and from the excitement he was compelled to make his escape.

From these circumstances I much fear that to effect the service of a summons or writ will be very difficult, the town being without any police, and no magistrate

(except Mr. Bingham) nearer than 30 miles. The petty sessions are held only once in the fortnight, which is often the cause of great delay in carrying out the law, as well as being unprepared to meet any breach of the peace.

I have directed the collector to meet me at the petty sessions of Belmullet on the 25th instant, for the purpose of ascertaining if any of the guilty parties can be identified, and if so, shall not fail to have proceedings instituted against them, if it meets the approbation of the Commissioners.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 24, 1848.*

I AM to state that in every case of assault on collectors the offenders should be prosecuted, if they can be identified.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 24, 1848.*

Landed Proprietors in the Electoral Division of the Ballina Union.

William H. Carter, Esq.,
Castlemartin, Kilcullen,

Is the largest proprietor in Erris. More than one-half of the arable lands on his estate are waste. I am informed he has the inclination but not the means to cultivate them.

Messrs. Bingham, Binghamstown, Belmullet,

Possess estates next in size to Mr. Carter's. Their arable lands are generally waste; they have no means to cultivate them. They are defaulters as to the payment of the two last poor-rates made, which together amount to 1s. 8d. in the pound.

Messrs. Walsh and Coyne;
Mr. Walsh, Castlehill, Crossmolina, and Hume-street, Dublin; Mr. Coyne, Dublin,

Possess considerable property in both electoral divisions. They have lately cleared off the occupying tenants, and have the greater portion of the estate in their own hands; it was waste last year, and is likely to remain so. I am informed they have means but do not intend to use them in cultivating their lands.

Matthew Atkinson, Esq.,
Dublin and Belmullet,

Has a small property in the Belmullet electoral division. He has given a great deal of employment in improving his estate, and will do what he can to cultivate it.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners

Hold a considerable extent of property; it is in possession of their lessees, who have not the means of assisting the tenants holding under them.

Representatives of late
Walter Burke, Esq., Killala,

Possess a small property in Belmullet electoral division. The occupying tenants have been removed. The lands were waste last year, and are likely to be so again this year. Mr. Burke died about a month since.

Colonel Kirkwood, Killala,

Has a small property in both electoral divisions. His estate in Binghamstown is held by a middleman (Mr. Lyons), who has removed nearly all the occupying tenants holding under him. I understand Mr. Lyons is a wealthy man, but I believe he does not purpose cultivating his lands this year.

A. Richie, Esq., Dublin,
La Touche's Bank,

Has a large tract of land in Binghamstown division. I am informed he has means, but I do not know whether he intends assisting his tenants.

John Richards, Esq., Elmgrove, Blackrock,

Possesses a small property in the same division. He has means, and I understand will assist his tenants to crop the land.

Messrs. Burns

Hold a large tract of land in the Belmullet division. It is under the Courts. Mr. Madden, of Ballycastle, is receiver.

Mr. John Gibbons

Has a large tract of land in same division. It is also under the Courts, and Mr. Madden is receiver.

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Mr. Cormick, Doogork,
Belmullet,

Possesses property in same division. It is in Chancery, Mr. James Gore is receiver. The lands are waste, and will remain so.

Mr. Follet, Belmullet,

Possesses a tract of good land in Binghamstown division. He is very little better off than his tenants, who are for the most part receiving out-door relief.

Mr. Caldwell and others,
Belmullet,

Possess a fertile tract of land in Binghamstown division. Their tenants are starving. They themselves have no means.

Jasper V. Fowler, Esq.,
Shankill House, Bray.

Possesses a small property in Binghamstown division. His lands are waste, and likely to remain so.

Miss Gamble, Belmullet,

Possesses a property in Binghamstown division. Her lands are waste, her tenants are starving, and she herself applied for relief.

Mr. Burns, Rossport,
Belmullet,

Has a small property in Belmullet division. He will do all he can to cultivate his lands, but his means are limited.

Mr. O'Donnell, Polly-
tomas, Belmullet,

Has a small property in same division. He has no means of assisting his tenants, who can do nothing for themselves.

Small estates.

Besides the foregoing there are several small estates worth from 50*l.* to 200*l.* a-year, the proprietors of which, generally speaking, are absentees, who receive no rents, therefore take but little interest in their properties; their lands for the most part were waste last year, and are likely to remain so this year.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

I BEG to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that the Vice-Guardians will require 250*l.* worth of provisions, in order to meet the wants of this district for the week commencing the 27th, and I hope an order to that effect may be forwarded.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 250*l.* worth of provisions, to enable the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union to provide for the maintenance of the poor in the Erris district.

Lieutenant HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

SINCE the date of my last weekly report I have been principally occupied in visiting the several working parties throughout my district, with the view of assisting the Vice-Guardians in making the necessary reductions in the issue of relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, which the present season of the year requires. I found most of the working parties going on fully as well as I expected, some of them better. The Guardians have by constant weeding at length obtained a tolerably fair class of overseers; the result is a manifest improvement in the manner in which their orders are carried out.

In consequence of the reductions which the Vice-Guardians have been able to make, by referring certain classes to the workhouse, there has been a slight run on the house for the last few days; but not greater than the Guardians were prepared for.

Mr. Howley, chairman of the late Board of Guardians, accompanied me on last Monday through every department of the house, which I am happy to state continues in a clean and healthy state. He appeared to be much pleased with everything he saw, particularly with the schools where he examined the children.

The amount of rate lodged with the Treasurer during each week of the month ended 27th instant, was—

Ballina Union.

		£.	s.	d.
Week ended 4th March	.	114	0	0
„ „ 11th „	.	160	0	0
„ „ 18th „	.	102	0	0
„ „ 25th „	.	134	16	2
Period „ 27th „	.	116	0	0
Total	.	£626	16	2

Which leaves the state of the collection as follows:—

Amount of last rate struck, including arrears of former rate	13,869	0	0
Amount of last rate collected to 27th March, 1848	7,587	0	0
Amount of last rate uncollected	£6,282	0	0

Last month's collection was the worst we have had for the last three months, but I think that this is easily accounted for, and that a larger collection may fairly be expected during the two ensuing months.

I will again prepare lists of the defaulters against whom proceedings have been directed in the superior courts, leaving a column for remarks as to the result of those proceedings, which I will transmit to you. I am glad to say that the agents of the Moy fishery, who are defaulters to a very considerable amount (between 400*l.* and 500*l.*), at length seem inclined to come to their senses. A communication was made on their behalf yesterday to the chairman of the Vice-Guardians and myself, to the effect that they positively had not the funds, but that if the Guardians would agree to take 250*l.* down, and the remainder in two months, they would not offer any further opposition. We requested that any proposal which they might have to make should be furnished in writing, to which the Guardians would give their best consideration. The objections which would apply in other cases to taking money on account do not exist in this case, as the amount is due to several collectors, some of whom might be paid in full.

The Vice-Guardians purpose striking a rate in the electoral division of Binghamstown of 3*s.* in the pound, as early as possible, and a general rate throughout the Union in July; for this latter purpose they will take immediate steps to have the valuation of the Union revised. I fully concur in the necessity and propriety of these intentions.

As it appears hopeless to expect any success from an application to the Board of Works for a loan for increasing the permanent workhouse accommodation, and it would be equally hopeless to look for a loan from any other source, the Vice-Guardians are endeavouring to procure another building, and to fit it up as an auxiliary workhouse.

Considering the present deplorable state of the sanitary condition of the poor, indeed I may say of all classes, and the probability that the approaching hot weather will increase both sickness and mortality, I hope the Commissioners will excuse me for troubling them on a subject over which they have no immediate control.

Mr. Richard Hamilton has requested me to go to the Erris district for a couple of days, which I purpose doing to-morrow, as I am anxious to be present at his examination upon oath into the circumstances of the evictions which have taken place in that locality.

REPLY to the foregoing:--April 8, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 29th ultimo, relating to the Ballina Union, in which you state that the Vice-Guardians propose to have the valuation of the Union revised before striking a new rate; and I am directed to state that the Commissioners concur in the views adopted by the Vice-Guardians on the subject.

The Commissioners consider that steps should be taken to secure a revisor for the valuation as soon as possible; or if the Vice-Guardians find the revision

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made by order of the late Board in the summer of last year available, they should adopt it.

The Commissioners have forwarded a copy of your observations to the Board of Health.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 30, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that for this district the Vice-Guardians will require, for the week commencing the 3rd April, 200*l.* (provisions), and 100*l.* (cash).

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 1, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 200*l.* in provisions, and 100*l.* in money, to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Erris district of the Union.

Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 30, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the annexed letter from the Vice-Guardians, requesting that 400*l.* in cash, and 300*l.* in provisions, may be transmitted to them by the 8th proximo, which I beg you will have the goodness to lay before the Commissioners for their favourable consideration.

ENCLOSURE.

VICE-GUARDIANS to Lieut. HAMILTON:—*March 30.*

WE shall require a sum of money amounting to 400*l.*, and an order for 300*l.* worth of provisions on next Saturday week, the 8th April, to enable us, with the amount of rate we calculate on receiving, to provide for the poor of this Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 1, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 400*l.* in money, and 300*l.* in provisions, to assist the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union, in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor of the Union.

Mr. CARTER to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:—*March 30, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose you a copy of a letter I this morning received from Mr. Crampton, the agent of my estate in Erris, county Mayo. I beg to say that I have forwarded a copy to the Lord Lieutenant, and I hope you will be so good as to give it the consideration that a document so important as concerns the ill-fated barony of Erris, and the uncultivated western districts of Ireland generally, in relation to the working of the Poor Law, requires.

I am most anxious to lay out the money applied for and granted, but the contents of this letter certainly cause me to pause before I take up 5000*l.* to be expended in increasing the burthens of the land in Erris, without a prospect of redemption. I do hope, as I will give land free, that something will be done by the Poor Law Commission, to employ the able bodied in raising food for themselves; there is no time to be lost, and you may rest assured that I will through my agent, a man of activity of body and mind, do my best to carry out any plan that may be devised for the useful and profitable employment of the poor on my estate in Erris.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. CRAMPTON to Mr. CARTER:—*March 28, 1848.*

I LEARN at the Custom-House that your application under the Land Improvement Act for the drainage of your Erris estates has been approved of to the extent of 5000*l.*, and that you will very shortly be placed in possession of an instalment of this sum; however, as it would interfere with the spring work, and so tend to destroy the very slender prospect of any

harvest this year in that country, if you now commence operations, they must necessarily be postponed till summer.

Previous, however, to your embarking in this expenditure, I wish to lay before you as clearly as I can the present state and prospects of Erris generally, that you may judge for yourself whether by this expenditure you would improve your estate there, or whether, on the contrary, by adding so much to its incumbrances, you will only be accelerating its ruin.

The valuation of the two electoral divisions (Belmullet and Binghamstown, in which your estate lies), under the Poor Law, is under 12,000*l.* a-year; this sum is not very much less than the amount of rent which was paid (before 1846), by the occupying tenants to their immediate landlords; at present small holders (who occupy more than nine-tenths of the country), are able to pay no rent whatever.

The population of these two electoral divisions, which, before 1846, was considerably over 20,000, is now (as well as an estimate can be made) under 20,000; about one-sixth of this population are resident on those parts of your estate which are not leased against you in perpetuity, and about another sixth on those townlands which are.

Out of this population upwards of 10,000 are now receiving relief daily under the Poor Law, at the expense of upwards of 250*l.* a-week; that is, at the rate of upwards of 13,000*l.* a-year (more than the entire rental of the two divisions even in flourishing times). This relief is administered with the utmost vigilance, and the utmost care taken that none except those actually starving shall be relieved, so that there is no hope that the expense will be diminished, on the contrary it is certain that it will considerably increase; destitution among the population yet off the lists increasing more rapidly than deaths occur among the paupers who are on; deaths among the paupers being the only circumstance by which the numbers receiving relief are or can be diminished.

As might be imagined, the proceeds of the poor rate are by no means equal to this enormous expenditure; the British Association are supplying the funds, and will probably do so till next harvest; however, they cannot and will not continue to do so, and as the people are supported in what is as bad as idleness, and the arable land is suffered to lie waste, there is no hope that the country can support itself when the British Association shall cease to give assistance.

It is for you to consider, whether under these circumstances the 5000*l.* granted to your application under the Land Improvement Act, will not (if laid out in Erris) be utterly lost, while you will remain personally liable to 650*l.* a-year for interest on this loan, if the Government insist on property supporting its own poor, while at the same time it also insists that the poor shall do nothing to help themselves.

Being intimately acquainted with the circumstances of the country, and alarmed at the course persisted in, I took the liberty, as far back as February last, to suggest to the Lord Lieutenant the propriety of enabling the Guardians to employ the able-bodied paupers in raising crops to aid in supporting themselves, and (with your permission) made an offer of land rent free to be cultivated by them for this purpose; more recently, seeing the present season passing away, I again pressed the same subject on his Excellency, reiterating the same offer, but no notice whatever was taken of my communication.

It is my deliberate conviction that if the present system be persevered in, the entire pauper population must die within the month succeeding the cessation of the supply from the British Association, if the Government themselves do not come forward and support them.

I am also convinced that there are no means left to render Erris self-supporting but by employing the pauper labour in raising food to sustain themselves, and I firmly believe that if this labour was so employed it would sustain them.

Can there be a question about it—that with land rent free, with quantities of manure within reach, now lying idly on the sea-shore, with an enlightened system of farming, they would not be able to raise food enough to support themselves? They did so under the worst system of agriculture (and paid rent beside), is it reasonable to suppose they could not do it under a better?

And what would this effect? It would render the poor rate supportable, it would enable the country farmers gradually to gain strength, and as they did, the labour of the able-bodied paupers would be absorbed in the cultivation of their farms, and better times would dawn on the country; whereas, if the present system is pursued, it will strike down the farmers who have yet been able to stand, and reduce the whole population to the rank of paupers.

If the British Association continue their assistance till harvest (as I am informed they will), there is even yet time to rescue the country, by employing the pauper labour in raising food for themselves; with this prospect you might lay out the 5000*l.* with great advantage to those of your tenants who are yet self-supporting; but if the cessation of relief from the British Association will bring us only to barren fields and a destitute country, your expenditure and exertion will only be rewarded by a fuller measure of misfortune.

If by any exertion the Government could be induced to adopt some plan of this kind, it should not be one moment delayed. This is the 28th of March, on the next few weeks depend the hope of the coming year.

If the Government will do nothing, and at the same time insist that proprietors must support the destitute on their estates (that is on your paying 2000*l.* a-year for poor-rate for your Erris estate, which would be about your proportion, while you at the same time get nothing out of it), I would say the sooner you got rid of that property the better, and that your laying out money on it, with these facts clearly before you, would be an act of deliberate folly.

Ballina Union:

REPLY to the foregoing:—April 1, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ult., transmitting a communication from your agent, Mr. Crampton, and I am to state that the Commissioners propose to communicate with you very shortly on Mr. Crampton's statement.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. R. HAMILTON:—April 1, 1848.

IN the letter of Mr. Carter's agent, Mr. Crampton (who does not now reside at Belmullet, and whose residence there is occupied by Mr. Hamilton, the Inspector), it is assumed that the annual value for rating, of the Belmullet and Binghamstown electoral divisions (10,822*l.* 13*s.*), is about the rent that was paid in 1846, although in these divisions (leaving houses out of consideration), there are 79,057 acres of land actually rated to occupiers (their holdings being over 4*l.* value), and 91,772 acres rated to immediate lessors; so that, on Mr. Crampton's estimate, the land rent paid in 1846 was about 1*s.* 10*d.* the statute acre; and it will be observed that any occupier who on this scale of value is rated for holdings valued above 4*l.* must hold nearly 50 acres of land; but of such occupiers there are 392 only in the two divisions, so that their holdings in the aggregate of 79,057 must considerably exceed 50 acres in the majority of cases.

These holdings cannot necessarily be cultivated by the occupiers' families exclusively, and may be considered as affording employment to a portion of the remaining population.

The total population is 22,773 (supposing the numbers in 1841 still to exist), and the great majority of this total would appear to be located on the 91,772 acres rated to landlords, which appear to be divided into 4,298 holdings, averaging 21 acres; and allowing five persons, old and young, to each, the population on these holdings would be 21,490, leaving only 1283 for the larger holdings.

If these amounts are right, (all of which, except the population, are taken from the rate book of the Union,) they do not present so unfavourable an aspect as Mr. Crampton's statement would appear to give to the affairs of these electoral divisions, and the prospects of the proprietors.

But it will be necessary to obtain a report from Mr. Hamilton on some of the statements which Mr. Crampton has made.

1. As to the number now receiving relief in each division, which Mr. Crampton states to be for both 10,000; and he assumes that this number will not be abated except by death.

2. That if the population be not *enabled* to raise food for self-support, all who are destitute must die in the month after aid from the British Association shall cease.

3. That no means are left to render the divisions self-supporting, than the employment of the population in raising food.

4. That Mr. Carter is prepared to give land rent free for the latter object.

Mr. Hamilton will be so good as to state whether he anticipates any, and if so, what reduction of the numbers now getting relief, from the employment which the district ordinarily affords; and how far this will operate more in Binghamstown division than in Belmullet division, or *vice versa*; also, whether Mr. Carter's estate is principally in the former, or the latter, and whether it is likely that if the landholders possessing means in that part of the Union, or elsewhere, were to be offered the land rent free, they would be likely to occupy and cultivate it.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 4, 1848.

I think Mr. Crampton's letter is not by any means an exaggerated statement, although it may not be strictly correct in all its details, and that his views as to rescuing the country from its present broken down state, may be open to many objections.

The present expenditure is about 250*l.* a week, and a considerable portion of the persons now receiving relief are permanently pauperized, unless some unexpected demand for labour should arise.

With reference to those portions of Mr. Crampton's letter on which you wish me specially to report:—

1. The total number of persons relieved last week in each electoral division was—

Belmullet	8993
Binghamstown.	3926

2. I certainly think all destitute persons now receiving relief would die, if relief were to be discontinued.

3. I do not think the population have any means of subsistence except what is obtained from the land.

4. I annex reports from the relieving officer for each district on this subject; I think I may say the lists can be reduced to about 8000; a great reduction has been made in the last two days.

There will be more employment in Belmullet than Binghamstown division, but any employment given is of little or no assistance to the rates, as the employers seldom keep the same person more than two days.

Mr. Carter has property in both electoral divisions, but the principal portion is in Belmullet. There are few landholders, if any, who have means sufficient to cultivate all the lands at present in their possession.

Reductions are making in this district; annexed is a statement of the numbers removed this day.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. FERRALL, Relieving Officer, to Mr. HAMILTON :—April 3, 1848.

ACCORDING to orders, I have to inform you that the number of persons relieved on my books (including all dependents) are 6227 for the preceding week, of which number I consider I will make a reduction of 10 per cent. on an average.

RETURN of PERSONS removed at BELMULLET on Tuesday, 4th April, 1848.

	Cases.	Number of Persons including Cases.
Belmullet . . .	49	83
Logmore . . .	7	10
Curlough . . .	5	9
Ballinavode . . .	12	19
Toorglass . . .	27	29
Picklepoint . . .	7	10
Attycunane . . .	18	23
Derrynamall . . .	1	1
Derrycherib . . .	8	11
Bunahowna . . .	4	4
Renashinagh . . .	6	6
Glencastle . . .	4	5
Total . . .	148	210

THOMAS FERRALL, Relieving Officer.

Mr. TALBOT, Relieving Officer, to Mr. HAMILTON :—April 3, 1848.

ACCORDING to directions, I have to inform you the number of persons receiving out-door relief in my district is 1968, (including all dependents,) and from the great distress prevailing, I do not think I can reduce that number more than 5 per cent., having reduced my list last week nearly 5 per cent.

Mr. HOWLEY, Relieving Officer, to Mr. HAMILTON :—April 3, 1848.

I BEG leave to acquaint you for the information of the Commissioners, that I have at present on my book for the Bangor district, 771 cases, which comprise a gross number of 1368 persons, of which (I think, as far as I can judge at present), I will strike off 100 persons.

Mr. DAVID WALKER, Relieving Officer, to Mr. HAMILTON :—April 3, 1848.

THERE are at present 656 cases, numbering 1398 persons receiving out-door relief in Belmullet Northern district.

I cannot now with safety state what proportion of those, if any, can be struck off; but will on next week as well as I possible can, furnish you with a list of those persons whom I find to be making tillage, or are in any manner more comfortably circumstanced than the others.

Mr. WINTER, Relieving Officer, to Mr. HAMILTON :—April 4, 1848.

AGREEABLE to order, I have to inform you that the number of persons receiving out-door relief in this district (including all dependents) is 1958: from this number I consider a reduction of 6 per cent. can be made.

Ballina Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. CARTER:—April 8, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the letter of Mr. Crampton, your agent, received with your letter of the 30th ultimo, already acknowledged, in which he recommends that the able-bodied destitute persons now supplied with food in Binghamstown and Belmullet electoral divisions of Ballina Union, should be employed in raising food for their support, on unoccupied land which Mr. Crampton recommends you to give rent free, with the privilege of using the manure within reach.

The Commissioners concur with Mr. Crampton, in regarding it as very important that the land now lying waste in those divisions should be used for producing food, and that the able-bodied destitute persons in the district should be employed in the cultivation of the soil; but the Commissioners do not consider it practicable that all these persons could be engaged at work on your unoccupied farms by the Guardians, as is proposed by Mr. Crampton, nor does there appear to be any way in which the requisite supplies of seed could be obtained, and seen properly planted by the Union officers employed to distribute out-door relief.

The Commissioners do not consider the Union officers capable of doing more than superintending the gangs of able-bodied persons who are occupied in the labour of stone-breaking. It would be impossible for such a staff of officers to superintend the same number of persons dispersed in agricultural employments.

In the present circumstances of the Binghamstown and Belmullet electoral divisions, it is only by the adoption of means to encourage agricultural undertakings, independently of the poor-rates, that any progress can be made in ameliorating the condition of the labouring population, and lessening the pressure on the resources of the ratepayers. The Commissioners would be gratified to know that such means were applied by the owners of the lands heretofore cultivated, but now waste; and were all to adopt your proposition of giving the land rent free, at first, there would it is presumed be found persons of the requisite skill and capital, to migrate to that district.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 1, 1848.

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th ultimo, requesting I would take evidence upon oath respecting the evictions which have taken place on Mr. Walsh's property in this district, I have now the honour to forward the annexed true copies of sworn statements made by a few persons. I have to apologize for not having complied with your directions earlier; but as I left this on leave of absence immediately after the receipt of your letter, was unable to do so.

You will oblige me by stating whether the Commissioners wish for any further evidence.

ENCLOSURE.

Catherine Coyle, sworn in Irish by an interpreter:—Am the widow of Anthony Coyle. My late husband was for the last 20 years tenant to Mr. John Walsh, on the townland of Mullaghroe. I was his second wife, and have been two years married. My husband paid Mr. Walsh 3*l.* a-year rent. About the 1st of November William Heffron (who acts as agent to Mr. Walsh), accompanied by another man, came to the house. They demanded possession of the house, and my husband gave it to them. He was re-admitted by Heffron, who gave him three or four weeks to prepare to leave the house. Shortly before Christmas day William Heffron and another man came into the house, and desired us to leave it that he might throw it down. We all went out; my husband and his four children, and I and the two children he had by me, quitted the house. The house was thrown down the moment we quitted it. We returned to the ruins and lived in a corner of it, having made up a sort of tent there. This was thrown down by Heffron shortly after Christmas. I was not in at the time, but my husband and children were. Since then we have been begging about, sleeping wherever we could get a lodging. About a fortnight ago we came to the workhouse; for six weeks before we had been getting relief in food from the relieving officer. My husband was in a dying state when we came to the workhouse, and has since died. He was a strong man when our house was thrown down upon us.

her
CATHERINE X COYLE,
mark.

Sworn before me this 20th day of March, 1848,

RICHARD BOURKE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

David Reilly, being duly sworn in Irish by a sworn interpreter, states:—I have a wife and one child. Lived in Mullaghroe for the last 16 years, the property of Mr. John Walsh. Held two acres and a half of land, and paid 1*l.* 8*s.* yearly rent. About Christmas Mr. Walsh's

son, William Heffron, steward to Mr. Walsh, and Pat Barret, herd to Mr. Walsh, came about three o'clock in the day to my house, raised the couples of it, and threw off the roof. I was in the house at the time; was served with a notice. Myself, wife, and child have slept several nights in the ditches. About a week after my house was thrown down I found a shed in Mullaghroe, which I went into with my family, and remained in it one week when Pat Barret, herd to Mr. Walsh, came and threw it down; also set fire to my bed when I was in it. Since then myself and family have been living in another shed, four feet high and five feet square, which I put up close to the gable of a house in Mullaghroe. Made several applications to be admitted to the poor-house, and was told I would be admitted whenever there was room in it.

Ballina Union.

^{his}
DAVID × REILLY,

mark.

Sworn before me this 30th day of March, 1848, at Binghamstown.

R. HAMILTON, *Poor Law Inspector.*

Witness,

GEORGE S. BOURNS.

Patrick Murphy, being duly sworn and examined through a sworn interpreter (not being acquainted with the English language), states as follows:—Has lived in Mullaghroe all his life, on Mr. Walsh's property; held about five acres of land and a house and barn, for which he paid 3*l.* per annum. Was served with a notice to quit in November, 1846, at which time he owed a year's rent. After legal possession had been taken by Mr. Walsh, he was allowed to remain a month in the house. Five days before Christmas day, Mr. John Walsh's son and his steward, William Heffron, and his herds, Pat Barret and Pat Broderick, came with crow-bars, raised the couples of the roof off the walls, and threw in the roof before he had time to leave the house, or take out any of his furniture. His furniture consisted of two beds, dresser, three pots, three tubs, a bucket, and a table, which he considers were worth about 1*l.* 5*s.* This took place about an hour or half an hour before sunset. He never received a penny from Mr. Walsh. About 30 houses were unroofed that day by the same party. Has been wandering about the country up to the last six weeks, during which time, for five nights, he was forced to sleep in the open air, not being able to procure any shelter. Two nights he slept in a cock of hay when it was snowing and freezing; the remaining three nights were not severe. Has been receiving out-door relief for the last ten weeks. For four weeks he has given one quart of meal per week of his allowance for shelter. For the last six weeks he has been sleeping in a hut which he erected inside the walls of an old house in Mullaghroe, the size of which was five feet long by two and a half feet wide, and four feet high. This hut was thrown down and burnt yesterday by Pat Barret, Mr. Walsh's herd. Of the 30 houses which were thrown down on the same day as his, every one was inhabited. Of the families who inhabited those houses some of them have since died, and others are scattered in every direction.

^{his}
PATRICK × MURPHY,

mark.

Sworn before me, March 31st, 1848,

R. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

Witnesses,

W. J. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

JOHN D. WATERS, *Vice-Guardian.*

PATRICK CULKIN, *Sworn Interpreter.*

Catherine Hallon states:—That being near her end in this world she has a disinclination to take an oath, never having taken one in her life, and not knowing the nature of an oath; but she declares what she is about to state to be the truth and nothing but the truth.

Being examined through a sworn interpreter, she states:—That she lived at Mullaghroe, on Mr. Walsh's property. She had a house and one and a half acre of land, for which she paid 30*s.* to Mr. Ruane, Mr. Walsh's agent. Owed a year's rent. Lived there all her life. Was never served with a notice to quit, nor was her house, to her knowledge, taken possession of until about the month of September, when upon her return from the sea-shore one day she found the roof thrown in. She was told by the villagers that William Heffron, Mr. Walsh's steward, had thrown the roof in, and that he had the sheriff's boy with him. She made up a hut against the walls of the house and remained for about a fortnight in it, when one of her children having died she left the place and went out through the country to beg. Has been an inmate of the auxiliary workhouse at Binghamstown since the 9th of February.

Binghamstown, 31st March, 1848.

^{her}
CATHERINE × HALLON,

mark.

(Signed)

PAT CULKIN, *Sworn Interpreter.*

Witnesses,

R. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

W. J. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

JOHN D. WATERS, *Vice-Guardian.*

Mary Joyce, being duly sworn, states:—That her husband, Patrick Joyce, herself and several children, lived in Mullaghroe, on Mr. Walsh's property. Lived there since she was born.

Ballina Union.

Is 49 years of age. Had a house and three acres of land, for which she paid 2l. 0s. 10d. a-year. Was served with a notice to quit, but does not recollect the exact time. The sheriff took possession, but her family were allowed to return. This occurred about last harvest. Shortly before Christmas Mr. Walsh's son, William Heffron, and Pat Barret, came and threw down the roof, at which time her husband and all her family were lying sick. They said that if witness did not go out, they would throw down the roof. She was not even allowed time to prepare a drink for her husband. Witness built up a hut two or three times, which was pulled down by Mr. Walsh's men. On one occasion her husband fell down three times in attempting to leave the house. Her husband and one of her children are since dead. Has been receiving out-door relief since the commencement of its being given out. Almost the entire village was thrown down before Christmas.

her
MARY x JOYCE,
mark.

Sworn before me this 1st day of April, 1848,

R. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

Witnesses,

W. J. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

GEORGE S. BOURNS.

James Murphy, being duly sworn and examined through a sworn interpreter, states as follows:—Is about 52 years of age; lived in the village of Mullaghroe all his life, on Mr. John Walsh's property; held about three and a half acres with a house, for which he paid 4l. 8s. a-year; was served with a notice, but cannot state the exact period; the house was taken possession of by the sheriff about harvest, when he was permitted to return to it, and remained in it for about two months. Mr. Walsh's son, with his bailiff, William Heffron, William Gibbons, and Pat Barret, came shortly before Christmas last; they desired him to leave the house, or they would pull it down; refused to leave the place, not having any shelter for himself and family, which consisted of his wife and two children. Mr. Walsh's son then took a crowbar, raised the couples of the roof, and with his servants threw down the entire roof, by which his dresser, chest, pots, &c., were all broken. Mr. Walsh did not give him any money when he turned him out. Witness left Mullaghroe that night with his family, and slept at Carne, near Belmullet. Has frequently, with his family, slept out in the open air. He never has been in good health since, and has lost one of his children in consequence of the sufferings which it had undergone. He and his family have wandered from place to place; they now occupy a hut, which he is obliged to pay three pints of his relief meal for every week; this hut is only sufficiently large for them to sleep in; has been getting out-door relief since December last. There were several houses thrown down the same day as his was; owed half-a-year's rent, with 13s. arrears, up to November, 1847; offered to pay Mr. Walsh's son the arrears if he would permit him to remain in the house.

his
JAMES x MURPHY,
mark.

Sworn before me this 1st day of April, 1848,

R. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

Witnesses,

W. J. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*GEORGE S. BOURNS, *Sworn Interpreter.*

Mr. Joseph Talbot, relieving officer of Binghamstown electoral division, being duly sworn states:—That he visited the hut occupied by James Murphy and his family; it appeared to have been a pig-sty, erected against an adjoining house; Murphy and his son were lying sick the day he visited them; his wife was likewise in the hut, which was only of a sufficient size for them to lie down in. There was no furniture of any kind.

JOSEPH TALBOT.

Sworn before me this 1st day of April, 1848,

R. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

Witnesses,

W. J. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

GEORGE S. BOURNS.

James Meenaghan, being duly sworn and examined through a sworn interpreter, states:—That he was born in Mullaghroe, and lived there all his life, on Mr. Walsh's property; held about two acres of land, for which he paid 13s. a-year; was served with a notice to quit about 12 months ago, or more; owed two years' rent; his house was taken possession of about harvest, at which time he was lying ill; went out almost naked, and was allowed to return after possession had been taken. About last Christmas, at the time that all the other houses in the village were unroofed, his was likewise, by a Mr. Walsh and his tenants; does not know whether it was his landlord or not, but heard that Mr. Walsh's son was in the village, and heard when the other houses were pulled down; had no place to go to, and has slept out three nights for every one he has had shelter; his health has suffered much in consequence of all the hardship he has gone through; has been receiving out-door relief since last December;

has given two quarts of meal for a week's lodging; did not receive any money to procure shelter the day his cabin was pulled down.

Ballina Union.

^{his}
JAMES X MEENAGHAN,
^{mark.}

Sworn before me this 1st day of April, 1848,

R. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

Witnesses,

W. J. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

GEORGE S. BOURNS, *Sworn Interpreter.*

Joseph Talbot, relieving officer of the Binghamstown electoral division, being duly sworn, states:—That he has visited the greater part of the families who once resided at Mullaghroe; he has found them in the most wretched state; frequently three or four families in small cabins, and others occupying huts which they have erected against gables, and inside of the ruins of their former dwellings; many of them have complained of their being forced to sleep out at night, and are most anxious for the completion of the auxiliary workhouse, in order that they may get shelter; is of opinion that these people, who are all, more or less, suffering from disease, have suffered the greatest hardships from want of shelter, and is positive that no amount of relief can bring the greater part of them round. In the village of Surge-view many of the Mullaghroe people are now living whose sufferings cannot be exceeded; there are four families in one hut, most of whom have dysentery, and there is fever in almost every cabin. The village of Tirrane is nearly as bad.

JOSEPH TALBOT.

Sworn before me this 1st day of April, 1848.

R. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

Witnesses,

W. J. HAMILTON, *Poor Law Inspector.*

GEORGE S. BOURNS.

I certify that this and the foregoing are true copies of the original statements which remain in my possession.

R. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

Belmullet, 1st April, 1848.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 16, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter requesting I would take the evidence of Mr. Walsh's son and servants, if they consented to be examined, respecting the evictions that have taken place on his property in this district, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that I wrote to Mr. Walsh, asking him whether his son would consent to give such evidence, and yesterday I received a message from him, stating he was at the hotel in Belmullet, and was most anxious to see me. I immediately called upon him, when he entered into a long *justification* of his conduct, which I informed him I should be happy to lay before the Commissioners if he put it on paper; at the same time, he said his son had no objection to be examined, and requested I would meet him in Ballina on Thursday next for the purpose of taking his evidence, which I promised to do.

Mr. Walsh also requested I would give him permission to read the evidence already taken; this I refused to do until I knew what the Commissioners' wishes were, which I hope you will have the goodness to communicate before Thursday.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 18, 1848.*

In reply to your communication of the 16th instant, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they are of opinion that Mr. Walsh should be permitted to read the evidence which has been taken with regard to the eviction of tenants upon his estate, and that every facility should be afforded him for that purpose.

Another copy of the evidence will now be sent for his use.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 22, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter and to my subsequent report, giving the purport of an interview I had with Mr. Walsh, I beg to forward to you the annexed papers as per margin, by which the Commissioners will perceive the present state of the case.

Enclosures marked
A, B, C, D, E.

Ballina Union.

ENCLOSURES.

(A.)

Monday, April 17, 1848.

I MET William Herron, Mr. Walsh's bailiff, on the road between Clughtean and Tarram, and asked him whether he would consent to be examined on oath regarding the evictions and unroofing of houses that has taken place on Mr. Walsh's property.

He said he would not do so unless he had leave from his master, as he was afraid of losing his situation; but that the only evidence he could give was, he was present at the pulling down of 16 houses in Mullaghroe, and 8 houses in Clogher, *all of which were occupied at the time*; the remainder of the houses were unroofed after the people had left them.

R. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

I was present when the above conversation took place.

JOSEPH TALBOT, *Relieving Officer.*

(B.)

Mr. TALBOT to Mr. HAMILTON:—*April 17, 1848.*

SINCE I saw you, William Heveran and Patt Barrett have refused to give any evidence regarding the evictions that took place in Mullaghroe and Clogher until they got permission from their master, Mr. Walsh, to do so.

William Heveran also told me he would be at the same work on to-morrow; he would be pulling down more houses, and he did not know where the inhabitants would go to, nor did not care, but it was his directions to do so.

(C.)

Mr. WALSH, Jun., to Mr. HAMILTON:—*April 19, 1848.*

My father desires me to express his regret that he cannot have the pleasure of meeting you to-morrow at Ballina, as arranged. He is very unwell, and unable to leave home; and besides; he desires me to say he thinks it would be premature in him to submit to my examination without being informed of the matters reported to the Commissioners, but in any event he or I cannot go further than as already explained to you at the hotel, Belmullet.

(D.)

Mr. HAMILTON to Mr. WALSH, Jun.:—*April 20, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to forward a copy of a letter I have received from the Poor Law Commissioners, together with a copy of the evidence which has been taken.

If, on further consideration, you should feel inclined to make any statement, I beg to inform you that I shall remain in Ballina until Monday, and will meet either you or Mr. Walsh any day in the interval you may appoint.

(E.)

Mr. WALSH to Mr. HAMILTON:—*April 20, 1848.*

My son handed me yours and the enclosures. I have been very unwell for some days, or I should have much pleasure in keeping my appointment with you. I fear I cannot be able to meet you at Ballina on Saturday; if not, I shall send you my deposition, sworn before a magistrate, as soon as possible.

Pat. Broderick, being duly sworn, states:—I was employed by Mr. Walsh as herd on the lands of Mullaghroe and Devillaan Clogher. I recollect shortly before Christmas proceeding with Mr. Walsh's son to Mullaghroe, by whose directions I at that time assisted in the levelling of three or four houses there; warning was then given to the remainder of the inhabitants to leave their houses, and to prepare another place for themselves, after which Mr. Walsh's son directed that we should not leave a single house without levelling it, and that he did not care one damn where the people went to. The next day we accordingly went and levelled as many houses as we could; we were occupied in the same manner for the three or four succeeding days, during which time, between Clogher and the two Mullaghroes, to the best of my belief, we threw down about 50 houses. I cannot tell the exact number; people were living in the greater part of them. They asked to be allowed to remain in their cabins until after Christmas, when they would go away of their own accord. Mr. Walsh's servant (Jack Walsh) said that by his master's orders he could not let them remain one hour longer. After the cabins were thrown down many of the people erected huts or tents from four to five feet square, and about three or four feet high. I received directions from William Heveron, Mr. Walsh's agent, to level these huts. I did not level many of them.

(Signed) PAT. BRODERICK.
Witness, GEORGE J. BOURNS.

Sworn before me, this 29th day of April, 1848, at Belmullet.

R. HAMILTON, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*May 4, 1848.*

Ballina Union.

WITH reference to former correspondence on the subject, now before the Commissioners, I beg to forward the annexed letter, received this moment, from Mr. Walsh.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. J. WALSH to Mr. HAMILTON :—*May 3, 1848.*

I HAVE had the honour of your note in reference to my property in Erris district, and on reflection I feel I should make no affidavit on the subject, particularly as you reported *ex parte*, and not of the number referred to in your report only from more recognized tenants. I feel it would be an insult to my own feeling to make any affidavit, and I deny the right of any affidavit to interfere in my management of my property to yourself personally.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*May 6, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 4th instant, with a further communication from Mr. Walsh, of Castlehill, respecting the levelling of cabins on his property in Binghamstown electoral division, of Ballina Union, and they desire to observe that the depositions already transmitted, and the communication now received, appear to render any further inquiry in the case unnecessary.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 8, 1848.*

IN making my weekly report I have the honour to state for the information of the Commissioners, that heretofore my great object was to check the urgent distress which prevailed throughout the district, and to see that relief was afforded to all those requiring it, but before this object could be attained it was impossible to prevent a considerable number being relieved who did not need it. This must be attributed to the relieving officers, as well as ourselves, being strangers, consequently unacquainted with the people, nearly the entire population being applicants for relief, and there being no proprietor or ratepayer who afforded any assistance in checking abuses; but now that I am convinced there is not a single person in need of relief who is not getting it, I have turned my attention exclusively to reducing the lists, and with this view Mr. Waters and myself have attended the various depôts on the days of distribution, and put the workhouse test to considerable numbers. At present there are upwards of 12,000 persons (including dependents) on the relieving officers' books; this number, I think, may in the course of a short time be reduced to about 8000, but I am afraid a further reduction than this will be attended with great danger, as the majority of these people are permanently pauperized.

The relieving officers (all of whom have been lately appointed) are active young men, and I have no doubt but after a little will perform their duties well.

The only fault I had to find with them was placing parties on their books without examining the residence; certainly on their arrival they were surrounded with difficulties of no ordinary nature, and every allowance should be made, particularly so, as they now appear anxious to retrace their steps. Their books and accounts are made up to the day.

In consequence of the rapid spread of fever in the auxiliary workhouse, and there being no means of separating the patients, Mr. Waters and myself considered it necessary, in order to check the progress of the disease, to take a house in the town of Binghamstown for a month or so, where the fever patients have been removed to. I trust the Commissioners will approve of this course.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 12, 1848.*

THERE is nothing particular to draw your attention to in the state of the house.

The assistant master at Ardnanee is giving much satisfaction, and has returned 750 boxes of stones well broken for the work of 500 men last week, this amounts to $1\frac{1}{2}$ box, being $13\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet each man, which we consider most excellent work, indeed it has been proved so by the fact of many able-bodied men becoming so disgusted with it, that they left the house rather than continue on such terms.

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We have been much disappointed at not being able as yet to procure a second auxiliary house. The medical officers have condemned Colonel Gore's store, we propose inserting an advertisement for one this week, as it is most desirable to procure extended workhouse accommodation in this Union.

There is no material change in the amount lodged weekly by our collectors, we fear that not very much of the amount of rate at present uncollected will be ever realized, and are consequently most anxious to be in a position to strike a rate, for this purpose we have advertised for a person competent to revise the valuation, and will lose no time in having such revision completed.

Although the returns forwarded as yet by the clerk do not show great reduction in the number or expense of those receiving out-door relief, still that such have been made, and to great extent, we are aware, having under our own inspection reduced many thousands, and having received a report from our contractors to the effect that the weekly expenditure in out-door relief has been lately reduced in value 300% at least; the issue from one depôt being only 10½ tons which used to be 19.

A great effort appears to be making by the people in preparing to sow the land, and from what we can learn a much greater breadth will be put under cultivation this year than was last.

Mr. R. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 29, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that everything in this district is going on satisfactorily. The relieving officers, generally speaking, appear to be performing their duties well.

The appearance of the people has considerably improved, far beyond what I ever expected; and in the town of Belmullet for the last month I have seen comparatively speaking, but few beggars, although the Vagrant Act never has been enforced, there being no magistrates within 26 Irish miles. The town is likewise pretty free from disease.

The labour test has been found most valuable in the Bangor district, where 90 men were returned for work only about 20 attended. At Curlough (Belmullet division), where upwards of 200 men were originally returned for work, the attendance has not on an average exceeded 40 each day. The attendance at the other depôts has been pretty much in the same proportion, except Geesula (Belmullet division) and Aughleam (Binghamstown division), in the neighbourhood of which places there is little or nothing doing in the way of cultivating the land. In the other portions of the district great preparation is making for sowing potatoes and green crops on a large scale.

Great difficulty has been experienced in keeping the auxiliary workhouse in anything like proper order, there being I may say no master or matron for the last month owing to the illness of Mr. Rogers (who is slowly recovering), and Mrs. Rogers being occupied up to the last few days exclusively attending him; but, I am sorry to say, that on visiting the house yesterday I found her very unwell, and the doctor informed me she had fever. I immediately requested he would take steps to have her removed, which he promised to do.

The oven at the auxiliary workhouse is, I may say, finished, and I have requested the Guardians to take steps to have it made available. The other works are likewise in a forward state, and, I hope, in a few weeks we shall be able to provide shelter for most of those who are houseless.

A great deal of my time has been occupied with the schools, between the distribution of clothes and removing the children who are receiving relief under the Poor Law from the school lists, as I did not consider it desirable this system of double relief should be continued any longer; at the same time I must remark by so doing the school lists will be reduced from 4500 to about 1000. I thought it preferable to remove the children from the school relief rather than the Poor Law, in order to prevent confusion hereafter.

MACROOM UNION.

Mr. BRANDLING to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 5, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived at the Macroon Union on the 4th of March, and attended a meeting of the Poor Law Guardians on that day.

It appears from the statements of the clerk that the Guardians have about 1300*l.* in the hands of the Treasurer, which sum is the balance of a rate struck on the 24th July, 1847; and that about 1300*l.* of this rate is still uncollected.

The Guardians are preparing to strike another rate, which will be the second within twelve months, and the chairman has requested me to state to the Poor Law Commissioners that as the two rates, when taken together, amount in all cases, excepting the electoral divisions of Aglish, Cannavee, Magourney, Matchy, and Ovens, to 3*s.* in the pound; and as these sums will be only sufficient for the maintenance of the poor without repaying any of the money advanced by Government under the Temporary Relief Act, he requests, in the name of the Macroon Board of Guardians, that the repayment of the Government loan may be put off till after the harvest, when a rate can be struck and collected for that purpose. I must beg that an immediate answer be sent on this subject, as the matter is to be finally arranged at a meeting of the Poor Law Guardians on Saturday next the 11th of March.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing.

Electoral Divisions.	Sums Due by each Division for Advances under Temporary Relief Act, for which Repayment is required.	Rate per Pound in each Division which such Repayment would require to be Levied.	Rates Struck and Resolved on since Advances were first made.		Total of Two Rates Signed and Resolved on since July, 1847.
			Rate Struck on 24th July and 7th August, 1847, and Signed.	Rate Resolved on on 8th Jan., 1848.	
	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Macroon . . .	833 7 3	2 0	1 9	1 3	3 0
Ballyvourney . . .	822 0 0	2 10½	1 9	1 3	3 0
Clondrohid . . .	1,414 0 0	2 10½	1 9	1 3	3 0
Kilnamartyr . . .	523 8 6	2 6	1 6	1 6	3 0
Kilcorney . . .	447 0 0	2 10½	1 9	1 3	3 0
Macloneigh . . .	442 0 0	2 10½	2 6	0 6	3 0
Kilmurry [. . .	932 19 0	2 6	1 6	1 6	3 0
Aglish . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	0 5	0 5
Aghina . . .	639 0 2	2 2½	1 3	1 9	3 0
Ahabullogue . . .	1,155 0 0	2 10½	1 6	1 6	3 0
Donoughmore . . .	1,248 9 6	2 5	1 6	1 3	3 0
Cannavee . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	0 5	0 5
Magourney . . .	431 2 3	1 7½	1 3	0 10	2 1
Matchy . . .	553 0 0	2 1½	1 0	0 10	1 10
Ovens . . .	160 10 6	0 9½	1 0	0 5	1 5
Eveleary . . .	545 0 0	2 10½	4 0	. .	4 0
Union at large . . .	24 0 0	. .	. .	. .	. .
Total . . .	10,179 17 2	. .	. .	. .	. .

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 10, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to inform you that they are not authorized to sanction the making of a rate of less than 3*s.* in the pound, on any electoral division in which the sum required for ordinary expenditure, in addition to defraying the sum due to Government, would equal or exceed that amount.

It is not required, however, in any case in which the amount for expenditure under the Poor Relief Acts will be less than 3*s.* in the pound that the rate for both purposes should exceed this amount; nor is it necessary where a rate of such amount is requisite for ordinary expenditure that any addition should now be made for repayment of the advances from the Relief Commissioners.

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The Commissioners therefore request that you will inform the Guardians accordingly, and have the books for the new rate proceeded with as speedily as possible, ready for the insertion of the amount of new rate when agreed upon by the Guardians.

Mr. BRANDLING to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

WITH reference to the circular of March 2, 1848, I beg to state, that it will be impossible for the Macroon Board of Guardians to suspend at the present time all the relief to the able-bodied poor without increasing the distress in this district to an alarming extent. The relieving officers are preparing to strike off about 2000 from their lists, which plan will be carried out before the 18th of March; and there is every reason to suppose that an extensive reduction will take place from that date.

Since my appointment, I have received every assistance from the Macroon Guardians, who have met my suggestions with perfect good feeling.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 13th instant, relating to the proposed revocation of the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied poor persons in the Macroon Union, and I am to state that the Commissioners will be glad to receive a further report from you on this point, in about a fortnight from this time.

I am at the same time, to request that you will have the goodness to report, if you think that an order authorizing the Guardians to afford out-door relief to able-bodied persons, with the exception of single men, and men having but two children, could then be issued.

Mr. BRANDLING to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 15, 1848.*

SINCE my arrival at Macroon as the inspecting officer to the Union, I have discovered some irregularities in the management of the poor-house books, which are to be attributed to the sickness and various changes of the officers of the establishment.

In the first place, the number of paupers actually in the house is less than the number in the register, there being a difference of about 20. This is owing to the discharges of the paupers not having been regularly entered as they left the poor-house. I thought the best plan for rectifying these errors was, to have the paupers assembled in one of the yards, and their names called over, which has been done, much to the satisfaction of the Guardians; and in my opinion, after another investigation, we shall completely succeed in correcting the books.

The number of paupers at present receiving out-door relief amounts to about 10,000; but I am in hopes that there will be a great reduction when the test of stone-breaking is applied to the able-bodied. I have written an application, through the Poor Law Commissioners, for 1000 stone-hammers to be given from the stores of the Board of Works; but there has not been any answer to my communication.

The medical officer informs me that the paupers in the workhouse are improving in health. There are about 50 in the fever hospital; but out of these one-half the cases are dysentery, which disease has been very fatal in this part of the country.

The Guardians are to meet at the poor-house to-morrow for the purpose of preparing a new rate, which is to provide funds for the poor-house and the out-door relief till after the harvest. This rate, when added to the one struck in August, 1847, will, in all cases (except in the five most wealthy electoral divisions), amount to 3s. in the pound; and I do not anticipate much resistance in the collection.

There are only three collectors in this large Union of 16 electoral divisions, and these men receive but 4d. in the pound for collecting. To these circumstances I attribute the non-payment of part of the arrears now due. This subject is to be considered at the next meeting of the Guardians; and there is every

prospect of an increase to the number of collectors, and an addition to the percentage for collecting. Macroon Union.

I have recommended establishing local committees of the highest rate-payers in the electoral divisions, for the purpose of scrutinizing the relieving officers' lists, which I think will be acted on in all districts.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 10th instant, relating to the Macroon Union, in which you state that you have recommended the establishment of local committees of the highest rate-payers in each electoral division, for the purpose of scrutinizing the relieving officers' lists.

In reference thereto I am to state, that it should be distinctly understood that the course proposed, if entered upon, must not interfere with the duties of the relieving officers, or the functions of the Guardians, whose duty it is to determine in each case, whether any and what relief shall be given; and the rate-payers should only furnish the Guardians with information for the purpose of assisting them in the discharge of this duty.

The Commissioners have given directions for the renewal till the 18th instant, of the order authorizing out-door relief to destitute able-bodied persons in the Union, and the Commissioners request that you will have the goodness to report to them in the mean time, in accordance with their circular letter of the 2nd instant.

Mr. BRANDLING to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 19, 1848.*

ON the 18th instant there was a meeting of the Poor Law Guardians of the Macroon Union, for the purpose of striking a rate which is to support the poor till after the harvest, and to repay a large portion of the 10,479*l.*, the sum advanced by the Relief Commissioners, as a loan under the Temporary Relief Act. The following are the names of the electoral divisions, and the rate for which the books are signed:—Macroon, 3*s.* in the pound; Ballyvoerney, 3*s.*; Clondrohid, 3*s.*; Kilnamartyr, 3*s.*; Kilcorney, 3*s.*; Kilmurry, 3*s.*; Ahabullogue, 3*s.*; Donoughmore, 3*s.*; Macloneigh, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Aghina, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Matehy, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Eveleary, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Ovens, 1*s.* 6*d.*; Magourney, 1*s.* 6*d.*; Aglish, 5*d.*; and Canaree, 5*d.* This rate, when collected, ought to produce a sum of 11,700*l.* The Guardians have adhered strictly to the directions received from the Poor Law Commissioners, and as the treasurer to the Union has but 1100*l.* in his hands, the collectors have orders to proceed in the collection without delay.

In the place of the three old collectors, 16 new ones have been appointed (one for each of the electoral divisions). This will greatly expedite their business, as the former districts were too large.

The relieving officers have reduced their lists of able-bodied paupers, and I think that by the 25th of this month the number will not exceed 2000. I fear that for the present a greater reduction than this cannot be effected, as a part of the Union is wretchedly poor, and the farmers are not able to employ their usual complement of labourers.

Local committees, consisting of the highest rate-payers, have been established throughout the Union. I have explained to these gentlemen that they have not any control over the relieving officers or their lists, but that any useful suggestions or exposition of abuses will be thankfully received by the Guardians.

Mr. BRANDLING to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 26, 1848.*

AT a meeting of the Poor Law Guardians on Tuesday the 21st instant, the rate-books were signed for all the electoral divisions (except Eveleary, which is

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to be signed on the 2nd of April), and as extra collectors have been appointed, the collection of the rate will be proceeded with immediately. It is the opinion of the chairman (Mr. Nettles), that before the end of August this Union will be able to repay about 4000*l.* of the 10,479*l.* advanced by the Relief Commissioners in 1847, and that the surplus will be ample for the poorhouse and out-door relief till after the harvest.

I am sorry to report that the relieving officers' books and accounts have been in a very imperfect state; this has obliged me to warn these officers that all will be removed from their situations whose books and accounts are not completed by Tuesday next the 28th instant, which is the day appointed by the Guardians for revising and scrutinizing all papers relating to out-door relief.

The Guardians and rate-payers appear anxious to keep down the expenditure. These gentlemen have local meetings in the electoral divisions, which have been useful in exposing abuses.

There was a strong complaint urged against the relieving officer in the Ballyvourney electoral division, to the effect that he had allowed two children belonging to the district to starve. After careful investigation I found that these unfortunate creatures had actually perished from starvation, but that their father (a strong able man), had been offered work by which he could have earned upwards of one shilling per diem; notwithstanding this the man refused the employment and witnessed the death of his infants without making an exertion.

The Board of Guardians are anxious to put some working test to the able-bodied women receiving out-door relief; they have requested me to write on this subject to the Poor Law Commissioners, and to state in my correspondence that stone-breaking is the only work they can suggest. I think that there is a great objection to this plan, as it would tend to demoralize the females and take them from their natural avocations.

I am making arrangements for supplying the able-bodied women in the poorhouse with work in constructing fishing-nets. At present there is a good net maker in the poorhouse who will be able to superintend the netting.

The Guardians are going to have the names of the paupers who are on the out-door relief, printed and posted in various parts of the Union. This I think will be a very efficient mode of checking imposition.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 1, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement connected with the deaths of two children from starvation I am to state that the parent should have been prosecuted under the 2nd section of the Act 10 and 11 Vict. cap. 84, for having wilfully neglected to maintain the children, and the children should have been taken into the workhouse.

Mr. BRANDLING to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of an order which empowers the Macroon Board of Guardians to grant out-door relief to the able-bodied till the 1st of April, 1848; I am convinced that this order must be extended in the electoral divisions of Eveleary, Kilnamartyr, Clondrohid, Kilcorney, Ahabullogue, and Donoughmore, as they are very poor districts.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 29, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 27th instant, and I am to state in reply, that the Commissioners have given directions for the renewal of the order authorizing out-door relief in the Macroon Union for one fortnight. This order is applicable to the whole Union.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners have received a report from their Inspector, Mr. Crawford, in which he states that he is of opinion that an order similar to an order issued in the Listowel Union, may be substituted for the order at present in force in the Macroon Union.

The Commissioners request that they may be furnished with your observations on the subject, previous to acting on the recommendation of Mr. Crawford.

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Mr. BRANDLING to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 2, 1848.*

SINCE my last report I have received an order which empowers the Macroon Guardians to give out-door relief to the able-bodied labourers till the 15th of this month. I am required by the Commissioners to report on the expediency of applying that part of the Listowel order which includes single able-bodied labourers and labourers having but two children dependent on them for support, to the Macroon Union. As out-door relief to some few of the able-bodied will be absolutely necessary in a portion of this district after the 15th instant, I think from that date it will be as well to omit single able-bodied labourers, and able-bodied labourers having but two children, in the Macroon Orders which emanate from the Poor Law Commissioners' office in Dublin.

The funds at the disposal of the Macroon Guardians are nearly exhausted; but as the new rate has been prepared, and the collectors appointed, the Guardians do not anticipate any want of money. The collectors are to attend at the poorhouse on Tuesday, the 4th. I will then take the opportunity of inciting them to activity and determination in the execution of their duties.

During the last month great improvements have taken place in the interior economy of the poorhouse. The male paupers are now employed in planting potatoes, forming gravel walks, breaking stones, &c. &c.; and the females are making up large quantities of wearing apparel and bedding which are required for the use of the establishment.

The master has been sent to Cork, where he is going to prosecute some people for purloining sheets from the poorhouse. I think this example will be of service in putting a stop to a system of petty thefts which has been going on in the poorhouse.

The relieving officer's accounts have been made up and forwarded to the Commissioners.

Mr Hinds, the Government agricultural lecturer, is preparing to deliver some dissertations in Macroon on the improvement of lands. These suggestions if acted on must do an infinity of good, as most of the farms in the neighbourhood are in a shocking state.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 10, 1848.*

WITH reference to your report of the 2nd instant, on the subject of the extension of the order authorizing out-door relief in the Macroon Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have given directions for the issue of an order authorizing the Board of Guardians to continue relief to the several classes, with the exception of the able-bodied single men, and men having but two children dependent on them.

Mr. BRANDLING to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 9, 1848.*

I HAVE not anything of an extraordinary nature to report in this week's letter as the surrounding country is in a very quiet state, and the collectors are commencing with apparent success to levy the rates in several parts of the Union.

The Guardians are so well satisfied with the circumstances of the poorhouse, that they propose meeting but one day in the week, instead of the two regular meetings they have held up to the present date.

The out-door relief lists have been reduced within the last fourteen days by about two thousand applicants. The number given in by the relieving officers as persons relieved during the past week did not exceed 6800, and I think that there will be another large reduction before the 15th instant.

I fear that some of the relieving officers are not sufficiently remunerated for their work, as two of them, who have the worst districts in the Union, viz., Eveleary and Clondrohid, have but 25% per annum. I expostulated on this subject

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with the Guardians at their weekly meeting of the 8th instant, but I am sorry to say with little or no effect.

The inmates of the poorhouse are generally very healthy, and there is a daily reduction in the fever and dysentery cases.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April* 12, 1848.

I AM to request that you will be good enough to bring the subject of the relieving officer's salaries again under the notice of the Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners are desirous that the relieving officers should be fairly remunerated for the discharge of their important duties; and they think that salaries not less than 30*l.* per annum should be allowed to the relieving officers referred to in your report.

LISTOWEL UNION.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I attended the ordinary meeting of the Guardians yesterday. On the letter being read, dated the 31st ultimo, requesting the Board to make arrangements for having the rations wetted before being issued, a discussion took place upon the subject, and whilst the value of the principle upon which the recommendation was made was conceded, objections were urged against it on account of the expense attending the same, arising from the additional staff and numerous dépôts that would be required, considering that there are above 22,000 persons to feed, and that the food must (if wetted meal) be *issued daily*, or it would turn sour. It was argued subsequently by Mr. Crosbie, of Ardfert Abbey, high sheriff for the county, on a motion made to appoint local committees, that, with the experience of the abuses under the Relief Act of last year before them, no person could reasonably suppose that relief on so extended a scale, to be given in daily issues, with the labour-test to accompany it, could be efficiently carried out, and that abuses could be checked without a most extensive staff; or that this system of relief with labour could at all be properly worked and controlled by one central Board for the whole of this large Union, when a body of gentlemen like the Relief Committees for each electoral division, possessing every local knowledge, failed entirely to do so in respect of the former relief measures.

I must leave these arguments for the Commissioners' consideration, and have only to remark, that it is true the present relieving officers could not possibly accomplish the issue of daily rations, and fulfil their present instructions. Their districts are large, and they now take two, and some of them three, days to issue the food for the week. The other days of the week are occupied with their accounts, and in coming to Listowel to have them examined by the clerk (Wednesday), and to attend the Board of Guardians with their Application and Report Book (Thursday), besides having to visit the houses of all the new applicants for relief, to receive the supplies, and to look after the dépôts.

If the Poor Law Commissioners will be so good as to afford me their directions on the subject, after the objections urged by the Guardians have been considered, I will see them fulfilled as strictly and as soon as possible; for it would be advisable that no time should be lost, or the additional month granted for the continuance of the out-door relief will have elapsed before the necessary steps have been taken, and such additional staff be organized as the Commissioners may determine to be needful. As regards the additional staff, I take the liberty to suggest that one or more confidential clerks would be required in each of the present relief districts to superintend the daily issue of the rations at those places and on those days on which the relieving officer's duties call him elsewhere. This clerk to be provided with a duplicate of the relief list. Paupers could assist to wet and weigh out the meal. Large tubs with measures to be provided at each dépôt.

I submitted a resolution, that was agreed to, directing the collectors to serve notices agreeably to the 6th and 7th Vic., cap. 92, sec. 2, on all immediate lessors whose rates have not been paid; and to take such legal steps as may be necessary for the immediate recovery of same.

It was resolved to request the Commissioners to authorize the Board to rent land to the extent of 15 acres, in accordance with the provisions of Act 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 56, sec. 35, and of the Poor Law Extension Act, sec. 20.

Upon this considerable discussion took place, and much stress was laid on the great advantage of establishing, by means of the poor-houses, agricultural schools to improve the industrial habits of the inmates, to be the means of diffusing the knowledge thus acquired for the future benefit of the country. I would strongly recommend this measure to the favourable attention of the Poor Law Commissioners, if compatible with their views. I am glad to have this proof to record of increased attention of the Board of Guardians to the future interests of the Union, which the Commissioners will perceive has been shown in many other matters of late.

Listowel Union.

The Guardian from the Ballybunnion electoral division presented a list of 62 names found to be illegally on the relieving officer's books, and receiving relief, and they were struck off.

The Workhouse Extension Committee reported the hired buildings (with the exception of one portion yet found damp) ready to receive the girls of the workhouse school, to the number of 130, and they were ordered to be removed thither on Monday next accordingly, which will afford further opportunity of applying the workhouse test.

This test, I am glad to have to report, is found to work well here. During the last five days 90 persons have quitted the house who had but a few days previous entered on tickets of admission given by the relieving officers.

Miss Nolan, the schoolmistress (a most valuable, steady person), applied for an advance of salary. She had heretofore only 8*l.* a-year! The Board readily agreed to advance it to 15*l.* in consideration of her increase of duties and responsibility at the new building, as well as an act of justice she deserved long since; and I trust the Commissioners will be pleased to sanction it.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 8, 1848.*

IN reference to the objections of the Guardians to the issue of meal in a steeped state, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they have already made a concession to the Guardians in not insisting that the food should be invariably cooked, and that its issue in such a state is contrary to the views of the Commissioners, who cannot doubt that with proper energy and arrangement on the part of the Guardians, a system of relief to the able-bodied in cooked food might be carried on throughout the Union.

With regard to the meal being steeped, the Commissioners desire to state that they consider this to be essential, and they request you to insist upon it.

As to the statement, that the system suggested by the Commissioners could not be carried out with the present staff of relieving officers, the Commissioners have to observe that they will readily sanction any reasonable increase in the number of relieving officers; and they request you to report to the Commissioners what increase will, in your opinion, become necessary.

In regard to any objections arising from the alleged expense, the Commissioners think that such objections are founded on misapprehension, and may easily be met by you. The object of the staff of relieving officers, of the exaction of labour, and of requiring the food to be steeped, is, that while under such a system persons really destitute will undoubtedly accept relief rather than starve, yet that the relief will not be in itself attractive, and will not induce able-bodied to come upon the Union funds who are able to obtain a subsistence by working for private employers of labour. Hence objections founded on the expensiveness of this system are far more than counterbalanced by the consideration that if the system is properly carried out it deters improper applicants from becoming a burden to the honest and industrious rate-payers of the Union.

FURTHER LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to Captain SPARK :—

February 10, 1848.

WITH reference to that part of your report of the 4th instant, in which you state that the Board of Guardians of Listowel Union are desirous of taking land, with the view of raising crops for the use of the house, and employing the able-bodied labourers in cultivating it, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they deem it undesirable that able-bodied paupers should be employed in the cultivation of land for the Guardians. Any arrangement founded on such a proposition would materially weaken the efficacy of a workhouse as a test of destitution, and would render it, in some respects, even an object of attraction.

The Commissioners have no objection to the Guardians hiring as much land as may be necessary to teach the children to labour, if any additional quantity is necessary for this purpose.

The Commissioners desire to assure you that the principles of workhouse management at present in force, are the deductions from long and extensive experience; and they are anxious that you should not, either directly or indirectly, give your countenance to any project at variance with them.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain SPARK :—*February 8, 1848.*

Listowel Union.

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the statement contained in your abstract report of business for the week ending the 5th instant, viz., that you "have visited various schools crowded to suffocation on account of the relief afforded by the British Association."

In reference thereto I am to state, that the Commissioners do not interfere with the arrangements under which the school relief is administered; but they presume that it is not allowed to cause any accession of numbers merely to receive the daily allowance of food, without being duly enrolled school attendants.

As the school relief may in some measure interfere with, and lead to the abuse of out-door relief under the law, the Commissioners request to be informed whether due care is taken by the relieving officers to ascertain whether the children on their books, are receiving allowances at the schools, as in such cases, deductions should be made from the relieving officers' issues on account of such children.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply :—*February 13, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter, dated the 8th instant, I have the honour to state that the object of my journey in that distressed district, besides seeing into the labour performed by able-bodied paupers receiving out-door relief, was to look into the management of the relief afforded the schools by the British Association, as that was only the second day of its distribution, in order to prevent it being given to more than the scholars duly enrolled, and that the number was limited to as many as could be conveniently accommodated for the purpose of education.

Crowds of the poor creatures naturally rushed to the schools on its being understood that a meal was to be given to those who attended, and I took steps with the Rev. Mr. M'Carthy, the manager of these schools, to have the numbers reduced accordingly.

I beg to state that the relieving officers have my orders to deduct the amount of provisions the children so obtain from the amount they would be entitled to as belonging to destitute families on their lists. It will be my endeavour to see that the Commissioners' directions are fulfilled in these respects as closely as is possible.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 12, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners that on the 9th instant I attended an adjourned meeting, since the 4th instant, of the Finance Committee of the Guardians, to make inquiry into the financial state of the Union, and particularly the accounts.

The master had been in the habit of obtaining supplies of articles and of getting work executed without the orders of the Board, and had also obtained on some of such orders articles of considerable extravagance, such as looking-glasses, muslin for curtains, and feathers of the best kind for porter's bed. The supply of the milk has been had by the master from the contractor on his requisition, without Board orders being first obtained, but which were afterwards sent to him. Many of the accounts sent in were found to contain exorbitant charges, and payment of the same was postponed by the Committee that a reduction might be made; all this is the result of the long-continued neglect of the Guardians, to remedy which they are now, with myself, taking active steps; and I am happy to have to state this co-operation on their part.

The Committee's report was read, and approved of by the Board of Guardians at their meeting yesterday, and is inserted on the minutes, to which I beg to refer.

At the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday I communicated my receipt of the Poor Law Commissioners' letter of the 8th instant, setting forth their views and directions as regards the issue of cooked or steeped meal to the paupers receiving out-door relief; and I did not fail, in accordance therewith, firmly to impress upon the Board the necessity that immediate steps should be taken to carry them out, and, in fact, to insist upon its being done.

Listowel Union.

For some time past, and up to the period of the meeting I am reporting upon, the utmost harmony prevailed amongst the Guardians in a desire to act energetically, both individually and as a body, to reduce the numbers of the able-bodied paupers on out-door relief, and to adopt every means suggested for that end; but upon the Commissioners' views as to the distribution of cooked or wetted food being thus urged upon them a total change appeared to take place in the minds of a great majority, and more particularly did this show itself among the most intelligent and influential of the members, and I regret to have to state this to the Commissioners, for the anticipation I had indulged in, mentioned in my first report after the meeting of the Board on the 18th of November last, was being realized, that I should soon be able to bring, through the good feeling and aid of its members, the affairs of the Union into a greatly improved state.

They appeared to take deep offence that such an endeavour should be made to coerce them into the adoption of a measure they seem to have a firm conviction cannot be carried out with any probable good effect. They carried a strong resolution against it almost unanimously. They take their stand upon the reasons given in their last letter upon this matter, ordered to be addressed by the clerk to the Poor Law Commissioners on the 3rd instant, as founded on their experience gained during their arduous labours under the Temporary Relief Act. They conceive they would only be lending themselves to a practical delusion of the Commissioners if they attempted it; and above all that the necessity for serving daily rations to the able-bodied would injuriously interfere with the more valuable labour-test, which they had determined on strictly enforcing by every means in their power.

They came to the resolution of striking off the relieving officers' list all single able-bodied men above the age of 18 years, upon the ground that, as the weather had become open, work could be found by such persons. A legal objection was made to the effect that under the Commissioners' sealed order, none of the able-bodied destitute could be excluded by the Board. I participate in this opinion; and if I am wrong I shall be glad to be instructed on the point. Many of the rural Guardians insisted that no work would be offered to these people by the farmers until the middle of next month.

I have to report that last night Mr. Lloyd, Poor Law Inspector, arrived at Listowel, and I had immediately after a conference with that gentleman on the state of the Union, and on the probable working of the system of out-door relief with cooked or steeped food; and afterwards I visited with him the auxiliary establishment occupied by the pauper children, amounting to 148 boys and 136 girls, who were all well placed in the premises, and then proceeded to examine the workhouse throughout.

P.S.—Upon consideration of the latter part of the Commissioners' letter to me of the 8th instant, where it is stated that the objections made by the Guardians may be easily met by me, and the object of the staff of relieving officers, of the exaction of labour, and of requiring the food to be cooked or steeped, is urged upon my attention, I beg to repeat here in substance what I have stated on the reference paper dated the 8th February, attached to the minutes of the Board's meeting of the 3rd instant, that I am well aware of, and am convinced, from my own experience when Inspector under the Temporary Relief Act, of the wisdom of the system alluded to, and the necessity for its adoption in the administration of out-door relief; and notwithstanding that I have honestly stated some objections in the way of its being so readily carried out in this large Union as the Commissioners desire, I am using, and have used, my best endeavours to get it established in spite of the strong objections and opposition offered by the Board of Guardians; and I trust the Commissioners will not do me the injustice to suppose me to want zeal in this matter to enforce their views, and to insist upon their directions being complied with.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February* 15, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to enclose for your information a copy of a letter which they have this day addressed to the Board of Guardians on the subject of the administration of relief in cooked food.

ENCLOSURES.

Listowel Union.

I.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of LISTOWEL UNION :—*February 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your letter of the 8th instant, in which you state the objections of the Board of Guardians of Listowel to the issue of cooked or wet meal to the able-bodied receiving out-door relief in Listowel Union.

In reference thereto I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they have fully weighed the reasons urged by the Board of Guardians of Listowel Union against the use of cooked food; but the Commissioners still adhere to the opinion that the food distributed to destitute able-bodied men should be cooked, and the Commissioners request the Guardians to refer to the order under which the Guardians are now relieving able-bodied men in their Union, and it will be perceived that relief otherwise than in cooked food, where the system is practicable, is absolutely illegal.

In regard to the advantages of cooked food, and on the practicability of giving relief with it, the Commissioners desire to call attention to the following extract from a report to the Relief Commission by Mr. Bromley, the accountant of that Commission, who framed his report on reports received from nearly 2000 Relief Committees:—

II.

“The almost universal opinion given by the Committees is in favour of cooked food in preference to raw meal. A strong feeling was at first excited against its adoption in most parts of Ireland, not so much from the destitute as from members of Committees, chiefly, as reported, ‘that they might be relieved from trouble.’

“The result however has proved its great advantage; diarrhoea and dysentery were stayed by it, and a great improvement was rapidly manifested through its agency in the general appearance of the people; it was found to be the most nutritious, the best test of destitution, and the most economical.

“The saving of fuel to the people was a great desideratum; for that reason alone it was much preferred to the ‘steeped meal,’ in which state it was required to be issued, if not cooked, to prevent, if possible, its sale. The really destitute very soon became sensible of its benefits to them; and many persons whose names were on the relief lists did not apply and take their rations because they did not consist of raw meal.

“The advantage of cooked food as a test of destitution may be shown by two electoral divisions alike in circumstances, in which the proportion of population receiving relief were:—

“ Cooked food	36 per cent.
“ Uncooked food	58½ per cent.

“In one Union, Dunfanaghy, the medical men report that the people were never so healthy as since the use of cooked food.

“The usual proportion for the one pound weight of raw or uncooked ration was one-third rice and two-thirds Indian meal, which being cooked with water as ‘stirabout,’ swelled into a ration from three to five pounds in weight, which mixture was pronounced as beneficial to health.

“Notwithstanding all these advantages, strange to say, that in many Unions, cooked food was not generally adopted until the issue of a peremptory order for its use, and the Government Inspector had even been subject to threats of personal violence, and conflict with members of committees, in urging its adoption.

“The soup originally issued before the ‘stirabout’ was brought into use is reported to have been highly obnoxious to the people; and in Clare it was found necessary to discontinue it.

“It is now admitted that had the system of cooked food been generally adopted at first much expense would have been saved; and it is strongly urged as the means of out-door relief on any future occasion.

“In one Union, Macroom, a committee reports, that they were indisposed to the Relief Act before it came into operation, but have now great satisfaction in bearing testimony to its efficiency and economy; had they not witnessed it themselves they could scarcely have conceived it possible that such a change for the better could have been brought about in the health and appearance of the poor in so short a time, and at comparatively so small an expense.

“The strength of the labouring man does not appear to have been reduced, as the usual agricultural labour task has lately been performed with the usual spirit and ability. In consequence also from the use of cooked food, it is reported that fever has been less fatal, and dysentery has disappeared.

“Robinson’s steam cooking apparatus appears to have effected a great saving of fuel, and succeeded admirably.

“The women and children in particular much preferred cooked food, for it invariably secured to them their rations; not giving to a selfish husband or father the power of selling it, as was too often the case with raw meal.”

Listowel Union.

From this passage it will be seen that there are decided reasons why the Guardians should introduce cooked food, and the Commissioners request the Guardians to make arrangements accordingly to carry out the views of the Commissioners on this important subject.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain SPARK:—*February 16, 1848.*

WITH reference to your report of the 12th instant on the affairs of Listowel Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they have received the report of the Finance Committee to which you refer with much regret; they trust, however, that the steps you are taking in conjunction with the Board of Guardians will have the effect of stopping such irregular proceedings, and establishing a more correct course for the future. The Commissioners have the report of the Finance Committee under consideration, and will address the Guardians upon the subject.

In regard to the opinion expressed by you with reference to the determination of the Board, that all single able-bodied men above the age of 18 years be struck off the relief lists, I am to state that the Commissioners presume that the Guardians would not adopt any such measure without previously assuring themselves that, in the present state of the Union, no single able-bodied man above 18 years of age is really unable to find employment, as otherwise the striking them off the lists would be clearly illegal, inasmuch as it is the duty of the Guardians to give relief to all persons in the Union who are really destitute.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 12, 1848.*

IN obedience to directions of the Commissioners, to report fully the circumstances which induced me to recommend to the Board of Guardians the dismissal of the relieving officer (Mr. Cooke) of the Kilmoily district, I beg to state that that officer was accused by a deputation of rate-payers from that electoral division of having placed persons on his Application and Report Book on the recommendation of individual rate-payers, without ever visiting their houses or examining himself into their circumstances, agreeably to his instructions. On being examined by the Board, as is recorded on the minutes of its proceedings on the 3rd instant, this man acknowledged the accusation to be true; and I recommended his dismissal, feeling the necessity for some such example of punishment to deter others from being guilty of a like neglect of duty in violation of the instructions.

I consider such a person far from competent to fulfil the duties of a relieving officer, even if he were very well qualified in every other respect, which is not the case in this instance.

And at the same time I would call the Commissioners' particular notice to the conduct of the master, Mr. Dillon, in reference to the supplies, and the work he has had executed for the workhouse without written orders, and to the great extravagance of several of the supplies he has obtained with such orders, as shown in the report of the Finance Committee laid before the Guardians at their last meeting on the 10th instant. This practice, it is true, had long obtained previous to Mr. Dillon's appointment, and was the fruit of that neglect of the Guardians to attend to matters of expenditure in this Union, which I believe to have been the cause of much of its present embarrassment.

This meeting and report of the Committee will, I hope, be satisfactory evidence that my efforts to bring about an amended state of things in the management of the Union's affairs, and in particular in matters of expenditure, have not been without good effect.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. COOKE, Relieving Officer:—*February 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have received a report from their Inspector, Captain Spark, in which he states that you were accused by a deputation of rate-payers of having placed persons on your Application and Report Book on the recommendation of individual rate-payers, without ever visiting their houses, or examining yourself into their

circumstances, agreeably to your instructions; and that on being examined by the Board you acknowledged the accusation to be true.

Listowel Union.

In reference thereto, I am to state, that under the circumstances of the case, and considering the very peculiar situation of the Union, the Commissioners deem it undesirable that you should continue relieving officer of the Union; and the Commissioners request you to forward your resignation to this office.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS:—*February 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state for the information of the Board of Guardians of Listowel Union, that they have received a report from Captain Spark, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, in which he states that the relieving officer of the Kilmoily district admitted that the charge preferred against him of having improperly placed persons on the relief lists was true; and in reference thereto, I am to state, that under the circumstances of the case, and considering the very peculiar situation of the Union, the Commissioners deem it undesirable that he should continue relieving officer of the Union, and they have accordingly called upon him to forward his resignation to this office.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 18, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I yesterday attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians. On the letter being read, dated the 15th instant, in reply to the Board's objections to the daily distribution of cooked or steeped food, and requiring that arrangements should be made to carry out the views of the Commissioners, I again very earnestly enforced these views, and repeated arguments I had before used, grounded on my own experience of the advantages of distributing meal in a cooked state.

I have the satisfaction to report that thereupon the Board passed a resolution stating, "That with a view of complying with the request of the Commissioners, the Board will, at their next meeting, cheerfully entertain and act on any practical proposition for the adoption of cooked food that may be submitted to them by the Commissioners or their Inspector."

By a *practical* proposition, the Guardians mean one that will not be liable to great abuse in the working—a point difficult to avoid, nor interfere with the labour test.

I had carefully read over and considered the extract from the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union on this subject. I stated to the Board that I would endeavour to lay before it at their next meeting a plan in detail, to which I hoped to have their hearty concurrence, with the object of carrying out the Commissioners' intentions as soon as possible; and if the Commissioners see no objection I will endeavour to form one founded on the measure set forth by the Vice-Guardians above mentioned. The document alluded to I find is marked "Confidential."

A revisor and valuator of the Union, and an assistant matron, were ordered to be advertised for. The first at a maximum remuneration of 100*l.*, and the latter to receive 15*l.* per annum salary.

I suggested a further change in the dietary with the sanction of the medical officer, who stated to the Board that it would be equally nutritious to substitute one pint of gruel for breakfast instead of half a pint of milk, my object being a great saving of expense under this head. Milk for the infirmary and work-house costs the Union about 32*l.* per week.

A petition to Parliament praying for the introduction of a measure to limit the area of taxation in the Union was introduced without notice of his intention by Mr. Crosbie, of Ardfert Abbey, High Sheriff, which being read was adopted unanimously; and the clerk received directions to transmit copies of the same to the county members, and to Lord Kenmare. This is a matter on which the Commissioners have given their decision, and I know not whether it be within the functions of the Board of Guardians to petition Parliament, as a body constituted only under the authority of and for the purpose of carrying into effect the Poor Laws.

Listowel Union..

I beg to add that I have this week gone through a great portion of the south and western parts of the Union. I was not satisfied with the work heretofore done by the able-bodied paupers receiving out-door relief, the principal employment having been in many parts only the repair of road fences, and not stone-breaking. The want of hammers and other implements has now been supplied, and has remedied this, and the latter work will now continue to be proceeded with where practicable; but there is a great want of stone, few quarries available, and the farmers will not permit stones to be taken off their lands; they are reserving them for drainage. I have especially examined the Kilmoily district; the paupers were employed, but principally in fencing for lack of stone at present. Here, and indeed in all the western portions of the Union, a great degree of the most abject wretchedness appears among the numerous cottiers, and no sort of employment is yet afforded by the landlords and farmers. The land is in too wet a state to be worked for cropping.

I met the relieving officer of this district, Cooke, who has since been ordered by the Commissioners to resign (against whom a complaint was preferred, which he acknowledged to be just, that he had in some cases placed persons on his books upon the recommendation of individual rate-payers), and many of this class stated to me that he was most actively and satisfactorily doing his duty; and indeed I found him so doing.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 22, 1848.*

WITH regard to your statement that you will lay before the Guardians a plan in detail for the adoption of cooked food, founded on the measure set forth by the Vice-Guardians of Ballina Union, and which you observe is marked "Confidential," I am to state that you may make any use which you please of the Ballina letter, and the Commissioners will leave the matter in your hands.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 24, 1848.*

AT the meeting of the Guardians this day I brought forward the plan for labour connected with out-door relief to be given in cooked food, which I stated in my report of the 18th instant it was my intention to lay before the Board.

Mr. Lloyd, District Inspector, was present and ably aided me in urging the importance of the matter, and the advantages that would accrue to the Union by its adoption. A Committee of five members was appointed to join with me in considering the details, to report at the next meeting of the Board. I found it useless to expect the adoption of the plan *instantly*, seeing the impossibility of completing the arrangements within the period of time (the 7th March next) to which date the present order for out-door relief is limited. I readily acceded to the appointment of a Committee.

If it is not found necessary to continue the order because of the spring work that may offer, which, from present appearances and wet weather, I have some doubt about, it will be well to prepare against the distress of the population that is likely to follow for want of employment throughout the summer months, up to the gathering of the coming harvest.

The following resolution was made at my suggestion by Mr. Leonard, and agreed to:—

"That having heard the observations of Mr. Lloyd on the subject of cooked food, and Captain Spark's arguments in favour of the same, together with the plan which he has this day submitted for carrying out the Commissioners' views, it is resolved, that for the purpose of introducing cooked food generally into the several electoral divisions within the Union, the following Committee be appointed to inquire and report on the question, the Guardians being fully determined to carry out the law in the administration of out-door relief."

"Committee:—W. Sandes, Esq., Chairman; W. G. Sands, S. G. Collis, W. T. Crosbie, Esqrs.; Captain Home."

I also called the Board's attention to the necessity of a further increase of

workhouse accommodation to meet the pressure that must take place when out-door relief ceases; and I proposed that a large mill standing vacant, and capable of containing about 600 paupers, should immediately be taken for the purpose. This mill has six floors besides the ground floor; and has for dormitories six rooms each of about 54 feet in length by about 20 feet wide, and six other such rooms of about 34 feet in length, and the large ground floor for day-rooms and dining-hall, together with other portions of the building suitable for kitchens and offices. It has been for many years the subject of a law-suit just terminated. A resolution was passed to carry out the proposition, and the Workhouse Extension Committee were requested to act in this matter without delay.

On the order for the dismissal of the medical officer being read, the Board, at the suggestion of many of the friends of Dr. Rice, resolved to solicit the Commissioners to rescind their order, and permit that gentleman to send in his resignation to save him from the great injury his public dismissal must do to his professional prospects; and I would recommend that this request may have the favourable attention of the Commissioners if it is not incompatible with their view of the case.

At the suggestion of Mr. Lloyd the sum of 50*l.* was voted to be expended in the purchase of spinning-wheels, reels, flax, and wool, to give employment to the females in the workhouse, under the direction of a Visiting Committee this day appointed.

For the further proceedings I beg leave to refer to the minutes, as I am desirous to transmit this report by the first post if possible.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 26, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, reporting on the meeting of the Board of Guardians of Listowel Union on the 23rd instant.

With reference to that part of your report which relates to the removal of the medical officer of the workhouse, I am to state that on a consideration of all the circumstances of the case, the Commissioners regret to state that they do not deem it consistent with their public duty to rescind their order of the 22nd instant, removing Dr. Rice from the situation of medical officer of Listowel workhouse.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, calling my attention to the fact that out-door relief to the able-bodied in this Union will expire on the 7th instant, and requesting me to report to the Commissioners as to the necessity for renewing the order, and if so, for what period, and whether I consider any modification of the order necessary; and I am informed that the Commissioners think that if any renewal be necessary it might be advisable to renew the order until the 18th instant.

I am of opinion that it would be advisable the order should be renewed until the 18th instant, as the long continued wet weather prevents agricultural labour being offered by the farmers, and at that period we may hope a change will have dried the land and have made it more fit to be worked; but I would at once exclude from relief all single able-bodied men above eighteen years of age, and all married men having only two children.

I would not extend the order to the able-bodied in the electoral divisions of Ardfert and Abbey Dorney, where labour for all is laudibly being provided by the proprietors and farmers.

With the exception of three or four of the electoral Guardians the members of the Board do not appear to consider that any renewal of the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied will be necessary for the present.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 6, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant reporting as to the expediency of renewing the out-door

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relief order in Listowel Union, and I am to inform you that the order modified at your suggestion by the exclusion of able-bodied single men above eighteen years of age, and married men having only two children, will be issued by to-morrow night's post.

The Commissioners cannot, however, limit its application to particular electoral divisions; but if the Guardians are satisfied that there are no able-bodied men in those divisions who are destitute, it is quite competent to them to abstain from acting on the order so far as those divisions are concerned.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*March 7, 1848.*

The Commissioners have received a communication from their Inspector, Captain Spark, relative to the order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied in Listowel Union, which will expire this day.

Captain Spark is of opinion that it would be advisable to renew the order until the 18th instant; but he recommends that it should not include single able-bodied men above eighteen years of age, and married men having only two children.

The Commissioners have accordingly issued an order authorizing the administration of out-door relief to destitute poor persons, not being persons of the classes described in the first section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and not being single able-bodied men above eighteen years of age, or able-bodied married men having only two children.

From the large number of persons at present on the out-door relief lists it appears to the Commissioners that this is the most advisable course that could be adopted; and they trust that by now striking off all able-bodied men above the age of eighteen years who are either single or who being married have only two children, and by gradually reducing the lists between this period and the 18th instant, and at the same time using every means to have the largest possible amount of workhouse accommodation available for the relief of the able-bodied by that day, the administration of out-door relief under the second section of the Irish Relief Extension Act may totally cease on the 18th instant without any material inconvenience.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 3, 1848.*

IN making my weekly report I have the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that at the meeting of the Committee on the 29th ultimo, appointed to take into consideration and report upon the plan I laid before the Board of Guardians on the 24th, to establish the distribution of cooked food to the able-bodied receiving out-door relief, with a more effective system of labour, only three members assembled, who, after about an hour devoted to the matter, decided not to report upon it until it had received further consideration by a full meeting of the Committee, which is to take place on Monday next.

I have the honour to submit a copy of the labour plan, which differs from, but is modified after, that of the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union. The most important difference is in the supervision by head overseers, of which officers I recommend four instead of one to go the round of all the 21 electoral divisions, to examine and take account of the labour done by every working party in each. With this I also forward the most economical estimates of the cost attending the distribution of baked bread made from Indian corn meal, of stirabout, of wetted or steeped meal, and of raw meal.

I consider baked bread would be preferable to stirabout on account of its being so readily distributed, and the small staff it would require if done by contract; but the great expense of baking is a serious objection. The estimate is calculated at the lowest rate it can be done for here (35s. per ton, or 1s. 9d. per cwt.), which is the price I am paying to bakers for the schools that receive relief from the funds of the British Association. There is another objection, however, which is that bread could be as easily and readily sold by the pauper labourers as raw meal. The most serious objections to the issue of raw meal are, that it is coveted by persons not destitute, who, if it were cooked, would not be on the relief lists, and that it is often sold by those who are really destitute, to the great injury of their distressed families; but the people have by practice now learned

to cook it well. Bad cooking of the Indian meal heretofore induced disease, and on that account its distribution in an uncooked state was above all things to be avoided.

On Wednesday last also I attended a meeting of the Workhouse Extension Committee, at which I placed before the members of it estimates of the cost of fitting up and making ready the large mill I mentioned in my report of the 24th ultimo, which I am desirous to induce the Guardians to rent, with the Commissioners' approval, in order to extend the workhouse test, and to be prepared for the pressure that must occur when the out-door relief ceases. There appear, however, legal difficulties in the way of obtaining at present this desirable building, and no other can be had suitable to the purpose.

At the ordinary meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday the former excellent candidate, Mr. Daniel Bamfield, was unanimously voted to fill the situation of James Gallivan, the young man whose appointment as assistant master the Commissioners disapproved of. This was done upon the understanding that Mr. Bamfield fell into the position of elected candidate in consequence of the ineligibility of Mr. Gallivan, there having been only these two candidates for the office, after due advertisement. The case of Mr. Carter, relieving officer, who thus took the place of Mr. Fleming, whose appointment in November last was not approved of by the Commissioners, is precisely similar. It was done under the sanction of Mr. Hancock.

Mr. John Roche, a gentleman reputed to be very able and fit for the office, and bringing high testimonials from other Boards, was elected as valuator and revisor at a remuneration of 100*l*. Mr. Roche, however, states that the new valuation and revision of the Union will not be finished until October next. Now from the state of the funds of the Union and the liabilities, the return of which goes to the Commissioners by this post, I consider that another rate must be struck and be in the course of collection before that period, to meet the exigencies of the distressed population; and I shall bring the subject before the Guardians at their next meeting.

Mrs. Fitzelle, apparently a proper person, and well recommended, was voted to the office of assistant matron at a salary of 15*l*. per annum.

Mr. Cooke, relieving officer of the Kilmoily district, having given in his resignation in obedience to the Commissioners' directions, and the Board having again before it the deputation of ratepayers from that electoral division, inquired into the complaints made by them against the manner in which that officer had done his duty; and the deputation certainly failed to prove that they had grounds for any charge against him beyond that which he before admitted, that in a few instances he had placed persons on his list on the statements of ratepayers as to their destitution, without going as he ought to have done to their residences himself. The Board have recommended the re-instatement of this officer.

The recommendation of the Commissioners in their circular of the 25th February, to print and post the names of all recipients of relief, with the townlands to which they respectively belong, was opposed by the body of elected Guardians, on the ostensible ground that the expense would more than counterbalance the advantage likely to result from the publication, and no arguments founded on the obvious benefit of the measure, urged by some able *ex officio* Guardians and myself, were sufficient to prevail. I shall again insist on this point at the next meeting.

I called the Guardians' attention to the fact that out-door relief to the able-bodied would cease to be legal after the 7th instant, and stated my impression that in consequence of the wet state of the land but little employment could as yet be given by the farmers; but there appeared no disposition, except on the part of two or three of the elected Guardians, to request a prolongation of the order, lest it should prevent the farmers from obtaining that assistance in their labours, when the weather may change, which the backwardness of the season for sowing and planting must occasion them to require.

The people generally will not work so long as they can obtain food without it; this opinion is borne out by the fact that 300 names of able-bodied paupers, who had been offered work at drainage now commencing in the Ballylongford electoral division (a most pauperised district), were brought before the Board, and justly struck off from relief for refusing it. However, I am of the opinion I had the honour to state in my letter of yesterday, that it would be advisable to continue out-door relief to such of the able-bodied as can obtain no employment for some

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short time longer. Single men, and such as are married but have no more than two children, might, after the 7th instant, find employment, and it would be well to reduce the heavy list by degrees rather than stop relief in food from so many thousands at once, amongst whom there will be a great mass of suffering throughout the year.

ENCLOSURES.

PLAN FOR OUT-DOOR RELIEF, WITH LABOUR AS TASK-WORK, SUBMITTED BY CAPTAIN SPARK.

Instructions to Relieving Officers, and Form A, to be issued by him to the Overseer in charge of working party; directing him to set the applicant to work.

Instructions to Relieving Officers.

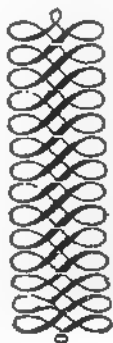
The relieving officers on having their application books revised by the Guardians, and the amount of provisions sanctioned for each impotent pauper, shall issue to each a week's allowance by an order on the storekeeper; but when an able-bodied pauper, whose claim has been admitted by the Guardians, makes application, he is to be furnished with an order to the Overseer in charge of working party according to the subjoined Form A.

In case of extreme and urgent necessity the relieving officer may issue an order for temporary relief on the storekeeper, marking all such orders "Special." In issuing this and all other orders on the storekeeper, care is to be taken to write the amount in full as well as in figures.

On the next Board-day the books will again be revised and the expenditure book examined, and any improvident or unauthorized distribution will be charged to the relieving officer.

FORM A.

ABLE-BODIED.
 _____ Electoral Division,
 LISTOWEL UNION.
 Name _____
 No. in family _____
 No. in Application Book _____
 No. of Working Party _____
 Amount of daily rations _____



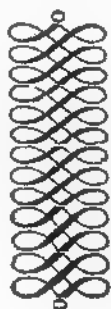
ABLE-BODIED.
 _____ Electoral Division, LISTOWEL UNION.
 _____ day of _____, 1848.
 To _____ in charge of No. _____ Working Party, set the bearer _____ to work, and on the completing of his task, give him an order _____ lbs. of _____, the same being allowed for his support by the Guardians.
 No. in Application Book _____
 _____ Relieving Officer.

INSTRUCTIONS to OVERSEERS in charge of Working Parties, with Form B, to be issued by them upon the Storekeeper.

THE overseer will be directed by the head overseer to the station where it is intended that the working party of which he is to take charge shall be employed. The relieving officer when applied to by any of the able-bodied whose names have been approved by the Guardians, send each to such station with the order, Form A. On the receipt of this order the overseer is to set the applicant to work, and on the completion of the task apportioned to him, which should be such as to require eight hours of his time, he is to give him an order on the storekeeper of the electoral division in which the work has been performed, for the amount of provision to which he is entitled by the order of the Board of Guardians; the amount to be ascertained by reference to Form A. Each order delivered to the overseer should be filed, and also registered in a book to serve as a list of his working parties. The orders are to be laid before the Guardians at their next meeting, as an authority for the amount of food ordered by him; and in any case where it appears to the Guardians that the overseer had issued an order for an amount of provisions to a pauper whose task has not been completed, the value will be deducted from such overseer's salary.

FORM B.

ABLE-BODIED.
 _____ Electoral Division,
 LISTOWEL UNION.
 Date _____ day of _____, 1848.
 Name _____
 No. of working party _____
 No. in Application Book _____



ABLE-BODIED.
 _____ Electoral Division, LISTOWEL UNION.
 _____ day of _____, 1848.
 To the Storekeeper for _____ Electoral Division. Give bearer _____ lbs. _____ being _____ quantity allowed him by the Guardians for having performed _____ task apportioned to him in _____
 _____ Overseer in charge.

FORM D, or Labour Book, to be kept by each Overseer in charge of Working Party.

Listowel Union.

Listowel Union.

Electoral Division.

No. of Working Party _____

Names of Labourers.	No. in Application Book.	Electoral Division.	Nature of work to be performed.	Amount of Food warranted, if task finished.	Amount for which Daily Orders have been Issued.						Number of Days in which task has been finished.	Number of Wet Days.	Remarks as to Conduct.
					Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.			

Overseer in charge.

INSTRUCTIONS TO HEAD OVERSEER.

THE head overseer of the district is to point out to the overseer in charge, the station at which the working parties are severally to be employed; he is also to point out the nature of the work to be done, the manner in which it is to be performed, and the daily task to be required from each labourer; which should not be less than what could be performed by eight hours' fair labour from the individual, according to his age and strength. He is to visit each station once a week for the purpose of ascertaining the total amount of work done, and its value, and certify the same to the Guardians at their next meeting; he is also to pay particular attention to the conduct of the persons employed, and to report any irregularity.

It is supposed that stone-breaking by task-work will be the best mode of employing the able-bodied: a portion in quarrying, some in breaking, and others in spreading. It will be necessary that the stones broken, and those quarried but not broken, should not be removed that week, in order that the head overseer may ascertain, by actual measurement, the precise amount of work done during the week. One-third of the number employed in breaking stones will be the number employed in quarrying; the stones quarried, but not broken, must be measured and taken into account—and thus may be ascertained the numbers employed in breaking and quarrying respectively.

The head overseer will, in this way, be a check on the overseer's issue of orders on the storekeeper.

FORM D.—CERTIFICATE OF HEAD OVERSEER.

LISTOWEL UNION.

LISTOWEL UNION.

Electoral Division._____
day _____, 1848._____
Electoral Division.

Date _____ day of _____, 1848.

Amount of money value _____

Amount of labour expended _____

I certify that I have measured the amount of work done by No. _____ working party for the week ending _____ day of _____, 1848, and that the correct value is returned below.

No. of working party _____

Amount of money, value of work done _____

Amount of labour expended during the week _____

Head Overseer.

INSTRUCTIONS TO STOREKEEPERS.

EACH storekeeper will be supplied with a certain amount of provisions, to be placed in the dépôt under his charge. The relieving officer will issue orders upon him for the amount of food to be issued to each impotent person for a week's allowance; such orders are to be filed and produced as vouchers for the amount issued on the orders of the relieving officers, to account for the items returned in the Expenditure Book to be kept by him.

The storekeepers are to receive and file separately all orders from the overseers for provisions to be issued to able-bodied, and to produce them as vouchers for the amount entered in the Expenditure Book.

The Expenditure Book and orders from the relieving officers for the supply of the impotent

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to be kept separately from the Expenditure Book and orders from the overseers for the supply of the able-bodied.

At the end of the week both books and sets of vouchers will be produced and balanced by the clerk of the Union, and submitted to the Guardians; and any deficiency appearing in either, or any amount distributed and not substantiated by vouchers, will be deducted from their salary.

If any orders for food are issued by the relieving officers marked "Special," such are to be separately arranged and entered.

ESTIMATES of the Expense attending the distribution of Relief to the able-bodied, as
Baked Bread, Stirabout, and Wetted Meal.

BAKED BREAD.

The number of rations, taking children under nine at half rations, is 14,000	£.	s.	d.
daily, amounting to forty-three tons per week; at 35s. per ton to the Contractor, for carriage, baking, and distributing	75	5	0
Four head overseers, at 1 <i>l</i> . each per week	4	0	0
Twenty-eight sub-overseers, at 9s. each per week	12	12	0
Entire weekly expense at maximum cost	91	17	0

STIRABOUT SYSTEM.

	Immediate Expenses.	Weekly Expenses.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Cost of thirty-two boilers, at 5 <i>l</i> . each	160 0 0	
Expense of setting up the boilers, 5 <i>l</i> . each	160 0 0	
Cost of tubs and measures for each depôt, 1 <i>l</i> . each	32 0 0	
Rent of twenty-one depôts, at 3s. each per week		3 3 0
Salary of twenty-one storekeepers, or distributors, at 10s. each per week		10 10 0
Forty-two women to cook, attend the fire, and draw water, at 4s. each		8 0 0
Carriage of forty-three tons, at 5s. per ton		10 15 0
Fuel, one load of turf to each depôt per day, 192 per week, at 1s. each		9 12 0
Four head overseers, at 1 <i>l</i> . each per week		4 0 0
Twenty-eight sub-overseers, at 9s. each per week		12 12 0
Total	352 0 0	59 0 0

RAW MEAL.

	£. s. d.
Expense of stores	1 15 0
Twenty-eight overseers, at 9s. per week each	12 12 0
Carriage of meal, at 5s. per ton	10 15 0
Total weekly expense	25 2 0

WETTED MEAL.

	Immediate Expenses.	Weekly Expenses.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Twenty-one depôts, at 3s. each per week		3 3 0
Twenty-one storekeepers, or distributors, at 10s. each per week		10 10 0
Two assistants to wet the meal, draw water, &c., at 4s. each		8 0 0
Carriage of forty-three tons, at 5s. per ton		10 15 0
Cost of tubs and measures for each depôt, 1 <i>l</i> . each	32 0 0	
Four head overseers, at 1 <i>l</i> . each per week		4 0 0
Twenty-eight sub-overseers, at 9s. each per week		12 12 0
Total	32 0 0	49 8 0

REPLY to the foregoing:—March 7, 1848.

THE Commissioners await your further report after the meeting on Thursday next, when they presume the report of the Committee on the adoption of the cooked food system will be read. The Commissioners also wait the result of your proposed communication with the Guardians as to the necessity for making a new rate before the period at which it is expected that the revision of the valuation can be completed.

The Commissioners have received the resolution of the Guardians requesting

that Mr. Cooke may be allowed to continue in the office of relieving officer. The Commissioners have stated to the Guardians that they will give the subject consideration, and they request to be furnished with your observations on the subject, so that they may communicate their decision to the Guardians at their meeting next week.

The Commissioners have resolved to renew the out-door relief order, which expires this day, to the 18th instant; the order will however be modified in accordance with the suggestion contained in your report of the 2nd instant, and they will address the Board of Guardians by this night's post on the subject.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of the Commissioners, that on Monday, and again yesterday, before the hour of meeting of the Board, the Committee assembled to consider further the plan and estimates I had laid before the Guardians for the distribution of cooked food, conjointly with an improved system of labour. The report, a very good one, was agreed to, which the Board yesterday adopted; and a copy will be transmitted with the minutes, to which I beg leave to call the Commissioners' attention. The Committee, after much consideration, and with a sincere desire to adopt what would be practically the most advisable under the straitened financial circumstances of the Union, came to a determination to recommend that steeped meal should henceforward be distributed to the able-bodied receiving out-door relief; and that the improved labour system should be carried out fully, agreeably to the plan in all its parts.

At the meeting of the Board yesterday, the Commissioners' order for renewal of out-door relief up to the 18th instant, was agreed to be carried out; and funds and orders for meal were given to the several relieving officers accordingly. There was much desultory debating upon the matter, and a disinclination to renew the order, even for a week, on the part of some of the Guardians; but a great majority of them were convinced of its necessity upon the grounds urged by me, that distress still existed in the Union generally to nearly as great an extent as heretofore, in consequence of lack of employment for the people, as well as on account of the backwardness of the season for all agricultural labour, as the unfortunate failure of the landed proprietors to obtain grants of money in aid of projected improvements; and unless a favourable change of weather should take place, I am of opinion that out-door relief must be continued still longer than the 18th instant to the class to which it is now restricted.

I brought before the Board a statement of their finances, and showed them that after payment of all their debts they had only a balance of about 1860*l.* to look to, which could under no circumstances, with the most rigid economy, serve to meet the necessities of the Union more than for one month from this time. I deprecated the apparent apathy of the Board upon this subject; and that the Guardians had not acted earlier upon the matter, after the report made by the Finance Committee on the 9th ultimo, which I had before urged upon their attention.

But there is a great desire to avoid striking a further rate previous to a revision of the Union, which, however, must not be waited for under present exigencies; and there is a feeling that any collection of a rate during the summer months must fail generally, as the rate-payers are in too reduced a state to answer the demand, having, in fact, (except of course some of the most wealthy), no means wherewith to pay. The Finance Committee were directed to meet, to inquire further into the financial state of the Union, and into its accounts up to the 25th instant; and to report at the meeting of the Board, on or before the 23rd instant, the amount of rate to be struck on the several electoral divisions.

A medical officer, Dr. Thorpe, of great respectability, was elected at a salary of 70*l.* per annum; and a dispenser or apothecary was ordered to be advertised for, at a salary of 25*l.* per annum.

A motion to have lists printed and posted of all persons receiving relief in the several townlands, was carried unanimously at this meeting, notwithstanding a motion to this effect was rejected before on the 2nd instant.

The master of the workhouse having reason to suspect that articles, the property of the Union, were secreted in a house belonging to the porter, but not occupied

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by him, proceeded to search for the same, and found therein two pair of blankets, some bed-ticks, and other articles. He reported the same to me, and yesterday I brought the circumstance before the Board. On inquiry, it appeared to the Board that the porter was not a party to the theft, but that his wife was culpable. The Board insisted, however, on the porter's resignation of his office, as they felt he could not be entirely free from blame. He stated, that he had sent the blankets to cover his wife when ill in that house.

I beg to remark on this transaction, that it appears to me a bad practice to allow the porter to have his wife resident in the house, as this woman has been of late; and I would suggest that no future porter should do so.

I beg to report that this morning I attended a meeting of the Finance Committee, at which preliminary steps were taken to fulfil the Board's instructions of yesterday relative to making a new rate; and that another meeting will take place on the 15th instant for that object.

The replevin case of a horse seized for poor-rate between J. Brown and the collector, Mr. Sandes, which has been removed from the sheriff's to the superior Courts in Dublin, was proposed to be abandoned on the plea of the poverty of the party, and the motion was carried at a late hour, when a large number of the Guardians had left the meeting, on Thursday last. It was resisted upon the ground that it would be an injurious precedent, unless the amount of rate due and costs were first paid, or the horse given up. I entirely agree in this view; and I trust the Commissioners will not sanction an abandonment of the action, except on these conditions.

ENCLOSURE.

State of the Finances of the Listowel Union.

	£.	s.	d.
Balance in treasurer's hands on 1st of March	1979	18	4
Deduct paid last Board-day, 2nd of March	841	14	11
	1138	3	5
Add, money value of provisions in hands	170	0	0
Amount of uncollected rates on 1st of March	£4674	11	0
Deduct { Portion uncollectable £800 0 0			
{ Collector's fees 193 0 0			
	993	0	0
	3681	14	5
Total funds of the Union on the 1st of March	4989	14	5
Deduct Guardians' debts on the 1st of March	3129	0	0
Remaining to the credit of the Union, 1st of March	1860	14	5
Probable expenditure of out-door relief from the 7th of March to the 18th of March	500	0	0
Expenditure under 1st section to the 11th of April	700	0	0
In-door relief to the 11th of April	560	0	0
Officers' salaries	75	7	4
Contingencies	25	7	0
Total expenditure to the 11th of April	1860	14	5

Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the Plan of administering Out-door Relief to the Able-bodied Paupers, suggested by Captain Spark.

BEFORE advertng to Captain Spark's plan, it is necessary to notice the system, if system it can be called, at present in operation.

The Poor Law Commissioners, by their sealed order authorizing out-door relief, require that each pauper should give eight hours' work every day for the food which may be granted to him by the Board of Guardians for the support of himself and family. The whole of the able-bodied paupers of each electoral division getting out-door relief are placed by the Board of Guardians under the control of the Guardian or Guardians of the electoral division, whose duty it is to set them to work, and they have the services of one or more stewards, paid by the Board to assist them in this duty.

The Board on placing an able-bodied pauper on the out-door relief register allows him a certain quantity of food weekly, depending upon the number and ages of the members of his family; and it is the duty of the relieving officer to give him this quantity weekly. In most of the electoral divisions he does this without a reference to the amount of labour given by the

pauper, and without knowing whether he has given any at all or not. This mode of relief, which affords no test whatever of destitution, is open to the greatest abuse; and the Committee cannot too strongly recommend the Board to adopt another of a more stringent nature. The only thing to recommend it is its economy as regards the pay of the officers required to administer it; but this economy is more apparent than real.

Its weekly cost for the whole Union is—

	£.	s.	d.
Twenty-eight overseers or stewards, at 9s.	12	12	0
Carriage of meal	10	15	0
Total	£23	7	0

Captain Spark includes as part of the weekly expense of this system 1*l.* 15*s.*, which arises from the Board having a general store and storekeeper at Tarbert, where the relieving officers are supplied with meal; but this does not appear to the Committee to be any part of the cost of the system, for it will be necessary to keep up the store at Tarbert so long as the Board shall obtain meal from Limerick, and it might be got rid of altogether if the Board were to enter into a contract for the supply of meal with any person within the limits of the Union.

Captain Spark's plan of administering out-door relief to the able-bodied consists of two parts:—1st. As regards labour. 2nd. As regards food.

The adoption of it would render it necessary to take out of the hands of individual Guardians the whole of the control which the elected Guardians have at present over the labour department, and this the Committee consider to be an advantage.

He suggests that the Board should keep the same number of electoral division overseers or stewards as at present, and instead of the control of the Guardian of the electoral division, that the Board should divide the Union into four districts, and appoint a head overseer to each, whose duty it should be to see that the electoral division overseers acted strictly up to the orders of the Board, and discharged their duties faithfully—the head or district overseer to report all irregularities and neglects of duty to the Board. The duty of the electoral division or under overseer he suggests should be to set all the able-bodied paupers admitted to relief to work, appoint them a task under the control of the head overseer, superintend the paupers in the execution of their allotted tasks, and give them tickets according to a particular form which he has given authorizing the issue of the whole or a part of the food allowed to each pauper by the Board, taking care that the quantity of the food so authorized to be issued should be in exact proportion to the amount of the allotted task which the pauper may have executed.

The head overseer is to take care that the under overseer does not give tickets for more food than the total quantity of work executed would justify; and in the event of his doing so, Captain Spark suggests that the excess, as stated by the head overseer to the Board, should be charged against the under overseer's salary.

There is an appearance of hardship as regards the paupers in this system of relief. It has been alleged that in the event of an able-bodied pauper not executing the whole of the task given to him, he would be deprived of a portion of the food intended for his family as well as for himself, and that the family would thereby be punished or starved because the head of it was idle. This hardship appears to the Committee to be far more apparent than true.

The system puts it within the power of the pauper to get a certain quantity of food for himself and family, and it justly throws upon him the responsibility of the evil consequences which may result from his getting only a part instead of the whole of that quantity.

The weekly cost of administering the *labour* part of Captain Spark's plan is as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Four head overseers, at 20 <i>s.</i>	4	0	0
Twenty-eight under overseers, at 9 <i>s.</i>	12	12	0
Total	£16	12	0

This only exceeds by 4*l.* the week the cost of the present system, and the Committee are of opinion that even if the same number of persons as are relieved now, applied for relief subject to the labour test which Captain Spark's system affords, the additional expense of 4*l.* a-week would soon be covered by the value of the additional quantity of work which would be executed. But this appears to be the least of the advantages of this system. The Committee consider that if fairly and strictly carried out, it would limit the applications for relief from the able-bodied poor to those who were really destitute and could not obtain employment in any other way, and would to a certain extent keep alive in the minds of the poor a spirit of self-reliance. The Committee strongly recommend the Board to adopt this part of Captain Spark's plan, provided they will do so with the determination of carrying it strictly into effect.

With regard to the second part of Captain Spark's plan, which relates to the kind of food to be issued to the paupers on the tickets which they may obtain from the sub-overseers, the Committee beg to observe that the Poor Law Commissioners have directed that meal in a raw or unsteeped state shall not be issued to the able-bodied paupers, and accordingly Captain Spark has considered three modes of supplying cooked food or steeped meal.

The first is baked bread, his estimate of the weekly cost of which is 75*l.* 5*s.* for the carriage, baking, and distribution in the shape of bread, 43 tons of Indian corn, or other meal. This is the greatest weekly cost of the three modes, but it has the advantage of requiring no preparatory or immediate outlay.

Listowel Union.

The second the stirabout mode. The preparatory and immediate outlay for this mode would require 352*l.*, as detailed in Captain Spark's estimate, and the weekly outlay would be as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Rent of 21 depôts, at 3 <i>s.</i>	3	3	0
Salary of 21 storekeepers or distributors, at 10 <i>s.</i>	10	10	0
Forty-two women to cook, attend the fires, and draw water, at 4 <i>s.</i>	8	8	0
One load of turf for each depôt per diem, being 192 loads, at 1 <i>s.</i>	9	12	0
Carriage of 43 tons of meal, at 5 <i>s.</i>	10	15	0
Total weekly	£42	8	0

The third mode is by wetted or steeped meal, the weekly cost of which is:—

	£.	s.	d.
Rent of 21 depôts, at 3 <i>s.</i>	3	3	0
Salaries of 21 storekeepers or distributors	10	10	0
Forty-two assistants to wet meal and draw water, at 4 <i>s.</i>	8	8	0
Carriage of 43 tons of meal, at 5 <i>s.</i>	10	15	0
Total weekly	£32	16	0

The wetted meal system would require a preparatory outlay of 32*l.* for tubs and measures.

It is said that as the people now understand the proper mode of cooking Indian corn meal, one of the reasons for issuing cooked food no longer exists, and that the principal things to be guarded against as regards food is the desire of persons who are not really objects of relief to get for nothing a saleable article in order that they may dispose of it, as also the inclination of a few reckless or selfish heads of families who are really destitute to sell their children's food for the purpose of obtaining spirits, tobacco, or any other articles of luxury for themselves.

The Committee concur in this opinion, admitting at the same time that the issue of cooked food or steeped meal may very properly be applied in aid of a strict labour test to discourage improper applications for relief.

The Committee are of opinion that baked bread is a very saleable article, and as the weekly cost of issuing it is very great, they cannot recommend it.

The Committee would have preferred stirabout to steeped meal, had the preparatory cost of issuing it not been excessive, and the weekly cost greater than that of steeped meal. Steeped meal, then, is the only kind of food sanctioned by the Commissioners which the Committee can recommend the Board to adopt; and before directing it to be issued they would recommend the Board to give such precise and clear instructions about the mode of steeping the meal as the distributors could easily understand and would not be disposed to evade, for the Committee feel convinced that if the Board give the electoral division distributors meal to issue to the able-bodied on the tickets of the under overseers, only telling them to issue it steeped, there will be as many modes of steeping it as there are electoral divisions, and the tendency of all those modes will be to evade the spirit and to defeat the proper object of the order for steeping it.

The cost of the labour part of Captain Spark's plan is the same, whatever kind of food may be issued, and the weekly cost of issuing steeped food conjointly with his labour test is:—

	£.	s.	d.
Cost of issuing steeped food	32	16	0
Labour.	16	12	0
Total	£49	8	0

If it were considered that the labour test was of itself sufficiently stringent to prevent improper applications for relief, unsteeped meal might be issued, the cost of which conjointly with that test would be 8*l.* 8*s.* less than the foregoing sum, and the preparatory cost of 32*l.* would be got rid of altogether.

(Signed)

J. M. HOME, *Chairman.*

MAURICE LEONARD.

WILLIAM GOUGH SANDES.

March, 1848.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*March* 20, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Listowel Union on the 9th March, containing the report of the Committee appointed to inquire into Captain Spark's plan for distributing out-door relief to the able-bodied in Listowel Union.

The Commissioners have attentively considered this report, which is marked by great intelligence. The greater part of the report is so entirely in accordance with the Commissioners' views, that it does not appear to call for any remark on

the part of the Commissioners. In reference, however, to that part of it which involves the expediency or in expediency of steeping or cooking the food which is given as out-door relief to able-bodied men, the Commissioners desire to state that they do not wish to exaggerate the advantages of cooked food, but that the experience of the Relief Committees of last year was so decidedly in its favour, that the Commissioners have introduced it as a part of their general system in the arrangements for out-door relief; and this being the case, the Commissioners trust that the Listowel Board of Guardians will give it a fair trial, and will carry the system out even although it may not be altogether the system which they themselves would prefer.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that at the meeting of the Guardians this day, I again called their attention to the state of their funds and the necessity for exertion being made by the clerk to get new rate books ready, that no delay should occur in striking another rate to meet the wants of the Union; in doing this I took occasion to point out to the Board the general distress and destitution that must prevail amongst the large body of the poor recipients of out-door relief for want of employment, when that relief would cease at the end of the week, and I urged upon the Guardians the necessity that every effort should be made by the proprietors and farmers to give all the employment in their power.

It appeared to be the opinion of many members of the Board that there is no hope of any sufficient employment for the people except in a few localities, that the farmers would do nearly all their own work within their families, being too poor to pay labourers; that the landed proprietors having failed to obtain from the Board of Works the advances they had looked for under the Land Improvement Bill, the out-door relief would, in consequence, have to be continued throughout the spring and summer, and up to the gathering of the next harvest; and I am sorry to have to concur in this opinion, which I am obliged to do after much attentive observation and inquiry through every district of the Union.

For the present, however, it was urged that the Commissioners should be immediately requested by me to be pleased to grant an order for the continuance of out-door relief to the able-bodied of the classes now receiving it, for another week from the 18th instant, as the unfortunate continuance of extreme wet weather up to this day, which had flooded all the lands, would totally prevent agricultural labour of any kind being commenced for that period at least.

A resolution to this effect was thereupon unanimously passed, and I beg leave earnestly to recommend that the request be complied with, and that an order be granted and sent down to that effect by return of post if possible.

At this meeting the motion being brought forward to rescind the contract with Messrs. Russell for having supplied some Indian meal of bad quality, and short of weight, those gentlemen attended with their solicitor, and on examination by the Board and myself of the storekeeper and the relieving officers, the charge against that firm was not sustained, and a resolution to that effect was agreed to.

Mr. Matthew Grace, a practical agriculturist, was introduced to the Board, having been sent down by the Royal Agricultural Association to afford advice and instruction to the farming classes in this and the Tralee Union, and that gentleman's services were accepted with thanks. The relieving officers were directed to introduce Mr. Grace to the farmers in their several districts, and to give him every assistance in their power to enable him to convey useful instruction to the peasantry.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 18, 1848.*

WITH reference to your recommendation for the extension of the out-door relief order for another week, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have directed the order, which expires to-day, to be renewed for another week as you request.

The Commissioners will be glad to receive from you a report stating fully your views as to the state and prospects of the Union, especially with reference to the supposed necessity for administering out-door relief to the able-bodied until next harvest.

Listowel Union.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 18, 1848.*

I BEG to report that the relieving officer of the Kiltomy district in this Union, reported to me this day that his store at Lixnan had been broken into during last night, and robbed of 10 sacks of Indian meal,—this being the second robbery of the kind within a fortnight; and feeling the necessity for immediate vigorous steps being taken, I called a meeting of the Guardians on the emergency, on the authority of the 10th article of the Commissioners' Regulations for the meeting of Guardians, and at the workhouse. I met, accordingly, Maurice Leonard, Esq., D.L., chairman, Captain Home, J.P., and W. G. Sandes, Esq., J.P., *ex-officio* Guardians. After an examination of Mr. Bugeley, the Board obtained the assistance of the police at Listowel to proceed at once to Lixnan, to search suspected houses, with that officer, who received instructions to issue no more rations to the able-bodied of that (the Kiltomy) electoral division, and to remove his meal store to Kilflyn. The police arrested one man, now in prison, in whose house a quantity of meal he could not account for was found.

The Board were informed that some of the magistrates of the neighbourhood had some time since applied that a party of the constabulary should be established in Lixnan, and they very strongly recommend and earnestly request that the Commissioners will be so good as to urge upon the Government the necessity for an immediate compliance with the application, as nothing can be worse than the character of the people of that village and district, who are, it appears, noted nightly robbers and marauders.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 23, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have forwarded a copy of your report to the Under Secretary, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 22, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, in which I am informed the Commissioners would be glad to receive from me a report stating fully my views as to the state and prospects of the Union, and especially with reference to the supposed necessity for the administration of out-door relief to the able-bodied until next harvest.

In my report, dated the 11th instant, I have stated the views of a majority of the Guardians on this subject, and those views concur with my own—that distress will be found to exist throughout the Union, with the exception of very few localities, to nearly as great an extent as when the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied was first granted in December last. I have been led to this opinion by what I can see and learn of the farmers generally throughout the Union, whose poverty is such as to render them unable to give employment at all commensurate with the prevailing destitution; and all the energies of the landed proprietors seem as if paralyzed by the disappointments they have met in their several applications to the Board of Works under the Landed Improvement Act, as well as for the great arterial drainage of the rivers Feale, Gale, and Brick, although all the required preliminary conditions have, I understand, been fulfilled. These desirable works would have afforded employment to thousands of paupers who have been, and in the absence of such employment must continue, with their families to be a burden on the rates of the Union.

I have to state also, that, unfortunately, the small holdings and gardens of the poor are likely to remain uncultivated, and add to the prevailing destitution, for want of seed to put into the ground.

Notwithstanding what I have above stated, I do not wish to recommend an immediate renewal of the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied. Many gentlemen of intelligence among the Guardians appear to consider there is no necessity for it, who should possess from long experience a more intimate knowledge of the state of the Union and the real exigencies of the population than I can pretend to, although I have devoted myself earnestly to the inquiry. I am desirous that their opinion on this point should have a trial during the next month to come, the best period for employment throughout the spring.

As regards the financial state of the Union, the periodical returns and my

report of the 11th instant will have informed the Commissioners. The present rate now in collection will scarcely cover the liabilities of the Union up to the middle of next month; and I apprehend trouble will be experienced by the collectors in getting in much of what is still due. As to the new rates about to be made, it will be difficult to collect them during the summer; the smaller rate-payers will scarcely be able to meet the demand, for they have parted with the stock and produce of last year to pay the rents and last rates, and in having provided the means of support for themselves and families during the winter now ended.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, reporting on the state and prospects of Listowel Union; and under the circumstances stated by you, the Commissioners had intended to have allowed the order authorizing out-door relief in Listowel Union to expire. Your further report, however, which has been this day received, has led the Commissioners to alter their intention in this respect, and they have accordingly renewed the order for another week.

They request, however, that you will give your special attention to the condition of the peasantry, and report specially to the Commissioners next week as to the necessity of any further renewal of the order.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 23, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that at the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, the appointment of a resident apothecary was reconsidered agreeably to the Commissioners' recommendation, and advertisements for the same office, without residence, at 30*l.* per annum salary, were ordered.

The salary of the clerk, Mr. Phillips, was voted to be increased from 60*l.* to 80*l.* per annum, and I beg to recommend that this increase may have the sanction of the Commissioners, as that officer is in every way deserving of it, and is fully entitled to it in consequence of the great increase of his duties.

The new assistant-master has been obliged to resign the situation from ill-health, and another was ordered to be advertised for. Mr. Gallivan withdrew his notice of a motion upon the subject of his appointment.

Mr. Sullivan, a very fit person, bearing an excellent character, was elected to the office of porter, in place of Nolan, resigned.

The Board took into consideration the lamentable continuance of wet weather, preventing all agricultural employment whatever, and the distress that must fall upon the population if out-door relief to the able-bodied were to cease on the 25th instant; they thereupon resolved to solicit from the Commissioners a renewal of their order for another week in the hope that the weather will change, and the clerk was directed to make application accordingly.

I entirely agree with the Guardians who desired a renewal of the order, as my report of yesterday on this subject will have shown; and I believe from the representations that came before the Board to-day, that not even the class excluded under the last two orders, to meet the expected demand at this season for labour, can find any employment, and that they are in great want and destitution.

I regret to state that I could get no meeting of the Finance Committee yesterday, and that I shall not be able to do so until after the assizes, as most of its members will be on the grand jury, or in attendance at Tralee; and the consideration of what rate must be made on the several electoral divisions must, therefore, be deferred until that period, as well as the establishment of the system of cooked food.

P.S. I ought to state that I have received to-day directions from Count Strzelecki to reduce the number of children receiving relief at this moment from the British Association through the schools, to the amount of about 5600 down to 4000. To strike off from this source of food as many as 1500 children will be felt in the Union as a great calamity at this period; and if it could be delayed through any representation from the Commissioners for even a short time, I shall feel deeply grateful.

Listowel Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have renewed the order authorizing the continuance of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor for another week, as requested by the Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners have sent to Count Strzelecki an extract from your report, relating to the reduction of the number of children receiving relief from the British Association.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 30, 1848.*

IN your letter dated the 25th instant, my attention is called especially to the condition of the peasantry of this Union, and I am desired to report also especially to the Commissioners this week as to the necessity of any further renewal of the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied; and in your letter of the 28th instant, I am informed that the Commissioners rely upon my reporting in sufficient time to enable them to renew the order on the 1st of April, if I deem a renewal necessary: and in reference thereto I beg to state, that I have already given my earnest attention to the condition of the peasantry, and that I can add nothing to the representations made in my preceding reports of the state of this class, namely, that much distress exists amongst them, and will continue to exist in many localities throughout the Union to a very great degree for want of sufficient employment, which employment the farmers cannot afford to give, nor the landholders furnish, for want of means.

In my report of the 22nd, I stated that many of the Guardians, men of intelligence, are of opinion that no necessity exists for a renewal of the order, and I was desirous that their opinion should have a trial during this the best season for employment throughout the spring. These gentlemen, however, from continued living among a population, in which, unfortunately, abject wretchedness abounds, are perhaps less sensitive on that account to its positive claims to their consideration than a person like myself, who has not been so long used to witness such a state of miserable existence as prevails among the peasantry of this country; and upon reflection and further inquiry, I do not hesitate now to recommend that the order should be renewed, restricted to the same class as at present, for although there is certainly a promise of a continuance of the present fair weather, and that agricultural operations may be carried on in all parts of the Union to a considerable extent, yet the degree of employment given, will not, in my opinion, be at all equal to the wants of the numerous distressed population.

I would recommend that the order be accompanied by a strong representation to the Guardians that they should be vigilant to strike off the lists all cases coming from localities where it can be fully understood that employment may be found for the parties claiming relief. I shall not fail myself to urge this upon the Board's attention.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 31, 1848.*

I AM directed to state that the Commissioners have given directions for the renewal of the order for a period of one month, and the Commissioners will address the Guardians at their next meeting as you recommend.

Captain SPARK to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 31, 1848.*

I BEG to report to you for the information of the Commissioners, that on Wednesday last there was a meeting of the Board held for the admission of paupers, and to examine and pass the relieving officers' books and accounts; the Guardians having, at my instance, determined to meet twice each week to forward the business of the Union. About 40 paupers were admitted into the house with their families. There were no less than 246 vacancies—that number,

including infants and children, having quitted during the past week, some of whom, tempted by the present fine weather to seek employment outside, but the majority of the men quit in distaste of the confinement and the daily labour exacted in breaking stones or in draining and working on the land belonging to the establishment. The relieving officers received directions to withhold rations from all able-bodied people whilst vacancies remain in the workhouse, but to give to such paupers provisional admission tickets until the house is again filled.

At the meeting yesterday, which consisted of but few members, many of the Board being absent at the assizes, the late chairman, vice-chairman, and deputy vice-chairman were unanimously re-elected.

After the ordinary business had been gone through, a letter was read, received from the Rev. Eugene M'Carthy, P.P., representing very strongly the distress existing in the western districts of Rattoo, Drumkeen, and Ballyheigue, among persons not entitled to relief. The relieving officers were all examined in order to ascertain from their evidence the degree of employment now offering in their several districts, and all testified that there was as yet, except in Ballylongford and Abberdorney, little or no employment afforded by landlords or farmers, and that it would be unsafe and cause great distress and starvation to withhold relief to the classes now receiving it. The Board thereupon came to a resolution to request from the Commissioners a renewal of the order for another week; but the majority of the members present were of opinion, that at this season, and considering the very low state of their finances, out-door relief to the able-bodied, ought, at the end of the ensuing week to be withheld; and if, after a time, it should become absolutely necessary to recommence them, it was suggested, the case of every applicant should undergo a rigid scrutiny by the Board with a view to reduce the numbers to the lowest possible scale.

This suggestion I quite approved of, and I will endeavour to have it fully carried out, as well as the improved labour system with cooked food; but I regret to have to state, that it is too much the custom of this Board to hold much serious and earnest debate upon the merits of a good suggestion to give even an unanimous consent to it, yet afterwards drop the matter altogether. The Guardians adopt able reports made by Committees, but it requires great stimulus to bring them to carry resolutions founded upon such reports into good effect, more especially if they at all conflict with the wishes of the classes to be affected by them. At this moment there appears a serious apprehension of coming troubles which goes far to paralyze all active efforts.

I beg to state that the rate-books will be quite ready for the Finance Committee appointed to meet on the 4th proximo, and I shall have everything prepared to enable the Board to strike new rates for the several electoral divisions at its meeting on Thursday next.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 6, 1848.*

THE Commissioners had, previously to the receipt of your report above referred to, issued an order authorizing out-door relief in Listowel Union under that section to the 1st May next, and they enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter which they yesterday addressed to the Board of Guardians on the subject.

The Commissioners rely upon your exertions in stimulating the Guardians to energetic action in carrying out the views expressed in that letter.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*April 4, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having issued an order authorizing the continuance of out-door relief to certain classes of destitute poor persons in Listowel Union till the 1st May next, deem it right to call the serious attention of the Guardians to the great importance of rigidly scrutinizing the relief lists, and reducing the relief under the 2nd section to the narrowest possible limits compatible with a due regard to the wants of the really destitute.

With this view the Commissioners would again call the attention of the Guardians to the paramount importance of keeping the workhouse as extensively available as possible for the relief of the able-bodied, by relieving out of the workhouse all such of the destitute poor in the

Listowel Union.

Union as may legally be relieved under the provisions of the 1st section. A task of work should be rigidly enforced from every able-bodied recipient of relief, and the relief should be limited strictly to cooked food or wetted meal, in accordance with the arrangements already resolved on by the Guardians.

The Commissioners do not doubt that the attention of the Guardians has already been directed to these points, and that they will take care not to give relief to any able-bodied man who could obtain independent employment; but the subject is one of such urgent importance as regards the future welfare of Listowel Union, and the Commissioners are so anxious to break through the habit of dependence on the poor-rate at a time when the labour of able-bodied men is required for the cultivation of the land, that the Commissioners have deemed it right to draw the attention of the Guardians specially to the subject.

KELLS UNION.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 8, 1848.*

REFERRING to your letter of the 4th instant, on the necessity for renewing the order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied in this Union, after the 14th instant, I beg to forward a resolution of the Guardians, passed at their late meeting, and to state, that having scrutinized most of the relief list, I considered it essentially necessary that the out-door relief should be continued for a further period, until labour can be provided, of which there is little or none at present.

ENCLOSURE.

KELLS UNION

Board Room, February 5, 1848.

THE Board of Guardians, considering the alarming state of destitution of the unemployed able-bodied,—

Resolved unanimously,—That the Poor Law Commissioners be requested to renew the order for the distribution of out-door relief to the able-bodied for one month next ensuing after the 14th instant, in the Kells Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have given directions for the renewal of the order accordingly for one month. The order will be issued on the 14th instant.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain DENT:—*February 9, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith an extract from a Constabulary Report which they have received from the Chief Secretary's department, relating to the death of a man, name unknown, on the 27th ultimo, in Kells Union, and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Board of Guardians, the workhouse master, or any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

Constabulary Report referred to in foregoing.

*County of Meath, Knuck, Castletown,
February 3, 1848.*

SUB-INSPECTOR EAMERS reports that a poor man, who obtained leave to sleep in an outhouse, was found dead on the 28th ultimo. The coroner's inquest was, "We find that deceased came to his death on the lands of Whitehood, on the 27th January, 1848, from extreme cold and destitution."

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*February 26, 1848.*

WITH reference to a Constabulary Report, dated 3rd instant, relating to the death of a man on the 27th ultimo at Whitewood, in Kells Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a report which the Commissioners have received from their Inspector, Captain Dent, of an inquiry which he was directed by them to make on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

Report above referred to.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 15, 1848.*

IN compliance with the directions contained in your letter of the 9th instant, with extract from Constabulary Report on death in Whitewood, I have to inform you that I was at Nobber yesterday, where I saw the relieving officer of that and the Kilmainham division, who

Kells Union.

had been unable to learn anything further than that the man (deceased) was totally unknown; that he was supposed to have come out of the county Louth, and said to be going to Athboy. He passed through Rathgillen, and at Whitewood he was given some meal, and the offer of a fire to cook it by, which he declined, putting the meal in his pocket. He was then put into a barn belonging to a person named Roger M'Guire, with some straw, and a sheet to wrap himself in. On going to him in the morning he was found quite dead.

No person answering the description applied either to the Board of Guardians of this Union, nor the relieving officer at Nobber.

The constabulary could give me no further information on the subject, nor any of the inhabitants, some of whom had seen him, and one old man told me he appeared a very sickly man.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—February 13, 1848.

I BEG to forward the usual return of my proceedings during the week now past.

It being necessary to assemble the relieving officers for the purpose of furnishing the clerk of the Union with the necessary data to enable him to make the returns called for by you, I have taken advantage of and devoted part of my time to the strict scrutiny of their books and mode of keeping their accounts, which was so far completed as to enable them to be laid before the Board at their meeting yesterday, and the requisite signatures to be attached,—a very desirable attainment, and which had heretofore been much neglected. The Board of Guardians have also entered into my views, and acceded to my request of entering upon this essential part of their duty the first thing after the opening routine of duty, by which much valuable time will be saved to those officers, and they enabled to return early to their respective districts.

My attention has been directed to the sanitary state of the branch house, occupied by female children in the town, in which much sickness has prevailed (the governess being at this moment seriously ill), arising, I believe, from the accumulation of filth round the premises, lodgment of stagnant water (occasioning great dampness in the house), caused by the drains being stopped, creating thereby intolerable smells. I have, by the assistance of the able-bodied out-door paupers, been enabled to remedy this, and hope to do it effectually, now that the premises have passed into the hands of the Guardians from their chairman, the Marquis of Headford, at an easy rate. I anticipate much benefit to arise from this arrangement when the contemplated alterations shall have been effected, before carrying out which they await the advice of the architect, and have requested I would call the attention of the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians' minute of the 5th instant, requesting the architect's presence as soon as possibly convenient.

Having been unable to arrange for the Guardians to meet two days in the week, I have in lieu thereof their promise that the several Guardians will meet me on appointed days in their respective electoral divisions, for the purpose of strictly scrutinizing their lists and inquiring into the state and circumstances of the applicants, by which, and an early regular attendance, I anticipate the duties of the Board day may easily be got through.

It is evident that from the non-attendance of the Finance Committee, the mode of conducting their cash payments has been very loose and irregular, which, as far as I can yet see, has not been attended with serious results; I propose to have stated meetings of the Finance Committee, and going through their accounts regularly with them.

I am happy to state that fever, as well as sickness generally, is on the decrease. The administering bread and milk rations to the convalescent out-door paupers was becoming a crying evil; but arrangements have been made by which the abuse will, I trust, be remedied.

The returns of the collections of the poor-rates are improving, particularly in those districts most behind. The lodgments this week, ending yesterday, amount to near 400 $\frac{1}{2}$. As far as in my power the utmost vigilance shall be exerted on this essential point.

A death having occurred in this town on the 10th instant, and on which a coroner's jury was summoned, and the usual reports circulated that it was caused by starvation, and being refused the relief, I append a copy of the coroner's verdict supplied me by the constabulary,—having myself *privately* seen the body, which bore no signs of starvation; on the contrary, the limbs

were round and fleshy, and the evidence of the medical man who was called in to report on her case, stated that she died from effusion on the chest, and that the intestines contained much food. It appears she was frequently offered the workhouse, and was a confirmed vagrant.

It is gratifying to state that I have met with a cordial reception from every member of the Board of Guardians, who express themselves willing to assist in every way to carry out the views of the Government.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. GRAHAM, Constable, to Captain DENT :—*February 11, 1848.*

I HAVE to inform you that an inquest was held in the town of Kells on this day, when the following verdict was given :—

“We find the deceased, Margaret Byrne, came to her death in the town of Kells, in said county, on Thursday, the 10th February, 1848, by the visitation of God.”

HUGH MARTIN, *Coroner.*

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 16, 1848.*

IN reference to the building taken as an additional workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners have already referred the request of the Guardians in their minute of the 5th instant to the architect, Mr. Wilkinson, who, however, is on service at present in another part of Ireland.

With regard to that part of your report which relates to the proposed meeting of the Guardians in their several electoral divisions, I am to state that the functions of the Guardians on such occasions must be confined to the purposes referred to in your report, with the view of assisting the Board of Guardians, to whom they should report, it being the province of the Board of Guardians to determine in each case as to the affording of any, and what relief, and no Guardian being empowered to act as such (under section 29 of 1 and 2 Vic., c. 56), except at a meeting of the Board of Guardians.

In respect to the irregularity pointed out in the mode of making payments, the Commissioners request that you will give your continued attention to the accounts and financial affairs of the Union, as well as to the checking of any abuses which may exist in the administration of out-door rations to the convalescent.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 22, 1848.*

I BEG to transmit a statement of my proceedings during the week ending the 19th instant.

My time has been principally occupied in examining into the internal economy of the workhouse, which will require my constant attention to see that the regulations under which the officers act are carried out to the letter, much neglected, I fear, heretofore. I have strictly examined into the state of the glass in the windows, which are in a fearful state of dilapidation, hundreds of panes being broken or cracked; this I have brought before the Board of Guardians, and trust soon to have remedied.

The relieving officers' books and accounts are now nearly all completed, and I am continuing my visits through the electoral divisions on inspection; it was perfectly understood that going through the lists by electoral divisions was merely to assist the Board on their general meetings, and not to supersede their functions, or be an authority to act upon.

I have been able to make very little progress in the financial reforms this week, from two causes: the clerk of the Union has been in constant attendance on his sick daughter, the governess of the branch house containing female children, and who it was thought would not survive, and has also been confined to his bed himself; and secondly, from this being the assize week at Trim, most of the influential or working members have been kept from attending on Saturday. I have, however, arranged that a meeting of finance, which has been very much neglected, shall take place as soon as the gentlemen return from

Kells Union.

the assizes. I have also been enabled to arrange a more regular system in the presenting and paying of tradesmen's and other bills.

I find the greatest reluctance among the able-bodied paupers to come into the house, but very anxious to force themselves on the out relief; this, I have no doubt, I am well able to remedy, by adopting the system of causing all large families, whose receipt of meal in value exceeds or comes near to that he would receive for a fair day's work, putting single men, or those with small families, on the work, by which, in most cases, they work out the value of their rations. In the case of the Kells out-door paupers, they have been most beneficially and profitably employed in opening the drains, &c., round the branch house, thereby removing all unwholesome smells, and in a great degree rendering the house dry. It would be, perhaps, too much to say it was attended with so favourable a result as to stop the sickness prevalent in that house; but it is certain that since the drains have been open, and the unwholesome soil removed, the daily report has been that no cases of sickness have arisen.

Fever is still on the decrease, at least outside, though dysentery is prevalent, generally following fever.

I hope to return to the Union to-morrow, when my best attentions and undivided time shall be given to carrying out your views, and bringing the Union into a creditable, wholesome position.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 27, 1848.*

IN forwarding the usual return for the week ended the 26th instant, I have to report that the out-door able-bodied relief is beginning to work more favourably. The supply of tools furnished by the Board of Works has enabled me to put the test of stone-breaking in full operation, and by adopting the system of keeping those on the lists, who by giving the labour of one or two of a family, make a good return of part of the expense incurred in their support, and ensures their obtaining employment immediately it offers; while the house is the test to those whose large families would obtain a greater supply of meal, than the value of a fair day's labour (reference being made to character as to industry,) to those of idle habits, or who are suspected of having means or holding land.

I find a beneficial result by causing able-bodied widows, many of them with grown up daughters, to have their rations daily, instead of heretofore as weekly, meant only for the infirm and impotent, and who I suspect in many instances had the whole week to find employment in washing, &c.; by this, and a small demand for labour, the lists are being reduced.

The arrangements for having the branch house in Kells as a permanency for the female children is, I fear, at an end; the landlord, Lord Headfort, not feeling himself in a position to grant a lease of the premises; and any outlay on such a holding as they now have would be highly injudicious; the Board of Guardians are therefore turning their thoughts to enlarging the work-house.

I yesterday brought before a full Board of Guardians the subject of your letter of the 18th instant, relating to the contribution due to the audit fund, and pressed on them the necessity of its being immediately paid, which they assented to without a dissentient voice, and a cheque for the amount duly signed.

The master of the house, who appears a well-meaning man, does not, I fear, possess energy sufficient for so responsible a situation, as the state of the house shows. I told him before the Board what was expected of him, and he was cautioned by the chairman, and urged to a more active fulfilment of his duty. The grown boys were getting into a state of great insubordination, but have, I trust, received a salutary check, four of them having been yesterday sent to the bridewell to be handed over to the petty sessions, for constantly leaving the house, and when confined destroying whatever they could. I continue to meet with in this, and on every other occasion, the cordial support of the Guardians. The Visiting Committee which had almost ceased its functions, will in future have regular days, and on Monday we commence. I have strong grounds for suspecting that the internal discipline of the house, particularly after hours,

is not attended to as it ought; and that power is delegated to those to whom it ought not to be: my most watchful attention is directed to this; should my surmises prove correct, I shall not fail to bring the subject immediately before you.

I have succeeded in having the stoves placed in the sheds and a light; the much wanted glass has arrived, and I trust shortly to have that long neglected portion of the buildings in creditable repair.

I hope to have a full extra meeting of the Board of Guardians on Thursday next, for the purposes of going through the rate collectors' books, and enforcing the collections where necessary; this is what I have long desired; it is also to be purely a financial meeting for looking into the accounts generally, and more fully than they have well time on their regular days for.

I am arranging a system of employment of the in-door able-bodied paupers, and hope to have them beneficially and usefully employed, as well as bringing more boys under the tailor and shoemaker to be instructed.

Fever and sickness generally are on the decrease.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 3, 1848.*

WITH reference to your observations respecting the master of the workhouse of Kells Union, I am to state that the Commissioners will be glad to receive in due course a further report from you as to his competency.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 6, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, on the subject of determining or suspending on the 18th March instant all orders authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men, and calling for my report on the subject, I beg to state that my mind has been much occupied with the subject since my arrival here, and my feeling is that as soon as it can be done the better, not only for the country but for the people themselves. It will be seen in the report of the proceedings of the Board of Guardians that the subject was brought before them by me, and a unanimous resolution passed to the effect that it would be most desirable to adopt your suggestions, and at the same time two or more eligible houses should be sought for immediately to be ready to meet the exigencies of the Act.

My reasons for this recommendation are, that while the able-bodied can receive out-door relief the pressure on the lists will continue; and the labour on the land, particularly with the small farmers, will be performed by the able female members and the children just under the prescribed age—15 years—of those heads of families who will, for the consideration of three or four rations, continue breaking stones, trusting to the gains of the above.

There is also a feeling highly detrimental among this class of men, even when employed, that upon any temporary cessation of the work they may be on, and in many instances I believe on the days they may feel a disinclination to work, that they have a right to be put upon the stones. There are upwards of 700 heads of families, able-bodied men, now on the out-door relief in this Union; but I feel perfectly satisfied not one-sixth of that number would go into the workhouse, and that when they find they have no remedy but the house they will manage to subsist themselves.

I shall lose no time in getting houses prepared to meet the exigencies of the case; but feel assured that the workhouse will be enabled with such help to receive all who apply for relief.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners, under the circumstances stated, do not intend to renew the order of 14th February last, so far as regards able-bodied men. That order expires on 14th instant; and the Commissioners propose before that date to issue in lieu of the former a new order to authorize out-door relief to other classes

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(except able-bodied men) not included in section 1 of 10 Vic., c. 31, such as widows with one child, orphans, and women whose husbands are in gaol or absent from Ireland, at present relievable under the order of 14th February till 14th March.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 6, 1848.*

I BEG to forward the usual weekly report for the week ending 4th instant, and I have the satisfaction in reporting a progressive improvement in the state of the Union generally.

I have succeeded in assembling the Visiting Committee, going through the house with them, and making such arrangements for the internal discipline and economy as will, I trust, be highly beneficial.

On Thursday last we had an extra meeting of the Guardians. The collectors' books, with the exception of one ill, were gone through, names of the four largest defaulters selected from each list, and directions issued to proceed against them in Petty Sessions if the rates were not instantly paid. I have every hope that the amount of arrears paid into the treasurer's hands this week will prove the efficacy of this movement.

Several cases of gross negligence on the part of the authorities in the house, of permitting a constant communication, not only with the town but the different sides of the house, money being sent out, and provisions of various descriptions brought and cooked by the paupers. This bears upon my last report on the subject of the master (the matron being also equally faulty), and bears me out in my surmises. Arrangements are being made to correct these abuses entirely, and I trust very shortly to be able to report a better state of things; my utmost vigilance will be used. It is highly satisfactory to state that I am borne ably out by the Board of Guardians, who meet my views and wishes on every point, and are willing to wait my further report on the subject of their servants to proceed against them.

Having on Friday last seen the collector of the Dulane and Moynalty divisions, who has been sick since September last, and been necessitated to have his duty performed by a deputy, whereby his books and accounts are in a very incomplete state; and a fraud having been committed, or attempted to be committed, I have brought it also before the Board of Guardians, with a view of making arrangements for the appointment of another rate collector, on insuring the duties being efficiently performed. Mr. Riley, the present collector, is, I understand, in the last stage of a decline.

At the Thursday meeting of the Guardians the preliminary steps were taken for striking fresh rates on the electoral divisions requiring them.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

REFERRING to my last weekly report on the subject of houses being taken in this town for additional accommodation to meet the cessation of out-door relief to the able-bodied, I have been in constant communication with the chairman, vice-chairman, and influential persons, and regret to state that in the whole town there is nothing at all vacant that could be made available; the only thing, indeed, offering being two houses adjoining, but in so dilapidated a state, and so low and small, that I could not recommend them: even were it not for the large outlay they would require to make them at all suitable for our purpose, independent of which the locality is bad, and it would be next to impossible to maintain anything like order in them.

The state of the weather is such as to preclude putting the labour on the land, independent of there being no great inclination shown to give employment. I have made it my duty to ride round the neighbourhood, and inspect the state of the land; but all appears dead, and where working, chiefly with their own family.

I shall hope with your intended arrangements, and turning the branch house to a little more account, to be enabled yet to meet any pressure that may arise.

When in the vicinity of Nobber, a few days since, I heard with regret of the intention of reducing very materially the numbers that are now occupied on the extensive draining going forward.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

Kells Union.

REFERRING to your letter of the 8th instant, on the subject of discontinuing relief to the able-bodied paupers out door, after the 14th instant, I feel it my duty to draw your attention, most respectfully, to what has occupied my mind for some days. Rumour is very strong here of some grand demonstration, or meeting, to be held throughout the country on the 17th instant, when, should we, through failing to obtain additional accommodation in the town, not be able to receive all who chance to apply; and the holding back of numbers who would sooner do anything than go into the workhouse, coupled with, if the weather should not break up, the almost impossibility of obtaining labour to any great extent, throw such numbers out of their present occupation and relief; it would only tend to swell the numbers, and give what many would be too glad to consider a feasible pretext to the discontented of complaint.

This may not be, but I should consider myself culpable were I to withhold my sentiments. Under any circumstances you may rest assured that everything possible to be, shall be done, to meet and carry out your views whatever they may be.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 13, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your two reports, dated respectively the 10th instant, relating to the Kells Union, and I am to state that the Commissioners purpose, on the expiration of the order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied in that Union, to issue the order already referred to, authorizing out-door relief to other classes (except able-bodied men) not included in the 1st section of the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31.

The Commissioners trust at the same time that every endeavour will be made to procure such additional workhouse accommodation as may be required, either in or near the town of Kells, or in any other part of the Union where there may be any suitable building.

By these means the Commissioners trust that the Board of Guardians will be enabled not only to relieve all really destitute applicants, but at the same time to test the ability of the able-bodied to procure work and support themselves by offering them only in-door relief.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

I BEG to forward a report of my proceedings for the week ending the 11th instant.

I am happy to state a progressive improvement in the management and regulation of the workhouse. My views are being carried out, and the master and matron are showing much more activity in the execution of their respective duties.

I have devoted much time in the attempt to provide suitable houses for giving more accommodation in the workhouse, but with no success, as reported in my letter of the 10th instant, No. 14; but succeeded on Saturday with the Board in getting a Committee named, with authority to have certain improvements in the out-houses of the branch house in this town pointed out by me carried at once into execution, by which I hope in three or four days to have additional accommodation for from 50 to 60 female children.

The collections of the rates are progressing, though I shall be under the necessity of proceeding against some of the collectors for great remissness in attending as directed at the poor-house, and inattention to the orders given them of summoning defaulters. This I can manage, I hope, during the week.

I regret to find from the statement of some of the relieving officers that applications for relief had been made by many able-bodied thrown out of employ by Mr. Cruise, a large occupier, and who has hitherto given employment to large numbers. They, the relieving officers, state as the reason that this gentleman is determined on this course from the burthen of the rate for out-door relief pressing more heavily on those who give employ than on those who do not. The termination of this species of relief will remedy it.

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Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

I BEG to forward the accompanying letter received since I had closed my post for this night.

As far as my knowledge of the gentlemen who sign, goes, they are of the class of landlords who are doing the utmost to employ labour, and keep things around them in order.

I do not myself anticipate a realization of their fears, though from the state of the weather until this period it has been next to impossible to put the labour on the land; but the very circumstances of the probability of fine weather now setting in ought to cause a reaction and an increased immediate demand for labour to bring the land into cultivation and putting in the spring crops. I feel assured that the great difficulty will be to get the able-bodied to accept in-door relief, but that a trial will be made to obtain a continuance of the out-door. The principal objection I find to going into the house is the holding, and the fear of being deprived of their cabins.

ENCLOSURE.

Court-house, Moynalty, March 13, 1848.

WE feel ourselves imperatively called upon as magistrates, for as such we are responsible for the peace of the country, to exclaim against the late arrangement of suspending out-door relief to the able-bodied labourers in the Union of Kells, since we are convinced that the farmers are not able presently to give employment to that class; and we know that the resident country gentlemen are even now straining a point to continue in employment their former and latterly increased staff of labourers and farm-boys. Besides from our own knowledge we are perfectly aware that these poor people cannot for some time to come get any kind of employment.

Do not suppose that we are by any means alarmists, when we take leave to state that the carrying out of this sweeping measure comes into operation at a very unfortunate conjuncture; and that no parties are more anxious than we are to relieve ourselves and the community of a portion of the heavy poor-rates, which so much cripple industry, paralyze individual energy, and peril property.

We are, &c.,

THOMAS BARNES, J. P.
RICHARD CHALONER, J. P.
SAMUEL SMITH, J. P.
WILLIAM GARNETT, J. P.

*Captain Dent, Kells.*REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have given their best consideration to the letter which accompanied your report, but on the whole they deem it their duty to proceed as already announced.

Captain HUBAND to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 15, 1848.*

HAVING read the reports of the inspector of the Kells Union, and fearing from the tenor of his communication that he was apprehensive that in consequence of the discontinuance of out-door relief to able-bodied persons an attempt would be made upon St. Patrick's day to swamp the workhouse, I considered it advisable to ascertain the state of that part of my district in the vicinity of the Kells Union, judging that if applications for relief from able-bodied persons had decreased materially in the neighbouring Unions, there would not be much grounds for apprehending an unusual increase of applications for relief by a like class of persons in that of Kells, unless produced by an organized combination to swamp the house. I determined that if I found that there was any great reason to think that the accommodation in the Kells workhouse was not adequate to the applications likely to be made by able-bodied applicants, to go to Kells in person and attend at the workhouse to receive the applicants on the 17th instant, and to resist any combination for swamping the house, trusting that I should defeat such an attempt, as I have invariably done under similar circumstances in other places.

I visited the Drogheda workhouse, and found that there were vacancies in that establishment for 83 persons in the house and 24 in the fever hospital, and that the number of inmates were daily decreasing.

I next visited the Ardee workhouse, and found the number of vacancies in that

establishment yet greater; there were 144 vacancies reported to me by the master. And here also the inmates are daily decreasing.

You will remember that the Guardians of both of these last named Unions applied lately to you for an order authorizing relief to the able-bodied out of the workhouse, stating their belief that their workhouse accommodation was not sufficiently extensive to test the able-bodied claimants of relief; you are also aware that the result has proved that you properly refused to issue the orders sought for until you were further assured that the workhouse accommodation was insufficient.

Comparing the late and present state of these Unions and that of Kells now, I came to the conclusion, upon inquiring into the state of Kells workhouse, that there is little reason to apprehend, that if the inspectors of the Union and the Board of Guardians be firm, and admit into the workhouse any able-bodied persons applying for relief, that there is any likelihood of the house being swamped, as I considered the room in the workhouse and the house in Kells fully adequate to test the applicants. The master informed me that none of the wards at the male side of the house have more persons in them than the ordinary number they were originally intended to accommodate. There is likewise a shed altogether unoccupied which will accommodate between 40 and 50. The Union inspector informed me that room can be made in the house in Kells to take out of the workhouse about 100 children, leaving yet further vacancies in the workhouse to be filled by adult applicants; and he appeared to coincide with me in opinion that the workhouse accommodation is sufficient to check any attempt likely to be made to fill it by any combination for that purpose.

In the other workhouses adjacent to Kells which are in my district, namely, those of Navan and Trim, there is ample accommodation for the reception of applicants; therefore, unless there be something very peculiar in the case of Kells Union, I do not see that there is any cause for alarm in discontinuing out-door relief to the able-bodied as resolved upon by you; nor do I see any necessity for me to attend at the workhouse of the Union as I contemplated doing, had I found that the state of destitution of the neighbourhood generally was such as to render it likely that the applications for relief from able-bodied persons would be unusually great in Kells Union.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

I BEG to state for your information that the out-door relief to the able-bodied in this district ceased yesterday; the state of uncertainty I was in until the receipt of your warrant, received yesterday morning, leaving a doubt on my mind as to whether it was to be continued until the 18th instant.

I have devoted yesterday and to-day to visiting five or six of the most distressed electoral divisions, and in some cases seen the able-bodied men, and explained to them the necessity of subsisting themselves and applying for work to the surrounding gentry and farmers. On the whole it was quietly received, and I hope that a great number will obtain employment should the weather remain open.

I have visited the chairman, vice-chairman, and some of the influential members of the Board of Guardians, who have kindly promised me every assistance in their power, and have approved of my arrangements, placing all at my disposal.

I have called in all the working implements from the several electoral divisions, and stored them in the workhouse, giving it to be understood that I have provided accommodation and plenty of work in the quarries on the workhouse grounds for all who apply.

No applications will be made until after to-morrow, when I hope to be able to offer accommodation to full 300 should they appear, but very many told me it would go very hard with them ere they would come into the house.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 21, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 16th instant, relative to the cessation of out-door relief in Kells

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Union, and I am to express the Commissioners' approval of the steps you have taken in reference thereto.

The Commissioners will be glad to receive an early report from you regarding the further applications for relief.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 19, 1848.*

IN continuation of my report of the 16th instant, on my proceedings of the week past, I have to state that my time has been principally occupied in trying to provide accommodation to meet any pressure consequent on the stoppage of the out-door relief. I have, where practicable, rode through some divisions, and seen the able-bodied, exhorting them to do their utmost to obtain employment, pointing out the only thing that awaited them, coming into the workhouse. All appear anxious for the former, could they get it; but invariably expressed a determination not to come into the house even in extremities.

The weather has been much against them, and there is, I fear, a great deal of suffering among them; each of the relieving officers had written instructions to explain that they could henceforth receive no out-door relief, but that they must bring their families into the house if they could not obtain employment; notwithstanding this, scarce one but the heads of families (male), appeared before the Guardians yesterday, and that without a view of coming in, but to get relief at home. The impossibility of this mode was pointed out, and when directed to go for their wives and children, the general cry was, they were so reduced by hunger that they could not come in. Carriage was ordered for them, but as many had come distances of six and seven miles it was managed by private donation, to give each applicant a supply of bread sufficient to subsist their whole families until Monday, when they are to bring them in.

I regret to state that our meeting was not of that peaceful description it ordinarily is; a strong feeling among the members of the Board of dissatisfaction prevailed on the subject of stopping the out-door relief, kept only in subjection by the more discreet part of the community; which however was finished in a resolution almost unanimously carried, that a deputation should be intrusted to lay their views on the subject before you on to-morrow. Of this I have treated in a separate letter.

In making arrangements for meeting the expected application of persons to be admitted into the house, I have been much disappointed at the result of the room given us. By carrying out your warrant of the 14th instant, by the first return of the master, and which from the urgency of the case I have employed this day in scrutinizing, I had hoped to have obtained 60 to 70 vacancies; but when entered into, and each applicant separately questioned, only 12 in the whole came under the meaning of the Act; still I have hope that if the people out doors are left to themselves, I shall be enabled to meet the demand for admittance. I hope by arrangement with the medical officers of the house, and of the fever hospital—who have also the control of the county hospital—to clear the newly-erected sheds, and apply them to the reception of able-bodied claimants. Nothing shall be left undone by me to meet the urgency of the case. The people, if left to themselves, will not press us; but should they be misguided by others, of course we could not meet the press.

In going through the country I am credibly informed that potato planting will be carried out to a very large extent, and that great quantities of that root are secreted, and the planting done by stealth; wherever I have seen manure being removed out of the houses, I have questioned as to its application, and invariably the reply has been, for the purpose of planting potatoes; and have been assured that the result of last year leads to a hope of a plentiful crop this.

My strong conviction is, that labour will be in abundance shortly; and in every instance the reply to my question, of whether, if those who are in a position to give employ (not taking into consideration their holding land without possessing the means), would do so—the demand for labour would be absorbed—has invariably been *certainly*; but employment will not be given.

The last week's collection of rates has been very satisfactory; and by continuing to coerce the collectors, I hope shortly to reduce the amount of uncollected rate.

In conclusion I am happy to state that the in-door authorities of the house have manifested every anxiety to assist me in carrying out your views on the present emergency, and have in no instance thrown any impediment in the way.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 21, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your two reports of the 19th instant, relating to the discontinuance of out-door relief to able-bodied men in Kells Union; and I am directed to inform you that the Commissioners have seen a deputation from the Board of Guardians on the subject, and have communicated to them the intention of the Commissioners not to alter the existing order until on a further representation, it should appear to be absolutely necessary.

The Commissioners further informed the deputation that they deemed it desirable that all the aged and infirm inmates of the workhouse should receive out-door allowances sufficient to enable them to find lodging for themselves, as well as food, if they have no relations or friends willing to receive them.

When this class of inmates has been placed on the out-door relief list, and has left the workhouse, the Commissioners trust that there will be sufficient accommodation in the workhouse for the relief of destitute able-bodied men.

The Commissioners understand from the deputation that there will be 69 vacancies in the workhouse this day; so, under any circumstances, the Commissioners would deem it premature to have issued yesterday an order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men.

The Commissioners will feel obliged by a further report from you regarding the accommodation in the workhouse.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 20, 1848.*

I BEG to forward the enclosed from Captain Robinson, one of the Poor Law Guardians of this Union, addressed to me on the subject of the wish of some to restore out-door relief to the able-bodied. This gentleman was opposed to the resolution passed and to the deputation being appointed.

I expressly pointed out to the Board of Guardians that under any circumstance out-door relief could not be granted with so much room in their house; and I have been with the Vice-Chairman to-day, and other members, making arrangements. I have a house in view which I hope will answer for the purpose of removing all the small children of both sexes into, with their keepers, steady old people who, have no wish to leave the house. This will give me two wards at present occupied by them, and will sleep about 40 persons. I have arranged with the medical officers of the house and fever hospital—the latter having the county hospital (nearly empty) under his control—to remove the patients out of the new sheds entirely, by which, after they are cleansed and disinfected under the medical officers, I shall have full room for 80 on each side. I have sent 20 children this day to the female school (branch house), and shall in two or three days have full sleeping room for upwards of 100 more: this, with the few vacancies now in the main building, will enable me to give admission to a large amount, say 300 to 330, without crowding. I have seen many men in my ride to-day; but in no instance have I been able to prevail on one to come into the house. To talk of out-door relief with this state of things would be folly; if the poor are left to themselves we shall not have much trouble.

ENCLOSURE.

Captain ROBINSON to Captain DENT.

I AM very anxious to see you on the subject of the attempt which is now being made to defeat the workhouse test, and I am persuaded that if now successful we shall have out-door relief for ever. I write to-day (and somewhat hastily), as the deputation will go to Dublin to-morrow; and I wish very much you would, without delay, find out privately the feeling of the Commissioners on the subject. They are about being urged to do an act not only (I think) highly imprudent, but manifestly illegal. The Act gives them authority to carry out the provisions of the law, and the law provides in the amendment that out-door relief shall not be given whilst there is room in the house. Now if they be prevailed upon to give the order, with room for 200 in the house, would it not be competent for me or any other rate-payer to put a 14 days' notice on the books, to appeal against the rate as levied for, and applied to, an illegal purpose. I should be exceedingly sorry to incumber the proceedings of the Commissioners, or plague them (dear knows they are harassed enough, and are doing their very best); but I feel so strongly on this point that I cannot make up my mind to submit to this measure, if the Commissioners should be once persuaded to accede to it. They ought to know, moreover, that the feeling in its favour is not unanimous.

Kells Union.

The BOARD of GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS.

THE Board of Guardians of the Kells Union take leave most respectfully to bring the following facts under the immediate notice of the Poor Law Commissioners:—

An order for out-door relief to the able-bodied was, on the urgent and repeated application of the Board, granted to us, to continue in force till the 14th of March. It has now expired, and the Board most earnestly press upon the Commissioners the necessity for its immediate renewal.

Destitution to a large extent is still fearfully apparent to every member of the Board connected with those electoral divisions, in which it has been found necessary to have recourse to out-door relief for the labourer; and even since the stoppage of the order, and during the day or two which have just elapsed, enough has appeared to lead us to the conclusion that it will not be safe or prudent not at once to resume it. We are perfectly convinced that it will be utterly impracticable for those dismissed labourers to find employment in any legitimate way, and that beggary, accompanied by threats, thefts, or starvation, must be the results of their dismissal.

We have come to this conclusion after a very long and careful examination of our relieving officers; having looked into the condition, separately, of every electoral division in which such relief was granted.

We are happy to state that in most of them we find the number of persons engaged in stone-breaking gradually diminishing, and the labourers partially finding employment for themselves of a profitable character. Our relieving officers state to us, unanimously, that no person now engaged on their works would willingly remain on them another day, receiving as they do a scanty provision, in place of wages from ordinary employers. Even sixpence a day has been named to us as a sufficient inducement to withdraw them from seeking public support, and we are likewise fully under the impression that they will remain for the present totally unemployed should their actual allowance be withdrawn.

We beg to refer the Commissioners to statements to this effect from each of our relieving officers, which we trust will convince the Commissioners, as they have us, of the full sufficiency of the double test which accompanies out-door relief to the able-bodied—inadequate wages and disagreeable employment.

It appears that in the electoral division of Kilskeer, 48 persons only are now receiving employment at stone-breaking, 80 having been engaged at it on the commencement of the works. We have this day received a deputation from that electoral division, stating the absolute necessity of those 48 being continued for the moment, as they can find no other work, however willing they may be and are to accept any that would be proposed to them.

In the electoral division of Burry 19 persons only are now at work, 31 having been on the work when it commenced; the others have been gradually absorbed in the labour-market—and the others would willingly leave their present occupation if they could do so.

In the electoral division of Dulane, 26 were at work on the stoppage of the works; at one time it was found necessary to find employment for 51. These 26 would willingly get other work, but many of them are old and infirm labourers, and cannot get employment.

In Kells, 75 persons were in employment at the termination of the order; at one time 130 persons were on public work. The difference between the two numbers has evidently been absorbed; there is no work at present for the 75, who are, many of them, only nominally able-bodied men, and who look at stone-breaking for rations, as the most miserable employment for the most miserable recompense.

The same observations apply to the electoral divisions of Nobber and Mullagh; and we receive from both the same statement of the dangerous and deplorable consequences which will result from this sudden and unexpected abandonment of public work.

In one electoral division alone, *i.e.* that of Kilbeg, has the number of those employed by us continued to increase to the last moment. In it the excessive and increasing poverty of a district containing several very small farms, attached to a very poor and neglected town, will account for the increase. No employment is afforded by the chief landowners, and the destitution, if not relieved by public works, will leave 70 fearfully impoverished labourers in a state of starvation.

We conclude by again urgently requesting the renewal of the order, empowering us to continue for the present out-door relief.

Kells Union.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM on the foregoing Paper:—*March 21, 1848.*

THIS paper was left by the deputation, consisting of the Marquess of Headfort, Sir M. Chapman, and an elected Guardian.

Mr. Twistleton informed the deputation that he deemed it desirable that all the aged and infirm inmates of the workhouse should receive out-door allowances sufficient to enable them to find lodging for themselves as well as food, if they have no relations or friends willing to receive them; in order to make room for able-bodied and their families to the utmost practicable extent.

He declined until this was done, and shown to be unavailing for relief of the able-bodied, to alter the present order.

OBSERVATIONS of Captain HUBAND, Inspector, on the foregoing Paper:—
March 23, 1848.

I HAVE read the paper handed to Mr. Twistleton. My opinion has not been altered by reading it. I should not recommend any proceeding until the workhouse be filled. Statements as strong as those in the paper have been made before by Baltinglass, Naas, Trim, Drogheda, Navan, &c. They did not get any order for out-door relief, with the exception of Naas, and that was not acted upon. What became of those persons who were represented to be so destitute?

There are but two Unions in my district where out-door relief to the able-bodied has been given. It always was and is my opinion that the delay of the Guardians of these Unions to provide workhouse accommodation was the cause why such orders became necessary.

The labouring people must seek for employment upon the farms. The workhouse accommodation of Kells Union will be, in my opinion, adequate for the reception of those persons who cannot get employment.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

IN compliance with the directions contained in your letter 21st, desiring me to report further on the accommodation in this workhouse, I beg to state, that in consequence of having finished the alterations in the branch house, cleared the new sheds at the workhouse, and appropriated the two wards used heretofore for small children as a day-room, together with the number which the master and matron have reported vacant in the body of the house, there will be vacancies for upwards of 300 on Saturday morning. My firm conviction is, that scarcely any of the able-bodied will apply with the intention of coming into the house, but may, as last Saturday, appear the head of the family only for the purpose of obtaining a temporary supply to take home with them. To obviate this as much as possible, I have issued a memorandum to the respective relieving officers, a copy of which is appended to this; if they still persist in coming singly they must stand the consequence.

I have accompanied the Marquess of Headfort through the two houses to-day, who is pleased to approve of the arrangements.

The weather has been greatly against employment, but I am credibly informed that not above 12 of the number who at times of the day infest Kells-street are really unemployed, but that the plan is, at meal hours, &c., to make a show, and carry the appearance of destitution; some there are, no doubt, unable, but it is an extraordinary fact, that not one able-bodied person came into the house last week, though those said to be starvingly destitute, and were relieved temporarily, promised.

I shall report further as necessary.

ENCLOSURE.

SIR,

As there is room in the workhouse for some hundred persons, I request you will make it known among the able-bodied poor seeking relief in your district, and that it is quite impossible to give them relief out of it.

Kells Union.

You will also impress on them that it will be useless their appearing at the workhouse without their families, as they will get no assistance afforded them; if they persist in doing this, they will have themselves alone to blame.

There may be instances where, from illness, weakness, or other cause, the poor may be unable to walk so far; in such cases you are authorized by the Board of Guardians (on Saturday last) to hire conveyance to bring them in; but you will be held strictly responsible for incurring any unnecessary expense, which will only add to the burthens of the rate-payers.

Dated at Kells, March 23, 1848.

C. C. DENT, *Government Inspector.*

The Relieving Officer,

District.

You will please acknowledge the receipt of this by bearer.

Captain DENT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 26, 1848.*

IN continuation of the report of my proceedings contained in my letter of the 23rd instant, I have to state that all my arrangements were completed on Friday, when, with the medical officers of the workhouse and fever hospital, I inspected the additional accommodation provided in the branch house, and received their unqualified approval of all that had been done; and I was enabled on the opening of the Board of Guardians to show to them that they then had vacancies for at least 320 persons without any crowding. As I anticipated, not an able-bodied person with his family presented themselves—those who appeared before the Board being of the usual description—until the close of the day, when a large number of able-bodied men came in a body and claimed relief, not one having wife or family with them, on their plea of being in a starving state. The Board resolved to admit provisionally until Monday, when they were to be permitted to go for their families. As they were getting noisy some unauthorized person sent for the police, who were speedily on the spot; but as there were none of the magistrates, or indeed any of the Guardians remaining, and not anticipating any disturbance, I requested their officer to withdraw them, remaining myself until the whole (about 100 men and a few women) were admitted and lodged in the probationary wards, when having visited and spoken to them in person, given the necessary directions for the distribution of food to them, I about six o'clock returned to my own house. About seven or after, as I anticipated, they left the house in a body, complaining that beds were not provided for them—a mere excuse—and came in great force, joined by many who were attending the market, in front of my residence, causing much alarm to the inmates. I went out, got the assistance of the police to clear the front of the house to relieve the anxiety of my family, and went among them. No attempts at violence were made, though they had misled one of their priests present with the idea that they had had no food; when every one had, under my directions, received full day's rations. I then returned to the workhouse, they not following, but I believe quietly dispersing; as an hour after, on my return, I saw nothing of them. I hope to report further steps being taken to prevent a recurrence of this. There is a determination against coming into the house, though the Guardians caused a resolution to be entered on their books, and gave directions to have it extensively circulated by the relieving officers, that if they will lock up their cabins and come into the house they, the Board, will prosecute any illegal interference during their absence. The reports of those officers were that some were getting employment, but that many are unemployed. They appear determined to try and force the out-door relief; and I feel myself fully justified in stating my suspicions that there are those behind the scenes who from interested motives—disgraceful to themselves—are encouraging these ideas. On my way to the workhouse in the evening, when near the gate, I heard a great shouting and noise, and found it arose from some persons on their return from market had overtaken the party who conveyed the milk for the use of the house, and commenced an assault on them; kicking the milk over, breaking the tins it was in, and assaulting the carriers, who manfully resisted, and succeeded in capturing the principal aggressor, who was locked up until the police took charge of him, and he is now in their custody to be brought before the magistrates tomorrow. I find he is a member of a family, the father holding some 30 acres of land, who are noted in the neighbourhood of Moynalty for their bad habits; more than one, I believe, having been sent out of the country. I have written to some of the magistrates of that division to beg their attendance, in order that he may not escape for want of persons being on the bench. I shall watch the

proceedings, and report further on it. This town is in a sad state from want of some magistrate or responsible person residing in it. The Vagrant Act is scarce ever put in force, because they have no magistrate nearer than a mile from the town, and he at present absent. I have myself been obliged to send for my car, leave the workhouse, and go out to this magistrate in order that a known character should not escape.

I have visited through the country to inquire into the state of it, calling on the gentry to know from them. While many are doing their duty by the poor labourer, there are very many who, if not shirking it altogether, give employ in such a way as scarce to relieve the individual distress. I questioned two or three of the farmer Guardians, and simply asked that if those who were living on the land who were able and ought to give work (I excluded landholders who were known to be in destitute circumstances, though perhaps holding good farms) were to do so—if that would absorb the able-bodied now seeking employment—the invariable answer was, “certainly it would.”

I hope the weather will do much for us during the next week.

March 27, 1848.

I have been unable to close my report until now. This day has been passed by me at the workhouse and attending the petty sessions to watch the proceedings against defaulters of rates, &c.; and also with a view of proceeding against the collector of the Dulane division, in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Guardians, that he should be summoned and fined for neglect. This summons I find was not issued, and I have to inquire into the cause. With respect to the assault committed on Saturday night, I have had the greatest difficulty in bringing it home. The principal persons who had declared to me that they could swear to the man, when brought before the magistrates declined swearing to it; and once the case was dismissed, with a severe admonition to these parties, that had evidently been tampered with: feeling the importance of substantiating a charge, having once made it, and also in the present state of things in this neighbourhood, seeing what a sort of license such failure would give, I, on further inquiry, found a boy who had been severely bruised and ill-used by the man charged, and had his depositions taken, and a warrant issued for his being again apprehended, he having been released yesterday by a magistrate on the boy's refusing to take the oath as to person.

Fever and sickness generally are, I am happy to say, on the decrease.

The town has not been so much infested to-day, and I am in hopes that employment is being given on a more extended scale. Saturday's market was the largest known for a very long time. Potatoes (seed) were in abundance, and quantities are being brought out that were not known or believed to be in the country. It is said that the planting of this root will be on a large scale in this neighbourhood.

I cannot conclude without referring to a former report on the master and matron's efficiency, and have much pleasure in stating that during this trying emergency they have exerted themselves very much, and to my entire satisfaction, meeting my views and wishes on all points; and I do trust that ere long the state of the house will be such as it ought to be.

RESOLUTION referred to in foregoing.

Extract from Guardians' Minutes, March 25, 1848.

Resolved—That the relieving officers be instructed to acquaint persons having cottages and claiming in-door relief that, in the event of any illegal interference with the possession of the premises, by forcible entry, &c., steps will be taken by informations before the next bench of justices to protect the rights of the person so interfered with.

REPLY to the foregoing :—March 30, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 26th inst., and I am to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners with the successful result of your exertions to have accommodation provided to meet the pressure of able-bodied applicants for relief.

Kells Union.

It appears to the Commissioners that the steps which you have taken for this purpose were most judicious. and they much approve your perseverance in endeavouring to have the parties who have resorted to violence brought to punishment.

In reference to the resolution passed by the Guardians in reference to illegal interference with the possession of cottages in the event of their occupiers coming into the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners entirely approve the disposition exhibited by the Guardians to protect poor persons receiving relief from outrages of the nature described; and the Commissioners request that any such occurrences may be specially and immediately reported.

CLIFDEN UNION.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 9, 1848.*

I THINK the time has arrived when relief should be given to this Union in aid of rates.

I have been satisfied, from what I witnessed myself this day in the electoral division of Ballindoon, and from reports of cases of starvation made to me from various quarters, that the extent of the distress is too great to be met without assistance.

The responsibility rests in a great measure on me, and I cannot withhold my certificate that relief should be given at once from the funds of the British Relief Association. The relieving officers have informed me that they are unable to discharge their duties without assistance.

I shall make more accurate inquiries in reference thereto, and report thereon.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 12, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 9th instant, relating to the state of the finances of the Clifden Union; and, in reply, I am to refer you to the Commissioners' letter of the 10th instant. I am at the same time to request that you will be so good as to place on record a specific report on the following points, viz.:—

1st. What is the sum total of the poor-rates paid in Clifden Union since you were appointed Inspector of the Union, and to how many shillings in the pound on the net annual value does it amount?

2nd. What is the obstacle to the rates being collected? Is it that there is negligence or dishonesty in collectors or rate-payers? Is it that the crops have failed? Are the means of the proprietors and occupiers exhausted; and, if so, how is this proved?

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. DEANE:—*February 17, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to draw your attention to the circumstance that the books of the relieving officers of the Clifden Union were not made up and submitted to the Board of Guardians at their recent meetings.

I am at the same time to state, that it appears to the Commissioners that the relieving officers' districts are too extensive to admit of their efficiently discharging their duties.

The Commissioners consider that each relieving officer should have a district of such extent as will enable him to discharge all the duties of the office efficiently, and not so large that the Guardians cannot reasonably hold him responsible for the due discharge of his duties.

The Commissioners are desirous that you should bring this subject under the early attention of the Vice-Guardians, with a view to the relief districts of the Clifden Union being remodelled.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 15, 1848.*

IN accordance with your instructions I have been acting as one of the Vice-Guardians of this Union, and transacted, in conjunction with Mr. M'Kinstrey, the routine business at the Board on Monday.

The collection for the week amounted to 209*l*.

We are directing our best attention to the reform of the many abuses which have been so long allowed to exist in the workhouse, and feel that, without a change of officers, it will be idle to affect it.

I would suggest the necessity and importance of a master and matron being sent here, who have had some previous experience in the management of a workhouse, and, if possible, a married couple.

Clifden Union.

A contractor has been declared for executing the necessary repairs of the house, and keeping it so for 12 months.

I have had the benefit of Mr. Wilkinson's assistance in his inspection of the workhouse to-day, and shall, in another report, lay before you some suggestions for the improvement of its internal arrangements, which occur to me to be desirable.

I am requested by Mr. M'Kinstrey to express his opinion as to the importance of taking some land adjoining and immediately fronting the workhouse, with the view of employing the able-bodied in the workhouse in tilling and sowing it. There are eight acres which I understand can be easily and cheaply obtained; and I consider it would be highly desirable and advantageous to the interests of the Union to have the land in the possession of the Vice-Guardians, from which a crop may be raised for the use of the paupers.

I shall feel obliged for your instructions on this point.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 17, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will make inquiries with a view to ascertaining whether there are any competent persons whom they could recommend to be appointed master and matron of the workhouse, but the Vice-Guardians must not rely upon the Commissioners for obtaining the services of qualified persons for those offices, and they should lose no time in advertising for candidates in the usual manner.

With regard to the plot of ground in front of the workhouse to which you refer, I am to state that the Commissioners do not object to the Vice-Guardians occupying the quantity of ground which they are authorized to take by the 35th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, and the 20th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act. You will be good enough to report the terms upon which the land referred to may be obtained.

MR. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 15, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 12th instant, requesting me to place on record a specific report in relation to the state of the finances of the Clifden Union, and directing my attention to the supplying information upon the following points:—

1st. What is the sum total of the poor-rates paid in the Clifden Union since I was appointed Inspector, and to how many shillings in the pound it amounts to on the net annual value? The amount collected in the several electoral divisions is as follows:—

<i>Clifden.</i>				<i>Ballindoon.</i>			
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Rate current . . .	674	6	6	Rate current . . .	490	8	3
Rate collected . . .	419	8	1	Rate collected . . .	346	4	10
<i>Renvyle.</i>				<i>Roundstone.</i>			
Rate current . . .	662	10	8	Rate current . . .	1083	13	0
Rate collected . . .	362	5	3	Rate collected . . .	472	5	1

making a total collected in the four electoral divisions since my arrival in Clifden of 1600*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* The warrant for the collector of the Clifden electoral division had been signed previous to my taking charge of the Union, and 172*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* had been collected. This sum added to the sum of 1600*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* will show the total amount collected, viz.:—

£.	s.	d.
1,600	3	3
172	18	4
1,773	1	7

The amount 1600*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* being collected since my arrival in Clifden will amount on the net annual value (22,426*l.* 13*s.*) to 1*s.* 5½*d.* in the pound.

Proceedings have been taken against several defaulting rate-payers in the several electoral divisions, and the Vice-Guardians are led to believe that the parties proceeded against will come in and settle their rates.

2ndly. What is the obstacle to the rates being collected? Is it that there is negligence or dishonesty in the collectors or rate-payers? Is it that the crops have failed? Are the means of the proprietors and occupiers exhausted? and if so, how is this proved?

I conceive, that taking into consideration the circumstances of the landed proprietors of this Union, that the collection has not been at all deficient. Several of the rate-payers who have contributed to the rate are themselves fit objects for out-door relief, and will shortly have to be relieved. The greater part of the property in this district is mortgaged, in many instances to its full value; and the impossibility of obtaining rents causes the collection of the rates from the gentry to be a matter of considerable difficulty. I cannot, upon the whole, attribute negligence to the collectors; the default is with the rate-payers, and not with them. I have constantly had brought before me the names of parties whom the collectors have not succeeded in obtaining the rates from, and in all cases I have recommended and directed them to exercise their undoubted powers for the recovery of the same; and I have not failed to urge the late Board of Guardians to insist on the payment of the amounts due. You will perceive, on reference to the last minutes, that the Vice-Guardians at my recommendation have applied to you for permission to proceed against some of those owing large sums in the superior courts. You may depend on my most anxious and zealous attention being directed to the vigorous and determined collection of the rates in the Union, and I feel satisfied that I shall receive from the gentlemen selected to fill the office of Vice-Guardians every assistance in this important service.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 18, 1848.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of two letters; the first, accompanied with copies of letters to the master and matron of this Union, requiring them to resign their offices, and authorizing us to proceed at once to the appointment of their successors; the second impressing the necessity of furnishing a special weekly report on the subject of the collection of the poor-rates, on the general state of the affairs of the Union, and of the condition of the workhouse when we first entered on the discharge of our duties.

In reference to the first, we beg to state the course we thought it our duty to pursue. We called on the master of the Union to furnish us with written inventories of the several stores and apparel in his charge, in order that no loss should be sustained by the abstraction or injury of the property of the Union, which angry feeling may suggest to any party. With this request he has complied; and we now await his reply to the order of your Board, which we presume we shall be apprised of to-morrow.

In reference to the appointment of the successors to the present master and matron, we would wish to impress most respectfully on your Board our conviction that it would not be advantageous to the public interests (even were it probable that the locality could supply them, which we doubt) to elect residents of the Union to these important offices. From our own observations, and from the reports of those better acquainted with the habits of the recipients of relief, we would respectfully suggest the expediency of confiding the trusts to capable persons not connected in any way with the district; and we should further urge the utility of giving the preference to a *married couple*, by which arrangement obvious advantages would be achieved for the workhouse. We shall await the order of your Board on this subject; and should you coincide with our opinions, we would beg leave to propose that an advertisement in some newspaper of large circulation would be a means of procuring tenders from qualified persons.

Referring to your wishes as to the collection of the rates, we assure you that all our energies and authority shall be exerted to their efficient collection; we are fully aware of the vital importance of attending to our financial duties, and we have already taken measures to stimulate the collectors in lessening the arrears. In our next report we shall have to offer some remarks on the system of out-door relief in this Union, as well as on the manner in which labour in

Clifden Union.

lieu of relief is conducted and performed. The principle of affording relief to the able-bodied *in the workhouse* shall be adhered to in accordance with the rules of the Board, and every effort shall be made to guard against imposition, to which *both* the modes of relief (in-door and extern) are liable.

It now remains for us to apprise your Board of the present state of the workhouse. We went this morning when breakfast was being served to the women; we found the approaches to the house miry, and not in accordance with the cleanliness and propriety which should be characteristic of public institutions, and which, with *plenty of labourers at hand*, could so easily be promoted. The windows are in several places broken; and we would here remark that several minor matters are out of order, to repair or perfect which, a trifling outlay in time would suffice—such as injured locks, latches, &c. The master's room is not what we conceive it is designed to be; it serves as his office, sleeping-room, dining-room, and is also used by others visiting the house. The kitchen was in order, and the food for the women's breakfast was good and abundant. The yards are pretty well kept in order, but require attention; and we would suggest the necessity of raising the enclosure wall, which is often scaled; even this day a young pauper was detected in the act of escaping and carrying off his clothes. We would direct special notice to the force-pump, which must have cost a large sum, but which is now useless from some injury to the pipes or machinery. We regard the supply of water as so essential, that we are most anxious to have this repaired. The dormitories were not as well cleaned nor as effectually ventilated as they should be; but we shall take care to have these essentials henceforth rigidly carried into effect. We found some of the paupers at work on the grounds, under superintendence; we examined the mode of inspection, and we found that vigilance and energy will be wanted to enforce the orders of the Board for pauper labourers. We visited the convalescent wards and the male and female schools; the only remark we have to offer on those is, that the same master attends *both* schools at different periods of the day, and that although *at present* the numbers attending (24 boys and 20 girls) being limited, his instruction may suffice, we think it would be expedient to secure a female teacher's services who could not only teach the usual course, but also instruct them in needlework, spinning, knitting, &c.

This our first report has been necessarily longer than we could wish; but anxious to allude to the several topics of the two letters of your Board we deemed it our duty to risk the charge of excess rather than of omission.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 21, 1848.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 18th instant, relating to the Clifden Union. In reference to the appointment of a master and matron of the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners have no objection to your appointing two persons who are married, to the office of master and matron of the workhouse respectively; and you should advertise at once in the county papers as well as in the Dublin newspapers for candidates for those offices; and then make the best selection in your power from the candidates who offer.

An extract from your report with regard to the boundary walls to the workhouse and the state of the pump will be forwarded to the Commissioners' architect.

The Commissioners think it will be desirable that you should appoint a schoolmistress to the workhouse.

MR. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 21, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I attended the meeting of the Vice-Guardians to-day, and am glad to be enabled to state that the gentlemen selected to discharge the important duties entrusted to them are in every respect well qualified for the execution of the same.

The collection of the rates for the current week amounted to 154*l.* 10*s.*

The Vice-Guardians proceeded to the election of five additional relieving officers, at a salary of 20*l.* per annum; and after a careful examination of the qualifications of each candidate, selected five individuals, whose names appear on the minutes of the day. Awaiting your sanction to the appointment of these officers, and before they proceed to the performance of their duties, they have been directed to assist the present relieving officers in their respective districts.

The great increase of distress in the Union has thrown an amount of duty on the four officers originally appointed, which has prevented the possibility of their having been enabled to make up their books for presentation to the Board at their weekly meetings; the increase in the number of assistant relieving officers is therefore absolutely essential to the due performance of the duties, and to the relief of the destitute applicants.

At the expiration of next week I hope to be in a condition to report that the system prescribed for the duties of relieving officers by the general orders shall be strictly and accurately complied with.

In compliance with your instructions, I beg leave to enclose three separate estimates of the amount which will be "required to preserve from starvation" the destitute of this Union, under the classes specified in your communication of the 10th February. The Vice-Guardians have determined, subject to your sanction, to establish depôts for cooked food, at the several stations in the electoral divisions where relief was dispensed during the operations of the 10th Vict., c. 7, last year; and as the boilers at the greater number of the places still remain set, little difficulty will be experienced in commencing operations. I have suggested to the Guardians the advantage of having the able-bodied employed *near* each station, so that they shall not suffer inconvenience in coming for their rations.

The system adopted by the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union has been adopted here for some time; but in consequence of a supply of the forms not having been forwarded by the printers from Westport, the arrangements have been much interrupted. I fully concur in the value of the system; and though I feel that the expense of printing will amount to a considerable sum, yet upon the whole I am persuaded that the administration of a formal test to the able-bodied, will eventuate in economy to the Union funds. I find that in the week ending 4th July, 1847, 29,300 persons received gratuitous rations, from which I deduct 13,861 impotent and able-bodied who hold or held more than a quarter of an acre of land, which will leave 15,439. The present number receiving relief in the Union, including those in the workhouse, is 10,760; and assuming that the distress is likely to increase to the extent of last year, there would remain 4679 more to be supported. The cost, as you will perceive, of relieving 10,760, at 1½*d.* a ration (which includes staff), would be 485*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* weekly, and the increase of 4679 would be, at the same rate, 204*l.* 14*s.* 1½*d.*, making a total, on the calculation of the data of last year's expense, of 690*l.* 6*s.* 7½*d.*; from this estimate must necessarily be deducted a large amount for the mortality of the last and this season.

The Vice-Guardians and I are directing our best attention to the remodelling of the relief districts; and I propose during the next week to visit the electoral divisions, and form my judgment as to the best means of allocating the duties to the respective relieving officers in the division of the districts.

The Vice-Guardians propose to report to you in the course of the week on the efficiency of the medical attendant of the workhouse.

I regret to be obliged to state that, in consequence of certain charges having been preferred by a pauper against the Roman Catholic curate, Mr. King (who attended to perform duty at the workhouse), for using abusive language to him, that it will be necessary for me to investigate this charge on oath, which I propose to do on Saturday next. I shall defer making any observations in reference thereto until the investigation shall have closed. I am anxious to obtain the Commissioners' opinion as to whether the Vice-Guardians can permit the duties of the Roman Catholic chaplain being performed by his curates. It appears to me most desirable to impose the responsibility on the chaplain appointed by the Board; and if from circumstances, the duties shall be delegated to curates, that it may be done formally.

Clifden Union.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

ESTIMATE of the WEEKLY Cost of supplying Relief to 300 Inmates of the Workhouse of the Clifden Union, including the Hospital Support.

300 inmates, including hospital support . . . Weekly Cost.
£28 0 0

II.

ESTIMATE of the WEEKLY Cost of supplying Relief to the Destitute Poor in the Clifden Union, entitled to Relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Law Relief Extension Act.

Electoral Divisions.	Numbers receiving Relief under the 1st Section.	Weekly Cost of each.	Weekly Cost of each Division.
		d.	£. s. d.
Clifden	2,110	10½	92 6 3
Renvyle	838	„	36 13 3
Roundstone	1,696	„	74 0 0
Ballindoon	1,110	„	48 11 3
Total . .	5,754	..	251 14 9

III.

ESTIMATE of the WEEKLY Cost of supplying Relief to the Destitute Poor in the Union of Clifden, entitled to Relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Law Relief Extension Act.

Electoral Divisions.	Numbers receiving Relief under the 2nd Section.	Weekly Cost of each.	Weekly Cost of each Division.
		d.	£. s. d.
Clifden	2,316	10½	101 6 6
Renvyle	1,095	„	47 18 1½
Roundstone	957	„	41 17 4½
Ballindoon	338	„	14 15 9
Total . .	4,706	..	205 17 9

REPLY to the foregoing:—February 23, 1848.

I AM to state that the Commissioners approve of the appointment of additional relieving officers in the Union, and will be prepared to confirm the appointment of the persons selected, if the answers to the usual queries respecting them are satisfactory. When the relief districts have been remodelled, the district of each relieving officer should be distinctly pointed out to him; and he should be informed that he will be held individually responsible for that locality.

The Commissioners approve of the proposed arrangements of the Vice-Guardians for the establishment of depôts of cooked food, to be issued in daily rations, to the able-bodied poor receiving out-door relief.

As regards the latter part of your report, I am to state that the curates of Roman Catholic chaplains of workhouses have been usually permitted to discharge the chaplain's duties, if he desired that they should do so; but this permission by no means precludes a Board of Guardians from requiring the Roman Catholic chaplain to perform his duties in person, if any peculiar circumstances should render the adoption of that course necessary.

The Commissioners have made application for an advance of 205*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*, the estimated cost of supporting the poor in the Union during the ensuing week, who may be relieved under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 22, 1848.*

Clifden Union.

IN fulfilment of the assurance given in our first report of the 13th instant, that our best efforts should be devoted to the collection of the poor-rates of this Union, we beg to place the following observations before you. On yesterday (Monday in each week being the day appointed for investigating the rate collectors' books), we closely examined the accounts of the district collectors, and we feel it our duty to express our conviction that these officers are desirous of performing their duties as efficiently as possible.

Having ascertained from them that several parties had closed their houses in order to evade the levying of the rate or the serving of the notice, we directed that the usual notices should be posted on the doors.

We beg to subjoin a table of the present position and probable availability of the rates in this Union.

Your Board will be pleased to remark, that the assumption as to the amounts possibly payable in the last column, is the mere opinion of the collector in each district. This opinion, as far as lies in us, we have resolved to test by our personal inspection.

SYNOPSIS OF RATE COLLECTIONS IN CLIFDEN UNION.

Names of Divisions.	Amount Collected this Week, 19th February.	Arrear Outstanding.	Amount of the Arrear probably available.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Clifden	11 3 0	92 9 6	30 0 0
Renvyle	19 7 0	342 13 3	270 0 0
Ballindoon	8 12 0	356 2 3	270 0 0
Roundstone	115 10 0	718 2 6	400 0 0
	154 12 0	1,509 7 6	970 0 0

We are happy to be enabled to report that there is a manifest improvement in the state of the workhouse, both as to the general cleanliness of the several departments, as well as in the health and appearance of the inmates. Fever and dysentery still prevail, but we entertain a hope, that by the observance of a rational simple dietary, the latter disease would be easily obviated. It has been stated to us, that the paupers dreading being sent to hospital, conceal the disease (of dysentery) until it assumes a bad type; when the bad stage of the disease obtains, they are then necessarily sent to hospital, and with their ruined constitutions it is not difficult to account for the mortality.

We have had our views sustained by medical advice, that a *rice* diet would be a preventative of this malady, and being assured that in this locality it would be an economy to use a mixture of rice occasionally with the food of the inmates of the workhouse, we would wish to have the direction of your Board on the subject. This matter is suggested to us by the serious difference between the average cost of the hospital inmates, and that of the healthy paupers; the latter being 1s. 5d. weekly, and the sick 2s. 5d. weekly.

We beg to report, that the present number in hospital is (including fever and dysentery) 90, and that the deaths for the past four weeks, ending on the 19th, were:—

Deaths for week ending 29th January . . .	21
Ditto ditto 5th February . . .	20
Ditto ditto 12th February . . .	10
Ditto ditto 19th February . . .	4

In our last report we had occasion to refer to the necessity of several repairs in the workhouse; we were not then aware that a contract for these and several other works was under consideration, but now that we are aware of this, we shall use all diligence in having the *essentials* executed forthwith.

We deem it our duty to observe, that in several departments the mode of transacting the business, and the method of furnishing the accounts, were most objectionable.

The accounts and registries of the relieving officers have been allowed to go into arrear, and in more than one instance have been indescribably confused,

Clifden Union.

whilst a very lax and perplexing system prevailed, in incurring responsibilities, in checking expenditure and in the general routine of the business connected with the interests of the Union. We shall feel it incumbent on us to order a reform of the manner in which the officers of the Union kept their books, and we shall use all our efforts to enforce a system by which the requisite regularity may be observed. It is due to them to observe, that the relieving officers to whose default we particularly refer, have been hitherto overburdened, and as assistants have been appointed subject to the approval of your Board, we expect that *in future* their accounts will be more regularly kept.

It would be most desirable that we should be conversant with the several divisional sections of this Union; and for the purpose of obtaining this information, we would respectfully ask your Board to supply us with maps on the larger scale. By their aid we could better understand the duties and spheres of the officers (relieving), as well as the means by which relief may be most speedily and economically forwarded in any emergency; such as a contractor's failing to perform his obligations.

We feel bound to report that we received from credible sources, accounts of persons dying in the rural divisions, of want, owing to the impossibility of the relieving officer's attending each case; and although assistant officers have been chosen subject to your sanction, we still apprehend that many poor creatures unable to *come* and apply for food, and out of the way of the officer in his visits, which must necessarily be rapid, must perish if some mode of meeting the evil peculiar to this Union be not devised.

We have directed that the amount due of this Union to the audit fund (6*l.* 15*s.*) should be placed to the credit of that fund as ordered.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February* 26, 1848.

WITH regard to the proposed alteration of the dietary of the inmates of the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners have no objection to such alteration of the dietary as you and the medical officer may propose in accordance with the general workhouse regulations.

With regard to your request to be supplied with maps of the Union, I am to state that the maps which are requisite should be purchased by you and paid for out of the Union funds.

With reference to the distress which you report exists in the Union, the Commissioners desire to observe that it is your duty to devise the means which local circumstances may enable you to adopt, for placing out-door relief within reach of destitute persons in the Union, who are unable to go to any of the places at which the relieving officers now attend. The Commissioners rely on you for having relief administered fully according to law; and where difficulty may arise from local obstacles, these must be overcome by such means as you and the Temporary Poor Law Inspectors shall, on conference see best to be adopted.

The Commissioners will readily sanction the appointment of additional Relieving officers if they are necessary, and the establishment of additional depôts, so as to bring relief within the range of every destitute person in the Union.

The system under which you are acting is capable of indefinite expense; and the Commissioners cannot admit the existence of difficulty on this head, which may not be overcome by energy and discrimination.

MR. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February* 28, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day.

The principal business transacted was the remodelling of the relief districts. I paid a good deal of attention to this matter, and availed myself of all the local information I could obtain. The division of the districts is in my opinion the best that could be made.

The electoral division of Roundstone has been divided into three, which three divisions are named, North, East, and South Roundstone.

Ballindoon, into North and South Ballindoon.

Renvyle, into North and South Renvyle.

Clifden, into North and South Clifden.

The boundaries have been pointed out on the map to the relieving officers.

The clerk of the Union reports that the forms of queries to be answered by the relieving officers have not been sent to him. With the view of enabling these officers to proceed forthwith to the execution of their duties, one form has been filled up, with answers from the five individuals appointed.

Boilers are in course of being placed in localities where they have been deemed necessary, for the cooking of food for the able-bodied.

The Vice-Guardians propose to give cooked food not only to the able-bodied, but also to the widows with two or more children. The permanently disabled must in some instances be served with dry meal.

There is some difficulty in knowing how to deal with cooked food where a weekly allowance has been ordered; and I shall feel obliged for any suggestion you can give the Vice-Guardians on this subject. I feel, from the experience I have gathered during the operations of the Relief Commission last year, the great advantage and economy of using cooked food, and I am most anxious to see it in general use here.

The Vice-Guardians have appointed competent persons to distribute and make the food.

With the view of making the workhouse as available as possible for the able-bodied, the Vice-Guardians have discharged, on a weekly money allowance, some of the infirm paupers; the allowance is 1s. 2d. a-week.

The temporary fever hospital (Clifden) will be ready for occupation next week.

The hospital of Ballinahinch (near the town of Roundstone) is not yet completed.

A house for the hospital at Ballinakill has not yet been obtained. Dr. Suffield is making every exertion to secure one for the Vice-Guardians.

The medical officer of the Union workhouse is in fever, and Dr. Suffield is performing his duties.

I rejoice to state that there are but eight cases of fever in the hospital. The mortality has greatly decreased.

The collection of the rate has been satisfactory this week, 103*l*. 5*s*. having been collected.

The balance uncollected on the whole current rate is now 1410*l*.

I am directing my best attention to the general improvement of the workhouse. A contractor has been declared for putting the house in repair, painting, &c., &c., and he has proceeded to the performance of the work.

Should the Vice-Guardians be enabled to economize the expenditure of the temporary fever hospital, it might be well to apply any balance remaining after the completion of the hospital, to making some alterations in the house, the particulars of which I shall lay before you in another communication; but I should be glad to know, in the first instance, whether you would sanction the expenditure, supposing a balance was available.

The Vice-Guardians have requested me to call your attention to the difficulties they have to contend with in getting a supply of clothing, blankets, &c.; and they wish to know whether it would be possible to obtain from the Government a supply of cast-off clothing, bedding, &c. The latter would be most valuable at the present moment, for the use of three temporary fever hospitals which are about to be established.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' approval of the re-arrangement of the relief districts of the Union. The usual queries to be answered by the new relieving officers were forwarded to the clerk of the Union on the 23rd ultimo.

With regard to the issue of rations once only in each week, I am to state that the Commissioners are of opinion that great efforts should be made to introduce the system of giving rations in cooked food daily.

Clifden Union.

The Commissioners have reason to believe that where rations of meal have been issued weekly, they have sometimes been entirely consumed during three or four days of the week, to the great detriment of the paupers during the remaining days.

The great point to be borne in mind is the due relief of destitution in the manner which is at the same time the most effectual and the most economical. The Commissioners think that in reference to the improvidence which has been found to exist, this end can be best secured by daily rations of cooked food.

The Commissioners desire me to request that you will have the goodness to supply some further information with respect to the expenditure for providing temporary accommodation for fever patients, as regards the fund to be economized, and the improvements to be made in the workhouse.

The Commissioners have addressed the Vice-Guardians with respect to the supply of bedding and clothing for the temporary fever hospitals. It will be necessary that those hospitals should be furnished with the articles which are requisite, in the usual manner.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 28, 1848.*

AT our Board meeting to-day the weekly accounts of the rate collectors were submitted, by which it appears that a sum of 103*l.* 5*s.* was lodged to our credit with the treasurer, viz.:—

	£.	s.	d.	
Clifden Division	9	0	0	} for week ending 26th of February.
Ballindoon Division	5	0	0	
Renvyle Division	34	13	0	
Roundstone Division	54	12	0	
	£103	5	0	

to which a sum exceeding 84*l.* from one rate-payer will be added by to-morrow, and which will appear in this week's credit. We deem it our duty to observe that we find a discrepancy between the amount of out-standing arrears in the collectors' and our clerk's books. This we shall closely investigate; at present we understand it was owing to a practice allowed by the former Guardians of permitting the collectors to pay their own salaries, in part—a practice which we shall of course put an end to. Of the large arrears uncollected it appears that large proprietors are principally defaulters. In cases where it may be incumbent on us to institute legal proceedings, we shall wherever it can be rendered available, with the sanction of your Board, bring the parties before the assistant-barrister; but we fear that in most instances it will be necessary to have recourse to the higher courts. We have the pleasure of stating, that in the workhouse the health of the inmates is much improved, a result which we attribute to cleanliness, now enforced, and to an improved dietary. Fever in the house has decreased, and dysentery is now the prevailing sickness. We are using every effort to have the local fever hospital, as well as those at Roundstone and Ballinakill, available as soon as possible. It would be most desirable to obtain for those hospitals supplies of bedding, clothing, &c., from other sources than our rates, and if the Government had any such matters to spare, it would be most useful to send a supply to this Union. We have strongly urged the relieving officers to carry out the great object for which they are designed, namely, to provide that no one wanted relief who was a fit object to receive it. We have also impressed upon them the second duty, to be diligent in detecting imposition. Our present impression is, that in addition to the late extra relieving officers it will be necessary to appoint others to aid in the efficient working of the system.

The districts were at this day's meeting sub-divided at the suggestion of gentlemen knowing the localities, and with the Temporary Inspector's co-operation. This arrangement may enable the relieving officers to execute their duties with more effect; but taking into account the distances they have to go, and the admitted fact that they are not cognizant of one out of twenty of the cases on the application books, we beg to express our opinion that additional assistance will, for a time, be necessary. We shall report as soon as possible from personal observation in the several districts, on this important subject.

The machinery for distributing cooked food is extensively organized, and will, we trust, work well and economically.

We acted to day on our resolve of rendering the workhouse more available, as a test; we discharged, with their own consent, several inmates of the infirm ward, allowing a weekly cash relief of 1s. 2d. for adults, and 7d. for children.

We have chequed on our treasurer for 6l. 15s. to credit of the audit fund.

Mr. Darcy attended the Board to day, and offered the land in front of the workhouse, at 2l. per acre; we think the price high, but we regard the possession of the ground as of essential value to the Union, and we would further beg to submit to your Board the expediency and utility of adding to the workhouse the land at the rear; both lots are surrounded by roads, and all form one compact section. We are assured that great benefits and ultimate profits would ensue. Crops of oats and potatoes would be produced, turf fuel cut, a suitable cemetery obtained, *remote from the house*, the swamps drained from around it, and healthful useful employment at hand for the able-bodied, whilst the execution of such improvements would also prove ornamental, and tend to *secure* the health of the inmates.

We have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 26th instant, and beg to state that we shall pay due attention to its contents.

We impressed in the strongest manner on the relieving officers the necessity of preparing the returns required by your Board, and we have allowed them to have for a limited time the assistance of clerks to enable them to have the needful done without prejudice to the poor in their several districts.

One matter demands our special notice. It is not unusual for the local contractors to run out of supplies, and they then desire to know if other food, such as rye or barleymeal, may be substituted. Our efforts shall be directed in all cases to compel responsible parties to fulfil their engagements; but we wish to guard against failures which would be fatal, and which no after penalties would atone for, *if food were wanted, and not in the district*. How this may be best obviated in such a locality, we desire the opinion of your Board.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

WITH reference to arrears of rate due by the large landed proprietors in the Union, I am to recommend for your consideration the expediency of directing the collectors to obtain payment by the service of a 15 days' notice, and subsequent complaint and summons before a justice of the peace in the ordinary manner. This course will be more advantageous where it can be adopted, both for the rate-payer and the Union, inasmuch as the rate will be more speedily paid, and it will save the rate-payer from the very heavy expenses of proceedings in the superior Courts of Record. When, however, it is found necessary to resort to the latter proceedings or to Civil Bill, the Commissioners rely upon the Vice-Guardians to see that the proceedings are carried on with vigour and despatch.

The Commissioners are desirous of being furnished with a list of the several immediate lessors in the Union who are still defaulters, with the amount due by each, and a brief note of the proceedings which have been adopted to obtain payment in each case.

The Commissioners are not aware that there is any supply of bedding or clothing at the disposal of the Government which could be appropriated for the temporary fever hospitals. An extract from your report on the subject will be forwarded to the Board of Health.

The Commissioners will sanction any re-arrangement of the relief districts which you may suggest, and the Inspector of the Union shall recommend for approval.

The Commissioners await the report of their architect on your communication with respect to the occupation of some additional land adjoining the workhouse. You will have the goodness to state in the meantime the number of acres of ground which you would propose to occupy in addition to the present workhouse site.

With regard to your apprehension of contractors being unable to continue supplying the description of provisions specified in the contracts for the relief of the poor in the Union, I am to state that the meal which contractors may propose to substitute, should be such as can be used for food with convenience and advan-

Clifden Union.

tage, having regard to the health of the paupers, the means of preparing the food for use, and the cost of the substitute. You will also be so good as in every case to be governed by proved inability to procure the meal specified in the contract;—so that any change to be considered shall appear to be rendered indispensable by general deficiency of local supplies; and not be adopted to suit the contractors' interests.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 2, 1848.*

ON Tuesday we proceeded to Ballinakill to make arrangements for securing suitable premises for a fever hospital in that district. There is a difficulty in obtaining a proper house, but we have reason to expect this difficulty may be overcome.

On Wednesday we went to Roundstone, for the double purpose of securing accommodation there for the treatment of fever in hospital, as well as for observing the system at present in operation for the relief of the poor through our relieving officers.

We have done all that was possible as relates to the hospital. We have got a tender to make accommodation for about 50 patients, available in a month at an outlay for buildings of 12*l.* 10*s.*, and a weekly charge for rent of 5*s.* This hospital will require all the necessaries of bedding, &c.; but we deem it prudent in the state of that district to use every effort to check the spread of contagion, and to remove into one place the disease which is now we are assured raging in the district, and which, if unchecked, will become malignant.

In Roundstone we felt convinced that the labour of the recipients of relief could be most profitably employed in sweeping and cleansing the streets, which are, beyond all description, filthy and disgusting. We regard it almost an impossibility that the health of such a place, in times like the present, can be expected to improve so long as the filth and heaps of offensive matter are allowed to stagnate in the public thoroughfares.

Another matter of importance suggests itself—it appears that in summer it is necessary to go one mile out of town to procure fresh water for Roundstone. May not the labour now available be converted to this most essential want? If your Board consent, we should wish to apply the test-labour, in towns and villages in this Union, to the sweeping of the streets, cleaning sewers, &c. &c.

The principal object in our reporting to-night is to express our conviction that, in the present system of out-door relief, a gigantic imposition is universally practised. We have satisfied ourselves, by personal examination, that the present mode is all-objectionable; that no check exists; that the great object, the feeding of the destitute, is not provided for as fully as it may be, and that thousands are receiving rations who are not entitled to them. Thus the poor famish, and the rate-payers are plundered. To meet this tremendous evil, which every one admits, we beg to suggest the best substitute which our present means of information supply. We think it is a good simple organization, and that it will, by affording a certain means of inquiry and detection, in a short time suppress all imposition, so far as getting extra rations or supplies from two districts, or rations for two parties, as is quite usual both being for one (the applicant giving married name and name before marriage, &c.) It will also simplify the mode of checking all the accounts, and remove most of the perplexities of the present mode.

We propose that every applicant on the relieving officers' books, under the two classes, should receive a ticket numbered (say from 1000 to 2000 in each division), that the numbers include all parties entitled to relief, able-bodied, widows, infirm, &c. That in each division there should be a distinct number for each and every applicant. We propose that these tickets should, in the forms we subjoin, be printed on parchment slips, of the shapes noted, and that each recipient should hold his or her ticket continually. These tickets vary in form, and in name of district, so that the holder of such ticket in any one district cannot get relief under its permit in any other; each number of every ticket represents the head of a family, or of a person entitled to, receive relief in his own behalf. This number is independent of the number on the Application Book; but when issued in either of the lists, as subjoined, the number on the Application Book is easily referred to. We propose that the relieving officer shall, on the application of an able-bodied person, insert his name on the list (form A, No. 1); and satisfied of the state of his family and other essentials

(these data at present to be taken from the Application Book), that he shall then give applicant a parchment ticket numbered (suppose No. 1). We then propose that all the persons thus situated be put on the last-named list (form A, No. 1), supplied with ticket numbered, and that the list be sent to the overseer. The latter holds the list (form B), and in the proper columns he inserts the number, names, rations, &c., of the persons sent to him, marking each day's work with a (1), and each day's absence with a ×—each evening he takes his list to the distributor. The numbers are called, not the names, and each number receives the quantum of food due to him according to the rations stated in the relieving officer's list (form A, No. 1).

The mode of supplying the widows and infirm, or aged, is equally plain: a ticket numbered represents each; and on presentation, whether weekly in case of dry meal issue, or daily if cooked food be substituted, that ticket is an order for the rations stated in the list (form A, No. 2).

It is difficult to convey concisely the object of this system. Its leading merits are, that there can be no duplicate applications for, or rather obtainment of, rations. The number is the record; that record is (by the shape and printing of the ticket) confined to a district, and it is impossible that any person holding a ticket of one district can get food in another; at present the reverse is the fact. Besides this, when once the numeration order is followed in each district, we have a simple check—we can go over the whole district with the lists, we can call for the tickets, compare the numbers (of the ticket and the lists), and in every instance it is possible to ascertain if all the members of a family represented by the ticket exist and require aid.

We beg to enclose, for the consideration of your Board, forms of the headings of the fortnightly sheets (forms A and B), and also the forms of tickets, which we are of opinion ought to be on parchment or some durable material; parchment would best bear friction and exposure to weather, and would in the end be the cheapest. We suggest that the variety of shape is necessary, and that in the printing space should be left for the numbering, which is to be filled in by the relieving officer.

Should your Board be pleased to consider this system, and to confide its working to us, we have not a doubt but that at least a ton of meal per diem will be saved in the Union. We should also respectfully beg of you, if you are satisfied with the mode we propose, that you would order from the printer a supply of sheets in the forms enclosed on paper of a suitable size, and also parchment tickets according to the enclosed patterns (omitting the numbers), printed in the most durable ink. We ask this immediate supply because we feel its necessity, and it is not possible to procure the requisites here.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have given Mr. Thom directions to supply the forms required for putting the system for giving out-door relief, which you are desirous of adopting in the Union, into practice.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners will raise no objection to the employment of some of the able-bodied paupers in sweeping the streets of Roundstone.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 7, 1848.*

IN reply to your circular letter in respect to the determination or suspension, on the 18th March, of out-door relief at present afforded to able-bodied poor persons in Unions in Ireland, I have the honour to report that it would not be desirable to adopt such a course in this Union. My reasons for arriving at this conclusion are shortly these:—

1st. The amount of distress is so considerable that relief will be absolutely essential to prevent the population from starvation.

2nd. There is little if any employment provided under the Land Improvement Act in this Union.

3rd. From the circumstances of the majority of the landed proprietors, they are unable to employ the labouring population on their respective properties.

For the above reasons I would recommend the continuance of relief under the 2nd section, to the able-bodied paupers of the Clifden Union.

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REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 9, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will have the goodness to state whether the state of the Union is such that the provisions of the accompanying order to Listowel Union could be carried into effect.

It will be observed that under that order single men, and men with only two children, will be thrown on their own resources.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 7, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I attended the weekly meeting of the Vice-Guardians yesterday; the amount of business to be disposed of obliged the Board to adjourn the proceedings to this day.

Arrangements are in active progress for the distribution of rations to all classes in cooked food. I hope in my next report to be enabled to state that the issue of dry meal has altogether ceased.

Upon reference to the accounts of the contractor who supplies meal for the Clifden electoral division, I find that the number of rations issued to those ordered relief under the 1st and 2nd sections of the Act of Parliament, for the week ending the 4th March, was 24,538½. The population of the electoral division is 7500.

It occurs to me that this issue is excessive, and that it will be necessary for the Vice-Guardians to institute a very careful revision of the relieving officers' lists, and to endeavour to check imposition, which I am satisfied prevails to a very great extent. In consequence of the books of the several relieving officers not being as yet complete, the Guardians are not in a position to proceed to a revision, and though assistance has been given to the officers, yet the out-door relief register has not been filled; and the lists of those receiving relief have consequently not been made out, printed, and posted, according to your directions.

The Vice-Guardians have informed me that with the view of preventing imposition, they have proposed a plan for checking the issues which has been already submitted to you.

The first distribution in cooked food in Clifden electoral division will take place to-day, and the economy in the expenditure will necessarily show itself. I have proposed to the Guardians that those receiving relief under the 1st section shall have the rations at a morning issue, 11 o'clock, and that the able-bodied shall be served on the completion of their task, say 4 o'clock, P.M. The overseer in charge will be held responsible for bringing the men under his charge to the kitchen, where they will be served in the order their names appear on his list. I think this arrangement will ensure order and regularity.

The collection of the rate during the week amounted to 113*l.* 17*s.*

The balance in the hands of the treasurer is about 150*l.*

The collectors have received directions to furnish returns of the immediate lessors and occupiers in arrear, which shall be forwarded to you with the least possible delay.

The Guardians have directed proceedings to be taken against all defaulting rate-payers. The fifteen-day notice has been served where practicable on immediate lessors, and proceedings by civil bill shall be used in such cases as may be deemed advisable.

The amount of rate uncollected in the Union is 1279*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The Guardians yesterday elected Patrick Joyce, master of the workhouse. I have every reason to believe that Joyce will make an efficient master. He is at present one of the relieving officers, and has given much satisfaction in the execution of his duties.

Since the date of my last report, Dr. Bodkin, the medical attendant of the workhouse, died of fever, contracted in the discharge of his duties.

The Guardians have appointed Dr. Suffield to act pro tempore.

I am glad to be enabled to state that disease has decreased very considerably in the workhouse. I beg leave to enclose a report from Dr. Suffield, in reference to the sanitary condition of the house. During a tour which I made last week of the northern part of the Union, I learned that fever prevails to a very great extent.

The Guardians have not been enabled as yet to procure a suitable building for the fever hospital at Ballinakill. I have not failed to call their attention to the

importance of providing accommodation for fever patients in that district with the least possible delay.

A supply of bedding has been ordered for Clifden temporary fever hospital, which will be open for the reception of patients in a few days.

The Guardians have secured a building in Roundstone for another hospital. It is fast advancing to completion.

The relieving officer of South Roundstone has reported to the Vice-Guardians that fever prevails to a very alarming extent in his district, and that the mortality is very great. The inhabitants are 20 miles distant by land from any medical relief; and from a knowledge which I possess of that locality, I would strongly recommend the establishment of a fever hospital at Carna, which is nearly the centre of the district.

Dr. Gannon, who has been appointed medical attendant of the Roundstone hospital, could in fine weather cross the bay to Carna. By land the distance from Roundstone to Carna is about 20 Irish miles.

The attention of the Board of Health will no doubt be directed by you to this important matter.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. SUFFIELD to the VICE-GUARDIANS of the CLIFDEN UNION:—*March 4, 1848.*

It is gratifying to me to be able to inform you, that the sanitary condition of the workhouse has much improved since my last report; disease has much decreased, and at present there are but 65 cases in hospital; of this number dysentery forms by far the greatest number, and children are the principal sufferers. Of fever there are but a few cases; and those are of a mild nature. To a proper arrangement of the dietary I consider we must look to check the progress of dysentery and bowel complaints now so prevalent, and to this point I would in particular direct your attention. Much has been gained by the change already made in the dietary; but I would again suggest that all children in the house at and under six years of age should receive bread and milk diet, without Indian meal stirabout, together with rice and soup occasionally; and if possible, that warm clothing and shoes should be procured for the children—the cold in the feet having a great effect in producing dysentery. The children also complain of insufficient bed-clothes; steps should be taken to remedy this. A great evil which now exists, and which must lead to bad results, is allowing the paupers to sleep two and three in a bed; this is highly injurious, and should be remedied without delay. It is caused not from want of room, but for want of bed and bedding. The changes lately made in the hospital have proved of infinite service; but I have to complain of the want of a proper supply of clean sheets, quilts, and bed-ticks; without these the hospital cannot be kept clean, nor disease be checked. Clean clothes should also be provided for the hospital ward-maids. Having applied to the matron, she was unable to give them a supply.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 8, 1848.*

IN pursuance of your directions expressed in your letter of the 2nd March, that I should supply you information with respect to the expenditure for providing temporary accommodation for fever patients in Clifden electoral division, the funds to be economized, and the improvements to be made in the workhouse; I have the honour to report, that the sum which has been borrowed by the late Board of Guardians for the alteration, &c., of the hospital was 200*l.*, of which about 120*l.* will be expended, according to the estimates submitted to your architect. With the balance remaining I would suggest first, that the present Board-room of the workhouse should be divided, so as to provide a relieving officer's room, which could also be used as a clerk's office, and that the present clothes store, at the north end of the Board-room, should be increased in size.

The Vice-Guardians have suggested, with the view of affording additional dormitory accommodation, that their present Board-room should be used for that purpose, and that a Board-room should be provided in one of the buildings at present occupied as a schoolroom. I beg leave to forward a plan for carrying this suggestion into effect, which has been prepared for the Vice-Guardians.

I am fully sensible of the importance of providing additional accommodation in the workhouse, but at the same time I am not prepared to recommend any alteration which would effect the external appearance of the building. It would be, no doubt, desirable to have a Board-room detached from the house, but I fear the arrangement proposed could not be carried out without producing incongruity of style. Windows should be broken out from the roof of the building in which the attic Board-room is proposed, and the opposite school-house should be decorated similarly.

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The present ventilating turrets of the main building are very much out of repair, and it occurs to me that they may be dispensed with in this exposed climate where there is such constant rain; it is very difficult to keep them staunch, and as the stair-cases over which they are placed are lighted by small windows their removal would be the less objectionable. I would suggest (supposing that you consented to their removal) that one of them should be placed on the centre line of the roof between the two chimneys, as a belfry turret. This, in my opinion, would break the line of the roof, and in no way affect the architectural appearance of the building. A bell is much required in the house.

The Vice-Guardians having determined to take the quantity of land which they are empowered to do, under the 1 and 2 Vict. cap. 56, and the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, I beg leave to state, that the land which they have negotiated for with Mr. D'Arcy is peculiarly eligible for the purposes required. There are about five acres immediately fronting the house, at each side of which are the two roads leading into the town of Clifden. A boundary wall, at some future time, could enclose all. Immediately behind the workhouse site is the land proposed to be taken for a permanent fever hospital, which is also eligibly situated. The enclosed sketch will point out the position of the land, &c. In a few days I shall forward an accurate survey of it. I trust that the arrangements for getting possession may soon be perfected, as I am most anxious to see it cropped.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 7, 1848.*

WE were unable from the pressure of yesterday's business at our Board to make our report last evening.

We beg to submit the weekly collection of the rates in the several divisions, viz. :—

	£.	s.	d.
Ballindoon	6	0	0
Clifden	2	12	0
Roundstone	91	3	0
Renvyle	14	2	0
	113	17	0

In compliance with the order of your Board we required the several collectors to fill up the printed forms of the lessors who are defaulters of the rates. These lists we expect will be complete by Friday next.

In reference to the elections for master and matron we have to state, that of five applicants of the former office we have selected Mr. Patrick Joyce, one of our present relieving officers, a selection which the Inspector, Mr. Deane, approves, and which, we trust, will prove a judicious one. No person possessing the requisite qualifications for matron having presented herself we have ordered new advertisements in the papers.

The appointment of a medical attendant to our workhouse, in place of the late Doctor Bodkin, engages our most serious attention, and on that subject we shall have the honour of submitting our views in a special report.

The sanitary state of the workhouse is satisfactory. Fever is decreasing, and although the mortality for the past week was 10, some of those were in a dying state when admitted.

We regret to state that in the rural divisions fever is reported to be on the increase. We have taken active measures for the provision of an hospital at Roundstone; it will contain about 40 patients, and will be ready very shortly.

In Ballinakill we have authorized Doctor Suffield to select the most available house.

The relieving officer of South Roundstone came this day before us and gave a most appalling account of his district. Fever is rife in every house; there is no medical man in the whole division. The population is in utter want, without any resource, and unless some remedial steps are promptly taken, a plague will carry them off in hundreds. We would ask the instructions of your Board on this matter. We have no possibility of providing in this district medical aid; and if it were not out of course we would ask, if permissible, that your Board should appoint a physician to inspect the locality and its condition, with a view of applying the most available means of checking the spread of contagion and loss of life.

On this day the distribution of cooked food commenced here. We hope to find it both efficacious and economical, and that in a few days all the kitchens in the Union will be at full operation.

As soon as we shall have received the decision of your Board on our proposed system for checking distribution, as submitted in our report of the 2nd instant, we shall be enabled to state our views as to the present mode of allowing contractors to be distributors.

We have taken measures to have the quantity of land proposed to be taken for the use of the workhouse ascertained, and shall duly state the result to your Board.

We are most urgent with the relieving officers to complete their returns; but the utter confusion of the system hitherto pursued precludes the possibility of any immediate check on them, or on their orders to the distributors. We, as public officers, the rate-payers, and the destitute, are totally at their discretion.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 10, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that Mr. Phelan, Poor Law Inspector, has been requested to proceed to Roundstone without delay, with a view to the adoption of the best means which may be practicable for checking the disease which you report to exist there.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

IN reply to your communication of the 9th instant, requesting that I would inform you whether the state of the Clifden Union was such that the provisions of the order issued to the Listowel Union could be carried into effect therein, I have to state that I do not think it would be safe to reduce the number of those receiving relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, in the manner proposed. I have taken great trouble to ascertain whether the distress is of that extent to justify me in coming to that conclusion, and I regret to inform you, that owing to the great prevalence of disease, that I cannot recommend you to alter the order under the 2nd section, in the particulars suggested.

I have every hope that the rigorous imposition of the workhouse test, the use of cooked food, and the exacting of labour in return for rations, will soon materially decrease the numbers on the lists.

At present I cannot conscientiously advise a reduction in the numbers receiving relief under the able-bodied order.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report my attendance at the weekly meeting of the Vice-Guardians held this day, the proceedings of which have been adjourned until to-morrow. The collection of the rate during the past week amounted to 72*l.* 4*s.*, 5*d.* having been handed in by the collector of the Ballindoon district after the accounts had been closed.

I beg leave to call your attention to the fact that the books of the relieving officers have not as yet been completed with the view either to the filling up of the out-door relief register, or the preparation of the lists for posting in conspicuous places through the Union.

I have used my best exertions to have these important services completed, but regret to say that I have not been enabled to obtain the returns from the relieving officers. I have called on the Vice-Guardians to put the 100th section of the Act of Parliament into force should any further delay take place.

I regret to state that there are good grounds for coming to the conclusion that one of the relieving officers has grossly neglected his duty. The accompanying letter from the Bridewell-keeper of Clifden details a statement in reference to the death of an individual, which will oblige me to hold an investigation on oath in respect to the same.

It is my intention to proceed to Kilkerrin to-morrow in order to inquire into the circumstances, and shall report to you accordingly.

I have the pleasure of informing you that I have been enabled to establish the use of cooked food at the greater number of the depots in the Union. The economy in the expenditure by this arrangement has been very considerable.

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I regret to state that fever prevails to a great extent in the Union. I am informed by the Vice-Guardians that Dr. Phelan has been instructed to visit Clifden with the view of reporting to you on the same. It will be most desirable that you should be put into possession, from his medical experience, of the true state of the district in respect to the progress of disease.

Dr. Suffield has been elected medical attendant to the Union workhouse and temporary hospital attached thereto. It is satisfactory that the Guardians have made so excellent a selection, which will fully appear from his testimonials, which (collected in a printed form) I have the pleasure to forward you.

It is very pleasing to be enabled to state that there is a visible improvement in the state of the workhouse. From the constant visits I pay to that establishment, I am enabled personally to superintend the best measures for ensuring discipline, order, and regularity, and it is a matter of much gratification to be enabled to see the results of my labour.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. KERRIGAN, Keeper of Clifden Bridewell, to Mr. O'LEARY:—*March 12, 1848.*

I BEG leave to call your attention to one of the most revolting cases that ever came under my notice these 15 years past. At 11 o'clock last night a knocking came to the Bridewell gate, upon which I got up and opened it, when James Cook, the brother of the relief officer of Carna district, appeared outside with two persons, the husband and wife, and the barrack orderly in Clifden; the wife appeared to me to be quite dead, upon which they dragged her out of the car like a dead sheep, and pulled her into the door and left her and the husband, Daniel Flaherty, in my custody. I drew her into the men's day-room, it being out of my power to put her up stairs, the place appropriated for females, but to my astonishment she never moved hand or foot since that moment, and never uttered a word. Such cruel treatment of human beings is revolting to human nature. Her husband says that they were so treated that all their family died of starvation: and shocking to relate that the unfortunate victim, the deceased, cut off the feet from the ankles of one of the children and eat of them.

I solemnly declare that I think I am in duty bound to report this and other similar acts of cruelty which have come to my knowledge from that district where Thomas Cook officiates, before a jury of my countrymen, which I hope will take place at the investigation of the deceased.

P.S.—I hope your honour will cause an investigation.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received your report of the 13th instant, and have read with deep concern the dreadful circumstances relating to the destitution of a family named Flaherty, referred to in your report. The Commissioners await your further report of the inquiry which you state it to be your intention to make into this case.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

THE rate collectors handed in to-day, the treasurer's receipts for last week's collection, as follows:—

Clifden	£3 10 0
Ballindoon	7 7 0
Renvyle	53 14 0
Roundstone	7 13 0
	72 4 0

They also produced the required return of the defaulters (with the exception of the Roundstone collector, who was unable on account of illness), and will send them up forthwith. We consider, all facts taken into account, that the collection of the rates in this Union is creditable, but we feel bound to add that it would be hopeless to rely on any supplies from a new rate, which it would be impossible to avail of before October.

We beg to remark that in the whole interior management of the house a signal improvement is observable; the cleanliness, ventilation, and good order, of every department is a pleasing contrast with its aspect a few weeks since, whilst the decrease of mortality and improved appearance of the inmates warrant us in hoping that the course now adopted, and which shall be enforced, will ensure a continuous progress to perfect order.

Our most strenuous efforts have been devoted to generalize through the Union the distribution of cooked food, our anxiety is that the kitchens should be so

located that the poor, especially the infirm and widows, should not have too far to walk for their daily supplies; and our present impression is, that two miles (two going and two returning) is the maximum which such parties should be required to travel. This arrangement would place the boilers four miles apart, and from our observation of the state of the people and of the country we are satisfied that a greater distance would not be expedient. When the maps reach us we shall be better enabled to satisfy our minds on this very important consideration.

It is our duty to advert to an occurrence of a very revolting nature which occurred in the Bridewell of this town on Sunday morning. We do not believe that either the event itself, or its cause or consequences, can by possibility be proved to have any relation to the out-door relief system; but as the matter was brought under our notice, and as it could not fail to attract our instant attention, we think it necessary to place the details, as far as they have been ascertained, before your Board.

On Sunday morning the Bridewell keeper of Clifden addressed a note to one of the Guardians, stating that a woman who had been brought in with her husband on a charge of stealing a calf, by a police constable and a man named James Cook (an overseer under our Board), from whom the calf had been stolen, died immediately on her removal from the cart; due notice had been given to the police, and an investigation instituted by the magistracy. We at once conferred with Mr. Deane. A confidential officer was forthwith despatched to Kilkerrin, in the Roundstone division, to ascertain facts, he has discharged his task most efficiently; and this morning Mr. Deane, Temporary Inspector, proceeded with Dr. Suffield to hold a sworn investigation as to the truth of statements made by the husband, of his having devoured the feet of one of his children, two of whom he alleges to be interred in or near his cabin. The particulars shall be all duly furnished to your Board by Mr. Deane; we only desire to state the event, and to add that our conviction is, that want of food was not the immediate cause of the poor woman's death, as they had received their due supply of meal, some meal being in the house when the husband was made prisoner, and the meat of the calf alleged to be stolen found with them. From the inhumanity of James Cook, exhibited by having brought the poor creature on a most inclement day in an open cart, without even straw to protect her from the injuries of a long journey, we felt coerced to dismiss him at once from any service under our Board.

We went this day, after discharging our duties at the Board, (which had to adjourn yesterday) to Cleggan; the misery and destitution there exceed any other district we have as yet visited, and our conviction of the necessity of increasing the kitchens for distributing cooked food is strengthened. Disease in that locality is very prevalent, measles, dysentery, and fever, abound. We have resolved to use rice in proportion of one-fifth with Indian meal, and we are sanguine that this diet properly cooked and regularly supplied will before long check disease.

We are desirous of having your Board's instructions as to the use to which the new fever hospital of Clifden is to be applied. Is it merely to be confined to the paupers who may be stricken with contagious disease in the workhouse? or is it available for the general sick poor of the division who may be so afflicted? If there be no order to the contrary we would respectfully urge the stern necessity of admitting to the benefit of that hospital, in time, the fever patients of the town and its vicinity. Now that the workhouse is comparatively healthy, we are of opinion that the ample accommodation of the new temporary hospital would be more than sufficient for the cases which may arise in the house; we also have been convinced that removing in time the first member of a family afflicted with fever, will prove economical as well as remedial.

We have already expressed our hope that the cooked food issued instead of meal will prove a vast saving, and more efficient as a means of relief to the really destitute. We again have cause to believe that when it shall be brought into general operation under the plan we propose to adopt, an immense saving of the public funds will be obtained.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

THE Commissioners approve of the removal of James Cook, one of the overseers of work, under the circumstances stated in your report; and with a view to disqualify him from again holding any office under a Board of Guardians in

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any Union in Ireland, the Commissioners will issue an order under seal for his dismissal.

The Commissioners are prepared to sanction any further arrangements which may appear calculated effectually to meet the distress in the district of Cleggan.

The Commissioners consider that the temporary fever hospital at Clifden may be used for all fever cases in Clifden division, the other divisions being furnished with hospitals for patients belonging to those districts.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 18, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I proceeded to Kilcorran on Tuesday last to hold an investigation on oath in reference to the horrible circumstances detailed in the letter of the bridewell keeper of Clifden, which accompanied my report of the 14th instant. It is with much pleasure that I am enabled to state that so far as the administration of the Poor Law is concerned, no blame can be attached to any official connected therewith. Upon reference to the Application and Report Book for the electoral division of Roundstone, I found that Bart Flaherty, his wife, and four children, have been recipients of relief since their discharge from the workhouse on the 9th of last December. The number in the Application Book is 21, and opposite thereto are the initials of the chairman, Mr. D'Arcy. The relieving officer, whose testimony was corroborated by several witnesses, proved that that relief was duly and properly given to the family.

The hut of Bart Flaherty is situated about half a-quarter of a mile from the residence of the relieving officer, and I had abundant evidence adduced to me to satisfy me that he (Flaherty) and his family had attended daily for their rations.

The whole family, six in number, have been attacked with fever; and previous to the circumstances I am about to detail three of the children, viz., Martin, Mary, and Pat, died of it.

On the morning of the 10th instant, at 6 A.M., a man, named James Corke, accompanied by Mark Conneely, proceeded to Flaherty's house to search for a calf which was stolen from Corke's land. Conneely and Corke looked through an opening in the wall of the hut, and saw Bart Flaherty, his wife Honor, a woman named Bridget Marmion, and Margaret Flaherty, daughter of Bart Flaherty, lying on the floor, and the hide of the calf placed over them. Corke and Conneely went to the police station, and one of the constables came to the house and arrested Flaherty. It is important to observe that this man, alleged to be in such a state of destitution, took with him from his house to the police barracks a bag of meal! This was fully proved by the witnesses I examined. On the following day James Corke called on the police to have Flaherty's wife arrested also, and she was accordingly brought to the station in custody. On her arrival there, she told the constabulary that before she was taken to Clifden, she wished to get some meal that was in her hut. The witness Conneely distinctly swore that he saw a stone of meal in the house independent of the bag which the husband took away. On Saturday morning, about 11 o'clock, the police took the prisoners to Clifden. For about 16 or 17 miles of the road they travelled on an outside jaunting-car, and for the remainder of the distance on a common car.

It appears from the testimony of constable Archy that the woman Honor Flaherty was in a very sickly condition when she was put on the car, and the day was extremely cold and severe. The constable stated to me that he did not hear the woman complain during the journey: she was offered bread by her husband but refused to eat it. Shortly after her arrival at the bridewell she died, and there can be no doubt whatever that her death was caused by exposure to cold and wet during a journey of 40 miles. These are strictly the facts connected with that part of the bridewell-keeper's letter which relates to the death of the woman.

In reference to the disgusting statement made by Bart Flaherty of his having been obliged to eat a portion of his child's feet, I have to assert that it is utterly devoid of truth. I examined several witnesses who resided near his hut, and one and all testified to the fact of his being a recipient of relief, and of their disbelief of his statement.

Dr. Suffield, who accompanied me to Kilcorran, went to the hut, a short distance outside of which, covered merely with a sod and a few stones, lying on the surface of the ground, were the bodies of two of the children. They had been dead, according to his evidence, about two months. It was impossible, as he stated, for any medical man to come to a conclusion as to whether the flesh of the legs had been torn or cut, the bodies being far advanced in decomposition.

One witness, Biddy O'Driscoll, swore that she "blamed" Flaherty very much for not burying his children, and that her son had offered him assistance to do so, but that he refused.

As regards the death of Honor Flaherty, it occurs to me that she ought not to have been removed in the condition she was in, and on so inclement a day. As this matter involves the duties of the constabulary, it is not necessary for me to offer any further observations.

During my journey to Kilcorran I made inquiries as to the health of the district, and I regret to state that fever rages in almost every village—indeed, I may say, in almost every house. I have already in a former report called your attention to the absence of medical relief in South Roundstone district, and I would respectfully urge on you the necessity of communicating with the Board of Health in relation thereto.

I am fully aware of the serious expense which the temporary fever hospitals will entail on this Union; but I look upon the health of the inhabitants to be almost paramount to every other consideration.

I hope to have the pleasure of a conference with Dr. Phelan on this subject, to whom I shall more particularly point out the necessity of providing medical attendance to the suffering sick of the locality I have alluded to.

The Clifden temporary fever hospital was opened this day for the reception of patients.

I visited it this morning, and have to report that its internal arrangements are most satisfactory, every comfort and requisite having been provided for the sick.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 23, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of the Central Board of Health has been drawn to the prevalence of fever in certain districts of the Union.

Mr. O'LEARY, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 18, 1848.*

I AM anxious to express my opinions to your Board as to the delay of the relieving officers in this Union in furnishing the required returns.

It is evident, that from the commencement, the system they adopted was confused and without method. The thousands crowding upon them with applications for relief—the necessity of investigating as far as they could these cases—as well as the urgency of giving provisional aid in emergencies—all seem to have entangled their accounts, and to have produced the difficulty which now still exists. The Vice-Guardians, with the concurrence of the Inspector, offered every assistance; but such has been the complication, that as yet the returns cannot be made out.

In order to meet this, I would respectfully suggest that a person competent for the duty should be engaged for a short time to arrange the relieving officers' books; and once the lamentable effects of a lax method were removed, it would be easy to keep them in order. I am assured that a person qualified for the duty can be had here at a very reasonable recompense for his temporary services.

From my own observation I am satisfied that the relieving officers' powers, as at present constituted, afford unlimited scope and great temptations for abuse. In dispensing provisional relief they are now authorized to give *money* as well as rice, sugar, cocoa, &c., &c.

I am aware that it is essentially necessary to repose confidence in these officers; but I would most respectfully express my conviction that it is dangerous to intrust them with a discretion in giving *money* in any case, and that it would be more safe to confine their orders, in cases of necessity, for rice, bread, &c., &c., to the depôt-keeper of the district. To render this effective, I would suggest that in the charge of each depôt-keeper, small continuous supplies of the above articles be kept, and that they be charged to his account, as the Indian meal now is, to be accounted for in a similar way. We have ordered that each depôt-keeper should keep a pass-book, debiting himself with the meal received from the contractor, and crediting himself with the rations daily distributed. This pass-book is to be sent weekly to the Board-room, compared with the contractor's book, and duly noted in a book kept in the Board-room for the purpose. I suggest that in this way a check can be kept, and the supplies given on the relieving officers' orders more effectively than at present; besides, the prices charged for small quantities of such articles

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as rice, cocoa, &c., are 75 per cent. more than we could procure them from the depôts.

I am desirous to receive the instructions of your Board as to the mode in which the travelling expenses of the Vice-Guardians on duty shall be defrayed.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 20, 1848.*

I AM to state, that the Commissioners have no objection to your employing some competent person to arrange the books of the relieving officers. It will remain for your consideration, whether any and what portion of the expense so to be incurred should be deducted from the relieving officers' salaries.

The Commissioners will make no objection to the adoption of such plans as you may propose for checking abuses in affording out-door relief in the Union.

The Commissioners will issue an order for payment of such charges for travelling in the Union as it may be necessary for you to incur, when they are enabled to form an estimate of the sum to which such expenses may amount.

If you will have the goodness to transmit a statement of a week's expenses, the Commissioners will take the subject into consideration.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

As the amount of the current collection of rate will from this date be totally inadequate to meet the necessary expenditure for the relief of the destitute poor of this Union, I beg leave to request your attention to the same, with the view of assistance being afforded to the Vice-Guardians from the funds of the Committee of the British Association.

There remains about 40% in the hands of the treasurer.

The greater part of the uncollected balance of the rate is chiefly to be realized by legal proceedings, and in many instances by process in the superior courts of law.

Under the circumstances I think it right to solicit your interference for the assistance so much required.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 21, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 300% worth of provisions to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

The Commissioners request that you will supply them on Saturday in each week with an estimate of the weekly sum which in your opinion will be required in order to preserve from starvation the destitute poor who are entitled to relief in the Clifden Union, forming a separate estimate for each of the three following heads:—

- 1st. Relief in the workhouse.
- 2nd. Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.
- 3rd. Relief to able-bodied persons entitled to such relief under the 2nd section of that Act.

The Commissioners are also desirous of receiving a report from you as to the making of a new rate, which appears to be required in the Union.

Mr. O'LEARY, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 20, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour of submitting the returns of the rate collectors for the week ending the 18th instant. The amounts received and lodged to our credit are as follow:—

	£.	s.	d.
Division of Clifden			Nil.
Division of Ballindoon	13	0	0
Division of Renvyle	3	19	0
Division of Roundstone	16	12	0
	£33	11	0

There is reason to hope that some of the large defaulters will soon pay up their arrears, and some will be coerced to pay; but a considerable uncollectable balance will still remain which it will be hopeless to expect for some time.

The contractors who have supplied meal for out-door relief, expressed this day considerable annoyance at not receiving payments on account. They have given their property on the assurance of receiving fortnightly payments, and I would most respectfully urge that no time should be lost in supplying funds to meet the claims, as if they should withhold even two days' supply, a most disastrous state of things would be the result.

In reference to this matter, I am desirous of receiving your Board's instructions and views. At present the Vice-Guardians enter into contracts with parties for this out-door relief supply; they also sign cheques on the Treasurer for payment, but the sums sent for the credit of that account do not pass through our books, consequently the balance on our minutes cannot be the same as that in the Treasurer's account.

I allude to this for my own guidance, as it occurs to me that there should be either separate accounts for the relief inside and outside the workhouse, or the treasurer's debits ought to be debits also on our books.

Your Board will permit me to state, that hitherto from the extent of the evil—and in the word evil I include abuse of every kind, as well as the dreadful destitution—it was not possible to arrive at data for ascertaining what positive amount of distress existed. The relieving officers had to afford relief in a thousand cases that they did not and could not investigate. Poverty in its worst degree was so mingled with imposition, that they could not wait to separate them without risking human life, and a confusion has been the consequence, which we are now doing our utmost to bring into order. But now we hope this evil is at an end, and I trust that the weekly expenditure which has hitherto been advancing, will, after this week, decrease under the operation of the cooked food system, and of the plan for checking that system. Thus the great objects of your Board and of all interests will be effected, the destitute will be relieved, and the tax-payers protected.

Mr. Phelan this day minutely inspected the workhouse, and offered some valuable advice as to dietary, &c. It shall be our duty to bring under his notice every matter affecting the sanitary condition of the Union, and I feel confident that great and enduring benefits will result from his practical observations in the rural districts on the prevailing diseases and their causes, and from the remedial measures which he shall recommend for adoption.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners had previous to your report made application to the British Association for an advance of 300*l.* to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

I am at the same time to state that the sums advanced by the British Association should, when paid into the treasurer's hands, be debited to him in the Union accounts, otherwise it will appear that you overdraw against the amount in his hands to your credit.

MR. O'LEARY, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, and in reply I beg to state that I promptly availed myself of your permission to engage a competent person in the duty of arranging and bringing into the required order the books of the relieving officers. I shall take measures to have this essential object effected with all possible expedition.

Yesterday I accompanied Dr. Phelan, Poor Law Inspector, to Roundstone (returning by Ballindoon). I am anxious to express to your Board my delight that your prompt compliance with our request has conferred on this district the benefit of Mr. Phelan's inspection. I feel that his mission will save many lives; and my conviction of the necessity of such an investigation as he has, with admirable tact, instituted in this district, was painfully corroborated yesterday in Roundstone, and this day in Clifden. As he will place before you his views, any further notice of this subject on my part would be superfluous.

I wish respectfully to have your Board's instructions as to the quantity of

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cooked food which a ration for an adult should contain. At present an imperial quart of Indian-meal stirabout is the amount given; of this allowance all complain as insufficient, and my own opinion is, that it is not enough to sustain an able-bodied person for 24 hours. I consider that the ration should consist of the produce of one pound of meal; in other words, that 112 lbs. of meal cooked, no matter how its bulk may expand, should be distributed in 112 rations. At present the food is given by a measure, which does not contain more than three-fourths of a pound of dry meal. I am also daily impressed with the necessity of having rice in sufficient quantity here. The price here is 75 per cent. over its value, and if we had a supply to enable us to use it in proportion of one-fourth in the cooked food, the prevailing and fatal epidemic, dysentery, would be soon checked.

Our inspector, Mr. Deane, being obliged to obey a Crown summons to the Galway Assizes, justifies my again alluding to the expediency of having funds as soon as possible, to appease the demands of the contractors who have supplied meal for the out-door relief.

I feel coerced to express my opinion to your Board that should any one of them refuse a supply, and should a rumour be spread that the several claims of our creditors would not be promptly paid, all would refuse, and the whole population dependent on relief would be famished before aid from other sources could be procured.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 25, 1848.*

WITH reference to your observations respecting the quantity of cooked food that should constitute a ration for an adult, I am to state that the Commissioners concur in the opinion expressed by you as to rations of cooked food, which should contain (for all persons above nine years of age) the produce of one pound of meal.

The attention of Sir R. I. Routh has been drawn to your suggestion with reference to procuring a supply of rice.

Mr. PHELAN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour of informing you that I carefully inspected the Clifden workhouse on the 20th instant, and that I visited the chief parts of the Union during the succeeding week. I shall endeavour in the following report to lay before you such circumstances as appear to me to require remark or observation in respect to the state of the house and to that of the Union.

The house then contained 289 paupers, 48 of whom were in the infirmary; some of these were affected with fever in the acute, others in the convalescent stage. These fever cases were in the same wards with chronic patients. This perhaps was unavoidable until recently, when a house was fitted up in the town for the reception of extern fever patients, into which I advised that those also who become affected with fever in the workhouse should be sent during illness and convalescence: this suggestion will be acted on. The house fitted up for the fever cases is in a good locality, and for Clifden is well arranged and will accommodate about 50 patients.

The workhouse, yards, and outer ground, were in process of improvement; but as the new master was only a few days in office, and there was no matron except a very inadequate and unfit one on trial, the state of the entire was far from satisfactory, although under the circumstances much better than could perhaps have been fairly expected, and even in their present state vastly better than when I before visited. I could perceive that the inspector and Vice Guardians have been carrying out much judicious improvements, and I have no doubt they will soon have the entire in good order.

The medical officer lately appointed, is an active, and I have reason to expect will be an efficient officer.

I visited several houses in Clifden, in which I was informed that some poor persons were ill. Dr. Suffield had been summoned to attend at the Galway Assizes, so that I had not the benefit of his assistance, but I found a considerable number chiefly in fever, dysentery, and diarrhoea; several were in a hopeless state. The fever cases I sent to the fever hospital, and a few of the dysentery patients; others who were obtaining out-door relief, I left for the disposal of the workhouse medical officer, who is also the medical attendant of the dispensary.

I am unable to describe the extreme wretchedness of several families whom I visited on this occasion. They were literally without bed-clothes, except a ragged rug or old blanket, and without straw to lie on. Filth and every circumstance that tend to create or to extend disease existed in the highest degree, and the crowding in some places was awful. In one house, designated the "hulk," there were 58 persons; in another, called the "rookery," there were 42; not one of them, except one family, was in good health; not one but was half naked. The apartments of some were so foul that I could not remain in them for many minutes. Added to all this, moral depravity had evidently chosen its abode in these wretched places; the exception as to bad health, was a woman who had seven bastard children, all in good health; she, like the others, was getting out-door relief.

I visited Roundstone, accompanied by Mr. O'Leary, the Vice-Guardian. The medical officer of the dispensary was at the assizes; but the relieving officer and one of the police pointed out some houses in which fever was said to prevail, and I found their account but too true. In some houses I found persons affected with fever, others with dysentery and diarrhoea, and some who had been long dropsical and who were evidently in a hopeless state. The misery and the extent of disease here were as great, perhaps more so, than at Clifden. At the latter some medical attendance is given to the sick; at the former I should say scarcely any. In each house where I found sick persons, I inquired if the resident dispensary medical officer, Dr. Gannon, had been in attendance on them; in a few instances he had, in all the attendance was nominal, and only one visit was paid.

I beg to give an instance or two: one of a family named Keough became ill of fever on the 1st of January last; successively the several members, eight in number, and the father and mother, got ill of it. Dr. Gannon was applied to on a dispensary recommendation to attend them; he paid one visit. I found six of the family in bed, four in the only bed they had, two lying on the floor. The father had been buried that morning: the mother and two children were barely convalescent. Until attacked by this illness, although in humble circumstances, they were decent, and comparatively respectable; even in the abject state of misery in which I saw them, they commanded more respect and excited more commiseration than any I had seen. The father relapsed twice; had been seen once by the medical officer in the first relapse; during the three weeks succeeding the second of which he died, he did not visit him, although within a few perches of his (Dr. Gannon's) residence. Fever has existed in this family since about the 1st of January, and has completely pauperized them.

I was requested to see a person named Barry, who had been a check clerk last summer; from want of food he had been gradually getting into bad health for some weeks. He applied to Dr. Gannon for relief and for medical advice; the latter gave a certificate on which some meal was obtained, but he gave no medical relief. General dropsy was the disease, and of this the man was dying when I saw him. He was of an age, and of such appearance as would afford a fair expectation that by appropriate and not expensive treatment, he might recover, at least have life considerably prolonged. I met Dr. Gannon two days afterwards, and adverted to this case, expressing my surprise that he did not adopt some treatment in it, but he applied that it was food the man wanted, not medicine; both were absolutely required. He died next day after I saw him.

This man was surrounded by two or three respectable intelligent looking daughters, and some grand-children, from whom it was impossible, even surrounded as they were with persons in the same condition, not to feel the deepest commiseration, and the more so as the father's life might have been prolonged.

It is in fact these domiciliary visits that bring us to have a perfect view of the wretchedness, and of the extremely depressed physical and mental state of the people; hospitals or workhouses afford nothing like it.

The hotel keeper, a guinea subscriber to the dispensary, corroborated the want of attention to the sick by Dr. Gannon; so did the Rev. Mr. Crotty, a Protestant or Sectarian clergyman; and in fact there was no instance of any person that gave a favourable account of him. Medical attendance in this dispensary, is in my opinion merely nominal.

I examined a house which is being fitted up at Roundstone for fever patients, and which will soon be ready for use. It only consists of two rooms, one 18×12, the other 12×11, and will only accommodate nine or ten patients. Another is in progress, the walls are built with stones only, no mortar being used, but I suppose some plastering will be put inside. It is not yet roofed. It is

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48 × 15, and will accommodate about 20 patients. Both are rude contrivances, but in such a district, perhaps, better cannot well be expected.

The Roundstone dispensary is intended for the parish of Moyrus, which contains a population of 11,969; but as Roundstone is nearly at the extreme end of it, and as a large bay intervenes between Roundstone and the southern and western portions, distant 20 miles from that town, it is obvious that even a well managed dispensary there could afford little or no medical relief to those who are so remote.

To satisfy myself as to the probable extent of disease in this remote portion of the parish, I went to the different food depôts at the fisheries, Carna, and Kilkieran, a journey of 30 Irish miles from Clifden. I should say that for 25 miles there is no medical attendance whatever on the sick poor; and although a few in the district subscribe to the Roundstone dispensary, on the understanding that Dr. Gannon would occasionally, once in a fortnight or three weeks, visit their district, they expressed themselves to be quite dissatisfied with him, such visits being very rarely paid. An instance of this may not be amiss. The son-in-law of one of Mr. Bell Martin's drivers got fever about a month ago, when his wife went to Mrs. Bell Martin, to Ballynahinch, about five miles distant, and got a recommendation to Dr. Gannon to attend Peter Joyce, the sick man. His daughter brought the paper to Dr. Gannon, who told her it was a forgery, and that he would not visit him. The mother went again after some days, and got another from Mrs. B. Martin, which she took to Dr. Gannon, who told her that if she should bring him a horse, or get a car for him, he would go. She did bring him a horse, which she obtained from her father, but Dr. Gannon said it was then too late, and he would not go that day, but if the horse were sent next day he would. On her return home, one of her children was dead, and finding so much difficulty in inducing Dr. Gannon to visit her family, she took no further step in the matter. I interrogated the mother and daughter, and William King, the driver, father to Mrs. Joyce, and found them quite consistent in their narrative. Peter Joyce and three children were still ill of fever, but convalescent. Some medical attention might have been useful; but although written to by the proprietor of this immense but very wretched estate, the medical officer withheld that attention, and it may well be imagined that when so inattentive to Mrs. Martin's request, or order, he is not likely to be otherwise, in respect to those who are recommended by less influential persons, or to those contiguous to him, who although not recommended it would be his duty to attend when time would permit.

Along this Carna and Kilkieran district, fever and dysentery prevail to a very considerable extent. I visited several houses along the line on being informed that there were sick persons in them. Most of them had dysentery and dropsy, evidently caused by want of food; some had typhus fever in the acute, others in the convalescent stage. No description could give an idea of the extreme wretchedness of these people. I also went into houses which were not mentioned to contain any sick persons, and in almost every one I found persons in dysentery, diarrhoea, and dropsy, some in fever. In some houses every member of the family was ill.

The same state of wretchedness and of disease is said to prevail in the islands and in the coast part of the district, which for want of roads I did not visit.

The same extreme destitution which prevails through the Ballynahinch property does not appear on that of the Waste Land Society, but even there destitution and disease prevail to a very great extent, and without any medical relief.

I visited the Ballindoon district and the fever hospital got up there. This hospital appears to be fairly managed; but as the medical officer was at the assizes I could only ascertain that from the 21st of August last to the 15th instant, 192 patients had been admitted, and that only four died, being only 2 per cent. Some of the cases were marked fever, but mild. I may here observe, that in this as in many of these hospitals, fever patients are brought in here convalescing and convalescent, and that were domiciliary attendance given to these, there would be no necessity for sending them to an hospital at that stage.

This Ballindoon division or district naturally forms a portion of the western Roundstone district, and should be attended by the same medical officer.

I visited the Renvyle division, in which the Cleggan and Ballinakill districts are comprised. At the Cleggan depôt, about 500 or 600 persons were assembled, waiting for the day's rations; many of them appeared to be literally starving—

some to be nearly moribund from starvation and disease. It is a frightfully poor district, far more so than any I visited. Here, as on such occasions, the people congregate and surround me, and although they were in the open air, the foetor from them was intolerable, and would, I have no doubt, produce fever in most persons that had not been seasoned to it. Even I, myself, who can bear any amount of stench in an hospital, was soon nauseated by it, and was compelled several times to retire from amongst them—certainly not from any disgust of their persons, which only excite my commiseration, but from the unbearable foetor emanating not only from their clothes, but perceptibly from their persons; but as many of the applicants for relief were sick, some very feeble, I returned again and again amongst them, and had again and again to retire.

This was the most appalling sight I have yet beheld. There is no medical relief through any part of this division. I went into several houses in which I found whole families in fever, dysentery, diarrhoea, and in that state of marasmus or wasting, which is caused by gradual inanition, and by living on food of a very inferior description.

As I perceived that, from the increase of applicants for relief, the boilers in use cannot supply those who come for food without keeping them to a very late hour, and as many have some miles to travel home, I advised Mr. O'Leary, the Vice-Guardian who accompanied me, and afterwards Mr. Deane, the Inspector, to give dry meal to such as they cannot supply with cooked food at a reasonable hour, selecting the most infirm; and I also advised that some rice, oatmeal, sugar, and cocoa be given to such as the relieving officer knows to be sick, or to those stated to be so by a clergyman or other respectable party; and I informed Mr. Deane and Mr. O'Leary, that should these arrangements be a departure from your instructions, I had reason to expect that, under existing circumstances, you would not object to them. In fact, many of those I saw, both in their houses and outside, are unable to use Indian meal; the other articles, even in smaller proportion, are fitter for the sick.

I beg to observe, that I saw great exertions made everywhere to distribute the food.

I next visited Ballinakill, where food was being distributed. This district did not appear to be so very bad as Cleggan, but still an extremely destitute one. I visited a house, which is being fitted up for a fever hospital, and which is capable of containing from 16 to 18 patients. This house is a considerable distance off the road, from which for about a third or half of a mile, the approach is on a bye-road so rocky and stony, and so difficult to be traversed, that I do not see how any car or wheeled vehicle, with or without springs, can bring sick persons along it. From its termination the passage is over three or four fields to the house. Were the latter on the road side, or convenient to it, so far as its small accommodation is concerned, it would do well enough; but it is my opinion that, situated as it is, this place is quite unfit for the purpose. I think the sick would be more injured by bringing them to it than served by being in it; besides, its accommodation is totally inadequate to the number of sick in the district, comprising Cleggan, Ballinakill, and Renvyle.

I beg to submit the following as the means which I think are best adapted under existing circumstances to afford medical relief in this Union:—

Feeling assured that no extent of hospital accommodation which can be provided in the South Roundstone district (viz., that of which Mr. Deane proposes to make Carna the centre as a fever district), will afford medical relief to one in twenty of those who are in need of it, I would suggest that a medical man be appointed to it temporarily under the 5th section of the Extension Act, or by the Board of Health, and that he visit the sick in the district, give medicines to those that require it, and suggest such appropriate diet as they may require—to be provided by the relieving officers. This I would make the preliminary step. If thought right, a fever hospital may afterwards be superadded; but when the extent of district and its nature are considered, I do not see how fever or dysentery patients can be brought to it, the distances are so remote from Carna which is the most central, or from any other point at which such hospital might be established.

I am of opinion, that vastly more good can be done by such domiciliary attendance than by an hospital. The medical attendant here must assist the relieving officers, or they cannot do their duty to the sick. The former should direct them in respect to the food to be given them. Without him the others are often imposed on—frequently giving food which cannot be used by the sick.

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The same observation applies to the Cleggan, Ballinakill, and Renvyle district. Another medical man should be located there for a few months, and should perform similar duties. If it be thought right to put patients into the present hospital some good will be done; but hundreds will die in the district who cannot be sent to it, or if sent, cannot be admitted into it for want of room. Many of these can be relieved by domiciliary attendance.

I beg to be understood as meaning that the medical officer should reside in each district, not in Clifden, which is too remote.

It is my opinion that a similar appointment is required in Roundstone, for that part of Moyrus west of the Roundstone bay, and for Ballindoon. Whether Dr. Gannon should be entrusted with this and with the fever hospital there, will be for your consideration.

I beg to suggest, that a letter be written to Dr. Suffield, the medical officer of the workhouse and local fever hospital, or that Mr. Deane be instructed to write to him, requesting his attendance on such poor persons as the relieving officer may be informed are ill, and giving the latter suggestions as to diet, &c., for such as are on out-door relief; but also taking care to assist in sending proper objects to the fever hospital or workhouse. As the medical officer of the dispensary, and holding two other appointments, he is fairly called upon in an emergency like this to give every aid in his power, and probably will do so on such letter being written to him.

The want of medical attendance in this Union will be perceived on learning, that for some days last week there was not even one medical man in the Union, all being at Galway. Perhaps I should have observed that there are only three in the Union, Dr. Suffield and Dr. ——— in Clifden, and Dr. Gannon in Roundstone.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

IN consequence of my unavoidable absence in Galway, I was unable to forward you the weekly estimate under the respective heads required. By next Saturday's post I hope to be enabled to send a satisfactory document for your information in respect to the probable amount which will be necessary to keep the destitute poor from starvation. The incomplete state of the relieving officer's books is a great obstacle to my supplying correct information; but the assistance which the Vice-Guardians have given is likely, in the course of the week, to get the books in a proper state.

The amount of the rate uncollected in the Union up to this date is 1168*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*; and I regret to state that this week's collection amounts to but 4*l.* 19*s.*! I examined the collectors in reference to this apparent neglect on their part, and received the following information, which now I classify according to their respective districts:—

Clifden Electoral Division.

Francis Mullen, Collector.

He states that there is due in this electoral division the sum of 93*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, of which sum 10*l.* 18*s.* is due by immediate lessors.

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Bell Martin, Ballinahinch	5	8	0
Mr. J. Corbett, late Guardian	4	0	0
Mr. J. D'Arcy	1	10	0
	£10	18	0

The balance, 82*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, is due by persons holding wretched tenements in Clifden town, who, as the collector informs me, are totally unable to pay. Mr. Bell Martin has been served with the 15 days' notice. Mr. Corbett, one of the late Guardians, has been duly summoned, and a warrant has been issued; but the collector states that the only effects he could see in Corbett's house were a bed and a few miserable articles of furniture. This information has been confirmed to me by other parties. Mr. James D'Arcy has been summoned for the amount due by him.

I have directed the collector to have all the parties owing the balance, viz., 82*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, summoned; and every exertion shall be made to make it available.

Ballindoon Electoral Division.

Clifden Union.

Francis Mullen, Collector.

The sum uncollected in this electoral division amounts to 311*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* Of this there is due by immediate lessors 247*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.* The names of the immediate lessors in arrear are—

	£.	s.	d.
John Augustus O'Neill, Bunowen Castle	194	3	2
John Lambert, Esq.—Burroughs v. Lambert	14	0	0
Bell Martin, Esq., ...	8	3	5
	£247	2	5½

Mr. O'Neill is a defaulter of the last as well as of the present rate. Proceedings were taken against him by the solicitor to the Board for the last rate, and a plea of confession, with stay of execution until the 15th of April next, was given accordingly. The Vice-Guardians have instructed their solicitor to send down the execution as soon after the stay expires as possible. There is a large quantity of kelp in one of Mr. O'Neill's stores, which may be made available as soon as the Guardians are in a position to sell. The store is at present under seizure by the collector for the amount of the current rent due for the land upon which it stands. The receiver in Burroughs v. Lambert, Mr. Martin Hart, has had his attention called by the collector to the general order of the Courts of Chancery and Exchequer, with respect to the payment of rates by receivers. He has not complied with the order. I have been informed that he has been removed from the receivership, and that Mr. James D'Arcy has been appointed in his place.

Mr. Brown, who resides near Galway, owes 14*l.* The solicitor has been directed to proceed by civil bill against this gentleman.

The 15 days' notice has been served on Mr. Martin for the amount due by him, viz., 8*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* The balance, 64*l.* 16*s.* 3½*d.*, is due by rate-payers, the greater number of whom are of necessity on the relief lists.

Renvyle Electoral Division.

Joseph M'Donnell, Collector.

There is due in this electoral division :—

	£.	s.	d.
By immediate lessors	86	2	0
By occupiers	146	10	7
	£232	12	7

The names of the immediate lessors in arrear are as follow :—

Hon. Martin French	14	6	5
Lady French	15	13	6
Sir George Beresford, Bart.	6	12	11
John D'Arcy, Esq.	6	8	1½
Robert Graham, Esq.	13	19	5
Major-General Thomson	14	12	3½
Thomas Coneys	3	10	6
A. B. Martin, Esq.	9	14	1
Anthony O'Flaherty, Esq.	1	5	6
	£86	2	9

I have given the most peremptory instructions to the collector to serve the 15 days' notices on such of the above lessors as are within reach; and the solicitor of the Board has been directed to institute proceedings by civil bill against the rest. The balance, 146*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*, is due by small occupiers, who shall all be summoned. I have informed the collector that I propose to examine him on oath on next Monday, as to whether he has summoned them or not. It is right to state that there has been no petty sessions at Tully for the last six weeks, which the collector alleges has prevented him from making a better collection.

Roundstone Electoral Division.

The collector of this electoral division has not attended the Board to-day.

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There remains 548*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to be collected. On receiving information from him of the same kind as that which I have supplied from the other collectors, it shall be duly forwarded to you.

With the facts in reference to the financial condition of the Union, which I have above detailed, and bearing in mind the almost bankrupt condition of the principal landed proprietors, I cannot hold out much hope that the Vice-Guardians will be enabled to collect any portion of a new rate until harvest. It will be most desirable, however, that all the preliminary steps shall be taken, and the appointment of a revisor of the rate-books made without delay. The most active measures for recovering the arrears of the present rate shall be ordered, and put into force, and every legal means to compel payment shall be used.

It is a lamentable fact that while destitution prevails to a very great extent, that imposition, fraud, and trickery should also exist. The artful means resorted to by the applicants for and those receiving relief are almost beyond our reach. The widow, with two or more children, in some instances has got her rations in one electoral division, and then attempted to obtain them in another. In other instances the maiden name is used for one depot, and the husband's name for another. In fact every conceivable trick is practised to obtain an increase of food. I have every hope that the system of using a different shaped or coloured ticket for the electoral divisions will prove effectual in checking fraud. By constant visits to the relief depôts I also trust to be enabled to detect fraud.

I beg to call your attention to the very large outlay which the Vice-Guardians are obliged to incur in the payment of overseers or stewards, who are engaged in the superintendence of the able-bodied employed in breaking stones, the return for which expenditure is not at all satisfactory. I hope, however, that the employment in tillage, which is now beginning in a small degree, will enable the Guardians to reduce the lists considerably, and thus dispense with the necessity of some of these stewards.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 4, 1848.*

WITH reference to the statements relating to the collection of the rate, I am to state that it should be ascertained that proceedings either at quarter sessions or in the superior courts, have been taken against the immediate lessors in the Renvyle electoral division who cannot be reached by the 15 days' notice.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS.—*March 27, 1848.*

WE beg to submit the weekly return of the rate collectors' receipts, which, we lament to say, is very unsatisfactory:—

	£.	s.	d.
Francis Mullins, Ballindoon	1	5	0
Clifden		Nil.	
Joseph M'Donnell, Renvyle	3	14	0
John Lyden, Roundstone, no return (being summoned to Galway Assizes)		Nil.	
	£4	19	0

The Inspector, Mr. Deane, having fully reported on this important subject, it is not necessary to recapitulate; we need only say that every possible effort shall be made to enforce a collection of the outstanding rate and arrears. We shall lose no time in taking the preliminary steps for making a new rate, and we shall provide for a revisal of the rate books and valuation by securing the services of a qualified revisor.

Our most sedulous efforts are devoted to bringing the distribution of cooked food into general operation; we anticipate the most satisfactory results as soon as a perfect organization shall be obtained. We feel assured that the imposition which now prevails to a vast amount will be put an end to, and at the same time the really destitute will be more easily provided with suitable relief.

We have resolved to erect additional boilers in districts requiring them, so that the aged, the infirm, and the widows may receive their supplies with the least inconvenience.

We also propose to supply the several depôts with rice, sugar, cocoa, &c., at

wholesale prices, to be distributed to the order of the relieving officers and to be duly accounted for; by this means we expect to provide more effective relief for the sick and to effect a considerable saving, as the prices now charged are exorbitant.

We shall have the land in front of the workhouse as defined by your Board surveyed, and shall apprise you of the quantity.

Mr. D. O'LEARY, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

THE permission of your Board to distribute rations of a pound's produce to all over nine years will be a signal benefit.

As I presume Dr. Phelan has placed before your Board the ample information he personally obtained as to the state of the immense district of South Roundstone, I feel it unnecessary for me to allude to that unfortunate locality, and shall merely add that, from the reports since received from the relieving officers, a supply of rice there is every day becoming more essential.

The sooner measures are taken to provide medical aid there the better; every day the comparatively strong are placed from the labour lists on the infirm; and in this progressing advance of the whole population to disease, the food, which is sound and suitable for those who can use it, is useless. If we can supply the depôts with rice, sugar, cocoa, &c., in reasonable quantities, and this may be done if we had means, at low prices, I am confident an immense amount of human misery would be alleviated.

On yesterday I visited three of our depôts. The boilers were in full operation; the food excellent, and the mode of distribution satisfactory. The widows, infirm, &c., receive their portions early in the day, the able-bodied in the afternoon.

We shall want several boilers to meet the demand in some districts; they are obliged to cook food at night, and on Sundays; and even by so doing they are still obliged to make up the deficiency by giving dry meal.

We have applied to the Vice-Guardians of the Galway Union for the use of some boilers which they have to spare. From my own observation it occurs to me that the mode of making several boilings in the day is objectionable. The food is sometimes not sufficiently cooked; and as it is not possible to get boilers here as they may be required, I have been considering whether it may not be practicable to apply steam. I beg to enclose a sketch of an apparatus that appears to me simple and effective. The saving of fuel, and the facility with which any requisite quantity of food may be prepared at one boiling, would in my opinion be equivalent to the outlay, which cannot be much. There may be objections to its operation which I do not see; but I deem it my duty to place it under the notice of your Board.

I went this day to Claggan, and witnessed an appalling mass of human misery. It is beyond doubt the very worst district in the Union. In every house sickness of some kind exists; and in one, a body of a young man who died of fever two days ago, remained; the door was closed, and even his own relations refused to aid in the interment. I took means to have the needful done. Amongst the hundreds assembled there for their daily food, I could not observe one countenance that did not indicate disease, whilst some poor creatures presented spectacles which no man could behold without shuddering. They have passed the stage when such food as Indian meal stirabout can avail; and to save them, if saved they can be, lighter food is indispensable. If we had rice in sufficient quantities I should hope it would check the terrible ravages of dysentery.

As I anticipated, the orders of the relieving officers for small quantities of rice, cocoa, &c., on a trader in this town, have been refused. There is an account due to him; and although he got part in payment last Monday, he has declined to advance more.

I would again most respectfully urge on your Board the vital necessity of this Union being supplied with means to carry out the object of saving the peoples' lives. We have obtained from our contractors full supplies; they relied on our good faith; they have honoured every order; and they now look to us for payments.

There cannot be less than 1,000*l.* due; and to depend on the rates outstanding to meet this sum would be hopeless. The Local Inspector, Mr. Deane, has, I

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believe, already addressed your Board on this matter. He is now inspecting the northern parts of the Union, otherwise he would, I am sure, concur with me in entreating your Board to guard us, by every possible means, from the consequences which the sudden suspension of supplies on part of our contractors would certainly entail. I beg to impress my opinion most respectfully on your Board, that if the contractors of the Union do not receive instalments on next Monday, our orders for meal will not be met; and as a consequence the several districts will be left without food. I have been just apprised that two cargoes of corn, rice, &c., have arrived, consigned to the Commissariat here. May I ask if these are to be available for the Union; and if so, what steps we should take in case supplies from that department were indispensable? I feel that I have more than once been probably too importunate on this topic; but knowing that the grand object of your Board is to save the people, and feeling that my duty is to carry your views into effect as far as I can, I have felt it incumbent on me to put your Board in possession of the peculiar state of this afflicted Union.

It will justify my anxiety when I repeat to your Board that if the contingency I apprehend should occur, and I do fear it is not improbable, should our contractors dishonour our orders before we could communicate with your Board, multitudes may perish.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 1, 1848.*

I AM to state for your information that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 300*l.* in money and 200*l.* in provisions, to assist you in providing for the wants of the destitute poor of the Union. The Commissioners have not, however, received the usual estimate from Mr. Deane. The Commissariat supplies to which you refer will, no doubt, be accessible to you.

The Commissioners are in communication with the Board of Health and Mr. Deane on the subject of Mr. Phelan's report. The supply of rice required for Roundstone division or other parts of the Union may be obtained from the Commissariat stores. If the supply of any description of grain is deficient, you should at once communicate on the subject with the Commissariat department.

The Commissioners will not make any objection to the mode of cooking food for distribution to the recipients of out-door relief which you propose, if you find it upon the whole advantageous to resort to it.

The Commissioners confidently trust that every means in your power will be adopted for the effectual relief of the destitute poor in the Clifden Union.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 4, 1848.*

PURSUING the information which I had the honour to convey to you in my last report, in reference to the progress of the collection of rate in the several electoral divisions of this Union, I have to submit the state of Roundstone district. There remains uncollected for that division 539*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, of which 238*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* is due by the following immediate lessors:—

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
A. G. Bell Martin, Esq.	70	0	0	Robert Barry	5	14	7
John Aug. O'Neill, Esq.	9	16	4	Thomas Barry	10	3	7
Hyacinth D'Arcy, Esq., (in Chancery)	23	8	11	Antony Barry	6	0	4
John D'Arcy, Esq. . . .	1	13	4	Bidelia M'Donagh . . .	24	8	4
Pat Blake, Esq.	38	0	10	Matthew Duane	9	14	0
Edward Lynch	6	16	9	John King Stephen . . .	3	16	10
David Lucas, Esq. . . .	10	19	0	James Ogle	8	15	10
Michael Brown, Esq. . .	3	5	2				
John Barry	6	12	0				
					£238	6	10

Leaving a balance of 300*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* to be collected from the very poorest classes of occupiers, the greater part of which have availed themselves, from actual necessity, of the relief at present administering in the Union. You will perceive that the list of immediate lessors contains the names of many persons of station, against these proceedings have been taken for the recovery of the rate. The solicitor to the Board attended yesterday with the view of receiving instructions;

and I have no doubt when the Vice-Guardians shall have obtained your permission to proceed in the superior Courts against some individuals (the names of whom are forwarded by the clerk), they will be enabled to make the outstanding uncollected balance of the rate available. It will be necessary in some cases to have application made to the courts of law to substitute service, as in the instance of Mr. O'Neill, who is a defaulter for the last rate, and owes the whole of the current rate. I have already informed you of the course which the Guardians intend to pursue in reference to issuing the execution against the property of that gentleman in the electoral division of Ballindoon. There are four persons in the list of defaulting immediate lessors of the Roundstone district, named Barry, who owe collectively 28*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* The collector has informed me that they have surrendered their land to Mr. Martin, the leases having expired; that there are no occupying tenants there, and that the Barrys are living in miserable hovels by the side of the road. This state of things imposes much difficulty on the collector of the rate; and if it is to be found existing among a class ostensibly (at least in the rate-book) able to pay the rate, it will be readily seen how much trouble there is likely to be experienced in collecting from the small occupiers.

The collection of the rate for the past week amounted to 26*l.* 6*s.*, a sum in itself inadequate to support the paupers in the house. The Guardians are in debt very nearly 2000*l.* to the contractors who have supplied the various depôts with meal. They waited on the Vice-Guardians yesterday and informed them that it would be utterly impossible to continue the supplies unless they were paid a fair proportion of their claims; and subsequently a written communication to that effect was sent by the same parties to the Board. You will at once perceive the position in which the Union is placed, and how necessary it will be to provide the Guardians with assistance to enable them to meet the destitution which prevails. I have to acknowledge the receipt from the agent of the British Association of an order on the Commissariat for 200*l.* worth of provisions, which is in course of distribution.

I beg leave to enclose an estimate of the amount which will be required for the support of the destitute in the Union for the next week. Owing to the state of confusion of the relieving officers' books, I have been unable to obtain anything like correct information until to day. In fact, it will be absolutely necessary to prepare new books and lists, which, according to Mr. R. Bourke's suggestion (who attended the Board yesterday) should commence with entries from the 25th of March, and that the Guardians should employ competent persons to examine and check the past accounts. It is no easy matter to obtain officers in this Union fully competent to discharge the duties which are required in keeping and rendering accounts; and I shall feel it to be very necessary to recommend the Guardians to send to Dublin for individuals capable of performing the duties of relieving officer, should any mistakes arise in future among the present staff.

ENCLOSURE.

ESTIMATE of the WEEKLY COST of affording Relief to the Destitute Poor in the Union of Clifden.

No. 1.—*Relief in the Workhouse.*

Weekly cost of workhouse and of new fever hospital:—

Inmates of the workhouse	.	.	.	294		
Patients in new hospital	.	.	.	25		
				319	£.	s. d.
					56	0 11

No. 2. First Section—*Out-door Relief.*

Estimated weekly cost of affording relief to persons entitled under the 1st section of the Relief Extension Act:—

Persons relieved	.	.	.	.	4,816	£.	s. d.
						158	0 0

No. 3. Second Section.

Estimated weekly cost of affording relief to persons entitled under 2nd section of the Relief Extension Act:—

Persons relieved	.	.	.	.	7,577	248	0 0
						£462	0 11
						2	T

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Total recipients under the three classes :—

Workhouse	.	.	.	.	.	319
First section	.	.	.	.	.	4,816
Second section	.	.	.	.	.	7,577
						12,712

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 7, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 4th instant, relating to the Clifden Union; and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a farther advance of 500*l.*, (in money 300*l.*, in provisions 200*l.*.) to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*April 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received from their inspector, Mr. Bourke, a report by which it appears that as yet you have been unable to carry the out-door relief arrangements in Clifden Union, into a good working state, in consequence of which the food now distributed is for the most part dispensed on the sole authority of the relieving officers.

The Commissioners request you therefore, in conjunction with Mr. Deane, the Temporary Poor Law Inspector in the Union, to adopt such steps as will enable you effectually to control the administration of out-door relief, by assuring yourselves, as far as practicable, that it is given only to persons who are actually destitute, and that all of this class receive relief either in or out of the workhouse.

The Commissioners desire to state, that with a view of enabling you to visit the relief stations, for the purpose of inspecting the classes relieved, as well as of acting as a Board in other localities than Clifden, they are prepared to allow you to charge on the Union the expenses you may incur for the conveyances which you shall require to use in travelling to and from such places; and they request that when you shall have had sufficient experience of those expenses to make an accurate average of their weekly amount, you will be so good as to report it, taking care to confine it to the outlay for the hire of conveyances.

The Commissioners have under consideration Mr. Bourke's statement of the funds which you will require for payment of debts incurred and for current expenditure in addition to the rate in progress of collection; and they will communicate to you shortly the extent to which such assistance can be given; meanwhile they rely on your not permitting any relaxation of the exertions necessary for collecting the outstanding portion of the rate, as well as for completing the revision of the books preparatory to striking a new rate, such rate being indispensable even though not at once put in collection.

Mr. DEANE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 10, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Vice-Guardians to-day. Mr. Jackson, Vice-Guardian, has arrived and took his seat at the Board. The collection of the rate for the current week amounted to 36*l.* 5*s.* Payments were made to the contractors for supplying the several relief depôts in the Union with bread.

During the past week I have been actively engaged in visiting the working parties in the northern and a portion of the southern districts of the Union. In various instances I discovered that the stewards had neglected their instructions, and that the able-bodied labourers were not performing the amount of task which should be reasonably expected from them; I have brought the names of the stewards, whose neglect I witnessed, before the Vice-Guardians. I held an investigation on oath at Letterpark depôt, on charges preferred by J. F. Graham, Esq., against the overseer, Terence Corbett. It was distinctly proved that Corbett was drunk and incapable of performing his duty on a particular day, and it was also proved that the same individual had procured meal to be taken from the depôt every evening for his own use. I have received information since which will require me to hear additional evidence as to the fraud and imposition which has been carried on in that place. Corbett has been suspended by the Guardians, and I beg leave to suggest, by way of example, that he should be dismissed under your seal. I am still unable to report any progress having been made in the relieving officer's lists.

I am glad to be enabled to state that there is a very large breadth of potatoes planted in the Union; indeed, in some districts, as I am credibly informed, to as great an extent as any former year. I have called the attention of the Vice-Guardians to this fact, with the view of instituting a careful revision of the lists, having a special regard to the provisions of the 10th clause of the Act (the quarter-acre clause); it is quite clear that there are individuals at present receiving relief who having more than a quarter of an acre of land in their possession, and having offered to give up the land to the landlord not having been refused, have since been enabled to obtain some potato seed and have planted their holdings. They are, therefore, now in that occupation contemplated by the statute, and it appears to me that it is illegal for the Guardians to continue to relieve them. I am fully aware that many of them, notwithstanding this occupation, are in great destitution, but I cannot see in what way the statute is to be got over. I am desirous of calling your attention to the lamentable neglect of the fisheries on the coast. I had in the early part of the season been somewhat cheered at the prospect of industry amongst the fishermen in the northern part of the Union, but since out-door relief has been in course of administration it has had an injurious effect. I would take leave to suggest that it might be advisable to place at my disposal, from the funds of the British Association, some assistance which I might offer to the fishermen with the view of stimulating their industry; a sufficient supply of biscuit might be given to each boat's crew, on the condition of their going out to fish. With this done, the Vice-Guardians would be enabled, with my assistance, to strike off the lists the names of those fishermen at present breaking stones by the road side, and who, regardless of their own interests, allow their boats to rot on the shore. It is melancholy to witness this apathy and indolence, and it is equally humbling to be thus obliged to devise plans to induce these people to avail themselves of the bountiful provision of food with which the bays and creeks of this coast abound. I have written to the Count Strzelecki on this subject, and shall feel obliged by your assistance in carrying out my views, which, I trust, may meet with your approval. I feel that anything is better than out-door relief for the fishermen, and if assistance is to be given I think it will be more effectual through the medium I have suggested; at all events, if I can induce the fishermen to fish it will increase the food in the country, which for the next two or three trying months would be most desirable. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of 200*l.* in provisions and 300*l.* in money, which I have placed at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians. I would hope that, to enable the Board to reduce the amount of the debts to the contractors, you will be good enough to recommend that any future advances to the Union shall be made in money.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 15, 1848.*

WITH reference to the fraud committed by Terence Corbett, overseer of works, I am to state that the Commissioners will issue an order for his dismissal from office, and they recommend that the Vice-Guardians should proceed against him criminally for the abstraction of the meal, on whatever charge the evidence will justify. Copies of the depositions taken by you in the case should be forwarded to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners trust that by a careful revision of the relief lists, and frequent inspection of the relief depôts and working parties, cases of simulated distress may be detected.

With reference to your suggestions for the employment of the fishermen who are now on the relief lists, I am to state that all that the Commissioners can do in the matter is to send an extract from your report to the British Association, which they have done.

With regard to your observations as to the reduction of the debts of the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners cannot advance money for the specific purpose of paying the debts of the Union, but they will make application to the British Association for weekly assistance, to enable the Vice-Guardians to provide for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union; with each week's estimate it should be stated the sum required in money and the amount in provisions.

KENMARE UNION.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 4, 1848.*

HAVING arrived here on Friday the 28th ultimo, under the scaled orders of the Commissioners for the Laws of Relief to the Poor in Ireland, to take charge of the Kenmare Union as Vice-Guardians, and having up to the present period made inquiries into the state and management thereof, we beg to submit the following report:—

On our arrival, our first inquiry was as to the state of the funds of the Union, which we lament to say appeared to us in a very inauspicious point of view. It appeared that the last rate (a universal one of 3s. 6d. in the pound) had been struck on the 25th of September last on the net annual value of the Union, 24,492l. 15s., producing the sum of 4603l. 14s. 0½d., which amount includes the sum of 317l. 9s. 4½d. of the former rate; and up to the period of the 22nd of January ultimo, it appeared that the sum of 2385l. 0s. 10d. had been collected, leaving the amount to be collected 2218l. 13s. 2½d., with only the sum of 32l. 5s. 8d. in the treasurer's hands to the credit of the Union, the liabilities due, amounting to 1559l. 4s. It appears from the foregoing, that were the total outstanding rate collected, it would merely meet the liabilities, and leave scarcely any amount in hand to meet the unparalleled appearance of destitution that has come under our notice. It cannot be expected that we can explain the decisive causes which have led to such a state of affairs: there is, however, one fact which we deem it necessary to state, that, on the dissolution of the late Board, we found that 14 of the Guardians had not paid their poor-rate. Such are the lamentable prospects we are bequeathed, to meet the pressing necessity of unparalleled destitution.

On inspecting the workhouse buildings we found them in a most deplorable neglected state: the main beams of the roof which rest on the wall-plates actually crumbling away from the continued damp pouring in on the south-west side; the ventilators useless; all the walls in the dormitories in a filthy state, from the want of common care. The matron stated, that on her side of the house she had not a brush, and was compelled, from the want thereof, to sweep out her own room with rags. In many instances we perceived the walls blackened from the filthy habit of sticking candles against them. The mortar floors throughout the house are certainly very much neglected, particularly in the infirm wards and day-rooms, where the holes in the floors vary from six to seven inches deep and two feet in length.

The workhouse it appears, has been built for the accommodation of 500 paupers. We found, on inspection, the number therein to amount to by day 845, being many more than the day-rooms could accommodate, out of which number 300 are sleeping out in eight houses, which we found were provided in the town by the Inspector, Captain Ommanney, *five* of which are agreed on at the rate of 10s. a-month, *one* at the rate of 5l. a-year, *one* at the rate of 16l. a-year, and *one* to be paid for at the same rate as the five first, in proportion to the accommodation it contains, making nearly a total rent of 60l. a-year, which extra accommodation being so circumstanced, we deem it very inconvenient and unsatisfactory; and as it appears such houses are only to be paid for while occupied, we are preparing to give them up, and provide one place of sleeping at the rate of 40l. a-year, which will accommodate nearly 300.

We found in the hospital and workhouse infirmary, 65 cases of fever, in the probationary wards, 20 cases of dysentery, and 21 cases in the men and women's wards, making a total of fever and dysentery 126 cases. The number of deaths from the 25th of March last to the present time amounting to 328, of which 92 were adults, and the remainder, 236, children under 15 years of age. It appears they were buried without coffins (excepting about 36), carried to the graves in what is termed a slip-coffin, so contrived that the bottom was made to slide out, and then the body covered with the clay; no contract for

coffins existing. We are of opinion that the great appearance of sickness, to be produced from an inadequate dietary and very wretched clothing; in fact, there is not what could be termed clothing in the workhouse, it being so very tattered that we could scarcely discern it from the filthy rags which remain on the principal portion of the paupers who have been admitted into the body of the house; in fact, there are no contracts existing, scarcely a day's provision in the house, no fuel but as it is purchased on its arrival in the market; there is a difficulty of even then obtaining a day's supply, in consequence of which the children are suffering severely from the cold; they painfully exhibit their feet swoln, in a neglected state, and emaciated in their appearance. It appeared the infant children received no food until nearly one o'clock, P.M.; the cause was attributed to the want of milk in proper time, receiving it only as it should be irregularly brought to the workhouse, sometimes scarcely a sufficiency for hospital purposes, and the breakfast for the other inmates consequently postponed further in the day. Nothing appearing in existence with the orders of the Commissioners, which are carried out in a well-managed workhouse. We found it loathsome to pass through doors from the children's school-room into the yards, in consequence of an effluvia arising therefrom, as it appears to us caused by the children being allowed to commit nuisances there.

The Visiting Book appears to have been a dead letter till the arrival of Captain Ommanney.

There appears to have been no contracts for vaccination throughout the Union, and it is represented to us that small-pock is very prevalent.

We find out-door relief of the three classes to be in operation throughout the entire Union, and regret to say we are not in a position at present to report thereon; it being a matter of the greatest importance, we purpose giving it due consideration, in order to carry it into effect compatibly with the orders of the Commissioners, and will, at an early period, make it the subject of a special report.

We regret to state that Doctor Taylor is in typhus fever; he is the medical officer of this Union; he is represented to us as being a very competent person, and has his hospital in very good order. His nephew is acting in his stead; he reports that the fever hospital at present is not sufficient for the cases of typhus fever.

The clerk has the character of being strictly honest, but holds another office as pay-clerk under the Board of Works, which occupies four days of his time every third week in the execution of that office; for instance, he intends leaving here on next Monday, and will not return until next Thursday night. He has under him an assistant, to whom he pays 20*l.* a-year; the assistant also is relieving officer for the Kenmare district of this Union: it appears to us not advisable he should hold both those offices.

We are of opinion that the present master is not capable of exercising the functions of his office; he has been originally the porter. His books are in a dreadful state with erasures, principally the Provision Check Account Book. He has never kept the Hospital Daily Distribution of Dietary, or Maintenance Book; tickets of admission or discharge were unknown to him; and we find, on investigation, he has not weighed the bread on coming into his store; nor are there in the provision store scales for doing so; the pair provided by the Guardians is gone to ruin. He also acknowledges, on inquiry, he has not weighed the meal, excepting, perhaps, one or two bags of an entire load; in fact, he appears at variance with the other officers of the workhouse, caused by the porter bringing charges against him in September last for peculation; and the matron was then examined by the Board, since which period the master has restrained her in interfering with either the provisions or necessaries, or, as she states, the key of any store.

As to the other officers, we have not had time to form any opinion as to their capabilities.

Owing to the exertions of Captain Ommanney, we find that on last week a sum of 300*l.* has been granted from the funds of the British Association, and lodged to the credit of the Union, which we hope will, for the present, assist us in relieving the most destitute.

We now propose to detail, as briefly as possible, the steps we are about to pursue with reference to the remedying the evils complained of, and at the

Kenmare Union.

same time to intimate that summary steps have been taken for the collection of the outstanding rate. Mr. Drummond, R. M., with the police force, are assisting in the collection thereof.

We have given directions to our clerk to prepare immediately a new set of rate books, in order that, if it should appear to the Commissioners practicable to carry into effect the collecting a new rate, to have the books ready.

We propose immediately to carry out the intentions of the Government with regard to vaccination.

We intend, with the consent of the Commissioners, employing a master tailor and shoemaker to instruct the orphan children in those useful trades, and thereby keep the clothes of the establishment in proper repair.

We submit, for the approval of the Commissioners, a general dietary, which has been approved of in some of the best-regulated workhouses in Ireland, viz. :—

HALL DIETARY.

Breakfast.	Dinner.	Supper.	
7 oz. of oatmeal or Indian meal. $\frac{1}{2}$ a pint of new milk or 1 pint of cocoa.	1 lb. of whole-meal bread, and 1 pint of rice gruel.		Adults.
4 oz. of oatmeal or Indian meal, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a pint of new milk or 1 pint of cocoa.	12 oz. of white bread, and 1 pint of rice gruel.		Over Nine.
3oz. of rice, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a pint of new milk.	8 oz. of bread, white, and 1 pint of rice gruel.	4 oz. of white bread.	Under Nine.

HOSPITAL DIETARY.

Breakfast.	Dinner.	Supper.	
4 oz. of rice. 1 pint of new milk.	12 oz. of white bread. $\frac{1}{2}$ a pint of sweet milk or broth.	1 pint of rice gruel or 1 quart of tea.	Adults.
3 oz. of rice, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a pint of new milk.	4 oz. of white bread. $\frac{1}{2}$ a pint of sweet milk or 1 pint of broth.	4 oz. of white bread. $\frac{1}{2}$ a pint of rice gruel, or 1 pint of tea.	Children.

We propose having a kiln erected on the workhouse land, so as to procure lime at first cost, and keep up a continual cleansing of the house by white-washing.

We particularly refer the Commissioners to the comments we have made, with respect to the state of the building, requiring the immediate attention of their architect.

We hope the Commissioners will change the present master, as we deem him not suited for that office.

The ground about the workhouse, which we find has been totally neglected until the arrival of Captain Ommanney here, is in process of drainage for cultivation.

We cannot close this our report without expressing our thanks to Captain Ommanney for the valuable assistance he has rendered us by his advice and assisting us in our inquiries.

Hoping that our suggestions may meet with your approval.

P.S.—Since concluding the foregoing report, we regret to state the death of Doctor Taylor, the medical officer of the workhouse, has been notified to us.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February* 10, 1848.

Kenmare Union.

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 4th instant, relative to the state of affairs of the Kenmare Union, in which you advert to the rate of 3s. 6d. in the pound, made on the 25th September last, on the net annual value of the Union; and in reference thereto the Commissioners desire to draw your attention to the amount of the valuation (24,689l. 5s.), as compared with the number of acres on which rate is charged (115,015), and which, with the house property in the Union, would appear to possess an annual value much greater than the amount on which rates are now levied; so that in this view of the case, the rate of 3s. 6d. levied in September, 1847, when regarded with reference to the actual value of property in the Union, should probably be considered as one of moderate amount.

The Commissioners request a consideration of this question now, as the state of the Union finances appears to require that preparations should be made for the early declaration of a further rate; and the Commissioners fully approve of the steps proposed to be taken for this object.

The Commissioners desire to express their approval of the arrangements for providing additional workhouse accommodation, in lieu of the several buildings now occupied.

They concur in the opinion that the clerk of the Union should not also hold the office of pay-clerk under the Board of Works, which requires that he should be absent on four successive days in every third week; and the Commissioners recommend that he be required to resign one of the employments.

The Commissioners observe that the workhouse master has been attacked with typhus fever; and they cannot therefore take any step at present.

The Commissioners approve of the employment of a master tailor, to instruct the children and assist in preparing the clothing for the workhouse inmates; and should you, on further consideration, continue to be of opinion that it would be advisable to employ a shoemaker, for the purpose of giving instructions in his trade as now proposed, the Commissioners will not object.

The Commissioners request that you will be so good as to make trial of the dietaries proposed; and the Commissioners have directed me to state that they approve of the arrangements contemplated for providing lime on the workhouse site, and for cultivation of the ground.

They will draw the attention of the architect to the state of the workhouse buildings, as now reported; and they rely on the experience and zeal of the Vice-Guardians for the adoption of such measures as are best calculated to secure a due administration of the Poor Relief Acts in the Kenmare Union.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February* 6, 1848.

HEREWITH I have the honour to submit my report for the past week.

My time has been principally occupied in giving the Vice-Guardians every information in my power relative to the state of the Union, and assisting them in their investigation into the management and internal economy of the present state of the workhouse.

The system hitherto has not been of that character which could ensure a proper state of discipline and order necessary to be observed in such an establishment; much of the bad management is to be attributed to the want of an efficient master. There has not been for a considerable period, adequate funds disposable for furnishing the house with the materials required for maintaining the establishment upon a proper footing—no regular contracts could be entered into; the want of clothing has been another cause of disorder; also the additional increase to the establishment caused by the extra accommodation, has been detrimental to the preservation of order; but this expedient has been indispensable for working out the Poor Law, and to provide for the enormous amount of destitution.

To place the workhouse establishment on a proper footing cannot now be effected without considerable outlay; and to put the buildings into a proper state of repair must involve a great expense.

Mr. Drummond, R.M., proceeded with a police force on Tuesday last to the

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division of Bourdoneen, to give protection to the collector getting in the poor rate. He proceeded in the first instance to the residence of James Butler, Esq. of Waterville, J.P., and D.L., who, although the collector had asked for payment on the previous evening, it was not obtained from this gentleman until his cattle were distrained. How could others in more humble circumstances be expected to pay, whilst a person in his station continued a defaulter? Previous to this alternative I had addressed him twice on the subject of payment, to which no answer has been received. The presence of the police has had the effect of bringing in a considerable amount of the rate, and I am waiting the report of the collector to know the result.

Some resistance was offered in the Tuosist division—the collector obtained some payments there; from the extreme poverty of many of the rate-payers in this division, it will be impossible to collect the whole. The unfavourable state of the weather this week has been unpropitious for the operations of the police. It is desirable that the magistrates should not leave the Union until coercive measures have been completed against all opponents to the poor-rate.

I am happy to state that works under the Landed Property Improvement Act are being commenced on Lord Lansdowne's estate, upon which I am informed the sum of 8000*l.* will be expended in drainage works, which I trust will render unnecessary the extension of relief to the able-bodied in that district, comprising the divisions of Tuosist and Bunawn.

I regret to report the demise of Dr. Taylor, medical officer of the Union, after a short illness. His loss is much to be lamented, for he was assiduous in the discharge of his duty, and a person of considerable talent, as also an experienced physician.

I have received the sum of 200*l.* value in provisions from the British Relief Association, which has been placed at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians, and appropriated to the service of the out-door relief.

The greatest misery prevails in Ballybog. At Sneem I was informed of an instance where the carcase of a dead horse was cut up for food; and many holders of land are striving to subsist on seaweed, before they surrender their holding.

It will be necessary for the Commissioners to grant a renewal of their sealed order of 15th December, 1847, directing an extension of out-door relief to certain destitute classes.

I trust that the stipendiary magistrate will not leave the Union until an effectual check has been given to all resistance against the authority of the rate collector; his services will be required the whole of this week.

The Vice-Guardians will now devote their attention to the collection of the rate, and investigate into the administration of out-door relief.

In consequence of the extent of the division of Tuosist, it being upwards of 20 miles in length, it is requisite to divide it into two relief districts—another relieving officer will be appointed.

Agreeably with a requisition from M. O'Connell, Esq., I have caused the meeting of the Vice-Guardians to be postponed until the 15th instant.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 10, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have perceived on the minutes of proceedings of the Vice-Guardians of the Kenmare Union, on the 5th instant, that the workhouse master has been attacked with typhus fever, and the Guardians cannot therefore take any step at present, for his removal from the office of master of the workhouse.

With reference to the proceedings adopted for enforcing the payment of the poor-rate in the Bourdoneen electoral division, I am to state that the Commissioners trust the collection of the rate in the whole of the Union will be prosecuted with vigour.

I am at the same time to state as regards the proposed renewal of the Commissioners' order of 15th December last, authorizing an extension of out-door relief to certain classes, that all the classes named in that order are comprised

within the terms of the Commissioners' order of the 21st ult., and it is not necessary therefore that the order of the 15th December should be renewed.

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The Commissioners have directed me to express their approval of the separation of Tuosist electoral division into two relief districts.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 7, 1848.*

I HAVE to acquaint the Commissioners that subsequent to the departure of the stipendiary magistrate from Bourdoneen, on the 3rd instant, when he left the collector in the collection of the rate under the impression his services were no longer required, the collector has again made application for his assistance and the protection of a police force. He states that he has met great resistance, and was unable to obtain the rates after Mr. Drummond, resident magistrate, left the division of Bourdoneen on the 3rd instant.

The collector reports that he has obtained about 300% of the rates. From what he states, and from the report of the officer of police, it appears that the rates would not have been paid, but for the demonstration of a police force.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 10, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of Government has been drawn to your communication.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 13, 1848.*

HEREWITH I have the honour of submitting my report for the past week. The internal state of the workhouse continues unchanged at present, as the Vice-Guardians are unable to enter upon their arrangements for putting the establishment into a correct system of management, before the decision of the Commissioners is communicated with respect to the continuation of the master in his situation, and proper contracts made for supplying the house with clothing, provisions, and necessaries.

The number of inmates is now 728; during the week 82 have quitted the house at their own request; it appears almost unaccountable to see those creatures leaving shelter in a few days, after having been admitted in the most abject state of misery, and probably having undertaken a journey of 20 miles in the severest weather, to obtain relief; their great aim is to be entered on the out-door relief list, and they seem to think they can make a choice of either in or out-door relief. There was by far a much smaller number of applicants for admission this week than on any former occasion since my arrival. The number of vacancies now disposable enables the workhouse test being again applied.

The medical officer has reported that the master is now quite recovered from fever, therefore I trust the Commissioners will enable the Guardians to select a more competent person for the situation, as I am of opinion that he is incapable of managing the establishment.

The number of sick in the house now amounts to 146, of these there are 80 fever cases and 66 of dysentery, the latter is very prevalent; it is stated that the nature of the diet is conducive to the complaint; I have therefore to move the Commissioners to allow the Vice-Guardians to adopt a more salutary dietary for the inmates.

The medical officer reports the want of sufficient accommodation for the sick; the fever hospital and infirmary are both full, in consequence of which he is compelled to reject the admission of 12 fever patients.

Owing to the extension of the workhouse system, it is necessary to provide some additional building for the reception of infectious cases; I am not aware that there is any building in or about the town available for the purpose of an hospital; after giving the subject due consideration with the Vice-Guardians yesterday, we considered that the rear of the idiot yards, inside the boundary wall, would be the most advantageous site for the construction of hospital sheds, as they would be ready of access from the infirmary, and removed clear from

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the main body of the building; these yards are about 40 feet square; should this plan meet the approbation of the Commissioners, I have to request they will instruct their architect to furnish specifications for erecting these sheds without delay; it would be advisable to roof them with slates, and construct them substantially; the rear of the infirmary yards can also be appropriated to a similar purpose, if requisite.

Upon visiting the house on Monday last at noon, the inmates were only then at breakfast. The master was sick, and a relieving officer engaged in the discharge of the clerk's duties, who was absent from the Union. The officers should be directed each to attend to his respective duty, and particularly the relieving officer, whose whole time is necessary, should be devoted in looking after his district.

The advances for provisions received from the British Relief Association for the relief of the destitute, to the value of 400*l.*, have been allocated to each electoral division in proportion to the net annual value; it is issued to the relieving officers in Indian meal for the out-door relief, the price of which has just been reduced from 11*l.* to 9*l.* per ton at the Commissariat store.

The number of destitute children now in attendance at the schools throughout the Union will amount to 4000, each receiving one pound of rye bread daily. This relief, if properly applied to the class for which it is intended, provides food for all the destitute children of the stipulated age in the Union; this relief is of the greatest service and benefit to the country, many hundreds of them would be without means of subsistence. I am obliged to exercise the greatest vigilance to see that the bounty is properly appropriated.

Mr. Drummond, R.M., has been engaged in giving protection to the collectors with a police force; in the early part of the week he was over Kilgarvan, where the rates were enforced from parties in remote localities, who have hitherto held the efforts of the collectors at defiance. On Thursday he returned to Bourdoneen to follow up the collection there, as the collector had met with great resistance; up to this day I have heard that they have had great trouble to collect it, and made many seizures of cattle. The rate is now collected between Waterville and West Cove. To-morrow they continue to enforce the rate in the eastern portion of the division; violence has been used against the collector, and on one occasion he received a severe contusion on the head from a stone thrown at him. The stipendiary magistrate has been delayed in Bourdoneen in consequence of the opposition on the part of the ratepayers, as without a force the rate could not be obtained.

The sum of 176*l.* has been lodged with the treasurer this week, and a sum of about 300*l.* more remains in the collector's hands. In consequence of the unavoidable absence of the collector for Bourdoneen, the fortnightly examination of the collector's accounts could not be completed.

The lists of immediate lessors still defaulters were examined at the Board yesterday, and the names forwarded to the Commissioners, against whom it is necessary to take proceedings in a superior court.

I intend proceeding to-morrow with the Vice-Guardians to Bourdoneen, to hold a meeting there. The relieving officer of that division I consider is disqualified for his office, on account of his inactivity and the occupation of a large farm.

The collectors have repeatedly been urged to follow up the collection with vigour; in the course of a few weeks I anticipate that all the recoverable portion of the rate will be brought in.

REPLY to the foregoing:—February 15, 1848.

I AM to state, that the Vice-Guardians should proceed without any delay to appoint a competent person to discharge the duties of the office of master of the workhouse, and they should call upon the present master at once to resign his office. If his resignation is not immediately sent in, the Commissioners are prepared to issue an order under seal for his dismissal.

With regard to the change which is deemed requisite in the workhouse dietary, I am to draw your attention to the 18th article of the workhouse rules, and to observe, that in the management of the workhouse it is quite competent

for the Vice-Guardians temporarily to alter the dietary in accordance with the medical officers' suggestions. Kenmare Union.

The Commissioners will not object to the construction of temporary sheds for the accommodation of fever patients in the position referred to in your report, and they will communicate accordingly with their architect; but they would much prefer that a building should be hired or rented by the Vice-Guardians, in pursuance of the 16th section of the Irish Poor Relief Amendment Act, to be used for the reception of fever patients.

The Commissioners fully concur with you in the propriety of requiring each officer of the Union to perform his duties in person. The 26th article of the general regulations, and the proviso to the 42nd article, are specially framed with this view. It will be the duty of the Vice-Guardians to see that the regulations in this respect are duly complied with.

The Commissioners apprehend from your statement, that in appropriating the 400*l.* advanced by the British Relief Association, according to the annual value of rateable property in the several electoral divisions, the highest amount was allocated to the division of greatest valuation, and so on proportionably. But the Commissioners desire to state that you should have put the money at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians, and the ultimate allocation of it would have been a subject for the consideration of the Commissioners.

The Vice-Guardians should require the relieving officer for the Bourdoneen division to resign immediately, on the grounds stated in your report.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report upon the result of my inspection, in company with the Vice-Guardians, into the out-door relief list in the Bourdoneen division.

I proceeded to Bourdoneen on the 14th instant, and on the 15th a public meeting was held at Derrynane. There was a large attendance of rate-payers, the clergy, and Maurice O'Connell, Esq. The relieving officer attended with his books, when the circumstances of each individual upon the list were thoroughly scrutinized.

Altogether the list was not so incorrect as I was led to expect. There were some parties holding land removed; amongst them the parish clerk, with some relatives, as reported by Mr. O'Connell, were found on the list. Altogether about 30 names were struck off, out of more than 400 heads of families.

The relieving officer could give but little information respecting the parties on his list. He certainly had not fulfilled his instructions with regard to visiting the residences of the applicants, and inquired into their circumstances, nor had he made himself thoroughly acquainted with his instructions. The man is beyond the age which I consider indispensable for the active exertions required to discharge his duties efficiently; he is also in the occupation of a farm of at least 50 acres of land; he is a highly respectable man, and bears a good character.

The meeting gave satisfaction, and was conducted by Mr. O'Connell with every impartiality.

With reference to the subject of the payment of Mr. O'Connell's rates, it appears that he returned to Derrynane from England on the 24th December. The collector had previously applied to his steward for the rates, who deferred him until Mr. O'Connell's arrival, who, when he saw the collector, desired him to call on the 7th ultimo; but on the day appointed the collector had to attend the Board at Kenmare, and did not wait upon Mr. O'Connell again until the 27th January, when he received payment.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 19, 1848.*

I AM to inquire whether the relieving officer whom you represent as both negligent and inefficient in the discharge of his duties has been called upon to resign.

It is manifest that the affairs of the Union cannot be managed satisfactorily

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unless the several Union officers discharge their respective duties zealously and efficiently; and the Commissioners are prepared at once to remove any negligent or inefficient officer on receiving a report from you or the Vice-Guardians recommending that course to be adopted.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 17, 1848.*

UPON the occasion of visiting the division of Ballybog it was represented to me by James Bland, Esq., of Derroquin Castle, that he had applied for a grant under "the Landed Property Improvement Act," but as yet no steps are taken for commencing works on his estate.

In consequence of the very destitute condition of the population in Ballybog it would be of the greatest advantage to the district to procure employment for them; and in consequence, I have to request that the Commissioners would use their influence at the Board of Works to expedite the commencement of the intended works on Mr. Bland's estate.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 19, 1848.*

THE attention of the Board of Works has been drawn to your report.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 20, 1848.*

HEREWITH I have the honour to submit my weekly report.

I have already communicated the particulars of my visit to the division of Bourdoneen, which occupied the 14th, 15th, and 16th instant.

There is nothing new to report on the state of the workhouse, the Vice-Guardians having deferred taking any active measures until a new master is appointed, and the necessary supplies are contracted for. The number of inmates is now but 700. As there are vacancies in the hired extra buildings, the advantage of the workhouse test is still applicable.

There is no serious contagion existing in the workhouse. 56 deaths have occurred since the 1st instant. With the exception of three cases, they were all under 15 years of age, and chiefly infants, some of whom died on being admitted into the house before the medical officer had seen them; many came into the house in that state of sickness that they were beyond the means of recovery.

As to the general condition of the people, I am happy to state that their appearance during the last month has greatly improved; most of the distressing objects which infested the town when I first arrived have disappeared. When I contrast the wretched and horrible scenes which daily presented themselves during the month of December, and the dreadful prospects consequent thereon, the improvement, by means of the operation of the Poor Law, cannot be otherwise than most gratifying. I could not help remarking this day that the town was free from beggars and destitute creatures.

The British Association school relief has effected the most satisfactory result. Most of the children are dependent upon the daily ration of bread which I supply. They have assumed a much more healthy appearance. The benefit of keeping them from straggling about the country is certainly an object of the greatest advantage.

I am unable to report the exact sum of the uncollected rate until next week, as some of the collectors are at a distance, and have sums not yet lodged; but I calculate there is not more than 1200*l.* uncollected.

I presume that the Commissioners desire that another rate must soon be struck, which should be considerable, to clear off the debts, and place the finances of the Union in a healthy state.

With our present expenditure of 300*l.* weekly, I have again to express my opinion that it is impracticable to meet it. I have, therefore, to request the Commissioners will be further pleased to consider the propriety of rendering the Union assistance from the funds of the British Association during the heavy pressure of out-door relief.

At the ordinary meeting of the Vice-Guardians yesterday, the day was occu-

pied in making contracts for supplies of provisions, clothing, and necessaries, so that the Guardians adjourned the meeting for Monday next. There were numerous tenders, and parties from Cork were generally successful in obtaining the contracts; a proof of the new management of the Union.

Several candidates presented themselves for the appointment of relieving officer for the eastern district of Tuosist, but none were considered competent. The master has resigned his appointment.

A total revision of the out-door relief lists is advisable, and I trust the Vice-Guardians will follow up my suggestions in carrying out this important duty without loss of time; and, now that the contracts are obtained, that they will devote their attention to place the establishment of the workhouse and Union in that order and efficiency required of them by the Commissioners.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 23, 1848.*

WITH reference to the new rate required in the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners will readily sanction any expense which the Vice-Guardians may deem it necessary to incur, in having the books prepared for a new rate in the Union with as little delay as possible.

As the collection of the rate is brought nearly to a close in any division, the collector's books should be called in, so that the arrears may be included in the new rate, and the new warrant be issued at once to the collector without waiting for the close of the collection in other divisions.

For the future, the course which the Commissioners are prepared for awhile to adopt is, to undertake to make weekly advances for the relief of the able-bodied men out of the workhouse, provided that the Vice-Guardians will relieve from the poor rates able-bodied men and their families in the workhouse, and destitute persons entitled to relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act out of the workhouse.

The Commissioners request you to supply them on Saturday in each week, with an estimate of the weekly sum which, in your opinion, will be required in order to preserve from starvation the destitute poor who are entitled to relief in your district, forming a separate estimate for each of the three following heads:—

- 1st. Relief in the workhouse.
- 2nd. Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.
- 3rd. Relief to able-bodied persons entitled to relief under the 2nd section of that Act.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

I REQUEST you will be pleased to inform me whether it is requisite that the Vice-Guardians should meet daily at the Board-room for the despatch of business and to manage the affairs of the Union; such has been my opinion, but as the Vice-Guardians have differed with me on this point, I am anxious to receive the opinion of the Commissioners to know if my view is correct, particularly as the state of the Union requires their unremitting attention.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 26, 1848.*

IN reply to your report of the 23rd instant, received to day, I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to state that the meetings of Vice-Guardians in other Unions are adjourned from day to day, or are held on more days than one in each week, according to the business required to be transacted, and as any case of emergency may arise.

The Commissioners are convinced that the affairs of the Kenmare Union require the unremitting attention of the Vice-Guardians; and paid officers have been appointed, with the expectation that they will devote to the discharge of their duties whatever portion of their time may be necessary to enable them to bring the affairs of the Union into a satisfactory condition.

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The Vice-Guardians should, under existing circumstances, devote every day to Union affairs, and being responsible for the state of the workhouse and accounts, should frequently inspect both.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 27, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report for the past week :

Nothing of any importance has occurred in the state of the Union during the past week. The numbers in the workhouse on the 25th instant were 696; the sick have increased to 178 cases; fever has declined, but dysentery has become very prevalent; supplies are ordered for the house on the receipt of which a new dietary will be established. I have daily inspected the workhouse, and in consequence of the filthy habits of the people I found it necessary to give two written orders to the master in order to stop the disgusting practice,—they had the desired effect; the Vice-Guardians considered it was an infringement of the workhouse regulations,—copies of these orders I have already transmitted to the Commissioners. On Saturday next it is intended to elect a new master with an assistant.

The out-door relief lists increase, but the destitution has considerably diminished; in this respect a vast improvement in the country is manifest. The cost for the out-door relief is upwards of 200*l.* weekly, although a reduction of more than 30*l.* has been made by the attendance of destitute children at schools.

The amount of rate collected since my arrival in the Union is 2,301*l.* leaving about 1,200*l.* uncollected.

Drainage works are in operation on the Marquess of Lansdowne's property; and I trust they will soon be commenced on Mr. Bland's estate. The school relief being also of such valuable assistance it has carried the Union through the worst crisis without relieving the able-bodied.

A relieving officer has been elected for the eastern district of the division of Tuosist at a salary of 30*l.* per annum, making the western and more populous one 40*l.*

The Vice-Guardians have not called for the resignation of the relieving officer of Bourdoneen, as they wish to give him a further trial, from his respectability and good character.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 27, 1848.*

I HAVE to report that the estimates for the support of the destitute poor under the three following heads are, viz.:—

First.—For relief in the workhouse, 60*l.*

Second.—Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, 180*l.*

Third.—Relief to able-bodied persons entitled to relief under the 2nd section of that Act, 30*l.*

Those relieved under the 2nd section of the Act are so few compared to the number under the 1st section, that I recommend that the Commissioners will be pleased to take into their consideration the circumstances of this Union, and afford some assistance to the support of the destitute under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

The Commissioners have made application for an advance of 200*l.* to assist in defraying the expenses of the Union.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

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IN compliance with your directions contained in letter of the 23rd ultimo, I have to report that the estimates for the relief of the destitute poor in this Union are as follow:—

First.—Relief in the workhouse, weekly sum	£60
Second.—Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief, under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, weekly sum	150
Third.—Relief under the 2nd section of that Act, weekly sum	30

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 7, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 200*l.*, to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 5, 1848.*

ON the 1st instant I proceeded to Kilgarvan with Mr. Barnwall, when a public meeting of rate-payers was held to scrutinize the out-door relief lists. A numerous assemblage of rate-payers were present, every name was investigated; the rate-payers were greatly satisfied at the opportunity afforded of scrutinizing their own lists, and it gives them an insight into the operation of the Poor Law. On these occasions I always avail myself of the power conferred upon me by the 19th sec. of the 90 cap., Acts 10 and 11 Vict., to obtain evidence on oath when requisite; it is of great service.

I have frequently inspected the workhouse; taking into consideration the constant change of inmates, and the deficiency of clothing, it is in as good order as circumstances will admit of, considering the filthy habits of persons newly admitted.

In consequence of the frequent discharges from the house we have been enabled to continue the application of the workhouse test (the most effectual proof of destitution). Hardly more than one-half accept the offer of the workhouse, who probably quit it again in a few days; they resort to all sorts of schemes to be put on the out-door relief lists.

Works under the Landed Improvement Act are in operation on Lord Lansdowne's estate, which give employment in the divisions of Tuosist, Bunawn, and Kenmare. Mr. John Hickson has a grant also, which will give employment in Templenoe.

The amount of rate uncollected is now about 1000*l.*, and the liabilities are about 1800*l.* It is now therefore necessary that the Commissioners should express their views relative to striking a new rate.

The numbers of workhouse inmates do not alter; yesterday was the day appointed to elect a new master, but no eligible candidate presented himself. Dr. Maybury, the new medical officer, has entered upon his duties.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

HEREWITH I have the honour to submit the following estimates required for the weekly maintenance of the destitute poor in this Union:—

	£.	s.	d.
First.—Relief in the workhouse	65	10	0
Second.—Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act	120	0	0
Third.—Relief to persons entitled to relief under the 2nd section of that Act	45	0	0

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 150*l.* worth of provisions for the purpose proposed.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 12, 1848.*

HEREWITH I have the honour to submit my report for the past week.

Mr. S. Barry, the new Vice-Guardian appointed in the place of Mr. Robinson, arrived on the 7th instant. He has entered upon his duties with assiduity, and from his experience and ability I anticipate that the Union will derive great benefit: he has entered into a thorough investigation of the books and accounts of the Union, so as to make a thorough inquiry into the affairs of the Union.

On the 7th instant I accompanied Mr. Barnewall to the western district of Tuosist, and held a public meeting of the ratepayers, when a thorough scrutiny was entered into of every person on the relieving officers' out-door relief list; and I am glad to report that the list was in every way satisfactory, though in a very distressed and wild district. The ratepayers appear to be keenly alive to the operation of the Poor Law, and manifested the greatest interest in everything relative to its administration; in many cases it has been necessary to check them in exercising undue severity on the applicants for relief.

This week I have devoted much time with the Vice-Guardians at the workhouse, with a view to adopting a better system in the management of every department connected with the establishment. A new master, with an assistant, have been appointed, who promise to do well; and as soon as the clothing and supplies arrive, I hope for a great improvement.

Owing to the number of sick in the house, more accommodation for the convalescent patients is required so as to keep the fever hospital available for the worst fever cases. The only part of the premises which can be immediately appropriated for this purpose, and at a moderate cost, is by enclosing the vacant space under the shed in the rear of the men's yard, which can be made to receive about 30 patients.

At the Board meeting on Friday the collectors attended, when a minute examination of their books was made, and instructions given to obtain the rate due from defaulters; about 1000*l.* now remains uncollected, out of which, probably, 300*l.* or 400*l.* will have to be carried on as arrears to the next rate. Directions are given to the collectors to use all diligence in collecting the remainder of the outstanding rate, so as to close their books about the end of the month.

The subject of striking a new rate now requires immediate attention. It becomes necessary to take into calculation the circumstances of the district, as to the present chances of collecting a rate, and the period when the distressed ratepayers will be in a position to contribute their portion, which will, of course, be at harvest time. A great proportion of the rate is paid by small farmers and occupiers, owing to the extensive sub-division of land. Grazing has always been the principal source of profit to the farmers in this Union by the produce of butter; the general feeling is that a pressure on this class just now would lead to their entire ruin. The proportion of a heavy rate from the immediate lessors would probably maintain the workhouse up to harvest time, when the small occupiers could be pressed for their payment of the rate.

The Commissioners' sealed order, authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied, ceases on the 21st instant; it has not been acted on, in consequence of the workhouse test having been available. It will be necessary for the Commissioners to renew their sealed order of the 15th December last, authorizing relief to certain destitute classes under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

There are now 4500 destitute children fed at the schools from the funds of the British Association. The advances received from that society to the Union have been appropriated to the out-door relief.

Mr. Barry is preparing a report of the state of the Union. I feel confident that the Vice-Guardians will now afford me every co-operation in carrying out the views of the Commissioners in the administration of the Poor Law.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' sanction of the vacant space under the shed in the men's yard being enclosed, and appropriated to the use of the convalescents from fever.

With reference to your observations on the striking of a new rate, I am directed to state that the Commissioners presume that the books for a new rate are in progress of completion.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 17, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians have this day made a report, wherein they represent the necessity of continuing relief to certain destitute classes under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, in which opinion I concur, in consequence of the numerous applicants for relief this day.

In consequence of the extent of sickness throughout this Union, the probability of a further increase, and the want of provision for affording any hospital accommodation, it is indispensable that immediate steps should be taken for providing temporary local fever hospitals in several parts of the Union.

There is scarcely a family which applies to the workhouse for admission without some of its members being in a state of fever. From the evidence of the relieving officers, and the opportunities I possess in knowing the circumstances of the people in my frequent visits to the schools, it is necessary to provide fever sheds, the only provision in the Union being the workhouse hospital, which is always full.

I recommend that an hospital be established at Sneem, one in Kenmare, one in the centre of Tuosist, and one at Kilgarvan; it would be of the greatest benefit to the population, and a relief on the pressure to the workhouse. I beg to be favoured with instructions for my guidance on this subject.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of the Board of Health has been drawn to the subject.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 18, 1848.*

HEREWITH I beg to submit the estimates for the weekly sums which are required for the support of the destitute poor in this Union as follows :—

	£.	s.	d.
First. Relief in the workhouse	69	9	7
Second. Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act	100	0	0
Thirdly. Relief to able-bodied persons entitled to relief under the 2nd section of that Act	53	17	6

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application for 150% worth of provisions to be placed at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians of the Kenmare Union, to assist them in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor depending on them.

Kenmare Union.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 19, 1848.*

HEREWITH I have the honour to submit my weekly report.

I have been daily engaged with the Vice-Guardians upon business relating to the affairs of the Union. The very able report which has been prepared by Mr. Barry, and submitted to the Commissioners, will, I am satisfied, give such a clear insight to the position of the Union, that I feel it unnecessary on my part to state anything further connected with the subjects in that report.

Mr. Crawford arrived here on Friday; the following day he inspected the workhouse with me, and is of my opinion in stating that the house is as clean as circumstances will admit of, considering the want of clothing and the succession of inmates who are daily going in and out of the house.

We are still inconvenienced for the want of a master; the one recommended by the Guardians having been disapproved of, immediate steps will be taken to elect another.

I regret to report the death of Mr. Kelly, rate-collector for Bourdoneen and Ballybog, as he had the greatest portion of the uncollected rate to obtain. We shall suffer delay in closing his books previous to striking a new rate.

The number of inmates in the workhouse has increased to 842. On Friday I was sorry to see a greater number of applicants for admission than have attended for several weeks; they were of the most miserable class, upwards of 200 in number.

I have already reported on the necessity of providing temporary district hospital accommodation in some of the electoral divisions: it would be a great relief on the pressure into the workhouse, and save a great journey to many poor creatures, for scarcely a family appears for admission to the workhouse without some members of it being in sickness, who bring in contagion. There is not accommodation in the infirmary and hospital for all the fever cases, and as a permanent improvement I suggest the enlarging the infirmary.

I accompanied Mr. Barry to Sneem on Thursday last. We fixed upon a building which can be made available for a temporary hospital. In that village there should be a permanent establishment, in which opinion all the local authorities agree with me.

Drainage works are in operation on the Marquess of Lausdowne's estate. The people show great reluctance to work, although a sufficient price is given for labour. The continuance of wet weather has retarded agricultural labour, though it is surprising the large quantity of potatoes already sown, and the exertions making to plant them.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of the Commissioners' architect has been drawn to the proposed enlargement of the workhouse infirmary.

The Commissioners have communicated with the Board of Health as regards the provision of hospital accommodation at Sneem.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

HEREWITH I have the honour to submit an estimate of the weekly sum for the maintenance of the destitute poor in this Union under the following heads:—

	£.	s.	d.
1st. Relief in the workhouse	68	10	9
2nd. Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act	111	6	3
3rd. Relief to certain destitute classes under the 2nd section of that Act	40	0	0

As there is a balance remaining in hand from former advances received from the British Association, a further advance for the ensuing week will not be required.

Kenmare Union.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 26, 1848.*

At the meeting of the Vice-Guardians, held on Friday, out of 134 persons who received permission to be received into the workhouse, before dark no less than 68 of them went off without availing themselves of the privilege, most of them in miserable circumstances, who had perhaps come a distance of 15 or 20 miles. This is generally the case on days of application. Out-door relief is what they all strive to obtain, and most of those who come in set out again in a few days. Such a system entails great trouble on the officers of the establishment. There were yesterday 907 receiving in-door relief.

I have every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the relief officers, who are all conversant with the circumstances of the poor. The number receiving out-door relief is 5126.

This week most of the able-bodied inmates employed at work received clothing; and having obtained a supply of implements from the officer of the Board of Works, they have been kept up to their work under the vigilance of a new assistant master, and the close supervision of Mr. Barry, in subsoiling the ground attached to the house, preparatory to planting vegetables. The ground being of a very strong nature, the labour is heavy.

Clothes are being made; supplies of provisions for the house have been received from the contractors; the women will soon be set to work, spinning wool; the Vice-Guardians intend to carry out the principle of reproductive labour, with a view to render the establishment dependent on its own resources, as far as practicable.

Mr. Barry has a plan in contemplation to manage a model farm, for which he has applied to Lord Lansdowne to obtain a desirable piece of land in front of the workhouse, containing about six acres. By an improved system of agriculture he proposes to maintain the house with vegetables, milk, &c. If he succeeds, the example will prove a public benefit to this Union, where there is so extensive a field open for developing the produce of the soil.

From the assistance of the British Association, I am administering relief to 4800 children. The numbers in the respective electoral divisions are as follows :—

Kenmare	740
Tuosist	1480
Templenoë	700
Bunawn	390
Kilgarvan	340
Bourdoneen	600
Ballybog	580

This number is to be reduced to 4200, at the desire of Count Strzelecki, which was the number returned for the week ending 4th March.

I have received from Count Strzelecki a supply of clothing for 1200 boys. On Friday a considerable portion of the most destitute were selected from the schools and put into their new clothes. On being removed from their tatters they looked healthy and strong, and in such high spirits on the occasion, they kept parading the town in great exultation. I have not witnessed a more gratifying sight than this demonstration of the success of this charitable mode of relief.

The balance shown yesterday in the treasurer's book was 316*l*; there remains yet uncollected of the rate 855*l*. I apprehend serious embarrassment for want of funds before another rate can be put in course of collection.

Nothing is yet doing to the rate-books. The Vice-Guardians are awaiting the opinion of the Commissioners in reply to their report relative to the amount of rate to be struck, and on the propriety of holding public meetings of the rate-payers for revising any changes required in the rate-books.

The Marquess of Lansdowne's agent has given directions to suspend all the works on his estate now in operation under the Landed Improvement Act, as he is apprehensive of withdrawing the labour from tilling the land.

In this town a serious inconvenience is felt from the want of magistrates to prose-

Kenmare Union.

cute the authority of the law; Lord Lansdowne's agent is the only one on the spot: of course he has a large amount of business, and is frequently called away. This week a pauper was detected in selling some of the workhouse property; no magistrate on the spot, and the Guardians have no power to inflict the penalty of the law: an example in all such cases has a salutary effect. I believe that no petty sessions have been held here for two months.

The presence of the clerk and two of the collectors, at the Tralee assizes, held this week, having to attend some cases of appeal, will, I fear, prove another source of delay in closing the present rate-books.

A cargo of Indian meal arrived this week to replenish the Commissariat store; also some charitable contributions from the Society of Friends, for different localities in the Union.

At present the schoolmaster is discharging the duties of the master. We are in great need of the services of an able master.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 30, 1848*

WITH reference to the proposal of Mr. Barry to obtain six acres of ground in front of the workhouse for a model farm, I am to state that the responsibility of taking ground for workhouses has by law been placed on the Commissioners, and they do not think it expedient to hold more in any case than can be cultivated by the boys, with occasional aid from able-bodied classes who may be from time to time in the workhouse.

As regards the apprehended embarrassment from want of funds until another rate can be put in course of collection, I am to state that the Commissioners are very desirous that no time should be lost in putting a new rate in course of collection. The communications of the Vice-Guardians on the subject of the amount of the rate and the revision of the valuation, have been answered.

The Commissioners have communicated with the Government as regards the want of magistrates at Kenmare.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 1, 1848.*

THE total number of inmates receiving workhouse accommodation this day was 900. Out of 153 applicants for admission yesterday 67 were admitted; 62 declined the offer of the workhouse.

Sickness has decreased considerably, having but 99 cases. This week there were but six deaths.

The balance remaining in the hands of the treasurer this day was only 100*l*. As there remains a sufficient amount for the maintenance of out-door relief for next week out of the advances received from the British Relief Association I have not forwarded the usual estimates this week.

Nothing has been done this week towards the collection of rate, in consequence of the collectors being in attendance at the Tralee Assizes. A collector was appointed this day to obtain the portion of rate uncollected in Ballybog and Bourdoneen in place of the late Mr. Kelly. The selection fell on Mr. Bland, the barony cess collector for Glenerough, brother of James Bland, Esq., of Derroquin Castle.

The Vice-Guardians intend proceeding immediately to revise the rate-books; they will strike a rate on each division as the rate-books are closed and revision completed. I do not anticipate that another rate will be in course of collection in less than six weeks.

Four candidates presented themselves to-day for the situation of master. They were all inexperienced and incompetent for the situation. The schoolmaster has been directed to act as master *pro tem*.

My attention has been much taken up with the schools, and in the direction of the issue of a large grant of clothing received from the British Relief Association, which has been a great boon to the poor children.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 6, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 1st instant relating to the Kenmare Union, in which you state that another rate will not be in course of collection in less than six weeks; and I am to inquire whether in that calculation you include all the electoral divisions.

It appears to the Commissioners that the rate might be put in course of collection at an earlier period in some of the electoral divisions.

The rate and collecting-books may be prepared simultaneously, and the rate be at once put in course of collection when the revision of the valuation in any electoral division is completed.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 4, 1848.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th March, 1848, stating, with reference to our request for permission to apply to the Marquess of Lansdowne for a grant of 20 acres of land, that the responsibility of taking ground for workhouse purposes rested on the Commissioners, who do not think it expedient to hold more land than can be cultivated by the boys with occasional aid from able-bodied classes.

In reply we beg leave to explain our request, and briefly to explain the reasons which induce us to prefer it again in a modified shape.

We requested permission to apply for a free grant of 20 acres.

We now pray the Commissioners to sanction our applying for a grant of 11 or 12 acres.

The land originally obtained for this workhouse contains 6 acres; of this space the original buildings, yards, and inner passages, as will appear by the ground plan, occupy 2 acres, 1 rood, and 13 perches.

The fever hospital, with passage and yard, and the passage to the road, with the unenclosed front yard, cover 2 roods and 17 perches, making a total of 2 acres 3 roods and 30 perches; deducting this from the 6 acre area, leaves us but 3 acres and 10 perches to work, say 9 acres for round numbers, short of the 12 acre limit, as defined by Mr. Henn.

In addition to this limit 3 acres may be taken for a cemetery, and one is much wanted here, and a portion of the plot we conceive obtainable would suit such a purpose admirably.

In addition to our anxiety to make the labour of the inmates to some extent available for their own maintenance, the peculiarly unfortunate position of this Union impels us to make an extraordinary effort to render the future managers of the workhouse less dependent on extraneous aid than we are.

The resources of this place are so limited that the contractors for all supplies at present, except bread (for which we are paying nearly 20 per cent. over the value), reside in Cork, Killarney, and Macroom.

Fuel we have been buying by retail, and paying for by petty disbursements.

Milk we are still obliged to purchase daily in the market, and though it may be called the staple produce of the Union, its average cost for the last 12 months was 8½d. per gallon.

Vegetables cannot be had here at any price.

We now want lime for whitewashing, and though there are limestone quarries within 200 yards of the workhouse we have had to wait a month for it, and then send a distance of over seven miles.

So little grain is grown in the district there is but one mill, and that has only one pair of stones, in the Union, though water-power may be had to an incalculable amount.

Hitherto potato cultivation was the only agricultural employment, and each householder grew his own.

A vast number of the small occupiers gave up possession of their holdings on receiving relief, and as no owner of land is giving out score ground (the term for con-acre here) this year, no one dependent on this system can grow his own supply for the ensuing season.

The certain consequence must be a continued pressure for the admission of able-bodied men for at least two years more.

In half that time all the heavy work of drainage and sub-soiling will have been completed, after which the boys and a few men, and it is to be feared that the

Kenmare Union. house will never be without some such inmates, would work the limited extent we now ask for.

The fact of the Union being the poorest in Munster, tested by the proportion of net annual value to population, Kilrush only excepted, weighed materially with us.

In our next communication on rating, we intend to submit a few proofs of the valuation of this Union being higher than that of many others.

We now respectfully pray the Commissioners will, under the peculiar circumstances of this Union, permit us to apply for some additional land, say 12 acres, imperial measure, which will barely suffice for the proper industrial training of the boys.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 7, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 4th instant, containing an explanation of your views with regard to a grant of land for the employment of the boys in the workhouse of the Kenmare Union, and in reference thereto I am to state that the Commissioners concur in your opinion, that the ground occupied by the workhouse buildings may be deducted from the extent of the present site in computing the total quantity which may be held; and there is no objection to the proposed application to the Marquess of Lansdowne for a grant of the additional quantity which the law empowers the Commissioners to hold.

Captain OMMANNEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 9, 1848.*

I REGRET to state that the number of inmates in the workhouse continues to increase; there are now upwards of 900 recipients of in-door relief; there is also an augmentation on the out-door relief lists; the condition of the inmates is much improved by the change of diet and supply of clothing. The Vice-Guardians have been devoting their attention towards rectifying the existing evils, and placing the establishment on a right footing; but unfortunately this Union labours under greater disadvantages, or as great as any in Ireland, in consequence of the absence of local resources; even in one instance, for want of the essential article of linen the house cannot be thoroughly purified; it is only very recently that a supply has been procured at seven miles' distance. Any articles procured here are of an indifferent quality and at high prices.

There is nothing so much required in the establishment as an oven, by which means great economy would be effected. If there are any means by which a grant could be obtained for constructing one, I beg the Commissioners would give the case of this Union a strong recommendation, as the impoverished state of the Union puts it out of our power to do more than support the destitute.

As yet there is no decrease in the number of applicants for relief; on the days of admission there are generally more than 200 in attendance; owing to the demoralized state of the people the strictest scrutiny into each case is requisite to guard against imposition.

The sub-soiling and drainage of the land about the house afford a good labour test to the able-bodied, though it is no easy matter to obtain a day's work from them; they have frequently combined against work; yesterday an example was made of four of the ringleaders by sending them off to Tralee gaol.

A revision of the house is required; the Vice-Guardians intend having it carried into effect without delay.

The Vice-Guardians have almost completed their arrangements for revising the rate-books previous to striking a new rate, and they have assured me they will put the rate in course of collection in each electoral division as it is revised; they will commence in Kilgarvan on the 17th instant, for which purpose notice has been given to the rate-payers. In my report of the 1st instant, I calculated that in all the electoral divisions a new rate would be in course of collection in six weeks, but I fear now the period will be extended.

In the management of the school-relief I have endeavoured to carry out the system as a source of relief to the burden of the out-door relief, but there have been many difficulties in the way of carrying this out effectively; from the precarious way in which the teachers are supported it could not be expected that a

class of people would be employed in whom confidence could be placed. In one instance the remuneration of a teacher for 200 children was to be placed on the out-door relief list. With the exception of the clergy, the rate-payers have shown the greatest indifference to the system, without whose co-operation it could not be efficiently worked out, consequently I have been at a loss for responsible persons to see that the children taken off the out-door relief are constantly supplied with rations; they generally prefer getting out-door relief to attendance at school.

My time has been greatly occupied in the appropriation of the clothing, which has required me to visit the schools in the remote parts of the Union.

The new rate collector for the divisions of Ballybog and Bourdoneen has received his warrants for levying the arrears left by the late collector. There still remains about 300*l.* uncollected in these two divisions.

The balance in hands of the treasurer yesterday was only 140*l.* The pressing demands of creditors and current expenses will, I fear, embarrass our position before any sum will be available from a new rate.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 13, 1848.*

WITH reference to the proposed erection of an oven I am to state that the Commissioners do not apprehend that an application for a loan or grant for this purpose would be successful.

It will be desirable that the Vice-Guardians should contract for the erection of the oven required, and pay for it out of the rates to be collected.

As regards the state of the Union finances the Commissioners do not doubt that the Vice-Guardians will do everything in their power to have the new rate put in course of collection in each of the electoral divisions with the least possible delay, and they trust that active steps in this respect will place in the hands of the Vice-Guardians the requisite funds for providing effectually for the relief of the poor in the Union.

GLENTIES UNION.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 8, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, calling my attention to the fact that the Commissioners' order of the 15th ultimo, authorizing the administration of out-door relief to certain classes of paupers in the Glenties Union will expire on the 15th instant.

I beg leave to recommend to the Commissioners to extend the above order for one month longer, to enable the Guardians to provide a house for the accommodation of the male children, so as to make sufficient room in the workhouse for the able-bodied, the house having already 48 over and above what it was originally built for; and the pressure for out-door relief still continues to a considerable extent.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 12, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have directed the order to be renewed as you suggest; I am however to state that, should it become necessary to extend the authority given by the order for a further period after the expiration of the period named in the order now directed to be issued, the Commissioners propose to exclude from it the class described as "able-bodied men, one or more of whose families dependent on them for support are affected by severe sickness or serious accident."

The Commissioners request therefore that if you contemplate the necessity of any further renewal of the order, you will prepare the Guardians to receive it in the limited form above mentioned, so that they may take measures to prevent any inconvenience resulting from the withdrawal of relief to this class.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 12, 1848.*

AT a meeting of the Board of Guardians held yesterday, six resolutions were passed, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, marked No. 1.

The Mullaghderg Relief Committee having met on Thursday the 10th instant, when the subject of the temporary fever hospital at Dungloe was brought forward, and rejected by them.

The resolution of the Mullaghderg Relief Committee was yesterday submitted to the Board of Guardians, when out of 13 members who were present, *nine* voted against having anything to do with the Dungloe temporary fever hospital.

The number of inmates at present in the workhouse amounts to 600, and those receiving out-door relief are 3220; I hope in the course of next week to be able to relieve the house of about 70 male children, when a house can be procured to put them in; but there is great difficulty in obtaining a vacant building in such a miserable village as this, and even should we succeed in getting one, they are generally so small that they will not contain more than from 30 to 40. The number of children receiving gratuitous relief from the British Association for the week ending this day are about 3186, which, with those on the rates of the Union, will make a grand total of 7006.

I beg here to report the conduct of Jack Boyle, relieving officer for the two electoral divisions of Rutland and Mullaghderg, and I have to request the Commissioners will be pleased to have this man dismissed, as this is the third complaint made against him for drunkenness; the Rev. Mr. O'Donnell, P.P., having complained to the Board of Guardians on Friday the 4th instant, when no steps were taken by the Board.

The accompanying note from Francis Forster, Esq., J.P., and marked No. 2, I received yesterday, which I beg to enclose for the information of the Commissioners.—I brought this officer's conduct before the Board of Guardians yesterday, but they only cautioned him to be more careful in future. I beg here to observe, that I do not think this man at all qualified to fill the situation of relieving officer, or to have charge of the provisions committed to his care.

James Hegarty, the relieving officer for the electoral divisions of Malinbeg

and Kilcar, is another officer whom I conceive is not qualified for the situation; he is exceedingly stupid, and there has been several complaints made against him by the rate-payers, and two have lately been sent up to the Commissioners by the Rev. Henry Carr of Malinbeg, for placing able-bodied men on the outdoor relief; and also not having a supply of meal at his store on the days for delivery, which has caused great inconvenience to the paupers.

The total amount that the collectors have as yet brought in is 846*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, out of which sum Mr. Charles Gallagher collected 581*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, and Mr. Quigley has only collected 264*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; both collectors are, however, at present out, and I am in hopes that they will be able to get in a good deal of the rates by the beginning or latter end of next week; as soon as they make any lodgment in the treasurer's hands, I shall make a special report of the same to the Commissioners.

I got the Board of Guardians to pass a resolution on Friday the 21st of January last, appointing the last Friday in each month for issuing cheques to the different contractors and tradespeople; but on Friday the 4th instant, when I was on leave of absence from the Commissioners, and in direct opposition to their own resolution of the 21st of January last, they issued a check for 200*l.* to Mr. M'Davitt, one of the contractors for meal, and uncle to the chairman of the Board of Guardians, and father to the clerk of the Union, although others have been repeatedly refused.

This practice is most injurious to the Union, as it drives those who would compete for contracts from doing so, when they see such favouritism practised towards those who are connected with the Board; hence it is that the credit of the Union is run down, by driving those respectable tradespeople away, who would always come forward to contract on fair and reasonable terms.

Since I have arrived in this Union, I have constantly insisted on public advertisements for everything that has been required for the use of the house being held up to public competition, which has the very best effect, and has completely broken down that system of monopoly which had previously existed to a great extent.

Yesterday being the day for receiving tenders for supplying the out-door relief with meal, Mr. William M'Neely, of Duncaneely's, proposal for supplying the electoral divisions of Malinbeg, Kilcar, and Killybegs, at 11*l.* 10*s.* per ton, was accepted until the 29th of September next; and Daniel M'Davitt's tenders to supply the electoral divisions of Meenavally and Ardara, at 11*l.* 9*s.* per ton, was accepted until the 29th of September next; also Daniel M'Davitt's tender to supply the electoral divisions of Lettermacaward, Dungloe, Mullagher, and Rutland, at 11*l.* 15*s.* per ton, was accepted until the 29th of September next.

These I conceive to be advantageous contracts, when it is considered the distance the contractors have to cart the meal, over very bad roads; and I have no doubt that this contract has been obtained, owing to my impressing on the Board of Guardians the necessity of upholding the credit of the Union, by paying up all their outstanding debts; so that the merchants are now beginning to have more confidence, and to see that they have a fair chance of receiving their money when there is any cash in the treasurer's hands.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 16, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners fear the number stated by you to be in the workhouse at present (being 600) is greater than is consistent with a due regard to health; and they request you will endeavour to prevent further admissions, and to have steps taken for removing from the workhouse any of the present inmates who may be legally relievable outside.

The Commissioners are about to issue an order limiting the number to be received and maintained in the workhouse to 500.

As regards the relieving officers Boyle and Hegarty, whom you recommend for dismissal, I am to state that a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Guardians on the subject will be transmitted to you tomorrow.

With reference to the conduct of the Guardians in drawing a cheque in favour of Mr. M'Davitt, in direct opposition to their resolution of the 21st

Glenties Union.

ultimo, I am to state that the Commissioners very much regret that the Board of Guardians should have violated their own bye-law in favour of any particular individual in the manner stated by you in your report; still as the Guardians had the legal right to act as they did, and as the Commissioners do not deem themselves at liberty to impute to them improper motives, the Commissioners do not propose to notice the subject in a communication to the Guardians.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS:—*February 10, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received a report from Captain O'Neill, forwarding a complaint which had been made to him that, on application being made to Jack Boyle, the relieving officer at Dungloe, the relieving officer was found to be so drunk as to be incapable of doing anything; and it was stated that during the previous two days, while he was giving out meal, he was so very drunk that he could not know what he was doing.

Captain O'Neill states that this is the third complaint that has been made against the relieving officer for drunkenness, and that the Rev. Mr. O'Donnell, P.P., complained to the Board on the subject on the 4th instant.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners have felt it their duty to direct that an order for the dismissal of Mr. Boyle be issued, and they request that the Guardians will be so good as to take the necessary steps for the appointment of a successor.

The Commissioners take this opportunity of stating that they have received complaints against Mr. James Hegarty, another of the relieving officers, from which it appears that it has happened on more than one occasion that on the day for distributing meal he has, owing to his own neglect, been unprovided with meal to distribute.

Captain O'Neill, whose observations on these complaints were requested by the Commissioners, has expressed an opinion that Mr. Hegarty is unfit for his situation; and the Commissioners think that the neglect to obtain the requisite supply of meal at the proper time is so serious, and might have been productive of so much suffering to the applicants for relief; that in this case also they deem it right to remove the relieving officer, and to request the Guardians to be so good as to proceed to the appointment of a successor.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a memorial from Mr. Peter Carr and John Deary, two of the rate-payers of the Killybegs electoral division, which they have requested of me to do, and I beg at the same time to observe that a contract has been entered into on Friday last, the 11th instant, to supply out-door relief to that division, at the rate of 11*l.* 10*s.* per ton for Indian meal, until the 29th of September next, which is considered reasonable.

ENCLOSURE.

To the POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS.

The Petition of PETER CARR and JOHN DEARY, Poor Law Guardians of the Electoral Division of Killybegs in the Glenties Union,

Humbly sheweth,

That a rate of 3*s.* per pound has been struck on said division, and that said rate is almost collected and forwarded to the Letterkenny bank, to the credit of said division, and that petitioners intend to expend said rate under the directions and by the advice of the Poor Law Commissioners, to their starving poor, and with as much advantage as possible to their poor but humble rate-payers.

That said rate amounts to 452*l.* 8*s.*, and that they have expended 71*l.* 8*s.* of said rate on out-door relief, and that they are not in much debt in the workhouse. Petitioners request that the Commissioners will allow them 250*l.* of said rate to buy meal at market price, as they have no contractor as yet, leaving a sum of 131*l.* in bank for the expenses of the workhouse. Petitioners say that it will be a saving of 52*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to the rate-payers of said division, and they offer G. V. Wilson, Esq., agent on the Murray property, and the Rev. Wm. Drummond, P.P. Killybegs, as their guarantee that said sum will be judiciously managed.

Petitioners forward this through their Union Inspector, Captain O'Neill, and wait with patience for an answer from the Commissioners.

And petitioners will ever pray.

The COMMISSIONERS to Messrs. CARR and DEARY:—*February 29, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received from their Temporary Inspector, Captain O'Neill, your communication, in which you request to be allowed a sum of 250*l.* out of the rate which has been collected in the electoral division:

which you represent, in order that you may purchase meal at the market price for the purpose of affording out-door relief to the destitute poor in your electoral division.

In reference thereto I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they have no power to comply with your request, inasmuch as the law does not authorize the expenditure of the Union funds by individual Guardians for particular electoral divisions. The whole Board of Guardians, as a body, is bound to provide for the due relief of the destitute poor in all the electoral divisions of the Union, and the Commissioners' regulations require that supplies, the cost price of which may reasonably be estimated to exceed 10% per month, shall be purchased by the Board of Guardians upon contract founded on public tender.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that at a meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, five resolutions were passed, on various matters, herewith transmitted and marked No. 1.

The Board of Guardians have come to a resolution on the subject of a temporary fever hospital at Dungloe,—to summon a full meeting of the Board to attend on Friday, the 3rd of March, to take the subject into full consideration.

I have impressed on the Guardians the absolute necessity of hiring a house for the accommodation of the male children, and I am glad now to be able to report to the Commissioners that the Guardians have rented a tolerable sized building in this village, which will contain about 140, and is now being fitted up for the reception of the male children, at present in the workhouse. I expect that this house will be finished by Thursday next, when I shall cause the children to be at once removed into it. By this arrangement accommodation for about 200 additional able-bodied paupers will be made available in the workhouse, by making use of the school-room as dormitories to sleep in. Should the Commissioners object to this arrangement, may I beg of them to let me know before the next Board-day, Friday, the 25th instant.

The numbers in the workhouse up to this date are 591, and those receiving out-door relief amount to 3,321: total receiving relief from the rates of the Union 3912. There are also about 4000 receiving relief from the funds of the British Association, which will make a grand total of 7321 in this Union receiving gratuitous relief.

Yesterday being the day appointed to receive tenders for building a permanent fever hospital near the workhouse for this Union, only one tender was received, offering to erect the hospital for 710%; but the Guardians came to a resolution to advertise again for tenders on Friday, the 3rd of March. I should very much wish that this hospital could be got up with as little delay as possible, as it would give a great deal of accommodation, and the want of an hospital to the workhouse is severely felt in this Union.

Having some months ago reported to the Commissioners the great advantage that the poor in some parts of this Union would derive from the burning of kelp, and as the season is now fast approaching when such a measure could be carried out with the greatest advantage to the able-bodied poor and their families, I beg respectfully to draw the particular attention of the Commissioners to this branch of industry, which I think would be of the greatest advantage to the poor people in the electoral divisions of Mullaghderg, Dungloe, and Rutland, including the Island of Arranmore.

Most of the people in that part of the country have but small patches of land, and for want of employment they are every day giving their land up for the purpose of getting either out or in-door relief. Yesterday there were upwards of 70 from the Rosses, all pressing for food, and most of them appeared to be in the greatest poverty and wretchedness; they are all willing and anxious to work, but there is no one in that wild district to give them employment, or at least to employ the one-tenth of them. I would again respectfully urge on the Commissioners the great benefit that it would be to that locality, if a loan of 400% or 500% would be granted for the purpose of buying up all the kelp that these poor people would burn, and by sending it off to Glasgow, in small cargoes, where it would meet with a ready sale. This would be the means of employing all the men, women, and children along the whole of this coast,

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when they would be able to earn a fair remuneration for their labour, and be the means of taking some hundreds off the rates of the Union. There are at this moment 660 receiving out-door relief from those three electoral divisions, together with 254 in the workhouse; and every day is adding from 20 to 30 to the number of applicants. The month of March is considered a fine month for drying the weed. In short, when the weather is fine, they can dry the weed, and when it is stormy, so that they cannot venture out to cut and boat it to the shore, they burn it.

I beg to observe that when I was inspecting officer under the Temporary Relief Act in this Union, last summer, Mr. Forster, of Rosshine Lodge, Dungloe, supported upwards of 300 families from actual starvation, by employing them in this business; but his capital was limited, and he was, therefore, obliged to abandon it.

I would respectfully but earnestly urge on the Commissioners, that if a loan of 400*l.* or 500*l.* would be granted, I am sure that very little, if any, loss would be sustained. I beg here to submit Mr. Forster's letter to me, No. 2, with whom I have been in correspondence for some time on this subject. I have also consulted many respectable intelligent people from that part of the country, all of whom are of opinion that if this measure was properly carried out, it would be of the greatest benefit to those poor districts.

Mr. Charles Gallagher has collected since the 22nd January last 85*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, whereas Mr. James Quigley, who has been a collector now some years, has only collected 468*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, making a total collected since the 22nd of January last of 1320*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* I beg to observe that Mr. Charles Gallagher has exerted himself far beyond my expectation, while, on the other hand, Mr. James Quigley has done very little, and I fear does not press the collection with that firmness which his instruction warrants him in doing.

I have repeatedly urged him on this point, but he appears to disregard anything that is said to him.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. FORSTER to Captain O'NEILL:—February 15, 1848.

As I do not see how it is possible to save the people here, unless they get some employment, and as I believe it is not the intention of the Government to do so this year, I cannot resist writing to you on the subject, in hopes you may be able to do something for them. Of course, you are well aware that kelp can be made on this coast, in the greatest quantity, and from my knowledge of the country and people, I can safely assure you it is the only remunerative labour that they could be employed at. Last year I saw that numbers could be kept out of the workhouse if they could get a price for their kelp that would pay them moderate wages, and induce them to exert themselves. There were two or three petty dealers, who I evidently saw were taking advantage of the people, and who, if they were inclined to act honestly, had not the means to purchase a large quantity; the price they were giving was from 18*s.* to 20*s.* per ton, and even at that low price they generally paid them only a part, and in many instances did not pay them any money till they sent the kelp to Glasgow and sold it. As I plainly saw the very great advantage that might be derived by the people if the kelp manufacture was encouraged, I managed to get a capital of 200*l.*, and with that sum only commenced to purchase the kelp all along this coast, and gave 2*l.* 5*s.* a ton for it; and though, unfortunately for the people, it was late in the season before I thought of it, or commenced to purchase it, I paid nearly 1000*l.* for kelp, and would have paid more than double that sum if I had commenced to purchase as soon as the people could have made it. It is nothing more or less than merely paying them for their labour, as the sea-weed costs them nothing, and the quantity on this coast is endless. They have large boats, made for and only fit for the purpose of carrying sea-weed; the men cut and put it on shore, and the women and children spread, dry, and lock it, as you would hay,—so that it gives employment to every member of the family. The way I managed, was by sending the kelp off to Glasgow in small cargoes of about 50 tons, where it was immediately sold, and the money returned to me, by which means I was enabled to keep several hundred families employed, and saved them from destruction. No one could form any idea of the good that may be done this year in the same way; with a few hundred pounds you may pay the people some thousands, and that too, most likely, without the loss of one shilling. I am quite confident there is no other way possible to give them relief, except at a loss. If they are not employed they will be forced on the out-door relief,—as the Glenties workhouse, nor all the houses in the village of Glenties, would not hold them. If any arrangement could be made, the sooner the better, as they would commence to make kelp next month, if they could get any one to purchase it from them. As you are aware that, unfortunately, I have no property on the coast where I could employ my tenants to make kelp, I can have no interest in this business farther than for the welfare of the poor people.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 26, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report, dated the 19th instant, relative to Glenties Union, and with reference to that part of it in which you urge upon the Commissioners the advantages which you anticipate would result from a loan of 500*l.*, if it could be obtained for the purpose of buying up kelp made in the Island of Arranmore, and in other parts of the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners having on a former occasion given the subject the most careful consideration, they are not prepared to recommend a loan as you propose, inasmuch as (independently of other considerations) the funds at the disposal of the British Association are limited in amount, and must be strictly economized by the Commissioners, and it appears to the Commissioners essential for this purpose that they should as far as possible be expended in the direct relief of destitution rather than in the indirect relief of it, by providing wages for labour.

The Commissioners will address the collector Quigley on the subject of the slow progress made by him in the collection.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners that I laid their letter of the 21st instant, relative to raising the qualification of the Guardians in this Union, before the Board at their meeting yesterday, but they made no observation on it. I have been told that this measure has given great satisfaction throughout the whole of this Union, with the exception of a fraction of those whose qualifications were at 5*l.*, and I have not the least doubt but the raising of the qualification will work well, as it has already given a stimulus to all the gentlemen and respectable farmers throughout the whole Union, and will no doubt cause a highly respectable Board to be formed.

The Guardians have appointed two relieving officers for three weeks, as a temporary measure, for the divisions of Malinbeg, and Kilcar, Rutland, and Mullaghderg. The clerk has been directed to advertise for two relieving officers for the above electoral divisions, to be permanently appointed at their meeting on Friday, the 17th of March next, in place of Jack Boyle and James Hegarty, dismissed by order of the Commissioners.

The Guardians have also directed the clerk to advertise for a matron for the workhouse, on the 17th March, in place of Mrs. Gallagher, dismissed by order of the Commissioners.

Yesterday being the day appointed to receive tenders for stores for the outdoor relief, the following stores have been agreed upon, viz:—

			Per Annum.		
			£.	s.	d.
Killybegs division, Stragar	James Cunnea's		6	0	0
Ardara division, Ardara town	John O'Donnell		6	0	0
Glenties division, Glenties town	Charles Molloy		3	6	0
Naran division, Clogher	John Boyle		3	7	6
Lettermacaward division, Clogher	James O'Donnell		4	0	0
Dungloe division, Clogher	Manus Ward		2	18	0
Rutland division, Acres	Edward O'Donnell		2	18	0
Kilcar division, town of Kilcar	G. V. Wilson, Esq., gratis				
Malinbeg division, Cashel	Edward Gillespie		1	17	0
			£30	6	6

Thus it will be seen that a sufficient number of stores have been taken, at 30*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* instead of paying at the rate of 84*l.* a-year, which was the first arrangement made by the Guardians, and which I had frequently brought under the notice of the Commissioners, but I am glad now to say it has been finally settled, and has caused a saving of 53*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* to the Union.

I have much satisfaction to report for the information of the Commissioners, that the inmates in the workhouse, are all perfectly healthy, and the house itself in excellent order. I have most of the able-bodied men employed in the

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men's yard, levelling and improving it, and the remainder are working in the grounds belonging to the house.

I should feel obliged if the Commissioners would be so kind as to apply to the Board of Works for the following tools, which are in store in this town, for the use of the workhouse:—twelve clay picks, six crowbars, two dozen of planks, twelve wheelbarrows, and one dozen of napping hammers for breaking stones.

The numbers in the workhouse up to this date are 554, making a decrease of 37 since last week, and the numbers receiving out-door relief from the rates of the Union, are 3,570, with 320 applicants for the ensuing week, on the relieving officers' books; there are at present 5,000 children receiving relief from the funds of the British Association, which will make a total of 9,124 receiving gratuitous relief in this Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will apply to the Board of Works for the implements you require.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

At the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, tenders were received for the building of a fever hospital, near the workhouse of this Union, when Mr. Thomas Diver, of Ardara, obtained the contract for 710*l.*, which was his tender, and accepted.

The Guardians are of opinion that two acres of land adjoining the house will be sufficient for the fever ward; and I shall write this day to Mr. Russell, agent to the Marquess of Conyngham, to communicate direct with the Commissioners, relative to the conveyance that Mr. Russell should make on behalf of the Marquess of Conyngham. A plan of the ground furnished by the contractor is herewith enclosed.

I beg to observe, that the terms proposed by Mr. Russell, as set forth in his letter of the 31st of January last, were 10*s.* per acre for 25 years' purchase of the ground.

A letter from the Commissioners, dated the 1st of March, addressed to the clerk of the Union, relative to the temporary fever hospital at Dungloe, was submitted to the Board of Guardians, when a paper was laid before them by Francis Foster, esq., from a report made by Dr. Brady to the Governors of the Dungloe and Gweedore dispensary, which I beg here to transmit, marked No. 1; and from the inquiry which I have made from several people from that locality, it does not appear that fever is more prevalent in that district at present, than what it has been in former years.

The anxiety and wish of the people to obtain out-door relief have caused reports to be circulated, that fever is prevalent in that district, but, I should say, in most cases without foundation; as a proof of this, yesterday, upwards of 300 presented themselves at the workhouse from the Rosses, claiming out-door relief, alleging that they had given up their land; but when they were told that they would be taken into the workhouse, as they were able-bodied men, the universal reply was, that some one, two, or three of their families were laid up in fever. This was contradicted by one of the Guardians who came from that part of the country, and who was personally acquainted with the parties, as also Mr. Foster, an ex-officio Guardian. Both these gentlemen stated that the people from that locality have recourse to this stratagem for the purpose of getting out-door relief, as also going about begging; and I should say that Dr. Brady's report bears them out in their statement, as Dr. Brady is intimately acquainted with every part of this parish of Templecrone, having been employed in it now upwards of 20 years. The Guardians have, therefore, come to a resolution, to submit the subject of Dr. Brady's letter to the favourable consideration of the Commissioners. The Guardians are at the same time most anxious to carry out all the instructions which they from time to time may receive from the Commissioners; but they feel under the present circumstances,

when representations have been made from undoubted authority, that fever does not exist to the extent that has been reported to the Board of Health; I therefore think that the Guardians would not be justified in squandering the funds of the Union upon the establishment of a fever hospital, which, in their opinion, and from all the information they have received, is not necessary.

It gives me much satisfaction to report to the Commissioners the clean and orderly state of the workhouse, and also the healthy appearance of all the inmates. The number in the infirmary only amounts to 22, and no case of consequence amongst them, nothing but the ordinary complaints of colds, and other common diseases from old age and infirmity.

The number of inmates up to this day in the workhouse is 515, and the number receiving out-door relief amounts this week to 3840, making a total on the rates of the Union of 4355, together with about 6000 children receiving gratuitous relief from the funds of the British Association.

I have lately travelled through some parts of this Union; and it is lamentable to see the want of energy amongst the farmers—not a single human being is to be seen at work in the field; all are listlessly walking about, not appearing to care whether they cultivate their land or not. I have not seen Mr. Brady, the practical instructor, for this last six weeks, since he left this for Killybegs. As this is the season of the year for such men to be employed, might I request that the Commissioners would be pleased to recommend to the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society the absolute necessity of sending a person, such as Mr. Brady, into this Union, as there is no Union in Ireland where one is more wanted; and I have been informed that he imparted a vast deal of useful information to the people when he was here. But I understand he is not now in the Union; I hope he has not been withdrawn, as I think his presence, or some such instructor, is much required at this season of the year, in this remote part of the country.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. BRADY to the GOVERNORS of the DUNGLOE and GWEEDORE DISPENSARY:—
February 4, 1848.

My attention having been directed to the state of health of this district, compared with that of the same period last year, I have during the last few days visited every townland where fever was reported to exist, and am happy to be able to say that I have not found as much disease as I anticipated, with the exception of in the townland of Ranafasset; and I must confess that I do not think there are (now) many more cases of fever than there have been at the same period in ordinary years, and by no means as many, or of as bad a character, as they were this time last year. Influenza has been very prevalent, and in many cases mistaken for fever; and this, no doubt, has given rise to the report, that the latter disease prevailed to an alarming extent. The above does not refer to the islands, as the weather has been so stormy of late I could not visit them; but from inquiries I have learned that fever is not more prevalent than on the mainland. I fear, however, that scarcity will in a short time reduce many of the poor to so low a state that disease must set in; and the object of this letter is to call your attention to the fact, that fever does not prevail to the extent reported, and to suggest the propriety of those of influence among you, doing all in your power to obtain employment for the poor, thereby averting evils which must result from the present state of things. You are all well aware that disease is more easily prevented than cured.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 10, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have forwarded an extract from your report relative to the Dungloe temporary fever hospital, to the Central Board of Health; and that they have also forwarded an extract relative to the state of the Union, as regards agriculture and the importance of continuing Mr. Brady's instructions, to the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain O'NEILL:—*March 8, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to call your attention to the circumstance, that their order of the 15th ultimo, authorizing out-door relief to certain classes of paupers in Glenties Union, will expire on the 15th instant, and I am to request that you will be so good as to report to the Commissioners

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as to the necessity of renewing it, and if so, for what period, or if you consider a modification of the present order necessary, especially as regards the third class named in the order.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS in reply:—*March 11, 1848.*

IN reply to your communication, I would, under existing circumstances, recommend that the Commissioners will have the goodness to extend for another month, without any modification, their order of the 15th ultimo, authorizing out-door relief to certain classes of paupers in Glenties Union, inasmuch as the labour will not commence sooner in this backward district.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for your information, that I attended at intervals in the Board-room of the workhouse yesterday, from 12 to 4 o'clock in the afternoon, but could not form a Board from the non-attendance of a sufficient number of Guardians.

This neglect on their part I need scarcely make any observation on, as it is attended with great inconvenience, from the number of paupers applying both for admission to the house and out-door relief; Mr. O'Donnell, the chairman, and myself, provisionally admitted all those who were anxious to enter the house, amounting to 21. I must, however, say, that the day was very stormy and many of the Guardians have from 14 to 20 miles to come.

The pressure for out-door relief still continues, particularly from Rutland, Mullaghderg, and Dungloe, all the able-bodied men are now applying, and when they are offered accommodation in the workhouse, the universal answer is, "all my family are unwell, and cannot be removed," although in most cases this assertion has been proved to be false, many who have been receiving out-door relief from temporary illness, under the Commissioners' sealed orders of the 15th January last, have now recovered, are most clamorous to be continued on gratuitous relief.

On one or two occasions, when they saw the relieving officer approaching their cabins, they instantly ran in, and went to bed, alleging that they were very ill. The natural disposition of the lower orders all over this Union is idleness. They would prefer half the quantity of food without labour, to abundance, and be obliged to work. It frequently happens, that able-bodied men present themselves before the Board of Guardians, stating that they have given up their land to their sons, lads about 15 or 16 years of age, this is done for the purpose of getting out-door relief, but when they are told that they must come into the workhouse, they reject the offer with scorn.

This system of giving up land one to the other is one of the greatest difficulties to be overcome. The people appear to have lost all shame, and have recourse to every sort of artifice to obtain food sooner than work for it.

The numbers in the house up to this day are 498; the inmates are all healthy, only 21 in the infirmary; the numbers receiving out-door relief amount to 3700, making a total on the rates of the Union of 4198, with about 6400 children receiving relief from the funds of the British Association; this will make a grand total of 10,598 receiving gratuitous relief in the whole Union, or about one-fourth of the whole population.

I have urged on the collectors the absolute necessity of collecting the rates in as fast as possible. Mr. Quigley has promised to do so, as he is very much in arrear with his collection; I have given him another week, but should he not exert himself to make a fair collection before the expiration of that time, I shall feel it my duty to report him to the Commissioners. I do not think this man a good collector; he has had his books now in his possession since the 17th December last, and he has only got in a little more than 400*l.*, and all the small rate-payers have been paying up their rents.

I have got the whole of the able-bodied men daily employed in levelling the yards of the workhouse, which were in very bad order, and also improving the grounds belonging to the house which were a complete bog; the greater part of which I have now reclaimed, and in a fit state to be laid out in gardens. There is a great difficulty in getting employment for all the able-bodied women,

they are so extremely ignorant, but few of them can sew, and the Union is so poor, that the Guardians say they cannot afford to buy wheels to employ them in spinning and knitting, which is the only sort of work they can do.

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Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

I BEG to draw the particular attention of the Commissioners to the numbers that are now receiving out-door relief in this Union, which amounts to 4537, with 341 applicants on the relieving officers' books for the next week. I fear if this increasing pressure continues it will be impossible for some of the electoral divisions to be able to meet the destitution. I shall take two of the poorest divisions in this Union as an example: in the Mullaghderg division there are 627 receiving daily relief, at a cost of 17*l.* 2*s.* a-week, which will make at the rate of 889*l.* 4*s.* a-year, whereas the whole valuation of this division is only 331*l.* 10*s.* The Rutland division has 569 on their lists, and their weekly consumption amounts to 17*l.* 4*s.* 4½*d.*, which will produce 895*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* a-year, when the valuation of this division is only 830*l.* 15*s.* There is another great difficulty to be overcome in this Union, which will press most severely on the rates, that is, all those who have small farms of land, from two to eight acres, are selling them, the head of the family taking whatever money he can get for it, deserting his wife and children, and going off to America, leaving his family quite destitute, so that they are at once thrown on the rates of the Union.

I have proposed to the Guardians to form sub-committees of three or four Guardians in different parts of this Union, where the distances are so great that it is with difficulty correct information can be obtained at the Board-room, from the great distance the people have to come, 18 to 27 miles.

Those committees, I should propose, would scrutinize the relieving officers' books, and report to the Board of Guardians at their next meeting, after closely examining their lists, the class of paupers who are receiving out-door relief. By this means those Sub-Committees will have it in their power to obtain correct information from the ratepayers on the spot as to who are receiving gratuitous relief.

In many instances it is most difficult to get the desired information in a Board-room, from the fear of being set down as informers, and the great pressure of business that is generally brought before the Board; it frequently happens that they are obliged to sit until eight o'clock in the evening.

I have repeatedly brought before the Board of Guardians the benefit that would accrue to the Union by establishing ovens in some of the electoral divisions for the purpose of baking bread to supply the out-door relief, but I have always been met with the reply, that the Union was so poor that they could not afford to build them. I am quite satisfied that if cooked food was adopted instead of raw meal that it would be found to work well and reduce the list of applicants in one fortnight to half the numbers. As soon as I get the new Board I shall urge on them the necessity of establishing some system of this kind, and I shall not fail to report to the Commissioners their views on the subject.

It gives me great satisfaction to report that the inmates of the workhouse are all healthy, and the house itself is in good order; the able-bodied paupers are constantly kept employed on the grounds and yards of the establishment. The numbers in the house up to this date are 518, and those receiving out-door relief amount to 4537, making a total of 5055 on the rates of the Union, together with 6712 receiving gratuitous relief from the funds of the British Association; this will make a grand total of 11,767 receiving relief in the whole Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 24, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report in which you express your fear that, if the pressure for relief continues, it will be impossible for some of the electoral divisions to meet the destitution, and you advert specially to the Mullaghderg and Rutland divisions, I am to request that you will be so good as to inform the Commissioners what sum each of these electoral divisions has to its credit, what is the amount of rate collected in each since last harvest, and what proportion in the pound does such sum bear to the Poor Law Valuation.

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Your suggestion to the Board of Guardians to appoint Sub-Committees in different parts of the Union, to examine the relieving officers' books, and to report to the Board of Guardians thereon, appears to be fully in accordance with the 6th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act; and the Commissioners will be prepared, on receiving the application of the Board of Guardians, to form districts for such Committees in accordance with that section.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

At a meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, I brought forward a complaint which I beg leave to enclose, marked No. 1, preferred by George Hamilton, Esq., *ex-officio* Guardian, against Mr. John O'Donnell, chairman of the Board, for having two able-bodied men on the out-door relief whom he has had working on his farm for the last two months. On my asking Mr. O'Donnell if such was the case he at once admitted the fact, but stated that they were not earning one penny per diem, as they were working at task-work. This admission of Mr. O'Donnell's at once proves that the provisions which they were receiving from the Union, must have been taken into account as part payment of wages, which he no doubt has taken advantage of, and got those men placed on the out-door relief as *infirm*, for the purpose of cultivating his land at the expense of the Union, when the Commissioners' sealed orders of the 15th December, 1847, only sanctioned a certain class of "poor persons, being able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families dependent on them for support are affected by severe sickness or serious accident."

I am glad to report that there is a visible change for the better in the healthy appearance of the inmates; the house is in a clean and orderly state; the numbers at present in it are 508, with 4649 receiving out-door relief, making an increase since last week of 102. The total receiving gratuitous relief from the rates of the Union up to this date are 5157, together with 7187 children, from the funds of the British Association, which will make a grand total receiving relief in the Union of 12,344.

No. 1.—ENCLOSURE.

Mr. HAMILTON to Captain O'NEILL:—*March 22, 1848.*

I BEG to call your attention to Patrick Tighe and Ned M'Loon, both of Letterilly, whom I have been told are getting out-door relief and labouring under Mr. O'Donnell, chairman of the Board of Guardians; they are both able-bodied: and also others in the same division who hold land are getting relief. Now I am obliged to lay this before you on account of Mrs. Orr, who pays enormous rates there.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 31, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report dated the 25th instant, relative to Glenties Union; and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have forwarded to the auditor a copy of that part of the report which relates to the illegal administration of relief to able-bodied men in the employment of the chairman of the Board of Guardians. It is desirable that you should furnish the Commissioners with the names of these men, and their numbers on the out-door relief register, so that the auditor when auditing the accounts may be readily able to identify the cases.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain O'NEILL:—*March 24, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of an extract from a constabulary report which the Commissioners have received relative to an inquest held on the body of a man (name unknown) who was found dead on Croaghmaget mountain, and who is alleged to have died from the effects of cold and hunger, and I am to request that you will be so good as to make inquiry, and report to the Commissioners on this case.

ENCLOSURE.

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County of Donegal.
Glenties, March 17, 1848.

A man (name unknown) was found dead on Croaghmaget mountain in the Donegal Union.

Copy of Verdict.

That deceased died in the parish of Killymard from cold and hunger.

Inspector-General,
&c. &c. &c.

JOHN RODDEN, *Sub-Inspector.*

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 27, 1848.*

In reply to your letter of the 24th instant, I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have made every inquiry in my power into the circumstances referred to, namely, "that a man (name unknown) was found dead on Croaghmaget mountain, and who is alleged to have died from the effects of cold and hunger."

I cannot find out in what way the man alluded to came by his death, as it does not appear that any evidence was produced at the coroner's inquest to prove that the man died from cold or hunger. The jury found their verdict on a mere supposition, from the remote situation he was found in.

Doctor M'Garvey, who was present at the inquest, examined the body, and states that he found a great deal of difficulty to find out whether the deceased was a male or female from the state of decomposition which the body was found in.

It appears that the head and one of the limbs were severed from the body when found; but the doctor states that there were no marks of violence perceptible. This, in all probability, occurred from the wild birds or animals preying on it, as it appears he must have been dead at least a couple of months before he was found.

It was also conjectured that he was a stranger, as none of the inhabitants of this part of the country have been missing from their homes or families. I beg to enclose Mr. Rodden's reply to my letter, who was present at the coroner's inquest.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. RODDEN to Captain O'NEILL:—*March 26, 1848.*

In reply to your letter of this date relative to an inquest held in this town on 17th instant on the body of a man found dead on Croaghmaget mountain in a far advanced state of decomposition on the 9th instant, I have to state that no proof positive appeared as to who the man was, or how he came by his death; and the jury returned their verdict upon supposition, in which supposition I agree. Were I one of that jury I would not have given a positive verdict upon evidence given upon mere supposition.

It is my opinion the man went a short cut across the mountain, intending to make for Donegal, or this—that he took shelter under a rock from storm—that he got weak from fatigue, cold, or hunger—that he lay down, and was not able to rise, and there died. All this might happen to any man without being in destitution, as in my opinion there is a great difference between hunger and starvation.

Captain O'NEILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 1, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that at a meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday they issued cheques for 173*l.* 14*s.* to different tradespeople, although there was not more than 60*l.* in the treasurer's hands, and they also issued several blank cheques when no bills were sent in to show what was the amount claimed.

This irregularity on the part of the Guardians is attended with great inconvenience, and at the same time lowers the credit of the Union. I have therefore directed the clerk not to countersign any of them, except as far as what will exactly cover the amount of cash in the treasurer's hands, and to keep the others over until the collectors are able to place funds in the hands of the treasurer to meet the demand.

I requested of the Guardians not to break through this rule, which they laid down some time ago. But the moment that I left the Board-room last night, at nine o'clock, they filled up seven cheques, and directed the clerk to sign them, which he refused, as I was not present.

Glenties Union.

I have frequently been obliged to bring under the notice of the Board of Guardians the want of energy in Mr. Quigley, the collector. This man has not, in my opinion, exerted himself in his collection as he ought to have done, although I have frequently urged him in the strongest manner to do so. I have often complained to the Board of Guardians on the subject, but they never took any steps to stimulate him to get in the rates. Some short time ago Mr. Russell, agent to the Marquess of Conyngham, told me he had his rate ready to pay him, and that Mr. Quigley had promised to call at the hotel the following day for the money; but it appears that he neglected to do so. Mr. Russell therefore left the town; consequently the rate has not yet been paid. I have seen Mr. Russell since, and he told me he would pay up all the rates against him in the course of the ensuing week.

A man, of the name of Peter Mulloy, of Mully, threatened to shoot Connel Mullay, the relieving officer for the electoral divisions of Glenties and Navan, for removing him off the books for out-door relief, he being an able-bodied man. He is also charged with stealing a gun from Philip Mullay's house, father to the relieving officer. The police, under head constable M'Cue, got a search warrant, and, on the morning of the 29th March, they proceeded to the house of Peter Mulloy, when they succeeded in arresting him, and found a gun heavily loaded with buck-shot, which the prisoner stated to be his own property. The gun which was stolen from Philip Mullay's house has not yet been found, and Mr. James Hamilton, a magistrate for this county, has remanded him until Monday next, to be brought before the petty sessions.

I am sorry to say there has been very little done in this Union yet as regards the cropping of the land or preparing it for seed. I have been informed that there is a great anxiety to obtain seed potatoes, but, from the great scarcity of them in this Union, it is feared that the small farmers will not be able to procure a sufficiency to crop their land.

I have known some of them to send 20 and 30 miles for a few stone, and to pay at the rate of 10*d.* per stone for them.

There is also a great demand for turnip, parsnip, and mangold-wurzel seed, but in so remote a part of the country as this is it is quite impossible to procure seed of any kind, as there are no merchants or traders of any description who deal in those things.

I should say, if there was a small supply of the above at once sent to Killybegs and Burton Port it would be eagerly bought up; but, if sent, it would be requisite to do so immediately, particularly the potato seed, as the season is now far advanced.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 6, 1848.*

IN reference to your statement that the Guardians have issued cheques for an amount exceeding the sum in the treasurer's hands, and have also issued blank cheques where no bills were sent in, and that you have directed the clerk not to countersign more than there is funds in the bank to meet, I am directed to state that the Commissioners think that the clerk ought under no circumstances to countersign a blank cheque, and they request you to acquaint the clerk with their opinion on this subject accordingly.

As regards the complaint of the want of energy evinced by collector Quigley in getting in the rates in his district, I am to state that the Commissioners have called upon this collector for an explanation of his neglect.

KILKENNY UNION.

Mr. PHELAN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 9, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour of informing you that I yesterday carefully inspected the premises designated the "Magdalene Asylum," lately rented by the Kilkenny Board of Guardians as a temporary convalescent hospital. It is capable of accommodating about 74 persons, and is pretty well adapted for the purpose were there only persons of one sex in it. But as there is only one plot of ground for exercise, and it is always an object in fine weather to induce the convalescents to be in the open air occasionally, the want of a second place for that purpose is a defect of some importance: beside the communication between the male and female portions is, I apprehend, not sufficiently cut off, but on this point I have directed the strictest vigilance on the part of the matron who superintends the place, which is dry and kept in a satisfactory state.

There are 62 convalescents in it; the locality is a good one, not subject, I think, to want of drainage, nor to any circumstances likely to affect the health of the inmates.

I also examined the old brewery premises, in which about 100 boys sleep. It consists of eight lofts, four of 57 by 18, and four of 54 by 23, the two upper are pretty elevated and are fairly calculated for dormitories, the under are very low, and not well adapted for the purpose. These premises, if put in proper order, could accommodate 300. The boys go to the workhouse to breakfast and return after dinner. It appears to me that more use might be made of the dormitory accommodation afforded by these premises than has hitherto been derived from them, but I feel it necessary to observe that as they are surrounded by high walls, appear very gloomy, and are in a close part of the city, they are not well adapted for having boys or girls in them constantly. If used as a more permanent residence, some of the other classes should be placed in them. Boys and girls require more open and more cheerful prospects; I should not however recommend them to be made use of, except temporarily, and until better can be provided by enlarging the workhouse or otherwise.

The sheds in the adult female yard afford considerable advantages as a nursery and as day-rooms for some classes. In one there were 54 nurses, each having one child. About a dozen infants were nursed by women not their mothers. Many of the infants look badly; I could not perceive much difference, if any, between those who have mothers and the others. It was stated by the matron that some of the nurses eat or give away the infants' food, and I directed her to see them fed three times a-day, or if herself much engaged, to have it done under the supervision of the schoolmistress or some other confidential person. I would, however, strongly advise that a proper nursery be erected, so that the infants and young children should sleep out of the house and have better opportunities to be taken into the open air. I learn the infants are rarely taken out of this shed.

The boys and girls appear to be pretty well looked after; the former, however, better than the latter. Although not my province particularly, I cannot avoid alluding to the total and most apparent inadequacy of the schoolmaster. A more ignorant and incompetent person to instruct or to form the habits of boys I have nowhere seen. Although some have been long in the house, no boy has got further in arithmetic than short division, as the master admits. The schoolmistress appears competent and efficient.

I found two of the dormitories in which galleries have been put up, much overcrowded, No. 3 at each side 96 by 16, contained 37 beds below, and 21 on the gallery, having two in each bed, in all 116 adults in a dormitory in which at most there should not be more than 80. Other dormitories were less crowded, and I advise the former to be thinned by transferring some from them to the latter.

I have before reported that the house is well ventilated, and I am now enabled to state that the state of the sick portions, including the county fever hospital wards at the disposal of the Guardians, is very satisfactory as to cleanliness, nurse-tending, &c.

There are no lunatics or idiots in the house; the cells and dormitories for this class being now portions of the infirmary.

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There is no epidemic disease in the house except influenza, which has been fatal to the young and to old persons; 142 sick in the infirmary are chiefly chronic cases; and 141 that are in the county fever hospital are cases of mild fever, some of dysentery; there is scarcely a case of marked typhus fever amongst them. The average number of days, only 23, during which they remain in hospital is a proof of this.

P.S.—I have suggested that as there is room in the county fever hospital for the male convalescents, and whilst there is, the Magdalene Asylum be only occupied by females, or by young boys in addition to females.

MR. PHELAN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 10, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour of informing you that, being desirous of ascertaining the state of ventilation in the Kilkenny workhouse, after the paupers had been a few hours in bed, I went through the probationary wards and through the several dormitories, except those for the aged and infirm (which I had before examined), last night between 10 and half-past 11 o'clock, and was pleased to perceive that (with the exception of two that were over-crowded) the ventilation was pretty fair.

I had however another object in view in making this inspection. The master informed me, as the admission and discharge books showed, that the house contained 2048 paupers, and I knew that about 218 of these—the number somewhat fluctuates from day to day—are in the fever hospital and Magdalene Asylum, and about 140 in the infirmary, and that about 100 boys sleep in the brewery premises, making a total of 458. Having in the course of that day inspected the houses and looked carefully at the number of beds, and having taken a view of the paupers, it occurred to me that the number said to sleep in the body of the house could scarcely be correct. I therefore (whilst giving the master to understand that my object was to examine the ventilation and to see if there was overcrowding), reckoned the number of paupers that were in bed in each dormitory. In all there were 1182, including those of the aged and infirm. I found 123 in the two upper probationary wards, 57 in one, 66 in the other; both far too crowded. There may perhaps have been 15 or 20 more that were not then in bed, or of the class of nurses and ward-maids in the infirmary; altogether I could only with these allowances make out about 1325, which, with the before-mentioned 458, gives a total of 1783, or about 265 less than the number for which diets are charged.

I asked the master and matron if there were paupers in any other place except in those dormitories, &c., which I had examined, and they stated there were none.

I have given this statement to Mr. Burke, Poor Law Inspector, suggesting the necessity of perhaps a closer examination than my time permitted, and I afterwards went to the master and again interrogated him as to the possibility of other paupers having slept in places which I had not examined, when he stated that there were none.

This master appears to be very incompetent, he does not seem to be dishonest, but rather to be ignorant as to the state of the house.

There is no practical visiting Committee of the Guardians, but one, a Mr. Lanigan, is extremely useful in daily visiting the house, infirmary, and even the fever departments.

MR. BURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 15, 1848.*

1. I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a letter addressed by you to the Board of Guardians of the Kilkenny Union, relative to the insubordination which exists in the workhouse, and directing me to proceed to Kilkenny and confer with the Guardians as to the proper steps to be taken for the better management of the workhouse, and the enforcement of order and obedience amongst the inmates; and with reference to it and to that part of your letter of the 27th ultimo, requesting me to report as to the general condition and prospects of the Kilkenny Union, under the management of the Board of Guardians, and to point out any course which I consider you may advantageously take in order to secure the effectual relief of the destitute poor in this Union, I have to inform you that having considered the best mode by

which I could arrive at the information which you required, was by a full and complete inquiry into the affairs of the Union, I commenced such inquiry on Monday, the 31st ultimo, at the workhouse, and continued engaged at it for eight days; and the minutes of evidence, &c., taken by me on the occasion, comprising 496 pages, I have the honour to forward herewith.

2. The difficulties under which the Union labours, and the defects and abuses in the management of the workhouse are not of recent date, but have existed ever since the opening of the latter.

3. From the fourth series of papers relating to proceedings for the relief of the distress and state of the Unions and workhouses in Ireland, recently presented to Parliament, it appears that the net amount of debts, on the 30th November last, due by the Kilkenny Union, was the largest due by any Union in Ireland.

4. Kilkenny is the fifth Union in Ireland as regards valuation, and, compared with the four Unions which exceed it in value, it stood thus at the date referred to:—

Union.	Valuation.	In Credit.	In Debt.
	£.	£.	£.
Dublin, South	569,940	5,202	..
Dublin, North	369,745	..	2,490
Cork	365,623	3,274	..
Belfast	271,915	..	1,460
Kilkenny	241,775	..	9,630

5. As compared with the Unions of the capitals of the four surrounding counties, it stood thus:—

Union.	Valuation.	In Credit.	In Debt.
	£.	£.	£.
Clonmel	91,108	4,165	..
Waterford	193,771	325	..
Carlow	179,037	891	..
Wexford	113,714	64	..
Kilkenny	241,775	..	9,630

6. The embarrassments of the Kilkenny Union are clearly attributable to the Guardians not providing in time for its liabilities, and deferring the making of ample rates until debts accumulated to the extent stated.

7. As regards the rate now in progress of collection, a similar course was pursued, the making of the rate being delayed for two or three months after it had been first agreed on, by propositions made at the meetings of the Guardians to reduce it in amount.

8. The system of thus procrastinating the making of rates, and then making but inadequate ones, has proved a most ruinous one for the Union.

9. The balance of the treasurer's account being always against the Union, the checks issued by the Guardians are with difficulty discounted at a large per centage. In the case of John Dunne, a contractor, who was obliged to take legal proceedings against the Guardians, and had then to be paid with costs and interest, it was upwards of a year after the amount of Dunne's contract had become due that he received the amount of it.

10. It will be seen from the evidence given by Guardians and contractors that, owing to the cause just stated, the prices paid for the supplies of the workhouse are 15 to 20 per cent. beyond the usual prices, and the clerk of the Union states as his opinion that the Union has lost in this way, since December 12 months, about 3000%.

11. The checks given to the relieving officers, from there being no funds with the treasurer, are frequently unpaid, and have caused much inconvenience to the poor; a relieving officer, on one occasion, being obliged to borrow money on his own responsibility, and on another occasion to give orders on a retail shop to meet the pressing demands of the poor.

12. Of the rate made last November, not one-fourth has yet been collected; and when it is considered that of the part collected a great portion has been in large sums—the Marquess of Ormonde paid upwards of 100%, Viscount Clifden

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the same, and the Hon. Mr. Wandesford above 300%.—it can hardly be expected, from the progress made in the best part of the year for collecting rates, that as the less advantageous season for collecting it approaches, that the receipts will not be sufficient to meet the many and pressing demands on the Union.

13. The current expenses of the Union being large, the debt of the Union, since the collection of the present rate commenced, has been lessened not above one-third, and the debt remaining due by the Union on the 31st ultimo, amounted to 6584*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*

14. I caused lists to be made out by the rate-collectors of the 10 highest rate-payers in arrear in each electoral division; by these lists it appears that there are solvent and respectable parties from whom the rate is still uncollected.

15. I also procured from the collectors lists of the Guardians who have paid and of the Guardians who have not paid the current rate. It will be seen from these lists that 31 Guardians have paid and that 39 Guardians have not paid the current rate. It is but justice to some of the latter to say that they have told me they were not called on to pay. At the same time I must say that this is no excuse for Guardians, who, seeing the Union in such difficulties, should have been the first themselves to come forward, and, by paying the rates, set an example to the great body of the ratepayers.

16. Little or no attention is paid by the Guardians to the financial affairs of the Union; the collectors' books are seldom or ever examined by the Guardians, nor is there any Finance Committee who attend regularly: one or two Guardians sometimes examine the accounts submitted to the Guardians for payment.

17. If the financial affairs of the Union afford so little interest to the Guardians, it is not to be wondered at that looking after the management of the workhouse holds out less inducement to them. With the exception of two Guardians, Messrs. Kelly and Lanigan, who are entitled to much credit for their exertions to keep matters from being worse, for to this only could their efforts tend, no Guardian took the slightest trouble about the workhouse, and, according to the evidence of Mr. Lanigan, the Guardians "are in total ignorance of the internal management of the house, of the duties of the officers, the conduct of the inmates, the weighing or giving out of provisions, or, in fact, with any matters connected with the management of the workhouse, and thinks it cannot be otherwise when no member of the Board of Guardians, with the exception of Mr. Kelly and himself, ever crosses the threshold of the workhouse."

18. Little surprise can, therefore, be felt that the Kilkenny workhouse has long been a "bye-word," as I told the Guardians at the first meeting of the Board which I attended, amongst the workhouses of Ireland, as being one of the worst managed. Idleness amongst the inmates prevails to a greater extent in it than in any other workhouse I have visited; however, as regards the females, this has not latterly been so much the case.

19. There was not a meeting of the Guardians which I attended during the few months I have had charge of the Union that I have not, either in a written report or by my statement to them, brought before the Guardians my views with regard to the mismanagement of the workhouse, and the inefficiency of its officers; but I found no anxiety on the part of the Board generally to remedy matters.

20. The medical officers of the workhouse have been equally unsuccessful in having their reports attended to. Dr. Lalor states in his evidence that he and Dr. Cane, "after the workhouse had been open for a year, drew up a report, in which they pointed out many improvements which might be made in the management of the workhouse, so far as it came under their observation, and particularly with regard to the infant children. At the time, the Board of Guardians took no notice whatsoever of the report; and, if any, very few of the improvements suggested by Dr. Cane and him were carried out—that relative to the infant children was not carried out. Dr. Cane and himself, and sometimes himself, made various suggestions, including about the infant children; and the general practice was that their reports were not minded at all, but merely looked on as so much waste paper." Dr. Cane, after stating to the same effect as Dr. Lalor, says, he "despaired of anything being done or carried out by the Board of Guardians." And again, "in general terms he has no hope of the Board of Guardians being able to do anything effectually for the management of the workhouse, considering the difficulties with which they are surrounded; one of the difficulties is being encumbered by debt."

21. Feeling that no improvement could be made in the management of the

workhouse, while inefficient officers were retained, I never omitted an opportunity of stating my opinion to the Guardians of the inefficiency of the master, matron, schoolmaster, assistant schoolmistress, and porter.

22. From the exertion I made towards effecting a reformation in the management of the workhouse, and the matron, as I was informed, not deeming herself equal to what I expected from her, resigned, and I attended the election of her successor. Several candidates offered, amongst others Mrs. M'Quaide, who had been assistant matron in the Carlow workhouse, and having most strongly impressed on the Guardians that she was far beyond in efficiency all the other candidates, I must do the Guardians the justice that on this occasion the majority of the Board (including, I think, all the ex-officio Guardians present) agreed with me, and Mrs. M'Quaide was elected; this being, as I am informed, the first time that an officer of the workhouse was elected solely from efficiency.

23. The new matron has done much in the way of reformation in the habits of the females; employment for them was set going; the bedding and clothing, which were in a most disgraceful condition, were properly cleansed and repaired. Messrs. Kelly and Lanigan, the only Guardians who visit the house, and the medical officers, bore ample testimony in their evidence to the marked improvement which had taken place since Mrs. M'Quaide entered upon her duties.

24. The matron, however, was not long in office before a current set in against her: all the other officers of the workhouse, with the exception of Miss Phelan, who is over the provision store, seemed intent on giving the matron a distaste for the situation, and in which they succeeded, Mrs. M'Quaide having resigned the office some weeks since, and only continues now at my request to perform the duties until the result of this inquiry shall be made known. Had but common forbearance been observed towards this respectable and efficient matron, she would eventually, at least so far as the female department of the workhouse is concerned, have brought it into a good state.

25. Encouraged by the good choice made by the Guardians in the selection of matron, I had hopes that I would by degrees replace all the inefficient officers by efficient ones; and with this view I insisted on the porter and assistant schoolmistress, both under 20 years of age, resigning, which they did accordingly, and of the persons elected to these offices, I can only speak of one, the porter, the assistant schoolmistress, poor girl, having shortly after her election caught fever and died.

26. While holding the inquiry, I was informed that the new porter had been seen drunk. I inquired into the matter; and on reference to page 369, and following pages of the minutes of the inquiry, it will be seen that the charge was well founded, he and some of the female inmates having been drinking together in a public-house in the town. This man's appointment had not been sanctioned, as you will perceive from the reason stated in the query sheet, namely, until I had an opportunity of judging of his competency. If, therefore, under the circumstance of his appointment not being sanctioned, an order can be issued for his dismissal, I think it should be done in preference to refusing sanction to his appointment.

27. The state of both schools is discreditable, so far as the industrial training of the children is concerned. In the girls' school, which is conducted pretty fairly, the schoolmistress being in my opinion efficient, she states, "There are 291 girls in the school, and but 20 to 30 employed."

28. The state of the boys' school is disgraceful to any public institution. The schoolmaster states about the boys, that "Some days they pick stones and weed; thinks that during the last three months he has brought sometimes 40 and sometimes 60 of the boys to pick stones on the workhouse grounds; for 12 times during the last three months, is sure that the boys stay two hours picking stones when they go out; has no spades nor shovels, nor any tools for them, and they do nothing but pick stones and draw sand from the pit occasionally; has now 183 boys in his school." The boys, it appears, are in the habit of carrying on a traffic with the bread given them: the schoolmaster "found out that the boys were selling their bread last summer; it does not go on now to his knowledge; heard that Michael Burke, a boy in the school, made 2s. 6d. selling his bread; the boys told him (the schoolmaster) that the 2s. 6d. was stole out of his box; knew of Tom Shearman making 7½d. by selling his bread; heard that there was 6d. due by Mrs. Cumming to Michael Lacy for bread." The schoolmaster is even incompetent as a teacher, and is quite unfit to be placed in charge of a

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workhouse school; he evidently possesses no control over the boys. The schoolmaster, although incompetent and unfit for the office, I could not hear of anything to his disadvantage as to character; and as the Guardians who elected such an officer are to be blamed, and not the poor man who was seeking a livelihood, I beg to recommend that in the first instance the schoolmaster be called on to resign, and that in the event of his not doing so, an order shall be issued for his dismissal.

29. As to the master's incompetency to manage such an establishment I never had any doubt, nor did I ever hesitate to state so at any meeting of the Guardians which I attended; but from the incompetency of the subordinate officers I considered that he might not have fair play, and that it was but right to allow him a trial when efficient subordinates were appointed; but I must confess I was not prepared for what came out respecting him on the inquiry.

1. The workhouse books kept by pauper boys.

2. Persons who for weeks had left the house, or who died, still kept on provision consumption account, and the rations charged against the Union.

3. Prayers never given out for the adults.

4. In fine, there was scarce a regulation for the management of the workhouse which was the master's duty to see carried out that was not either violated or omitted.

Independent of his incompetency, he is a man addicted to drink. His drunkenness was proved by Mrs. Hamilton, the fever-hospital nurse, a most respectable and efficient officer; and if the other witnesses did not go so far, there was scarce one, even those produced by the master himself, who did not testify to their having seen the "sign of liquor on him."

30. Your Inspector, Mr. Phelan, being at Kilkenny on an inspection of the workhouse as to its sanitary state, went through the house on the night of Wednesday, the 9th instant; and from a report dated 10th instant, which he was good enough to furnish me with, and which I forward herewith, he discovered that there was a discrepancy of near 300 between the number given in the Admission and Discharged Book and the number in the workhouse; in a report to you, dated also the 10th instant, and which I presume Mr. Phelan gives as a more accurate one than the report he furnished me with, he states the discrepancy as 265. On Thursday I attended the meeting of the Guardians, and brought this matter before them; and having suggested that Messrs. Lanigan and Kelly, together with the acting clerk of the Union (the clerk being confined by illness), and Mr. Phayer, the apothecary, should on that night, accompanied by the officers of the workhouse, make an accurate inspection of the numbers in the workhouse, my suggestion was agreed to and acted on, and I herewith forward the report made and signed by Messrs. Lanigan and Kelly, Guardians, Mr. Phayer, the apothecary, and Mr. Brennan, the acting clerk of the Union. By their return the discrepancy is stated to be 207, so that a difference of 58 appears between their report and Mr. Phelan's. There is, however, enough to show that a considerable number beyond those in the workhouse, fever hospital, house of recovery, and brewery is charged by the master as receiving rations. Whether this be an act of dishonesty or stupidity on his part it is difficult to say; but that a man of his slovenly habits of business might permit such a fraud on the Union without receiving any benefit from it, I can well conceive. I at once took the only measure which I could to correct the matter for the future, by instructing the acting clerk to see that the number receiving rations should be altered to the number reported on by the Visiting Committee; but I see no way of correcting the matter completely until a new registry is made out, and a re-examination is made of every person receiving in-door relief. I also directed the acting clerk not to countersign any check for the master's salary until his accounts were settled; and as the clerk's office was accessible to the master, I also directed the acting clerk to search for and to retain in his custody the bond entered into by the master and his sureties.

31. At the meeting of the Guardians on Thursday, the master tendered his resignation, which was accepted; but I consider the master's conduct on the whole to be so bad that he should not be permitted to evade in this way your marked opinion of his incompetency and misconduct. I therefore beg to recommend that an order be at once issued for his dismissal; whether proceeding should not be taken against him for the fraud in drawing rations for numbers of persons not in the workhouse is for your consideration.

32. The attendance of Guardians at the meetings of the Board is anything but constant or regular; if an election of an officer happens to take place, there will

be a large attendance, and as soon as the election is over, scarce a quorum will remain to transact the ordinary business.

33. I forward herewith a return giving the number of attendances of each Guardian for six months ending 31st December last, during which time 39 meetings of the Board were held; by this it will be seen that the *ex-officio* Guardians attended but seldom, with the exception of the Marquess of Ormonde, who, when in the country, never omits an opportunity of being present; the Honourable Mr. Wandesford, and Messrs. Sullivan and Smithwick; the average attendance of the other *ex-officio* Guardians is but three meetings during the half-year. The elected Guardians, those returned for the electoral division of Kilkenny, have attended on an average 20 meetings, while those elected for the rural electoral divisions have attended on an average but 10 meetings.

34. Since the administration of out-door relief, and that the meetings of the Board are obliged to be held almost daily, it is frequently found a matter of difficulty to secure the attendance of three Guardians to form a Board, in consequence the applications for relief are often heard and decided on by two Guardians, and in some instances by but only one Guardian; for although the names of several Guardians may appear on the minutes as being present, it is by no means a proof of their assisting in the business going on; many remain but for a short time, and the important matter of hearing and deciding on applications for relief is generally left to be transacted by not more than two or three Guardians.

35. On the following days during the last year, on which officers were to be elected, the number of Guardians who attended on each occasion was as follows:—

February 4,	election of master . . .	24
April 22,	do. of clerk . . .	37
August 12,	do. of relieving officers .	61
„ 20,	do. do . . .	60
October 14,	do. of matron . . .	39
December 16,	do. of assistant schoolmistress	27
„ 23,	do. of porter . . .	25

These being the largest attendances during the year: the attendance of Guardians at meetings for receiving and deciding on applications for relief during the last month (January, 1848) was as follows, viz.:—

January 7,	. 8	January 21,	. 14
„ 8,	. 5	„ 22,	. 7
„ 14,	. 8	„ 24,	. 7
„ 15,	. 6	„ 26,	. 4
„ 17,	. 9	„ 28,	. 4
„ 18,	. 8	„ 29,	. 5
„ 19,	. 8	„ 31,	. 10

But even this does not show the number who remained to do the business, which was generally left to one, two, or three Guardians.

36. The facts given in evidence as to the intemperate habits of some of the workhouse officers is not surprising, when it is a fact that even Guardians, to their shame be it told, set the example, and made the porter's lodge the clerk's office, and the Board-room the scenes of their carousing. Pierse Byron, the late porter, states “there was drinking going on in deponent's lodge; the master once or twice took a tumbler of punch with deponent in the lodge.” “There was one or two occasions where the collectors and relieving officers and Guardians who were met, and deponent gave them a glass of grog, this applied to two relieving officers, one collector, and two or three Guardians. Recollects the 24th December last; recollects that there was some whiskey drank in the clerk's room on that occasion by one of the Relief Committee, one of the Guardians, and two or three relieving officers; there was another Guardian present who was a teetotaller, and deponent; there was a Board on that day for receiving applications; it was after the Board broke up that the drinking went on in the clerk's office; there was only one or two glasses of grog drank by each; deponent was the only officer of the workhouse present; there was a pint bottle of whiskey; does not know if there was a second bottle sent for.” “On the 24th December last, when the drinking was going on in the clerk's office, deponent was sent for the master to come up and join in it, and deponent pressed the master several times, and he told

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him that the Guardian who was above at the time sent deponent for him, but the master refused."

Lawrence J. Den, the clerk of the Union, "is perfectly aware of drinking going on in deponent's office, and on one occasion about six weeks ago, he was obliged to lock himself up in the Board-room, and to remain there a prisoner for a considerable time after his day's work was done, to avoid importunity and being solicited to join in a drinking bout which was going on in his office; does not wish to mention the names of the parties who were drinking in his office on that occasion, but there was one Guardian at all events, one relieving officer; believes the late porter was there; recollects on one occasion after the Board had adjourned, spirits and porter being sent for by some of the Guardians and drank in the Board-room; there were two or three Guardians joined in drinking the spirits and porter, and deponent took half-a-glass of the porter, but would much rather at the time have gone home after his day's labour to his dinner; considering that these Guardians would have thought it offensive his going away, he merely remained lest his going might be considered in that light." "Recollects the 23rd September last, it was the day that the tenders were taken for the current half-year, and amongst the samples were a considerable quantity of samples of wine and spirits; those samples were opened and partaken of by the Guardians and deponent; deponent was fasting all day, and took a tumbler of wine, which made him deadly sick, and he went down and threw himself on the porter's bed to sleep."

37. Considering the present position of the Union, and the manner in which its affairs have hitherto been mismanaged, I have no hesitation in giving it as my decided opinion that this Union will never be conducted as it should be by the Board of Guardians as at present constituted, the whole working of the Union being left to a comparatively small number of Guardians, representing neither the property nor the interests of the great body of the rate-payers of this the fifth Union in Ireland in point of extent and value, and all but the fifth in point of population.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

Mr. PHELAN to Mr. J. BURKE.

Kilkenny, February 10, 1848.

I WENT to the workhouse late last night, and after some examination of the Register and Admission and Discharge Book, I went through the several dormitories accompanied by the master and porter in going over the male side, and by the matron and schoolmistress in the female side.

I reckoned the paupers in each dormitory, including those in the probationary wards, and found them to amount to 1,207, viz., 1,084 in the upper dormitories, and 123 in the above wards. I had previously ascertained that about 84 sleep in the two aged and infirm dormitories. The infirmary and connecting portions formed out of the idiot cells, &c., contain 140; there are 100 boys sleeping in the brewery premises, and 218 in the fever hospital and Magdalene Asylum. All those make a total of 1,749. The Admission and Discharge Book gives the number in the house last night to be 2,048, there is here a discrepancy of about 300.

I asked the master if he brought me to all places where any paupers slept, and he answered in the affirmative, and I inquired if any slept except in the brewery, fever hospital, and asylum, his answer was, that none sleep elsewhere.

I think it likely that there were some paupers about the master's and matron's rooms, and some assistant nurses and ward-maids, which were not included in my enumeration; but even if there were 10 or 20 such, a large deficit still remains to be accounted for.

Some inquiry on this subject appears to be immediately necessary.

II.

In compliance with a resolution passed by the Board this day, we the undersigned in company with the master, matron, Mr. Phayer, and the acting clerk, counted the inmates and found the house to contain the following numbers—1,497.

February 10, 1848.

JAMES KELLY.

T. BRENNAN, *Acting Clerk to the Union.*

WILLIAM LANIGAN.

In addition, Mr. Lanigan visited the brewery, house of recovery, and fever hospital, and gives the following numbers in each :—

Brewery	92	
House of recovery	67	1,497
Fever hospital	148	325
Staff of hospital and house of recovery	24	
	325	1,822

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WILLIAM LANIGAN.

And we further find that it appears by the books of the house that there were 2,035 inmates on the night of Saturday the 5th instant, inclusive, and that from the morning of the 6th inclusive, up to ten o'clock, p.m., on the 10th instant, there were 203 discharges, 168 admissions, and 16 deaths.

WILLIAM LANIGAN.

T. BRENNAN, *Acting Clerk to the Union.*

In the brewery	92	
Fever hospital	148	
House of recovery	67	
Staff of hospital, &c.	24	
Workhouse	1,497	
Total in workhouse	1,828	
As appears on the books		2,035
		1,828

Exact number in workhouse on the }
 night of 10th February, 1848. }

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THOMAS BRENNAN, *Acting Clerk.**Dissolution of the Board of Guardians.*

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*February 23, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received and had under consideration a report from their inspector, Mr. Burke, detailing the results of an investigation which he conducted during eight days, into the state of Kilkenny workhouse, and into the management of Kilkenny Union, by the Board of Guardians. The Commissioners have likewise received from Mr. Burke a copy of the evidence on which his report was founded.

As the investigation was public, and lasted during so long a period, the Guardians will probably be prepared for the impression which the report and the evidence have made upon the minds of the Commissioners. It appears to the Commissioners that notwithstanding the valuable services of individual Guardians, the management of the Guardians as a Board has been defective in every department of their duties; in the collection of the rates, in the superintendence of the workhouse, and in the distribution of relief, and on the whole, the Commissioners have deemed it advisable that an Order should be issued for the dissolution of the Kilkenny Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners transmit herewith to the Guardians a copy of Mr. Burke's report. But at the same time they deem it right to state that the main point which has influenced the Commissioners in deciding to dissolve the Board is the very unsatisfactory and embarrassed condition of the finances of Kilkenny Union.

It appears that on the 31st ultimo, the debts of the Union amounted to 6,584*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*; while on the 15th instant, the date of Mr. Burke's report, no less than 39 Guardians had not paid the current rate. Mr. Burke acquaints the Commissioners that some of these Guardians had told him that they had not been called upon to pay; but making every allowance for this fact the Commissioners must observe that it was a part of their functions as Guardians to see that the collectors did their duty in calling upon the rate-payers to pay the rates due from each respectively, and it could not be supposed that the great body of the rate-payers would promptly discharge their legal liabilities, while rates remained unpaid by as many as 39 Guardians.

The Commissioners request the Board of Guardians to transact business as usual at their meeting to-morrow, and to give all necessary orders for the due relief of destitution during the next week. The order for the dissolution of the Board of Guardians will be issued by to-morrow evening's post; and the Commissioners will proceed with the least possible delay to appoint paid officers to manage the affairs of the Union.

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The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 8, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, and the Circular of the 26th October, 1847, enclosed therein, with which we have been honoured, we beg to submit to the Commissioners the following report, detailing such state as we found the affairs of Kilkenny Union in; the steps we have as yet taken; and our views as to the future management of the workhouse and of the affairs of the Union.

Upon our first examination of the workhouse and adjoining grounds, we were struck by the unmistakeable evidence which was everywhere presented of loosened discipline. The neglected and much-trampled garden plots, the walks ill-cared for, full of water-pools, the land (capable of being made a nice kitchen-garden) lying idle, the yards badly kept, and in many places filthy; and especially the number of men, of all ages, lounging lazily about, told of habitual absence of supervision; nor do these remarks upon the general condition of the yards, &c., apply to those near the house only, but also to those attached to other houses held by the Guardians, and to the fever hospital, to a degree especially disgraceful. So systematic was this neglect, that we have been informed by one of the medical officers (Dr. Lawlor) that after frequent remark, without receiving any attention, "they grew tired of speaking of what they despaired of getting remedied."

We at once gave directions about altering this state of things, putting certain portions of the premises under the care of certain paupers, and giving them a power to select as many as they required to have everything neat and orderly, made each responsible to the master for the charge thus entrusted to him.

For the first few days it was plainly difficult to move the mass of laziness and inactivity, and, we may add, insubordination; but by determinedly persevering to have done certain work pointed out, a better spirit is showing itself.

It shall receive our immediate and constant attention to have a neat appearance in the workhouse grounds, and cleanliness and order exist on the premises.

A variety of matters came under our notice, the results of supervision referred to; thus, the houses attached to the probationary wards were crammed full of clothes which had been taken from those who had died in the workhouse or were still therein. Not only was robbery, as we were informed, frequent here, but the state of these houses, from the quantities of badly-cleansed clothing, was such as to make entrance absolutely impossible to us.

Bundles of such clothing we found also in the matron's store, these were clean and awaited condemnation, being charged against the master in the clothing books.

Again, all through the house we found quantities of glass broken in the windows, the lanterns in the dormitories mere skeletons, injuries to the roof not repaired, and a variety of other matters, of more or less importance, which never should have been allowed to remain so a second week.

Upon such as appeared to be of an urgent nature, we issued immediate orders, but do not expect a general change for the better until an efficient master be got.

In continuation of this line of observation we may here remark on the contrast presented by the inmates on the male and female sides of the house.

The day-room of the former is a disgusting sight, the paupers noisy and turbulent, crowded, young and old, about the fire-place, their clothing, in many instances, torn and ragged, their linen dirty, even filthy, as may be conceived when we learned many had not changed for two weeks and longer.

To enumerate the employment and training at the male side: a tailor is receiving 12s. a-week salary, and with him about a dozen boys are occupied; a shoemaker receives a like sum, one man (a pauper) and about eight boys are at work; about half a dozen are engaged pounding the limestone of the neighbourhood for scouring in the house; one man, a journeyman and two boys (all paupers) are engaged at the carpenter's workshop; and a weaver, receiving a certain sum per yard for the produce of his loom, which is used in the house. This completes an account of the occupation at the male side.

With much satisfaction we found a wide difference among the females: 21 spinning wheels are at work; knitting is busily carried on, and those not thus engaged among the able-bodied women, are making up clothing; in fact, except the nurses, the convalescents, who very judiciously have a portion of the room appropriated to themselves, and do not mix among the employed, and the very aged, of whom there are but few, no female pauper is unoccupied. In the

employments above mentioned, the laundry, kitchen, and care of the dormitories, all are engaged. We feel bound to express our conviction that a state of things so satisfactory is apparently attributable to the care and attention of the matron, Mrs. M'Quade, for whom, too, the paupers evidently entertain a feeling of respect.

We feel that while immediate steps must be taken to put an end to the disgraceful sloth which has been permitted to grow upon the men and boys in the house, that little interference is requisite with the females.

The next point to which we would advert as claiming attention, is the condition of the schools and the children therein; and here it may be well to notice a circumstance in connexion with them, which belongs to a class of evils in the arrangements of the house, that it will be our duty to deal with as soon as sufficient funds come into our hands.

Along the front wall of the main building, and immediately over the line of windows of both school-rooms, are sheds, of little advantage, that we can see, but of positive injury to the children, excluding the entrance of the cheerful sunlight into the rooms, darkening them considerably, and so preventing the enjoyment of light so necessary to the proper growth of the young, and causing, we are sure, these apartments to be of a much lower temperature than they would otherwise be.

Between the male and female schools, too, a marked difference exists.

In the latter, the children who are of a sufficient age are engaged at neat work, stockings, collars, and such articles of ladies' dress; others at making up clothing, and some knitting.

The children generally present a cheerful, contented appearance, the apparent result of occupation judiciously diversified so as to make it pleasant to them.

On the other hand, the boys cannot but appear unhappy; a large number have sore feet or itch, and the medical officers state that their orders in reference to the treatment thereof have not been attended to. We think it needless to speak at any length of the boys' school, as the present schoolmaster is obviously an incompetent officer, and he having resigned, an opportunity offers of arranging a different system and carrying it out under his successor.

We find the provision stores of the house under the superintendence of Alicia Phelan, who appears among the list of officers designated "Nurse."

The whole system in connexion with the stores appears to be a lax one, as may be conceived when we state the following facts, having reference to the entering up of the important accounts:—Forms 11 and 12, the Provision Check and Provision Receipt and Consumption Accounts, and to the number of paupers charged as consuming food in the former account.

We have learned that this book (Forms 11 and 12) is kept by a young man who appears to be assistant both to the clerk and to the master, as in entering up this book he is doing the duty of the latter, although the clerk, having him as an assistant, relies upon his entries in this same book as correct.

As it is well known that the several numbers entered as those of the classes in the house are not the real numbers therein, the mode adopted to make the amount at foot of Form 11 and carried on to Form 12, appear as the quantity of food really consumed by the numbers in the house, is by deducting from the foot of Form 11 the quantities of provisions found to remain after all in the house are fed. We purpose remodelling the entire present arrangements as to the stores. We believe Miss Phelan, an intelligent and respectable officer, could be very usefully employed as assistant to the matron, and that the care of the stores and books connected therewith could be otherwise and more judiciously conducted.

But this is a matter for future consideration and decision.

In the house arrangements of the hospital, which is under the care of nurse Haw, we found much untidiness.

The arrangements in connexion with requisitions have been also unsatisfactory, but having represented to the medical officers that we looked to them for the exercise of their attention, by the performance of the duties prescribed to them as officers, to prevent injury to the interests of the Union, and having met from these gentlemen in this, as in all other matters in which we consulted them, the utmost readiness to carry out our views, we trust that matters will be better arranged for the future.

With reference to the fever hospital, of which the Union occupies but a part,

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and to the several fever hospitals established in various divisions of the Union, we have not as yet obtained such information as would call for a report.

An useful arrangement has been made by the occupancy of a house (formerly a Magdalene Asylum), as a convalescent ward for fever patients; it contains at present about 35 patients.

A large concern (formerly a brewery) has been used as an auxiliary workhouse, and is now used as a dormitory for boys; it is but indifferently suited for any purpose we could make of it, but it may serve as a dormitory for about 300 persons, and so relieve the pressure, should the workhouse be generally accepted by the able-bodied previously on the out-door relief lists. At present, with the intention of pushing this test as far as we can, we have put 150 children to sleep there, and so relieved the workhouse.

In concluding our remarks upon the house, we have to remark that many matters in connexion with the sanitary arrangements will, from time to time, call for alteration. The sewerage is palpably faulty; we have taken steps to have an arrangement, previously entered into with the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway Company, having reference to this important matter, carried into immediate effect. Sleeping galleries, of which we highly disapprove, have been erected in two of the principal dormitories. The ventilation, too, may evidently be improved; indeed, if funds were in our hands to effect some desirable changes, much could be done to increase the healthiness and convenience of the workhouse.

We have to reiterate our previously-expressed opinion, that the very unsatisfactory condition in which we found matters is, to a great extent, traceable to a want of active and energetic superintendence. We have strong hopes that a new and effective staff of officers, viz., master, porter, schoolmaster, and assistant schoolmistress (with such additions as we may hereafter see prudent to make), will exercise, under our care, an active proper conduct of the establishment.

We cannot use language sufficiently strong to express our conviction of the wanton lavish expenditure under the out-door relief system in this Union. The evidence recently taken before Mr. Inspector Burke prepared us for the manner in which the funds of the Union have been spent. As we shall make a detailed report hereafter of our progress in putting this system upon a legal footing, we shall content ourselves now by mentioning to the Commissioners some facts which have been brought under our notice by the relieving officers among the applications for relief.

1. Of an able-bodied labourer, having work, came to the relieving officer to seek relief, and grounded his application upon the fact of his wages being insufficient to support those dependent on him. This statement was not to be doubted when it was ascertained that the remuneration he received for a day's work was his food and one penny!

2. Of an able-bodied labourer in the employment of a member of the late Board; the relieving officer's statement was that this Guardian forced the man's name upon the books for out-door relief, saying to the Board, that he being a heavy ratepayer the favour was due to him.

The effect of applying the workhouse test to the able-bodied applying for relief appears in the following:—

3. Being engaged on Monday, the 6th instant, until a late hour in the evening adjudicating upon applications from the Kilkenny division alone, we admitted to the house

68 men,
87 women, and
170 children.

Upon making inquiry the following morning how many had availed themselves of this relief, we found that

7 men,
5 women, and
3 children,

only had entered the house.

We are deeply sensible of the importance of freeing the Union from its present position of embarrassment and difficulty, and with this feeling are determined to use every power we possess to procure the immediate collection of the rate outstanding.

With this object, and to encourage the friendly disposition existing among the

rate-payers towards the management of a paid Board of the Union, we have acted upon a valuable suggestion of Mr. Burke, and having first submitted the draft to him, and received his approval of it, have published an address, in which we appeal to the common sense of the rate-payers to pay up their rates, and so enable us to act freely, not hampered by the present position of the Union.

We have also called the attention of the collectors to the state of their collections; and finding that three, who should have attended on Monday for the examination of their accounts, did not do so, and that this negligence was frequent, we took the opportunity of impressing by circular upon all the necessity of the punctual discharge of this important duty, and our determination to deal summarily with any officer trifling with the orders of the Commissioners and of the Board.

In this department, as in most elsewhere in this Union, indifference to duty had grown into a habit.

If proper diligence were used in bringing in the rate, the whole outstanding debt could speedily be liquidated, and sufficient would still remain of the present rate to give time for consideration before another should be made. The present amount of old cheques outstanding is 1453*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*; upon the 1st of March the other liabilities of the Union amounted to 1890*l.*; these sums being met, a balance would remain of the present rate of, say 11,000*l.*, of which, we fear, a considerable portion will not be available.

We purpose watching for a week or two the progress of collection, urged on as it has been, and in the meantime taking steps to prevent irregularities now in this department.

An arrangement had been made with the Treasurer, by which the cheques to the clerks and relieving officers are first met. As certain persons, such as milk-venders, workmen, &c., must be paid in cash, it has been the habit to grant a cheque for 30*l.* and upward to the clerk, to pay "sundry small bills." We need not say how much we disapprove of this irregularity, which the state of the finances has produced.

It was the just intention of the late Board, that when the cheques above named were met, that the balance in the treasurer's hands should be expended in paying off the old cheques, the *oldest* being *first* met.

It has been said, however, that in the payment of these old cheques a preference has sometimes been given to particular persons, holders of cheques of a date later than others unpaid.

To end a system which has been of great loss to the Union, shall receive our anxious efforts.

The present condition of the rate books calls for revision.

We do not think it prudent to contemplate a re-valuation of the whole Union at present, on account of the expense of such a step, the want of time, and prudential reasons, but we do think some arrangement is necessary, not only to put a stop to the present system of appeals before the assistant-barrister at sessions, and law costs of defending such suits, but more particularly to have books so important, not the grossly incorrect documents they now are.

The difficulty of closing collectors' warrants correctly is obvious, as long as these books are so incorrect, and the loss yearly to the Union must be very great when it is considered that many years have elapsed since these books were made out, that few alterations have been made in them since, but that many changes have taken place in the division and value of tenements.

We have sought the advice of Mr. Burke on this subject, previous to taking any decided step, yet feel an early step is necessary.

We have now adverted to each department of the Union, and as far as present observation has permitted, given our views for the consideration of the Commissioners.

In obedience to their directions we shall, from week to week, forward an account of our progress, and shall look with anxiety for the Commissioners' opinion upon our acts in discharge of the duties imposed upon us.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 8th instant, on the state in which on your appointment you found the workhouse of

Kilkenny Union.

Kilkenny Union and its auxiliary buildings, the administration of out-door relief, the collection of the rate, the debts of the Union, and the rate-books.

The Commissioners desire to express their thanks for this report, which so amply supplies information on all objects of importance to be considered in providing for a better administration of the Poor Relief Acts in the Union.

They request you to proceed as proposed to provide proper persons for the duties of master, porter, schoolmaster, and assistant schoolmistress; and that in making arrangements for the maintenance of discipline, order, and cleanliness in the workhouse, you will make such changes in the assistants as may appear necessary for securing a due observance of the regulations.

The Commissioners recommend a close examination into the relieving officers' books, and the fitness of each of these officers; they also recommend that as soon as your attention can be given to the relief districts, you should visit the relief stations, that you may have an opportunity of seeing the recipients of relief already on the books. For this object the Commissioners will be prepared to make an allowance sufficient to defray the weekly expense that may be incurred for conveyances, as soon as the amount can be averaged.

Your particular attention should also be given to the state of the collectors' books, and the fitness of each of the persons employed in this important branch of the Union business; also the arrears due, and the proceedings to be taken for recovery of them, in respect to which the Commissioners desire to refer to their circular which was issued with their order of the 25th October last, to point out the several means for recovery of rates due by occupiers; also to their circular of the 14th January last, stating the modes of proceeding against immediate lessors.

The Commissioners observe that a person is employed to keep the accounts of both the clerk and master. They approve of your terminating so injudicious an arrangement; and request you to provide for the efficient performance of the several executive duties committed to your management.

With respect to the rate-books, they recommend you to make the collectors available as far as possible for obtaining information as to existing occupiers, tenements, and immediate lessors; much will also depend in the efficiency of the clerk, whose duty it is to record all information necessary for the new rate; and you will necessarily require a person of experience, integrity, and intelligence to revise the valuation where changes affecting the value of particular holdings have occurred.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 14th instant, and rejoice to learn our views in reference to the management of such departments of this Union as we have expressed an opinion upon have met the approval of the Commissioners.

We think it needless upon the present occasion to do more than advert to such particular subjects as we feel call for special remark upon our parts; and in reference to minutes of proceeding of the 9th instant, to state that we thought it desirable to interest fully and sincerely in the business of the house that intelligent officer, the present matron, and accordingly have recommended the addition of 10% to her yearly salary.

As in an establishment so extensive as this the duties of matron must, to a great extent, consist in supervision and direction, we have considered it desirable that Miss Alicia Phelan should be transferred to the assistance of the matron; and while we believe a means will thus be given to the latter officer of giving a more extended care to the condition of the charge intrusted to her, we feel little doubt that the duties imposed upon the new assistant will be carefully performed.

The care of the stores has been given to a man lately a pauper in the house, and reduced to that condition through ill health. Bearing a very good character in the house, and producing satisfactory testimonials as to his previous life, he seemed to us from his long presence as assistant in the care of the stores to be worthy to be put upon a small salary, and thus given an interest in the careful discharge of his duty.

We trust these steps in carrying out our views, as stated in our report of the 8th instant, will be conducive to the efficient working of the house management.

We also hope that a satisfactory result will follow our application to the National Board of Education for a schoolmaster, and will be very careful in the selection of a man of good character and apparent competency for the office of porter.

We have every reason to hope that our selection as master and assistant schoolmistress will be for the advantage of the house.

The change we have made in the rations for officers seemed called for; the previous arrangement was obviously an absurd one, as the greater part of the provisions was not used by some officers to whom they were dispensed.

In reference to Patrick O'Gorman (master), with regard to whom you express, in your communication of the 14th instant, the Commissioners' intention to issue an order for his dismissal, we think it an act of justice to state, he has furnished a return of the quantity of provisions deducted by him from the foot of the Provision Check Account as not having been consumed by the numbers alleged to be in the house. The value of the provisions thus deducted amounts by this return, which is made up to the 23rd week of the present half-year (the week ending 4th March instant), to 331*l.* 15*s.* 1½*d.* He has given this with the object of showing that if a large number of persons were stated to be in the house who were not so, that he did not charge as consumed provisions for the entire number entered.

Thomas Ryan, who has been appointed master, has been engaged with the present master since Monday morning taking stock. It will be for the Commissioners to say when that person will commence pay as master, as O'Gorman is manifestly the officer to be recognized until his dismissal.

In reference to the collection of rates, we have thought it necessary to recommend the dismissal of the collector in whose district the collection has been apparently the most neglected in the Union, and who seemed to us to have taken no trouble to carry out the directions we had specially and strenuously imposed upon him. Thus, upon the 2nd March, the progress made by the several collectors was in the following per centage, viz., 84, 71½, 52, 51½, 40½, 38½, 37, and (Grace) 28½. His attention was immediately and forcibly called to the state of his collection, and in a few days the circular, a copy of which was inserted in the minutes of the 6th instant, was addressed to him in common with the other collectors.

Upon his attendance for examination of his books upon the following day (the 7th instant), at our desire he made out a list of the 10 highest rate-payers in each of his divisions whose rates were still unpaid, and received our particular directions that these sums should be paid, proceedings taken, or some reason given for his not having done so.

Upon his next attendance, the balances remaining unpaid, amount of the rates of these 10 persons, and the amount collected out of that amount, were as follows:—

Freshford	£1257 12 8½	£262 16 3	£0 0 0
Tullaroan	502 13 7½	110 2 0	20 1 5½
Clomanta	454 10 7½	139 16 7	6 2 11½
Total	2214 16 11½	512 14 10	26 4 5

For having done so little to get in this large sum, 512*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, he gave us no satisfactory reason.

The total amount of his collection for the week ending 14th March, notwithstanding our urgent directions, was 115*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, less than his previous week's collection by 60*l.*

We have advertized for a successor, as 2099*l.* 4*s.* 8½*d.* remains uncollected of the 3358*l.* 13*s.* 6½*d.*, upon the electoral divisions in his districts.

A disposition to urge on the collection appears more or less strong in the other collectors, and we hope that this example of our determination to deal promptly with such as neglect their duty, will act both upon the collectors and on those rate-payers who have long expected and received indulgence in the payment of their rates. The information we continue to receive of the state of the present rate books has fully impressed us with the necessity of allowing no further delay to take place in commencing an attempt to revise them, and we feel great pleasure in learning that the Commissioners think that a person will be required to take the care of the valuation of the Union.

Kilkenny Union.

We feel we would be concurrent parties to a great injustice by perpetuating an arrangement acting so unfairly.

The wrong to individuals is manifold, to the Union considerable: thus, cases exist where persons are rated for greater quantities of land than they hold, and also of valuable premises having been raised upon the sites of poor tenements for the ratings of which only they are liable.

We would respectfully ask of the Commissioners, upon a perusal of the above statement, to take into consideration the propriety of sending down two or more competent persons who would at once commence a revision of different portions of the Union.

We think it well to suggest such a step as the evil is very great, and as so extensive an Union, in which there is so much to have examined and corrected, could not be revised by one person in a sufficiently short time.

The necessity of retaining, as relieving officers especially, only persons who possess a blameless character for morality and propriety, is evident. We were anxious, therefore, to obtain some information in reference to rumours which had reached us as to the unfitness for the office of one relieving officer, and sought to ascertain if cause existed for believing this person unfit to hold such office. We have learned sufficient, we think, to warrant us in suggesting to him the propriety of sending in his resignation if he be conscious his conduct could not bear investigation.

We would wish to call the attention of the Commissioners to the unsatisfactory arrangements in reference to the fever hospital situated in the neighbourhood of the workhouse.

It is now partly occupied by the Union and its officers, and partly by the Governors of the County and City Fever Hospital, and a staff supported by them. This arrangement has produced an unsatisfactory community to some extent of property, but a division of blame. The yards and out premises we found much neglected and even filthy, and excuses were ready attributing the blame in most cases to the governor's servants.

The building was originally the County and City Fever Hospital, and in consequence of want of funds on the part of the governors, a portion was given up to the Board of Guardians at a yearly rent of 5*l.*, which is paid to the governors.

It was used subsequently, not only by the governors and by the Guardians, but also by the Relief Committee—(see statement in Guardians' minutes of 28th October, 1847).

It appears that after much discussion between the Board of Guardians, the Relief Committee, and the Board of Health, it was finally decided by the letter of the Poor Law Commissioners, 21st December, 1847, that the Fever Hospital was to be under the management of the Board of Guardians.

We recur to this matter as stock is now being taken and a disposition has been evinced on the part of "the Relief Committee," who profess to be in existence under the denomination of the "Kilkenny Hospital Committee," to claim a right of ownership in the sheeting, bedding, &c., placed in the Fever Hospital by the Relief Committee.

We would wish to receive the directions of the Commissioners in this matter, more particularly as regards coffins, of which there are many on the premises, and which are now delivered by the (Union) matron of the hospital, Mrs. Mary Hamilton, upon the orders of some members of the Hospital Committee and its clerk.

In reference to this matter we have just received a letter, of which a copy is appended. We have stated in reply that we have referred the matter to the Commissioners for instructions.

We would wish you would be so good as to state if the Relief Committee still really exists in the Union, or if the one previously in existence has been dissolved, and if we are justified in handing over to them the property they claim.

A question has arisen as to the right of members of the late Board of Guardians to continue members of Relief Committees, they having become such as Poor Law Commissioners.

As our opinion has been questioned, we seek the decision of the Commissioners.

ENCLOSURE.

Kilkenny Union.

Mr. BRENNAN to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 16, 1848.*

Mr. William Lanigan has handed me a copy of a resolution which purports to have formed a part of your proceedings on yesterday the 15th instant, ordering Mrs. Hamilton, chief nurse of fever hospital, not to give coffins or any other property now under her charge to any person except upon the order of Mr. Thomas Ryan, master of the workhouse.

In reply to this I am instructed by the Relief Committee to inform you that there are many articles at the fever hospital which are still their property, amongst the rest all the coffins in the dead and clothes house.

This information you will find correct, as no coffins were ever sent over from the workhouse until a death or deaths took place. You will please cause the key of the dead-house to be handed over by Mrs. Hamilton to Mrs. Harvey, the person selected by us to take charge of our property.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 16th instant, received on Saturday last, relating to the Kilkenny Union, and they desire me to state that they approve the proposed increase in the salary of the matron of the workhouse, and the employment of Alicia Phelan as her assistant.

The Commissioners generally object to the appointment of persons who have been paupers in a workhouse as paid officers of the house, but under the circumstances you mention, and having regard to the nature of the duty to be performed, the Commissioners will not decline to sanction the employment of the person to whom you refer as storekeeper at the salary proposed. The Commissioners have at the same time to observe, that every pauper inmate of a workhouse should be employed in such work as he may be best capable of performing, and that he is bound to give the Union the full benefit of his services without any extra remuneration.

The Commissioners have read your observations with respect to Mr. O'Gorman, the late master of the workhouse, but they do not deem the circumstances set forth to be sufficient to warrant them in withholding the order which has been prepared for his dismissal. His pay must cease from the date of the order, and that of his successor may then commence.

The Commissioners fully approve of your causing the most vigorous steps to be adopted for the collection of the poor-rates in the Union. They trust that the example afforded by the dismissal of Mr. Grace will have a beneficial effect upon the rest of the collectors in stimulating them to a zealous and energetic discharge of their duties.

The Commissioners will not object to the appointment of two persons to revise the valuation of the Union, but they would prefer that the duty should be discharged by one person with a view to the preservation of greater uniformity in the valuation. The Commissioners are not at present able to comply with your request to appoint two persons to act as revisors, and they must rely upon your endeavours to obtain the services of a competent person or persons by advertisement in the usual manner.

The Commissioners are prepared at once to dismiss any relieving officer who may be shown to be unfit for the office, or negligent in the discharge of his duties.

As regards the claims for the Relief Committee for Kilkenny, constituted under the Temporary Relief Act, I am to state that this Committee having received an order to provide temporary hospital accommodation, is still legally in existence; but as the management of the hospital has been transferred to the Board of Guardians, the Commissioners consider that any hospital requisites provided by the Committee with funds advanced by the Relief Commissioners, should be handed over to the Vice-Guardians for the use of the Union.

The Commissioners request to be informed how far the exercise of the powers of the Relief Committee under the Fever Acts may be necessary for Kilkenny electoral division; also, how many acting members of it have not been elected Guardians.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

No necessity exists for lengthened remarks in the present communication. In the house the keys have been handed to the new master, as stock has been

Kilkenny Union.

taken. The Commissioners' order dismissing the previous master having arrived Thomas Ryan is now, therefore, in charge of the establishment.

The rates are not returning quite as large an amount of money as we would desire, but considering that the collection of the present rate is approaching the close, and that old habits have formed a large class unwilling to pay until compelled, against whom proceedings have been in many cases taken by summons, and otherwise, we conceive an exertion is being made pretty generally by the collectors.

We continue to urge upon them the most active and diligent exertion.

In obedience to the desire of the Commissioners we have advertised for persons qualified to undertake forthwith a revision of the present valuation of the Union; and in order to have preparation made for the commencement of this task, have called by public notice upon all having cause of complaint by reason of excessive or incorrect valuation to send in statements thereof without delay.

Our time continues to be much engaged with the out-door relief lists; the occupation in this respect is however lessening, as the previously numerous claims from classes not legally entitled to relief are diminishing from the stringent application of the workhouse test.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

IN our communication of the 8th instant, we made mention of the absence of anything like employment among the great body of the male inmates of the workhouse of this Union.

Anxious as we were to alter a state of things so disgraceful and injurious, the occupation consequent upon the recent changes of the officers of the house diverted their attention from the matter, and with us the ordinary routine of business has nearly usurped our entire time. Upon the new master assuming the direction of the establishment we gave him orders to take early steps to procure for the whole of the able-bodied men some description of occupation.

A difficulty at once presented itself in the want of tools and implements. To avoid the delay of waiting to have such articles as were required made, as they should be here, we caused inquiries to be made as to the property of the Board of Works. In reference to this matter, we would call your attention to our minute of the 27th instant; the subject is important, the more so now as great insubordination has within the last few days manifested itself among the inmates, indeed to so great an extent as to call for the intervention of the civil power.

The necessity of giving to the paupers constant occupation, and thus preventing the mischievous results of idleness, has induced us to believe that the best use to which the land attached to the workhouse could be put, would be cultivation as a kitchen garden; this description of cultivation would require continual attention, and thus always afford employment to the inmates. To conduct this work would, however, require the close superintendence of a competent gardener, whose services could be put to other use on the premises at the close of the day. If this suggestion be approved of by the Commissioners, we would seek the engagement of some competent person.

We would despair of having the directions of this or indeed of any officer carried out unless supported by sufficient authority, for a depraved, vicious indolence has seized upon the male inmates. With the evidence of this daily presented to us, we were struck with the value of a suggestion of Captain Henry Evans (Inspector), to adopt a plan tried by him with good effect at the Roscommon Union, of having always a few persons to act as house police, whose duty it would be to enforce the orders of the house officers, and who could also be used as a night-watch, a proper arrangement for which is much needed here. Army pensioners could with advantage be employed in this capacity, and for such a small sum, as a salary, would suffice.

We have to express our acknowledgments of the valuable advice and co-operation of Captain Evans, and his anxiety to afford us the aid of his experience and intelligence.

Referring to your communication, dated March 20th instant, we have to state we have had under consideration your inquiry, "How far the exercise of the powers of the Relief Committee, under the Fever Acts, may be necessary for Kilkenny electoral division." We have already stated in our communication of

the 16th instant, that the fever hospital for the district for which the committee is constituted, is under the management of the Guardians. Kilkenny Union.

There is no necessity manifestly for the existence of the committee for any purpose connected with this hospital; we believe the hospital can, with full effect and more economy, be managed as a portion of the workhouse, and under the same superintendence. At the present time, moreover, the great majority of cases in the hospital come direct from the workhouse.

But Relief Committees possess (under 10th Viet., c. 22,) powers of a very valuable kind. The provisions of the 8th, 9th, and 10th sections of the above Act, if actively exercised, would undoubtedly be productive of much advantage. We would call particular attention to the excellence of the working of the 16th section, which provides for the decent and proper interment of persons who have died of epidemic disease, and while receiving relief; and would respectfully express our regret that the existing state of the law does not permit the extension of this description of relief to other classes than the destitute poor mentioned above.

It is our belief that if this Relief Committee be permitted to remain in existence, it should be to act under the provisions above stated only.

We have much satisfaction in recording a large balance in the treasurer's hands to the credit of the Union, and in further stating, that an advantage to the Union has arisen by the terms on which we have taken contracts from the 25th instant, as tenders were in most cases offered at favourable terms from the appearance of prosperity in the financial affairs of the Union.

The present financial position of the Union, in comparison with periods in the two preceding months, is as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
31st January.—Amount of checks outstanding unpaid	4323	16	1			
„ Balance against the Union on treasurer's accounts	540	10	1			
Total balance against the Union	4864	6	2			
29th February.—Amount of checks outstanding unpaid	1903	11	7			
„ Balance in favour of the Union on treasurer's accounts	801	2	3			
Total balance against the Union	1102	9	4			
25th March.—Balance in favour of the Union on treasurer's accounts	2710	9	4			
„ Amount of checks outstanding unpaid	444	4	10			
Total balance in favour of the Union	2266	4	6			

I beg your immediate attention to the enclosed communication of one of the collectors to us.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. DEMPSEY to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 22, 1848.*

I ENCLOSE you two copies of two summonses for rescue under the warrant of the Union, which came before the magistrates at petty sessions, Gowran, on yesterday, the 21st. The bench constituted the following magistrates:—Mr. Cooke, David Burtchell, William Flood, and J. K. Aylward. Mr. Cooke, acting as chairman, gave it as his opinion, that there should be a six days' notice served on the parties previous to distraining them under such warrants, and dismissed the cases, his brother magistrates agreeing with him of course. Gentlemen, you will be good enough to let me know how I am to act in future, and what course I must pursue for the speedy collection of the rate.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 31, 1848.*

I AM to state that, on the receipt of minutes of your proceedings on the 27th instant, the Commissioners directed application to be made to the Board of Works for the implements which you require. The Commissioners do not object to your appointing a person to instruct the boys in the workhouse in the cultivation of the ground attached to the workhouse. They rely upon your taking the necessary steps for maintaining order and discipline in the workhouse,

Kilkenny Union.

and for employing the workhouse inmates in accordance with the 16th article of the Regulations.

The Commissioners wish to know how many persons you would propose to appoint as wardsmen, and what salaries you consider sufficient to secure the services of competent persons for the office.

The Commissioners will address you in a few days on the subject of the Kilkenny fever hospital.

I am to request that the Commissioners may be more fully informed of the proceedings which had been taken to obtain payment of the rates in the two cases referred to in Collector Dempsey's communication.

The Commissioners are of opinion, as at present informed, that it was not necessary for the collector to serve a six days' notice before he proceeded to distrain.

FURTHER LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—
April 10, 1848.

WITH reference to your report of the 29th ultimo, the Commissioners desire to observe that the Relief Committee for Kilkenny electoral division, being one of those continued by the 14th section of the Act 10 Vict., c. 22, it may notwithstanding the transfer of the temporary fever hospital, exercise the powers given by sections 8, 9, 10, and 16, of the Act 10 Vict., c. 22.

With regard to the decision of the magistrates in a case of rescue, where they dismissed the complaint, as the distress was made without giving six days' notice, the Commissioners have only referred to the first portion of section 152, in the 6 and 7 Wm. IV., c. 116, which expressly authorizes distress without such notice; and they also refer to the 78th section of the 1 and 2 Vict., c. 56, which empowers distress without notice, if the rate be two months due.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 7, 1848.*

REFERRING to your communication, dated March 30, 1848, in which you express the decided opinion of the Commissioners of the necessity of placing upon out-door relief all the infirm in the workhouse—a class of whose destitution there is no doubt—we wish to say, that impressed with this opinion of the Commissioners, and feeling ourselves that the workhouse is, in reality, the test of destitution, which feeling experience has served to prove well founded, we have not lost sight since our arrival here of the Commissioners' views upon the subject, but have, from time to time, removed from the workhouse persons belonging to that class. The return at the head of the minutes sent from this Union of "Aged and infirm" includes all the adults (save nurses and other officers) in the chronic hospital, fever hospital, and convalescent house, as well as in the infirm wards; it will thus be seen that an idea not strictly correct is conveyed by the return. There is room for over 200 in the workhouse, and we are of opinion that this amount of further accommodation will not be decreased. To provide, however, against an emergency we have inspected some premises, and directed the agent to ascertain on what terms they could be obtained.

In reference to the communication of Sir R. I. Routh, March 24, 1848, respecting unserviceable bedding in the barrack stores at Castlecomer, which has been referred to us, we have directed applications to be made to the several fever hospitals to ascertain the state of their stock of bedding.

We are of opinion, that if these stores were put into our possession, that good use could be made of them in many cases of aged and destitute persons leaving the workhouse on out-door-relief, but having no bedding for themselves. This view is of course irrespective of the necessity (if such exists) of supplying the fever hospitals.

We have been very much occupied during the past week in closing the half-yearly accounts of contractors. This has been a task of time and labour, for no system existed in the ordering or procuring requisites. It is stated by respectable contractors, and the statement is verified by the clerk, that goods were constantly ordered by the master or some other officer, and frequently by members of the Board going individually to the establishments; that they supplied frequently

without any contract, and that they found no difficulty in obtaining payments for goods thus supplied. Kilkenny Union.

We had therefore to make many references to the workhouse books, to the private account books of the traders, and, in some cases, to require declarations before magistrates, before the payment of accounts.

We could not of course visit upon those persons the errors which had their necessary origin in the system of business pursued; but no such excuse for the non-production of all vouchers can be produced under our management.

Referring to your question (in your letter, March 31, 1848) concerning the proceedings taken by collector Dempsey, we beg to call your attention to his letter appended to our communication of the 29th instant.

The number of persons we would seek to appoint as house police (or wardsmen) would be four; and as efficient persons were had in Roscommon Union at 1s. per day each, we would propose to pay a similar sum.

The pressure of business during the past week prevents us from entering more fully into the state of the Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 10, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have made application to the Commissary-General to have the supply of cast military bedding in the barrack stores at Castlecomer placed at your disposal.

I am at the same time to express the Commissioners' sanction of the proposed appointment of four wardsmen for the workhouse for as long a period as the employment of such persons may be deemed to be necessary.

The Commissioners are desirous of being informed whether it is proposed to allow rations to those persons in addition to the allowance of 1s. per day.

MILFORD UNION.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 31, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Milford Board of Guardians this day, and have the honour to submit the following report on their proceedings:—

Notwithstanding a severe fall of snow, and the inclement state of the weather, there was a tolerably full attendance of Guardians.

The relieving officers' books were examined, and the applications appearing on them were adjudicated upon according to their merits.

The relieving officers have not kept their books so accurately as might be desired; but the great pressure on the workhouse, on the days of the meetings of the Board of Guardians, prevented the Board from going into the cases on the books so methodically as they would otherwise have done. The arrears of cases have however been now disposed of; and, in future, none will, I trust, be allowed to accrue. In consequence of the arrear of business above mentioned, the clerk has hitherto been unable to furnish your Board with the statistics of the out-door relief afforded in this Union; but he applied to-day to the Board for some assistance in writing up the Out-door Relief Register, &c., and hopes to be able next week to supply all the information which should be given in the weekly minutes.

In my weekly report for the week ended January 29th, I mentioned that I attended an inquest held on that day at the Milford Union workhouse, on the body of a woman named Susan M'Clafferty, who had been admitted on the previous Wednesday, and died on the following morning at 4 o'clock.

You will, of course, be furnished with a copy of the evidence taken at the inquest in this case; and I will now state, as briefly as possible, the circumstances attending it, to show how far it bears upon the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor.

The deceased was a common vagrant, and was given shelter for *a night* in the house of a man named Charles M'Gettigan, living in the electoral division of Oughterlin. Deceased during the course of the night for which she had received shelter became unwell, and being unable to resume her mendicant walk on the following morning remained for eight days in M'Gettigan's house, and was supposed to have fever. He sent for the priest, who said it was a case for the workhouse; and M'Gettigan, without applying to the relieving officer of the district, put the poor woman on a car, and took her a distance of six miles in a bitter cold day to the workhouse. The master of the workhouse, in accordance with instructions given him, refused to admit the woman into the house until the medical officer had seen her, and pronounced whether she laboured under fever or other infectious disease. In consequence of the overcrowded state of the hospital and fever sheds at the workhouse, the relieving officers had been instructed by the Board of Guardians to send no person in fever or other infectious sickness to the workhouse until the Board of Guardians should communicate to them that there was vacant room in the hospital and fever sheds, and to provide provisionally lodging, medical assistance, &c., for urgent cases of fever, &c., brought under their notice in their respective districts.

In the case of Susan M'Clafferty, no application was made to the relieving officer; neither had any Guardian given an order for her admission to the workhouse.

There is considerable ignorance, or at least affected ignorance, amongst the harbourers of vagrants, relative to the proper course to be pursued, before they can get rid of their guests; and they are daily thrusting out people to die, or are bringing them in a moribund state to the poorhouse.

I, therefore, thought it right to bring Susan M'Clafferty's case under the attention of the Board to-day, and to suggest to them the propriety of having hand-bills thrown off, and posted in conspicuous places throughout the Union, setting forth the proper and the humane course to be adopted by parties who might be similarly situated with Charles M'Gettigan, in having casual visitors of the same description as Susan M'Clafferty.

The Board of Guardians requested me to draw out a hand-bill of the kind I proposed, and (with your sanction) I will do so. The hand-bill should, of

course, be signed by the clerk of the Union, "By order of the Board of Guardians;" and thus no plea of ignorance on the part of persons guilty of inhumane conduct could be sustained; and the Board of Guardians could not be subjected to unjust aspersions too readily adopted by that portion of the public who do not understand the difficulties which at present beset the local administrators of the laws for the relief of the poor.

The rate collectors got in during the last week a sum of 230*l.*; and they are taking vigorous measures (assisted by the Guardians and myself) to enforce payment by all defaulters.

I went over the workhouse ground to-day, and saw the site of the new fever hospital staked out. In order to avoid disturbing the bodies of paupers buried on the workhouse grounds, an alteration in the site of the fever hospital has been made, bringing it a few feet further from the outer fence than was at first determined upon; and the contractor and his sureties have agreed to write a letter to the Board of Guardians, covenanting that the alteration of the site shall in no way vitiate their bonds.

The change of site is rather an advantage than otherwise to the contractor.

I also saw the sheds to be erected in the girls' yard staked out, in accordance with the plan approved of; and the foundations will be dug to-morrow, weather permitting.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 3, 1848.*

WITH reference to your remarks respecting the death of Susan M'Clafferty, I am to state, the Commissioners have received no information respecting her case, except that which is contained in your report.

The Commissioners are desirous of knowing whether the verdict of the jury attributed blame to any party; they also wish to be informed at what time the woman was admitted into the workhouse, and how long she was kept waiting to be inspected by the medical officer, and *where* she was kept waiting. The Commissioners request that you will supply this information, and that you will also be so good as to obtain and forward a copy of the verdict, and of the evidence given before the jury.

The Commissioners see no objection to your preparing a hand-bill as you suggest, but as you wish the previous sanction of the Commissioners, they request you will forward the draft to them in the first instance.

MR. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 7, 1848.*

IN compliance with your request I now transmit a copy of the evidence, and of the verdict given at the inquest on the body of Susan M'Clafferty.

You will observe the jury did not attach blame in their verdict to any party, but one of the jurymen, who bore the *same name* as the man who brought the poor woman to the workhouse, said to his brother jurymen in my hearing, that if blame was attachable to any one it was attachable to the master for not *instantly* taking the woman into the house.

About three quarters of an hour elapsed between the time of the woman's arrival and her admission into the house. M'Gettigan sat her down at the door of the workhouse, and there she remained, among some straw, until the arrival of the medical officer. The master detained M'Gettigan until the poor woman was received into the house.

ENCLOSURE.

County of Donegal, division of Kilmacrenan, to wit. I behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, touching the death of Susan M'Clafferty at the Milford Union workhouse, known as the workhouse in the townland of Glenkeen, parish of Tullyaughnish, barony of Kilmacrenan, and county of Donegal, on Saturday the twenty-ninth day of January, in the eleventh year of the reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria, before Charles H. Swiney, gentleman, one of the coroners for said county, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said Susan M'Clafferty, then and there lying dead.

Names of the Jury.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Robert Young, Foreman. | 7. James Malseed. |
| 2. Collin Reid. | 8. Mathew Baxter. |
| 3. William Young. | 9. George Allen. |
| 4. William Patterson. | 10. William Buchanan. |
| 5. Samuel Rodgers. | 11. Francis Graham. |
| 6. Philip M'Gettigan. | 12. Robert M'Nutt. |

Milford Union.

Samuel Watters, carpenter, sworn.—I was at Milford workhouse on Wednesday last; a young man, called M'Gettigan, came to the workhouse and stated to me that he had a woman, called M'Clafferty, on his car, and wanted to get her admitted into the poorhouse; M'Gettigan said the woman was sick, and had been sick in his house for eight days; I did not see the woman on the car, but heard her moan; Mr. Colhoun, the clerk to the Guardians, told M'Gettigan in my presence that if he left the woman on the workhouse ground the police would arrest him; Mr. Colhoun warned M'Gettigan that by leaving the woman there her life would be endangered; M'Gettigan said he did not care, that his native place was Conlin, and again said that he did not care.

(Signed) SAMUEL WATTERS.

Thomas Allcorn, master of Union workhouse, sworn.—On Wednesday evening last a man, called Charles M'Gettigan, brought a woman in a creel, on a slip car, to the workhouse door, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon; said that he wanted to get her into the house; did not tell me her name; I said I could not possibly admit her, as I had positive instructions from Mr. Otway not to admit people or persons having fever, lest they should bring infection into the house; I thought the woman had fever, I asked M'Gettigan and he thought so also; I then sent to Dr. Molloy, who came up to the workhouse immediately, and desired me to put the woman into the probationary ward; the doctor said he thought it was not fever; this was about 4 o'clock, and she was immediately admitted, and died about 4 o'clock the following morning; the body of which the jury have had a view, and which at present lies in the *dead-house*, is the body of the woman who I admitted on Wednesday, and who was brought here in a creel by Charles M'Gettigan; M'Gettigan told me that the deceased had been ill in his house for eight days, that he sent for the priest, and the priest said the poorhouse was the proper place for her; the deceased had straw round her in the creel; I saw no blankets, and she was poorly clothed; I understood Mr. Otway to mean that I should not admit any one in fever while the fever hospital and sheds were full.

(Signed) THOMAS ALLCORN.

Benjamin Johnston, surgeon, sworn.—I have examined the body of a female at present lying dead in the *dead-house* of this workhouse; after a careful examination I have no hesitation in stating that the immediate cause of that woman's death was exposure to the combined effects of both cold and hunger; I should suppose the deceased might be something more than 70 years of age, and I have seldom found the body of any old person so free from all traces of organic disease; I found preternatural congestion of the liver and lungs, and the larger vessels, from which I think that cold and hunger must have been the cause of death, the stomach and the large and small intestines being perfectly empty. In answer to the question of a juror, Dr. Johnston said,—I could not from the examination I made take upon me to say whether or not the deceased at the time of her death had been suffering from fever.

BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, M.B., F.R.C.S.I., &c.

William H. Molloy, M.D., sworn.—I am medical officer of Milford Union workhouse; I recollect being sent for about half-past 4 o'clock on the evening of the 26th of January by the master of the workhouse, who stated in a note to me that a woman had been left in what he thought a dying state on the workhouse grounds; I attended immediately, and found a woman lying in a litter of straw and in a dying state; it could not have been more than an hour from the time of my leaving the workhouse until I again reached it in compliance with the request of the master; when I first left the house the woman had not arrived; I said to the master, that as the hospitals were full a fire must immediately be put into one of the probationary wards, and the woman immediately put into a warm bed with blankets; she was perfectly pulseless, and very cold; I have seen the body at present lying in the *dead-house*, it is the body of the woman admitted by my orders on the 26th; the deceased at the time of her admission could speak very indistinctly; she said milk, and some was given to her, which she could scarcely swallow; I saw the man who brought deceased to the workhouse, he called himself Charles M'Gettigan, but afterwards said his father's name was Charles M'Gettigan, and that he lived in Glenvara; I told him he ought not to have brought the woman here, that he ought to have gone to a relieving officer; he said that the Rev. Mr. Macneely told him that the poorhouse was the proper place for her; I was present while Dr. Johnston conducted the *post mortem* examination; I have heard Dr. Johnston's evidence read, and I perfectly concur with his opinion as to the cause of the death of the deceased; the symptoms after death, combined with the appearances which I observed before death, are so conclusive, that I have no doubt as to the correctness of Dr. Johnston's opinion.

(Signed) W. H. MOLLOY, M.D.

Mary Begley, pauper, sworn.—I recollect Wednesday last, a woman called Susan M'Clafferty was admitted to the workhouse; she was very weak, unable to walk or stir; I tried three or four times if she could make an answer, and she could not speak; deceased drank some sweet milk; she took some medicine and some sweet milk during the night, and she died about 4 o'clock on Thursday morning; the deceased was well taken care of since she came into the house; there could be no better care taken of a woman.

her
 MARY × BEGLEY.
 mark.

We find that on Thursday, the 27th day of January last, the deceased, Susan M'Clafferty, died at Milford Union workhouse, in the parish aforesaid, barony of Kilmacrenan, and county of Donegal, from the effect of exposure to extreme cold and hunger; and we further find

that Charles M'Gettigan did not think that by removing the deceased he was accessory to her death.

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Signatures of the Jury.

1. Robert Young. (Seal.)	7. Samuel Rodgers. (Seal.)
2. Collin Reid. (Seal.)	8. James Malseed. (Seal.)
3. William Young. (Seal.)	9. William Patterson. (Seal.)
4. George Allen. (Seal.)	10. Francis Graham. (Seal.)
5. Mathew Baxter. (Seal.)	11. Wm. Buchanan. (Seal.)
6. Robert M'Nutt. (Seal.)	12. Philip M'Gettigan. (Seal.)

All the above informations were severally taken and acknowledged the day, year, and place, first above mentioned, before

CHAS. H. SWINEY, *Coroner.* (Seal.)

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 7, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, and beg to submit the following report of the proceedings thereat:—

The relieving officers' Application and Report Books were examined, and all the new cases upon them were adjudicated upon. The total number of cases approved of now amounts to 553, comprising 1091 souls eligible to and receiving out-door relief.

The workhouse now contains 405 inmates, but some of these are to be discharged to-morrow to receive out-door relief.

The Board of Guardians appeared to be keenly alive to the expediency of keeping the workhouse as a test for able-bodied applicants for relief, and scrupulously examined the register, with a view to discharging all paupers to whom out-door relief can be legally afforded.

In some of the electorates temporary employment, at a fair rate of wages in reclaiming waste land, and in trenching, draining, and fencing land, which has already been to a certain extent reclaimed, can be obtained by really able-bodied labourers.

The rate collectors' returns were examined, and from them it appeared that the collectors had been tolerably active during the past week; and I shall adopt every means in my power to compel the speedy collection of the amount of rate remaining yet unpaid.

After the transaction of the ordinary routine business, the Board investigated some charges involving neglect and violation of duties on the part of the porter, and determined on dismissing him from his office, and he was accordingly ordered to leave the workhouse to-morrow.

I have had my eye on that officer for some time past, and told the Guardians that unless they dismissed him I should be obliged to report to your Board, in such a way as would, without doubt, induce you to remove him from his situation.

Besides leaving his post and quitting the workhouse on various occasions without applying or giving notice to the master, he was suspected, I fear with too much justice, of introducing into the house a woman named Jenny Starrit, a thief and a prostitute, with whom he carried on an intrigue; so far had this suspicion gone, that I found on inquiry that it was openly talked of among the paupers. The woman alluded to was found concealed under the Board-room stairs by the master, on Thursday evening, the 3rd of February, and the porter could not account for her being there. The master took her before Mr. Law, J.P., but as she had no property belonging to the Union in her possession, Mr. Law discharged her from custody.

Herewith I transmit a copy of the hand-bill which, at the request of the Guardians, I prepared for circulation in the Union, in order that no persons might plead ignorance hereafter of the proper course to be pursued by applicants for relief, or for medical assistance, &c., under the provisions of the Relief Extension Act.

ENCLOSURE.

Milford Union.—Notice.

WHEREAS the hospital and the fever sheds at the Milford workhouse are at present fully occupied and cannot contain any new cases, except those casually occurring in the workhouse, the Board of Guardians have instructed the master to admit no pauper into the workhouse who may be labouring under fever or infectious disease; and they therefore hereby

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give notice, that unauthorized persons conveying paupers labouring under fever or infectious disease to the workhouse with a view of getting rid of them, and procuring admission for them must

into the workhouse, ~~will~~ be held responsible for any evil consequences which may result to the sick paupers thus recklessly and inhumanly removed by them from temporary shelter.

Persons harbouring paupers who may afterwards fall sick on their hands, or destitute persons who may be taken ill at their own houses, should apply to the relieving officer in their district, upon whom the responsibility of attending to such cases properly devolves.

And further, Whereas numerous applicants for relief present themselves at the workhouse (to the great obstruction of business) on the ordinary days of the meetings of the Board of Guardians without having first applied to the relieving officers in their respective districts, the Board hereby give notice that all applications for relief must, in the first instance, be made to the relieving officers, who will, on the first Board day after the reception of such applications, report upon them to the Board of Guardians, by whom orders having relation to the merits of each case will be issued to the relieving officers.

sudden and urgent necessity

In cases of ~~extreme emergency involving the preservation of life~~ the relieving officers are empowered to act on their own responsibility until the first day of the meeting of the Board of Guardians following immediately thereupon.

By Order of the Board of Guardians of the Milford Union.

Clerk to the Union.

Date, &c.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 10, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners approve of the proposed hand-bill, subject to the few alterations made thereon in red ink.

The draft of the hand-bill is herewith returned to you.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 14, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day.

There was a tolerable attendance of Guardians; and I am glad to be able to report that the *ex-officio* and influential members of the Board continue to set a good example in the way of patience and of devotion to business to the elective members.

The routine business was regularly and carefully gone into and a number of new cases on the Application and Report Books of the relieving officers were disposed of, generally in favour of the applicants for relief; but where just and reasonable grounds were shown for withholding relief, the Board very properly refused to extend it.

On the previous Board day some able-bodied paupers were discharged with their families from the workhouse, and instructed to apply to certain parties in their districts who are in want of labourers to trench and reclaim land—work at which an able-bodied man can earn 1s. per diem. Three or four of the able-bodied paupers so discharged applied to-day for re-admission to the workhouse, on the ground that they could not earn more than 4d. a-day at the work offered them; but the fact is, they did not even for a single day attempt to see what they could fairly earn at the work, and for this reason the Board of Guardians refused to entertain their applications. From all the inquiries I have made, I have no hesitation in saying that a man who *will* work can earn 1s. a-day at the employment before mentioned.

The rate collectors are proceeding vigorously, and nearly one-half of the present rate has been lodged with the treasurer to the Union. In the course of last week they collected 460l.

The auditor, Mr. Braddell, attended at the workhouse on Friday and Saturday last, to audit the accounts for the half years ending March 25th and September 29th, 1847, and by his sanction (and indeed at his suggestion) I brought his notes, remarks, and observations, as entered by him on the several Union books, under the notice of the Board to-day, and got them to pass resolutions which will have the effect of giving the lately appointed clerk to the Union and the master a fair start in their respective situations.

I was with Mr. Braddell at the workhouse till a late hour on Saturday last; and after he had concluded his business he expressed his opinion to me that both the clerk and master had during his audit displayed sufficient intelligence to satisfy him that, with ordinary attention and energy, they might shortly prove valuable and efficient officers.

With reference to the resolutions (which will appear in the minutes of to-day) requiring Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Murray to furnish to the Board on this day fortnight stamp receipts for the payments taken credit for, I have to report that Mr. Crosbie at once undertook to produce them by the time mentioned, and to be at the cost of the stamps himself. With regard to Mr. Murray, he was only acting clerk when the alleged payments were made, and I therefore must doubt whether the Board have any hold over him; but there is no suspicion of peculation against him, and I doubt not the parties to whom the payments were made will give receipts for them on stamped paper, provided the Board of Guardians furnish it to them.

I brought before the Board the expediency, and indeed the necessity, of calling upon the Finance Committee of their number to devote for the future more time and attention to all the monetary matters of the Union; and also suggested to them the propriety of either appointing a new Visiting Committee, or of stimulating the present one to a more active and zealous discharge of the powers confided to them.

The contractor for the new fever hospital and for the sheds in the girls' yard has commenced both these works; and I think it would be well if the Board of Guardians were to appoint, subject to your approval, an overseer of works.

The contractor stands high as a man of integrity and honesty of purpose, but he is not always on the spot, and it would therefore be politic to have some trustworthy and paid officer to overlook the workmen employed by Mr. Henderson.

I inspected the workhouse this morning before the meeting of the Board, and found it in a more cleanly state and better regulated in all matters relating to discipline and classification than it has been hitherto.

The decided step taken by the Board of Guardians last Monday, with regard to the late porter, has not been without its good effect, in showing the other officers of the house what they may expect if guilty of any neglect or dereliction of duty.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 19, 1848.*

THE Commissioners concur with you as to the importance of appointing a Finance Committee, and of stimulating the Visiting Committee to an active and zealous discharge of the powers confided to them; and they request you will be so good as to state whether the Board took any steps in accordance with your suggestion on this head, and if they did not, that you will bring the matter again before them.

The Commissioners also desire to observe, that your suggestion for the appointment of an overseer of the works at the new fever hospital and sheds appears judicious; but before addressing the Guardians on the subject the Commissioners will consult their architect.

MR. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 21, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day, and have the honour to submit the following report of the proceedings thereat:—

The Board transacted regularly and efficiently all routine business connected with in-door and out-door relief, and immediately thereafter proceeded to the discussion and settlement of several extraordinary points relative to the internal economy of the workhouse, and to the statistical and financial details of relief afforded outside the house.

I had discovered that one of the pass or master keys belonging to the workhouse had disappeared, and as it was impossible to find out into whose possession it might have fallen, or to be at all certain that *fac similes* might not have been made from it, I thought it necessary to insist upon either an entire new set of locks and keys being procured for the workhouse, or that the wards of the present locks and keys should be so altered as to make the missing master-key or keys unavailable either to paupers or officers in the house.

The Board were disposed to think that new locks for the outside gates of the workhouse would be sufficient; but on my explaining to them that proper classification with regard to the different sexes and ages of the inmates could not be

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ensured without the alteration of every lock within the house, the Board (as you will see by the minutes) adopted measures to have the evil apprehended properly guarded against.

Unless all possible precautions are used to render the workhouse truly a place wherein labour is to be exacted for the relief given, and to prevent its being converted into a place of idleness and indulgence, the able-bodied labouring classes will be but too well pleased to pass their time within it till harvest comes round again.

To prove this and the disinclination of the paupers to perform work, I need only mention the following fact:—

On Thursday last I found it necessary to make the master of the workhouse bring before the magistrates at the Petty Sessions of Milford, a pauper who had since left, and refused to fulfil the work allotted him. He was sentenced to a month's imprisonment, *with hard labour*, in Lifford gaol, and on the following morning (Friday), his punishment being made known to the paupers in the workhouse, several able-bodied paupers *discharged themselves* and families from it.

The Board of Guardians were apprised of this fact to-day, and are now determined to see that the work test is in future put stringently into operation in the case of able-bodied inmates of the house.

With reference to your letter relative to the sum due by the Milford Union to the audit fund, I have to report that a cheque for the money (6*l.* 10*s.*) was signed this day.

The rate-collectors continue to display activity in the collection of the rate, and I trust that nearly the whole of it will be lodged with the treasurer to the Union by the middle of next month.

Before adjourning to Thursday next, the Board of Guardians proceeded to the election of a porter in the room of Samuel Ellison, dismissed. Their choice fell on David Stewart, and I am of opinion they selected the most competent candidate from among those who presented themselves.

The objects of the adjourned meeting are two-fold: first, a revision of the relief register with a view to the discharge of all inmates of the workhouse eligible to out-door relief; secondly, the revision and amendment of the inventory of clothing, furniture, and stock in the house.

The Visiting and Finance Committees have promised to attend and lend every assistance in their power for the furtherance of these desirable objects.

I have instructed the master to have all the parties whom he considers fitting objects for out-door relief placed according to their sexes in the probationary wards to-morrow morning, and the medical officer is to inspect the cases and report on them for the guidance of the Board on Thursday next.

With reference to your letter, dated Dublin, February 19, 1848, I beg to inform you that the Board of Guardians have requested the Visiting and Finance Committees to be as zealous as possible in the discharge of their functions; and should both or either of them appear to me to act supinely for the future, I will not fail to report accordingly to your Board.

With regard to the appointment of an overseer to watch the progress and efficiency of the workmen employed in the erection of the new fever hospital, the Board of Guardians seemed to think that such an appointment rested entirely with your Board; but they will be glad to nominate a person to it, subject to your approval.

It having appeared that a space of 13 feet 8 inches would be left between the gable of the dormitory shed in progress of erection in the girls' yard and the probationary ward wall, the Board thought it advisable (and I entirely concur with them) to have the shed *extended* to the wall of the female probationary ward, and accepted of the architect's offer to complete the additional work at the same rate per foot as that already contracted for by him.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 25, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have drawn the attention of their architect to that part of your report which relates to the appointment of an overseer of works and the enlargement of the sheds in the girls' yard.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 28, 1848.*

Millford Union.

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day. There was a thin attendance of Guardians, but all the necessary business, including that which was left undone on Thursday last, in consequence of there not being a quorum of Guardians present at the workhouse on that day, was satisfactorily transacted.

The rate collectors having collected only 194*l.* and odd shillings during the last week, I got the Board to summon them to attend on next Board-day with their books, and lists of the principal defaulters, in order that summary proceedings may be taken to enforce payment of the rate from those parties. The whole rate amounts to a sum of 3180*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, of which 1965*l.* 0*s.* 5½*d.* has been collected, leaving a balance still due of 1215*l.* 16*s.* 0½*d.*

You will observe by the minutes of to-day's proceedings that certain resolutions were passed relative to the absence of vouchers for alleged payments of various sums in the half-years ended March 5th and September 29th, 1847. There is every reason to believe that the payments were actually made, as the parties to whom they were alleged to have been paid make no claim in respect of them. Financial accuracy appears to have been totally neglected prior to my coming into the Union; there was no Guard Book, and receipts, invoices, and vouchers, were tossed about on the table of the Board-room, or thrust into drawers and presses without any regard being had to arrangement. In this way many vouchers have been mislaid or destroyed; but *fortunately* there does not appear to have been any embezzlement or malappropriation of the moneys of the Union. A great deal of this irregularity is to be attributed to the dissensions which unhappily prevailed among the Guardians during the period in which it occurred, and to the change of officers consequent upon them; I firmly believe, however, that no loss will accrue to the Union, and I have taken care that the present clerk shall have all vouchers properly arranged, and posted in the Guard Book from the date of his appointment.

I brought under the notice of the Guardians the circular relating to *cooked food*, and impressed upon them the expediency of adopting that mode of affording out-door relief to the destitute. They promised to give the subject their best consideration when there should be a better attendance of Guardians than there was to-day.

I also called the attention of the Board to Circular No. 186, *Miscellaneous*. I had previously to receiving it suggested to the Board the course recommended in it; and had even advised them to carry the *placarding system* into Scotland and America.

Numerous heads of families have during the past year gone to Scotland and America, leaving their families and dependents chargeable to the Union, and I certainly am of opinion that were lists of such parties made out, describing their persons, stating the name of the Union, electoral division, and townland from which they had emigrated, accompanied by a statement in each case of the families and dependents left behind to be supported at the expense of the Union; and that were these lists to be extensively placarded in Scotland, America, and elsewhere, much good would result therefrom. Such emigrants might probably be shamed into sending for their families as soon as they possibly could, without taking their own time, and exactly suiting their own convenience and inclination. They would at any rate, in numerous instances, be debarred from forming *fresh* social ties in the country of their adoption. The lists I mention might be sent to the Roman Catholic clergy in America as well as to other parties there.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 28, 1848.*

WITH reference to your communication relative to the renewal of the extended order authorizing out-door relief to certain classes not coming within the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and which order will expire on the 8th proximo, I have the honour to report that it will be advisable to renew the said order for a further period of two months.

If the order could be so modified as to embrace women *past* 50 years old, who have one or more *illegitimate* children under age, dependent upon them, and also children whose mothers are dead, and whose fathers have not been

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heard of for the last 12 months, considerable pressure would be taken off the workhouse. The cost of supporting such paupers in the workhouse is treble, or more than treble, that which would have to be incurred in affording them out-door relief.

I have considerable hopes that out-door relief to the able-bodied classes may be avoided in this Union for a very considerable time to come, if the Guardians continue to act energetically. Field labour is commenced, and many works of private enterprize, assisted by loans made by Government, are being proceeded with.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that they have given directions for the renewal of the order, and also for including in it the first class suggested by you, viz., women past 50 years old who have one or more illegitimate children under age, dependent upon them, but that they do not think it would on the whole be expedient to add the second class proposed by you.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 6, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Milford Board of Guardians to-day, and beg to report that there was a full attendance of Guardians, and that the routine and other necessary business which had to be transacted, was gone into in a careful and efficient manner.

The Milford Board of Guardians are now zealous and attentive in discharging their onerous duties, and appear anxious that the existing laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland should not be condemned as inefficient or impracticable until they have been submitted to the tests of time, experience, and judicious administration, both of their letter and spirit.

The rate-collectors were in attendance to-day, and instructions were given to them to proceed more vigorously with the collection of the rate. They severally stated that they had promises of payment by numerous parties in the course of the current week, and expected to be able to lodge a considerable sum with the treasurer on or before Saturday next.

The internal condition of the workhouse is much improved, and the master is more vigilant and more efficient in the way of insisting on the performance of task-work by the able-bodied inmates than he formerly was. The inmates now find that the workhouse is not a place of indulgence, affording comfortable winter quarters, and are glad to embrace any opportunity of procuring work at reasonable wages outside. If the weather improves, the sheds in the girls' school-yard will shortly be completed, and then I think all danger of a pressure on the workhouse by alleged able-bodied paupers will be removed.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians to-day. The meeting was not a numerous one, in consequence of the necessary absence of several Guardians, who were obliged to attend the assizes at Lifford.

All routine business was satisfactorily disposed of, and there was no other business of much importance brought under the notice of the Board.

The rate-collectors were in attendance, with lists of persons who have not yet paid the present rate, and the Guardians having gone over these lists, instructed the collectors to put the law immediately into force against the most prominent defaulters.

The rate collectors pointed out to the Guardians a few cases in which trustees on the estates of minors, and receivers on estates under chancery, had refused to pay the rate, and I write by to-night's post, to those trustees and receivers under the Court of Chancery, to state, that in the event of their not forthwith paying to the collectors the amount due, I shall, at the request of the Board of Guardians, apply for the sanction of your Board for taking proceedings for the recovery of it in the superior Courts.

Mr. HORSLEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 27, 1848.*

Milford Union.

I ATTENDED the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, when the result of the annual election of Guardians was declared, and it showed that with a few exceptions, the Guardians of the last year were re-elected for the current one. The chairman, vice-chairman, and deputy vice-chairman of the Union were also re-elected to office for this year.

After the ordinary business had been transacted, a long discussion with regard to the expediency of out-door relief being given henceforth in oaten instead of Indian meal took place; and eventually a majority of the Board carried the question in favour of oaten meal; and further resolved, that in consideration of that description of food being more costly and more nutritive than Indian meal, the following comparative scale in substituting one kind of food for the other should be adopted :—

	Indian meal.		Oaten meal.
Instead of	5 lbs.	.	4½ lbs.
	7 "	.	6 "
	10 "	.	9 "
	15 "	.	13½ "
	20 "	.	18 "

The arguments made use of by the majority of the Board to bring about the above alteration in the out-door relief dietary were not, in my humble opinion, such as ought to have legitimately weighed with a Board of Guardians, whose duty it is to provide for the sufficient maintenance of the destitute persons within the Union at the least possible expense to the ratepayers.

The majority of the Board argued that as the landowners and farmers had to bear the largest share of the taxation necessary for the support of the poor, it was only fair that the Guardians, when providing food for the poor, should give a preference to the home over the foreign market; and further, that it was highly desirable to raise, in every possible way, the price of home produce, in order to enable the landowners and farmers to meet the steadily increasing demands on their means for the support of the poor.

Now, putting this view of a question purely of political economy out of sight, without any reference to its truth or fallacy, I much fear that whatever good its adoption might effect in the way of putting money into the pockets of the ratepayers, would be more than counterbalanced by its unfair operation against the stomachs of the starving and helpless poor. For, in order to escape from the charge of extravagant expenditure in supporting the poor, the Guardians (as you will observe by their adopted scale) assume that because a pound of oaten meal is dearer than a pound of Indian meal, that therefore there must be an equivalent difference in the amount of nourishment afforded from a pound of oaten meal to balance its excess of price over a pound of Indian meal. But it is the opinion of many competent judges and of many medical authorities, that a pound of Indian meal, properly cooked, will yield as much nourishment to the consumer as a pound of oaten meal; and I know that many paupers would as soon have Indian as oaten meal for food, supposing them to be offered equal quantities of either kind; and none who are truly near the starving point would hesitate to prefer the increased bulk of food which Indian meal affords over oaten meal, for the same amount of money.

I have thought it only right to give you my opinion on the subject, because, although the Milford Board of Guardians have hitherto exercised great judgment and economy in giving to destitute persons a sufficient measure of relief merely according to the merits of each individual case, I am persuaded that any attempts at increased economy in this way would not only be merciless towards the poor, but would be fraught with danger to their health and lives.

I should be extremely sorry to interfere with the discretionary powers of the Board of Guardians; but they (the Guardians) do appear to me to step a little out of their province, when they avowedly express their determination to feed the paupers receiving relief, in and out of the workhouse, in such a manner as shall, if possible, have the effect of creating a market for and raising the prices of home produced provisions.

With reference to the clandestine introduction of spirituous liquors by paupers into the Milford workhouse, mentioned by me in my last report, I have the honour to report that the Board of Guardians have decided upon going fully into the case

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on Monday next; and I will in the mean time summon all parties from whom evidence is likely to be obtained to appear before me in the Board-room upon that day.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April* 10, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the statement contained in your report of the 26th ult., that the Board of Guardians have determined to give out-door relief in oaten meal instead of Indian as they have hitherto done, and that in consequence of the oaten meal being more costly and more nutritious than Indian meal, they have determined to reduce the scale of ration hitherto adopted.

In reference thereto I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they have communicated with the Board of Health on the subject of the change in the out-door relief allowances, and that Board has expressed an opinion that oatmeal is *not* more nutritious than Indian meal, and that there should not therefore be any reduction in quantity where oatmeal is substituted for Indian meal.

The Commissioners request that you will bring this subject again under the notice of the Board of Guardians, and impress upon them the necessity of acting in accordance with the views of the Board of Health in this respect.

GRANARD UNION.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 24, 1848.*

1. We have this day been enabled to increase the accommodation of the workhouse to a considerable degree, by the conversion into dormitories of two apartments, and two sheds that have heretofore been unused for any purpose.

2. We trust before very long that we shall probably be in a position to obviate all necessity for out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Act at all, and in furtherance of this object we beg to request your sanction, at as early a day as you can furnish us with it, for the immediate erection of sleeping galleries in the three dormitories to which they have not been as yet added, one had been got up prior to our coming here.

3. With reference to a still further increase in the house accommodation, we would suggest that not only should the project of the late Board for raising the idiot wards be at once persevered in, but that you should also consider the propriety of either adding one wing, capable of holding 100 persons, to *each* end of the main building, or if you prefer a structure of a more economical nature, of erecting slated sheds along the walls of the male and female yards. The badness of these walls, and the consequent improbability of their being able to bear any great weight upon them, as well as the altered circumstances of the country with regard to the extent of destitution, we consider a fair argument in favour of the former of the two propositions. We shall be anxious to receive your decision upon this very important subject.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 7, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that they have communicated with their architect on the subject, and I am to request that you will specify the two apartments and two sheds heretofore unused, which you propose to convert into dormitories.

In regard to the erection of sleeping galleries in the three dormitories to which they have not yet been added, the architect thinks that it would not be advisable to erect sleeping galleries at present, considering the approach of warmer weather, and the necessity for corresponding day-rooms which would be requisite if the sleeping accommodation be increased.

With regard to raising the idiot wards, I am to enclose herewith plans for that purpose, and am to request that the Vice-Guardians will take the necessary steps for carrying out this desirable addition to the workhouse accommodation.

In regard to the proposition for the erection of wings for 200 more persons, or of sheds along the walls of the male and female yards, the architect states that permanent additions (which alone are desirable for this purpose) to accommodate 200 persons would cost about 1000*l.*; and the funds for the purpose should be provided in the first instance. He at the same time intimates that the yard walls are not adapted to be used for the purposes suggested.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners recommend that you should hire a detached building if it can be found in any part of the Union, for the purpose of procuring additional workhouse accommodation, without the delay necessarily incurred in the erection of any new building.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 26, 1848.*

As we have every reason to believe that much gross imposition has been practised in this Union in the admission of able-bodied persons in actual employment upon the out-door relief lists, and the arrangements are not yet perfected for putting to them the work test, we have to request your sanction to our offering the house test to the heads of families, and relieving those dependent on them outside.

As a general principle we do not advocate the adoption of this course, and under the present circumstances of this Union we consider it the only safeguard

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we can with confidence look to, and we have no doubt of its working well in the removal of abuses.

We shall of course not continue a practice in many respects so open to objection, one hour longer than we find it necessary.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 3, 1848.*

I AM to state that the course proposed is one which you can legally take, and the question is one of expediency.

The Commissioners have no objection to leave the matter in your hands to try the experiment, if you feel satisfied that in present circumstances it would be attended with good results. Great care, however, must be taken to give due relief to the families not admitted into the workhouse, while the able-bodied men are relieved in that establishment; inasmuch as if they should be exposed to unnecessary privations, the Vice-Guardians will incur much blame.

Captain LANG to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

WITHIN the last few days the able-bodied paupers in the workhouse of this Union have been employed in cleaning up the several yards, gathering the stones off the ground belonging to the workhouse, and in breaking them as small as possible for the purpose of gravelling the yards, &c., which had never been properly done or finished. On a minute inspection of the premises I found the sewerage very defective, and many of the principal sewers stopped by an accumulation of filth; they were originally badly constructed, neither wide enough, nor with sufficient fall to carry off the water from either the kitchen or the wash-house. I have directed the master to employ a portion of the able-bodied paupers in having the sewers opened, that they may be thoroughly cleaned out, and these defects remedied. The fireplaces are all too small for the size of the rooms, and constructed on the very worst principles for economy of fuel and giving out heat; it will be necessary to have them all re-set, and to adopt the use of the low American or cottage grates, which are much less expensive than those in use, and much more advantageous in every respect.

The pumps are all unserviceable and out of order. I have directed the contractor to be written to, that if he does not take immediate steps to have them repaired and made serviceable, I shall have the work done by some other tradesman, and the cost stopped out of his contract.

The clothing and bedding of the paupers I found very deficient, and in a bad state. I have directed the master and matron to make out lists of the stock on hand of the several articles, distinguishing such as are unserviceable, that on inspection they may be cast, and the deficiency supplied.

We have advertised for a tailor and a shoemaker to instruct some of the boys above 15 in these trades, so that in future the shoes and clothing may be made in the establishment, while it will place so many in a position to earn their own bread on leaving the house.

I have to report a visible improvement in the cleanliness and regularity of the workhouse.

I hope soon to get rid of many of the contracts entered into by the late Board of Guardians, which were made on very unfavourable and, indeed, exorbitant terms. As soon as we can establish a bakery in the workhouse we shall get rid of the bread contract, which was the worst of all. I shall continue to give my earnest attention, and direct that of the Vice-Guardians to these most necessary reforms.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 10, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that they have communicated with their architect respecting the sewers of the workhouse of the Granard Union, and he suggests that some of the drains must require cleansing; he states that there is a plan of the drains at the workhouse, and that there is not any great extent of under-ground drains.

With regard to covering the yards with broken stones or gravel, the architect suggests that the present surface of the yards should be lowered in any place

where the additional gravel may raise the outer surface of the ground higher than the inner floors of the workhouse; he also suggests that the labour of the paupers might be advantageously employed in getting the yards, roads, and site of their workhouse in good order.

Captain LANG to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 29, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians appear to anticipate considerable difficulty in successfully grappling with the entangled state of the affairs of this Union, and in bringing up the arrears of business into which the books and accounts have been suffered to fall, whether through the negligence and inattention of the late Board of Guardians, or the untoward circumstances in which the clerk was placed.

They have expressed their wish that an application should be made to your office for the assistance of a clerk conversant with the machinery of workhouse accounts.

As a preliminary step to a right understanding of the financial state of the Union, I have advised them to call in (by a public advertisement) all outstanding claims against the late Board and the workhouse, to be accompanied by the necessary vouchers, and then to institute a searching scrutiny into the items of each account, balancing them against whatever sums may appear to have been paid on account at any period, and to have the whole of these demands before them in a tangible shape, previous to signing a cheque for the full payment of any particular one.

With such implements as we could obtain, we have this day set the able-bodied on the relief lists of the Granard electoral division to work upon the ground belonging to the house.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 1, 1848.*

ADVERTING to the application of the Vice-Guardians of Granard Union, for the assistance from this office of a clerk conversant with the machinery of workhouse accounts, I am to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter this day addressed to the Vice-Guardians on the subject.

Your letter to the chairman of Board of Works was forwarded to him, and the Commissioners have themselves addressed the Board of Works on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*March 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, conveying the request of the Vice-Guardians of Granard Union, for the assistance of some gentleman out of this office for a few weeks to aid in the regulation of the accounts of the Union; and in reply I am to state that in the present great pressure of business in this office, the Commissioners are unable to spare any of their officers, and regret that they are therefore unable to comply with the request of the Vice-Guardians.

The Commissioners, however, request that every exertion may be made to have the accounts and arrears made up without delay, and that any assistance which may be necessary should, if practicable, be procured for the purpose.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 2, 1848.*

1. WE have the honour to report that since the 24th ultimo, we have been closely engaged in revising the books of the several relieving officers.

Taking into account the difficulties we have to contend with, and the absence as yet in the rural districts of any valid test to indicate the destitution of the recipients, we think we are warranted in saying that we have already made some progress towards an improved state of things.

The late system pursued in this Union having been to admit upon the lists almost indiscriminately, all who applied for relief, without in any case allowing nearly enough for the support of life, we have had to entertain and decide every case upon the relieving officers' books separately.

This has involved a considerable loss of our time, but was unavoidable under the circumstances.

The increased scale of rations adopted by us will add materially to the current expenditure of the Union.

Captain Lang, your resident Inspector, is doing all in his power to press for-

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ward his arrangements for the application of the work test to the able-bodied, and we shall be in a position by Monday next to offer house accommodation, which is in our opinion the only indisputable index of destitution, to as many as 140 persons; and should you not disapprove of the course, we mean to confine this to the able-bodied heads of families to whose circumstances the strongest suspicions of imposture attaches.

2. The collectors, with whom we have not as yet been able to have more than one interview, have given us promise of vigorous exertion in getting in the rates. We have required them to attend before us on every Tuesday, and we shall thus be able to exercise over them a strict control.

In one district (Gelshagh) the refusal of the late collector to give up his books has caused considerable delay; we had been obliged to summon him to the Petty Sessions' Court to be held on this day, and he has only this instant attended before us to comply with our demand.

3. An air of bustle and activity has at length begun to exhibit itself amongst the inmates. Several of the defects pointed out in our general report have been remedied, and numbers of boys and men are now daily employed in breaking stones for the yards, and digging up the grounds about the workhouse. For the present we forbear making further allusions to the officers of the house; but it is not improbable that before long we may have to recommend to your consideration the propriety of effecting some alteration in this respect.

4. We beg to acknowledge, in conclusion, our sense of the kindly co-operative disposition exhibited by Captain Lang on every occasion.

There are many salutary reforms in the affairs of this Union which we all feel to be most necessary, but with the generally defective staff we have to rely upon for carrying out our views, it will be a work of some time to effect them.

Captain LANG to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

I HAVE to report that the Vice-Guardians are proceeding zealously and steadily in the operations necessary for bringing the affairs of this Union into a more regular and satisfactory state.

The improvement within the last week in the condition of the workhouse is apparent and progressive, under the watchful inspection of the Guardians and the unremitting attention I have devoted to it.

Printed notices have been made out, fixing the time and places of attendance for the relieving officers in their several districts for receiving applications and distributing relief. Their operations hitherto were conducted without any order or regularity, and they never had enforced the least subordination amongst the paupers crowding round the relief stations. Much disturbance, and in some cases threatened violence to the relieving officers, resulted from their negligence. I have succeeded in suppressing all demonstrations of this nature by threatening to strike off the lists every person concerned in any outrage, or abetting the perpetrators.

I find it will be necessary for me frequently to be present at the issue of rations at the remote relief stations until a more orderly and regular system is established, and narrowly to watch the conduct of the relieving officers, and to support their authority with the paupers.

An address has been printed for distribution to the principal rate-payers and resident gentry, calling upon them to inspect frequently the list of paupers receiving relief, and to afford information to the Vice-Guardians of any imposition attempted or perpetrated.

I have at last received the order from the Board of Works for the implements we required, and a beginning has been made in bringing the labour test into operation, which I hope to be able to extend generally throughout the Union in the course of the ensuing week.

Captain LANG to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 7, 1848.*

WITH reference to your circular, of the 2nd March, I am of opinion that the order for out-door relief to able-bodied men, under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, might be suspended in this district on the 18th

of March. The Vice-Guardians agree with me in this, and by that time we hope to be able to make such arrangements as will allow us to apply the workhouse test in all such cases.

I would be more especially strengthened in this opinion, could we be favoured by a grant of provisions from the British Association, to expend in affording rations to the children of the poor attending the several schools. With this view I wrote to the Count Strzelecki, from whom I received the enclosed courteous reply; and I have to request the favourable consideration of the Commissioners to my application for a grant.

When I was acting as Inspector in the Ballyshannon Union, the Count was pleased to place some grants at my disposal, which I applied in this way with the most gratifying results.

The grants were so well and economically administered, that I was enabled to supply the children at eight or ten schools with sufficient good nourishing food of porridge made of Indian meal and rice, up to the period when the distribution of bread commenced under the inspection of Mr. D'Arcy.

It would afford the Commissioners much gratification to read the numerous letters of thanks I received from the resident clergy and gentlemen interested in the success and prosperity of the several schools, and to have witnessed the improved appearance and health of the poor children. In this district such a measure would be most necessary and beneficial; the hordes of poor children continually to be seen about the roads and streets throughout this Union, surpass in numbers and destitution all I ever observed in any other district I have passed through. We have brought the labour test fully into operation in this immediate vicinity, and have a large number of the able-bodied at work on the ground about the workhouse, which I hope will soon present a more cultivated and pleasing aspect.

I have communicated to Edward Sheridan, the relieving officer of Lough Gowna and Scrabby, the decision of the Commissioners on the investigation into his conduct: and the Vice-Guardians are on the look out for a properly qualified person to fill his situation.

ENCLOSURE.

COUNT STRZELECKI to Captain LANG:—*March 3, 1848.*

I WAS very glad to receive a letter from you, and shall be most happy to comply with your wishes, provided that the Poor Law Commissioners will see the necessity of my interference in your Union. To them you should refer, and represent the extent of the distress, for I am entirely guided by them in the selection of Unions, to which the relief in food to children, granted by the Association, is to be extended.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 7th instant, relating to the suspension of the order for out-door relief to able-bodied men in the Granard Union, and I am to state that under the circumstances, the Commissioners intend not to renew the existing order, which expires on 19th instant, but will issue an order authorizing out-door relief to other classes (except able-bodied men) not relievable out of the workhouse, under section 1 of 10 Vic. cap. 31; such as widows with one child, orphans, and women whose husbands are in confinement or absent from Ireland.

As regards the application for a grant of provisions from the British Association, the Commissioners regret to be unable to comply with your request, inasmuch as the means at the disposal of the British Association are limited, and the Commissioners feel the paramount necessity of economizing those means as far as possible.

The enclosure in your letter is returned herewith, as requested.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

1. SINCE we had the honour of reporting our progress to you on the 2nd instant, we have been unusually occupied by a variety of business, in consequence of which our minutes for this week, and this report will unavoidably arrive at your office a day later than usual.

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2. We have had to entertain for the supply of different articles tenders to a large amount. The minutes will explain what we have done in this respect; in ten instances we have had to reject all the tenders for meal contracts as extravagantly high. The apparent combination of the parties in those particular localities we ascribe to the prevalence of a feeling, that our insolvent condition would force us to accept any terms offered to us.

Our success in last week's collection has, however, enabled us to pay large sums on account to nearly every one to whom we stand indebted; and as our resources are, notwithstanding, far from being exhausted, we have no doubt the result of a second advertisement will be very different.

3. We have heretofore not been in a position to advert at length to the rate collectors; we have this week, however, effected a close examination of their books, and can therefore now speak with some confidence on the subject. The amount lodged last week, 950*l.*, was, we think, satisfactory, all things considered. It was the first week's operations under our immediate surveillance, and two collectors, lately appointed, had not begun to act at all. One of the latter has, we regret to say, since resigned; but notwithstanding this untoward event, we think, judging from what we have seen of the men, that we have a fair prospect of being soon placed in a sufficiently independent position to meet all our liabilities, and command whatever we require at the market prices.

So far we can speak favorably of the aspect of things in this important department; but in all other respects we must add, that nothing can possibly be more disorderly or loose than the manner in which the accounts of the collectors, and everything connected with them have been conducted from the formation of the Union up to this moment.

We felt it necessary to record by resolution in the minutes of this week's proceedings our views on this head; and we here revert to the subject merely to state, that when we couple with the condition of this one branch of the accounts, the fact that three successive half-years have now almost elapsed since the general accounts of the Union were last made up, we cannot conceal our deliberate opinion, that one or other of two things is absolutely necessary, viz., that either an experienced auditor from the office should, as already suggested, come here for a while, and place all the accounts of the Union in a complete state up to this date, or, if this *cannot* be, that a vastly more *efficient* and *energetic* officer than the present clerk be provided. This alternative we put with reluctance. The clerk is a respectable person, and has had some domestic afflictions to excuse a good deal of past neglect; but a sense of duty obliges us to say, that we fear he is now wholly incapable, even with ordinary assistance, of attempting to grapple with the complicated mass of arrear he has suffered to accumulate.

4. The minutes convey the resignations of several of the officers of the Union; this will, we hope, enable us to introduce some more useful persons into our staff than we found on our arrival.

5. Our anticipations of the good effects to be derived from putting the house-test to the heads of families have been fully realised. Several persons, who boldly presented themselves for admission, on finding that, contrary to general belief, we had room for them, returned home again without delay. We regret we cannot apply the test in every instance, as we do not think it is possible without it to defeat the system of imposture so deplorably prevalent.

There is nothing further that requires comment at present from us.

Captain LANG to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March* 11, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that the Vice-Guardians continue their strenuous exertions to bring the affairs of this Union into a more satisfactory state, and I receive from them the most cordial co-operation.

In consequence of the notice for contracts, several have been offered in the course of the week on more advantageous terms than those previously existing; some have been accepted for a limited period, and others deferred for future competition.

The master has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted by the Vice-Guardians, who have advertised for candidates to fill the situation. Edward Sheridan, the relieving officer for Loughowna and Scrabby, has given

in his resignation, as has also Thomas Sheridan, the relieving officer for Granard and Abbeylara.

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There has been a visible improvement in the cleanliness and regularity of the workhouse, and with the efficient assistance of the Vice-Guardians I do not despair of seeing the workhouse and grounds become a model establishment for neatness and order.

The important duty of collecting the rates is progressing in a satisfactory manner, and the lodgments made last week show an increased activity and energy on the part of most of the collectors.

The inclemency of the weather has in some degree retarded the operation of the labour test; but in the course of the ensuing week, I hope to be able to report considerable progress in working out this important duty.

Two of Robinson's steam-cooking apparatus have been ordered, to make a commencement in substituting cooked food for distribution in the division of Granard, in lieu of the present rations issued for out-door relief.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 17, 1848.*

NOTHING has occurred since the 10th instant which peculiarly requires comment from us.

The affairs generally of the Union exhibit, we think, a decidedly improved appearance in almost every department.

We are given to understand that our proceedings have upon the whole met with the approval of the gentlemen connected by property with this district. Some of them have occasionally attended at the Board-room to assist in the transaction of local business. We have endeavoured to promote this practice amongst the rate-payers of every class in the Union, as we feel that the confidence and co-operation of those who possess accurate local information, are of the last importance in enabling us to cope successfully with the difficulties of the present period.

On the other hand we hope we have not failed to secure to the really destitute suitable relief so far as we could acquaint ourselves with their circumstances. We have heard that amongst this class too, a feeling of satisfaction at present arrangements is as general as it could be reasonably expected to be.

In the electoral division of Granard itself, the workhouse grounds have afforded us the means of testing the destitution of all the able-bodied applicants, and the usefulness of it as an index of real want is sufficiently evidenced by the fact, that of the original applicants for relief, those who attended to work were not as numerous as those who declined.

In the rural districts, where the same facility did not offer for putting a similar test, we have required the heads of families to come into the house, sending an order at the same time to the relieving officers to make due provision for their families outside. This system too has exposed a very great amount of imposition; but, when we consider the numbers that have, nevertheless, within the last few days availed themselves of the offer, we are disposed to think that in any restricted order you may continue in operation after the 18th instant it would be well to include the families of all who are so situated. It may be safely assumed that if employment can be had men able to work will not remain in the house. This suggestion, however, we merely offer for your consideration.

The collectors with one or two exceptions are doing their duty very creditably. The lodgment last week, though it fell short of what we reckoned upon, was good, and the magistrates had yesterday before them at petty sessions, we believe over 100 cases for non-payment of rate.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 22, 1848.*

IN reference to your proposition to admit into the workhouse the heads of families, and relieving their wives or children outside the workhouse, I am directed to request that you will bear in mind that under the provisions of section 54 of 1 and 2 Vic. cap. 56, and section 8 of 10 Vic. cap. 31, relief to wives and children under 15 years of age, is relief to their husbands or parents respectively; and if such husbands or parents be not of the class specified in section 1 of 10 Vic. cap. 31, or in the Commissioners' order already issued under section 2, out-door relief cannot legally be given to them.

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The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 24, 1848.*

1. SINCE we had last the honour of reporting to you, your general order limiting the classes entitled to out-door relief has come into operation.

This has lessened considerably the pressure both upon ourselves and the officers of the Union generally, and will afford us more leisure than we have yet enjoyed for effecting some desirable improvements in the condition of the house, as well as for inspecting personally the several relieving officers' districts, &c., which we believe to be a most necessary measure.

2. Our intended plans have to some extent been deranged by our failure on Wednesday to obtain, in several instances, suitable persons to succeed the officers who had resigned; our staff, therefore, continues very imperfect: we have re-advertised, offering an increased rate of salary, and trust this will induce a superior class of persons to offer themselves to us.

Many of those rejected came to us highly recommended, but we did not think we should be warranted in appointing to responsible situations, involving the expenditure of a large amount of the public property, persons who, upon examination, were proved to be incapable of making the simplest arithmetical calculation that could be devised. The minutes will explain the particular cases in which this course has been adopted by us.

3. We perceive by a letter this day received from you, that in one paragraph of our report of the 17th instant, we did not distinctly convey our meaning.

We are aware that under the order now in force in this Union, no out-door relief can be given to the dependents of any class of persons not included therein.

Our suggestion was offered in anticipation of the order itself, and was only intended to bring under your notice the expediency, if it was possible, of making in the order a special exception in favour of families, the heads of which were in the house.

The limited house accommodation at our command, and the great distress we apprehend amongst the classes excluded from your order, would still lead us to think favourably of this arrangement; but of course if it would infringe in any way upon the law, it is unnecessary to entertain it further.

4. We have endeavoured to induce persons relievable under section 1 of the Extension Act, and your orders to leave the house; to the former we have offered relief in money, 1s. per week for the heads of families, and 6d. for the dependents; but even so we have not had much success.

5. The collection of the rate progresses steadily; the average weekly receipts, though not large, are uniform, and on the whole we think far from bad.

6. We have supplied the place of the collector, who resigned, by the appointment of a county-cess collector from another part of the Union; no local person could be relied upon to act in this district. The poundage, 2s., though high, is the same that the late Board allowed; and the division is in every sense so bad, that no competent person would accept less.

7. We have had some correspondence with Mr. Davis, agent for the surrounding property, relative to one or two fields that adjoin the workhouse, and which we think would be a most desirable addition to our present grounds. Mr. Davis will soon visit Granard, and has promised us his co-operation in the matter.

8. Through the medium of the same gentleman we have a prospect of getting a piece of land about a mile from this for a burial ground for the paupers.

9. We have this week been enabled to contract for the supply of meal to all the depôts on advantageous terms, 1l. 5s. per ton less than we were a fortnight since offered by the same parties.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 29, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 24th instant, and in reply I am to state that in the case of any family, the head of which can legally be relieved out of the workhouse, it is in the discretion of the Vice-Guardians to relieve any members of such family either in or out of the workhouse, as they may deem best; due care being taken in case relief be given to members of a family out of the workhouse, while the head of it is relieved in the workhouse, that the relief to the former be sufficient.

As regards the additional ground you propose to take adjoining the workhouse, I am to request that you will inform the Commissioners of the extent of the ground you propose to take, and of the purposes to which you propose to apply it.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 31, 1848.*

1st. We have had to adjourn our Board meeting this week from day to day since Wednesday last, to enable us to scrutinize the several accounts which have been furnished according to our public advertisement calling for them.

Since taking charge of this Union we have paid off debts, some of them very long out-standing, to the amount of 294*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, and with the exception of a few cases in which the accounts were not satisfactorily made out, this sum has discharged nearly all liabilities to the 25th instant.

We shall next week submit for your information a statistical statement exhibiting the financial condition of the Union on our arrival here and at present.

For the five weeks ended the 25th instant, the average amount of our weekly lodgments was 750*l.*, and in forming a judgment of this sum, it is necessary to bear in mind that two districts, for reasons already referred to, have contributed nothing to the amount, and that the rate made by the late Board, though in some instances as high as 3*s.*, varies a good deal in the different divisions and is in some cases only half that.

2nd. We have been able, since our last report, to visit four of the rural districts. In one place (Rathowen) we personally visited the houses of some of the recipients, and what we then witnessed has strengthened our anxiety to devote as much time as our other duties will permit to a periodical inspection of all the districts.

3rd. The pressure upon the house is becoming daily greater. We have made every arrangement consistent with a due regard to the comfort and health of the inmates, that suggested itself to us for making the house accommodation available as far as possible. As yet we have been able to meet the demands upon us, but the agricultural employment of the district is so very limited that we cannot be sure of being many days longer in a position to do this.

4th. With reference to the land alluded to in your letter of the 29th instant, it has appeared to us that the present workhouse ground, not altogether exceeding three acres, does not afford a sufficient field for the employment of the inmates, and we think that if an addition of from five to eight acres could be procured on reasonable terms, it would be of the utmost advantage as affording not only the means for employing the able-bodied paupers generally, but more especially so the growing up boys, whom it would be desirable to prepare for their future pursuits by an instructive system of labour during their residence in the workhouse.

It is not, however, yet certain that the land in question can be had for this purpose; and in any case we shall of course submit all the particulars for your approval before taking any step in the matter.

5th. The two subjects already referred to, viz., the examination of the accounts of the creditors, and the inspection of the rural districts, have engaged so much of our attention that we have had little time at our disposal for any other purpose this week.

Nothing now occurs to us which it is necessary to bring under your notice.

6th. We regret to find that illness will prevent our having the pleasure of meeting Mr. Flanagan for some time: there were many matters of detail on which we should have been glad to have had his advice and opinion.

7th. Things are, upon the whole, progressing in a manner satisfactory to us; we have given our exclusive attention since our arrival to the performance of our duties, and many abuses have, we think, been checked, and many difficulties surmounted by us; but many of both still remain to be grappled with.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 1, 1848.*

In making our weekly report to you yesterday, we stated our belief that we could not much longer receive into the house the numerous applicants for relief.

The unabated pressure which has since then continued, has produced the result somewhat earlier than we then reckoned upon, and we are under the necessity to-day of requesting from you greater powers than we possess under your order of the 18th ultimo.

Men, women, and children, of various ages are hourly thronging round the house in increasing swarms. The fineness of the weather, which obviates the

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necessity for the proper amount of workhouse accommodation, and previous good arrangements, have enabled us to provide temporarily for 920 individuals, but we cannot receive one more.

We have done all we could to remove from the house all persons available under the 1st section, but many of them could not be induced to leave, and we are unwilling to use coercion.

We think that by giving out-door relief to the families of those persons who are not now entitled to out door relief, and receiving the persons themselves into the house, we could accomplish the two objects of giving the necessary extent of relief, and forcing all able to procure employment to do so.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 5, 1848.*

WITH reference to your reports of the 31st ultimo and 18th instant, and the views as expressed in the latter report, to the effect that by granting out-door relief to the families of the able-bodied, and receiving the latter into the workhouse, you could accomplish the two objects of giving the necessary extent of relief and obliging all the able-bodied who could procure employment to do so; I am to state that the Commissioners have addressed Captain Lang, the Union Inspector, upon the subject.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 6, 1848.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 5th instant, referring to our reports of the 31st ultimo and 1st instant, respectively, and stating that you had addressed Captain Lang on the subject of our application, for authority to relieve out of the workhouse the families of such able-bodied persons as we could receive into the workhouse.

Captain Lang has since laid before us the communication above referred to, conveying your concurrence in his view of the inexpediency of adopting our suggestion.

We shall of course devote our best energies to carry out the law in conformity with any instructions we receive from you.

But standing in the position we do of Guardians of the poor, and responsible for their lives, we had no other course open to us, when upon the 1st instant we found the house over-crowded to the extent of 230 individuals beyond the legitimate number, and throngs of wretched objects still calling for relief, than to apply to you for increased powers to enable us to deal with such an emergency as occasion should require.

We have not left one available inch of space idle throughout the whole establishment, and the doctor, with whom we have inspected every apartment, is seriously apprehensive that fever, from which we are now remarkably free, will again break out if the numbers are not reduced. This applies to the dormitories, which we have had thoroughly ventilated. The day-room accommodation is of course deficient to a much greater extent.

The pressure from applicants continues undiminished, and as no additional houses can be hired in the locality, we are wholly unprovided with any means of meeting further demands.

We can truly assure you that since the date of our arrival here, we have laboured without intermission to place the affairs of the Union in a more healthy state than we found them, and we shall be sorry if there is an impression on your minds that we would lightly ask from you powers which we did not absolutely require, or having obtained them, use them without necessity.

We annex a report just received from the medical officer on the state of the house.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. GLEADOWE GRIER to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*April 6, 1848.*

I HAVE examined particularly into the state of the workhouse with regard to its over-crowded state, and am decidedly of opinion unless you immediately diminish the number of paupers in the house at present, there must undoubtedly be an outbreak of fever and other diseases, which will place the lives of the inmates in the greatest danger.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 8, 1848.*

Granard Union.
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I AM to state in reply that on the representation made by you of your difficulties in regard to the amount of workhouse accommodation, the Commissioners are prepared to entertain the propriety of issuing a more extended order than that now in force, under the 2nd section of the Poor Law Extension Act, if the Inspector of the Union, Captain Lang, and yourselves should on consideration deem that course necessary.

The Commissioners fully appreciate your exertions, and have great reliance on your assiduity and judgment; but the only course by which they can communicate to you the authority you ask for is to issue a full order under the 2nd section—a course which should be avoided if practicable, but which in the last resort the Commissioners, if advised that it is necessary, are prepared to take.

ROSCOMMON UNION.

Captain EVANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 16, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians have been occupied the whole of the week in regulating the interior economy of the house, examining the various books, &c., and endeavouring to complete the collectors' books to enable them to issue the warrants, but unfortunately some of the late collectors did not attend to give the necessary informations; the Vice-Guardians have written to their securities, which may have some effect. They devote their whole time and attention to their duties, and if perseverance and personal exertion can overcome difficulties, I feel assured that the Vice-Guardians of this Union will do so.

The condition of the house in point of regularity and cleanliness is daily improving, but much has yet to be done. No attention has heretofore been paid to the cleanliness of the house or of the paupers, and no fixed duties allotted to the able-bodied, to keep either the dormitories, dining-halls, or passages clean. The Vice-Guardians and myself have appointed four women to the dining-halls, whose duty it will be to keep the halls, tables, and stoves in order. We have also appointed six women to the kitchen, and women to the several dormitories, convalescent wards, &c.; in short, to every station, who will be responsible for their respective departments: this is the only means by which the house can be brought into order.

Considering the crowded state of the house, the paupers, generally speaking, are tolerably healthy, but suffering a good deal from the want of clothing, particularly the children, who are nearly naked.

Fever and dysentery are still on the increase, but few deaths have taken place during the week.

Forty-five cases of fever have been removed out of the body of the house within the last few days, into the new fever hospital; and as soon as the beds are ready 15 or 20 more will be removed in the course of the ensuing week.

It is gratifying to me to have to report the change that has taken place in the expenses of the house; since the Vice-Guardians have been appointed, a reduction of 4*d.* per head in the week has been made; and we hope to make a further reduction when stirabout is substituted for bread, which will be next week.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 17, 1848.*

WE have now the honour of submitting a report of our proceedings since our taking charge of this Union on the 3rd instant. The large sums due to the several contractors rendered an interview with them absolutely necessary, in order to insure their continuing to supply the house, which they all consented to do, on our promising to pay them the amount of this month's supply on the 1st February, and to liquidate their debts contracted by the late Board of Guardians as speedily as possible, according to the date of their cheques. In consequence of this arrangement, the baker has reduced the price of the four-pound loaf, 4*d.*, and the milkman has taken 1*d.* per gallon less for new milk, and ½*d.* per gallon for butter-milk; these large abatements have reduced the weekly cost of maintenance 4*d.* per head, and we hope to effect a further saving this week, by substituting an oatmeal dinner for the present one of bread.

The financial state of the Union has engaged our most anxious attention; and in order to put it in a creditable state, we have been examining the rate and collectors' books; with the view of carrying into the collectors' books as large a portion of the arrears as we considered were likely to be recovered; to assist us in this examination we have had the attendance of several of the former collectors, and before striking off any sum, have satisfied ourselves as fully as possible that it was irrecoverable. So soon as we have gone over all the books we will furnish you with full particulars; to-morrow we expect to sign the warrants for 10 of the electoral divisions, and in the course of the week to sign the remainder. In order to stimulate the collectors we have made their rate of poundage a decreasing one after the first month, and have

required that they shall complete their collection within four months from the date of their warrants. Roscommon Union.

The treasurer has agreed that our monthly cheques shall be first provided for out of the collectors' lodgments.

In order to get the ledger and other books posted, we have allowed the clerk 2*l.* 10*s.* per month to pay an assistant.

There are 1081 paupers in the house and fever hospitals, 55 of whom are in the new fever hospital, 62 in the temporary fever hospital, and 45 in the body of the house, all in fever. So soon as a sufficiency of clothing and bedding can be procured, we hope to be able to remove all fever patients from the body of the house; a number of tailors and women are busily employed in making them, and already 40 have been clothed. We are happy to be able to state that there is a great improvement in the order and cleanliness of the house, much of which is attributable to the exertions of Captain Evans.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 24, 1848.*

REFERRING you to our report of the 17th instant, we now have the honour of waiting upon you with a report of our proceedings since.

We are happy in being able to state that, with the exception of four books, we have at length completed the whole; the collectors of 14 divisions have received their warrants, and are, we confidently expect, proceeding vigorously with their collections. The remaining books would also have been completed, but for the want of proper returns from the former collectors; so soon as they are finished we will send you, in a tabular form, the gross amount of arrears to be collected on each electoral division, and the sums which we have struck off as not being recoverable.

We are getting the necessary supply of bedding, clothes, &c., prepared for the house at Coolmeen, and expect to have all matters prepared for the removal of the school girls to it on the 31st instant.

There are at present 62 patients in the new fever hospital; and so soon as beds, &c., can be got ready, we hope to remove all the fever patients from the body of the house into it; when the additions referred to in our letter of the 20th instant are completed, it will be capable of accommodating 80 persons.

The general health of the house has much improved during the last week, as has also its cleanliness and order. Captain Evans is untiring in his attention to it. The porter, who has been in charge of the house for some weeks, has been appointed master of the Mohill poor-house, consequently we will be obliged forthwith to advertise for one.

We regret to state that there are numbers of persons in every part of the Union in a state bordering upon actual starvation; whom, owing to the crowded state of the house, we are unable to relieve by admission into it, in consequence of having no funds, and the Union being already so deeply in debt, we cannot obtain the necessary credit to enable us to administer any out-door relief.

The cost of maintenance for the week ending the 22nd, is 2*s.* 0½*d.* per head; and the number in the house and hospital 1076.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 26, 1848.*

WITH regard to the latter part of your report, relative to the distressed state of the poor in the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners have made application to Count Strzelecki for a further loan, to enable you immediately to give out-door relief to the classes specified in the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 2, 1848.*

SINCE our report of the 24th ultimo, we have had the honour of receiving your letters of the 26th and 28th ultimo, apprising us that at your instance the British Association had made a grant of 300*l.* for the purpose of enabling us at once to give out-door relief in this Union, and we are happy to state that we have received, through Captain Evans, 100*l.* and 20 tons of Indian meal, with

Roscommon Union which we have commenced out-door relief in eight districts, to the classes specified in the 1st section of the Poor Law Extension Act, and will do so in the remaining four, so soon as the relieving officers have made out their lists.

On the 25th ultimo we admitted into the house 220 paupers, most of whom were labouring under dysentery, &c., and consequently unable to return again to their own district.

All matters not being as yet completed, we have not been able to send the schools girls to Coolmeen, but hope to be able to do so in a day or two. We have appointed John Hannan as steward at Coolmeen, to take charge of the house, &c., at a salary of 12*l.* a-year, with rations.

The numbers in the house on the 29th were 1219, of whom 163 were in fever and dysentery, and 48 labouring under other diseases; and the cost of maintenance for the week was 1*s.* 10½*d.* per head.

Yesterday we elected the following officers: James Murphy, master; Margaret O'Farrell, matron; and John Somers, schoolmaster; they are to enter upon the duties of their offices to-morrow, and will, we trust, ere long restore the house to order and cleanliness.

The collectors for 16 electoral divisions are busily engaged in the collection of the rates, and have lodged with the treasurer, up to the 1st instant, 370*l.*

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 9, 1848.*

WE have the honour to submit to your notice our proceedings since the 2nd instant, which we trust you will find satisfactory.

In consequence of the crowded state of the house, we were unable to admit more than 20 paupers; but we shall be able in the course of a short time, to make room for about 120 able-bodied.

We have appointed David Palmer as porter, at a salary of 15*l.* per annum, with rations.

The number in the house on the 5th instant was 1233*l.*, of whom 93 are in fever, 100 in dysentery, and 59 various cases.

The average cost of the house for the last week was 1*s.* 9½*d.* Out-door relief is now in operation in all the electoral divisions, but not to any great extent at present, to the first class under the Extension Act.

Great praise is due to all the collectors, whose exertions have enabled us to carry out our arduous undertaking more cheerfully. They have lodged in the hands of the treasurer the sum of 444*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, for the week ending the 5th February.

The remaining rate-books have this day been signed, and we are in hopes of getting in a considerable sum in the course of the week.

We have much pleasure in stating that the master and matron are giving us every satisfaction, and devoting their attention to the regularity and cleanliness of the house.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 12, 1848.*

THE Commissioners infer with satisfaction from your report, that the condition and prospects of the Union are daily improving.

In regard to the collection of the rates, however, the Commissioners have this day received a report from their Inspector, Mr. Flanagan, which they regret to say obliges them to express their entire disapproval of the course which has been taken by the Vice-Guardians, for the purpose of realizing a prompt collection of part of the rates.

The Commissioners had previously addressed Mr. Flanagan, requesting him to state his reasons for recommending the Commissioners to sanction so high a poundage as 4*s.* in the pound, which had been voted by the Guardians to the collectors, for all rates to be collected by them before the 1st March next.

Mr. Flanagan now informs the Commissioners that this rate of poundage is only nominal, and that there is a secret arrangement made by the Vice-Guardians with the collectors to remit 2*s.* in the pound, to every rate-payer who shall pay in his rates voluntarily before the period mentioned.

To remit to a rate-payer part of a rate duly assessed upon him in consideration of prompt payment, is not a legal transaction; and the Commissioners think that any endeavour to give such a practice the appearance of legality, by establishing a nominal poundage in favour of the collector, is inconsistent with official propriety, and not calculated to gain the confidence or approbation of the public.

The Commissioners do not enter upon any detailed considerations of the policy or expediency of remitting part of a rate in consideration of prompt payment, which proceeding is in their opinion, to say the least of it, extremely questionable; but they call on the Vice-Guardians at once to discontinue it on the grounds already stated, as they cannot permit a practice which is in itself illegal, to be carried out under cover of an ostensible arrangement, calculated to mislead opinion as to its real nature.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

WE have the honour to submit our report of the proceedings for the last fortnight.

The number in the house, including the pauper girls, at Coolmien, on Saturday, 19th instant, was 1406; the number admitted during the week was 221; the number discharged, 19; and the deaths, 12. On the above date the number in fever was 148; labouring under other diseases, 45; and in the temporary fever hospital, 72, three of whom are in dysentery.

The average weekly cost per head was very slightly reduced for the last fortnight. We are much pleased with our collectors, who appear to be exerting themselves very much; the lodgments for the week were 785*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*; payments by the treasurer, 556*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*; and the credit balance, 657*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*

The present state of the house is somewhat improved; but in consequence of the inner wall and outer fence being low, a number of irregularities have occurred, which we hope to check by placing guards round the premises. A few of the able-bodied that we admitted during the week got out of the house over the yard wall and went home, knowing the day the relieving officer gave their families relief. Those parties have been discovered and punished.

We regret to state that our newly-appointed master has not given us satisfaction in any way, although we have now allowed him to remain for three weeks on probation. We beg respectfully to call your attention to our answers to queries sent by this post in reference to him.

As soon as we get the tools which Captain Evans has applied for we shall set the able-bodied to work. Those whom we have no room for we will employ in breaking stones, &c.; and those in the house we will employ about it in general work, and principally in raising the outer fence, and such other occupation as we find necessary.

Mr LAMBERT MAHON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

In consequence of the absence of Mr. O'Loughlen, the other Vice-Guardian of this Union, it has been impossible to hold the ordinary meeting as required; however, I have issued the orders for the usual supplies for both indoor and out-door relief. With respect to the latter, from both what I have seen and heard, it will be advisable (and Mr. Flanagan, Poor Law Inspector, fully concurs with me) to issue two orders, one for out-door relief to able-bodied persons who have families; the other for to hold meetings, if considered necessary, in the coming season, in other parts of the Union besides here. By the issue of the first order we can relieve the house of able-bodied paupers and their families, and by so doing, be able to apply the workhouse test to single able-bodied men and women.

On the 4th instant there were in the fever hospital and infirmary 194, at Coolmien 223 girls, and in the workhouse 107, or at least about 200 more than the house is well capable of containing; and the consequence is, that there is (and the more particularly among the younger portion of the paupers) a great deal of sickness, and a general appearance of delicacy among the boys, who are not on the sick list; the latter, I think, proceeds from the over-crowded state of the boys' school.

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Union.

I am further of opinion, from the state of the house, that assistance is required in every department of it. Our master tendered his resignation ten days ago, previous to your letter arriving here, disapproving of him, but in consequence of no ordinary meeting having been held since, it could not be recorded. We will require an assistant master and matron, an assistant schoolmistress at Coolmien, and an assistant schoolmaster here. Independent of the sick and delicate children who do not attend school, there are upwards of 200 in each school, and consequently utterly out of the power of any one individual to give that attention which is absolutely necessary both for the moral training and health of the children. We will also require an hospital matron.

With respect to the state of our funds, I am happy to be able to state that of rates and arrears amounting to 14,481*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, a sum of 7469*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* was collected and lodged between the 25th January and 4th March, on which latter day a sum of 5449*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* appeared to our credit with the treasurer. With respect to out-door relief, I consider the relieving officers are all under paid; salaries, highest 40*l.*, lowest 25*l.* And it will be advisable to establish in the centre of each electoral division, depôts where the food can be distributed by proper persons appointed for that purpose, by which means more time will be at the disposal of the relieving officers to inquire into the cases of applications for relief than can be done at present, when they have to attend two days at least here with their books, besides attending to give out food on other days.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March* 13, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had before them a report from Captain Evans, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, on the subject, and they have accordingly given instructions for the immediate preparation of an order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied under the 2nd section; and also of an order authorizing the meetings of the Board to be held elsewhere than in the workhouse.

I am at the same time to state, that an additional Vice-Guardian has been appointed in room of Mr. O'Loughlen, resigned, and he will be at Roscommon on Wednesday next.

The attention of the Vice-Guardians is especially directed to the necessity of organizing a system of employment for able-bodied men who may receive relief under the order now about to be issued; and their attention is called to the circular letters issued by the Commissioners on this subject.

Captain Evans, the Inspector of the Union, has expressed himself as opposed to the introduction of any out-door employment; but the Commissioners have directed a letter to be written informing Captain Evans that their views on the subject remain unaltered.

The Commissioners are in communication with Mr. Flanagan regarding the alteration of the salaries, and additional officers suggested in your report.

They are desirous that as little augmentation of the establishment charges should occur as may be consistent with the proper conduct of the Union.

The Commissioners approve of the establishment of depôts and food distributors, as proposed.

The Commissioners will address you further on the subject of the return of the inmates of the workhouse.

Captain EVANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March* 12, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that in consequence of some ejectments which have occurred within a few miles of Roscommon, I anticipate that an increased mass of pauperism will be thrown on the Union for support, and as it would be utterly impossible, in the crowded state of the house, to give admittance to a single applicant, a large number of the able-bodied must necessarily be placed on the out-door relief lists, by this means evading the test of coming into the house, and occasioning a great deal of deception and fraud; I would beg to suggest, that in order to provide accommodation for those persons, the Vice-Guardians should allow out-door relief to the able-bodied who have already undergone the test of the workhouse; thus affording the Guardians an

opportunity of admitting the able-bodied who are applying for out-door assistance, and preventing imposition. In reference to the subject of employing the paupers in breaking stones and works of that description, I would beg to state my firm conviction that such a system would be ruinous to this Union, deeply involved in debt as it is, whilst the out and in-door expenditure amounts almost to 1200*l.* per month. The collection of rates in the Roscommon Union has proceeded with great rapidity, the receipts amounting to upwards of 7000*l.*, but this sum has been raised from the wealth and property of the land. The collection of the remainder must necessarily be of slower progress, and attended with more difficulty. Now, in order to carry out the project of employing the paupers in the manner alluded to, it would be necessary to have a large staff of overseers with high salaries to superintend the works. This would entail an increased expenditure on the resources of the Union, whilst the numbers who would flock to those works, in order to obtain the out-door relief, would be enormous, and the expense of supporting which would finally swamp the funds of the Union. The amount of rate collected would be all required to liquidate the debts of the Union, whilst the remaining 6000*l.* would not support the out and in-door relief for more than five months. Taking these matters into consideration, I would beg to state that the present would be a very unseasonable time to commence any project which would add an increased tax to the already burdened rate-payers of the Roscommon Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have issued an order under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, authorizing the Vice-Guardians to afford relief to able-bodied persons out of the workhouse, a step which from your report it appeared quite necessary should be taken.

The Commissioners desire me at the same time to state that they do not concur in your views regarding the inexpediency of requiring labour from able-bodied persons so relieved, in return for their relief; and they beg especially to refer you to the circulars which have been issued for the guidance of Boards of Guardians on this point, and which have been communicated for your information.

The Commissioners would on no account omit from their order the condition requiring labour from the able-bodied, which has invariably made a part of an order of that nature, and it will therefore be quite necessary that some system of employment should be organized in Roscommon Union without delay, and the Commissioners do not share your apprehension that this step will entail increased expenditure, but, on the contrary, they believe that if such a system be properly organized and judiciously superintended, it will result in repelling and not in attracting, as you anticipate, application for relief, and be a means of economizing the expenditure in out-door relief.

It is a source of much regret to the Commissioners to find that you entertain views so much opposed to all experience on this subject.

I am finally to inform you that an additional Vice-Guardian has been appointed in room of Mr. O'Loughlen.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*March 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having had under consideration the return of pauper inmates of the workhouse of the Roscommon Union, for the week ended the 4th instant, I am directed to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a circular letter issued by the Commissioners on the 26th of August last, and I am to state that experience has entirely confirmed the views of the Commissioners as expressed in that circular.

In some Unions the necessity of granting any out-door relief to able-bodied men has been prevented by granting out-door allowances to the aged and infirm, and by obtaining vacant accommodation in the workhouse for able-bodied men and their wives.

The Vice-Guardians will perceive that the workhouse of the Roscommon Union has not yet been used to its full extent as a test of destitution to able-

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Union.

bodied persons, the number of able-bodied men being 144, and of able-bodied women 234; whilst the number of aged and infirm men is 93, and of aged and infirm women 155.

In Kanturk, Clifden, and Galway Unions, all of which are under the management of Vice-Guardians, the Union workhouses do not contain a single aged and infirm person; and in Kanturk Union, as well as in several others, all the children (in conformity with the Commissioners' suggestions) have been removed to a separate and distinct establishment.

With this experience before them the Commissioners entertain no doubt that it is quite practicable to act on the suggestions contained in their circular of the 26th of August; and the Commissioners refer to that circular itself for the reasons which influenced the Commissioners in making those suggestions.

Captain EVANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 16th instant, in reply to my report of the 12th instant, and regret that I have incurred your displeasure in advancing opinions contrary to those sanctioned by your approval. I would, however, respectfully beg to state my reasons for so doing. The grounds on which I founded my report were, the depreciation in value of the price of honest industry, and a tendency to foster habits of dependence in the people on other resources than their own. It is a hard case when the industrious labourer breaks his pile of stones, and the contractor or overseer of roads come to purchase them, and only offer him half the value he might reasonably expect, telling him that they can buy them for the same price from the Guardians or their superintendent. That it has a "tendency to foster indolent habits of dependence," a wealthy farmer, named Clarke, told me yesterday that when it was known that out-door relief was to be given to the able-bodied class, one of his labourers immediately left his employment, and applied for relief. I asked him the name of the person, and he replied that his life would be imperilled should it be known that he had been the informer. These are some of the reasons why I made my report, which I regret extremely has not met with your approval.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 22, 1848.*

You state that the grounds on which you rest your objection to the employment of able-bodied persons receiving relief from the poor rates are the depreciation in value of the price of honest industry, and the tendency to foster habits of dependence in the people on other resources than their own.

In reference to these points the Commissioners request your attention to their circular letter which accompanies the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied males in every case in which such an order is issued.

The Commissioners have their doubt upon the objections now urged by you, and described them as applying more or less to every mode of exacting labour in return for relief from the poor-rates, but have nevertheless urged the employment of able-bodied males in stone-breaking, as least open to those objections, rather than adopt the alternative of giving relief to such persons without any test or condition whatever.

The form of order which is invariably used on such occasions by the Commissioners contains a regulation requiring a daily task of work to be performed by each able-bodied person receiving relief out of the workhouse.

The above rule was adopted by the Commissioners after mature consideration, and they hold its observance to be a matter of the utmost consequence wherever able-bodied persons are relieved out of the workhouse.

The Commissioners likewise call your attention to the correspondence of the Commissioners with the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, who have directed that the implements at the disposal of the Board of Works should be made available for the employment of able-bodied persons receiving out-door relief in the several Unions in Ireland.

Whatever weight, therefore, may be due to the observations in your present report, you will perceive that the points adverted to by you have already been

considered by the Commissioners, and that the course which they have taken has been directly recognised by Her Majesty's Government.

Your report to the Commissioners of the 12th March informs the Commissioners of the necessity which you consider exists in Roscommon Union for relieving able-bodied males out of the workhouse; and in pursuance of that report, and of a similar representation from the Vice-Guardians, the Commissioners have issued an order authorizing such relief in that Union; but they are not prepared to permit such relief to be given without requiring labour from such applicants as a condition of receiving relief.

Captain MUSTERS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 21, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that during my inspection of the workhouse yesterday, I discovered that four persons had been admitted in the course of the day, who I found had been allowed to enter the body of the house without either having been examined by the medical officer or placed in the probationary ward; and on inquiry found that the probationary wards, both male and female, were disused, the latter being turned into a kitchen. The doctor being in the house at the time, I requested him to examine the four persons admitted, when he immediately pronounced one of them attacked with bad fever, who, of course, was immediately removed to the fever hospital. It appears that from want of clothing, there being none made at present, the paupers admitted into the house have been obliged to remain in their own clothes, and there being now upwards of 900 in the house, fever and dysentery on the increase, I thought it my duty, as your Inspector, to bring the subject before the notice of the Vice-Guardians this day. I also requested the medical officer, Mr. Harrison, to make a report to them on the subject, which he has done, being of the same opinion with myself, that, for the present, no further admittances can take place until there be a sufficient quantity of clothes made for those at present in the workhouse, as well as a proper supply prepared for those who may be admitted in future. The Vice-Guardians have given orders that the probationary wards be immediately prepared, and a wardsmen and woman be appointed for each, as otherwise it would be utterly impossible, so long as the paupers remain in the filth and nastiness in which they usually enter the house, to keep any cleanliness or regularity, or prevent the spread of infectious diseases in the workhouse. I would further beg to state, that no paupers be admitted until those arrangements are completed; and that in consequence of your sanction, allowing out-door relief being given to the 2nd section, 10 Vic., cap. 31, I am of opinion that this will be the most seasonable time for having everything put in order regarding the internal arrangements of the house.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM to state, that the Commissioners concur with you in the propriety of the course which you recommend; and they request that you will be good enough so to inform the Vice-Guardians.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain MUSTERS:—*March 24, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a constabulary report received by the Commissioners, relative to the death of a man (name unknown), on the 16th instant, in the Roscommon Union; and I am to request that you will be so good as to make inquiry into the facts of the case, and report the result to the Commissioners.

ENCLOSURE.

*County of Roscommon,
Roscommon, March 19, 1848.*

A MAN (name unknown), was found dead on the 16th instant, in Roscommon Union.

Copy of Verdict.

That deceased died from cold and destitution.

F. G. HEATH, S. I.

Inspector-General.

Roscommon
Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*April 10, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the enclosed copy of a report which the Commissioners have received from Captain Musters, Temporary Poor Law Inspector of the Roscommon Union, relative to the death of a man (name unknown), in that Union, on the 16th ultimo.

ENCLOSURE.

Captain MUSTERS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 6, 1848.*

IN reply to your communication of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I made inquiries into the circumstances of the case referred to in that letter, and find from the police constable of the Fuerty police-station, near to where the man was found dead, that he was an old decrepit man, a stranger, and travelling through the country, and was never known to have applied for relief either to the relieving officer of the district he died in, or at the Union workhouse.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 24, 1848.*

WE beg to forward, for your information, the state of this Union at present, and in doing so regret to state that the house is in a very sickly state, both from its being over-crowded and from the want of clothing. To remedy the latter we have entered into contracts for the supplies of the various description of clothing required, some of which for the male paupers have come to hand, and we have set tailors to work without delay. The materials for the female paupers, calico, flannel, have come to hand and are in progress; but the description of goods for their over-dresses we have been obliged to reject, as not equal to pattern.

The statistics of the house on the 20th, Monday, were as follows:—

Males—Infirm	16	
Fever hospital	27	
House infirmary	26	
Other cases	155	
	—	224
Females—Infirm	13	
Fever hospital	91	
House infirmary	48	
Other cases	252	
	—	404
Children at Coolmien . .	235	
Boys' school	155	
	—	390
Hospital, fever	62	
House infirmary	82	
	—	144
In house, ill	108	
Recovering	79	
Probationary wards . .	81	
	—	268
Children under five . .	61	
Infants	22	
	—	83
		—
		1,513
General state—Fever hospital . .	180	
House infirmary	156	
At Coolmien	235	
In workhouse	268	
Sickly	674	
	—	1,513

Out of this entire number, 604 are ill or delicate. To remedy this evil we consider it will be absolutely necessary that all the boys and girls under 15 years should be removed out of the workhouse, by which means it will be brought to a healthy state, and a workhouse test left for 800 able-bodied.

We have removed out of the workhouse all the aged capable of being removed, also all widows with children. On going through the hospital we found every thing, as far as cleanliness and close attention on the part of the medical attendant, as it should be, and nothing to find fault with except the flooring, which is very bad. We would recommend that in all the wards the walls at the heads of the beds should be sheeted with timber, and in the lower wards the passages leading up the centre of the room should be boarded. On visiting the girls' school at Coolmien, we have heard with regret that they have had no Roman Catholic service there since their arrival, now nearly two months ago; the parish clergyman having to read prayers in two different parts of his parish, is unable to do so, and he cannot afford to keep a curate. We would suggest that some allowance should be made to him, say 25*l.*, which would enable him to procure the assistance of one, and have Coolmien school attended and looked after by a clergyman, which we consider absolutely indispensable. We regret to state that the collection for the last fortnight has been but 51*l.* 8*s.*; but the collectors are, we believe, now making new exertions, and we have called on them to furnish a list of the names of the immediate lessors and of 10 of the highest occupiers in arrear.

Captain MUSTERS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March* 25, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that during the past week owing to the wretched state of this workhouse my attention has chiefly been directed to that department; though in the visits I have at times paid to the several schools receiving relief from the British Association in this Union, I have had an opportunity also of observing the state of several of the electoral districts. In a report already forwarded, I mentioned having found it necessary to at once lay before the Vice-Guardians the necessity of closing the workhouse for a short time; the number being considerably above that allowed by the Commissioners, and no clothing for men, women, or children. The sealed order for out-door relief to the able-bodied being just about to be put into operation rendered this proceeding, in my opinion, the more necessary, from the impossibility of making use of the workhouse in its present state as a test for that class.

Under these circumstances I suggested to the Vice-Guardians the propriety of immediately providing the necessary clothing for the house—of removing (according to the Commissioners' circular of the 18th January) all widows with two or more children, infirm, &c., to the out-door relief list—and these measures, with an extension of the accommodation already provided for the children at Coolmeen, which the Vice-Guardians have an opportunity of obtaining with great advantage and trifling expense, will, I think, in a short time allow the workhouse to be again opened and made available, which is most essential here for the able-bodied.

In the mean time the system of stone-breaking for the able-bodied will be at once adopted throughout the Union. The staff requisite to carry it out will be appointed on Thursday next, by which time the Vice-Guardians hope to have received the necessary supply of tools, &c., &c., already applied for. At present the able-bodied in the town of Roscommon are required to attend regularly at the workhouse, and kept at work for eight hours during each day.

In the several districts which I visited during the week I regret to say I found very great destitution. I found it necessary to send for the relieving officers and warn them to attend strictly to their duty, to give provisional relief where they found it necessary, at the same time to make every inquiry to prevent imposition; but in cases that ought to be relieved, to do so efficiently, as I found they had in many cases been in the habit of giving much less than the authorized allowance; but on this subject I shall be able to make a more satisfactory report next week.

For the present, I will only add a few remarks on the state of the dietary of the workhouse, which appears to me much too (and unnecessarily) expensive, consisting chiefly of bread, for which they pay 7*d.* the four-pound loaf; the cost per head a-week being from 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* and upwards. I submitted to the Vice-Guardians the dietary of the Callan workhouse, composed of Indian meal and rice, which had been tried there for some time and found to answer very well, and which would by its adoption occasion a very considerable reduction.

Roscommon
Union.

I hope after a short time, when matters get a little better regulated at the workhouse, and the system of work thoroughly and properly established in the Union, to be able to introduce cooked food in several parts of the Union, either by means of baking where it might be found convenient to erect ovens, or by kitchens for cooking Indian meal and rice—a cheap, and in one respect a more satisfactory, food to the poor than bread, being more filling and easier made; but either system would, I am convinced, be a great saving of expense to the Union, and probably where one was found inconvenient the other might answer.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 30, 1848.*

I AM to state, that the prices of the bread supplied for the use of the inmates appear to the Commissioners to be extravagant, and they approve of your proposal of a change in the dietary.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 31, 1848.*

IN forwarding our report to you as to the state of the house, we regret that sickness amongst the inmates continues unabated, and fear it will remain so until the numbers of its inmates are diminished.

There is a very great pressure on the out-door relief, much more we are certain than would be if we could test the able-bodied paupers, but which will be impossible for us to do to any extent to make it available until the entire of the children are removed. With respect to the erection of sheds, doing so adjoining the workhouse would be attended with great and in our opinion unnecessary expense, as we can obtain at a rent of about 40*l.* per annum a house and offices, capable of containing, at least, 120 persons, whilst a shed capable of holding 50 patients would have cost, at least, 200*l.*, and would take five or six weeks to erect. The medical attendant is of opinion that if all the children were removed away, that he would have plenty of hospital accommodation, and that thereby sickness would diminish to a great degree. Coolmien and the additions offered to be made by Mr. Harrison at an increased rent—

450 girls,	£100
Martinstown	250 boys, 60
New workhouse, Connolly's	120 boys, 40
	820 £200

With reference to the state of the Union funds we are sorry to state that we are of opinion they will soon be completely exhausted. Our weekly expenditure is about 500*l.* for in-door and out-door relief. The cheques of the late Guardians are out to a large amount. To the baker there is a sum of about 2300*l.*, of which the bank, holding 900*l.*, paid themselves. Two millers in Clare hold cheques of his to about 1900*l.* In fact, the late Guardians issued cheques to the amount of about 5000*l.* of which the bank being holders of about 3200*l.*, of course will pay itself. There was but 263*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* rates collected since last report, and from all we see and hear, legal proceedings and distress must be resorted to to recover the rate outstanding, amounting to about 5400*l.*, a large portion of which, from the poverty of the country, is not recoverable. In fact, if we can carry on relief until the 1st of May, it is the most that can be anticipated without assistance in the shape of loan or otherwise. The valuation of the Union is in such a state as will require a competent person at least two months to revise, so that it will be impossible to put on another rate before July, very little of which can be expected to be collected before harvest.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 8, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 31st ultimo, relating to the Roscommon Union, and to state in reply that they sanction your taking the premises alluded to, in order to provide additional accommodation or any other premises which can be obtained.

The description of the prospects of the Union given in your report is most

unfavourable, and appears to demand the utmost energy and discretion on the part of those now entrusted with its local management.

You will recollect that the Commissioners have used their power to its utmost extent in providing an extraordinary local agency in lieu of the late Board of Guardians, and that the Commissioners are disposed to support you in any well-considered measures for bringing the Union into a more satisfactory state.

You must not relax in your endeavours to secure a vigorous and prompt collection of the current rate. Your report on this point is not expressed in such a tone of confidence and resolution as to be satisfactory to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners trust that you will bear in mind that your appointment as Vice-Guardians was not made for the purpose merely of reporting your difficulties, but of doing everything in your power to surmount them.

The Commissioners know from experience how much may be accomplished by Vice-Guardians under such circumstances where energy and method are employed.

Should you not feel yourselves competent to contend with the present difficulties of this Union, the Commissioners would accept your resignation on that ground; but they sincerely trust that the Guardians will not feel any necessity for that course.

Roscommon
Union.

MANORHAMILTON UNION.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major FITZGERALD:—*January 31, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from the Under-Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a man, named Hugh M'Canna, who is stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body, to have died from want; and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Vice-Guardians of the Manorhamilton Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

*County of Leitrim,
Drumkeeran, January 21, 1848.*

On yesterday H. M'Canna died suddenly.

Copy of Verdict.

We find and all agree that the deceased, Hugh M'Canna, died on Thursday, the 20th instant, on the high road near Drumkeeran, in want of proper nourishment and exhaustion; and we further add, that the supply allowed from the out-door relief to deceased and family was not sufficient for their support.

*Inspector-General,
&c. &c.*

JOSEPH D. MULLEN, *Sub-Inspector.*

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply:—*February 3, 1848.*

IN compliance with the directions contained in your letter, dated 31st January, 1848, I have the honour to report the following facts relative to the case of *Hugh M'Canna*, deceased, who was stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body, "to have died from want" in the electoral division of *Drumkeeran*, in this Union.

I have examined the in-door and out-door registries, and the relieving officer's book, by which it appears that the said Hugh M'Canna was in the workhouse from the 21st December, 1847, to the 31st December, 1847, on which day he was transferred to the out-door registry, and received relief from the relieving officer of Drumkeeran electoral division from the 1st of January, 1848, till his decease. He received during that time the allowance sanctioned for out-door relief in this Union, viz., twelve ounces of meal per day.

The Drumkeeran relieving officer states, that since the death of Hugh M'Canna, he is informed that he was in the employment of a brother-in-law, who he supposes gave him some support; of this circumstance the relieving officer was not aware at the time he was issuing relief to him.

I went to Drumkeeran yesterday for the purpose of making further inquiry, but the persons whom I wished to see were absent at a funeral.

The subject was likewise referred upon this day to the Board of Guardians by the clerk of the Union, in compliance with your orders, of which notice will appear upon their minutes.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 6, 1848.*

HAVING been for so short a time acquainted with this Union, I am unwilling to hazard a decided opinion as to its general condition; and most of the details to which I have been able to direct my attention, I have already touched upon in a special report on matters which had been referred to in a letter to you from Mr. Otway, 23rd ultimo.

As far as I can yet judge, destitution varies much in this Union according to the locality; and, as might be expected, the pressure is in a direct ratio to the numbers of the *small cottiers*. The electoral division where it is *greatest* is Drumkeeran; where *least*, Drumahaire.

Although applications and admissions to relief are during this season on the increase from week to week, I do not, on the whole, apprehend that the lamentable necessity of *out-door relief* to the *able-bodied* will arise in this Union,

provided due diligence is used in *increasing workhouse accommodation* (some details upon which are contained in the special report already adverted to) and especially if the opportunity for providing employment by means of the Land Improvement Act shall be generally taken advantage of, as it has already been by some of the proprietors in this Union.

The Guardians appear for the most part intelligent, and disposed to discharge their functions with a view to the interests of the Union; but I think there is a want of method in the Board-room arrangements, which requires correction, and without which neither can their own business be carried on with practical effect, nor will their officers be trained to those habits of strict obedience and punctuality which are essential.

I have felt it my duty, in my special report, to express that the collection of rates is not in a satisfactory state. The Guardians seem disposed to exercise a proper economy and vigilance in their expenditure, at the same time that they do not evince any tendency to disregard the claims of the destitute; but I am quite certain that the most effective means for ensuring a just economy of funds furnished by self-taxation will be found to consist in the certainty, punctuality, and rigidity with which they are collected and can be made available. In other words, the financial affairs of that Union which has *always funds in hand* will be always the best managed.

Trusting that these views meet your approbation, I will use my earnest efforts to press them upon the attention of the Board of Guardians of this Union.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 7, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Guardians passed at their last weekly meeting on February 3, a Sub-Committee met this day for the purpose of concluding an arrangement for hiring a house in the vicinity, to be occupied by the schoolmaster and male children now resident in the workhouse. The Committee examined and approved of a cottage in the outskirts of the town, consisting of a ground-floor, which would furnish (by roofing and flooring one end which is now dismantled) a school-room, a kitchen, and a master's room, and of a loft which would answer as a dormitory for the boys. The repairs would cost about 50*l.* The rent asked by the proprietor for the cottage and some land in front, which would answer for a play-ground, is 20*l.* per annum.

The situation is not badly adapted to the purpose, but I doubt whether you will feel disposed to sanction so large an outlay as 50*l.* for a temporary object.

I shall regret our not being able to find any place that will suit the object we have in view, because, though I agree with Mr. Otway that building on the workhouse site is preferable, the main object at present is to provide *immediate* accommodation for our extra numbers, and the proposed building for this purpose on the workhouse site, of which the estimate was sent to Mr. Otway, will not be completed for four months.

The chief want at present is not of dormitories so much as of day-rooms, and *partial* improvement might be effected in this respect at a *very slight cost*; there is a very good room, with a fire-place in it, on the ground-floor, in the infirmary range, which is used only as a turf store. At the cost of a *very few pounds* a turf store might be formed along the side wall which connects the infirmary range with the main building, and the room now used for a purpose it was never intended for might be made a day-room of for paupers.

The *extension* of the infirmary range, to which I referred in a former report (3rd February), will I think be ready for the admission of paupers this week.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 9, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having learned by your report of the 7th instant that the cottage proposed to be taken for the male children in Manorhamilton Union workhouse would require an expenditure of 50*l.* for repairs and roofing, and that day-room accommodation is at present the chief want, for which you consider that provision may be made at the workhouse, they have requested the Board of Guardians to take into consideration the practicability of sufficiently extending the accommodation by temporary buildings on the site of the workhouse.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 10, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state that I this day brought under the consideration of the Board of Guardians certain matters respecting which I had received your instructions in letter dated 9th February, 1848.

A contract has been this day entered into for a supply of clothing sufficient for the whole number of paupers approved for admission by the Board, with the object of preventing for the future the over-crowding of the probationary wards, from want (which has hitherto been experienced) of an adequate supply of workhouse clothing. }

There has been an improvement this week in the paying in of rates by the collectors, with the exception of those of two electoral divisions, Drumkeeran and Inismagrath. The collectors of these two electoral divisions were called before the Board, and admonished that severe measures will be taken against them unless a very considerable sum shall be lodged by each before this day fortnight. I have likewise ordered them to bring before the Board this day week a nominal list of all defaulting rate-payers in their electoral divisions whose rates exceed 1*l.* The amount paid in for the Union this week is 508*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, which exceeds last week's collection by 248*l.*

Your recommendation which I brought before the Board, that they should meet twice in the week, was not acceded to. The Guardians present stated that some of the Guardians never attend at all, and that those who do so regularly, find it not easy to give their attendance once a-week without clashing with magisterial business, or detriment to their private affairs. I argued that, even looking at it only with a view to their own interests, there are few matters relating to their private affairs which they will find it more perilous to neglect than the duties imposed, and a vigilant control over the expenditure which their properties are taxed to meet. However they would not consent to attend twice in the week, but have resolved, in order to get through more business on the Board day, to meet for the future at half-past 10 o'clock.

It has likewise been arranged that two of the Guardians are to meet me on each Tuesday at the Board-room for the purpose of examining and checking some of the accounts of the establishment, so as to facilitate the work to be gone through on the following Thursday.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 12, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will have the goodness to report again to the Commissioners, as to whether the arrangements made for conducting the business of the Board of Guardians are sufficient for the purpose.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 12, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the collection of rates is more satisfactory than it was, and I trust the improvement henceforth will be progressive.

By an arrangement made upon the last Board-day a Finance Committee is to attend regularly each Tuesday, to examine and check the accounts and expenditure at the workhouse. By this means, upon Thursday, the regular Board-day, more time and attention can be devoted to the lists of applications and to the books of the relieving officers: neither of which matters can afford to be hurried over, without serious detriment to the claims of the poor and the

interests of the rate-payers. In the case especially of relieving officers it will only be by vigilantly enforcing adherence to the rules laid down by the Commissioners that we can hope to train them into useful public servants. This matter, I am bound to say, has not been hitherto sufficiently attended to, in a great degree in consequence of the mass of business heaped upon one day in the week.

I have this week examined very closely the state of the wards, school-rooms, and infirmary, and have found a fair degree of attention paid by the officers to regularity, cleanliness, and ventilation.

The medical officer informs me that, both in the workhouse and in the district, fever has latterly assumed a more malignant and fatal type.

Upon the subject of extra accommodation within and without the workhouse, I have had the honour of reporting specially during the week, and therefore I do not now advert to them.

	No.	Cost.		
		£.	s.	d.
There are on out-door relief . . .	1615	38	11	11
„ in-door relief . . .	857	35	4	8
Total . . .	2472	£73	16	7

This is something under 5 per cent. on the population of the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major FITZGERALD:—*February 12, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which they have received from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a woman named Rose M'Namara, who it is stated was found dead in a temporary shed which had been erected for her; and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the fact of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Board of Guardians of the Manorhamilton Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

*County of Leitrim,
Dromahair, February 4, 1848.*

ON the 29th ultimo, Rose M'Namara was found dead in a temporary shed which was erected for her, and in which she and her children had taken shelter after being turned out of the fever hospital.

W. EVANS, *Head Constable.*

Inspector-General.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major FITZGERALD:—*February 14, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which they have received from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a man named John M'Ternan, who is supposed to have died from starvation; and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Board of Guardians of the Manorhamilton Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

*County of Leitrim,
Dromahair, February 7, 1848.*

ON the 6th instant John M'Ternan died while on his way from this town to Sligo; his remains have all the appearance of his having died from starvation.

W. EVANS, *Head Constable.*

Inspector-General.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

IN reference to the accompanying special reports required by instructions contained in your letters, I deem it my duty to add a few observations.

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It is very lamentable that neither of the persons reported upon made application for assistance to the relieving officers of their district. It is also I think to be regretted that the Board of Guardians, when it was decided to give up the Killanummery hospital, did not instruct the relieving officers to make *special inquiry* respecting the circumstances of the persons discharged from it, as it is well known that convalescents from fever are very weak, and peculiarly subject to relapse.

I have pointed out to the relieving officer, that if he had been as cognizant as he ought of the circumstances of the families whom he was relieving, he could not have been ignorant that the boy had been sent to the fever hospital, and would probably have had his attention drawn to his subsequent condition; the father concealed both circumstances, and had continued to draw his son's allowance while in hospital.

It appears to me, that in almost all the cases of death among the poor requiring explanation in this part of the country, want of house shelter, and exposure in travelling during an inclement season, from their habits of wandering from place to place, have been the contributing causes, and not actual want of food.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

IN compliance with instructions contained in your letter, 21th February, 1848, I have inquired into the circumstances of the case of Rose M'Namara, deceased. I find that on the 15th of January, she left the Killanummery hospital cured of fever, and it does not appear that she ever made application for relief either at the workhouse or to any relieving officer. She died in a shed erected for her by one of her friends on his own ground. The relieving officer states, that he never knew anything about her till he heard of her decease.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

IN compliance with instructions contained in your letter, 14th February, 1848, I have made inquiry into the case of John M'Ternan, reported by Constable Evans on the 7th instant; I find that the person referred to in the report, erroneously called "John Ternan," was a boy of 14, named James Foley; he left the Killanummery hospital on the 22nd January, being a week convalescent after fever; he received from the doctor who had been in charge of the hospital, which was at that time ordered to be closed, a ticket of admission to the hospital at Manorhamilton; the boy, instead of going there, returned to his father, who, fearing contagion, would not admit him among his other children, and probably from want of shelter, in addition to his weak state of health, the poor boy perished in the inclement weather, or it might have been from a relapse. The father was in the *receipt of out-door relief* for himself and his children, including the boy James, and he did not report either his being in hospital, or his subsequent condition to the relieving officer.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*February 29, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, for the information of the Board of Guardians of the Manorhamilton Union, that the Commissioners have received a report from Major Fitzgerald, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, relating to the decease of two persons (named Rose M'Namara and James Foley), in which he states that Rose M'Namara left the Killanummery fever hospital cured of fever on the 15th of January, and that it does not appear that she ever made application for relief either at the workhouse or to any of the relieving officers.

With reference to the case of James Foley, Major Fitzgerald reports that he left the Killanummery hospital on the 22nd January, being a week convalescent after fever, and that he received from the doctor who had been in charge of the hospital, which was at that time ordered to be closed, a ticket of admission to the hospital at Manorhamilton; but that the boy, instead of going

there, returned to his father, who, fearing contagion, would not admit him among his other children, and that probably from want of shelter, in addition to his weak state of health, the poor boy perished from the inclemency of the weather, or perhaps from a relapse of fever.

Major Fitzgerald further reports, that the boy's father was in the receipt of *out-door relief* for himself and his children, including the boy James, and that he did not report either his son's being in hospital or his subsequent condition to the relieving officer.

It is to be regretted that the Board of Guardians, when they had decided to close the Killanummery hospital, did not instruct the relieving officers to make *special inquiry* respecting the circumstances of the persons discharged from it.

The Commissioners concur with Major Fitzgerald in thinking that had the relieving officer been as cognizant as he ought to have been of the circumstances of the families whom he was relieving, he could not have been ignorant that the boy James Foley had been sent to the fever hospital, and would probably have had his attention drawn to the boy's subsequent condition.

The Commissioners desire me to request that the Board of Guardians will take into their consideration the propriety of removing the relieving officer of the district, and of appointing a more efficient person in his stead

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

I HAVE already reported that the rates paid in this week have been less in amount than I expected.

It appears that, in certain instances of endeavouring to recover from defaulters, the collectors committed a legal irregularity. They attempted to obtain by distress the amount due from parties whom they had already served with a notice of summons: the parties rescued their cattle; and when the collectors applied for assistance to the resident magistrate, he informed them that they ought not to have proceeded both by distress and summons. They asked me what they ought to do, and I told them to follow up their summonses wherever they had served notice, and wherever they had not served notice to distrain. I have since consulted the resident magistrate, who approves of those instructions; and says further, that the summons may now be followed up against the person who rescued his cattle; this I am glad of, as he is a rich gentleman farmer, who can well afford to pay his rate, and ought to have set a good example by doing so.

I regret the above occurrence, both on account of the delay to the getting in of the rate and for the mischievous effect of a successful resistance to the payment of a tax not overpopular. However, the resident magistrate, as soon as the collectors place themselves in the right, will give every aid when required for the enforcement of the law.

The applications for relief from the able-bodied have, in some parts of the Union, diminished, in consequence of the employment offered by drainage under the Land Improvement Act. Agricultural work also is commencing; and in the undrained fields, which I am sorry to say constitute large portions of the farms in this county, spade labour (which is predominant in most parts of this Union) can begin its operations earlier, in a wet season especially, than a plough could enter the ground.

Several also of this class have left the workhouse to seek for employment.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

THE amount of rates paid to the treasurer this week is 263*l*. This is from five electoral divisions; nothing has been paid in from the other five, partly owing to circumstances concerning which I have sent you a special report this week.

The Board of Guardians, in the month of January, made a contract for supplies of Indian meal and oatmeal to the workhouse, which at present prices has turned out a very unfavourable one to the Union. They have allowed the relieving officers to draw their supplies for out-door relief from the same person, which would prove a serious loss if continued. I have therefore induced them

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to advertise for tenders, by which a great saving will be effected. We have also the choice of dealing with the commissariat at Sligo, which might be an advantageous arrangement. I propose going to Sligo to-morrow, for the purpose of making inquiry.

I perceive a strong tendency on the part of some of the Guardians to play into the hands of favourite contractors, which it will be my duty to check and expose.

The addition to the infirmary range, which the contractor was bound to have ready about the 18th of this month, is not yet complete, and the Guardians do not seem at all impressed with the importance of keeping the contractor to his engagements.

The fitting up of a building in the precincts of the town, which you sanctioned for a temporary school-house for the male children, is getting on rapidly under a clever tradesman, to whom I have entrusted the work.

A visit to the Manorhamilton workhouse by your architect would be desirable, for reasons which I have stated in a special report.

The sanitary condition of the workhouse is improved as to fever. Dysentery cases are still numerous.

The state of the workhouse in point of cleanliness and regularity, is on the whole creditable, and will be better as soon as the extra accommodation is available.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

I ENCLOSE a memorial from the chairman of the District Committee for the relief district comprehended in the electoral divisions of Drumkeeran and Inismagrath, in this Union, occasioned by the following circumstances:—on examination of the relieving officer's book of that district, I suspected that he was giving out-door relief to able-bodied persons, and on visiting the Committee I found my suspicions verified. They had ordered their relieving officer to give relief to certain heads of families, for a portion of their families, they themselves being employed on money wages not sufficient to support the entire family. I ordered the system to be stopped, telling the Committee that it was illegal, as no order had been issued by you, authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied, and adding that there is no principle more opposed to the word and spirit of the Irish Poor Law, than giving relief in aid of wages. I pointed out to them the various evils that would ensue if such a course were pursued,—that every gentleman and farmer in the country might employ labourers at any wages he pleased, conditioning to get their families placed on the rates; that such a system would inevitably tend to lower wages and perpetuate pauperism and dependence.

However they argued the case as stated in their memorial, urged the purity of their motives, which were to save their district from excessive taxation, and at the same time to foster the spirit of industry among their labouring poor and keep them out of the workhouse, and they requested me to refer their case specially to you.

Mr. Cullen, the gentleman who signs the memorial, is a useful Guardian, gives employment under the Land Improvement Act, and exerts himself generally for the benefit of the district.

At the same time I have thought it right to point out to the Manorhamilton Board of Guardians, the necessity which this case proves of a closer examination of the books of relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. CULLEN to Major FITZGERALD:—*February 24, 1848.*

I have been directed to furnish you with the following particulars relative to the mode of our out-door relief:—W. Ward is upon our list; he has eight of a family, he earns 4s. a-week by labouring, and he is allowed one stone of meal per week out-door relief. This supports his family, *and he is contented.* Now, should we send him and his family to the poor-house, his family cost us 1s. 0½d. a head per week, making 8s. 4d. per week. By our own mode the family only costs 1s. for a stone of meal; leaving a saving of 7s. 4d. in favour of our plan, or upwards of 700 per cent. The nearest calculation we can make is that 100 families are so circumstanced in these divisions that their own labour *will not* support them *without* assistance; therefore by your order all those 100 families must go into the poorhouse, and the

labour provided by proprietors, is of no avail, as they will not be permitted to work and receive out-door relief. The value of the two divisions is about 7500*l.*; a rate is struck now for 1200*l.*; from 250*l.* to 300*l.* of this will not be collected, from the great poverty of the district. Our number of poor who will be supported by poorhouse and out-door relief for these two divisions, will amount to 1200; and I now leave it for you to say, are those divisions able to support such a host of paupers in the manner the law directs.

I trust you will place our case before the Commissioners at your earliest convenience; for if ever there was a cause for relaxation from a strict rule, this is the one, as positively the income of these divisions will be nearly half absorbed by poor rates alone.

I hope you will excuse the length of this letter; but the subject is tedious.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 1, 1848.*

In reply I am to state that the Commissioners fully concur in the view which you have taken of the question.

The Commissioners are of opinion that the strongest possible line should be drawn between relief and wages, it being an essential principle in any sound system of Poor Law administration that relief and wages should be kept totally distinct, and that a destitute able-bodied man should be relieved wholly by the Union, or employed wholly by the party for whom he works.

The Commissioners are convinced that the infringement of the principle would lead to pernicious consequences, and by making employers of labour suppose that they had a pecuniary interest in introducing a system of out-door relief to able-bodied men, it would eventually entail an enormous burthen on the poor-rates which the property of the Union would be wholly unable to support.

The following additional objections to the employment of the recipients of relief on the property of private individuals may also be stated :—

Firstly. Such a system tends to absorb the general stock of employment, and so to bring more labourers on the poor-rates.

Secondly. It tends to lower the market value of labour, to the great injury of the self-relying labourer, since the occupier of land will not contract for the employment of pauper instead of independent labour unless he can obtain some advantage in the rate of wages.

Thirdly. It tends to spoil the industry and habits of the labourer, who will not work with the same energy in return for relief as when he has a bargain with a private employer to work for wages,—the continuance of his employment and the amount of his receipts depending in one case on his industry and the value of his work, and in the other case on the necessities of himself and those dependent on him for support.

The memorial is herewith returned.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 4, 1848.*

I HAVE to state that in consequence of the Leitrim and Fermanagh Assizes it has not been possible to have a Board of Guardians this week. I endeavoured to obtain a quorum of three to meet Mr. Otway, who had signified to me his intention of attending on Thursday, but I could only get two members.

Mr. Otway visited the workhouse on Tuesday, again on yesterday (Thursday). He was much struck with the weakly aspect of the children in the school-rooms, which he conceives is owing to an insufficiency of nourishment, as they do not get *supper*. My attention had been already turned to this matter. I had got the Sligo scale of workhouse dietary, and on Monday last examined the condition of the children in that establishment, between whom and our's I observed a marked difference in appearance very much in favour of the former, who are allowed a bread supper.

I am sure that for children three meals in the day are better than two, even if the total quantity were the same in both cases, and I was about to bring this matter before the Guardians at their first meeting.

Mr. Otway, however, informed me that the dietary for the children might be *immediately* altered by the *authority* of the *medical officer*, if he should deem it necessary as a matter of health; that officer's attention being then directed to the subject, he made a careful examination and reported that it was essentially

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necessary that the food of the children should be increased, and a different distribution of meals adopted. The change was carried into effect on Thursday, a supper of four ounces of bread being provided for each child under 15.

A report of the grounds upon which he had deemed it necessary to order this change was laid by the medical officer on the Board-room table, which will be submitted to the first general meeting of the Board of Guardians, who I have little doubt will sanction and confirm the alteration.

I purpose likewise to call their attention to the dietary of the *adults*, with the object of advising a small increase, as the days are now lengthening, and we shall be able to keep them more actively employed.

The applicants on the relieving officers' books on Thursday received *provisional* relief either in or out of the workhouse for one week; as there was no Board to examine the applications, as far as time permitted, I decided respecting *doubtful* cases myself.

For the week ending 26th February, there were on in-door relief 773; on out-door about 1500. I cannot be quite certain as to this last number, as the relieving officer of one of the relief districts has been suddenly attacked by fever, and his books have had to be made up by a deputy, whom I was obliged to appoint upon a short notice.

I stated in my report of the 26th February, that I had induced the Guardians to advertize for tenders for supplies for *out-door* relief. If there appears any difficulty upon Thursday next in concluding a contract in time, advantageous for the Union, I intend to recommend that a temporary supply shall be obtained from the Commissariat, which we shall obtain (for ready money) at market price, viz., Indian meal for 8*l.* 8*s.*, and rye meal for 7*l.* per ton. The Guardians have hitherto been supplying out-door relief, by Indian meal, at 11*l.* per ton, from the workhouse contractor.

I have also made myself acquainted with the terms upon which Sligo merchants will deal, so that I hold a check over the contracts that we may receive from the Manorhamilton contractors, who have hitherto played into each other's hands.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 7, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the period for which your sealed order was issued, authorizing out-door relief in this Union to two classes under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, viz., to widows with less than two children, and orphans, will expire on the 12th instant, and the Board of Guardians deem it desirable, in which opinion I coincide, that you be pleased to renew this order for a further period of two months.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have given directions for the renewal of the order for the period specified.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report the proceedings of the Board of Guardians this week, upon Tuesday and Thursday.

Upon the former day they examined the accounts of the Drumkeerin fever hospital, and transacted some other financial business. I recommended them to pass a resolution that in future cheques to pay contractors, &c., should be signed only once in the month instead of weekly, or at irregular intervals as heretofore.

The Chairman signed summonses against certain defaulting high rate-payers in the Killarga electoral division, taken from a list furnished to me by the collector of the district. Each collector will in future be obliged, when he attends the Board, to produce similar lists.

Mr. M'Mullen (Mr. Wilkinson's deputy) made upon Tuesday a verbal report to the Board of Guardians, recommending that the infirmary extension buildings should be taken out of the hands of the contractor, and completed by the Guardians themselves. A resolution to that effect was passed, respecting which I have had the honour to make you a special report.

The chief business on Thursday was examining the applications for relief. I had occasion to call the attention of the Chairman to the tardiness with which the examination of the relief register is executed by the Union clerk. His explanation being that the relieving officers did not attend in due time. A resolution was ordered to be placed on the minutes, enjoining strict attention to that part of their duty in future. My own opinion is, that the inaptitude of the clerk for the methodical dispatch of business is the true cause.

Mr. M'Mullen's report (a copy of which I have the honour to enclose) was laid before the Guardians, who resolved that it should be referred to the Finance Committee on Tuesday next.

Tenders for the supply of Indian meal for out-door relief were accepted at 8*l.* 15*s.* per ton, delivered at each depôt. A considerable economy will thus be effected, as the Guardians have hitherto allowed the workhouse contractor to supply meal to the relieving officers at his own contract price of 11*l.* per ton.

I think there will also be a saving in the next bread contracts for the workhouse, for which tenders are to be received upon Tuesday next.

I have omitted to state that I laid before the Board of Guardians your letter, calling their attention to a neglect of duty on the part of the Killarga relieving officer. The Board called him before them, and cautioned him to be very careful in making himself acquainted with any changes occurring in the families he was relieving. It appearing in this instance that the father of the boy Foley had studiously concealed from the relieving officer the sickness and absence of his son.

The Board considered that this animadversion would have the desired effect, without adopting the severe course of dismissal, in which I concur, as this officer has latterly improved much in zeal and diligence.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the Board of Guardians :—
March 25, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had before them a report from Major Fitzgerald, Temporary Poor Law Inspector for the Manorhamilton Union, in which he states that the chief business of the Board of Guardians, on the 9th instant, was examining the applications for relief, and that he had occasion to call the attention of the Chairman to the tardiness with which the examination of the relief register is executed by you, your explanation being that the relieving officers did not attend in due time. Major Fitzgerald, however, is of opinion that your inaptitude for the methodical dispatch of business is the true cause.

The Commissioners have also had before them the observations of Mr. Otway, Poor Law Inspector, in which he expresses his concurrence in opinion with Major Fitzgerald, and states, that he told you some time ago that he would hold you responsible for the relieving officers' books being properly filled up, unless you pointed out in distinct cases how and when the relieving officer failed in his duty; and unless he found that you had taken proper steps to have every relieving officer punished for neglect of duty immediately on occurrence of such neglect.

The Commissioners have directed me to request that you will furnish them with any explanation you have to offer on the subject.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major FITZGERALD :—*March 14, 1848.*

WITH reference to your report of the 11th instant, I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to forward herewith for your information a copy of queries and opinions of Mr. Henn, Q.C., on the legal point regarding the collection of the poor-rate referred to in your former reports.

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ENCLOSURE.

Queries.

Opinion of J. Henn, Esq., Q.C.

THE Commissioners are desirous of receiving your opinion on the following points:—

1st. Whether the collector, by leaving the six days' notice, deprives himself of the power of proceeding by immediate distress before the expiration of the six days?

2nd. If so, whether after the expiration of the six days the collector can proceed by distress under his own warrant, or must he proceed in pursuance of the notice by complaint before a justice?

1. Where the collector has given notice that payment of the poor-rate may be made at his house or office, within six days, and that in the event of default of payment further proceedings will be instituted, I do not think he has a right to distrain before the expiration of the six days; and even if such right exists, I think it would be wrong to exercise it.

2nd. I do not think the mere service of the notice specified in the *Act* would deprive the collector of the right to distrain if the rate should not be paid within the six days, but in the printed form sent, notice is given that in default of payment within the six days, proceedings will be instituted against the party served for the amount, together with all reasonable costs and charges, &c., &c., which clearly refers to the summary proceedings before a justice of the peace, and after the service of such notice I do not think the collector ought to proceed by distress.

J. HENN.

Limerick, March 11, 1848.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—March 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to report that on Monday (this week) I attended the District Committee at Drumkeerin, and upon examination of the relief books I struck off about 20 families from out-door relief, the heads being able-bodied labourers, some of whom were in employment, and others I believe might be if they chose. I desired the relieving officer to offer tickets of admission to the workhouse to those among them who should apply to him for relief.

I then thought it right to point out to the Committee how absolutely essential it is at this season to apply every stimulant to agricultural industry, and how desirable it is that employment be given at fair money wages. I also proved to them how much better off a large and destitute family is by having even one member supporting them by his wages, than they would be if the whole of them received out-door relief.

Supposing the father of a family to earn 10*d.* a-day, or 5*s.* a-week; 5*s.* will purchase 60 lbs. weight of Indian meal at the present retail price in the district. Supposing the family to be six in number, they would only, upon out-door relief, if all adults, be allowed 5½ lbs. each in the week, or 35½ lbs. for the whole family, instead of 60 lbs.

If one of those adults be a son able to earn 4*s.* a-week, that will bring 48 lbs. more of food into the family, *i. e.* they would receive 108 lbs. of food in the week, instead of 35½ lbs., the out-door relief allowance; and yet there is little doubt that, unless the stimulant of refusing out-door relief is applied stringently, many would rest satisfied with the 35½ lbs. food of idleness!

A proprietor in that district has been employing 70 or 80 labourers at agricultural spade labour. He began by paying them low daily wages of 6*d.* or 8*d.*, with which they were perfectly satisfied; but after a short time he discovered that he was getting no work done, and ordered his agriculturist to give task-work. I asked the agriculturist what those labourers ought to earn at the rates he offered them; he said 10*d.* a-day, but that they almost all refused to work by task at all. What would the effect be if we allowed relief to the families of such persons?

At the same time I have great doubts whether "giving employment" always means employment at fair money wages punctually paid. This is the one thing needful; and unless it becomes the rule instead of the exception, taxation and destitution will go on increasing *pari passu*.

The receipts acknowledged by the treasurer this week from collectors amount only to 219*l.*; but an additional sum has been lodged, though too late

for this week's minutes. Notices were issued to summons certain lessors and high ratepayers, whose names were handed in as defaulters, in the electoral divisions of Drumkeerin and Inishmagrath.

It appearing that sufficient publicity had not been given to the notices for tenders for the supply of bread to the workhouse, the time for receiving them was extended to Tuesday next.

The Guardians resolved to defer the consideration of Mr. M'Mullin's report upon fever hospital and school-rooms proposed to be built until the infirmary range was complete, and they could ascertain what the actual accommodation then will be.

The Board was occupied on Thursday in examining the applications on the relief books.

Great mischief is caused by men deserting their families, and leaving them to be supported by the Union. I have had informations sworn by the master and relieving officers of these families having become chargeable, and have had warrants issued against four or five of the parties, who, there is reason to suspect, are lurking about the country. This is a serious evil, which will, I fear, increase during the spring.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Board of Guardians met twice this week; a quorum of three on Tuesday, and the General Board on Thursday.

Upon Tuesday, fever hospital and other accounts were examined; some observations thereon appear on the minutes.

The only tender for supplying bread to the workhouse was put in by the former contractor, and was so high that I advised the Board at once to reject it, which was done. Before the Board broke up another party agreed to contract for a reasonable price, which was accepted; viz., 6d. per white, and 4d. per brown, 4 lb. loaf. The former contract having been 7½d., a considerable saving will thus be effected in the in-door expenditure.

I likewise stated in a former report, that by advertising with due publicity (aided, I believe, by a rumour which is abroad, that the collection of rates will be enforced, and contractors for the future punctually paid in this Union), we have now Indian meal supplied for out-door relief at 8l. 15s., instead of 11l. per ton, which latter price the Guardians had volunteered to pay, for no reason that I could conjecture except to benefit the contractor.

It is right to state that in effecting economical reforms of this nature, I find Mr. Tottenham, Chairman of the Board, a zealous and able assistant when he attends.

Thursday the Board was occupied chiefly in examining the applications for relief.

As I have reason to think that at this season of the year, unless great vigilance be exerted, the families of persons in employment on money wages will continue to receive out-door relief, I suggested to the Guardians that on Monday next all the members of the families receiving out-door relief in the electoral division of Manorhamilton, be required to appear at the workhouse, except the bed-ridden, and that some of the Guardians belonging to the district shall be present at the scrutiny, which was agreed to. In no other way shall we be able to get at the truth. I think this will do it.

The collectors have lodged 446l. this week, and notices served upon certain immediate lessors and high rate-payers, taken from a list given in by the collectors. I have already asked to have some of your printed forms for that purpose sent to me, which I think I shall be able to make good use of.

Fever is, I am glad to say, much decreased, which I attribute mainly to the precautions now taken for keeping the in-coming paupers as short a time as possible in the probationary wards. This, and sending all doubtful cases at once to the hospital, instead of admitting them to the house, are, I am convinced, the most effective means that can be resorted to for keeping fever away from a workhouse. We have a porter who performs his duties in enforcing these measures with much intelligence and effect; and the medical officer is fully and properly awake to their importance.

You will observe on the minutes that the Guardians request a plan from Mr.

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Wilkinson for a fever hospital, to cost 600*l*. I am not prepared to say whether that sum would suffice for providing the accommodation that would be requisite. Mr. M'Mullen's estimate was 1900*l*. for a building to contain 100 patients.

The new master, Mr. Browne, arrived yesterday. I have been at the workhouse with him yesterday and this day; he appears intelligent and zealous, and will, I hope, be a useful officer.

The late master is unfortunately laid up with dysentery, which will delay the regular taking over of the establishment for a few days.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 31, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of the Commissioners' architect has been drawn to the resolution of the Board of Guardians referred to in your report.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 1, 1848.*

UPON Monday I attended the Relief Committee and inspected the fever hospital at Drumkeerin. This is the electoral division, the destitution of which it will be the most difficult to cope with of any in this Union. I take every opportunity of urging the proprietors and farmers to give employment as the only means of reducing their own taxation, but the farms are generally so small that the owners are able to cultivate them (as they understand cultivation), by means of their own families, and this district is more in the condition of the destitute parts of the south of Ireland than any other in this Union.

However, some proprietors are now giving employment on money wages, and I do not apprehend, that even in Drumkeerin, there will be a necessity to extend out-door relief to the able-bodied.

I also think that the bread rations to the schools will prove a valuable aid in this poor electoral division.

Upon Tuesday fever and other accounts were examined. The master of the workhouse having reported to me that the meal contractor furnishes the supplies very irregularly, which interferes with the proper arrangement of hours for breakfasts or dinners, the clerk was instructed by the Board to announce to the contractor, that unless the supplies are furnished regularly and in the due quantities, his contract will be rescinded. As it is a very advantageous one to him, this will doubtless have the desired effect of producing regularity in future.

Upon Thursday, in addition to the usual examination of the relief applications, a special personal scrutiny was made of those receiving out-door relief in the Manorhamilton electoral division. We had not time to go through the whole of the cases, but a quorum of the Guardians will meet me on an extra day (not being the general Board-day), for the purpose of concluding this which is a very useful examination.

The new master finds that his time and attention must be so absorbed for some time in effecting any necessary reforms in the general arrangements of the house as to classification, discipline, cleanliness, &c., that he has requested to be allowed some temporary assistance in the department of accounts. The Guardians have, by my advice, appointed an assistant for a limited period—salary to be fixed on Tuesday next.

I hope you will be pleased to sanction this arrangement which I conceive to be absolutely necessary under the circumstances.

I have commenced the issue of bread rations to the schools, but am doing it very cautiously, and I will postpone reporting to you in this matter till I have got the system fully into action.

Major FITZGERALD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 8, 1848.*

UPON Monday I proceeded to Drumkeeran, examined the relieving officer's books, and visited some schools.

The Finance Committee met upon Tuesday, which being the 1st in the month,

the day fixed for paying contractors, a large amount of the sums due was paid off. Other special business was transacted. Upon a matter relating to the conduct of a relieving officer, I have the honour to send a special report by this post.

Upon another case, relating to the death of a child in the workhouse, I beg to observe, that though quite aware myself of the real circumstances, and that the story accusing the master of severity was a pure fabrication, I thought it right, in justice to him, to have the matter publicly investigated, as you observe it was, and with the most satisfactory result.

The fact is, discipline had been much relaxed, and classification neglected, by the late master; and the present one, by the steps he is obliged to take for effecting the necessary reforms, has excited feelings of hostility among those whom he is obliged to coerce. In the beginning of this week there was actually a spirit of insubordination in the house. Upon Tuesday, however, I had two persons, who had distinguished themselves by insolence and disorderly conduct, brought before the Board for the purpose of making an example. The Guardians very properly expressed their determination to uphold the authority of the master, and those two persons have been committed for trial at the next petty sessions.

The master has since told me that the effect has been "magical" in restoring obedience and subordination.

I have no doubt I shall have in a short time to report a marked improvement in the workhouse. The master is most zealous and efficient, and of course I afford him every support and assistance in my power. The appointment of an assistant-master has been a great relief to him.

Upon Wednesday a quorum of the Guardians and myself completed a personal scrutiny of the families on out-door relief in the Manorhamilton electoral division, and struck off nine, the heads of which we discovered to be in employment. It is of immense importance to be able to detect these cases, because it is one of the abuses which rate-payers will sometimes connive at, as it enables them to get labourers to work for them at reduced wages.

For no evil is it more necessary to find a cure, or more difficult, than the attempt to take advantage of the misery of the times to force down wages. Besides sundry other social evils, one of the effects is, to induce the labourer to seek employment in other places, where better wages are given; and he leaves his family a burden upon the rates here. Others, who stay at home and accept the paltry wages offered, remain, they and their families, in a state of semi-starvation, and doubtless give very bad work to the employer.

The answer, of course, of the farmer or employer will be, that in times like these, he cannot afford to give the wages he used to do.

Several proprietors in this Union are giving employment under the Land Improvement Act, and the labourers are earning fair money wages, but they are chiefly the tenantry of the proprietors.

I observe a great deal of the tillage going on is by young boys and women.

A considerable quantity of potatoes is planted.

Upon Thursday ordinary business was transacted, and the minutes of Tuesday confirmed.

I am happy to note an improvement in general attention to business on the part of the Board latterly, and one or two useful additions have been made by the late annual election.

The rate collection is not in a satisfactory state, and I have warned one or two of the collectors that I shall put into force the 100th section of the Act 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 56, which renders them liable to a fine of 5*l.* for neglect of duty.

A large amount of the sums unpaid is due by occupiers who let their land for grazing; and till after the 1st May there is no stock upon the land, and therefore the rate collectors have nothing in such cases to get hold of.

I have been engaged a good deal this week in visiting the schools, and carrying Count Strzelecki's arrangements into effect.

MOHILL UNION.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February* 11, 1848.

I REGRET that I cannot report this week any abatement of the pressure of applications for relief from extreme want in the Mohill Union. The books of the relieving officers (the examination of which occupied, as usual, the greater part of Wednesday and yesterday) exhibited an increase of 1000 individuals, whom it was found necessary to take on the out-door relief list; and my close inquiries of these officers, compared with my own observations and information obtained this day during a tour through great part of the Union, convince me that this increase will continue for some weeks to come. At the same time the number of admissions lately made to the house, has filled it even beyond what it is advisable to retain there. I have within the last few weeks several times urged upon the Vice-Guardians the precaution of sending out of the house as many widows and children as they could; and with this object in view, the late master had been a fortnight since, directed to make a list of all those who had been six months in the workhouse; but this like his other duties was neglected; and the Vice-Guardians, overwhelmed as I foresaw by the multiplicity of matters to be attended to in both Unions, had not found time to see to its accomplishment before the last Board day (yesterday).

Among the able-bodied men, I fear there are numerous cases of desertion of their wives and families, rather than submit to enter the workhouse; but several of that class have also been driven by want to accept the admission to it, finding they could not get out-door relief; and as there are now for the first time, 15 or 20 of these in the workhouse, the maintenance of strict discipline, and the exacting of labour, become most important.

There have been recently in the house several daring cases of plunder of bread, and other delinquencies, and some indications of insubordination which must be instantly repressed if possible. I had hoped that the presence of the new master, Mr. Moran, who has been in charge for five days, would have been felt; but I have been surprised and concerned to perceive no indications of energy, command, or order on his part. At the Board yesterday, he had none of his provision accounts made up; nor it appeared had made a roll of the inmates; and when questioned by the Vice-Guardians with great mildness and forbearance, he exhibited a degree of *nonchalance*, if indeed his manner do not deserve a stronger epithet, for which I auger little good.

The Vice-Guardians have required of him to have certain duties performed by Sunday morning (one of the principal of which is making a *bona fide* roll of the inmates), and pointed out to him his responsibility for the stores, and for the daily consumption in the house, which he did not appear to have at all assumed; and as one of them at least will attend that morning to see the result, we shall have means of judging of his competence for his present office. Should he fail, or exhibit, as I apprehend, a disposition to resign the situation, the position of the Vice-Guardians will be very critical. In the interval before another master could be found, insubordination and disorder may attain a height difficult to suppress: and I know not what can be done but to turn out the greater part of the inmates, which will be attended with disastrous consequences to the system of relief, or to apply for, and if possible obtain, for a short time, some extraneous assistance—such as two intelligent and determined non-commissioned officers of the line, or sergeants of the constabulary.

I look on the maintenance of the workhouse test at this season, accompanied (to render it effectual) by strict discipline and order in the house, as the point on which the future safety of the Union depends. In the workhouse there is no adequate place for confinement of the refractory; and the gaol has rather attractions, than terror, for the wretched and degraded individuals who form the majority of the inmates, and to whom the food and warmth of the gaol are actual comforts.

The collection of the rates in the six divisions where it has commenced, proceeds tolerably well. About 400% had been obtained in the last week; and I hope that no forcible resistance will be offered to the collectors: but I fear that the actual poverty of a multitude of the tenants holding from 10 to 20 acres of land will make its complete collection impossible in several districts.

Fever appears to be on the increase in one part of the Union; while in another from no visible cause it has latterly very much decreased.

The supply of cast military bedding, most seasonably granted to the Vice-Guardians by the Commissary-General, will enable them to receive patients from the sickly portion of the Union (in which it is situated) into the temporary fever hospital recently hired, and taken over by them this morning.

Mohill Union.

Further Report from Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS :—
February 12, 1848.

WHEN sending off last night, my weekly report, written immediately after returning from an extended visit through the Mohill Union, from Carrigallen, (to which I had proceeded for that purpose, late on Thursday night, after the Board had closed its sitting,) to this place, I was not aware that the event therein adverted to as probable, had already occurred. Mr. Moran yesterday formally resigned the office of master, and in a way that would render his remaining there beyond to-morrow useless and inadvisable. He has done literally nothing since his arrival, and Mr. Duncan, whose intimate acquaintance with the forms of workhouse accounts, enables him to form a conclusive opinion, considers him quite ignorant of and incapable of keeping such.

As a temporary expedient, the Vice-Guardians have placed in charge of the workhouse an intelligent and active, but very young man, who has been for the last 10 days employed by them as assistant master, and I trust that assisted by our almost constant presence and support in the house, he will be able for some time to preserve order and system. Meantime they will advertise for a master and clerk, the latter being in a hopeless state of disease.

I beg leave now to draw your attention to the present position of affairs at the workhouse. The staff consists of this inexperienced young man, as acting master. There is no matron, and the assistant matron lately engaged, exhibits little of the energy required in such a house. No clerk, (the duties of that officer being, since Christmas, performed by one of the Vice-Guardians, aided by a smart and clever boy as acting clerk,) a schoolmaster who cannot even keep the boys in the school-room; and an indifferent schoolmistress and porter. In the house, probably from a number of mislaid keys being in the possession of the paupers, it is found quite impossible to keep the doors locked or preserve classification, and there are no means of punishment, there being not a single cell or lock-up room in the house, whose original construction is most inconvenient and insecure.

At this conjuncture the house contains more inmates than it has ever had previously; and there is reason to apprehend the immediate necessity for admitting a considerable number of able-bodied men, as soon as room can be made for them.

As the petty sessions are held but once a fortnight, and there is no provision for the custody in the interval, of a delinquent, the jurisdiction of the resident magistrate is of little avail for the prompt punishment of offenders that may be required to maintain order.

Under these circumstances I beg leave to recommend that a special application should be made to obtain for us, for three weeks or a month, the services of an active and resolute constable of police, or, if possible, of a sergeant and corporal from some regiment of the line, to maintain the discipline of the house and enforce employment, while the present acting master shall keep the stores, look to the issue of clothing, and the constant stream of admissions and discharges, and under the direction of the Vice-Guardians endeavour to expurgate the register and bring up the arrears of, and keep henceforth the master's books and accounts.

I would also request permission strongly to urge the propriety of increasing the salaries to be offered for the situations of master and clerk, the former to 60*l.* per annum, and the latter to 50*l.*; as there is no probability of procuring a thoroughly efficient and competent master for the amount at present allowed (40*l.* per annum with only the pauper's rations), and as it is manifest that in consequence of the extensive degree of destitution in this Union, the workhouse, including the additional sheds to be erected, must remain for some years liable to be constantly filled, and the task of bringing up the clerk's books and

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returns, and the business likely to arise from the mistakes of the valuator in his yet unfinished revision, will probably impose on the clerk constant and unremitting labour for some months.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 14, 1843.*

WE beg to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the absence of a refractory ward in connexion with the Mohill Workhouse. The places we use for this purpose at present—two small stores under boys' and girls' stairs, opening on passage from entrance-door to dining-hall—are totally inadequate. We would therefore request the sanction of the Commissioners to the erection of a refractory ward on some suitable part of the workhouse premises.

The limited means we possess for the punishment of offending paupers interferes much with our efforts to restore discipline. The powers conferred by the 58th sec. of 1 and 2 Vic., c. 56, are quite inadequate to cope with the insubordinate and unruly numbers which our policy of confining relief to able-bodied men alone in the workhouse has made inmates; and this difficulty is much increased by the absence of a refractory ward. As paupers can now only be brought before the magistrates at petty sessions, which are held but once in the fortnight, and as no means of restraint exists for offenders during the intermediate time, we find the section of the Act almost inoperative, and breaches of the workhouse rules may occur with impunity. The minor punishments of reduction of allowances of food or additional work would be of little effect, even had we officers or means to properly carry these out.

If the magistrates were invested with the power to make prompt convictions, an important assistance would be rendered in enabling us to uphold discipline in the workhouse.

Another point we shall advert to when on this subject is, the lowness of the walls of that portion of the boys' and girls' yards fronting the schools. The children can pass over these walls with the greatest ease; and as there is no adequate boundary fence to the workhouse grounds, great irregularities arise in consequence. We propose that these walls should be raised three or four feet; and although perhaps this would slightly injure the appearance of the building, we think it indispensable. So soon as funds permit, if the plan meets the Commissioners' sanction, we will have it carried into effect.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 18, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners, before giving their sanction to the proposed alterations, will communicate with their architect, Mr. Wilkinson, who is at present on service in another part of Ireland.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 26, 1848.*

ADVERTING to your report of the 14th instant and the Commissioners' reply of 18th instant, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, in reference to your application for the sanction of the Commissioners to the erection of a refractory ward at the workhouse, that they think proper wards should be provided for each sex, and that if no part of the existing buildings can be applied to that purpose, they consent to the erection of such wards in the manner proposed.

At the same time the Commissioners wish to point out, in regard to your observations as to the insufficiency of the provisions of the 58th section of 1 and 2 Vict., c. 56, to repress insubordination and refractory conduct, on the ground that the offenders can only be brought before the magistrates at petty sessions, which are held but once a fortnight, that under the 60th section of that Act a warrant of apprehension may be obtained at once from one justice, and the offender may be taken into custody immediately thereupon, and kept in custody until the petty sessions are held.

With regard to your proposition to raise the walls of the boys' and girls' yards fronting the schools three or four feet, the architect observes that the

raising up of the dwarf walls in front of the schoolrooms, as proposed, would make the rooms behind the walls too gloomy. Iron railing was originally intended to be put on these walls if necessary, and can be now added.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 14, 1848.*

WE regret that the death of our late clerk, Mr. William Simpson, and the illness of the acting clerk, have delayed the transmission of several returns, and the minutes of meeting on 10th instant; we hope, however, to have these documents forwarded by to-morrow night's post.

The master recently appointed has resigned, and the matron's continuance being dependent on his, we now advertise for both these officers. We propose to continue the salary of the master at that already fixed, 40% per annum, but to increase the rations, say to the extent of 5% in the year.

In reference to the proposition contained in our letter of the 2nd instant, of appointing two relieving officers at a salary of 35% per annum each, in room of the officer for the Carrigallen, Newtown Gore, and Drumreilly electoral divisions, resigned, and to your communication in answer thereto, sanctioning that arrangement, we beg to state that, in consequence of considerations which subsequent information have presented, we are disposed to adhere to the original plan of having but one officer, at a salary of 50% per annum for those divisions. Viewing all the circumstances of the case, we believe this to be the better course; it will secure a person of a superior class, be in uniformity with the practice in the other parts of the Union, meet the temporary pressure of destitution (the officer having an assistant as already sanctioned by you) better than by employing *two inferior* men, promote economy, and tend to restrain complication in the working of the system of out-relief, as well as be in keeping with what would ultimately be desirable, after the distress of the present season had settled within ordinary limits.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 16, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that with the view of procuring a better master for the workhouse the Commissioners are prepared to sanction a salary of 50% for that officer, and the Commissioners are satisfied with the arrangement that there should be only one relieving officer for the electoral divisions of Carrigallen, Newtown Gore, and Drumreilly, as now recommended by you, and as originally approved by the Commissioners.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 15, 1848.*

ALTHOUGH I have constantly inspected the workhouse at Mohill, and have reported that I observed extremely little improvement in its deplorable condition, I think it advisable to take this opportunity of again representing its state for the information of the Commissioners.

It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that not a single regulation or recommendation of the Commissioners is or can be at present carried out in the Mohill workhouse. The Vice-Guardians are both in attendance there on two days in the week, and one or other of them present for seven or eight hours every day of the remaining five (even the Sunday being latterly of necessity a day of business), but the duty expected of them is more than any degree of personal labour can accomplish.

I have repeatedly stated that there is not a single effective officer in the house, and when I add that there is not at this moment any roll of the inmates, nor even a knowledge of the actual numbers in the house, that in consequence of the defective supply of water the breakfast often cannot be prepared even for the hospital patients until one in the afternoon, and that there are numerous cases of dysentery throughout the house which the medical officer cannot remove into the infirmary from want of room; that the probationary wards are crowded, and the ordure and filth defile the premises even in front of the main building; that the acting master yesterday reported about 30 male paupers for various acts of disobedience and insubordination, whom there were no means of punishing, except by turning them out of the house, and thus reducing them

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to starve or rob (which, of course, was not to be thought of); that the porter, over-worked, intimated his intention to resign, and the acting clerk (a boy) was obliged by indisposition to leave the house in the afternoon; that I was myself engaged for some hours yesterday, assisting one of the Vice-Guardians to select some women with families to be sent out of the house for out-door relief, and in the necessary preliminary inquiries found the register full of inaccuracies and omissions which create complete confusion, and would require a long and laborious inquiry to correct; and that further, every attempt at rectifying the defects of the house is checked or vexatiously opposed by some local inconvenience, such as the want of tradesmen or artizans capable of executing an order or completing a contract; some idea may be formed of the disheartening and almost insuperable difficulties to be overcome.

Were it even possible to procure at once a complete and effective staff of experienced officers from the best Union workhouse in Ireland, I do not believe they could establish the order, discipline, and cleanliness that is essential to the conduct of these institutions in a month; and I greatly fear that there is no chance of the Vice-Guardians procuring the services of any competent to the duties, and who will encounter the many disgusts and incessant labour required in a really earnest attempt to effect the object desired.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 16, 1848.*

THE Commissioners appreciate the difficulties described by you, and regret the disorder and confusion described as existing in the workhouse.

The Commissioners are prepared to sanction the rate of salary proposed for the master of the workhouse, namely, 50*l.* The salary of the clerk should also certainly be raised, and the Commissioners request you to obtain the views of the Vice-Guardians on the subject. The Commissioners think it may properly be raised to 60*l.* at least, considering the increased duties of the clerk under the new Acts; and the Commissioners trust the Vice-Guardians will be able by their advertisement to obtain the services of efficient officers.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 16, 1848.*

WE beg to report for the information of the Commissioners, in reference to the transactions of the Mohill Union during the past week as follows:—

Rates and Rate Collectors.

2. The total amount lodged during the week ending 12th instant, was 409*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* In the current week 146*l.* has been already lodged; this is considerably short of the amount collected (which we are unable exactly to ascertain until the fortnightly examination of the collectors' accounts on Tuesday next). This deficiency in the lodgments arises from the distance of the Treasurer, his refusal to take silver or Bank of England notes without a high discount; but we expect before Tuesday next the collectors will have cleared up their accounts. The total amount now lodged of the new rate is 663*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* and we trust the amount collected will on the day named, (Tuesday next) not have fallen short of 1,000*l.*

3. We have now completed the appointment of collectors for the entire Union, a competent person being this day accepted for the Annaveagh electoral division, the last which was vacant. His bond will be perfected to-morrow, and we can then have all the rate already made, placed in full collection. We conceive the staff of collectors is as satisfactory as could be expected from the peculiar circumstances of the locality. Our utmost vigilance shall be directed to their progress, and the supervision of their accounts; and every practicable measure shall be put in force to ensure the accomplishment of our most important design, the due collection of the rates.

4. To our regret and disappointment the revising valuator has not yet completed the revision of the Mohill electoral division; and we fear it will be another week before he has it finished. If legal, we should wish to terminate Mr. Gallagher's employment with the completion of this division, and with your sanction will appoint a competent person to proceed with the revision of the three electoral divisions still undone. Should we be obliged to await the progress of Mr. Gallagher two months hence, the valuation will probably be

unfinished, and the rate not in collection over all the Union. The Commissioners' opinion on this important particular we look to with anxiety.

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Workhouse.

5. The person we appointed as master (Mr. Morran) has resigned, being we think incompetent. We proceed at once to elect a successor. The temporary matron we still retain, until a permanent one be chosen, and we are pleased with the exertions of Miss Morran in the former capacity. The death of Mr. Simpson, our clerk, and illness of the acting clerk, has retarded office business. We have advertised for a person to succeed Mr. Simpson, and hope after his appointment to make speedy progress in bringing up the arrears of accounts.

6. Much difficulty has arisen in the management of the workhouse, from the imperfect means of restraining and punishing refractory paupers, who exhibit much uneasiness at the prospect of improved discipline; we have already addressed a letter to you on this subject. Mr. Higgins, our temporary assistant, is particularly active and useful, and with his assistance the establishment is improving.

Out-door Relief.

7. We have now nearly 6,000 on the out relief lists, and within the next fortnight expect the number will reach 7,000, which will probably be the maximum. Employment to some extent it is expected will then commence, and its effects will diminish our relief lists. There is not a single able-bodied man receiving out-door relief, admission to the workhouse under our management being the sole mode of relief to that class. By pursuing this course we have kept thousands off the lists, and therefore accomplished a considerable saving. An improvement is perceptible in the appearance of the people, and we are disposed to think that very few really destitute persons coming within classes suitable for relief, have escaped the attention of the relieving officer; and we believe not one individual in the Union has sunk beneath starvation unrelieved, since the full organization of out-door relief. We have transferred about fifty widows and children from the workhouse this week to out-relief.

Fever Hospitals.

8. We this week place the Carrigallen fever hospital in operation. Our Mohill fever hospital is going on satisfactorily; by it we are able to keep the workhouse perfectly free of infectious disease.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 28, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report of the 16th instant relative to the revision of the valuation of Mohill Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that as it appears from your further report of the 23rd instant, that the revision of Mohill division has been completed, and that only three divisions remain to be completed, the Commissioners think it might be unadvisable to interrupt the completion of the revision, as delay must necessarily occur in the appointment of another person in place of the present revisor; the Commissioners have, however, addressed a further letter to him, of which a copy is enclosed for your information, and the Commissioners request that every means may be used to urge him to greater expedition in completing the revision.

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Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 13, 1848.*

FROM the tenor of my recent communications, it may be anticipated that I can have but little of improvement to report this week in the condition of the Mohill Union.

The workhouse continues in the same defective state, and cannot be expected to improve until the Vice-Guardians succeed in obtaining the services of an efficient master. I regret that the increase of the salary of this officer to 60%, as recommended by me, has not been sanctioned, as I am firmly persuaded that the thorough establishment of regularity and discipline (which must mainly depend upon his incessant exertions) would prove a means of saving annually several hundreds of pounds to the Union, by rendering the workhouse, what it cannot otherwise be made, an effective and rigorous test for discriminating between pretended and real destitution.

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The increase of the clerk's salary to at least 60%, as recommended by you, I will urge upon the Vice-Guardians; and do not doubt that on consideration, they will coincide in regarding it as for the best interests of the rate-payers.

The increase of applications from destitute persons visited and relieved during the past week, has raised the out-door relief register to about 6400, of whom, probably, 300 may have been struck off or transferred to the workhouse.

Very few of these, I have reason to think, are not strictly entitled to and in actual want of relief, except the class of deserted women and children.

There is so manifest a disposition among the labouring able-bodied men, who will not submit to enter the workhouse, to desert their families, and thus get them taken on the relieving officers' books, that the Vice-Guardians have been obliged to enjoin in all these to compel the women representing themselves as deserted within the last few months, to come forward and swear an information against their husbands, which there are grounds for hoping will check this increasing practice.

With the exception of the applications from this class, I perceive the gradual abatement of the pressure for relief; and I now entertain a sanguine hope that we shall not be compelled at all to relax the test which has proved so effectual against the able-bodied men, especially as employment will shortly be more general. Already I have noted in the country indications of activity in tillage; and sometimes observe groups of three and four men labouring together, instead of the solitary digger more generally seen slowly turning up the irregular shallow furrow. And in the district near Ballinamore, four of the resident gentlemen are giving employment to a number of labourers in land improvement.

In addition to this, there will soon be a demand for several hundred such for certain works to be carried on under the Board of Works in general drainage.

The collection of the rates is proceeding, though not as yet very rapidly. The collector for the Annaduff division, who is a gentleman of much activity and business habits, has shown by the amount he has already lodged, the effects of energy and promptness in enforcing payment.

He reported yesterday that on the previous day a cow he had seized for rates had been forcibly rescued from his men; and an immediate application was made to the resident magistrate, who granted a warrant for the apprehension of the parties concerned, and has promised to send a force of police with the collector the moment it is applied for.

I trust that this prompt proceeding will put down any spirit of forcible resistance; and I may add, that the other collectors speak of no avowed opposition to the payments demanded, although there has not yet been time sufficient to judge of the success of the measures they must adopt, to compel payment from those who did not come forward within the first fortnight after they had received their warrants.

A collector has been chosen for the last electoral division remaining vacant.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February* 26, 1848.

In regard to your recommendation of 60% as the salary of the master of the workhouse, I am to observe that the amount approved, namely, 50%, is beyond the average salary for which efficient masters are obtained for other workhouses, of similar size to that of Mohill; and the salary of 50%, with rooms for residence, and the allowances made to the master of rations, coals, and candles, will exceed in value the salary of 60%, to be allowed to the clerk of the Union, who is a superior officer to the master.

With respect to the statement that the dinner for the inmates was not, on the day before your report, supplied till half-past 9 p.m.; and to some later, for want of tins and spoons, the Commissioners trust that some arrangement will be made by the Vice-Guardians and yourself, by which such an occurrence may be prevented in future.

In relation to the desertion of wives or children by able-bodied men, I am to state that the Commissioners approve of steps being taken for the punishment of men deserting their families, as provided by section 2 of the Vagrant Act, 10 and 11 Vict., c. 84.

The Commissioners also approve of the measures taken for enforcing the

collection of the rate in Annaduff division, and request that all necessary steps may be resorted to, for the purpose in this and the other divisions of the Union. In case of rescue, after informations have been sworn, a further seizure should at once be made, wherever practicable.

The long-continued state of disorder and mismanagement in this workhouse is a subject of great regret to the Commissioners, whose authority has been used to its utmost extent, by establishing an extraordinary agency for the administration of the law, instead of that which was previously existing, and by default of which the workhouse and the affairs of the Union fell into so disorganized a state.

The Commissioners have relied, and still rely, on the exertions of the local agency now established, to restore the Union and the workhouse to a satisfactory state. The Commissioners trust that the opportunity now afforded by vacancies in the three important offices of clerk, master, and matron, will lead to a proper choice of successors, and, as regards the offices of master and matron, to an improvement in the management of the workhouse.

The Commissioners enclose for your information and guidance, and that of the Vice-Guardians, two printed copies of instructions, relative to the management of workhouses, drawn up by Mr. Nicholls during his residence as Commissioner in Ireland.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 21, 1848.*

As the rate struck upon ten of the electoral divisions in the Mohill Union is now being put in active collection, and as a very considerable amount of money, both as rate and as arrears of the rates of 1845 and 1846, is due by the immediate lessor on several estates over which there are receivers appointed by the Court of Chancery, I think it advisable again to bring under your notice the extreme difficulty experienced in obtaining payment of rates from these parties.

In my report of the 12th November, 1847, I adverted to this difficulty, and requested instructions as to whether a special application should be made to the Chancellor for an injunction to these receivers to pay the rates in accordance with the order, dated 12th November, 1845; and I subsequently urged that a special application should be made by the attorney to the late Board of Guardians in the cases of several such estates. The attorney afterwards stated to the Board, that two of the Masters in Chancery applied to (Murphy and Litton) had declined issuing such an order, and referred the Guardians to the collector's power of distraint on the actual occupier of the land in case of non-payment by the immediate lessor, and stated that the receivers could not be called on to pay where they had not received rents.

But I have to observe that it is precisely on such estates (in which the rent has so frequently been allowed to run into arrear) that the collector finds it practically almost impossible to recover rates from a great portion of the occupants, in consequence of the holdings being absolutely destitute of anything to distrain, or of a preconcerted system of signals, by which as soon as the collector appears, the tenants are warned of his approach, and enabled to drive in and secure under lock and key any cattle or stock they may possess before he can effect a seizure.

Further, as it is not in the power of the collector or the Guardians to prove when the receivers have or have not obtained payment of rents, the payment of the poor rates due by immediate lessors may be continually evaded on the plea of having no monies in hand, unless the receivers be ordered by the Courts in all instances to pay these rates when notified to them as due, out of the *first* sums they shall thereafter receive on account of the said immediate lessors, and some injunctions be made against paying away monies obtained for rents to other accounts without *first* liquidating the collector's demand.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the copy I have obtained from the attorney to the late Board, Mr. O'Brien, of the letter from his conducting clerk in Dublin, containing the statement as to the reply made by Master Murphy in the cases of the estates of Mr. Nisbett and of Mr. Westby Percival; and to mention that the amounts due on other estates (such as that of the late Colonel Madden), are considerably larger than on these.

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ENCLOSURE.

COPY LETTER from Mr. ROBERT JOHNSON, No. 11, Lower Gloucester-place, my conducting clerk, on the subject of an application I directed him to make to the master in the causes over which receivers have been appointed on the estate of Francis Nisbett and Westby Percival, for the poor-rates due on those estates, and chargeable to the inheritor as the immediate lessor.

ROBERT P. O'BRIEN.

1st December, 1847.

On this morning I applied to Master Murphy on the subject of the poor-rates due by the landlords of the lands over which receivers are appointed, and he informed me that there is no general order, such as you have mentioned, on receivers to pay the poor-rate, and that he could not listen to any statement of facts by any third party without an order from the Court; that if the receiver received the rents, he was bound to pay the landlord's share of the poor-rates; that if the receiver cannot receive the rents, he is not of course bound to pay poor-rates out of his own pocket; and that the Poor Law Guardians have a clear remedy by distraining the lands through their collector. I also spoke to counsel as to the course the Poor Law Guardians should pursue against the landlords for the poor-rates of their tenants, whose holdings are at and under the yearly value of 4*l.*, and he informed me that these poor-rates being the landlord's debts, your course should be by distress through the poor-rate collector on the lands of the landlord, or by distress of their own lands on the lands. This is his verbal opinion without looking into the Act, but might it not be advisable to lay a case before counsel and have his written opinion, under which the Poor Law Guardians should act upon all future occasions as well as the present.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 4, 1848.*

In reference to your report of 21st ultimo, relating to the collection of the poor rates on estates for which receivers have been appointed under the Court of Chancery, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they are in communication with their solicitors on the subject.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*February 24, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to return the accompanying petition to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant from Widow Geelan, of Rooskynamona, in Mohill Union, which was transmitted to the Commissioners for inquiry; and I am to state that, having communicated with Major Haliday, inspector of Mohill Union, and with the Vice-Guardians of the Union thereon, the Commissioners have received from them respectively, communications, of which copies are herewith transmitted for the information of his Excellency.

ENCLOSURES.

To His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT.

PETITIONER HUMBLY SHOWETH—

THE humble petition of Widow Geelan, of Rooskynamona, hopes your Lordship will see me justified in granting me the out-door relief, I making application for it and was denied several times; I being a helpless widow these 40 years and upwards; lost my land; and I having a little boy destitute of his limbs, and both him and me are in a state of starvation, unless your noble Lordship does look to us with an eye of mercy and charity; and in so doing I will be in duty bound to always pray.

WIDOW GEELAN.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 22, 1848.*

I HAVE this day visited at her own residence the Widow Geelan, who acknowledged to me that she was the petitioner in question, and that she had twice on former occasions written to the Lord Lieutenant and received replies. She is in possession of 3 roods 10 perches of land, of which upwards of half an acre is laid down in wheat, and promises well.

The son she refers to in her letter is a man of 30 years of age or upwards, but a cripple, and makes his livelihood by teaching. Another son, Michael Geelan, holds a good farm of nearly 10 acres, well cropped and manured, and is apparently in very comfortable circumstances, and well able to support her if she were destitute, which is not the case.

Her house has much less appearance of poverty or discomfort than those of a multitude of the class of small rate-payers: and she herself looks stout and well fed, though nearly 80 years of age, according to her own statement.

The land she says she lost, was another farm of four Irish acres, which is now held by her son Michael.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 23, 1848.*

Mohill Union.

IN answer to your letter of the 18th instant, requesting the observations of the Vice-Guardians as to the case of Widow Geelan, who acknowledges to have memorialized the Lord Lieutenant, we beg leave to state that, having made due inquiry into her circumstances, we find that she holds 3 roods 10 perches of land, one half acre of which is well laid down in wheat. Her cottage neat, and no appearance of destitution either in her person or premises. "Her boy" is a man of 30 years of age, is a teacher, and earns a livelihood thereby.

She also has another son, a comfortable farmer (for this country), holding 9 acres 3 roods 32 perches of good land, which he has well cropped, the fields large, and generally in good condition.

In conclusion, we have to state that, had this woman not been in occupation of 3 roods 10 perches of land, which is in itself sufficient to disqualify her from getting relief, we should not be inclined to afford it to her from the independent circumstances of her son.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 23, 1848.*

1. WE beg to briefly report on the circumstances of the Mohill Union, in connexion with the past week.

Rates.

2. The amount lodged in the week ending last Thursday was 196*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* The collection of the current week will probably exceed 300*l.* Balances still appear in the hands of the rate-collectors; but this arises from the difficulty of making lodgments, and in all cases they have exhibited cash equal to the amount unlodged. The treasurer being so far removed from the Union occasions this inconvenience; but we shall give the closest attention to the proper disposal by the collectors of the monies they collect. We are inclined, from observation, to think the rate-collectors are acting with all possible vigour and industry. There does not appear any deep feeling of dissatisfaction at the rate; the chief difficulty in the collection will be the poverty of the country, for as yet no act of opposition worth notice has been committed.

3. We shall be able to sign the rate of the Mohill electoral division on Monday next, when it shall be placed in immediate collection; and we trust that large payments from it will quickly follow.

Workhouse.

4. The absence of a master has been remedied to some extent by the great exertions of a young man (Mr. Higgins), who we employed as acting master. All the paupers in the house are now clad tolerably well with the Union clothing; and those that were in probationaries have all been introduced into their proper wards. The sanitary state of the house has so improved as to be no longer the source of uneasiness it was for some time to us. Six paupers (five able-bodied males and one female) were convicted this day and sent to gaol for refractory conduct, which we hope will have a wholesome effect in subduing the feeling of insubordination, which returning healthfulness and amended discipline, was arousing among the inmates.

5. We hope that proper persons may offer for the offices of master and matron at the election on Thursday next. The increased salary (50*l.*) offered by your sanction for the master, may possibly attract a superior class of men to those who have hitherto proposed here for the situation.

6. As no contractor offered for the erection of the sheds, we have commenced ourselves to prepare for their construction, and propose that the work should be proceeded with under the superintendence of Mr. Kelly, if Mr. Wilkinson can concede his time for a few weeks to effect this purpose.

Out-door Relief.

7. The pressure has slightly diminished, and there is some prospect of a continuance of this diminution. The minutes and returns exhibit all the statistics, so that we need not allude to them more fully here. We trust that the public and private employment, which is now opening in many parts of the Union, will enable us to pursue the course we have up to this time adopted, of giving no out-relief to able-bodied men. We have still some space in the workhouse for that class, and will increase it weekly by the discharge of the aged and infirm.

Mohill Union.

8. Our hospital at Carrigallen has been opened for the reception of patients suffering from infectious disease; and all necessary arrangements made for its operation, under our own personal inspection. We consider that it will afford accommodation for this purpose of a superior description, and will tend to mitigate the suffering of that locality in a most important degree.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 28, 1848.*

THE Commissioners trust that you will not relax in your exertions to enforce the vigorous collection of the rate, which is essential, not only for providing adequately for the relief of the destitute poor, but for relieving the affairs of the Union from the embarrassment in which they have hitherto been.

The Commissioners are glad to perceive a prospect of improvement in the state of the workhouse; and they request you to continue your attention to the provision of an adequate supply of clothing, as well as of other requisites for the workhouse. The Commissioners have been informed by Major Haliday, that the want of tins and spoons has led to great irregularity and delay, in supplying the meals of the inmates, and the Commissioners trust that this will be remedied.

I am also to state that the Commissioners approve of your making the workhouse as available as possible for the able-bodied, by giving out-door relief to the classes specified in section 1 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 25, 1848.*

HAVING very little change to report in the condition of the Mohill Union during the past week, it is some satisfaction that the trifling degree perceptible, indicates a continued abatement of the pressure of distress, the first symptoms of which I had observed last week. Less than 600 additional individuals have, since then, been taken on the out-door relief lists; and in four of the districts of the Union the relieving officers seem to think that it will not be found necessary to add many more. In one, however, (that of Mohill) there will yet be, perhaps, 200 or upwards, who must be so maintained, in consequence of parties who have hitherto clung to the possession of their land, in hopes of obtaining relief, and of being able to put in a crop, ultimately abandoning it.

In one district (that of Ballinamore) where there is now a great deal of employment, the relieving officer had been able to strike off the list a considerable number of cases to which relief had been extended for a few weeks on account of sickness among the able-bodied members of the families, but who had now recovered, and had obtained employment and good wages. Indeed, in that district, such is already the demand for labourers for works of general drainage and of land improvement, that the farmers complain of want of sufficient hands for field work; and there will be during the summer ample employment for all the able-bodied.

I regret, however, to hear that numbers of the young men receiving good wages, instead of saving them to enable them to emigrate or to assist their families, spend them in nightly riot and drinking in the public houses of the town.

In the same district also the relieving officer (who is an extremely active and intelligent young man) had struck off the list one or two cases of parties holding some acres of land, but who had by misrepresentations succeeded in obtaining relief. Into these I made particular inquiry, and he satisfied me that he had personally visited the parties, but had been deceived, by not merely their own asseverations, but the testimony of their neighbours and the ratepayers around them that they had given up their lands. In fact, it is at times almost impossible for the relieving officer to get at the truth with respect to this point. Every possible artifice is used by the occupants. They nominally give up the possession of the land for a few weeks to some relative or friend, that they may swear they no longer occupy it, and thus get the weekly allowance; and it is only by the co-operation of the higher class of ratepayers, and by information obtained through the collectors that such falsehoods can be detected.

It will be of the utmost importance for the future self-supporting condition

of this Union that the disqualification for relief attached to the occupancy of more than a garden plot of land should be felt as effective and permanent. The deeply-rooted habit of idleness for many months in the year, and of preferring to lie all day on straw, fed on a weekly dole of relief-meal rather than subsist in comfort by their own industry, and the infatuated attachment to the possession of a small bit of that land which is lying absolutely waste in large tracts all over the country, are the very worst and most discouraging symptoms of the low social state of this county, which exceeds in wretchedness any part of Ireland I have yet seen.

The workhouse continues in the same state as hitherto. At the petty sessions on Tuesday last, six of the inmates, out of the great number who had in the preceding fortnight committed various acts of insubordination, were convicted and sent to gaol for short periods; but so little effect was produced by this sort of deferred punishment, that an able-bodied male pauper yesterday deliberately broke several panes of glass, in order, as he said, to be sent to gaol also.

The amounts lodged by the several collectors during the past week, although sufficient to supply the drain on the treasurer for current expenses, hold out no prospect of enabling the Vice-Guardians to pay off any of the urgent creditors of the Union.

The Vice-Guardians having engaged another attorney to conduct their business, I hope that some further activity will be shown, and better success attend the law proceedings which are necessary to recover payment of the rates and of outstanding arrears from the numerous non-resident immediate lessors whom the collectors cannot reach.

The individuals charged with a forcible rescue of cattle from the collector for Annaduff, last week, were brought before the resident magistrate, and the female discharged, her husband being let out on a trifling bail to answer the complaint at the next quarter sessions. Several of the collectors are of opinion that this will prove quite ineffective, and that a summary conviction, and even a much slighter sentence would have put down further attempts at illegal resistance; and I cannot but think that one prompt and immediate example would have been of the greatest utility, although I have no doubt of the readiness and desire of the magistrate to give every assistance and protection necessary to the collectors in the performance of their most important duties.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ult., relating to Mohill Union, for which I am to express the Commissioners' thanks.

With reference to that part of your report which relates to parties who had succeeded in obtaining relief by misrepresentations, I am to request that you will impress on all the relieving officers the necessity of their using all means in their power, by due investigation of the cases of applicants, to guard against similar impositions in future, as a recurrence of them would indicate their unfitness for their office.

As regards the collection of the rate, the Commissioners request that you will urge the Vice-Guardians and the collectors to use all possible exertions to press forward the collection vigorously, the collection of the rates in the circumstances of this Union being an object of the first importance.

With respect to the case of individuals making a forcible rescue of cattle seized for arrears of poor's rate by the collector, the Commissioners concur with your view of the advantage of summary punishment in such cases.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 29, 1848.*

WE now give our usual weekly statement regarding the Mohill Union, for the information of the Commissioners.

Mohill Union.*Rates.*

2. The amount of lodgments by the rate collectors last week appears to have been 250%. Although the progress of the collection is slow, many causes arising in the circumstances of the country to retard it, you may feel assured that no effort on our parts shall be wanting to forward the important duty of collecting the rate. We shall apply to that service all the vigour and determination which can be brought to bear, and which the occasion so eminently requires.

3. The rate of the Mohill electoral division will be placed in collection on Thursday next, having been postponed from yesterday, to permit a full inspection of the rate-book before signature, so as to obviate the imperfect revision. At all events the collector was not prepared to undertake the duties in regard to it at an earlier period this week.

4. The pressing forward of the revision of the valuation of the remainder of the Union, so that no part may be excluded from participation in the payment of rate for a much longer time, has already formed the subject of a communication from us; and as it appears from your letter received this day that we must depend on Mr. Gallagher alone for completion of the work, we are led to fear serious further delays.

Workhouse.

5. We look forward with great anxiety to the result of the election for a master, which we have advertised to take place on Thursday next. Disappointments have so long thwarted us with regard to this officer, that the subject is one of great uneasiness. Until a proper officer be procured, we could not feel safe in bringing into use much that was required to promote the regularity of the workhouse. The introduction of discipline thoroughly in the establishment, and the repression of the destructive habits of the paupers by an energetic master, must precede the use of that amount of property which is essential to the comfort of the inmates, and the right working of the institution. The misfortunes we have met in our officers has, however, impeded the execution of many of our designs.

Out-door Relief.

6. Every possible means is being taken to repress imposition and relieve actual destitution, and we are tolerably confident that as few abuses exist in our system as might be expected in machinery which is now accomplishing the feeding of nearly 7000 persons.

Additional Accommodation.

7. Under the direction of Mr. Kelly we are getting some preparatory works executed in connexion with the sheds.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 3, 1848.*

THE aspect of affairs in the Mohill Union presents little change to report within the past week. Applications for relief continue to pour in, but in diminished numbers; while some cases relieved at first on account of sickness, and also a few in which relief was obtained by deception as to the actual circumstances of the parties, are occasionally struck off. With respect to the latter class, and referring to your letter of the 1st instant, addressed to me by Mr. Stanley, I beg leave to express my opinion, that the occasional existence of such cases of successful imposition does not imply any want of due inquiry, or of capacity, on the part of the relieving officers.

In a country cut up into such minute and intermixed holdings as are common here, and where not only the occupants themselves but their neighbours conspire to deceive the relieving officer, and where even comparatively affluent rate-payers sometimes give false information as to the occupancy of land, it is vain to expect from these officers infallibility on this point, or to exact more

than the best opinion and belief attainable from the evidence they can get on the spot during a period of such pressure as has been experienced here, where for a considerable time past nearly a thousand individuals each week had to be added to the out-door relief list. That list now contains upwards of 7000 persons, but I trust has nearly reached its utmost limit; and were it not for the untoward obstacles which prevent the commencement of various works under the "Land Improvement Act," the labouring class would henceforth be enabled, in most instances, to support their families.

The collection of the rates proceeds but slowly. Although the presence of the constabulary whenever required prevents forcible resistance, the system of locking up cattle or other chattles enables the occupants to set the collectors at defiance. The amount lodged in the bank last week is not more than suffices for the present rate of expenditure on out-door relief and the maintenance of the workhouse.

The workhouse continues in a state far from satisfactory. It reflects, however, no little credit on the young man at present in charge of it, that without means of punishment, or keeping the paupers within the precincts, and under the constant necessity for sending out for water, for communications with the temporary hospital and the house occupied in the town, and with the probationary wards, as well as for burials, he maintains so much of order as exists.

Yesterday had been named for the election of a master, matron, and clerk. A sub-constable of police, who appears to possess all the necessary qualifications, has been elected for the last-named office; but I regret to say that no candidates at all eligible appeared for the appointments of master and matron. An application was laid before the Vice-Guardians for these from the master (lately appointed) of the Roscommon workhouse, and his wife (the latter of whom attended), but unaccompanied by any testimonials; and the Vice-Guardians did not think it advisable to elect a person who did not appear personally, and who they ascertained had never held office in any similar capacity. It is also probable that so sudden a desire to change his situation indicates a want of the zeal and persevering industry absolutely necessary to cope successfully with the defects and disorder of the Mohill workhouse.

I have lately been in communication with the staff officer of pensioners at Longford, and went over there myself, hoping to procure on the out-pension list some active non-commissioned officer who could be engaged for a time to assist in maintaining order in the house, and to superintend the male adults at work, but have been unsuccessful. The want of quarters for their wives prevents any married men accepting the situation; and I find the bad reputation of the workhouse deters some whom, as single men, it might have suited.

Nothing remains but for the Vice-Guardians to advertise afresh for officers and the commencement of an era of improvement seems to me as remote as ever.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 7, 1848.*

WE beg to report in reference to the last week's transactions as follows:—

Rates.

2. The rate collectors lodged last week the sum of 276*l*.

Pending the fortnightly examination of their accounts before next meeting we are unable to give a more exact statement of their progress.

The Mohill electoral division has been put in collection, and we hope soon to have the rate of Fenagh division also in process. Much of our time is occupied in examining into complaints of rate-payers who seek from us redress for excessive valuations and mistakes in it; and who object to arrears returned against them, and have other alleged causes of dissatisfaction.

We afford them every explanation in our power, and frequently find their complaints unfounded; in general we are able to provide a remedy for the real grievances.

Workhouse.

3. We have again been disappointed in procuring a master, no suitable person offering on the day of election, Thursday last. Advertising has now

Mohill Union.

been tried so often that we almost doubt its efficacy, and we are endeavouring to discover, by private inquiry, some person who may be suitable for the situation. So long as we are without a proper master, of course we cannot expect the workhouse management will be conducted with any degree of satisfaction. We have also failed in procuring a matron. The assistant matron we have decided on dispensing with, and shall ask her resignation; her inefficiency rendering this course imperative.

4. The clerk (Mr. Fitze) whom we appointed has taken charge, and appears to have capacity and industry. We hope, with his assistance, soon to have the accounts brought forward.

Out-door Relief.

5. Our chief object is the introduction of cooked food. We have advertised for the supply of bread made from rye, Indian and whole wheaten meal, to each electoral division, and hope soon to have the system of administering relief by that means in operation, which we doubt not will be attended with the best results.

6. The pressure for relief has much diminished, and we trust soon to be able to have a considerable number struck off of the class who received relief on account of sickness, but who are now recovering. We are still able to afford the workhouse test to able-bodied men, and hope always to be in a position to do so. The sheds which we are proceeding to erect shall meet this purpose, which will be much required after the termination of the spring labour, when the pressure of applications will again likely be severely felt.

7. The fever hospital at Carrigallen contains 10 patients, and will likely soon fill up; the chief portion of the patients will, however, consist of those suffering from dysentery.

8. Adverting again to the workhouse, we propose to appoint a paid cook at a salary of 4*l.* per annum, and pauper's rations, which we think will be attended with much advantage, and we beg to solicit the Commissioners' sanction to the appointment.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 8, 1848.*

THE collector for the electoral division of Annaduff yesterday stated to me that he was unable to recover the sum of 42*l.*, being poor-rate and arrears due on the demesne and grounds of Francis Nisbett, Esq., of Derricarne, a deputy-lieutenant and magistrate of this county, in consequence of the gates being always kept locked, and admittance refused to him. He has noticed Mr. Nisbett more than once, and has twice unsuccessfully endeavoured to effect an entry on the grounds, to distrain for the rate, but to no purpose; and he states that men are employed to keep a look-out, and prevent his gaining admittance.

The collector states that there is a small path leading through the fence enclosing the demesne, but that it would not be possible to drive cattle, if seized, through it; and he is desirous to know if it be legal to break open a gate when in sight of stock to distrain.

As I cannot see anything in the Grand Jury Act (6th and 7th Will. IV. cap. 116) to authorize such proceeding, but as the collector states that a similar course was declared to be lawful in the execution of a sheriff's writ, at the recent case tried at Roscommon, in connexion with the death of the late Mr. Waldron, of Ashford, I deem it advisable to lay the matter before you, that an opinion may be obtained, to enable me to advise the collector.

I may add that Mr. Nisbett, who refuses to pay, is owner of a considerable estate, now under the Court of Chancery, on which a very large amount of rates and arrears is due by the immediate lessor; and as the tenantry on it are very numerous, and much opposed to the collection of rates, it is of considerable importance that the recovery should be enforced in this instance as soon as possible.

Mr. Nisbett is, I am informed, also in receipt of pay as a barrack-master under the Board of Ordnance.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 10, 1848.*

Mohill Union.

I am directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 8th instant, as to the difficulty experienced by the collector in enforcing payment of the rate due from Mr. Nisbett, of Derricarne. It appears that notices requiring payment have been served upon Mr. Nisbett, and that the collector has endeavoured to obtain an entrance upon the grounds, in order to distrain for the rate, but without effect; it being stated that men are employed to keep a look-out, and prevent them from gaining admittance. It appears, however, that there is a small path leading through the fence enclosing the demesne, but that it would not be possible to drive cattle, if seized, through it.

Under these circumstances the Commissioners desire to state in reply to the inquiry contained in your report, that although it would not be legal for the collector to break any outer gate or door in order to gain admittance and to make a seizure, yet the collector can legally, as the Commissioners are advised, after gaining an entrance, make the seizure; and having once made the distress, there is no doubt that the officer is entitled to remove it to a proper place of custody, according to the nature of the distress; and that when once lawfully within the premises, and in possession of the distress, he is entitled, if his withdrawal be opposed, to use force in getting out.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

WE beg to report regarding the transactions of the past week as follows:—

Rates.

2. The sum of 615*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* has been lodged within the week ending this day (as appears by treasurer's book) by the collectors. The collector of Cloone and Drumreilly electoral divisions has made no lodgments nor attended for the fortnightly examination of his accounts on the day in this week fixed; we trust he may appear to-morrow and that he shall have made adequate progress. After his attendance, the usual weekly abstract of the rate transactions will be forwarded, which will probably exhibit the collection of the rate in a more satisfactory light than any previous returns, since the making of the rate.

3. We have directed the rate collectors to furnish us with lists of the rates due by immediate lessors, and by occupiers where the sums are of importance, with the view of having the necessary proceedings at once instituted for the recovery of the amounts. We shall not fail to adopt any measures in our power to promote the vigorous collection of the rate, so essential from the financial circumstances of the Union.

4. On Monday next we shall be able to sign the rate of the Fenagh electoral division and place it then in collection. The remaining two divisions, Ballinamore and Oughteragh, shall, we fear, from the slow progress of the valuator, remain some weeks longer untouched by the rate collector.

Workhouse.

5. The increased number of admissions and the withdrawal of the acting matron has been met to a considerable extent by the exertions of the other officers, and we have no occasion to report less favourably of the establishment this week than last. The execution of the repairs, improvements, and additions, is proceeding with as little delay as practicable; and we anticipate good results when these are completed.

6. We have advertised to receive applications for the situation of master and matron, in Dublin, on the 3rd of April next, and we hope that this method will produce such candidates as will enable the selection of a proper officer to be made.

Out-Door Relief.

7. The relief now being administered is, we are confident, meeting the extended destitution of the Union adequately and economically. The introduction of cooked food which we hope to accomplish immediately, will be a most important improvement in our system.

Mohill Union.

8. Our hospitals are working well, and when we have the hospital established at Ballinamore we look forward to the wants of the Union being tolerably well supplied in this respect.

9. We would now only refer you to the minutes and returns of this week for the necessary statistics regarding our operations for the relief of the poor in this Union.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 23, 1848.*

As the future practical working of the Poor Laws in the distressed Unions in the west of Ireland, appears of not less grave importance than the adequacy of the present extensive system of out-door relief, it seems to me advisable, at this advanced season, to bring under your special notice the financial prospects and the present position of this Union.

The paid Guardians appointed by you have now devoted for upwards of three months, their best energies (while endeavouring to meet the vast amount of destitution to be relieved) to checking any tendency to waste or abuse, and also to enforcing firmly the collection of the rates; and although the unavoidable delay in completing the revision of the valuation of three of the electoral divisions, has prevented the collection being put in force as yet in them, it is proceeding steadily in the remaining divisions, and will shortly be in progress in these also.

I am, however, satisfied, that in consequence of the impossibility of recovering payment of rates due by immediate lessors, who are not resident in Ireland, the extreme difficulty experienced in obtaining such on the estates under the courts, and the actual extreme poverty of numbers of the class occupying small holdings of land, it will prove impracticable to collect more than about four-fifths of the current rate and former arrears of rate within the next six months; and that it would be useless to strike a fresh rate until after the harvest, inasmuch as the great majority of the small tenants could not pay it; and if, in consequence of being distrained and sold out, they were compelled to abandon their tenements, they would merge into the class of the destitute, and thus form a heavy addition to the already fearful burden likely to hang for some years upon the resources of the Union; while the continually repeated exaction of rates from the solvent portion of the rate-payers would be felt by them as a grievous injustice, and would probably seriously increase the difficulty at present experienced in collecting it.

It is also of much importance, that before another rate is made, the valuation should be corrected after due examination of the numerous objections that have been made against it, and many of which are apparently substantially well founded, but which the urgent necessity for putting a rate in immediate collection as quickly as the completed valuation of each electoral division would allow, did not admit of listening to before the Vice-Guardians signed the rate.

Without entering into all the details that will be set forth in the form of return of estimated expenditure to be furnished by the clerk of the Union, the following is an abstract of my estimate of the probable income and expenditure, up to the end of next September :—

Income, viz.

Amount of rate already signed, and of arrears of former rate uncollected on the 21st March, 1848	£.	s.	d.
	5,630	0	0
Amount of rate to be made on the three electoral divisions of Fenagh, Ballinamore, and Oughteragh	2,010	0	0
	7,640	0	0
	£.	s.	d.
Deduct one-fifth of total rate and arrears not likely to be collected	1,910	0	0
Also deduct collectors' poundage at 2s. in the pound, on four-fifths of total rate and arrears	765	0	0
	2,675	0	0
Total amount(net) of income available to end of September	4,965	0	0

Expenditure.

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The present cost weekly of the out-door relief is about 218 <i>l.</i> ; and making all deductions I can consider probable during the summer, I cannot estimate the expenditure under this head, from the present period up to the end of September, at less than	£.	s.	d.
	5,000	0	0
The cost of maintenance of the workhouse inmates during the same period	1,200	0	0
Clothing, bedding, and materials	250	0	0
Cost of temporary fever hospitals, medicine, attendants, &c.	350	0	0
Rent of workhouse site and house in Mohill	50	0	0
Stationery, printing, law expenses, &c.	100	0	0
Salaries of officers and paid Guardians	850	0	0
Coffins and burial expenses	130	0	0
Erection of sheds and refractory wards, and sinking well, repairs, &c.	350	0	0
Probable expenditure to end of September, 1848	8,280	0	0
Probable income for the same period	4,965	0	0
Excess of expenditure over income	3,315	0	0

I have not included in this calculation an expenditure, nevertheless absolutely essential to the object of enforcing discipline and confinement, and thereby rendering the workhouse really an effective test for destitution—namely, the construction of a boundary wall around the site, which would probably cost about 400*l.*

I beg leave further to represent that the debts of the Union left unpaid by the late Board of Guardians amount to about 2500*l.*, of which great part is due for upwards of a year; that the creditors are threatening, and some of them have already commenced legal proceedings for enforcing payment; and it is obvious that if they obtain decrees and seize the moveables, they may compel the absolute closing of the workhouse; while it is no less a matter of sound policy than of equity that these parties (many of whom are small tradesmen much distressed by the non-payment of their claims,) should be paid as soon as can be effected.

Adding the amount of debts to the excess of probable expenditure over income, the result is, that there will be a deficit of nearly 6000*l.*, for which the resources of the Union will be unable to provide.

It appears to me, therefore, that the contingency upon which the assistance of the British Relief Association might be claimed, is incontestably established in this Union; and as the present weekly expenditure exhausts its resources as fast as they come in, that aid should be extended to enable the Vice-Guardians to pay to the creditors of the Union an instalment (say 10*s.* in the pound) of their claims at an early date, and to hold out to them a prospect of further payment within the year.

This might be done either by a grant of money, or by orders for provisions from the Commissariat store at Longford. The latter would, however, entail some considerable inconvenience, as many of the relief stations are at long distances from Longford, and the roads are bad.

In conclusion, I would repeat, that I am convinced that the assistance of the British Relief Association, which will be certainly requisite, ought to be given at the present period, and not deferred until a more advanced season.

The COMMISSIONERS to Count STRZELECKI:—April 1, 1848.

THE Commissioners have received from Major Haliday, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, of the Mohill Union, a report recommending that an application should be made in the case of that Union for the assistance of the British Relief Association, for the relief of destitution therein. Major Haliday suggests that this relief might be afforded either by a grant of money, or by orders for provisions from the Commissariat Store at Longford; the latter course, however, he

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represents as likely to entail considerable inconvenience, many of the relief stations being at long distances from Longford, and the roads being bad.

The Commissioners desire to submit to you the propriety of affording assistance to the Mohill Union in either of the two ways indicated by Major Haliday. The Commissioners think that if advances be made in either way to the extent of 250*l.* per week for two months, it is no more than will be actually necessary to secure the continuance of due relief to the destitute in this impoverished Union.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 24, 1848.*

As I have thought it advisable to address to you a separate report at some length upon the financial statement and prospects of the Mohill Union, I shall confine my observations in the present weekly report to the state of the workhouse, and a few other points of interest.

The workhouse, which I have minutely inspected, is as clean as the want of an energetic master and matron, and the absence of any effective means of control or discipline, will allow; but a good deal of apparent dirt and litter at present disfigures the female yards and laundry, where it has been found necessary to take up nearly the whole system of under-ground drains and sewers, under the superintendence of the experienced clerk of works, recently sent down. No less than 57 barrels of accumulated mud and filth were taken out of these, which appeared never to have been cleaned since the first erection of the workhouse.

The construction of the intended refractory wards and the sheds for additional accommodation, must be carried on in the same manner by workmen employed under Mr. Kelly's superintendence, as the Vice-Guardians could obtain no tenders for this work except from Mr. Gardiner, the contractor for the fever hospital, who is quite incompetent. This hospital, which he was bound to complete by the 1st of May, is so little advanced that I am convinced it will not be ready for occupation till the middle of June, and the want of it may be grievously felt in the commencement of summer.

The out-door relief list continues still to increase, and the prolonged delay in the intended works under the Land Improvement Act, and the reluctance of the farmers (who make the heavy amount of rates an excuse) to employ labourers, except at very inadequate wages (from 3*d.* to 4*d.* per diem, with diet, and that only during fine weather), aggravate the general distress.

The Vice-Guardians are not duly supported by the local authorities in their endeavour to check abuse in the administration of this relief. The relieving officer for the Ballinamore district recently brought by summons before the petty sessions in that town, a man named Michael Whelan, whose four children had applied to him early in February, as orphans; and as his inquiries into the case appeared to substantiate their representation, had received relief for three weeks.

Although it was shown that the man was, and had been at this time, regularly employed on the canal cutting in that neighbourhood, the magistrate on the bench, Nicholas Kelly, Esq., R.M., dismissed the case upon the man's assertion that, at the time of his children being so relieved, his wages were not paid, and that he could not repay the amount (4*s.* 8*d.*) now. Such a decision appears calculated to encourage the prevalent disposition among this class to obtain relief out of doors if they can possibly succeed by any artifice or deception.

Nearly 500*l.* of rate was collected during the past week; and the collectors appear to me to be exerting themselves satisfactorily; but the practice in many parts of the Union of keeping the cattle locked up whenever the collector goes to the neighbourhood, defeats their exertions to a considerable extent; and another case of forcible rescue has occurred in the Annaduff division. I shall attend at the next petty sessions to see this case disposed of, and to press for a summary conviction.

The revised valuation of the electoral division of Fenagh is completed, and the valuator is engaged in the two remaining divisions, but from the necessarily tedious nature of his task, I apprehend they will not be completed for several weeks yet.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 1, 1848.*

Mohill Union.

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have submitted to Count Strzelecki, the Secretary of the British Relief Association, the propriety of advancing the sum of 250*l.* per week for two months, for the continuance of due relief to the destitute in the Mohill Union,—such advances to be made either in food or money, as indicated by you.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 28, 1848.*

OUR report for the past week is as follows :—

Rates.

2. The amount collected during the week appears to be 509*l.* 16*s.*, part of which however is included in the lodgments referred to in our last report. Some of the collectors have made considerable progress since last meeting; and we trust the collection of the current week may not be beneath the average. The collectors are vigorously pressing payment by distraint under their warrant and summons before magistrates. We are obliged to await the lists of sums due by immediate lessors being furnished us by the collectors previous to taking the proper steps towards instituting the necessary law proceedings against the defaulters.

3. From the irregularities and incapacity of one of the collectors (Samuel Johnson, of Aghavas electoral division), we have felt it our duty to suspend him. As he will probably tender his resignation, the issue of the Commissioners' sealed order for his dismissal may not be necessary. We shall with the least delay procure a successor, holding Mr. Johnson's sureties accountable until a full settlement is made of his accounts.

4. We have signed the rate of the Fenagh electoral division, which we resolved should be increased to 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound from 1*s.* 8*d.*, the poundage according to the resolution of the late Board. From a calculation it appears that even a larger rate than a two-and-sixpenny would be requisite to meet the expenses of the division up to 29th September next; but as the relief chargeable to it is not so large proportionably as that to other divisions of the Union, we have decided on making the rate sixpence less than the poundage on the remainder of the Union (3*s.*) We expect on the 3rd of April next to sign the rate of the Ballinamore electoral division—the largest in the Union—the revision of the valuation being almost completed—and thus place in collection the further amount of 1134*l.*, from which we expect speedy returns.

Out-door Relief.

5. Mr. Nicholson, the relieving officer of the Mohill district, has tendered his resignation, and we proceed to elect a successor. We have succeeded in getting proposals for baking bread throughout the Union on reasonable terms, the result of a personal visit to the bakers of the different localities, and hope early next month to have the system of giving *cooked* food fully introduced.

6. The Carrigallen hospital at present contains 13 patients. We have just completed a visit to it and the several relief stations of the Union, and find that the relief of the destitute poor in all respects is being conducted with propriety and regularity.

7. The workhouse (including detached nursery and temporary fever ward) is in a tolerably satisfactory state, and assuming an improved appearance.

8. Our clerks are busily employed in bringing up the arrear accounts.

The COMMISSIONERS to Major HALIDAY :—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith a copy of a constabulary report which they have received from the Chief Secretary's department, relative to the death of a man named Pat Mulligan, on the 18th instant, in Mohill Union, and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made any application

3 M

Mohill Union

for relief to the Vice-Guardians, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers; also in reference to his application to the medical officer of the hospital in question, if it was an hospital of the Union.

ENCLOSURE.

*County of Leitrim.**Ballinamore, March 24, 1848.*

AN inquest was held on 20th instant, on the body of Pat Mulligan.

Copy of Verdict.

That deceased was found dying on the 18th instant, and his death was caused by exposure to the inclemency of the weather, and extreme destitution and want of care.

It appears deceased applied for admission to the fever hospital, but the doctor did not consider him a fit object.

J. LODGE, S. I.

Inspector-General.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*April 8, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying copy of a report which they have received from Major Haliday, the Temporary Inspector of the Mohill Union relating to the death of Patrick Mulligan at Carrigallen in that Union, together with the papers that accompanied it.

Major HALIDAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 1, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the result of my inquiries made in accordance with your instructions, dated 28th March, into the facts bearing on the death of Patrick Mulligan, on whose body an inquest was held at Carrigallen, on the 20th ultimo, and the circumstances of which I had previously made myself acquainted with.

On receiving your letter I wrote to the coroner for a copy of the informations taken before him at the inquest, and proceeded to examine on oath the relieving officer of the district in which the deceased had lived, and to inspect the Application and Report Book, and relief list. Yesterday morning I received from the coroner the copy of the informations which I annex (letter A), but as they appeared incomplete, and contain no statement from which the jury could have obtained the information as to the deceased having been refused admission to the hospital, I at once proceeded to Carrigallen and there examined the medical officer of the temporary fever hospital, Dr. Taylor, and other parties, and received much oral information confirming all the evidence, which I annex (letter B).

The facts of the case appear to be, that the deceased, who was an unfortunate creature of bad character, and habitually preferring a life of houseless mendicancy, would not accept admission to the Union workhouse in December last, when his mother, who applied to the relieving officer of the district on the 10th December, had her case submitted to the Vice-Guardians (then just arrived) on the 16th December, by whom out-door relief was ordered for herself and four children under 15 years of age, which she has continued to receive up to the present time; that the deceased made no application from that time until the 10th of March—another relieving officer (Mr. Story), having meantime been appointed, and entered on his duties on the 16th of February—that on this application he immediately received from the relieving officer an offer of either admission to the workhouse or a recommendation to the hospital, and that he preferred the latter, but, not having in the medical officer's opinion any symptom of contagious disease, was refused admission to it, and that he never went back to the relieving officer, or made any further application until his death.

His death appears to have been the result of disease and debility, caused by the wretched life he seems to have voluntarily continued, and not of any immediate want of food. With respect to this I beg to call your attention to the evidence of Owen Smyth (letter B, No. 4), and to state that he was seen by several persons going about in the town of Carrigallen on the same day (the 17th March), and that on that day (being his ordinary time for the weekly dis-

tribution of out-door relief) the relieving officer, Mr. Story, was for some hours in the town, during which the deceased might have again applied to him, but did not do so.

I cannot impute any blame to the relieving officer, except as to his satisfying himself on the 18th March by merely sending an order for food for the deceased, and I have pointed out to him that his powers and duties extend to providing in all cases of sudden and urgent necessity lodging or conveyance to the workhouse or to an hospital, as well as food and medical attendance. It is evident, however, that in this instance the relieving officer, whose residence is several miles distant from Carrigallen, could not have arrived before the unfortunate lad's death.

I annex an extract from the Application and Report Book of the relieving officer already referred to.

ENCLOSURES.

A.

County of Leitrim } Informations taken and acknowledged before me at Carrigallen in said
to wit. } county, on the 20th day of March, 1848, on view of the body of Patrick Mulligan, then lying dead at said place.

Mary Quin, of Carrigallen, deposed that she knew the deceased for the last 12 months; that on Saturday, the 18th, on looking into Mr. Irwin's corn-kiln, she saw the deceased Patrick Mulligan lying in the kiln pot; she called him and he moaned but did not answer her; she then went and told the police what she saw; she knew no more about the matter.

John Cullen, sub-constable, deposed, that on Saturday, the 18th instant, in consequence of information which he got from Mary Quin, the last witness, he went to Mr. Irwin's kiln and saw the deceased lying on his face in the ashes; he brought him out on the road, and placed him on some straw; he appeared to be dying; constable then went for Dr. Taylor, who came and administered such remedies as he thought best; constable then brought the deceased back into the kiln, where he died in about two hours afterwards.

Doctor Taylor deposed to his having known the deceased for some time previous to his death; to his having been called on by constable Cullen to go and see the deceased a short time before he died; to his having found the deceased in a very weak state, suffering from debility and exposure to the cold, which he thought caused death.

ALEX. PERCY, *Coroner*.

B.

Copy of Depositions on oath taken before me at Mohill, on the 29th day of March, 1848.

1. *Mr. John Story*, relieving officer of the Carrigallen relief district, being sworn on the holy evangelists, is questioned by me:—

Q. Did a person named Patrick Calligan at any time make application to you as relieving officer?—A. Yes; a lad about 17 or 18 years of age, whom I believe to be the same, made application to me on the 10th March.

Q. Did you give him relief, or how did you act?—A. The lad asked me for a ticket to the hospital at Carrigallen. I asked him "was he not afraid to go into the hospital, as he did not appear to have fever." He said he did not care where he was sent to, as he thought he was going to die. As he did not appear to me to be very feeble, I told him he might have a ticket of admission to the workhouse. He gave me to understand that he would rather have admission to the hospital, as it was nearer at hand. I gave him a note to Dr. Taylor, the medical officer of the temporary hospital at Carrigallen, worded thus, "Admit the bearer, Mulligan, to the hospital, if you think him a proper object for it."

Q. Did you tell him he would be admitted to the workhouse if he was not received into the hospital?—A. I don't remember that I told him so, but I think he must have been aware of it. I would certainly have given him a ticket of admission if he had asked for it.

Q. Did you see him again previous to his death?—A. No; I never heard more of him until I received a note from Dr. Taylor, saying that he was lying in the corn-kiln at Carrigallen, and inquiring what should be done with him; that at present the constabulary were taking care of him. I immediately sent back by the bearer an order to the storekeeper at Carrigallen to send out food, either meal or bread, to him; but I heard on the second day after this that he had died before the food could be sent to him. This was on the 18th instant. On the 20th instant I went to Carrigallen, and there saw the body of the lad and a woman named Mary Mulligan, who was sitting by, told me he was her son. She is on the out-door relief list, getting relief for herself and four children under 14 years of age, since the 1st January. She said something about her son not* being relieved by Mr. Masterson, whom I succeeded as relieving officer, because he was over 15, and that she had found the ticket I gave him for the hospital on him.

* The expression "not being relieved" means not getting out-door relief. The deceased was offered admission to the workhouse, but that is never called "relief" by the lower orders in this country.

WM. R. H., *Major*,
T. P. L. J.

Mohill Union.

Q. Did the deceased ever apply to you previous to the 10th instant?—A. To the best of my recollection he never did.

Read over to the deponent, and signed,

JOHN STORY,
Relieving Officer, Carrigallen District.

Sworn before me at Mohill, this 29th day of March, 1848.

WM. R. HALIDAY, *Major,*
Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

A true copy.

WM. R. HALIDAY, *Major,*
T. P. L. Inspector.

Carrigallen, March 31, 1848.

2. *Nathaniel Taylor, Esq., M.D.,* deposes.—I have known the deceased Patrick Mulligan for three or four years. He had no settled habitation, and would not live with his parents, whom I knew also. He was of very loose habits, and never had any regular employment, but begged and pilfered through the country. On the 10th instant he came to my house with a ticket of recommendation from the relieving officer, Mr. Story, but on examining him I found he had neither fever nor any other epidemic disease, and therefore told him he could not be admitted. He said that he did not care, but that he wanted something to eat. Knowing that his mother was getting out-door relief, which he himself mentioned to me, I did not think it necessary to tell him to go back to the relieving officer. I heard no more of him until the 18th instant, when I was called on by the constabulary to visit him. I found him lying on the road, cold, and with the muscles rigid. I had some hot wine and water administered to him, thinking to cause a reaction, but he was too much exhausted to swallow it. Every attention was paid to him, but he died in little more than an hour afterwards. I conceive he died of general exhaustion from want of sufficient food and clothing.

(Signed) NATHANIEL TAYLOR,
*Medical Officer, Carrigallen Temporary
Fever Hospital.*

3. *Sub-Constable John Cullen* states.—I had known the deceased Patrick Mulligan for about seven months; he was of bad character, and had been repeatedly reported to the constabulary for acts of theft, and in consequence of his character no one would employ him, and he lived by begging. After I found him lying in the corn-kiln I went out for his mother, and she told me that her son had never slept more than one night under the same roof with her during the last 12 months. Before his mother came back with me he had been removed into a warm part of the kiln-pot, and Dr. Taylor got him wine and nourishment, but he was not able to take it, and in less than two hours after he was found lying, he died.

(Signed) JOHN CULLEN, *S. C.*

4. *Owen Smyth*, being duly sworn, saith.—I live near the town of Carrigallen, with my mother; I knew the deceased Pat Mulligan; on the day before he died he came to our door about noon; I offered him some stirabout, but he would not have it; he seemed very sick.

(Signed) OWEN SMYTH.

A true copy,

31st March, 1848.

WM. R. HALIDAY, *Major,*
T. P. L. Inspector.

EXTRACT from the Application and Report Book of the Relieving Officer for the Carrigallen Relief District,

Name, Mary Mulligan; widow; children, 4; aged respectively 14 years, 11 years, 8 years, and 5 years; date of application, 10th Dec., /47; ordered relief on the 16th do. Remark entered by Bernard Masterson (then relieving officer):—"This woman has also two other boys and a girl who are beyond her control. They are represented as bad characters, and would not go to the workhouse."

W. R. H., *Major T. P. L. I.*

NENAGH UNION.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 18, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you, for the information of the Commissioners, the following report on the Nenagh Poor Law Union, and on the state and condition of its workhouse.

1. Poverty and destitution exist throughout the Union, with but few exceptions to a very alarming amount; notwithstanding that the workhouse is nearly full, and that out-of-door relief is afforded to those classes which come under section 1st, 10 Vict., cap. 31, at the rate of 440*l.* a-week. As yet no relief has been granted to the able-bodied poor, but at the meeting of the Guardians yesterday, a minute was passed, to take the preliminary steps necessary to carry this part of the law into operation; but as the sealed letter, authorizing the Board to grant such relief will expire next week, it will be expedient that the Commissioners should issue another sealed order to enable the Guardians to carry out this relief.

2. The rates are being collected but very slowly; the collection of the last week not having amounted to one-third of the sum expended.

I had the several collectors before me, and urged most strongly upon them the imperative necessity for the most strenuous exertions being used on their parts to enforce the payment of the outstanding rates; and the Board passed a very stringent minute to the same effect. I hope, therefore, to have this most important branch of the service in a more satisfactory state shortly.

	£.	s.	d.
The amount in the treasurer's hands yesterday was	650	0	0
The weekly expense for the workhouse is	125	0	0
The weekly expense for out-of-door relief is	440	0	0
The balance of the rate uncollected is	12,400	0	0

3. It appears that, since the time Mr. Bayly was wounded, the Guardians have not been as attentive to their duties as they were previous to that event; the consequence of such a want of attention is evident, especially in the workhouse; indeed, there seems to have been a want of general superintendence for a long period, as on a reference to the visitors' book only one entry appears by any of the visiting committee during the past year. This committee had been appointed from time to time, but they do not appear to have exercised the duties imposed upon them. There was, therefore, no kind of check over the officers of the house, and consequently it has been allowed to become lax in discipline, and very slovenly in the manner of conducting its affairs, both as regards method of arrangement, and want of proper cleanliness. Sufficient superintendence is here the more indispensable from the facts of the master and the matron being man and wife, and the under-master being their son. Owing to a representation on this subject having been made some time ago by Mr. Lloyd, Poor Law Inspector, the Board came to the resolution of appointing a paid superintendent at a salary of 60*l.* a-year, and advertised for candidates to fill this office, but I see no good reason why the Guardians should thus endeavour to abrogate their own duties and responsibilities, and encumber the Union with an officer unknown to the law. I therefore strongly urged upon them at their meeting yesterday to name a visiting committee, and promised to give that committee every assistance in my power to correct abuses, and to put the house in a proper state.

I am happy to state, that the Board met my wishes in the most cordial manner; an active visiting committee was appointed; the consideration of the former minute respecting the appointment of a superintendent was postponed for two months, and I have no doubt whatever, but that the workhouse will be in a creditable state before long. On Wednesday, I mustered all the paupers in the house, and in the supplementary house. The number in the former I found to be 1239, and in the latter 306; they seemed to be peaceable and contented with their lot, no complaints having been made.

4. The workhouse hospital, which I also visited, is very much crowded with patients, there being 196 cases under medical treatment; about 13 per cent. on

Nenagh Union.

the number of inmates. The prevalent diseases are fever and dysentery, but not of a malignant type; and small-pox and measles prevail to some extent amongst the children.

The Commissioners are aware that a capital additional hospital has been built on the workhouse premises, and only awaits the inspection of their architect, in order that the contractor may give over possession of it to the Board of Guardians.

The medical officer agrees with me in thinking, that if good fires were kept lighted in this hospital, it would be sufficiently dry to receive patients in a fortnight, at least on the upper and middle floors; but the Board will not, of course, make any order on the subject until they obtain the possession of it, and I would respectfully request of the Commissioners to direct their architect to inspect the building with as little delay as possible, in order that it may be made available for the speedy accommodation of the sick poor.

I beg leave to add that the whole of the Union is at present peaceable, as I have not heard of any outrage having been committed in this district since my arrival in it.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 23, 1848.*

As regards the collection of the rates, the Commissioners rely upon your stimulating the collectors to exertion, and using every means in your power to have the collection vigorously carried forward. The small balance in the treasurer's hands, and the large weekly expenditure, render this a matter of the most pressing and urgent importance; and the Commissioners request you will report specially to them, should you have reason to consider that any of the collectors, through neglect or inefficiency, or from any other cause, are not making such exertions to procure payment of the rate as might fairly be expected from them.

The Commissioners regret to learn from your report, that the state of the house, in regard to discipline and management, is so unsatisfactory. The appointment of a paid superintendent to which you refer as being contemplated by the Guardians had been brought under the notice of the Commissioners previously to the receipt of your report, and they had objected to such an appointment on the ground that the duties which the Guardians proposed should be performed by that officer, belong to the master of the workhouse and the visiting committee. The Commissioners trust, however, that the steps taken by you will have the effect which you anticipate, and will be the means of bringing the workhouse into a creditable state before long.

The Commissioners have forwarded an extract from your report in regard to the inspection of the new fever ward to their architect.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 18th instant, relative to the out-of-door relief in the Nenagh Union, I beg leave to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that it will be necessary to grant an order to the Guardians for that purpose for one month from the 23rd instant.

I enclose the copy of a resolution of the Board of Guardians, passed on Thursday last, on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

February 17, 1848.

Resolved,—That as the sealed order of the Poor Law Commissioners of 23rd December, for giving out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, for the period of two months is about to expire, that the Poor Law Commissioners be requested to issue another order for one month, to commence and take effect from the 23rd instant, on which day the previous order expires, and for which period the Guardians consider it expedient that they should be empowered to give relief under the 2nd section, and that the Commissioners be requested to forward such order to the Board by next meeting.

JOHN BAYLY, *Chairman.*

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 22, 1848.*

Nenagh Union.

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners will issue the order by to-morrow night's post.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 25, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you my second report on the Nenagh Union, for the information of the Commissioners.

1. At the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, decided steps were taken to commence the out-of-door relief to the able-bodied poor. A contract was taken to supply the several districts in the Union with Indian meal, at 9% per ton for one month, which sum is to cover the cost of distribution. Overseers have been appointed to superintend the breaking of stones; and an adjourned meeting of the Board is appointed to be held on Saturday the 26th instant, to make final arrangements. I pressed on the Board the utility of issuing the rations in cooked food, but although they did not positively object to that most salutary measure, they foresaw so many difficulties in carrying it into operation that the consideration of it has been postponed at present; and as a great point has been gained by the resolution to issue relief in kind instead of in money, which has been the mode followed heretofore, I did not press it imperatively, hoping by-and-by to convince them of the practicability of cooking the rations, of the economy of doing so, and of the great benefit the poor will derive from the practice; there is, perhaps more difficulty in persuading the Guardians of this Union of these facts, because during the relief operations of last year the cooking of food was not adopted in the Union although several of the electoral divisions went to the expense of setting up boilers which were afterwards never used.

2. The collection of the rates has not been satisfactory during the past week, and I again urged upon the collectors the necessity for more exertion on their parts; the Board has likewise taken very determined steps in this matter, having given directions that the names of the 10 highest rate-payers who are defaulters should be laid before the Board at each day of meeting, and came to the resolution to report to the Commissioners any collector who did not use his utmost exertions to get in the outstanding rates.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount of rates collected during the week	724	1	10
Do. in the treasurer's hands	820	5	3
Expense of house in the week	126	4	5½
Do. of out-of-door so far as known	349	16	6
Balance of rate uncollected	11,703	15	11

3. I attended on Monday with the Visiting Committee, and made a strict inspection of the house and of the accounts. There is already a marked improvement in the house; and the books appear regular; but it will require the vigilant superintendence of the Visiting Committee to check any wasteful expediture of the stores. The Committee recommend some alterations and arrangements for this object, and also respecting a better classification, which have been sanctioned by the Board.

Number of paupers in the house	994
Do. in the hospital	199
Do. in the auxiliary house.	310
Total	1,503

Hence it will appear that there are nearly 100 vacancies in the house; and I recommend the Board to keep these open as a test of destitution for the able-bodied poor.

4. The workhouse hospital is still much over-crowded, which the medical officer imputes to the severity of the weather, and the want of proper food and clothing the paupers are subject to, previous to entering the house; the diseases are not of a virulent character.

5. By the letter which you did me the honour to write to me, acknowledging the reception of my first report, I am glad to hear the Commissioners have called the attention of their architect to the new hospital, as until he shall make his

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inspection of it, the Board can take no steps to have it prepared for the use of the sick poor.

I shall conclude this report by stating that peace is generally maintained throughout the Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 6, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report dated the 25th ultimo, relative to Nenagh Union, the answer to which has been accidentally delayed. The principal matters adverted to in your report have however already received the attention of the Commissioners, having been brought under their notice by the minutes of the Board of Guardians and your observations thereon.

The Commissioners rely upon your exertions in endeavouring to convince the Guardians of the advantages of issuing the food in a cooked state, and in inducing them to adopt the system of administering relief under the Commissioners' Order in cooked food, it being as the Commissioners have already explained to the Guardians, illegal to issue the food in any other state, when it is practicable to issue it cooked.

With reference to your observation that you did not further press the point, as a great point had been gained by the resolution to issue relief in kind instead of money, which had been the mode previously followed; the Commissioners desire to observe that to the classes of destitute poor coming within the provisions of the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, relief may be legally afforded in money in any case in which the Guardians in the exercise of their discretion may think it expedient to give relief in that way; and the Commissioners have not issued any regulation which would limit or interfere with the discretion of the Guardians in this respect. As regards the administration of relief under the 2nd section however, the Commissioners desire to point out that relief to persons under the authority of an order of the Commissioners issued in pursuance of that section cannot under any circumstances be legally given in money, and if it were so given, the amount would be recoverable under the 28th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, from the parties who gave it. The Commissioners understand, however, that no relief whatever has yet been given in Nenagh Union under the authority of their order, and that the out-door relief has been confined exclusively to persons coming within the 1st section; they will feel obliged to you to inform them whether such is the fact.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 3, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to send you my third report on the Nenagh Union, for the information of the Commissioners, viz.:—

1. On revising the relief lists of the impotent poor, the grossest abuses were found to exist, by persons having been placed on them who are in nowise entitled to relief, many of them being in actual employment and receiving wages, whilst numbers of able-bodied persons have been included amongst the impotent poor. I am using every exertion to correct these abuses, and to cause the relief lists to be what they are really intended to be. The poor-house not being full is kept as a test of destitution for the able-bodied poor, as I have induced the Guardians not to give any relief outside, until the house shall be full. Lists of all persons receiving out-of-door relief have been printed, and posted in the several localities, from which great benefit has already accrued.

There is a great want of employment existing generally throughout the Union, and I see but little prospect of much increase during the spring.

2. The collection of the rates is going on but slowly. The collectors, however, now seem to be aware that their duties must be done, and are exerting themselves accordingly.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount of rates collected in the week	493	5	0
Amount in the treasurer's hands	1,112	13	4
Amount outstanding	11,210	10	11
Expense of workhouse for the week	123	10	1½
Expense for out-of-door relief	420	0	0

3. The house begins to assume a decent appearance, both as regards clean-

liness and regularity. I have persuaded the Board to set the paupers to works of utility, and I hope soon to see general industry prevailing where scarcely anything but idleness was found. I am happy to state that I am assisted in every way by the Board in general, and by the visiting committee in particular.

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Number of paupers in the house	980
Number in auxiliary house	298
Number in the hospital	223

4. The hospital still continues crowded, but I trust the improvement we may now expect to take place in the weather will have its due effect in reducing the numbers on the sick list. I find that your architect has written to the clerk of the Union, to say he will soon inspect the new hospital.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 7, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement as to the abuses which have been found to exist on revising the relief list, I am directed by the Commissioners to request that you will be so good as to state your opinion fully in regard to the conduct of the several relieving officers, as shown by the abuses to which you refer. The determination to keep the workhouse as a test for the able-bodied, and withholding out-door relief to that class while there is room in the workhouse, is quite in accordance with the views of the Commissioners; and they suggest that you should strongly urge upon the Guardians the propriety of discharging from the workhouse on sufficient out-door allowances all such of the present inmates as can safely be removed, and as may legally be allowed out-door relief under the 1st section. The Commissioners observed by the last return that there were in the workhouse on Saturday, the 26th February, 186 aged and infirm males, and 223 aged and infirm females.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 8, 1848.*

IN reply to the last paragraph of your letter of the 6th instant, viz., “the Commissioners understand, however, that no relief whatever has yet been given in Nenagh Union, under the authority of their order, and that the out-door relief has been confined exclusively to persons coming within the 1st section. They will feel obliged to you to inform them whether such is the fact.”

I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that such would appear to be the fact, and yet there is nothing more remote from the truth, for the fact is, that nearly the entire poor population of the Union, able-bodied as well as the impotent were receiving out-door relief, and all classed under the 1st section. Ever since my arrival here I have been labouring to correct such a flagrant abuse; much has been done, but a great deal remains yet to be done to effect this, and I have repeatedly called on the Guardians and the rate-payers to assist me in revising the lists. In the electoral division of Nenagh, great numbers have been struck off the list of impotent persons, and have been set to work at stone-breaking; the house is kept open as far as its means will afford, as a test for the able-bodied of the more distant divisions, over whom there cannot be so good a control, but I think that stone-breaking will become general during the week. The mass of destitution in the Union is indeed appalling.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*March 13, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having received a report from their temporary Inspector, Captain Darley, from which it appeared that out-door relief had been administered in Nenagh Union exclusively in money, but that the Guardians were then about to issue relief in food, deemed it right to inquire whether such out-door relief had been confined exclusively to persons coming within the 1st section of the Act, as the Guardians had received from the Commissioners an authority to administer relief for a limited period under the

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2nd section, and relief in money to persons not coming within the provisions of the 1st section would be illegal.

Captain Darley has informed the Commissioners in reply, that nearly the entire poor population of the Union, able-bodied as well as the impotent, have been receiving out-door relief, and all classed under the 1st section. He states however, that he has been labouring to correct this, and that much has already been done, but that a great deal remains to do—that he has repeatedly called upon the Guardians and rate-payers to assist him in revising the lists, and that in the electoral division of Nenagh, great numbers have been struck off the list of impotent persons, and have been set to work at stone-breaking.

The Commissioners regard this statement as one deeply affecting the conduct of the Board of Guardians of Nenagh Union. The Legislature has imposed upon them certain duties, and invested them with certain powers for the discharge of those duties. By the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, they are authorized and empowered to make due provision for the relief of destitute poor persons of the following classes, viz. :—

1. Persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect.

2. Persons who being disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, are thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, whom they are liable by law to maintain.

3. Widows having two or more legitimate children dependent upon them.

By the 2nd section, the Guardians are required on receiving an order under the seal of the Commissioners, to make provision for the relief of destitute poor persons not being persons of the classes above mentioned, but the section expressly provides, that all relief given out of the workhouse to able-bodied persons, except in cases of sudden and urgent necessity, shall be given in food only. The Commissioners have issued an order under this section, and have prescribed certain regulations for the administration of such relief.

It now appears, however, from Captain Darley's statement, that the Commissioners' regulations have been disregarded, and that relief has been administered by the Guardians in a manner contrary to the express provisions of the Act of Parliament.

Under these circumstances it has appeared to the Commissioners that they would be justified in considering that through the default of the Guardians, the duties of the Board have not been duly and effectually discharged according to the intention of the Act, and that in this case therefore they would be warranted in exercising the powers given to them by the 18th section of the Act; but as the Commissioners understand that relief in money has been now discontinued, and that the Guardians are taking active steps in conjunction with Captain Darley, to remove the irregularities and abuses which have hitherto prevailed in Nenagh Union, in regard to the administration of out-door relief, the Commissioners do not propose on the present occasion to resort to their power of dissolving the Board, and appointing paid officers in their place. At the same time they deem it right to add that as much of the out-door relief which has been administered in Nenagh Union, has been administered in a manner contrary to law, it will be for the consideration of the auditor, whether in the discharge of his duty he should not disallow such illegal relief, and charge the cost thereof against the parties on whose responsibility it was administered.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. MATHEW, Auditor:—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward for your information, a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Board of Guardians of Nenagh Union, relative to the administration of out-door relief in that Union.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you my fourth report on the Nenagh Union, for the information of the Commissioners.

1. In former reports and letters I have had occasion to remark upon the great abuses which have been tolerated throughout the Union, with but few

exceptions. As such I will mention the electoral divisions of Clogprior and Lisbunny. In the former Mr. William Waller, and in the latter the Messrs. Baily, have exerted themselves with great zeal by giving employment to the people, and in the prevention of abuses. In the rest of the entire Union wholesale frauds have been permitted by placing persons on the relief lists, the able-bodied amongst the impotent poor, and, in many instances, by placing persons who have property in land and cattle on these lists. To remedy this monstrous evil has cost me already much time; but from my total want of knowledge of the people so placed on these lists the work is not yet half done. Several of the Guardians and rate-payers are now determined to purge the lists.

2. It now becomes my duty to report specially on the relieving officers, as it will immediately occur to the Commissioners that such a system as I have described above could not have gone on without their concurrence.

These officers were chosen, not from their capabilities, nor from their previous knowledge of business, nor from their respectability, but from the influence they possessed with the majority of the Board of Guardians (the rural Guardians), who voted for their relatives and friends, quite irrespective of fitness and qualification for the office. The consequence of such has now become apparent. So long as the loose system was allowed to place all who applied on the relief list (the impotent list), and that money was the medium of relief granted, matters went on somewhat smoothly; but so soon as they were called upon to revise the lists, and to distinguish between the classes in sections 1 and 2, and to administer the relief in food, they were generally found to be unequal to the task; so much so, that the clerk of the Union now finds it impossible to get them to bring in their accounts in order to have them checked; and he is thereby unable to comply with the Commissioners' instructions, by properly filling up the minutes of the Board of Guardians.

That the relieving officers were perfectly aware of the existence of these abuses there is no doubt; indeed they generally admitted the fact to me. They seem to have been induced to sanction those improprieties in some cases through favour, and in others from intimidation, or other undue influence.

But whilst I write in condemnation, I am also bound to add any mitigating circumstances which may appear; and I would here most respectfully submit, that in my humble opinion the districts assigned to each relieving officer are a great deal too extensive, which makes it impossible for him to perform his duty with strict integrity; and, therefore, he reports many cases of destitution upon mere representation made to him, without examination into the real merits of each individual case, thereby permitting numberless abuses to creep in. Again, every relieving officer is required to attend at the Union-house two days in each week, and the clerk requires his attendance on another day to check his accounts. Thus fully one-half of his time is taken from the duties of his district, and the remaining half is not sufficient to perform those duties effectively, where they lie over such an extended surface. In prosperous times these causes of complaint would be futile; but when it is considered that almost the entire rural population of the Union is in a state of destitution they become real causes of difficulty. The numbers to whom relief was granted during the last week in and out of the house amounted to nearly 12,000 persons, and I greatly fear that this vast number will be increased during the present week. I am now obliged to report to the Commissioners the names of three of the relieving officers, who are, in my opinion, so incapable of rightly performing their duties that I would recommend their immediate dismissal, viz., James M'Grath, of No. 3; Michael Hogan, of No. 8; and Michael Hogan, of No. 9 districts; the remaining officers may be still further tested, and there are some of them who are very efficient men, if properly urged and kept at their work.

The house is now nearly full, and stone-breaking has commenced in most of the electoral divisions.

I shall not fail to bring before the Visiting Committee, and through them the Board, the recommendation of the Commissioners, as expressed to me in your letter of the 7th instant, respecting the "discharging from the workhouse on sufficient out-door relief, all such of the present inmates as can safely be removed, and as may be legally allowed out-door relief under the 1st section," in order to make room in the house for the able-bodied poor.

Nenagh Union.

4. The collection of the rates is in due progress, but not so satisfactorily as could be wished.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount collected last week	523	12	7
In hands of treasurer	1,321	18	9
Amount uncollected	10,686	18	4

5. The new hospital has been taken up from the contractor by the Board, and orders given to have the building insured, and to have it properly aired for the reception of patients; and I hope shortly to see it occupied, which will greatly relieve the present over-crowded state of the sick wards.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement in regard to the placing improper objects on the lists for out-door relief, I am directed to refer you to the letter which the Commissioners addressed to the Guardians on the 13th instant, a copy of which is enclosed.

In regard to the relieving officers the Commissioners request you will be so good as to acquaint them with special facts concerning each of the relieving officers whom you deem unfit for their office. The Commissioners will then communicate with each of such officers, and will formally dismiss any one whose answer is not satisfactory.

In regard to the size of the relieving officers' districts, the Commissioners desire to state, that they were originally constituted solely in reference to out-door relief, under the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and that it was always intended to increase the number when out-door relief became requisite for able-bodied men.

As you have been appointed specially Inspector of Nenagh Union, the Commissioners request you to report as to the new distribution of districts, and the additional number of relieving officers which you would recommend, in order to ensure the due administration of relief to the destitute in conformity with the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Acts.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 17, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th instant, and to the second and last paragraphs of it, I beg to report that James Magrath, of No. 3. district, in the weeks ending the 5th and 12th February last, sent in his returns so incorrectly made up that he was specially censured by the Board, as entered on their minutes of those dates; that on the 4th March he did not attend, and made no return; that on the 11th March he was absent, and made no return; and that yesterday he was absent, and was specially reported by the Board for neglect of duty.

That Michael Hogan, of No. 8 district, made no return for the week ending the 5th February, nor did he attend to have his accounts checked; that in the week ending the 4th March he made no return and was absent; that on the 11th March he made no return and was absent; and on the 16th was specially reported by the Board.

That Michael Hogan, of No. 9 district, made no return for the week ending the 26th February, nor did he attend to have his accounts checked; that on 4th March he did not attend to have his accounts checked; that on the 11th of March he sent in no return, and was absent; and that on the 16th instant he was specially reported by the Board for neglect of duty.

These are some facts respecting these relieving officers, and their general mode of transacting business is slovenly and most unsatisfactory.

With respect to the last paragraph of your letter of the 14th, relative to the new distributions of the districts of the relieving officers, and the additional numbers which may be required, I beg to send the annexed schedule which was approved of by the Board of Guardians yesterday. The Commissioners will see by this, that it is proposed to add three additional relieving officers in the Union, which I apprehend will be sufficient to carry out the law with effect.

ENCLOSURE.

Nenagh Union.

PROPOSED NEW DISTRICTS FOR RELIEVING OFFICERS—Nenagh Union.

Districts.	Divisions.	Population in 1841.	Observations.
No. 1.	*Nenagh . . .	14,089	* This district is larger than the others, but Lisbunny is light, as the people are better employed and better off in it; the rest of the district can be managed by one officer.
	Lisbunny . . .		
2.	Youghall . . .	7,869	
	Castletown . . .		
3.	Templekelly . . .	6,305	
	Kilmastulla . . .		
4.	Kilcomenty . . .	7,780	
	Newport . . .		
5.	Killoscully . . .	6,485	
	Kilnerath . . .		
6.	Kilmore . . .	7,920	
	Burgessbeg . . .		
7.	Dolla . . .	5,582	
	Templederry . . .		
8.	Annameadle . . .	5,819	
	Ballymackey . . .		
9.	Kilruane . . .	6,162	
	Burrisokane . . .		
10.	Terryglass . . .	6,128	
	Ardcroney . . .		
11.	Cloughjordan . . .	5,691	
	Knigh . . .		
12.	Cloughprior . . .	7,302	
	Kilbarron . . .		

Nenagh, March 17, 1848.

A. DARLEY, Poor Law Inspector.

REPLY to the foregoing:—March 22, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 17th instant relative to the conduct of three relieving officers in the Nenagh Union, and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have called on the relieving officers in question to send in their resignation.

With reference to the plan forwarded by you for a new arrangement of the relief districts, in order to facilitate the discharge of the duties of the relieving officers, I am directed to state that the Commissioners have written to the Board of Guardians approving the arrangement; and the Commissioners request that you will be so good as to confer with the Guardians as to the salaries to be allowed under the new arrangement; and in doing so the Commissioners wish you to bear in mind the general views of the Commissioners on the subject, as stated in their circular of 16th of July, a copy of which is enclosed.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain DARLEY:—March 15, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of a constabulary report, which has been transmitted to them by the Under Secretary, relative to the death of Patrick Hayden, at Cloughjordan, in Nenagh Union, and I am to request that you will be so good as to inquire and report to the Commissioners on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

Nenagh Union.

County of Tipperary, W. R.
Cloughjordan, March 9, 1848.

ON the 7th instant Patrick Hayden died of extreme want: an inquest was held and a verdict returned, that deceased died from actual starvation. The condition of this family, six in number, is truly awful.

PATRICK BOURKE, Head Constable.

Inspector-General,
&c. &c. &c.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS in reply:—March 20, 1848.

IN reply to your letter of the 15th instant, enclosing a copy of the constabulary report relative to the death of Patrick Hayden, at Cloughjordan, from star-

Nenagh Union.

vation, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners that the father of the said Hayden, also named Patrick, holds four acres of land, and told the relieving officer of that district he would sooner starve than give up his land. The deceased was a child of from five to six years of age.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 17, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 15th instant, calling upon me to report to the Commissioners, "whether the state of the Union is such that the provisions of the accompanying order to Listowel Union could be carried into effect," &c., I yesterday brought the cases mentioned in the order to Listowel Union under the consideration of the Board of Guardians, when they unanimously agreed in thinking that it could not be carried out in the Nenagh Union at present; and I beg leave to add that my own observation of these cases causes me to coincide with the opinion of the Guardians.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have given directions for an extension of the order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied in Nenagh Union until the 1st of April.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you my fifth report on the Nenagh Union, for the information of the Commissioners, viz.:—

1. The relief lists have been arranged in some degree of form, so as to distinguish between the classes under the first and second sections.

Stone-breaking has become general throughout the Union; but until entirely new lists can be made out, it will be impossible to have matters satisfactorily put in order. This will be commenced immediately after the 25th instant, when new books will be had; and then I hope to see the relief lists fairly representing the different classes of the destitute poor.

2. The workhouse is now full; but great difficulty arose on the sudden admission of upwards of 100 inmates, from the circumstance of there being no ready supply of clothing in the house. To meet this emergency the Guardians have been obliged to take ready-made clothes by contract; but in future the supply must be made up in the house. Ten additional boys have been put under the tailor for instruction in that trade, and the same number under the shoemaker, by which means the supplies can be kept equal to the demand.

The internal management of the house goes on with regularity, and the inmates are well conducted generally.

3. Yesterday I laid before the Board of Guardians your letter of the 7th instant, respecting the emigration of young persons to South Australia, and the Board have directed lists of the names of such to be made out, when they will be forwarded to you.

4. I also *again* brought under the notice of the Board the necessity of cooking the food for the out-door relief, and laid before them your letter, enclosing Captain Wynne's mode of making bread. The Board acquiesced in the advantage of the plan; but I find it almost impossible to urge them to take the matter up actively, as it is still longer deferred, and contracts have been entered into for the supply of Indian meal for another month. The want of a regular Chairman of the Board is sorely felt, as no single Chairman ever goes through the business of the day. The attendance of the Guardians is very uncertain, and always too late, a Board seldom being formed before half-past 12 or 1 o'clock, and then the business is hurried over without due regard to its great importance.

I hope, however, after the new elections of Guardians on the 25th instant, that an efficient Chairman may be selected; but unless the Guardians assemble early, the conducting of the affairs of the Union in a business-like manner will be hopeless.

5. The collection of the rates does not meet my expectations. The Board

have caused the collectors to give in the names of the 10 highest rate-payers in each district who are defaulters; and these names have been read out each day of meeting; but still the outstanding rates are of very large amount.

Yesterday the collectors were directed to collect and pay into the bank each week 10 per cent. on the outstanding instalment.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount collected in the week	293	2	1
Amount in treasurer's hands	1,383	13	8
Amount outstanding	10,400	0	0

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 21, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement that the Board acquiesced in the advantages of the cooked food system, but that you find it almost impossible to urge them to take the matter up actively, as it is still longer deferred, I am to state that the Commissioners rely upon your bringing the matter again before the Guardians, and urging them to take immediate steps to carry out the system. The number on the relief lists in Nenagh Union is so large, and so many abuses have taken place, that no means should be left untried to check those abuses, and to remove from the relief lists all who are not really destitute; and the Commissioners are convinced that these ends will be to some extent promoted by distributing the food in a cooked state, inasmuch as, while on the one hand, cooked food is better suited to the wants of the really destitute, and is therefore more desirable to them than food in an uncooked state; it is, on the other hand, less desirable to those who are not really destitute, being less convertible, and, therefore, less suited to the purposes of those who fraudulently endeavour to obtain that relief which is intended exclusively for the destitute.

The Commissioners attach great importance to the adoption of this system; and though they are anxious to avoid embarrassing the Guardians by requiring them to adopt it, without allowing them another opportunity of making the requisite preparations, they feel bound to insist upon its being carried into effect without more delay than is absolutely necessary for making such preparations; and they desire to add, that should the Guardians still decline to act in accordance with the Commissioners' regulations in this respect, the Commissioners will feel bound to consider whether their omission to do so, coupled with the other irregularities in the administration of out-door relief in Nenagh Union, which have recently been brought under the notice of the Commissioners, and on which they have addressed the Guardians, together with the late and *uncertain* attendance of the Guardians, and the hurried manner in which you describe the business as being transacted, does not amount to such a default on the part of the Guardians as would not only justify, but call for the exercise of the Commissioners' powers under the 18th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 24, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward my sixth report for the information of the Commissioners.

1. The out-door relief is now in operation throughout the Union.

2. I laid before the Board of Guardians yesterday your communication to me of the 21st instant, in reply to my last report relative to the cooking of food. The Board was very badly attended, in consequence of the assizes which are now being held in Nenagh, requiring the attendance of the greater number of the Guardians, and nothing was done but the mere routine business of the Board.

3. From the circumstance of nearly the whole of the rural Guardians being disqualified from being re-elected, owing to not having paid up the last rate, I greatly fear much difficulty will ensue in not having the new books initialed in proper time, and should my doubts on this subject be realized, I shall consider it to be my duty to call upon the Commissioners to give me assistance to effect this very necessary business, as the other Guardians may not be able to attend during the assize week.

I always find this duty most difficult to have executed, and under the present

Nenagh Union.

untoward circumstances, my efforts to have it accomplished will, I fear be fruitless.

4. We had the advantage of Mr. Lloyd's assistance at the Board yesterday, and his experience in the conducting of the Poor Law was of material benefit. He recommended that wherever the cooking of food could not be conveniently done, to have the meal steeped previous to its issue, and so soon as the new arrangements of the Union are made, and the additional relieving officers appointed, this shall be commenced.

5. The collection of the rates goes on but slowly, and the Board resolved to apply to the Commissioners for power to proceed in the superior courts against several defaulters who are non-resident in the Union. The collectors say that in many cases there is no property on the land to enable them to distrain.

	£.
Amount collected this week . . .	266
Amount in bank . . .	986
Amount outstanding . . .	10,147

6. I have received the Commissioners' sealed order to enable the Board to grant out-door relief until the 1st of April, but I am certain the able-bodied poor will not be employed to any extent in the Union during the spring, assuredly not in some of the electoral divisions; the consequence will be that this class will be forced on the relief lists under the 1st section before long. Nevertheless it will be well to make the experiment, and I shall not fail to send a more detailed report on this subject, should it become necessary for me to do so.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 28, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report in which you advert to the order authorizing out-door relief to the 1st April, and state that you fear there will be little employment during the spring, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they will renew the order on the 1st April, if you deem it absolutely necessary; but still the Commissioners are anxious to break through the habit of dependence on the poor rates at a time when the labour of able-bodied men is required for the cultivation of the land.

The Commissioners desire to draw your attention to their letter of the 15th instant, and they request that in the event of your applying for a renewal of the order, you will be so good as to state whether you are now of opinion that the Union has progressed so much as to admit of carrying the provisions of the Liscarrow order (a copy of which you received with that letter), into effect.

It will be observed that under that order single men, and men with only two children, would be thrown on their own resources.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain DARLEY:—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of a constabulary report, which has been transmitted to them relative to the death of Patrick Reedy, in Nenagh Union; and I am to request that you will be so good as to inquire into and report on the circumstances attending his death.

ENCLOSURE.

County of Tipperary, N. R.

Nenagh, March 21, 1848.

An inquest was held yesterday on the body of Patrick Reedy, who was recently discharged from the fever hospital.

Copy of Verdict.

That deceased died from want of proper nourishment, and exposure to the inclemency of the weather, being in a delicate state of health.

Inspector-General.

CHARLES O'DELL, S. I.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS in reply :—*March 29, 1848.*

Nenagh Union.

IN reply to your letter of the 28th, enclosing a Constabulary Report, relative to the death of Patrick Reedy in Nenagh Union, I have made inquiry, and cannot ascertain whether the above-named person was a fixed resident in this Union; at all events no application on his behalf was made to the relieving officer. I annex his report to me.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. J. MEAGHER to Captain DARLEY.

I BEG to acquaint you that Reedy must be a stranger, as himself, nor no person on his behalf, ever called upon me or to my assistants to get his name on the relief list; if he had I would have visited him, and reported his case to the Board.

Received this evening, March 29, 1848.—A. D.

Captain DARLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 31, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit you my seventh report on the Nenagh Union for the information of the Commissioners.

1. The new Board met yesterday. There having been only four elected Guardians present, with these and the ex-officio Guardians the affairs of the Union will have to be conducted until the Commissioners sanction another election, but numbers are not so much needed as a few working business-like men. I regret they are rare in this Union. With a very few exceptions, the greatest apathy is shown by the members of the Board, and if they do not improve in their attendance and attention to the affairs of the Union, business cannot be conducted as it ought to be.

I persuaded the Board to name 10 o'clock in the forenoon as the hour for assembling on Board-days. I also got them to name a Finance Committee and a Visiting Committee. I hope these Committees may be induced to attend to their important duties.

2. The workhouse is in a more creditable state, but from the slovenly manner the management has been heretofore conducted, I find the utmost difficulty in keeping the officers of the house up to their work. All the able-bodied men are employed in breaking stones and planting potatoes in the workhouse grounds, and 68 women and girls are engaged in sewing, knitting, and spinning, and we are laying out work for double that number. The male and female schools are greatly improved; the children healthy and duly progressing in learning. I have established an infant-school in a room off the women's yard, and placed a young woman over it who is herself an inmate, and who has been for some time past acting as monitor and assistant to the schoolmistress.

A fortnight ago the house was full, but from the dislike the able-bodied poor have to remaining in it, coupled with the mistaken idea that they would get out-door relief, it has thinned considerably. I caused the master to post notices cautioning them against the mistake, and I gave the relieving officers directions not to place any such persons on their lists for out-door relief, yet these steps have not stopped the emigration. I therefore hope they have procured employment elsewhere.

3. The new hospital will be fit for the reception of patients next week, which will give more accommodation in the house, and as stone-breaking outside will cease to-morrow, access to the house will be afforded to those able-bodied persons who may be unable to obtain employment on their own account, and who are really destitute.

The number in the hospital still exceeds an average proportion; it however steadily diminishes. The diseases are not severe, except some cases of measles and small-pox. The present number is 183.

4. The collection of the rates goes on slow enough. The Board came to the resolution to direct their solicitor to write to several defaulters upon whose land no property can be found, threatening them with actions at law if they do not pay their rates.

	£.	s.	d.
Rate collected this week	246	7	4
Do. in bank	1,111	16	5
Do. outstanding	9,900	14	10

3 0

Nenagh Union.

5. Since my last report I have visited several districts of the Union. From my own observation, and from the best information I can collect, there exists great destitution, and but little prospect of employment.

The planting of potatoes will be pretty general on a reduced scale by the better class of farmers; but the poorer sort have neither seed nor manure to make the experiment with.

The land is being tilled chiefly by the assistance of horse labour.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 1, 1848.*

THE Commissioners infer from the statements in your report, coupled with the fact that you have not replied to the Commissioners' letter of the 28th ultimo, that you do not consider it necessary that the out-door relief order should be renewed, and accordingly the authority to administer out-door relief in Nenagh Union under the 2nd section will cease on this day.

ROSCREA UNION.

Roscrea Union.

Mr. TODD to the COMMISSIONERS:—February 20, 1848.

ON Monday last I visited the workhouse of this Union, carefully inspected its condition and state of repair, and inquired into its management. I was much pleased to find that the greatest attention to the *cleanliness* and *ventilation* of the house was paid by the master and matron.

There were some matters amiss in the house—such as a bad management of the inmates of several rooms, a want of proper attention to repairs of iron work and masonry, and other matters which I presume I need not particularize, as the Board of Guardians have agreed to such changes and alterations as I may consider necessary, and, in fact, most of those changes have already been carried into effect.

The schoolmistress has charge of 180 pupils—a greater number than she can properly attend to, even with the aid of monitors. There is not any infant school. I consider that an assistant-schoolmistress is required, particularly as I hope the Commissioners will sanction the removal of the girls (over 5 and under 15 years of age) to the auxiliary house at Dunkerrin.

On Tuesday I examined the books and accounts of the master and matron and found them very correctly kept, and posted well forward. The Inventory and Labour Books were alone wanting; the former books being finished, and new ones not yet provided.

The former clerk having resigned, his brother continued to discharge the duties of that office provisionally; and on the 4th instant the Guardians elected a Mr. Smith, but as the Commissioners have not yet approved of this appointment, Mr. Smith has not entered upon the duties of his office. This state of things is most inconvenient, and I trust will not be much longer continued.

The absence of the acting-clerk prevented my having an opportunity of examining his books; but I have appointed Tuesday next for that purpose, and have no doubt I shall find the books, accounts, &c., in excellent order, as I understand Mr. Wall (the late clerk of this Union), was a most efficient public officer.

I believe there is room in the workhouse at present for very nearly 100 adult paupers.

On the 16th I visited Dunkerrin auxiliary house. There are 200 boys here under the sole charge of the schoolmaster, over whom there is no check or supervision. I consider that this house might, at a comparatively small cost, be made to accommodate all girls now in the Union workhouse under 15 and over 5 years of age (about 200), and thus enable the Guardians to *offer* admission to the workhouse to many who now receive out-door relief, but who I believe would not go into the workhouse. If this arrangement was carried into effect there would be at least 450 inmates at Dunkerrin, which number would justify the appointment of an assistant-master or matron for that establishment, and thus correct the *irresponsibility* which at present exists, and which, if it does not *lead* to fraud, at least offers perfect immunity from its consequences.

I am instructed by the Board of Guardians for this Union to request the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners to such repairs and additions to the house at Dunkerrin as will afford the amount of accommodation required to carry into effect the arrangement proposed, and that the Commissioners will direct their architect, or his assistant, to examine the house and offices at Dunkerrin, with a view to provide the Guardians with the necessary plans and estimates.

I cannot complain of any want of exertion on the part of the collectors since they became aware of the power vested in them to enforce the payment of rates, and of the *responsibility* they would incur by a neglect of their duty. I confidently rely upon a very large proportion of outstanding rates being collected within a few weeks.

Some miscalculations in financial returns I have received (this moment dis-

Roscrea Union.

covered) compel me to delay forwarding a full statement of the present financial position of this Union.

The returns from relieving officers I hope to forward to-morrow; and with them, a report of the present working of out-door relief in this Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 24, 1848.*

WITH reference to your suggestions as to the workhouse schools, and the proposed removal of the female children to the auxiliary workhouse at Dunkerrin, I am to state that the Commissioners approve of the appointment of an assistant schoolmistress, and of the removal of the female children to Dunkerrin, if they can be accommodated there conveniently.

The Commissioners request that you will have the goodness to inform them of the alterations and additions which you would propose to have made to the building at Dunkerrin, with a view to the accommodation of the female children now in the workhouse.

I am at the same time to state, that the attention of the Commissioners' architect will be drawn to the subject.

With respect to the clerk to the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners have not yet received the report of the Inspector of the district upon the answers to the usual queries relating to Mr. Smith, who has been appointed to that office.

The Commissioners recommend that all the workhouse inmates coming within the classes specified by the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act should be discharged. The Vice-Guardians may provide those classes not only with the allowance for food, but for clothing, lodging, and fuel.

I am to request your attention to the Commissioners' Circular of the 18th ultimo, on the subject of sending paupers out of the workhouse to receive out-door relief.

Mr. TODD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 22, 1848.*

IN my weekly report forwarded to you on Sunday I promised to send an outline of the financial state of this Union. If the Poor Law Commissioners require me to give a more particular or minute statement, it shall be at once forwarded:—

	£.	s.	d.
The amount of rate made on 24th September, 1847	14,066	14	8
Arrears of former rate then uncollected	821	14	9
Total	14,888	9	5
Amount of rates collected	6,832	14	9
Amount of rate and arrears now uncollected	8,056	14	8
Amount collected in the week ending 18th February	530	9	0
Balance in treasurer's hands to the credit of the Union	1,519	2	8

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 24, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' thanks for your report: I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners are desirous that the outstanding rate should be collected with as little delay as possible; and I am to request that you will be good enough to keep the attention of the Guardians continually directed to this important matter.

Mr. TODD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 20, 1848.*

IN forwarding the accompanying resolution of the Roscrea Board of Guardians I beg to observe that if the Poor Law Commissioners will in any case permit a deviation from the general rule as to the mode of employing

able-bodied paupers out of the workhouse, I believe that the peculiar state of the road in Killavenogue would justify such a deviation as is proposed.

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The road in question is a new road leading from Roscrea to Templemore, formed, fenced, and stoned under the Board of Works, excepting a little over a quarter of a mile at the Roscrea end, and upon this part of the road it is only required to *scrape* the road and spread the stones already broken and lying in heaps on the road side.

ENCLOSURE.

Proposed by Martin Maher and seconded by Dudley Byrne—

That Mr. Todd be requested to ask permission of the Poor Law Commissioners to employ a portion of the able-bodied paupers now receiving out-door relief in the electoral division of Killavenogue in repairing some parts of the roads in that division, where they have been left in a state almost impassable since the suspension of the Public Works; and a like permission in the electoral division of Shinrone, where the stones are already broken.

February 25, 1848.

REPLY to the foregoing:—February 28, 1848.

I AM to state that the Commissioners will not object to the paupers being employed in scraping the road already formed and fenced, and laying down the broken stone upon it.

Mr. TODD to the COMMISSIONERS:—February 27, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, the present state of this Union as respects the mode of carrying into effect in it, the Acts for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland.

I have the pleasure to renew my statement of last week as to the strict attention paid by the master and matron to the ventilation and general cleanliness of the house. I consider that the drainage of the yards and of a portion of the ground attached to the house may be improved, and I feel, I may add, *will* be attended to; the master is very careful in having the cesspools regularly emptied. I think the present burial ground is most objectionable, as well from its situation as the nature of the ground; I have called the attention of the Guardians to this subject, and have to state that they quite agree with me as to the unfitness of the ground for the purposes to which it is now applied, and they are not only willing but *anxious* to receive the sanction of the Commissioners to their purchasing or renting a few acres of land near the workhouse, that a more suitable place of interment may be provided, and that a sufficient extent of ground may be at the disposal of the Guardians for the useful and regular employment of the able-bodied (male) inmates of the house.

I beg to premise that I have met with every assistance from the Board of Guardians in making such changes as I found necessary in the administration of the Poor Laws in this Union. There is now a very good attendance of Guardians at their Board-room at eleven o'clock (instead of two and three o'clock, P.M.); there is now a *real* Visiting Committee (of three Guardians and myself), instead of a nominal one; and there is now a *bonâ fide* examination of all accounts and books by the *Board*, and not by the chairman and clerk only; in short, I have no doubt that in a very short time few Unions will have a more efficient Board of Guardians than Roscrea.

I have spoken to many gentlemen of this Union upon the subject of establishing a Union Farming Society, in connexion with the parent society in Dublin, and of requesting that a practical instructor should visit this neighbourhood; and have given notice that I will call the attention of the Guardians to these subjects on Friday next.

I have found great difficulty in correcting the most extraordinary abuses in the system of out-door relief generally prevailing in this Union; this was caused very much from the inferior class of persons who had been appointed relieving officers—their extraordinary ignorance (real or pretended) of their duties, and to the too great extent of their districts. These causes are now removed, and I

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confidently trust that I shall in future have little if any reason to complain of irregularities in this class of officers.

I am happy to have it in my power to state that on Friday last the Guardians of this Union passed a resolution directing that out-door relief to the able-bodied class of destitute persons should be given in *cooked food*. As the carrying this resolution into effect has been committed to my charge, the Commissioners may rest satisfied that no time shall be lost in doing so; indeed I shall be prepared to supply cooked food rations in the Roscrea district on Tuesday next.

I have to a *certain extent* found it advantageous to adopt the labour test suggested by the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union; but neither the Guardians nor I, considered it advisable to incur the expense of *actually measuring* each man's work; we are content (for the present) to depend upon the judgment and experience of the overseers.

The amount of rates collected in the past week was but 392*l*. I can however account for this falling off by stating that the collectors had only *four* clear collecting days, as I was obliged to occupy one day, and another was lost in attending the meeting of the Board of Guardians; however, I venture to assure the Commissioners that they may look for much larger collections in future, as I trust the time I occupied the collectors will not prove to have been altogether lost. I have only to observe that a considerable portion of last week's collection consisted of *arrears* due when the last rate was made in September last, and to the collection of which I particularly called the attention of the collectors.

Next Wednesday there will be an extraordinary meeting of the Guardians of this Union, exclusively for the consideration of the finances of the Union, a report of which I propose to forward next day.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 29, 1848.*

WITH regard to the burial ground to the workhouse I am to state that the Commissioners have heretofore drawn the attention of the Guardians to the expediency of their occupying some additional land for this purpose, and the Commissioners are quite ready to sanction any arrangement with regard to a burial ground which you may recommend. With respect to the occupation of additional ground for the employment of the able-bodied inmates of the workhouse, I am to state that as a general rule the Commissioners deem it undesirable that the Guardians should take land with the view of affording employment to able-bodied inmates of the workhouse, as all experience has shown that attempts to provide such employment in the cultivation of land belonging to the Union do not answer the end proposed.

The Commissioners however think that a limited quantity of land may be advantageously appropriated to the purpose of employing the boys in workhouses, and giving them some knowledge of agricultural labour.

With respect to the labour test I am to state that the Commissioners do not require that the Guardians should do more than satisfy themselves that the persons receiving relief are kept to work during the hours allotted for labour; they are of opinion however that it will be found useful to ascertain that a due quantity of work is performed by means of measurement, otherwise there will not be a proper check on the overseers' returns.

Your report is upon the whole very satisfactory to the Commissioners.

MR. TODD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 5, 1848.*

THE house is clean and well ventilated. Many of the windows in the west and south sides of the house are not water-tight, and will require alteration in the construction of the sills, if frequent repairs are to be avoided.

The infirmary is dreadfully crowded (exactly double the number of patients it was calculated to accommodate, 40). There have been some cases of small-pox in the house; and the medical officer of the fever hospital having objected to receive them, the Guardians have directed accommodation to be provided in the Bourney temporary hospital. They are to be removed to-morrow.

Much confusion continues to prevail amongst the younger classes of boys and girls from the want of an assistant schoolmistress; and the Guardians do not wish to appoint an assistant until after the removal of the schoolmistress and older girls to Dunkerrin.

The defects in the drainage of some of the yards and grounds mentioned in my last report having been brought under the notice of the Guardians, the necessary directions have been given to have them remedied.

I am happy to say that steps have at length been taken to procure a small portion of ground near the workhouse as a place of interment.

I have carefully examined and measured every room in the house and offices, with a view to ascertain, as nearly as I could, its capabilities, &c. But nothing can be decided upon until the Commissioners' architect has visited (I believe for a second time) the house; and I, therefore, hope I may very shortly expect his arrival.

The necessary arrangements have been made to issue rations in cooked food in the following divisions: Roscrea, Shinrone, Kilmurry, Kilcommon, Dunkerrin, Rathnaveoge, and Cullenwain (seven). Early next week similar arrangements will be completed in Killavenogue, Killea, Bourney, and Roscomroe (four), Borris-in-Ossory (see accompanying letter).

Full employment is provided for all destitute able-bodied persons in the divisions of Aghancon, Ettagh, Kyle, and Burrisnafarney (four). The three remaining divisions I have not had time to visit during the last week; but hope to do so shortly.

The collectors have been exerting themselves to the utmost during the last week. They have succeeded in collecting a sum of 586*l.*, which I do not consider a bad week's work. The collectors hope to receive a large amount of rates next week, as the county half-yearly payments for roads, &c., will then have been made. They have also been promised payment of a considerable sum after the next fair of this town (25th instant).

I do not anticipate much difficulty, nor even delay, in collecting the greater part of the balance of unpaid rates, more particularly if I receive the Commissioners' sanction to state (in reply to Mr. Evans' letter forwarded herewith) that it is not proposed to impound any portion of the present rates to repay the loans made last year under the Temporary Relief Act. There are two small properties in this Union from which I anticipate some difficulty in collecting the rates. The landlords are absentees, and the estates are under the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery. But the receivers tell me they do not receive any rent, and that they cannot pay the rates for which the landlords are primarily liable; nor do they believe that distresses could be made which would cover the amount of rates and costs. I shall make further inquiries upon this matter.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. EVANS to MR. TODD:—*March 4, 1848.*

As I am Guardian for the electoral division of Aghancon, I am anxious for its well working in every respect; and in one particular point I am always anxious to urge the close collection of the poor-rates. This you may see upon examining the payments of the past-paid rates on my division.

May I now, therefore, beg leave to bring before your notice a remark that has been made by some of the rate-payers, which is simply this—you may expect some defaulters this season, in consequence of the poverty that prevails amongst those small holders of land rated over 4*l.* per annum and under 10*l.*; and we who have done more than could be expected from us, with justice to ourselves, through the past season to relieve the poor by employment and otherwise, not leaving them a charge upon the rates, will have to submit to your striking a new rate instant, in the event of your having one portion of this 3*s.* rate that you are now pressing us for absorbed by your in-door and out-door relief up to this period, and the balance being handed over in part payment of the Government loan.

We do not object to the honesty of paying back what the Government so kindly lent us to feed our poor, when all the ratepayers would not unanimously join to support the poor by employment or otherwise from private resources; but we object to the hardship that would be imposed upon us by the striking and enforcing a new rate "such times as these" immediately after the payment of such a heavy general rate. So far for the ratepayers' appeal.

From what I know of the people of this locality and their resources, I think if you would be good enough to suggest to the Commissioners their kind forbearance for a future and more convenient season, that those ratepayers that are able to pay would pay without hesitation, and that I could now succeed in getting the able-bodied poor supported by employment, so that we should have no person chargeable upon rates but the helpless poor, with the exception

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 8, 1848.*

I AM to state that the attention of the Commissioners' architect will be drawn to that part of your report which relates to the construction of the window-sills in the workhouse, and to the auxiliary workhouse at Dunkerrin. With regard to the crowded state of the hospital, I am to state that such steps should be forthwith taken as may be necessary to reduce the number of inmates of the wards to a proper number, either by the discharge of some of the present inmates from the workhouse, and then appropriating the wards vacated to the reception of the hospital patients, or by hiring some building to which some of the patients may be removed.

With regard to the children in the workhouse, it will be desirable that you should press upon the consideration of the Guardians the expediency of at once appointing an assistant schoolmistress, notwithstanding the reason to the contrary stated in your report.

In reference to the letter from Mr. Evans, enclosed with your report, I am to state that the Union will not be called upon to make payments on account of the advances under the Temporary Relief Act, if the making such payment would be likely to cause serious embarrassment, it being the desire of the Lords of the Treasury that the rate should be reserved for defraying the current expenditure under the Poor Law in preference to the repayment of the advances, if the rate is not sufficient for both objects.

Mr. TODD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 12, 1848.*

I REGRET to have to report the illness of the master; his disease is fever, which the medical officer states to be "highly infectious, although not of a very malignant type." Mr. O'Malley's illness was reported to the Board of Guardians on Friday, but no order for his removal was made; and I do not believe myself warranted in assuming the responsibility of taking any decided step in the matter.

I believe that the exertions of the master's friends, assisted by Mr. Wall, the acting clerk, will render it unnecessary to appoint a temporary substitute, at least for the present.

The clerk has been directed by the Guardians to advertise for candidates.

In my last report I stated that the Guardians had directed the removal of small-pox patients to the Bourney temporary hospital. Upon examining the patients, many were so far advanced in the disease that their removal was considered inexpedient by the medical officers; and accordingly I had (the stable) the only building available, fitted up for the reception of those patients. The floor is covered with plank, and a stove has been set up. The medical officer altogether approves of this arrangement.

I met a Committee of the Guardians at Dunkerrin on Wednesday, to make arrangements as to procuring some ground to afford room for the training of the boys in agricultural labour; but under the circumstances already referred to, no definite arrangements were come to.

I have been engaged the greatest part of last week in urging forward the necessary arrangements for issuing rations in a cooked state. It has been up-hill work; the Guardians are generally passive, and the people violently opposed to it. I am, however, making a steady progress, and hope another week will see the completion of every necessary arrangement. I forward with this, one of many petitions I have received upon this matter; but I am persuaded that, after a fair trial, the people will be well pleased with the change.

The townland lists of recipients of relief, directed to be published by your circular of the 25th ultimo, are in course of preparation.

The amount of rates collected during the past week has rather disappointed me. The collectors had led me to reckon upon a much larger sum, and I believe many promises of ratepayers have not been observed to them; but I have given the collectors notice that if they do not make greater exertions next week, the penalties in their bonds will be enforced against them.

The collector for Shinrone had summoned, by my desire, some defaulters in his district, rated to large sums (one 30%), and who were perfectly well able to pay their rates, but who had hitherto frightened the collector by holding out a threat of appealing to Quarter Sessions. I attended the Shinrone Petty Sessions on Tuesday, and obtained convictions against upwards of 20 defaulters, and who all (except one) abandoned their threatened appeal, when they found that, pending the issue of an appeal, the rate must be paid. I believe this will have a good effect, and that I need not apprehend any further opposition to the collection of the outstanding rates.

The amount collected last week was 480/. The balance to the credit of the Union I could not collect from the treasurer's book, as several cheques issued had not been presented for payment.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

To the Commissioners, Noblemen, and Gentlemen of the sitting Board of Guardians of Roscrea Union.

THE petition of the undersigned labourers, working under Thomas Deegan, steward, humbly sheweth,—That the change which has been made with respect to their meal was not at all for the better, as we would sooner have the management of it ourselves than be forced to take stirabout, as it is of very little use to most of us, having long distances to take it. After taking it four miles, which many of us have to do, it is then too cold for use; and even our allowance is not able to support or keep us alive.

Your petitioners humbly request that you will again take them into consideration, and again grant them their meal, and remove from us our present grievances, by granting some addition to our allowances; and we shall be in duty bound to pray.

II.

Mr. POWER, Collector, to Mr. TODD :—*March 6, 1848.*

I WILL have a gentleman summoned to-morrow (Tuesday) to Shinrone Petty Sessions, who intends to lodge an appeal against me.

Sir, as you desired me to give you notice of it, if leisure should permit, I would like you would attend the court.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 12th instant; and, with reference to the illness of the master of the workhouse of the Roscrea Union, I am to state that the Commissioners consider that it is desirable that you should at once consult the medical officers of the workhouse as to the removal of the master from his apartment in the house. I am at the same time to draw your attention to the 10th Article of the General Regulations, with regard to the holding of a special meeting of Guardians to give any decisions on the subject which may be necessary.

The Commissioners will communicate with Mr. Wilkinson respecting the proposed additions to the auxiliary workhouse at Dunkerrin; they have no doubt that he has made such arrangements as will prove satisfactory.

The Commissioners trust that you will be successful in your endeavours to make arrangements for giving out-door relief in cooked food, and that you will receive such co-operation from members of the Board of Guardians as will be necessary to ensure success in this important matter.

Mr. TODD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 13, 1848.*

I THIS morning received your letter of the 11th instant, requiring from me, by return of post, a reply to a circular addressed to me on the 2nd instant, and enclosing a second copy of that circular.

In a former letter I stated that in this Union ample employment was provided by proprietors for all able-bodied persons requiring it in four electoral divisions (Burrishnafarney, Aghancon, Ettagh, and Kyle).

In five other electoral divisions (Killea, Roscomroe, Kilmurry, Shinrone,

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and Kilcommon) employment to a considerable extent is to be expected (assisted by some works carrying on under the Land Improvement Act), but not at all adequate to the requirements of the destitute people of those districts.

In seven other divisions (Roscrea, Dunkerrin, Cullenwaine, and remaining four Queen's County divisions) a precarious and wholly insufficient amount of employment is to be calculated upon.

In the divisions of Rathnaveoge, Bourney, and Killavenogue I do not believe there will be 20 labourers employed before next harvest.

That my reply to the circular of the 2nd instant might be worthy of credit, I do not think a little time devoted to collecting information as misspent, and regret it if the Commissioners should think otherwise; and even now (after a drive of 30 miles over an important portion of this Union) I am well satisfied that I have had another day's information and knowledge of the Union before reply to the circular.

If the renewed order authorizing out-door relief in this Union can be made to apply to certain divisions, and not to others, this may be done; but if out-door relief being required in one division renders a continuance of the order necessary for the whole Union, I cannot fix any period (before next harvest perhaps) for the determination or suspension of the order issued for this Union, under the Poor Relief Extension Act, authorizing out-door relief.

P.S. There has not been any assistance afforded in this Union from funds supplied by the British Association.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that, as the Commissioners are not empowered to restrict the operation of the order to any particular electoral divisions, they have given directions for the renewal of the order for the entire Union.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners rely on the exercise of due discretion, on the part of the Board of Guardians, in either withholding or affording out-door relief to the able-bodied according to the peculiar circumstances of each case. The Commissioners trust that your apprehension that it will be necessary for the Board of Guardians to continue to give out-door relief to able-bodied men in the Roscrea Union until the time of the next harvest may be groundless.

Mr. TODD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 19, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following statement relative to this Union for the information of the Commissioners:—

I have not been able to visit the workhouse since Monday last (owing to severe illness), but from the report of trustworthy persons I may state that the illness of the master has not prevented the customary attention to the cleanliness and ventilation of the house. I am happy to learn from the medical officer that he expects the master will shortly be able to resume his duties.

I observe with regret that some of the paupers have misconducted themselves last week; but I hope the steps directed to be taken for their punishment will have a beneficial effect in preventing further acts of insubordination.

Relief to able-bodied destitute persons and their families is now given very generally in a cooked state in this Union. My illness and the very inefficient relieving officers I have to deal with have delayed its being more generally acted upon. I shall have to recur to this subject to-morrow or next day, and shall not, therefore, say more at present, than to express my belief that there must be an example made of one or two of these men before they will be induced to attend to a proper discharge of their duties.

I am very sorry I cannot report more favourably. The sum for which the treasurer's receipts were produced amounted to but 252*l.* I believe, however, that other sums were received, but not lodged in time; but I shall see to all this to-morrow or next day, and shall make a further report upon the matter. The Commissioners may be satisfied that I feel the necessity for most strenuous exertions in collecting the rates outstanding, and they may depend upon my making every endeavour to press the collectors to greater activity.

Mr. TODD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 24, 1848.*

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It is satisfactory to me that I can state that this workhouse is essentially clean; that the regulations of the Commissioners are strictly adhered to; that irregularities and acts of insubordination amongst the inmates having been promptly punished, order and proper discipline have been restored, and that the appearance of a neglect of duty on the part of the officers, caused by the younger children wandering through all parts of the house, ceased to exist upon the appointment of an assistant schoolmistress.

The want of employment for the adult female paupers (nearly 300) in the house has occupied my attention, and I propose shortly addressing the Commissioners upon that subject.

On Friday the Board of Guardians purchased the tenant-right in a small farm near the workhouse for a sum of 14*l.* : it contains two acres and 37 perches (Irish), and is subject to a rent of 5*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* I shall take an early opportunity of writing more particularly upon this subject, and explaining my reasons for advising the Guardians to take this farm as "tenants-at-will."

The Board was occupied until nearly five o'clock on Friday in going through the ordinary business, and entering into contracts, &c., when the meeting was adjourned until Saturday, for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the Union for the half-year. Upon this understanding I did not object to the Guardians devoting the remainder of Friday afternoon to a revision of relieving officers' lists, &c. I am sorry to say, however, that *not one Guardian* attended next day; and although I had all the accounts examined and prepared, and remained in the Board-room until five o'clock, nothing could be done, greatly to the inconvenience of the contractors, relieving officers, and others. I shall endeavour to have an extraordinary meeting of Guardians on Wednesday or Thursday, when I hope to have the accounts for the half-year examined and disposed of. I believe I am tolerably correct in stating (in round numbers) the liabilities of the Guardians at 6000*l.* up to the 25th instant, which would leave their treasurer's account as follows :—

	£.	s.	d.
Balance in favour of Guardians on 18th instant	2,266	4	6
24th.—Amount paid in by collectors during the current week	324	0	0
25th.—Amount paid in this day	195	0	0
	2,785	4	6
Less by liabilities, say	600	0	0
Balance to credit of Union	2,185	4	6

I expect that there will be large collections of rates made during the next and following week, although the fair of this town was considered a dull one, there being no buyers for stock of any kind, unless for immediate consumption. I am sorry to say the number on the out-door relief list in this Union is 7,624, being an increase of over 200. Under section 2 the number of cases are 618, and of dependents 2,112. The expenditure exceeded that of the previous week over 21*l.* This is partly caused by the wet state of the land, and partly by the cessation of employment upon the railway from Ballybrophy to Thurles.

Mr. TODD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 3, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report upon the present state of this Union for the information of the Commissioners.

The presence of a number of workmen employed in raising a story over the idiot wards necessarily interrupts the appearance of order about the house. There is also considerable inconvenience in the house, caused by the want of a nursery and a sufficiently large day-room (women's). I propose to draw the attention of the Guardians to these matters at their next Board-meeting. The master is sufficiently recovered to re-enter upon the duties of his office.

The returns from the relieving officers for the last week may be relied upon, as corresponding with the entries in the Application and Report Books sanctioned by the initials of the chairman of the Board of Guardians. They show a slight

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falling off in the numbers and cost of the week's rations issued, as compared with the previous week. But I have reason to believe that the amount of Relief in this Union exceeds the requirements of the really destitute, and that therefore a very considerable reduction in the relieving officer's lists is necessary, both as regards numbers and extent of relief.

The collectors have exerted themselves during the past week, and considering the circumstances of a considerable portion of this Union, I think the amount collected satisfactory, and it would have been more so, but that some lodgments were made after the treasurer had made up his week's account.

The amount collected was 637*l.* during the week.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 6, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 3rd instant relating to the Roscrea Union in which you state that you consider that the amount of relief given in the Union, exceeds the requirements of the really destitute, and in reference thereto I am to state, that the Commissioners rely upon your taking such steps as will effectually expose cases of simulated distress.

I am at the same time to state that an extract from your report relative to the additional accommodation required at the workhouse, has been forwarded to the Commissioners' architect.

TRIM UNION.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 7, 1848.*

WE beg to inform you that we removed the girls out of the workhouse on Wednesday last into the house we had taken from Doctor Lamprey. We decided on removing the girls there instead of the boys, as we conceived that that would diminish considerably, probably wholly remove, any ideal injury which the premises might sustain from being applied to the purposes of a poor-house; and we have taken all necessary steps to prevent as far as possible, all damage to any part of the interior of the house.

We are at present in treaty for another house for the boys, and we only wait your approval to proceed with the bargain, and to submit it in distinct terms.

We are, however, strongly of opinion that the erecting additional accommodation within the precincts of the workhouse, as far as it is feasible and consistent with the health of the inmates, is to be preferred to the taking of extern houses, as the staff are thus enabled to have a more constant surveillance over all matters in their charge.

We are happy to say, that notwithstanding the urgent application for outdoor relief under section 2 from Athboy, that the number of applications for in-door relief on Saturday last, in consequence of being refused the former, was not very considerable, as will appear on the minutes.

We await your instructions relative to the erecting of single galleries in the dormitories, for doing which we have received tenders.

It appears that several of the Relief Committees, at the termination of the relief system, left the boilers which had been used by them in the kitchens, where they had been originally set, under the impression, we believe, that they might be required again; and there is now a charge made for the rent of the premises at a rate of 2s. per week. We should be glad to know whether we ought to pay the charge up to this date, and have the boilers removed into store, or leave them where they are, subject to the accruing charge of 2s. per week for each kitchen.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 18, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report of the 7th instant, relating to boilers which had been used by the late Relief Committee in Trim Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that the boilers should be removed and taken into store as proposed in your report.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 14, 1848.*

WE have to report that we have before us an offer of a house in the town of Trim capable of containing about 120 boys, for the sum of 40% for one year certain. We would at once conclude the bargain, but that we are anxious to put ourselves in communication with the proprietor, who lives in Dublin, in reference to some allowance for putting the premises in a proper state of repair, to do which, we consider it will require about 5%. It is not our intention, however, ultimately to decline taking the house, even if he should refuse to make us any allowance, as we consider it fit for our object.

As there is an immediate prospect of removing the boys from the workhouse, it brings strongly before us the capabilities of the schoolmaster who will be in charge of them. It appears that the present master was only appointed temporarily on the 4th of August (on his son being sent up to the training school in Dublin, from whence he was appointed to another Union), and without preferring any specific charge against him, we have no hesitation in saying that we do not consider him qualified to make an efficient master. We have also

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to observe that in our opinion, the salary hitherto given, viz., 12*l.* per annum, is inadequate to procure the services of a properly qualified person.

The medical officer has just reported to us that he finds dysentery on the increase among the boys from 9 to 15 years of age, and he attributes this to the fact of their getting buttermilk instead of sweet milk at this time of year. Under these circumstances, at his recommendation, we have thought it advisable to place all the children on sweet milk diet for the present.

We have entered into a contract for building single sleeping galleries in the upper dormitories.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February* 18, 1848.

I AM to state that the Commissioners have already expressed their approval of the Vice-Guardians taking a house in addition to that taken from Dr. Lamprey; and the Commissioners presume that the statement in your report refers to such second house.

I am also to request that you will inform the Commissioners whether the schoolmaster has sent in his resignation, if not, he should be called upon to do so; and when the office has been thus vacated, the Guardians can take the usual steps, with a view to the appointment of his successor.

With reference to the diet to be adopted for inmates affected with dysentery, I am to express the Commissioners' approval of the Guardians being guided by the opinion of the medical officer.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February* 21, 1848.

REFERRING to our last report as regards the schoolmaster, we think it right to state our opinion that the present salary of 12*l.* per annum is inadequate to procure the services of a properly qualified person; and we propose that we should be authorized to advertise for a schoolmaster at 20*l.* per annum.

Applications have been sent to us to provide coffins for persons dying outside the workhouse; and we have stated it to be our opinion that we should not be justified in doing so, and have referred the parties to the churchwardens as the proper persons to supply them.

We regret to report that an old woman was found dead the other day on the road. It appears she was in the receipt of out-door relief; and, on questioning the relieving officer, he has informed us that the persons with whom she was living on seeing that she was dying had turned her (with great inhumanity) out on the road. The only blame we attach to the relieving officer in the matter was his timidity in not taking on himself the responsibility of provisionally supplying her with food more suitable to her than the rations ordered, which were meal rations, and, as it appears, unfit for a person in her state. As this may probably become a subject of inquiry on a coroner's inquest, we have thought it right to mention the facts to you as far as they are known to us.

We have been informed that a public meeting was held in this town yesterday for the purpose of procuring subscriptions to give employment to the able-bodied destitute poor; and we hope they will succeed in getting sufficient funds to support them by employment till the agricultural spring work commences. We have mentioned this fact to put you in possession of circumstances as they occur in the Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February* 23, 1848.

As regards the appointment of a schoolmaster for the workhouse, I am to express the Commissioners' approval of a salary of 20*l.* per annum for that officer.

With reference to the death reported by you, I am to state, that the relieving

officer's attention has already been expressly called to the extent of his provisional powers by the Commissioners' Circular of the 10th November last: he should be reminded of that communication, and warned to be careful to do his duty in cases of this description in future.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 28, 1848.*

WE have to report that we hope before the end of this week, to have the house lately taken by us, in a state fit to receive the boys from the workhouse.

We have this day received a communication from the Central Board of Health, enclosing a requisition devolving on us the management of the temporary fever hospital at Trim. In answer, we have stated that there are no less than four fever hospitals in Trim Union, and requesting further information as to whether it is intended to have them all closed but the one situated in the town of Trim, to which their communication seems solely to refer.

We have also to report that on Saturday last, we caused to be brought up before the magistrates, a man whose wife had been maintained for some time in this workhouse; he was committed to gaol for three months with hard labour; we hope it will have the effect of checking parties from deserting their families, and leaving them chargeable on the rates, several cases of which kind have occurred in this Union.

We have again to bring under your notice a difficulty we experienced in providing clothing for persons whom we wish to remove from the workhouse, as being infirm, &c. The simplest plan would be to get whatever clothes we found it necessary to give, made up in the workhouse, of a different description from that worn in the house; but then the expense could not be put entirely against the electoral division where the pauper will be chargeable; we therefore think this system objectionable. Probably the better way would be to contract with some clothier to supply any article we may require ready made, which we can charge as given in money or kind against the proper electoral division.

Application has been made to us on one or two occasions by the relieving officers, to know what they should do when they were applied to by parties suffering under small-pox, who might require medical attendance. The temporary fever hospitals have declined admitting them for fear of infection. Under the circumstances we have been rather at a loss to know what instructions to give.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 3, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners see no objection to the course proposed by you with reference to the supply of clothing where necessary to persons leaving the workhouse.

As regards the relief of persons suffering from small-pox, I am to state that the temporary hospitals provided under the Fever Acts are not confined to the reception of fever cases; but cases of other epidemic or contagious disease are receivable therein, and there can be no doubt that small-pox comes within the terms of the statute.

In cases of necessity the relieving officers are competent to procure medical assistance and charge the cost to the electoral division, or Union at large, as the case may be.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report, that during the past week we again investigated minutely the details on which our estimate for the expenditure of this Union, up to the 29th September next, was based; and finding an excess of 125*l.* in the calculated expenditure (including the repayment of 1333*l.* advanced by the Treasury) of the Athboy electoral division above the funds which would be available at the rate proposed to be struck, we thought it

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advisable to rescind our resolution of the 26th February, as regarded that electoral division, and have put on the minutes another resolution, that a rate of 2s. 6d. in the pound be struck, instead of 2s. 3d., as previously resolved on.

The rate books were not ready to be signed on Saturday, as we had hoped they would have been; but we fully expect there will be no longer delay beyond next Saturday. We investigated the arrears appearing at the foot of the collectors' accounts, and when we were satisfied that the amounts were due on dilapidated buildings or on houses which had been unoccupied since the striking of the rate on which the arrear accrued, we had them cancelled, as we considered it worse than useless to bring forward on the new rate books unrecoverable arrears. We did not strike off any sums chargeable on land.

We are happy to state, that the discharges from the workhouse during the past week exceeded the admission by 23; and the total number in the house on Saturday was only 505. We have reason to hope that the numbers will not much exceed this during the summer; but in framing our estimate we have thought it safer to make an allowance for an average increase of 50 over the numbers appearing on the books on the 5th February, as possibly in the month of July a number of able-bodied labourers might apply for admission, whom we ought to be in a position to relieve if necessary. Captain Huband visited the workhouse on Saturday last, and we believe he was satisfied with the state in which he found it.

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Captain BROUGHTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 1, 1848.*

I REGRET to have to commence my report with the announcement of the death of the poor schoolmaster, of typhus; he died this morning. The Committee met at the usual hour, and *vast numbers of applicants* appeared. Near 200 were admitted, until to-morrow, when selection will be made of from 300 to 400 persons, women and children chiefly, and infirm old persons, it was necessary to provide temporarily for these, and being fine dry weather I have had the larger portion of them placed in the new fever sheds (which have never been used), which will make the ordinary probationary wards available for cleansing and dressing the others in the morning; this was the best arrangement I could think of. Many of them came in evidently for the purpose of forcing the measure, and no doubt will leave on being put to work in the morning.

I will forward the state of the house as soon as it is regulated. In the absence of master, matron, and schoolmaster, the pressure is very severe on the remaining officers of the house; and it would be injustice to them not to state the zeal and activity all evince to do their best, particularly the schoolmistress, who, I regret to say, was an unsuccessful candidate to-day for the situation of matron. The difficulties are aggravated by the whole pump and water apparatus being out of order, and no water available except what is brought in buckets from a small stream hard by; and this without the power of remedy, having in vain written to Sligo and Castlebar for a plumber. I also made application to the barrackmaster at Castlebar, to know if he could send over any one connected with the engineer department, and I have the hopes a person will be here in the morning to set all in order.

The appointment of master and matron took place this day, the selection fell on a Mr. and Mrs. O'Donnell; seven applications were put in, amongst others an old police serjeant of 18 years' standing with excellent characters, but not one voted for him. I cannot but think in any future alteration or extension of the Act, it would be wise for the Commissioners to appoint direct—many heart-burnings and much feeling would be avoided by the appointments resting in head quarters for every situation, and very much abuse no doubt prevented. The letter I was enabled to lay before the meeting, so promptly sent by the Commissioners from the Board of Health, was received with the attention it deserved. I have forwarded it to the medical officer in charge of the Union, and trust we shall receive the cask of chloride of lime to-morrow.

The whitewashing of the premises has been commenced, and will be continued until completed.

I shall be most willing to give my best assistance to the Guardians, to get through the present "crisis" in the affairs of this Union, and have no doubt we shall succeed. This month over, we may fairly look for the worst being passed.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain BROUGHTON, in reply to the foregoing:—

February 3, 1848.

THE Commissioners consider the arrangements which you have made satisfactory.

I am at the same time to state that they recommend the adoption of means for providing a supply of water within the workhouse as soon as possible, and desire to suggest the use of the adjoining stream for that object, if the ground permit and an agreement can be effected.

The Commissioners will defer confirming the appointment of the new master and matron, until you are satisfied of their undoubted fitness.

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Mr. W. J. HAMILTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians of Swineford Union yesterday.

There were a considerable number of applicants for relief, very few of whom appeared to me to be in distress; in fact, accustomed as I have been to imposition, I never saw a more disgraceful scene than yesterday's.

I think it is most desirable that an Inspector should at once be sent to Swineford. I find that in justice to my own Union I cannot give as much time as I could wish to Swineford. It would require a person to be constantly on the spot to have anything approaching to an effectual check upon the game which the people are attempting to play.

I have written to Count Strzelecki about the schools, the demands for which I am satisfied Captain Broughton never approved of, and which exceed all reasonable bounds. Mr. Richard Bourke issued 25 tons of provisions last week; and in consequence of a letter which I received from him I did not reduce the issue yesterday, but I warned the patrons that they must be prepared to expect a very great reduction in the next issue.

I understand that the cause of the overwhelming demands for relief yesterday, may in some measure be attributed to the Guardians having ordered relief to all persons whose names appeared on the relieving officers' books last Tuesday week, without requiring the applicants to appear before them. On that occasion they met at the court-house. There was some intention of meeting there yesterday; but I requested the Chairman to put it to the Guardians whether they could conscientiously order any paupers into the house if they objected to meet there themselves.

Owing to the changes of officers in the establishment, the death of the school-master, the illness of Captain Broughton, and the pumps being out of order, I found the house in a very dirty state. I called the attention of the Guardians to the subject, and I have no doubt that they will endeavour to get the house into its accustomed good order.

Implements are much required for the able-bodied paupers. The Guardians have sent a requisition to the Board of Works, but as yet they have not received any reply. I told them that they ought to have applied through your office.

I am sure that the Commissioners will be glad to learn that poor Captain Broughton is going on most favourably, and that the loss of his services in the Swineford Union is most deeply regretted by the Guardians, many of whom stated to me yesterday that his whole time and thoughts were constantly occupied in trying how he could best serve the interests of his Union. I can easily conceive this, as I understand that in his ravings he frequently alludes to the state of its affairs.

I write in great haste as the post is just going out; and I wish not to lose a moment in requesting the Commissioners to send down an inspector. I think, perhaps, he had better come to Ballina in the first instance.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 26, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' thanks for your report.

I am at the same time to state that your report will be communicated to Mr. Gibbons, the Temporary Inspector, who has gone down to Swineford.

The Commissioners desire me to express their great satisfaction at the intelligence conveyed to them in your report respecting Captain Broughton.

The Commissioners have already communicated with the Board of Works with regard to the implements required for the employment of the able-bodied paupers receiving out-door relief in the Swineford Union.

Mr. GIBBONS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 27, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians on the 24th instant.

There was a great press of applicants, many of them appearing in a very desti-

tute state. The Board sat till late in the evening; and finding it impossible that the quarter of the number of applicants could be gone into in one day, I requested the Board to meet daily until the present press of applicants was disposed of, which they at once agreed to.

The Board sits each day, and a very considerable number of cases have been disposed of; but there still remains a surprising number.

None of the applicants refused to break stones; but the great majority refused to enter the house, and many of those who were passed for the in-door relief afterwards left the house.

Those that were passed for the out-door relief were informed they should work eight hours per day; they all expressed their willingness to do so.

The Board have not the necessary implements for stone-breaking.

I am informed they have applied to the Commissioners for the implements, and have not as yet been favoured with a reply.

The Board have resolved on taking an additional house for the children, so as to make more room for adults in the Union house.

The house is at present full; but on Monday next the Board propose discharging a number of the old people, and of those the longest in, so as to make room for the able-bodied.

I am informed that there is great misery in different parts of the Union.

I propose, with the sanction of the Commissioners, to go through the Union, and to ascertain if possible the truth respecting the existence of the extent of misery reported to me.

The Guardians have met each day since my arrival, and will continue to do so for a few days. I attend their meetings.

I called the attention of the Board to the very neglected state of the house, being in want of cleansing, whitewashing, &c.

I expressed my surprise the house should be so neglected, and was informed the master was only a very short time in office; that the late master had been very inefficient, and that there were but few able-bodied paupers in the house.

I stated they should not be so very liberal of out-door relief to the able-bodied, when the house was in such want of cleansing, and they had not a sufficient number of able-bodied in-door to do the work. I also remarked that the fever being at present in the house was principally owing to neglect.

The Board directed the necessary cleansing, whitewashing, &c.

I also called the attention of the Board to the neglected state of the grounds about the house, and the approaches thereto.

Also to the state of the drains, sewers, &c., which are very imperfect.

The pump is also out of order; but a contract has been entered into to have it repaired and kept in repair.

The principal drains are not covered in; the grounds and buildings may be easily drained, as there is a fall of about 10 feet to the river.

I have been also obliged, at each meeting of the Board since my arrival, to call their attention to the great inconvenience as well as danger in allowing the hall, passages, and stairs leading to the Board-room, to be filled by the applicants for relief, many of them having members of their families in sickness and fever.

A full Board meets on Tuesday next, when I shall again bring all those matters before them; the several Guardians present expressed their wish to have all those matters properly attended to.

The fever hospital progresses slowly, and the fever sheds are not finished.

A Mr. Robinson came before the Board, and stated he could not get men to work, though he had offered 10*d.* per day. I requested him to furnish the names of the persons refusing to work; he stated he could not just then do so.

Some of the applicants stated they had offered to work for 2*d.* per day and their diet.

It was complained that an applicant refused to work though offered fair wages. I inquired into the charge; the man was offered 5*s.* for digging half an acre of land; he stated it would not be 2*d.* per day, and that would not support his family; he was admitted for in-door relief.

I am informed that some abuses exist respecting the application of the funds granted by the British Association in respect to the food supplied, and the number of children relieved. I propose inquiring into the matter during the ensuing week. I have been, up to the present time, much occupied at the Union house; but I

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expect that in a few days the Board will have disposed of the present list of applicants: they require attention.

Respecting the anonymous communication of the 19th instant, the charges shall be brought before a full meeting of the Board on the 29th instant, and the explanation reported to the Commissioners. I have retained the letter till after that date.

I have obtained the following information respecting the charges:—

On the 15th instant the Board elected rate-collectors. The election had been advertised 10 days previous. The parties elected were all Poor Law Guardians, namely, Patrick Kelly, Patrick Cunniffe, and John O'Grady.

The former collectors were deemed inefficient, on account of the large arrear of rates they allowed to accrue due.

On the 22nd instant the Guardians elected relieving officers for each electoral division without having advertised their intention.

Miss O'Hara, the schoolmistress, was dismissed for refusing to obey the orders of the Guardians.

A surprising number of applicants applied for relief within the last few days; the out-door relief was offered to the most wretched, the others were offered the in-door, but very few accepted of it; but all, old and young, were most anxious to be employed at stone-breaking. I am informed there is a considerable number of cases to be examined into. The Guardians state there is great distress existing in the remote parts of the Union. I shall endeavour to ascertain the truth of those statements of extreme distress, as yet I have not had sufficient time to see my way clearly.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 4, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners consider it to be necessary that you should make yourself fully acquainted with the state of the Union generally, and visit the places at which the relieving officers receive applications, and give out food.

The Commissioners must consider the administration of relief exceedingly defective where it appears that there are not able-bodied paupers in the workhouse sufficient to keep it thoroughly cleansed; and they recommend that arrangements be made for taking able-bodied paupers' families into the house in the room of such of the present inmates as can be properly, and with safety, transferred to the out-door relief lists.

The Commissioners at once communicated with the Board of Works on being informed of the implements which were required for the employment of able-bodied paupers in the Union; and they have reason to believe that the application has since been complied with.

Mr. GIBBONS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

I TAKE the liberty of suggesting that at the end of the present month the out-door relief might be, with more safety, suspended to the able-bodied.

There is some field labour at present in progress, but it is chiefly among the occupiers of small holdings, so that the people generally do not benefit by it. The season is also excessively wet, which in some degree retards field labour.

There is not at present an excessive number of able-bodied men receiving out-door relief.

I have used my best exertions to clear the Union-house of the old and sickly, with whom I found the house crowded on my arrival; the consequence is, we have now a fair proportion of the able-bodied in-door.

There are a considerable number of deserted women in this Union; women whose husbands are in America and in England, and women not married having numerous children.

From the best information that I have been able to obtain, it appears to me that the 18th instant is too early a date for the total suspension of out-door

relief to the able-bodied men in this Union; but it might be limited from that date, and in fact I have endeavoured to limit the out-door relief as much as possible to the aged and helpless women having long families, &c. &c.; and it shall be my endeavour this week to limit it still more closely.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM to inform you, that in accordance with your views, the Commissioners have given directions for the issue of an order authorizing the Guardians to afford out-door relief to able-bodied persons, with the exception of single men having but two children.

Mr. GIBBONS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

THE Board of Guardians and the Union-house generally, have occupied almost my whole time these several days past.

The applications for relief have been very numerous the last few weeks; I have endeavoured to have the *in-door* test given to all able-bodied persons.

Eight hundred applicants were passed for *in-door* relief in one day; 130 only remained, and 45 out of that number refused to wear the Union clothing, and were consequently dismissed without relief.

The people being so anxious for out-door relief, and willing to break stones or do any work they should be required, and refusing the *in-door* relief, induced me to attend closely to the admission of applicants. I have had numerous old and infirm people, and women with long families (with whom I found the house crowded), discharged, and the able-bodied admitted.

The house appears to have been neglected, inasmuch as there was a great deficiency of all necessary articles, such as clothing, shoes, &c., cans, spoons, and measures, brushes, and other articles absolutely requisite. I have had those articles all ordered, and most of them supplied to the house. There is still a great deficiency in clothing; the probationary wards are full, solely for want of Union clothing.

Finding there were some tailors in the house, I have had some materials purchased for repairing the old clothes, and directed that some of the most handy boys should be picked out and put to work, under the directions of the tailors, in repairing the old clothes.

I understand there are some shoemakers in the house, but I have not been able to have the old shoes repaired.

I have had whitewash brushes purchased, and have directed a number of the paupers to be kept constantly whitewashing the different parts of the house. Parts of the house are damp, and parts require better ventilation.

I found the drains very defective; one principal drain appears never to have acted; they are all defective. I have had them opened by the paupers, and am having them cleaned.

I have had scrapers provided with a view of having the approaches to the house cleaned; and as soon as the new drains are covered in, I propose having the ground about the house cleared, and levelled, and tilled by the *in-door* paupers.

It would be very desirable to have an *oven* erected in the Union house or adjoining. The bakers in this Union appear not to understand their business; they are chiefly people who have taken up the trade since the loss of the potato crop. The baker who supplies the Union-house has informed me he had been a gardener.

A practical baker, sent by the British Association, will shortly visit this Union. I have mentioned the circumstance to several of the bakers, and they expressed great satisfaction and anxiety to benefit by his instructions.

The Board have taken two temporary houses for *in-door* relief; they are ill adapted for the purpose, but still are the best that could be had. There are too many paupers at present in the Union house; I should say the house must be permanently enlarged. I understand that Captain Broughton has some plan in contemplation for the permanent enlargement of the house.

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There is *not* at present an excessive number of able-bodied men receiving out-door relief.

The implements for stone-breaking have arrived; the works commence on the 13th instant.

The Board are in debt; I am frequently asked for small sums, the applicants being under the impression that I can order them payment. The Board have no funds. I found there has been no buttermilk, and only have the quantity of new milk supplied to the house, solely in consequence of the accounts not having been paid.

The collectors of the rates inform me that they meet with considerable delay in collecting the rates in consequence of so many of the proprietors being absent, and no property on the lands they could distrain. There appears no opposition to the rates—all promise payment.

The Board of Guardians and the house generally have occupied me so much that I have not been able to visit the Union generally.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

With reference to the difficulty experienced by the collectors in the collection of the poor-rates, I am to state, that the Commissioners are anxious that your continual attention should be directed to the collection of the rates, and that the collectors should be instructed to take immediate steps to effect the prompt collection of the rates in their respective districts; having regard only to the ability of the parties to pay their rates, and the wants of the destitute poor of the Union.

The Commissioners recommend that the names of the ten highest rate-payers in each electoral division should be laid before the Board of Guardians at each meeting, in order that they may give directions for enforcing the immediate payment of the rate when necessary. The collectors should each state opposite each of the ten names the reason why the rate has not been paid.

If prompt and energetic steps are taken, the Commissioners have no doubt that a large proportion of the rates may be at once collected, and they confidently rely upon the success of your endeavours to produce a satisfactory result in this important particular.

The Commissioners trust that you will not again have to report the insufficiency of the supplies for the workhouse inmates.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners have no objection to the erection of an oven in or adjoining the workhouse.

The attention of the Commissioners' architect has been drawn to the state of the drains, and the proposed enlargement of the workhouse.

Mr. GIBBONS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

I BEG to report that the master and porter of the Union house are ill of fever.

I do believe that fever would not be in the house had there been a sufficient supply of clothing, but owing to the insufficiency of clothing the probationary wards were crowded, and the paupers remaining in their own clothes caused fever.

I have discharged all the inmates from the probationary wards on out-door relief for one week, for the purpose of having the wards cleaned and clothes provided.

The Guardians were anxious to meet at the Court-house, however I represented the ill effect their so doing would have, and they consequently met as usual at the Board-room.

There was great confusion in the house on Monday the 20th instant; I had some difficulty in preventing the paupers from forcing their way out of the house.

It was reported that fever was in the house, the inmates all became alarmed

and insisted on being discharged, however after some time I induced them all to return quietly into the house; I remained in the house all day.

The Board met on the 21st instant.

The collectors lodged 346*l.*, and about 100*l.* was lodged during the last week; they expect much more in a few days, so that I hope for the future there will be a sufficient supply of all necessary articles.

The Guardians have ordered full supply of clothing; and the milk accounts, in particular, to be paid, as the children and sick and women nursing have suffered from the very great insufficiency in the supply of milk for some weeks past.

The Guardians have also directed that tenders should be taken for erecting an oven in or adjoining the premises, and have also engaged a person to take charge of the house during the master's and porter's present illness.

The Guardians have also directed that all applicants admitted for relief on the 21st instant should be allowed one week out-door relief, for the purpose of having the probationary wards properly cleaned; also to have a supply of clothing.

I expect by the end of the week that there may be a sufficient supply of clothes; and as the collectors are now actively engaged, and as there does not appear any vexatious opposition to the rates, I hope for the future the house may be properly supplied. I called the Guardians' attention to the fact that the fever being in the house was principally owing to their not having a sufficient supply of clothes and other necessary articles.

I have made arrangements for fully carrying out the order respecting out-door relief.

The schools have taken up much of my time this last week, I was obliged to suspend the rations from some of them, I am happy to say that doing so had a good effect. I am sorry to say that the baking in some parts of the Union is shameful; I have reported all matters connected with the schools to Count Strzelecki.

Mr. GIBBONS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

I BEG to state that the Union-house required my unremitting attention during the past week.

The master and porter being both ill of fever, and there being neither schoolmaster nor mistress, has caused considerable relaxation of discipline in the house.

On the 23rd instant I counted all the inmates in every part of the house, including the infirmary and fever wards, &c., and found the total number amounted to 373 individuals, including all ages, being a very considerable decrease from the number stated in the weekly return.

I have had the names, ages, and parish of all now in the house taken down, with the view of inquiring into the cause of the decrease, and ascertaining if any parties have left the house without authority, and whether the full number stated in the weekly return was actually in the house.

There are not at present more than six able-bodied men in the house; the great majority of those returned as able-bodied are boys over or at 15 years, and few of those are able-bodied.

There were several able-bodied men in the house last week, but they discharged themselves, and many of them have left for England, as I am informed.

The work I had in progress of deepening the drains is all stopped for want of assistance.

I should mention that many of the paupers have left the house on account of the master and porter being in fever, and I have constant communications, stating that those who have left the house have caused fever and other sickness to spread through the Union.

All the destitute admitted for relief this last week have been allowed one week of out-door on account of the fever being in the house and the insufficiency of clothing, also to have the old clothing cleaned and repaired, and to have the probationary wards whitewashed, &c., &c.

I have directed that the relieving officers should send in a return of all the able-bodied persons on their books, distinguishing them in classes; also a return

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of the number of women whose husbands are stated to be in England, as this class is excessive in this Union.

I have before reported it as my opinion that had the Visiting Committee attended to their duty, the house could not have fallen into the present state of neglect, respecting clothing, the absence of all discipline, as well as the filthy state of the probationary wards and other parts of the premises.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS:—*April 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received and have had under consideration a report from their Inspector, Mr. R. Bourke, relative to his recent investigation into the state of Swineford workhouse, and into the system adopted by the Swineford Board of Guardians in administering relief.

Mr. Bourke states that having compared the number of persons in the workhouse with the number appearing on the books, there was a discrepancy in the books amounting to 168 more than were actually in the house, and that no explanation could be given for the absence of so large a number of the inmates; that having examined the admission and discharge book to ascertain when the inaccuracy had taken place, he was unable to fix the period closer than between the 22nd January and the present time; Captain Broughton having at that date counted the house with the late porter, who was then acting as master.

Mr. Bourke further states that the present workhouse master appears to be totally unacquainted with his duties, and that he has made no entries except in the admission and discharge book, the register, and the provision check account, and that even these appear not to have been accurately prepared, and that no entry has been made in the relief list and abstract for the last seven weeks.

It appears from Mr. Bourke's report, that on the 27th ultimo there were but 405 inmates in the workhouse, although the return for the previous week showed a total of 1080; that many of these persons left the workhouse from fear of infection, and the rest were discharged in consequence of danger being apprehended from permitting so large a number of persons to remain in one building in their own clothes. Mr. Bourke states that he endeavoured to ascertain exactly the stock of clothes belonging to the Union available for the use of the paupers, but that he was unable to do so, as none of the clothing books have been made up or any entry made therein since 1846, and that no inventory of the stock on hand appears at any time to have been taken. It further appears that there is no contract for clothing in existence; neither are any of the articles now used in the house, except Indian meal and turf, supplied in this manner, and that hence no sufficient check exists as to the delivery or consumption of provisions and necessaries for the establishment.

Mr. Bourke reports that in company with Mr. Gibbons, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, he visited the house, and found that in many respects it is in a seriously defective state—the probationary wards and yards and the men's and women's yards being filthy, and the hospital still unprovided with bedsteads, the bedding of the patients being exceedingly dirty.

Mr. Bourke also states that the bread supplied to the inmates was of the worst possible quality, although the baker had engaged to supply bread made of whole flour, and that great complaints were made to him by the inmates of the infirmary on the subject; that the children were using beer at dinner instead of milk, there being no contract for the latter article; and that the condition of most of the children appeared very wretched, their clothes having been allowed to fall into rags, and their general appearance altogether much worse than when he had previously seen them.

Mr. Bourke further reports that the drains about the house still remain unclosed, that the pump is out of order, and that discipline appears to be totally neglected; that the ventilation is still unexecuted, and that the only parts of the house which are clean and in good order are the dormitories, the school-rooms, and the dining hall.

Mr. Bourke is of opinion that the irregularities existing in the workhouse books could never have taken place if the Board of Guardians had duly examined them on their days of meeting, and that the house could not have fallen into its present state if an active Visiting Committee had been in existence, and the orders given by the Board had been looked after by them.

It appears that the liabilities of the Union to the end of the month of February last were 1743*l.*, and that there are outstanding cheques to the amount of 666*l.*, but the amount of rate still to be collected exceeds 8000*l.*, and Mr. Bourke is of opinion that if due activity is forced upon the collectors there is no reason to fear but that the funds of the Union will (if prudently managed) be sufficient to meet its expenses. Mr. Bourke, however, apprehends that unless means are immediately adopted for rendering the workhouse available to its fullest extent as a means of checking imposition, there can be no doubt that the expenses of out-door relief will soon exceed all the resources of the Union.

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Under these circumstances the Commissioners strongly advise the Guardians to devote themselves to the correction of the several abuses pointed out by Mr. Bourke, and to take the necessary steps for carrying out the details of the administration of relief in conformity with the regulations laid down by the Commissioners, otherwise the Commissioners will feel it their duty, in reference to Swineford Union, to take into serious consideration their responsibilities under the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

SLIGO UNION.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 2, 1848.*

YESTERDAY I attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians, and I beg leave to state that I have very great gratification in reporting to you, for the information of the Commissioners, the very judicious and effective measures the Guardians are adopting in affording both in-door and out-door relief; and I feel perfectly satisfied that they are exerting themselves to their very utmost in endeavouring to obtain every possible hospital accommodation that can be procured.

I have prevailed on the Guardians to have all the fever patients removed into the County Fever Hospital, which will give much greater hospital accommodation in the poor-house.

I have had a personal communication with the medical officer, and he agrees with me that the fever is not to be so much dreaded as dysentery; but change of diet and every precaution has been taken to remedy this existing prevalent evil, and it is to be hoped in a short time the disease will be considerably diminished, though it is the general opinion that the cesspools and necessaries have in a great measure been the cause of increasing the disorder.

There have been 24 deaths during the last week, and chiefly from dysentery, there are also in the same period 17 new cases of fever and 35 of dysentery.

Every applicant (about 140) that came to the poor-house yesterday was either admitted into the house, or granted out-door relief in conformity to the "regulations."

A very heavy fall of snow and intense frost for the last 10 days have prevented the rate-collectors from carrying out their duties with as much activity and success as one would have wished, but as well as could be expected under such circumstances.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 9, 1848.*

I REGRET I cannot report favourably on the state of this poorhouse. I attended the meeting of the Guardians yesterday, and the medical report laid before the Board was very unsatisfactory. There were 20 deaths last week, 29 new cases of fever, all of which were removed into the county fever hospital, and 57 new cases of dysentery. About a fortnight or three weeks since the medical officer recommended a change of diet, which was ordered by the Guardians, and which has considerably increased the expense of the house; and at the same time it appears that dysentery has not diminished, but increased. I have communicated with the apothecary on the subject, as well as another medical officer, who are of opinion, that the paupers when taken into the house are then ill of the complaint; and the disorder is such, that if not attended to at the commencement, generally proves fatal. During the month of January I am sorry to say there were 109 deaths in the house; and whilst the Guardians were assembled yesterday, the assistant matron was taken to the county fever hospital in a very precarious state.

The lunatics and idiots will be removed this afternoon to a house taken for them in the town, which will give further hospital accommodation in the poorhouse.

A contract was accepted yesterday for adding two rooms to the infirmary, and I will use my best exertions in expediting the completion of them.

Every individual who came yesterday for admittance to the poorhouse was taken in, and all the applicants who were entitled to out-door relief were placed on the different relieving officers' books.

It gives me very great pleasure in being able to report favourably of the relieving officers.

The rate collectors are also more active than they were, and since my last report, have lodged in the treasurer's hands 1100*l*.

At a meeting of the Guardians a fortnight since, when there were 14 Guardians present, it was resolved to raise the salary of the medical officer, Dr. Knott, from 70*l.* to 90*l.* per annum, and to give him an assistant, with the salary of 60*l.* per annum, in consequence of the increase in the house; and yesterday was appointed to elect the assistant.

There was no less than 41 Guardians present, many of whom I never saw before in the room; instead of proceeding to elect the assistant medical officer, it was proposed and carried, that it was not necessary to add further to the medical expenses of the house, and that the present medical officers were considered sufficient to carry out the duties and attend on the sick.

In my opinion I do not consider that they are; there are at present 400 sick in the house. The apothecary, Dr. M'Munn, has so much to do, with a salary only of 50*l.* per annum, that he is obliged, and has had the services of his brother for some months, who attends daily at the poorhouse for four or five hours, to assist him in compounding medicines; both the apothecary and his brother were seized with fever last summer whilst attending at the poorhouse; they are both exceedingly diligent and attentive, and I consider that they are deserving of every consideration from the Guardians.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 16, 1848.*

FOR the information of the Commissioners I beg leave to state, that at the meeting of the Guardians yesterday at the poor-house, all the able-bodied paupers with their families, amounting to 129, who applied for in-door relief were admitted; there were a few widows with their children who had the out-door relief granted them.

There have been 17 deaths since my last report, but all of them young people under 15 years of age, and chiefly from dysentery and measles: 26 new cases of fever have broken out, and 43 of dysentery; the fever cases have been sent to the county fever hospital.

A contract has been accepted to-day for the erection of the fever hospital, which is to be completed in six months; the improvements in the idiots' wards, with the rooms over, are progressing rapidly; I am very anxious to get them completed, as they will afford considerable hospital accommodation, which is so much required, and enable us to move the patients out of the two new sheds which they now have in the men's and women's wards, and occupy them as was originally intended as two day-rooms for the men and women.

Your communication relative to the temporary assistant medical officer was read yesterday, and a special meeting of the Guardians is ordered on the 22nd to take it into consideration.

I received your communication yesterday, which was made known to the Guardians.

I beg leave to enclose you a list of the six highest rate-payers in each electoral division who have not yet paid their rates.

In consequence of the repeated refusal of several of the parties to pay the amount when called on, I have made a requisition for the military to protect one of the rate collectors, and they went yesterday to Ballysadare, and to-day they proceeded to Coolaney. If there were troops quartered at Ballymote, as I have before suggested, they could be made much more frequent use of; but there are none quartered in the whole county except in Sligo, and it is almost impossible to take them beyond a day's march from their barracks, as there is not any accommodation for them (particularly the cavalry) in any of the villages; however, it will be absolutely necessary to have the use of their services in several electoral divisions.

I am decidedly of opinion that six policemen with the collector would have the same weight in gathering in the rates as the number of military who are generally sent to protect him.

In travelling through the country I regret to see so little preparation by the farmers for the ensuing crops; scarcely anything is doing except by large landed proprietors. There are still extensive haggards of corn perceptible in every electoral division; the small tenants complain that they have not the

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means of preparing their ground, nor corn to sow. If any measures could be suggested (which I think might be very easily arranged with security to the Government) that the small tenants who have not actually the quantity of corn necessary for their land, could be supplied with as much as may be required, the land would then be occupied, which otherwise will remain a complete waste; and in this Union I look forward, I regret to add, to witnessing many thousand acres.

The potatoes are now getting scarce in the markets; but I believe that those who have them, and can live without disposing of them, or making use of them, are hoarding them for planting in the spring, and that the markets are merely supplied by small farmers who are obliged to sell for subsistence, and not having manure nor any means of preparing manure necessary for planting them. I find that the potatoes planted in the autumn, and those that are now in the pits, are tolerably free from the late disease.

ENCLOSURE.

SIX of the HIGHEST RATE-PAYERS in the different ELECTORAL DIVISIONS who have not paid their Rate.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
<i>Sligo.</i>				Pat and James Heraghty .	2	0	6
James Gilmer, Esq., attorney .	27	8	5	Widow Gilmartin .	2	4	11
John Henderson, Esq., valuator of land under Board of Works	15	12	3	<i>Cliffoney.</i>			
Robert M'Bride, Esq., Mayor of Sligo .	14	8	0	William Allen .	9	9	0
John Cregg, Esq., manager of Bank of Ireland at Cork .	11	18	6	William Gallagher .	3	6	0
Dominick Henry, Esq., Alderman of Sligo and Harbour Com- missioner .	11	11	0	William Gilmartin .	1	7	0
Abraham Reed, Esq., postmaster of Sligo, and high constable .	9	18	0	Pat Timony .	1	7	0
<i>Knocknarea.</i>				John Waters .	1	7	0
George Meredith, Esq. .	8	15	0	James Waters .	1	7	0
Peter Cowley .	4	7	6	<i>Rossinver.</i>			
Andrew Cavenagh .	3	2	6	Pat Rooney .	2	5	0
Dominick Hart .	1	17	6	John Gilmartin .	2	9	6
William Henly .	1	15	0	John Christel .	1	17	0
Michael Cunningham .	1	15	0	Charles Healy .	2	6	6
<i>Kilmacowen.</i>				Owen Healy .	1	14	6
Pat Owen .	8	9	2	Francis Barber .	1	19	0
Michael Weire .	6	14	0	<i>Ballinakill.</i>			
Robert Hunter .	4	16	8	Rutledge Burrows, Esq. .	13	6	5
Thomas Devaney .	4	16	8	Alexander Irwin, Esq. .	12	10	11
James Curren .	4	12	9	L. Neynoe, Esq., J. P. .	10	0	0
Jacob Scott .	4	7	0	N. Furey, Esq. .	8	11	5
<i>Templeboy.</i>				Matthew Morrison .	7	4	4½
John Rutledge, Esq. .	32	0	0	James Simpson .	10	10	0
G. W. Hilles, Esq. .	76	12	7	<i>Ballintogher.</i>			
Sir Roger Palmer, Bart .	11	8	11½	Henry Griffith, Esq., J. P., late sheriff .	30	0	0
Thomas Coggins .	8	8	9	John Ormsby, Esq., J. P. .	38	0	0
Thomas Shaw .	7	8	6	N. Furey, Esq. .	12	16	8
Martin Burns .	4	13	7	T. M'Ternan .	8	5	6
<i>Drumfin.</i>				Thomas Mulrooney .	6	2	6
Edward Mullen .	13	10	0	Thomas Phibbs, Esq., father to the rate-collector, lately ap- pointed to this district .	7	0	0
James Orr .	7	17	6	<i>Shreen.</i>			
Thomas Hever .	7	4	0	Miles Tenpany .	5	5	0
James Martin .	5	5	0	Bryan Flanagan .	4	19	0
William Irvin .	5	1	7	John Kelly .	4	16	0
James Orr, jun. .	4	16	0	Samuel Robinson, Esq., Guardian	4	11	6
<i>Lissadill.</i>				John Caheny .	4	19	0
Booth Jones, Esq. .	13	5	6	Jeremiah Jones, Esq., J. P. .	8	2	0
James Simpson .	13	7	9	<i>Dromard.</i>			
Pat Heraghty .	2	8	9	Sir James Crofton, bart., J. P.	26	4	0
Thomas M'Gowen .	2	2	0	Mrs. Jones .	13	7	3
				Tim O'Donnell .	12	15	0
				Dan Leenlen .	8	15	0

	£	s.	d.
Charles Beatty . . .	9	17	3
Daniel Irwin . . .	8	11	0

Riverstown.

Francis Latouche, Esq., receiver under the Courts . . .	27	3	9
Nicholas Gardner, Esq. . .	18	4	6
Roger Duke, Esq., J. P. . .	14	10	9
John Duke, Esq. . .	9	8	10
Rev. Berry Phibbs . . .	10	6	9
Andrew Baker . . .	8	11	3

Tobbercurry.

Patt Philipps . . .	17	8	0
William Golden . . .	15	0	0
Mrs. Daniel Jones . . .	18	10	0
Thomas M'Gennis . . .	25	0	0
James M'Hugh . . .	8	17	0
Adam Gawly . . .	9	3	0

Collooney.

William Phibbs, Esq. . .	14	5	0
Thomas Phibbs, Esq., Guardian . . .	40	0	0
Burton Phibbs, Esq. . .	9	12	0
William Collis . . .	14	8	0
Cooper Armstrong . . .	13	5	0
Roger Walker . . .	9	15	0

Cloonacool.

Henry Meredith, Esq. . .	10	10	0
Charles Beatty . . .	14	8	11½
Luke Brennan . . .	13	4	0
Robert Young, Esq. . .	22	12	7½
John Navin . . .	10	16	0
John M'Kenzie . . .	9	0	0

Coolaney.

Owen Lloyd, Esq. . .	35	8	11½
R. Peyton, Esq. . .	8	5	0
Nicholas Mackay . . .	1	16	0
Widow Stokes . . .	9	15	0
Anthony Lang . . .	3	18	0
William Pettypiece . . .	9	15	0

Ballysadare.

Dennis Hart . . .	9	0	0
T. Cowley . . .	4	10	0
Hugh Cowley . . .	6	18	0

	£	s.	d.
Tom Cowley, sen. . .	3	12	0
Abraham Allen . . .	3	0	0
John Black . . .	6	12	0

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Calry.

Gowen Gilmour, Esq., J. P. . .	11	3	6
William Cunningham . . .	3	17	0
Charles Cavenagh . . .	1	0	0
Dominick Hart . . .	2	10	0
Thady M'Sharry . . .	3	0	0
James Gillan . . .	2	0	0

Drumcliffe.

Andrew M'Cullagh, Rate Collector,			
Mrs. Simpson . . .	7	0	0
John Henderson, valuator of land under Board of Works . . .	6	10	0
Henry Simpson . . .	6	0	0
John Parke . . .	7	0	0
Mrs. Riley . . .	11	2	0
William Parke . . .	9	0	0

Carney.

A. M'Cullagh, Rate Collector,			
James Barber . . .	6	10	0
William Barber . . .	5	10	0
Frank Connor . . .	3	0	0
William M'Cann . . .	2	14	0
John Flood . . .	3	2	0
John Hudson . . .	2	18	0

Ballymote.

William Gillmor, Rate Collector,			
Mrs. Jane Irwin . . .	12	11	10½
Rev. John Garrett, Vicar of Emlafad . . .	47	16	9
Thomas Phibbs, Guardian . . .	26	3	6½
William Wallace . . .	21	3	6
Thomas Reily . . .	11	15	1½
Edward O'Brien . . .	13	13	1½

loonoghill.

Martin Grady . . .	7	8	6
John Trumble . . .	4	5	■
John West . . .	9	10	2
Frank Doddey . . .	6	0	8
Michael Redington . . .	6	15	2
Thomas Rice . . .	4	16	■

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 23, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of the Government has been drawn to your observations relating to the assistance required by the collectors to aid them in bringing in the rate.

With respect to the lists of rate-payers who owe sums of considerable amount, I am to request that you will have the goodness to move the Guardians to take prompt measures for enforcing payment. If the Guardians shall consider it necessary to proceed in the superior Courts against immediate lessors, the Commissioners will be prepared to give their sanction to that course, on receiving a list of the names of those so to be sued.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 22, 1848.*

I BEG to enclose you a letter which I have addressed to Mr. Pim, but shall not forward it to him unless approved of by the Commissioners.

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By employing an active clerk to keep the accounts, I feel quite certain that I shall be able to manage the expenditure and routine of the business, so as to give satisfaction, and without interfering with my present duties.

ENCLOSURE.

Captain GILBERT to Mr. PIM:—*February, 1848.*

WHEN I was last in Dublin, and had the pleasure of seeing you, you made me an offer of 500*l.* if I could find any one to whom it might be entrusted for the purpose of laying it out judiciously in employing the destitute portion of fishermen on this coast.

Ever since I came into this country, and long before I had the pleasure of your acquaintance, I have been most anxious to establish a fishery at Mulloughmore, a small village, the property of Lord Palmerston, where he has built a very extensive quay and large stores, at a cost of nearly 14,000*l.*

Mulloughmore is situated most favourably in the Sligo Bay for fishing, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the most destitute part of this Union. The men are all brought up to support themselves and their families by fishing; but since the failure of the potato crop have been so reduced and become so poor, that they cannot obtain the necessary fishing gear to continue their former occupations.

Their distress becoming daily more manifest, I am resolved to become responsible myself for the loan which may be entrusted to me; and by the most judicious management I can use in its disposal, rescue this impoverished part of the Union from its fast increasing state of distress. This relief would be of invaluable service to the rate-payers also, as the decreased pressure for relief under the Act, and the lessened number of applicants to the poor-house, would be a considerable saving of taxation to them.

Captain Routh, who was sent down by Government, when on his tour of inspection through the Unions, a few days since, inspected Mulloughmore also, and approved of it as a suitable fishing and curing establishment.

I shall be happy to hear from you; and if your benevolent intentions are still inclined to relieve the destitute in the manner you proposed, I shall feel obliged for any particulars and instructions you may have it in your power to give to aid me in carrying out this system of relief.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 25, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners will not object to the course you propose to adopt, provided that it does not interfere with the discharge of your duties as Inspector of the Union.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

IN forwarding to you the proceedings at the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, I beg leave to state for the information of the Commissioners, that about 150 applicants to be relieved were admitted into the house, and a few were allowed to be placed on the relieving officers' books for out-door relief. There are now upwards of 1800 in the house, and about 7300 getting out-door relief.

I regret still to report unfavourably of the sickness in the house; there were 35 deaths last week; out of that number 31 were children, who died from measles and dysentery, and the four adults from dropsy and old age. There were 25 new cases of fever which were removed to the county fever hospital, and 46 cases of dysentery; this latter disease appears to be increasing, I shall, however, commence almost immediately to erect new necessities, according to the plan already laid before you, which, I trust, will have the effect of diminishing, if not altogether preventing the infection.

The rate collectors in general have been very active during the last week, and 1200*l.* has been lodged in the treasurer's hands.

A resolution was made yesterday to take into consideration the Commissioners' letter regarding the appointment of an assistant medical officer; and it was proposed that the apothecary, Dr. M'Munn, should be the assistant medical officer, and his brother, Mr. M'Munn, who has voluntarily given his services to compound the medicines for the last several months, should be appointed as the apothecary, with a salary of 20*l.* per annum. I highly approve of this arrangement, and consider it most just towards the parties who have been already employed in the poor-house; and I fully trust that when the resolu-

tion is brought before the Guardians to be decided, that they will approve of it, and recommend its being sanctioned by the Commissioners.

The Charter House, the property of Mr. Wynne of Hazlewood, and now occupied by the orphan children, is free of rent, and will be so for the next two years. There is a large shed attached to the premises, which, for 30% or 40%, will make excellent school-rooms, and a dining hall, and they will be commenced immediately.

There are two fields in the rear of the house, also the property of Mr. Wynne, which the Guardians have taken at a moderate rent; and the boys will be taught gardening and field operations. This will not only be advantageous to the boys themselves, but by selling the produce will considerably more than pay the rent.

In my last report I mentioned to you that potatoes were becoming scarce, and consequently dear. Since that time a very singular circumstance has occurred. From 20 to 35 sacks of potatoes have been generally brought into the market every Saturday since the failure of the crop; but on Saturday last there were no less than 150 sacks selling at 6d. per stone, and some sacks were unsold. This was the largest quantity brought into the market at one time since the failure, and it can only be attributed either to the want of money, the people being pressed for rates, or the near approach of the time for potato planting, and to some farmers who are gathering all the money they can together to leave the country.

I have also made inquiries about the quantity of butter and oats brought into the market, thinking that butter might have been increased by the green crops, but such is not the case.

			Casks of Butter.
For the quarter ending	December, 1845		29,689
do.	do. 1846		33,736
do.	do. 1847		33,293
			Sacks of Oats.
do.	do. 1845		72,740
do.	do. 1846		22,108
do.	do. 1847		23,870

Employment is greatly wanting for the able-bodied men in the town of Sligo, and if the Commissioners would in any way make an application to the Board of Works for the commencement of the lunatic asylum it would be very desirable.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 26, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of the Board of Works has been drawn to your suggestion relative to the commencement of the works at the proposed lunatic asylum.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

I AM particularly anxious to bring some of the expenses of this poor-house before the Commissioners, and I fully intend to lay them before the Board of Guardians, for their mature consideration, on Tuesday next.

When the out-door relief first commenced to the infirm, widows, &c., the liabilities of this Union were so great, that a contract was obliged to be made with a person (to whom a considerable sum was due for bread and meal) to supply the quantity of Indian meal that might be required to the 25th of March. The price the Guardians agreed to give up to that time was at the rate of 13% per ton.

I have received a letter to-day from the Commissariat officer in charge of the depôt in Sligo, enclosing the prices of all the bread-stuffs in the Government stores; and informing me at the same time that the depôt is open to the public, and that Indian meal was 8% 8s.

My principal object in explaining this to the Commissioners is with the hope that they will make an application to the British Relief Association for a grant of 500% worth of bread-stuffs for the use of the poor-house, in order that the contract might be at once terminated. This grant will be worth double its

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value at the present moment than at a future period; and in recommending this to the Commissioners' notice for their approval, I trust I may be permitted to add, that the very judicious arrangements that the Guardians have adopted to prevent the general out-door relief to the able-bodied paupers, as well as the good management of their funds during the time of very extensive alterations, buildings, &c., &c., for the accommodation of the increased number of inmates in the house, and more particularly in providing hospital accommodation and comforts for a very large number of sick, are all of such importance, and attended with such heavy expenses, as to entitle them to the assistance from the British Relief Association, which I understand has been bestowed upon some of the Unions.

In consequence also of the great liabilities the Guardians were obliged to accept a contract for best white bread, at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per pound; and most unfortunately, dysentery having appeared in the poor-house in a very fatal form, the medical officer ordered *all* the inmates to be supplied with this bread, which for the last two months has been attended at an immense expense; but not seeing any benefit arising from the change of diet, I shall propose at the next meeting of Guardians that bread at a cheaper rate be substituted for it; in fact, I do not see why the paupers in the house should not receive the same sort of bread as is used for the school children, and given to the out-door paupers in the Ballina Union, composed of rye meal, Indian meal, and Egyptian wheat-meal.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 28, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 26th instant, in which you recommend that a loan of 500*l.* may be now obtained for the Board of Guardians of Sligo Union,—as in consequence of a contract made under unfavourable circumstances the Guardians are bound to pay a very high price (13*l.* per ton) for Indian meal, which the contractor is to supply to the 25th proximo,—and you calculate on obtaining it by way of loan from the British Association, at 8*l.* 8*s.*

The Commissioners apprehend that any advance of a loan to the Union at present would have an injurious effect on the collection of the rate, which is outstanding to a considerable amount;—and that under any circumstances they could not recommend a loan for the purpose of enabling the Guardians to evade a contract with a contractor, which would certainly be contrary at least to the spirit of the agreement by which they are bound, and might by destroying confidence in their contracts, have an injurious effect on future competition.

The Commissioners, under the circumstances, recommend that in pursuance of the last covenant of the contract, a notice be now served for its termination.

With respect to your observation on the expense of providing bread at $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per pound, which the medical officer has ordered for hospital patients,—the Commissioners further recommend that notice to terminate the contract for this supply also be given.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 1, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the usual weekly meeting of the Guardians at the poor-house yesterday. The business of the house was gone through, and everything appeared to be carried on in a satisfactory manner; but there were no occurrences or changes in the system of relief, calling for special mention on my part.

There are at present 1664 paupers in the house, and 7397 receiving out-door relief; making a total of 9061 receiving relief in the Union.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 9, 1848.*

I BEG to enclose a summons which was served on Sir James Crofton, and upon which the magistrates objected to adjudicate, though Sir James's servant appeared for him, in consequence of a receiver being appointed over Sir James's property.

I have made every exertion to find out who the receiver is, but unsuccessfully. It is totally impossible to obtain any access to Sir James Crofton or his house.

I also beg to inform you that the rate collector of Templeboy is not able to obtain any intelligence of the residence of Sir Roger Palmer, or his agent, who is also a defaulter to the poor-rates to the amount of 11*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*

There is also a Mr. Wallace, in the electoral division of Ballymote, who cannot be found, and is a defaulter of 21*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

The rate collector of the electoral division of Coolaney has again informed me that Mr. Owen Lloyd has not answered any of his letters, and his rate, 35*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.*, is still unpaid.

There is also a Mr. Abraham Powell, solicitor, Blessington-street, Dublin, who is a receiver of the property of his brother, who is a lunatic in the electoral division of Tubbercurry, and though he has been repeatedly applied to by letter will not answer one of them.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March* 11, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 9th inst., relating to the non-payment of the rates assessed on the property of several persons in the Sligo Union, and I am to state for your information that if the rate charged against Sir James Crofton is in respect to his interest as immediate lessor, the solicitor of the Guardians should act under the orders of Court at page 16 in the Collector's Manual; but if any portion be due by him as occupier, this must be sued for by summons, if an immediate distress cannot be executed.

With reference to the statement that the rate collector of Templeboy can obtain no intelligence of the residence of Sir Roger Palmer, or his agent, I am directed to state that the agent of Sir Roger Palmer (who himself resides at Kenure Park, Rush, county Dublin,) is a Mr. Ormsby, residing in the county Mayo, near Ballina.

The other receivers referred to in your communication should be applied to in like manner as suggested with respect to Sir James Crofton's case.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March* 15, 1848.

I BEG to state that I attended the usual meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday; there was no business transacted more than the usual routine, save the election of Dr. A. M'Munn as assistant to the medical officer, with a salary of 20*l.* per annum.

The destitute still clamour for relief, and such as are willing to enter the house are taken in; but the unwillingness of the greater part to avail themselves of in-door relief is not proof enough of their own sufficiency of support, for there are hundreds of workmen and tradesmen out of employment, who though not caring to be well fed in the workhouse, are still endeavouring to subsist on one meal of indifferent food in the 24 hours. This entire Union is poor and poverty stricken throughout, and more particularly in the sea coast districts, and in this town and its neighbourhood. I have applied to the Society of Friends for a loan to advance the fishing interest on the coast, and to provide some temporary employment for the mechanics and labourers of this town. I have written to request the Commissioners of Public Works to make and enclose a cemetery and burial ground much required here, and which had been in contemplation by them some time before. So far as Government is concerned there are no other means at my disposal at present to ameliorate the prevailing distress in this Union, except the ordering of out-door relief to the able-bodied, which is inadvisable, while there remains accommodation for them in the workhouse.

Last week the weather having been so severe, as much progress could not be made of the additional buildings for the sick as might be expected.

A contract has been entered into for the erection of two ovens in the poor-house, which will be soon finished. I also intend when our present contracts for bread-stuffs have expired on the 25th instant, to alter the dietary of the inmates, and give them (at the same time lessening the cost) a better kind of nutriment.

Sligo Union.

All the economy in my power to devise will be requisite, as I find that the great difficulty in collecting the rates makes our funds insufficient to meet the demand on them.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 22, 1848.*

YESTERDAY the last meeting of the present Guardians was held.

I am sorry to find that for the approaching election the ratepayers in some electoral divisions have nominated persons living at a distance from the locality, and strangers to their interests. This misrepresentation of divisions will have an evil effect, inasmuch as that when the relieving officers' books are to be checked, those Guardians, not knowing the place or persons, must very ineffectually perform a particular part of their duty, of striking off the relief lists any abuses thereon.

The workhouse still continues full. The decrease caused by paupers leaving the house, dying, &c., keeps up a constant sufficiency of room for the able-bodied applicants.

Sickness is still very prevalent but not increasing. The master of the house is confined with fever, and the wardmaster died lately of the same disease. The additional hospital buildings are finished, but not yet dry and ready for occupation. 600*l.*, rates collected, were lodged last week.

There were no proceedings of importance sufficient to communicate to the Commissioners, the entire day being occupied in considering and accepting the new contracts.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 23, 1848.*

IN reference to your observation on the vacancies occasioned in the house by deaths and by persons leaving, the Commissioners desire to state that they must rely on you for seeing that every possible precaution is taken to check the mortality in the workhouse, and to alleviate the sufferings of the destitute poor persons, many of whom the Commissioners fear seek admission in a very debilitated state.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain GILBERT :—*March 18, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from the Under-Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a man named John Hiland, who is stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body, to have died from exposure to cold and hunger; and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Board of Guardians of the Sligo Union, to the Union workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing.

COUNTY of SLIGO.

Riverstown, March 13, 1848.

AN inquest was held at Cooper Hill on the body of John Hiland. Verdict—
"Deceased came to his death by exposure to cold and hunger."

J. GRANT, S. I.

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS in reply :—*March 21, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 18th instant, I beg to state that John Miland (not Hiland) and his wife were on the relieving officer's books of the Collooney electoral division, and were regularly relieved.

He was about 70 years of age, totally blind, and very deaf. About 10 days or a fortnight before his death his wife left him, and went off with another man, and has not since been heard of.

The man certainly did not die from want, or from cold and exposure; but in all probability from his loss of sight fell into the ditch, where he was found dead about 12 hours after he had been seen in his usual health.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain GILBERT :—*March 25, 1848.*

Sligo Union

RETURN to Captain Gilbert to state whether the usual allowance of food was delivered to the old man after his wife's departure? who delivered it? and whether any information can be given as to the ability of the old man to make use of the food without assistance, of which he seems to have been totally deprived when his wife left him?

Captain GILBERT to the COMMISSIONERS.

It was not known that his wife had left him, or that he required assistance until after his death. He received meal always, and part of it was found in his cabin after he had died, by the relieving officer who gave it to him.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON :—*April 3, 1848.*

WITH reference to the communication referred to the Commissioners on the 16th ultimo, relating to the decease of a man named John Miland, in the Sligo Union, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of the report which they have received from Captain Gilbert, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, on the subject.

I am at the same time to state that the verdict of the jury does not appear to be borne out by the facts of the case.

KANTURK UNION.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 10, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report, for the week ended the 5th instant, that the collection of the rate is very satisfactory, the amount 1122*l.* 18*s.*, making in nine weeks' collection the sum of 12,773*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*

The collectors' accounts have been checked pursuant to your orders.

Our arrangements relative to the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied will soon be made, and would have been ready before were it not for the very great extent of this Union, and the absolute necessity there is of depending upon ourselves, by examining the numerous quarries and making contracts with the occupiers of them. Having made application to the Office of Public Works for a loan of implements, we have been directed to state to the Poor Law Commissioners the actual quantity we require, and if recommended by them, an order on the storekeeper will be at once given. We annex the quantity required, and shall thank you to request from the Office of Public Works an order for the immediate delivery of the implements.

In reference to your letter relative to the arrangements proposed by Mr. Wilkinson for providing additional accommodation at the workhouse, we take the liberty of suggesting the advantage this Union would derive by adopting the powers vested in the Commissioners under the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, section 24, by combining the Unions of Kanturk, Killarney, and Tralee into a school district, and placing the schools upon the Crown lands in or near King Williamstown, at which place the three Unions meet.

We would also suggest that application be made to the Government to obtain some of the Crown lands, and attach such to the schools. With the assistance of an experienced agriculturist, the children of both sexes could be brought up in pursuits that would enable them to benefit themselves and others, and be the medium of diffusing an improved system of agriculture and domestic economy through the districts.

It is our intention to place ourselves in communication with the Unions in question, with the view of obtaining the co-operation of the several Boards of Guardians.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 15, 1848.*

I AM to state that the collection of the rates is very satisfactory.

With regard to the proposed formation of the Kanturk, Killarney, and Tralee Unions into a school district, and the establishment of schools at King Williamstown, I am to request that the Commissioners may be informed of the distance of King Williamstown from Kanturk, Killarney, and Tralee, respectively.

The Commissioners have communicated with the Board of Works with regard to the implements required for the employment of the able-bodied poor in the receipt of out-door relief in the Union.

Mr. BRISCOE, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 21, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the week ended the 19th instant, that the collection of rate was 88*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, making, in 11 weeks, the amount 14,558*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*

The collectors' accounts were checked according to your orders.

During the last fortnight the workhouse test has been extensively made use of; and the result has been that more than *five hundred refused* workhouse relief.

Among our arrangements for out-door relief to the able-bodied, we have appointed all our superintendents, fixed the particular quarries in which works are to be performed (adjoining unfinished roads), and partially commenced operations, which will be general *when the Board of Works have forwarded their order for implements.*

We shall feel obliged by the Commissioners forwarding the appointment of the valuator, as it is of great importance to the Union that the rate after the next be made upon the new valuation.

Kanturk Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 24, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of the Board of Works has been drawn to that part of your communication relating to the implements required for the employment of the able-bodied persons relieved out of the poor-rates of the Union.

The appointment of Mr. Wilson as revising valuator for the Union is under consideration.

Mr. BRISCOE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 28, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter requesting the observations of the Guardians upon extracts of a communication from Mr. Benjamin Sheehan, to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, I have the honour to state that the officer alluded to in such extracts is Mr. Savage, relieving officer for the electoral division of Kilmeen.

That complaints were brought against this officer and investigated by my late colleague Mr. Lucas and myself, but such were not proved; that a second day was named to enable the parties to substantiate their complaints, but they failed in so doing.

That the late Board did not dismiss Mr. Savage, but he tendered his resignation in consequence of several attacks having been made on his depôt, meal stolen therefrom, and his life threatened.

That upon the Union being placed under Vice-Guardians, Mr. Savage was re-elected by Mr. Lucas and myself, as the candidate best qualified for the situation.

That when we first became Guardians, on each Board-day several hundred persons assembled at the workhouse gates in a tumultuous manner, and would not allow any person to enter, so much so that no investigation could be entered into until a late hour, and not without the interference of a military and police force.

That since the people became quiet, and for the last two months, we believe every case has been investigated. That from the strictest inquiries the Guardians are not aware that bakers, shopkeepers, and other independent persons are getting relief.

That the Guardians investigate every complaint brought against their officers, and last week dismissed a relieving officer for giving relief to a person not entitled to it.

That I perfectly recollect the case alluded to in such extracts, as I investigated it, that of Patrick Sheehan. It is true that he produced a medical doctor's and his priest's certificate of being lately quite deranged, and of unsound mind still; and was told, and believe such to be the case, that he has a wife and four children under age.

This Patrick Sheehan appeared perfectly sound in mind, not only upon the day he was under investigation but at two subsequent periods I saw him; but was informed that the period his mind was not sound was 18 months ago, at which time he gave up his calling, that of a schoolmaster.

That the grounds upon which I refused to relieve this Patrick Sheehan were these: that he lived with his father, Benjamin Sheehan, the writer of the communication from which the extracts were taken; that this Benjamin Sheehan is a military pensioner, having as his son stated a pension of one shilling a day, and that the said Patrick Sheehan was his only child.

I must apologize, gentlemen, for troubling you with so long a letter, but must state that the grossest imposition is attempted by almost all parties, and with few rare instances indeed we never receive any assistance in preventing fraud.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 3, 1848.*

I AM to state that your explanation is quite satisfactory to the Commissioners.

Kanturk Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 1, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report, for the week ended the 26th ultimo, that the week's collection of rate was 735*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, making in 12 weeks the amount 15,293*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*

The collectors' accounts were checked, according to your orders.

During the last week the result of the workhouse test has been, that 658 refused to go into the house, and 133 left it.

Through your kind interference we received the order from the Board of Works yesterday for implements, and we are distributing them to day.

The auxiliary workhouse taken from Sir Edward Tierney, we have placed the boys and girls schools in. The house is named by the Commissioners for 400. From the arrangements we have made, and the attention paid to ventilation (with the consent of the physician of the establishment), we have to request the permission of the Commissioners to augment the number to 600.

As we consider that the workhouse is the only sure test, and that additional accommodation is always of great importance, we have to request your approval of our procuring tents to place on the workhouse grounds, in which to place convalescents from the hospitals—this has also met with the consent of our physician.

REPLY to the foregoing—*March 7, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request that you will communicate with the medical officer of the workhouse, in order that he may furnish a specific report as to the number of persons who may be accommodated in the additional workhouse to which you refer. In making this report, the medical officer should be requested to state after the apartments have been measured, the number of cubic feet which he would allot to each person. The Commissioners have reason to know that the workhouse of the Kanturk Union was last year considerably overcrowded, and they are desirous that the same serious evil should not arise again.

The Commissioners are in communication with the Board of Health on the subject of the latter part of your report.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 7, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report for the week ended the 4th instant, that the week's collection of rate was 541*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, making in 13 weeks the amount 15,834*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* The collectors' accounts were checked according to your directions.

The workhouse test is working to our entire satisfaction; this week, out of orders given for the admission of 966, the number that refused to come into the house was 853; last week the number was 658; making in one fortnight, 1511.

The arrangements for out-door relief to the able-bodied are now in operation in every part of this extensive Union.

The workhouse grounds being in a wet state we are thorough-draining them, and intend to sow the whole under flax or hemp.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 22, 1848.*

THE collectors' accounts for the rate struck November 19, 1847, have been closed, and the result of the collection is as follows :—

	£.	s.	d.
Rate, November 19, 1847	16,412	12	6
Arrear of former rate	424	13	11
Collected	16,837	6	5
	16,018	6	9
Present arrear	£818	19	8

We have reason to be satisfied with the exertions made by our collectors, as we are aware that this arrear is principally composed of rates on holdings under 4*l.*

value, the immediate lessors of which are as poor as the occupiers of lands under ejectment—of collieries rated that have not been worked—and some clerical errors in the rating.

On the 18th instant we made and signed a new rate from two to six shillings in the pound upon the several electoral divisions of the Union; such rating having been calculated according to the amount due, current expenses, and estimated cost for relief up to the 29th of September next.

We hope that our calculations may prove what we anticipate, that with diligent attention in the working of the Union there may be a surplus at the above period.

The collecting-books will be ready for signature upon the 24th instant, and we shall bind our collectors in bond No. 7, so that we can compel them, if necessary, to collect within four months from the dates of their warrants; but under the circumstances of the country, we shall only require the collectors to keep with our treasurer a balance of about 2000*l.*, so that we shall be enabled to take advantage of prices, and not to be at the mercy of contractors.

The workhouse test continues to work well; the number refusing house relief 472.

As the Commissioners' order for out-door relief to the able-bodied expires on the 24th instant, we shall be obliged for an extension to the 1st of May; but as is the case at present, we shall only avail ourselves of this order when absolutely necessary.

Having called in the balances under the Temporary Relief Act, application has been made for leave to apply such by giving out potatoes for seed in portions sufficient (in no case exceeding) what would plant a quarter of an acre of land. The seed to be given to labourers who can procure land, to which they would apply any manure they may have.

The applicants being members of Relief Committees, say the seed would be planted under their immediate inspection; and as they are not satisfied with our views as to the manner in which these balances are to be applied, we shall feel obliged at *your very earliest* convenience, to reply to this part of our report.

Whether the Commissioners agree to the application of the Relief Committees or not, we take the liberty of suggesting the utility of affording relief to labourers for a limited period, during the time they are getting in their crops, possessing land not exceeding quarter of an acre, and to those who obtain small portions of land to plant potatoes in.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have given directions for the renewal of the order accordingly.

As regards the disposal of the balances of loans under the Temporary Relief Act, I am to state that any balances of advances under the Temporary Relief Act, which Relief Committees have handed over to you, must be placed to the credit of the electoral divisions for which the advances were made, and can only be legally applied by you to objects for which the poor-rates are applicable.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

WE have the honour to state, for the week ended the 25th instant, that we signed the collector's warrants for the new rate struck the 18th instant, and such having been but just published, the collection has only partially commenced.

The workhouse test still continues to work well. The result, 796 having refused during the week.

We have nearly finished the second revision of the out-door lists by personal examination of upwards of 6000 cases.

The result of the revision is, that notwithstanding the order for relief (out-door) to the able-bodied was in full operation during the revision, we have been enabled to reduce the total number relieved from 19,144, at a weekly expense of 446*l.*, to 17,146, at a weekly cost of 356*l.*—a saving of 90*l.* a-week, being at the rate of 4680*l.* a-year.

As we bake in the house we have a paid baker, assisted by some of the pauper boys. We particularly wish for the Commissioners' consent to be allowed to pay

Kanturk Union.

such baker a small fee—say 2*l.* or 3*l.*—for each boy that may be bound to him as an apprentice. The same to apply in the case of tailors and shoemakers while working in the house.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April* 11, 1848.

I AM to state that the Commissioners are unable to sanction the payment of fees for apprentices out of the poor-rate, as such payment would not be a legal charge upon that fund.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April* 3, 1848.

WE have the honour to report for the week ended the 1st instant, that the workhouse test continues to work well; the result this week—903 refused house relief.

In consequence of dysentery prevailing we have, with the consent of the medical officer, temporarily altered the dietary in some classes—white in place of brown bread, and the use of rice. It has been attended with beneficial results. This temporary alteration has caused our average weekly expenditure to be higher.

Some contracts we have entered into, have been on favourable terms for the Union; that of milk there is a saving of more than 300*l.* a-year; meat at a reduction of two-ninths, and the contracts for meal could not be on lower terms. Many articles, such as soap, when we have time we shall purchase in Cork.

We have pleasure in stating that the arrangements we made for carrying into effect your order for out-door relief to the able-bodied, have been in the most judicious manner carried out by our excellent Inspector, Mr. George Connors. Task work is required, and the greatest regularity prevails in every department.

Requiring hardy old men in section 1, and sons under 15 of widows, to work, we find is attended with good effects.

The labour test is working well; this week we gave directions to stop one quarry, five persons only attending there.

SCARIFF UNION.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 5, 1848.*

IN consequence of the very great increase in the number of applicants for relief, the Vice-Guardians were detained here from Tuesday until this day (Saturday), chiefly in examining the relieving officers' books, and deciding upon the nature of relief to be afforded in each case.

There is just now a great pressure upon us again, aggravated no doubt by an erroneous impression upon the minds of a population utterly demoralized that every one must *now* get "the relief," as they believe the workhouses to be all full. A salutary check will, however, be in full operation next week, as arrangements are made for putting to work the whole of the male able-bodied recipients of relief; and we are now only waiting for the implements promised by the Board of Works. In the meantime an overseer has been appointed at Tulla, and instructed to muster daily and employ in stone-gathering the whole of the able-bodied men receiving out relief in that division. All single females are to be admitted into the workhouse; and we shall soon be in a condition to receive an additional 400 persons.

In order to carry this arrangement into efficient operation, I have proposed that the whole of the men be told-off to the premises at Tomgraney, and which can comfortably accommodate 800. The Scariff workhouse I wish to reserve *for adult females exclusively*, and being only *one* class an economy of room will be effected. Cloone's house in Scariff to be for the old women. The male school children to be transferred from the workhouse to Kirby's house in Scariff. Hogan's house to be converted into a fever hospital; and a house which I hired this day in Scariff for 24*l.* per annum to be appropriated for small-pox patients, of whom, unfortunately, we have at present a great number.

The establishment for the female school children has succeeded even beyond my most sanguine expectations; indeed, its advantages cannot at this period be too highly estimated. At present Moynoe house contains nearly 400 inmates, among whom there have been but two deaths in all. In short, the poor children are enjoying the best health, and appear perfectly happy. The basement floor is now being boarded, and this will render the house capable of accommodating an additional hundred, or 500 in all, as every room is used as a dormitory, the beds being removed from the lower to the upper rooms during the day. A considerable number of large families have, at their own desire, been lately removed from the workhouse to out-door relief, as we are glad to have their vacancies for *single* able-bodied persons. It is my wish that all the paupers now in the different houses, as well as all others who may be hereafter admitted, may be retained so long as they require relief, as I am anxious to disabuse their minds of a notion that the workhouse is an ordeal which must be submitted to preparatory to getting on out-door relief. However, I confidently believe that the labour test to out-door paupers will operate quite as beneficially as the workhouse test in other cases.

The poor-rate continues to flow in; and I have intimated to the collectors that I expect they will complete the collection during the present month. Two or three of the old collectors are very inefficient, and so are some of the relieving officers; the lesser evil is, for the present, to bear with them, and in the meantime to look out for efficient substitutes.

It is desirable that no unavoidable delay should take place in framing a new valuation.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 10, 1848.*

As regards your statement that the Vice-Guardians are only waiting for the implements promised by the Board of Works, I am to state that the Commissioners have received and forwarded to the Vice-Guardians on the 8th

Seariff Union.

instant the necessary orders for the implements required by them to set the paupers to work.

In reference to the arrangements mentioned in your report for occupying the several workhouses in the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners are very unwilling to interfere with the arrangements made for the accommodation of paupers received into the workhouse, and the different auxiliary buildings which have been obtained; but the Commissioners fear that the course which you state to be adopted at Moynoe house, viz., using the whole of the rooms as dormitories, cannot be long continued without prejudice to the health of the children who occupy the same rooms in the day. The Commissioners request, therefore, that you will specially consult the medical officer on this subject, with the view of making some arrangements less open to objection on sanitary grounds.

With reference to your suggestion that no delay should take place in framing a new valuation, I am to state that the Commissioners have the subject under consideration.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 4, 1848.*

WE have no communication from you to acknowledge this week, except that dated 29th January, 1848, enclosing copy of a constabulary report relative to the death of Patrick Collins at Tulla.

On inquiry of the relieving officer of that district, he reports that he was not present at the inquest, but that he knew the deceased Pat Collins to have been out of his mind and frequently wandering about the country. He does not believe that Collins was in immediate want of food.

Mr. Purcell, the relieving officer for Feakle, states that Mr. Martin, the coroner, has endeavoured to mislead him by giving a recommendation for relief to a man holding 10 acres of land and not in need, while he has complained of others receiving relief who were fully entitled to it.

Our attention this week was almost wholly absorbed by the number of cases on the relieving officers' books, the examination of which has occupied the greater part of three days, and even until a very late hour at night.

We have commenced arrangements in the Tulla districts for employing the able-bodied men receiving relief; and we hope next week to have the system there in full operation. We are preparing to enforce it also in Feakle and Killaloe, and shall commence as soon as we have appointed proper superintendents of labour.

We hope to be able to give an abstract of the number receiving out-door relief at foot of this report; but the business of examining the Application Book, and making the necessary orders, has been so very heavy this week, that the statement has been delayed from appearing on the minutes.

We have been employed part of the week in discharging from the workhouse such cases as were reported by the doctor as fit subjects of out-relief from age and infirmity, as well as some widows and children. Of these classes we discharged this week from the house about 174 persons.

The numbers in the several houses this day were nearly as follow:—

Union workhouse	817
Clune's house	137
Kerby's ditto	274
Reddan's store	256
Hogan's (sick)	23
Moynoe	360
Total	<u>1,867</u>

Our time has been so occupied this week with the relieving officers, that we are not able to give as detailed an account of the collection as we could have wished. With the exception of Tulla, Killaloe, and Ogunnella, there appears to be considerable activity displayed by the collectors; but in those districts very little seems to have been done, and unless a more active progress is made next week, we shall have to take measures to put the collection in other hands.

Some cases of rescue of cattle seized in Mountshannon, were before the magistrates at Petty Sessions on Thursday, and have been referred to the Quarter Sessions. Captain Hart's attendance proved useful in preventing the offenders from being too leniently dealt with by the magistrates.

We have paid off during the week 1232*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* of the outstanding checks of the late Guardians, leaving the amount now outstanding 2069*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

We have had great complaints of the present state of the burying ground for the paupers at Tomgrany, the place being so filled that the coffins are in some places scarcely concealed by the earth. It will be absolutely necessary to procure a piece of ground immediately, and we wish to know if we should advertise for the purpose.

We wish to have your instructions as to appointing districts and medical officers for carrying out the provisions of the Vaccination Act fully throughout the Union, as small-pox seems to be one of the most prevalent diseases at present.

We have written again to the Board of Works, requesting their order for us to receive the necessary implements for putting the paupers to work.

We have had an assignment prepared of the house of Clune, in Scariff, by the attorney who usually acted for the late Board of Guardians, but we find he has erroneously made us parties to the deed instead of the Commissioners.

We send you a copy of the deed herewith, in order that you may point out what alterations should be made in it. Clune is impatient to receive the purchase money, as he is preparing to take his family to America. As he is a poor man, the delay is a matter of great inconvenience and expense to him, and we shall have to make him some compensation for it. Your early attention to this matter is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Number on out-door relief, as far as ascertained this week, about 10,000.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your report, dated the 4th instant, relative to the Scariff Union, and have directed me to express their thanks for your communication.

The Commissioners have forwarded a copy of your observations in regard to the death of Pat. Collins, to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

In regard to the state of the burying-ground at Tomgrany, and your inquiry as to whether you should advertise for a piece of ground to be used as a cemetery, I am to state that the Commissioners see no objection to a piece of land being taken for this purpose, under the 20th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, and you can advertise for a suitable piece of land if you deem that course advisable. You will observe that the land must, according to the section above referred to, be conveyed to the Commissioners.

With reference to your request for instructions as to appointing districts and medical officers for carrying out the provisions of the Vaccination Act, I am to forward to you a copy of the Vaccination Extension Act, together with a copy of an instructional circular issued by the Commissioners in the year 1840, which will, probably, be found to give all the information you require.

The Commissioners have forwarded the assignment of Clune's house, which accompanied your report, to their solicitors, and have requested them to make the necessary alterations.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain HART:—*February 9, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of a constabulary report which has been transmitted to them, relative to the death of Mary, Margaret, and William Boland, in Scariff Union; and I am to request that you will be so good as to furnish the Commissioners with your observations on the subject.

Scariff Union.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. SHAW to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL:—*February 3, 1848.*

ON the 1st an inquest was held on the body of Mary Boland, Margaret and William Boland, who were found dead.

Copy of Verdict.

That Mary Boland was found dead beside a ditch.

That William and Margaret Boland came to their death from starvation.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply:—*February 10, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing a copy of a constabulary report of the deaths of Mary, Margaret, and William Boland, I beg leave to state that a similar report having reached me on the 2nd instant I immediately instituted inquiry into the circumstances, and ascertained that William Boland (the father) held about 20 acres of land, and which of course precluded him and his family from receiving any relief under the Poor Law, in corroboration of which I beg to enclose the relieving officer's statements.

I regret to have to state that verdicts of "death from starvation" have been returned upon very insufficient evidence—I allude to the absence on some occasions of a medical man, and the absence *on all occasions*, of the relieving officer of the district.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. PURCELL to Captain HART:—*February 2, 1848.*

EARLY in the month of November last I went to Gurthaveha, where Boland, the subject of the *post mortem* examination of the 1st instant, then lived. He held a few acres of land from Colonel Wyndham. He stated that he would never give up his farm, although his neighbours and I advised him to the contrary.

Mary Boland was his daughter by a former wife—she never agreed with the rest of the family—she spent her time for the most part begging—was often known to be turned outside doors.

He stated to me that he preferred holding his farm to receiving relief.

Mr. PURCELL to Captain HART:—*February 7, 1848.*

WILLIAM BOLAND, of Gurthaveha, electoral division Feakle, on whose body the inquest was held, and verdict of death by starvation was returned, holds a farm there. He paid his rent last harvest to Mr. Crow at Ennis, who told him that his landlord, Colonel Wyndham, would probably send him to Sydney April or May next, the hope of which was the cause of his retaining the possession of his land so long.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 12, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, with respect to the prosecution of Callaghan, late collector for Kilno electoral division. We have to state that his father, who is, we believe, an honest, industrious farmer, has paid the amount of his son's deficiency, 31*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*; and has since brought us a letter from Callaghan acknowledging his guilt fully, and asking for clemency. On consulting with Captain Hart, by his advice we have agreed to his request in consequence of the father's good character and his promptness in paying the money, although cautioned at the time that his doing so might not prevent a prosecution. We have also considered that Callaghan has been already severely punished by the pain and disgrace of his imprisonment, and that a sufficient example has been given of the determination of the Vice-Guardians to punish any attempt at fraud or concealment on the part of the collectors; we have therefore directed the clerk not to proceed with the prosecution, on Callaghan's father agreeing to pay the penalty for his non-appearance.

We have also to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 8th instant, sanctioning the payment of 30*l.* to the clerk, and 5*l.* to the porter for preparing and copying rate-books and collection-books; and of 9th instant, agreeing to the appointment of assistant relieving officers in the Feakle and Tulla districts, as a temporary

measure. On account of a similar pressure in the Scariff electoral division, we have had to make a like appointment for this district next week, for which we hope for your sanction. The Killaloe and Ogunnella district is also too large for one relieving officer to perform the duties satisfactorily; and we shall consider whether it would be better to divide the district and appoint an additional officer, or recommend an assistant.

We have made some progress in putting the able-bodied male paupers receiving out-door relief to daily work; but owing to the very great and constant pressure of applicants in all the electoral divisions, the duty of examining the relieving officers' reports, joined with other necessary business, has been so urgent and has occupied so much time, that our arrangements are not yet completed.

We visited Tulla on Tuesday, and there inspected the paupers who have been this week employed in gathering stones preparatory to having them broken, as soon as we can obtain the implements.

The relieving officer, Mr. Kerwick, and the superintendent, Mr. Wade, are performing their duties satisfactorily.

We have made arrangements for commencing work on Monday in the Scariff, Killuran, Kilno, Clonrush, Woodford, and Feakle electoral divisions, and this day we go to Killaloe for the purpose of making arrangements for that electoral division and Ogunnella.

We hope to receive another order from the Board of Works for the additional implements applied for in our letter of yesterday.

The total number of able-bodied male paupers receiving relief in Tulla electoral division is 541; in Killuran, 94. We have not received a return from the other electoral divisions, but next week will be able to state the whole exactly.

We have contracted with Mr. Walnut, of Scariff, to supply meal at all the relief stations at each electoral division of the Union, and in the required quantities direct to the recipients, at the low rate of 9*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per ton, or *one penny per pound*. Mr. Walnut has always given satisfaction in the quality of the meal he has supplied to the workhouse.

The collection continues to proceed on the whole satisfactorily; although in many instances distraints have to be made, and summonses have to be issued in cases of rescue. The total amount received up to this date, as far as we have been able to ascertain, is as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Tulla . . .	1479	12	10	balance to be collected,	2311	16	7
Feakle . . .	885	19	8	„	1747	19	11
Killaloe . . .	1394	10	6	„	2522	5	3
Ogunnella . . .				„			
Killuran . . .	545	7	5	„	456	5	11
Kilno . . .	653	5	10	„	1126	12	9
Scariff . . .	602	0	0	„	1694	8	7
Woodford : . .	766	11	1	„	1166	15	11
Clonrush . . .				„			
Mount Shannon				„			
	£6327	7	4		£11,026	4	11

We have paid this week for outstanding checks, 388*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*; leaving now outstanding 1734*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

One of the checks paid this week was for 117*l.* 17*s.*, on which law proceedings had been taken, and a latitat served on the clerk before we came into office. The holder was satisfied to pay his own costs, amounting to 9*l.*, and to accept payment of the original sum.

The total amount of our payments out of the present collection, including the outstanding checks, is 6046*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a balance still for current expenses.

At the request of Mr. Reade we have inserted a long letter from him on our minutes, to which we have attached our observations; such communications lead to no practical good, and occupy much of our time to very little purpose, but we did not wish to allow him a pretext for complaint.

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We have also inserted our letter to the coroner and his reply. We find that the rates for payment of which he states Boland's bed-clothes were sold, were county-rates, not poor-rates; and Mr. Purcell, the relieving officer, informs us that Boland's death was caused by cold caught from want of sufficient covering. He and his family were lying in a shed fixed against the old house, which had in part fallen down. The Bolands being in possession of 20 acres of land had not applied for relief.

In the case of Bridget Gallagher, Purcell states, he has procured positive proof that she had sufficient food, and did not die of hunger. There can be no doubt of the great extent of destitution generally in this Union, as the people are without wages or employment, and have no visible means of subsistence; but many who are above actual want are most ingenious and persevering in their efforts to extort relief by falsehood and stratagem. There exists a great difficulty in ascertaining the truth as to the *bonâ fide* cessation to occupy land. There is the greatest reluctance to surrender to the landlord, even in cases where many years' arrears of rent are due; in most cases the land would be given up if the cabin could be retained, but the consequence of surrendering the cabin with the land is, that the cabin is immediately demolished, and the recent tenant becomes a permanent pauper, without a home.

The numbers in the several houses this day are as follow:—

Union workhouse	793 mixed.
Tomgrany store	279 men.
Kirby's house	234 women.
Clune's house	130 women.
Hogan's house	37 sick.
Moynoe house	443 girls.

1916

About 11,000 on out-door relief.

The cost of maintenance for the above numbers, within and without, is about 500*l.* per week, and rent and salaries are about 50*l.* per week more.

The following is an estimate for the next six weeks, to 25th March:—

	<i>£.</i>
Six weeks' maintenance, 550 <i>l.</i> per week	3300
Due for, and required for, clothing	2000
Debts still unpaid	4300
Poundage on rate	850
	<i>£</i> 10,450
Rate still uncollected	<i>£</i> 11,026

The above confirms our previous calculation, that the present rate will only carry us on to the 25th March. Immediate measures should be taken to provide for the expenditure of the succeeding six months, and respecting which we await your instructions.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 17, 1848.*

WITH regard to the appointment of an assistant relieving officer in Scariff electoral division, the Commissioners have not objected to the appointment, as they understand that the causes which have led to it are likely to be of temporary duration only; but under other circumstances the Commissioners, as they have already stated to you, would much prefer that the district should be divided, so that the entire responsibility for the due discharge of the relieving officers' duties in each district might rest upon one individual.

The objection to the appointment of assistant relieving officer is, that it has a tendency to divide, and thereby to lessen, the responsibility of the relieving officer.

The Commissioners will give their best consideration to the division of the Killaloe and Ogunnella districts, as proposed by you, on your causing the scheme of the proposed division to be forwarded to this office.

In regard to your statement that the present rate will only last to the 25th of March, and that immediate measures should be taken to provide for the expenditure for the ensuing six months, I am to state that if the Guardians will go on weekly providing for the able-bodied men and their families in the workhouse, and for persons entitled to relief under the 1st section out of the workhouse, the Commissioners will apply to the British Association to make for awhile, advances to the Vice-Guardians, for the relief of destitute able-bodied men and their families out of the workhouse.

With this view the Commissioners request you to furnish them with an estimate of the weekly sum which in your opinion will be required in order to preserve from starvation the destitute poor who are entitled to relief in your district, forming a separate estimate for each of the three following heads:—

1st. Relief in the workhouse.

2nd. Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act.

3rd. Relief to able-bodied persons entitled to such relief under the 2nd section of that Act.

At the same time the Commissioners rely upon your continued exertions in enforcing a due and efficient collection of the rate from all parties in the Union

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 12, 1848.*

ALTHOUGH the number of applicants for relief has enormously increased of late, since it became known that the workhouses were full, still I am of opinion, seeing that every destitute person within the Union is now duly relieved, that the lists will be speedily reduced, for I find that my expectations are already being realized in many able-bodied men refusing to come to daily labour for their rations, and single females in like manner refusing *in-door* relief. Daily labour for able-bodied men, and workhouse accommodation for single females, are the best possible tests; I am, consequently, desirous of reserving every vacant berth within the workhouse for *single* persons, and for the present, at least, to continue on out-door relief such destitute persons as have families, which will also prevent the destruction of their habitations.

I am again enabled to report most favourably of the collection of the poor-rate. Since writing my last week's report, the collectors have notified to me the receipt of 1450*l*. To this important duty I devote unceasing attention; and as every instance of open resistance has been borne down by the arm of the law, it seems now to be pretty generally felt that the rate may as well be peaceably paid. I feel bound, however, to express my conviction that if the chairman and the 25 members of the late Board of Guardians who signed the extraordinary memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, complaining of (to use their own words) "the neglect of the Commissioners to enforce upon the Board of Guardians" (*the memorialists themselves*) the laying on and collection of rates sufficient," that had all these gentlemen paid their own rates, as they should have felt bound in honour to have done after signing such a document, there would have been neither resistance nor difficulty of any kind experienced in its collection, and the whole amount would have long since been got in. But in the comparatively few cases of rescue, the ignorant farmer very naturally calculated that in such a case the law would be a dead letter in the administration of those who were themselves resisting, *passively* resisting, the payment of poor-rates. In thus stating what I am informed was at one time the opinion of the tenant class, I must also add that every magistrate on the bench has, when cases of rescue have been brought to notice, afforded the collectors every assistance and justice, especially Mr. John Pat. Molony.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

WE have received your letter of the 12th February, 1848, enclosing a complaint of Thomas Stammers, for being over-rated. On examining the Rate

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Book, we find his statement to be correct; and on making inquiry, it appears he holds but the one farm of two and a-half acres.

We have therefore desired the collector not to enforce payment for more than the small-farm, and to let the other lie over as an arrear until the valuation is revised. The poor man also complains that his two and a-half acres were over-valued by mistake, in comparison with his neighbours holding the same quantity of land, and by which means he has been rated for his holding, while his neighbour's holdings have been rated on the immediate lessor. This also appears to be the case, but as we have no power to alter the valuation as it appears in the Rate Book, there seems no present remedy. The poor man is in arrear of rent, and declares he has no means of paying either. We told him the rate should be paid before the rent, and he should get his landlord to allow him an equitable portion; but as the property is in Chancery, and under a receiver of the Court, it is not likely he can get any redress. He says he must give up the land and become a pauper. We fear many such cases will be found before our collection is completed.

Relative to the subject of land occupation, we have to acknowledge your circular of 15th February, 1848. We think the queries put to Mr. Henn, do not fully meet the case, and we find ourselves in as much difficulty with his opinion before us. It is clear that the *ceasing to occupy* more than one-fourth acre of land is what the law requires; but the query for counsel should be, "what constitutes *occupation* in the meaning of the statute." It appears from Mr. Henn's opinion, that if a man quits house and land even without a legal surrender, it is to be construed as ceasing to occupy; but Guardians require to be instructed as to whether—

1st. If an occupier of land quits house and land, and comes to the work-house, or goes to live elsewhere, but still retains the key of his house, and, perhaps, has left some furniture in it which he still intends to claim ownership to; is such a quittance a *bonâ fide* cessation to occupy?

2nd. If an occupier of land ceases to use the land in any way, either by neglecting to till or graze it, declaring that he has withdrawn from the occupation but still retains the house; is such to be considered a cessation to occupy?

3rd. Or if an occupier transfers to a third party all his right, title, and interest in the land, on condition of being allowed to occupy the house, is such a transfer, whether legal or not, a sufficient cessation of occupation to entitle the person to relief?

These queries are of vital importance in some parts of this Union, but particularly in Feakle, where land is poor, mountainous, and boggy, and where many persons, in a state bordering on starvation, hold 10 or 12 acres of land nominally, on which there is probably not a quarter of an acre of cultivation. Our relieving officer has reported many of these; not on his Application Book, for they did not apply for relief, knowing the occupation of land disentitled them from receiving it; but verbally he had told us of families whose houses he had gone into, where some of the children were lying on the miserable bed, emaciated with hunger, and unable to get up from weakness. To these he gave food to support life, although legally they were not entitled to receive it, and we could not but approve of his having done so, whoever may have to bear the cost of it. Many tenants of Colonel Wyndham, in Feakle, are, we are informed, clinging tenaciously to the land, in the expectation held out to them by the agent, that he will afford means to his tenants to emigrate in the spring. In the meantime many of these unfortunate people are on the verge of starvation. We have to report that in Tulla electoral division, as informed by our relieving officer, a number of families have been this week brought on his relief list, by being dispossessed of their lands, and their cabins thrown down, on Sir Robert Keane's property in Glandree. The relieving officer of Kilnoe also informs us that in Annaghneal, in his electoral division, about 30 families, containing about 150 persons, have been dispossessed on the property of Mr. Wesby, and their cabins levelled with the ground. These unfortunate creatures have been added to our relief list this week. Some have petitioned us not to require them to work for their weekly subsistence until they had finished constructing temporary huts to shelter themselves and families from the weather.

We have considered these details important, as tending to show the reason of the increased applications for relief.

The poverty of the districts above referred to, may in some degree be judged of by reference to Mr. Griffiths' valuation now before us. We do not know what part of Feakle is the property of Colonel Wyndham, but the whole parish is valued as follows:—

Feakle contains 35,993 acres, value 7493*l.* 6*s.*, or about 4*s.* 2*d.* per acre average. Of the resident gentry or proprietors some idea may be formed by the statement that out of 96 townlands, of which the district is composed, in 79 the houses are set down as of no annual value; and in the remaining 17, the annual value of the houses is stated at 160*l.* 6*s.*, out of which is to be taken 65*l.* 12*s.*, for the value of one church at Feakle, one police barrack, two National school-houses, and three Roman Catholic chapels; so that the whole annual value of buildings for dwelling and farm purposes, over 36,000 acres of land (of the population of which 2500 persons are receiving out-door relief, to keep them from starvation), is under 100*l.* per annum.

The townland of Glandree above referred to, contains 2563 acres, valued at 495*l.* 4*s.*, or about 3*s.* 10½*d.* per acre on an average. The annual value of houses is stated as *nil*.

Annaghneal contains 442 acres, value 178*l.* 8*s.* per annum, or nearly 8*s.* 1*d.* per acre; houses *nil*. Annaghneal is in the parish of Kilnoe, containing 10,512 acres, value, on an average, at about 8*s.* 6*d.* per acre, and with a house valuation of 213*l.* 11*s.*

This is, therefore, one of the least distressed parishes in the Union, and in which the rate has been collected quietly and peacefully.

We have to report the collection as proceeding this week satisfactorily in the total amount collected, although Feakle and Killuran are backward.

Since last report we have advice of the following:—

	—			Total.			Remain.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
For Tulla	280	2	2	1759	15	0	2031	14	5
„ Feakle	59	0	0	944	19	8	1688	19	11
„ Killaloe	293	0	0	1274	5	0	1503	17	■
„ Ogunnella				415	5	6	725	7	7
„ Killuran	66	0	0	611	7	5	390	5	11
„ Kilnoe	257	0	0	910	5	10	869	12	9
„ Scariff	186	19	4	788	19	4	1507	9	3
„ Woodford	160	0	0	926	11	1	1006	16	0
„ Clonrush									
„ Mountshannon . . .									
	1302	1	6	7629	8	10	9724	3	6

It is very satisfactory that, notwithstanding the great destitution which prevails throughout the Union, that the farmer class generally, who possess the means, have shown a disposition to meet the rate promptly and cheerfully; and that, although seizures of cattle have had to be made by the collectors, and in some of the electoral divisions rescues have been attempted and made, yet there has not been a single instance of violence, or any necessity for calling for aid either from police or military. In the cases of immediate lessors there is more difficulty experienced, the landlords not being generally well inclined to pay those rates promptly. This is, in many instances, perhaps to be attributed to the imperfection of the valuation, and to doubts of the legality of the rating. Among the landlords and gentry there are several who have paid this heavy rate promptly and cheerfully, and expressed their conviction of its necessity. There are difficulties existing on the part of landed proprietors from their not having ready money at hand, and being obliged to dispose of live stock before they can meet the heavy amount they are required to pay. The difficulty of collecting rents for the last two years has increased the embarrassments of the landlords. These considerations should have some weight in judging of the conduct of those who, without expressing reluctance, or making any complaint, have yet been unavoidably tardy in paying.

The necessary examination of the relieving officers' books, and the hearing

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and inquiring into complaints against them, have occupied so much of our time that we have not yet finished our arrangements for out-door work, nor able to inspect those who are at work.

We experience much annoyance from the continued and reiterated complaints of Mr. Reade, of Wood Park, Mountshannon, who, since his intrusion into the Board-room on Tuesday last, and his attempt to dictate what mode of relief we should adopt in Mountshannon electoral division, has written us an extraordinary letter, which we did not think necessary to place on the minutes. As it appears Mr. Read has had a petition presented to Parliament, we shall be preparing ourselves to meet his complaints by the evidence of what facts we can collect, in case any investigation should be called for. We have reason to believe that if we acted on his suggestions we should have to give account of many deaths from starvation in his electoral division. The whole number of able-bodied paupers receiving out-door relief in Mountshannon electoral division is 22, whose wives and children amount to 74, and the cost of their weekly relief is 2*l.* 16*s.*, or one penny per day for each individual. These 22 have been ordered to work this week, and Mr. Reade complains that they refuse to work for him. There may be reasons for these, which we shall endeavour to account for in a future report.

We have received an authority from the Board of Health to establish the temporary fever hospital at Killaloe, as an hospital for that electoral division, and have made arrangements for its management with the Relief Committee at Kallaloe.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 25, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your weekly report, dated the 19th instant.

With reference to your observations as to the occupation of land, and the difficulties you experience in applying the opinion given by Mr. Henn, I am to state that the Commissioners do not think it necessary to take a further opinion as to what constitutes occupation within the meaning of the statute, as they think the definition of the term "occupier," which is given in the 124th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, will be found to afford a sufficient guide. The word "occupier" is there defined to "include every person in the immediate use or enjoyment of any hereditaments rateable under this Act, whether corporeal or incorporeal."

As regards the three specific questions proposed by you in reference to this subject, I am to state:—

1st. The Commissioners do not think that a person who quits house and land and goes to the workhouse, or goes to live elsewhere, but still retains the key of the house, and has left some furniture in it, which he intends to claim ownership to, can be considered as having ceased to occupy.

2nd. In regard to the second case supposed, viz., that of an occupier of land who ceases to use the land in any way, either by neglecting to till or graze it, declaring that he has withdrawn from the occupation, but still retains the house, the Commissioners think that under no circumstances does the mere declaration of an applicant for relief appear to the Commissioners to be a sufficient proof that such applicant has ceased to occupy more land than a quarter of a statute acre: he should, under any circumstances, be at least required to prove that he has *bonâ fide* offered to surrender such land.

3rd. In reference to your question whether if an occupier transfers to a third party all his right, title, and interest in the land, on condition of being allowed to occupy the house, such transfer, whether legal or not, is a sufficient cessation of occupation to entitle the person to relief, the Commissioners have to state that they cannot give an answer to such a general question; but if you will state any particular case in detail to the Commissioners, they will acquaint you with their opinion respecting it.

The Commissioners have read with much concern your statement in regard to the great distress in Feakle, but at the same time they feel bound to state that the relief which the relieving officer has afforded in certain extreme cases, without entering them on his Application and Report Book, because he knew

that they were disqualified, is at variance not only with the 10th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, but also with the 52nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, which prohibits the application of the rates, either directly or indirectly, in any manner not expressly provided for by law.

In fact, any expenditure so incurred by the relieving officer is liable to be disallowed by the auditor, and is, in fact, a breach of trust.

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Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 19, 1848.*

I AM again enabled to report favourably of the collection of the poor-rate. Since last Saturday, the 12th instant, the collectors have advised me of the receipt of 1077*l.* 5*s.* 0½*d.*

In all other respects, too, we are getting on in a satisfactory manner. In a word, the Poor Laws are now, I trust and believe, administered within the Scariff Union with vigour and efficiency.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 26, 1848.*

I AM to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the statements contained in your report.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 26, 1848.*

I HAVE nothing of material importance to communicate in this report; I have only briefly to state that everything is working well here.

The collectors have advised me of the receipt of 628*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, since last Saturday the 19th instant. A much larger amount would have been collected, had it not been for several of the collectors having to attend the assizes at Ennis.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 26, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of 15th instant, respecting new valuation of this Union, we have to state that the agreement entered into with Mr. Sampson for the valuation now in force was, that he should be paid 1*l.* 5*s.* per 1000 acres, and the sum he was paid was 242*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* We are of opinion that for an entirely new valuation of the Union, such as is requisite to ensure a fair and just collection of poor rates, and wherein every holding should be carefully distinguished and applotted, no less a sum than 300*l.* could be offered, so as to give the valuator a fair remuneration for his services. If, however, such assistance can be derived from Mr. Griffith's Townland Valuation, as will very materially lessen the trouble and expense of a new valuation, a lesser sum might be named.

In reply to your letter of the 17th instant, relative to the means of providing for the expenses of the Union after the 25th March next, we have to submit, as you desire, the following estimate of the probable weekly expenses of the Union under the different heads you require :—

	£.	s.	d.
1. Relief in the workhouse to 1500 persons, at 1 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> per week.	125	0	0
Establishment charges	50	0	0
	175	0	0
2. Relief out of the workhouse to 400 persons, entitled under 1st section Irish Relief Extension Act, at 8 <i>d.</i>	133	6	8
3. Relief to able-bodied, under 2nd section, 11,000 persons, at 7 <i>d.</i> each	320	16	8
	629	3	4
	3	U	2

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This estimate exceeds the rough sketch which we gave in our report of the 12th instant, but since then a large number has been added to our relief lists, and which we fear even the stringent test of labour will not much diminish.

Every week we hear of new instances of those who hold land, either voluntarily or by ejectment, giving up their holdings, and making application for relief. There is no doubt in many instances a reluctance to work, and many devices are used to endeavour to avoid it; but we are satisfied that real destitution exists to a sufficient degree to keep our relief lists well filled for some months. We are in hopes that as the year advances, and some demand arises for field labour, we may be relieved of a portion of the destitute, but we very much fear that a large number will remain unemployed during the summer.

We have put down the in-door paupers in our estimate as 1500, although the present number is about 1950. Our reason is, that we foresee the immediate necessity of discharging some hundreds, in order to guard against the bad effects which might arise from over-crowding, now that the weather has become milder.

The labour test is now being applied in all the electoral divisions, and we hope with good effect, so far as it goes; but we have only this morning received the orders from the Board of Works for the implements we last applied for. This has prevented our commencing the system of taskwork, which will afford a more effectual check to imposition.

The collection this week has made but slow progress, which is partly owing to the assizes for the county now going on at Ennis, and which takes a number of the larger ratepayers from their homes to attend as jurors.

We have been obliged to put a resolution on our minutes, requiring the punctual attendance of the collectors every Tuesday, on pain of being fined 1*l*. for absence.

We shall endeavour to urge the collectors next week to make better progress, and to take proceedings in all cases where they experience delay in payment. A good deal of difficulty exists in ascertaining the names of immediate lessors.

The following is the state of the collection to this date, as far as we have information:—

	This Week.			Total Received.			Remains Uncollected.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Tulla	210	0	0	1,969	15	0	1,821	14	5½
Fenkle				1,095	19	8	1,537	19	11
Killaloe	157	8	4	1,371	8	3½	1,406	14	5½
Ogunnella	27	16	8	441	2	2½	697	10	10½
Killuran	20	14	2	632	1	7	369	11	9½
Kilnoe	142	15	3	962	1	1	817	17	6½
Scariff	60	4	8	849	4	0	1,447	4	7
Woodford	55	0	0	981	11	1	951	16	0
Clonrush									
Mountshannon . .									
	673	14	1	8,303	■	11	9,050	9	7½

We have to report that the different houses occupied by the paupers are by degrees being brought into a more satisfactory state of order and cleanliness, and the greater part are now provided with clothing, and the whole with sufficient bedding.

We have been fitting up Hogan's house for the sick, and have made room for additional beds. This house we intend to appropriate to sick females. The house last taken from Molony, we are about preparing for sick male paupers.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 4, 1848.*

With reference to that part of your report which contains an estimate of the weekly expenses of the Union, I am to state that the Commissioners have applied to the British Association for 320*l*. to defray the expenses of out-door relief to the destitute able-bodied of the Union during the present week, and they will make a similar application during the next three weeks.

At the end of that time, the Commissioners trust that you will have discharged all the debts of the Union, and that you will thus be in excellent credit, and will not need any further assistance from the Commissioners.

The Commissioners rely on your not relaxing your exertions in the collection of the rates.

Scariff Union.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

NOTHING has transpired here during the past week worthy of remark. Fever is unfortunately somewhat on the increase. In other respects everything relating to the administration of the Poor Laws is in a satisfactory state.

The collectors of poor rates have advised me of the receipt of 704*l.* 5*s.* 4½*d.*, during the week ending this day.

	£	s.	d.
P.S.—Amount of current rate	17,35	123	5½
Amount collected	£9108		
Amount uncollected	8245		
	17,353	0	0

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

We have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, dated February 25, 1848, and March 2, 1848.

We shall endeavour to interpret the meaning of "occupancy of land" according to the letter of the law, and in accordance with your views, as far as in our power to do so, although we must acknowledge it still remains sufficiently obscure, and is a subject worthy of the revision of the legislature.

Any special cases of difficulty that may arise we shall report.

The cases which were reported by the relieving officer at Feakle as having been relieved without being entered on his book, shall be more particularly inquired into and reported on. Your observations on the subject were read to all the relieving officers, and they received specific instructions not to give relief in such cases.

Our out-door relief lists continue to increase from new applications, owing to the exhaustion of the little means of support possessed up to this time by many poor families who have now no further means to look to until the summer advances.

The number in the different houses is kept up by new admissions as fast as we can discharge those whom we can relieve outside with more economy.

The collection proceeds gradually, but more difficulty is to be expected in the collection of the latter part of the rate than the first, as those who had means at hand, were of course the first to pay. There is now much delay incurred and time occupied in attending sessions and prosecuting summonses. The imperfection of the valuation also renders the difficulty of levying the rate very great in many cases.

The collectors all attended on Tuesday, and had their accounts examined by the clerk.

Our estimate of this week's collection is as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Tulla	191	1	3
Feakle	48	0	0
Killaloe, &c.	250	16	2
Killuran	36	0	0
Kilnoe	91	3	7
Scariff	85	8	3
	702	9	3

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 8, 1848.*

REFERRING to your circular letter of the 2nd instant, I beg leave in the strongest manner to express my belief that the most fearful as well as direful consequences would result from a suspension on the 18th instant of out-door

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relief to able-bodied men. In short, the burden of supporting almost the whole of the labouring population is now thrown on the poor rates; for the farmers and their families are themselves performing all their own labour, and the little employment given by the eight resident proprietors, is scarcely felt as a relief to the mass of poverty existing within the Scariff Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will be so good as to inform the Commissioners whether the state of the Union is such that the provisions of the accompanying order to Listowel Union could be carried into effect.

It will be observed that under that order, single men, and men with only two children, would be thrown on their own resources.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 11, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge receipt of your several letters this week.

We have replied at length in a separate letter of this date to Mr. Reade's complaints.

We have received from Captain Hart the order on the depôt at Limerick for 320*l.* of provisions, which we intend to present on Monday, and have the provisions forwarded at once to Killaloe. It will, we fear, be necessary for us to hire a store for a depôt, and to appoint a person in charge to attend to the delivery of the provisions as required. An aid in money would have been much more useful and economical, as it would enable us to dispense with the staff and machinery necessary for the distribution. These expenses are now borne and the trouble undertaken by the contractor in each district where Indian meal is distributed. Until we know what sort of provisions we shall receive we cannot make arrangements for using it. We observe that you intend to apply for a similar aid for the next three weeks, and that you expect at the end of that time we shall have discharged all the debts of the Union, and be in such excellent credit as not to need any further assistance from you.

We beg respectfully to reply that we consider such an amount of aid will be wholly inadequate to the wants of the destitute poor, and that if we are to expect no more it will be necessary immediately to take measures to levy a new rate, without even waiting for a new valuation—a measure which we fear would be fraught with disastrous results in the present impoverished state of the Union. Much of the present collection was promptly and cheerfully paid under the impression that no new rate would be levied until next harvest if the present were readily collected. Hopes were encouraged that Government assistance would be lent during the summer to a sufficient extent to prevent the necessity of striking a new rate until the valuation was revised and a new harvest ready to be gathered. Whatever is to be done, we have here to express our hope that no time may be lost in giving us the necessary instructions how to proceed in obtaining a new valuation. A valuator ought to be immediately appointed.

We do not relax in our exertions to press forward the collection of the present rate, but we have now arrived at the difficult part where legal means must be resorted to; many districts occupied by tenants without crops or stock of any kind, with nothing to be seized on but their last blanket; immediate lessors who cannot be identified, and for the collection of whose rates we must wait until the 3rd April before serving the month's notice on the occupier, and when that month is expired we shall have nothing to look to but uncultivated and unstocked farms. We feel ourselves consequently placed in a very difficult position, and unless promptly and efficiently aided we fear the consequences will be lamentable. As to our credit being excellent, we admit that it is so at present, but if we should begin to fail in the fulfilment of our engagements our acquired credit would not last long. We have just advertised for our provision contracts for the next three months, from 25th instant, and before we conclude them we must be able to state to the contractors what are our proposals and intentions as to payment. The tenders we shall receive will be no doubt made on the faith of the contractors receiving

cash payments. We must explain to them our position before we ask them to bind themselves.

We have not yet paid for all the clothing we have been obliged to procure, and yet our funds in the hands of the treasurer are entirely exhausted this week, and we have only paid about 3000*l.* of the old debts, leaving nearly 3000*l.* still due.

The collection this week is as follows:—

	This Week.			Total Collected.			Uncollected.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Tulla	185	4	11	2,346	1	2	1,445	8	3½
Feakle				1,143	19	8	1,489	19	11
Killaloe	69	7	1½	1,691	11	7	1,086	11	1
Ogunnella	45	16	8½	486	18	11	651	14	2
Killuran	24	0	0	692	1	7	309	11	9½
Kilnoe	91	5	4	1,144	10	0	635	8	7½
Scariff	73	0	0	1,007	12	3	1,288	16	4
Woodford	35	16	0	250	3	2	233	13	8½
Clonrush				502	3	11	351	7	6½
Mountshannon				265	0	0	330	18	8½
	524	10	1	9,530	2	3	7,823	10	2½

We have to state, in explanation, that although a large sum appears to our credit on the 4th March at our treasurer's, it is occasioned by a number of checks not having been presented at that date, although previously drawn, and at this moment the total amount of the checks we have issued exceeds by more than 100*l.* the actual sums lodged with the treasurer to the last advice.

We have to call your attention earnestly to the fact that if we would save the people from starvation it will be absolutely necessary to extend the order for out-door relief generally to all classes for two months longer. The order for out-relief of widows with one child and for orphans, will expire on the 18th instant, and should be immediately renewed, as well as the order for out-relief to the able-bodied. We are most anxious to make arrangements to supply the food to this class in a cooked state, and also to enforce a more efficient system of labour, but the immediate pressure on us has been so great, within the workhouses and in the immediate neighbourhood of Scariff, that we have not had time to establish such an organization as we should wish. We are not perfectly satisfied with all our relieving officers, some of whom are very unsatisfactory in their accounts; but we see at present so much difficulty in removing them, and substituting others who might be strangers to the system and to the population, that we think it better to endure the present evil than incur the chance of a greater.

We have received a letter from Mr. Kerin with a statement of his claims, which are as follow:—

	£.	s.	d.
For William Dean, five checks, amount	72	6	4
Interest	1	18	7
Costs	13	4	0
	87	8	11
For Andrew Vance, one check, amount	32	6	10
Interest	0	19	4½
Costs	18	13	2½
	51	19	5

In reply we have written to Mr. Kerin that if he would send or present to us the above checks we would replace them by checks on the treasurer for a similar amount, but that we declined paying costs or interest. Mr. Kerin states that the costs were taxed in the presence of the solicitor then concerned for the Guardians, that his proceedings were by "a common-law subpoena suit by

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"*capias*," and that the solicitor gave him pleas of confession in both cases. We replied that we did not believe the Union was legally liable for such charges, but if they were recoverable by law it should be against those who signed the checks, knowing there were no funds to meet them, or against those who authorized a solicitor to enter a plea of confession.

Your circular, of 25th February, 1848, was received, relative to preparing and posting lists of persons receiving relief, and preparations are making to comply with it.

A case is reported in our minutes of 8th instant, of a woman having been found dead outside the door of the workhouse, and it is mentioned that a suspicion arose that she was brought there in order to secure her being buried with a coffin. We are informed, by good authority, that in many cases of deaths occurring to destitute persons on out-door relief, the bodies are buried privately by night, for the double purpose of concealing the want of a coffin and of avoiding the knowledge of the relieving officer, in the hope of the relief being still continued for the deceased person.

The number of cases of illness in the workhouses has been very much increased during the last fortnight, and all the sick wards are full. We are happy to state, however, that the mortality is not considerable, as the diseases are not generally of a malignant nature, being chiefly dysentery, diarrhoea, and a mild form of fever. We have, in consequence, been obliged to introduce a considerable portion of rice into the dietary. The number of sick and convalescent this day is about 300. The deaths during the week amount to 25.

The number in the workhouses this day :—

Union workhouse	869 chiefly females.
Tomgranny	235 men.
Kirby's	253 boys.
Clune's	152 women.
Hogan's	70 sick women and girls.
Molony's	71 sick men and boys.
Moynoe	350 girls.

2000

We are sorry to have to report that Mr. Shaw, the master of Moynoe workhouse, is very seriously ill with fever.

Since the foregoing report was written, we called on R. Routh, Esq., Assistant Commissary-General in Limerick, for the provisions mentioned in the order of the British Association. Mr. Routh informed us that there are no provisions in the dépôt in Limerick, but he assigned the order to the clerk commanding Her Majesty's ship "*Madagascar*," lying as a store-ship at Tarbert, 45 miles below Limerick. We have endorsed the order to the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company, who will send a boat alongside the "*Madagascar*" to receive the provisions, and who will have them conveyed by water to within about one mile of the Scariff workhouse, and for which they will charge us 8s. 4d. per ton. The quantity we have agreed to take is:—

30 tons of Indian meal, at 8l. 8s. per ton	£252 0
2½ tons of rye-meal, at 7l.	17 10
1½ ton barley meal, at 7l. 10s.	11 5
3 tons of biscuit, at 13l.	39 0
	319 15

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

WITH reference to your observations as to the supposed insufficiency of the aid obtained by the Commissioners from the British Association, the Commissioners regret to state that they have no reason to expect that the amount can be increased. The funds of the British Association are limited, and when

compared with the numerous and pressing claims upon them, are small in amount; and it is therefore absolutely necessary that the utmost vigilance and caution should be used in their distribution, so that by judiciously husbanding the resources of the Association they may be made as extensively available as possible throughout the distressed districts of Ireland. In carrying out this view it is necessary to consider not only the state of Scariff Union, but also the state of other distressed Unions in Ireland, in many of which the distress is greater, and the means of alleviating it more limited than at Scariff.

The Commissioners are aware that the comparatively superior position of Scariff Union is to a great extent owing to your exertions in conjunction with Captain Hart; they entertain a high sense of those exertions, and they confidently trust that you will be enabled by a continuation of them to carry on efficiently the relief of the destitute poor without further external aid than has already been awarded.

The rate now in course of collection was, the Commissioners believe, estimated by you to last till the 25th March, and, judging from the statements in your report, the Commissioners hope that it may be found sufficient for some weeks beyond that period, as it appears that there is still nearly 8000*l.* uncollected, and the debts of the Union, including the amount due for clothing, cannot, the Commissioners presume, much exceed 3000*l.*, so that after making allowance for irrecoverable arrears there should still be a considerable surplus available. The advances from the British Association, which will amount in the whole to 1280*l.*, will of course increase the amount, and enable you to calculate that your available resources will extend to a still further period; and the Commissioners cannot but think that, after paying off so large an accumulation of debt as you have done, you may reasonably ask from the treasurer of the Union, and from the contractors, such an extension of credit as will enable you to carry on the affairs of the Union without making an additional rate during the few months that must elapse before the new valuation (for the immediate commencement of which the Commissioners are now in treaty with a competent person) is completed.

The Commissioners will, in compliance with your wishes, request that the two advances which are yet to be made by the British Association may be in money, and not in food.

The Commissioners are in correspondence with Captain Hart on the subject of the renewal of the out-door relief order, and they will take care that the present order (which will continue in force until the 24th instant) shall not be allowed to expire without a new order being issued, or some further directions given in the matter. It does not appear to be necessary to renew the order of the 18th January, which authorizes out-door relief to certain classes of persons not comprised within the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, inasmuch as you have full authority under the order of the 24th January to relieve all classes of destitute persons, including those named in the order of the 18th instant.

The Commissioners will, in compliance with your request, endeavour to obtain for you instructions as to the best manner of baking rye and barley meal.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 12, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing a copy of an order authorizing out-door relief, under certain limitations, to the poor of Listowel Union.

In reply thereto, I beg leave to represent that, as almost the entire of the labouring population of Scariff Union are reduced to the deepest state of destitution, it would not be safe to place any restriction whatever in the grant of out-door relief to all classes.

At present there is scarcely any employment for the labouring poor, and from the prospects before us I have but too much reason to fear that the period intervening between this and next harvest will be one of severe trial; but, that point once weathered, I trust that afterwards all may go on well.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will be so good as to inform the Commissioners whether in your opinion there may safely be a suspension or modification of the order under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, on the 1st April next.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 12, 1848.*

I REGRET that I cannot report any diminution, or even present prospect of a diminution of the destitution existing within this Union. The labour test is duly applied to those on the out-door relief lists, and I am certain that every able-bodied person will escape to independent labour whenever and wherever it offers.

During the past week the collectors have advised me of the receipt of but 490*l.* 6*s.* 9½*d.*

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, in which I am requested to inform the Commissioners whether in my opinion there may safely be a suspension or modification of the order authorizing out-door relief, under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, on the 1st of April next.

In reply thereto I beg leave to state my conviction that, as there is no prospect of any employment (except to a very limited extent) for the labouring population before next harvest, it would consequently not be possible to discontinue out-door relief to the able-bodied at so early a period.

The Commissioners are aware that out-door relief to the able-bodied is rigidly refused to those residing in the only electoral division out of the ten (that of Mountshannon) in which employment may be obtained; and I propose to discontinue it in one or more of the least populous electoral divisions immediately the new wing buildings are completed. These will accommodate from 300 to 400 persons; and we have now about 2,000 under roof.

Unfortunately, fever, dysentery, and diarrhoea prevail to a considerable extent throughout the Union, as well as in the workhouses, and it would not, therefore, be desirable to make any increase in our present number of in-door paupers. We are also much in want of an additional medical officer, as a permanent arrangement; and I have requested the Vice-Guardians to bring the matter at once under the notice of the Commissioners. I would suggest that Moynoe workhouse and the houses in Scariff be placed under the separate charge of another medical man; and that Doctor Egan confine his attendance to the Scariff workhouse and Tomgraney; which is quite enough for one man to efficiently attend to.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 20, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have given instructions for the continuation of the order for another month.

With regard to your remarks respecting the appointment of an additional medical officer, I am to state that the Commissioners will give the subject their consideration.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 15th instant. We have received from Captain Hart a second order from the British Association for food to the value of 320*l.*

In our last report we stated the quantity we applied for, and we have since

received the official return of the quantity delivered to our order, and which is now in a boat on the way to Scariff, viz.:—

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	£.	s.	d.
60,200 lbs. Indian corn meal, at 8 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>s.</i> per ton	225	15	0
3,360 lbs. barley meal, at 7 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> per ton	11	15	0
5,600 lbs. rye meal, at 7 <i>l.</i> per ton	17	10	0
6,720 lbs. biscuit, at 13 <i>l.</i> per ton	39	0	0
	294	0	0
247 sacks, at 1 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i> each	23	13	5
60 bags, at 1 <i>s.</i> each	3	0	0
	320	13	5

By this you will perceive we have only received 29*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* in food, and have to allow 26*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* for sacks and bags, which are of no use to us. We hope we shall be allowed for them when returned.

We shall endeavour to distribute this food to the best advantage among the really destitute, but at the same time must acknowledge that in the present state of our Union, the amount of this aid bears a very small proportion to our wants. We are aware that the demands on the funds of the British Association are very great, and that there are worse cases of distress to be met in other Unions with less resources.

We must therefore express our thanks on behalf of the ratepayers, and of the recipients of this bounty, for the aid thus afforded them by the benevolence of the members of the British Association.

In order to obtain a clear sight of our position we have examined the state of the accounts of receipts and expenditure since 28th October last, the date of our appointment, when the debts of the Union were about 6000*l.*, and nothing to meet them or to provide for immediate necessities. We here submit a statement which will of course be revised and corrected to 25th March:—

	£.	s.	d.
Amount received as loan from Commissioners	200	0	0
Ditto ditto ditto	110	0	0
Amount received as loan from British Association	200	0	0
Amount of collection to this date	10,159	15	1
Amount of debts due by Vice-Guardians	1,687	17	4
	12,357	12	5

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Paid old debts, amount	3,043	1	1			
Paid for out relief	3,849	1	4			
„ provisions	2,041	10	0			
„ clothing account	1,735	17	5			
„ medicines	45	9	9			
„ coffins	31	19	2			
„ fuel	102	15	0			
„ books, stationery, &c.	82	2	5			
„ building, repairs, &c.	378	8	8			
„ salaries	201	15	0			
„ miscellaneous	392	5	3			
„ fever hospital	453	7	4			
	12,357	12	5			

The rate uncollected is				7,193	17	4
Old debts still due, about	3,000	0	0			
Debts due by the Vice-Guardians	1,687	17	4			
Poundage on rate	850	0	0			
Balance	1,656	0	0			
	7,193	17	4			

Scariff Union.

	£.	s.	d.
Of the above debts due by the Vice-Guardians, there are for out-relief	530	0	0
Provisions for workhouse	200	0	0
Clothing &c., ...	583	0	0
Miscellaneous	92	0	0
Due to treasurer	282	17	4
	1,687	17	4

Collection this week is as follows:—

		Total Received.			Uncollected.				
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Tulla	152	0	0	2,498	1	2	1,293	8	3½
Feakle	19	0	0	1,162	19	8	1,470	19	11
Killaloe	116	13	6½	1,808	5	1½	969	17	6½
Ogunnella	9	6	5½	496	5	4½	642	7	8½
Killuran	37	0	0	729	1	7	272	11	9½
Kilnoe	122	6	0	1,266	16	9	513	1	10½
Scariff	60	6	1	1,067	18	4	1,228	10	3
Woodford	105	12	1½	355	15	3½	128	1	7
Clonrush				502	3	11	351	7	6½
Mountshannon	7	7	10½	272	7	10½	323	10	10
Total	629	12	10	10,159	15	1	7,193	17	4½

In Feakle the difficulty of collection is very great, much of the land being deserted, and no stock to be found or any property to take possession of. In Ogunnella and Clonrush it is much the same. In many cases where immediate lessors are rated, we must wait until the occupiers can be proceeded against as the immediate lessors cannot be found.

Mr. Crotty, the collector for Kilnoe, is decidedly the best and most active collector we have, and has nearly brought his collection to a close. Mr. Taylor, the collector for Scariff, is also a good and active collector, but unfortunately he caught a heavy cold by being exposed to incessant rain in performing his duties, the week before last, and has been this week confined to his bed. Mr. Scanlan, the collector for Killaloe, has not given entire satisfaction, and is not we think proceeding as actively as he might. He states that he cannot get on at all in Ogunnella in consequence of the poverty of the people. Mr. Molony, the collector for the Connaught district, has been evidently neglecting his duties for the last two weeks, and is very unsatisfactory in his reports.

We are now experiencing the difficult part of the collection, and cannot expect it to proceed as quickly or as satisfactorily as hitherto. We had all the collectors before us on Tuesday, and impressed on them the necessity of taking legal proceedings at once against all defaulters.

It is our intention, in making our contracts next week, to stipulate with each contractor for three or four months' credit if we should require it, although by so doing we fear we may not be able to obtain all our contracts on quite as low terms as if we promised to pay cash.

We shall also act on your suggestion, and apply to the treasurer for an advance if you will obtain the necessary guarantee from Government for payment of interest, although even with this guarantee we doubt very much the success of such an application.

As to future prospects, we calculate that a rate averaging 2s. 6d. in the pound would be necessary on a valuation of 48,000l., to carry on the relief in this Union for three months from the time our present resources are exhausted, and if we receive no other aid than what you have intimated.

We fully concur with Captain Hart as to the necessity for renewing the order for out-door relief to all classes, as the destitution still exists and will we have no doubt continue to exist during the summer, unless some sources of employment arise, of which there seem but little prospect at present. The landed proprietors and farmers appear to be blind to their own interest, in not making some exertion to employ the paupers in their respective districts in such works as would be of some durable value, such as repairing roads and passages now in a sad state of

neglect. By consenting to a county rate for the repairs of roads, they might lessen the amount of poor rates and receive some value, whereas they are now receiving none.

The necessity for continued out-door relief to all classes is the more urgent, as the sickness within the workhouse has very much increased, and the deaths weekly are now double what they were a month ago. In consequence of the prevalence and extent of dysentery and diarrhoea, we found it expedient to discontinue the use of brown bread, and to substitute white bread for the paupers generally. Owing to the scarcity of milk at this season we have determined to give a portion of coffee to mix with the milk as a part of the daily dietary, instead of milk alone. The properties of the coffee will, we hope, contribute to check the prevalent diseases.

We see a strong necessity for a resident apothecary and an additional medical officer, for Dr. Egan is quite unable to perform all the necessary duties unaided. He had an assistant for a while at his own expense, but unfortunately the person he employed is at present in fever. We are sorry also to have to report the continued illness of Mr. Shaw, and we fear there is but small chance of his recovery. We should regret him as a very valuable officer. Our assistant master, Mr. Farrell, is also in fever, so that we find ourselves at much inconvenience, and many irregularities in the houses are the consequence. We are looking for some person capable of taking temporary charge of Moynoe house, in the capacity of master. If the Commissioners could recommend a person suitable for the office, in case of need, it might be an advantage, as our meeting such a person at once is very uncertain.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 18th instant, relative to the Scariff Union.

The Commissioners rely on the continuance of your exertions to have the rates collected as closely as possible, and to make such arrangements with the contractors and treasurer of the Union as may best enable you to carry on the affairs of the Union till another rate can be made available; the Commissioners will at once apply for authority to guarantee the payment of interest on learning that there is a probability of your being able to obtain an advance from the treasurer, and on being informed of the amount of the advance contemplated, and the rate of interest proposed, which the Commissioners think should not exceed 5 per cent.

With regard to the two collectors whom you refer to as not being satisfactory, the Commissioners wish to be informed whether you consider it desirable that they should be removed. Probably, however, it may not be deemed expedient, so near the close of the collection, to delay its completion by a change of collectors.

The Commissioners have already given directions for the renewal of the authority to give out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act; they trust, however, that as the season advances the numbers requiring relief under that section will be reduced and the rate of expenditure on this head diminished, and that in this way the difficulties of the Union may be in some degree lessened.

The Commissioners much regret the prevalence of sickness in the Union, and under the circumstances they will readily sanction the appointment of an additional medical officer, and also of a resident apothecary; though under ordinary circumstances they would prefer that the apothecary should not reside in the workhouse.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 19, 1848.*

It is with very deep regret that I have to report that Mr. Shaw, the master of the Moynoe workhouse, died at five o'clock yesterday morning, after an illness of rather more than three weeks' duration. This case at first assumed that of fever, accompanied with cough and spitting of blood; but within the last few days jaundice supervened, and the poor fellow had not sufficient stamina to sustain him through severe illness.

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Unfortunately the assistant master of the Scariff workhouse is at present laid up with fever, as is also the porter who was in charge of Tomgraney, and other of the attendants. The long-continued cold and damp weather has doubtless chiefly contributed to occasion the great extent of sickness now existing not only within our establishment, but also throughout the Union. I trust, however, that the change of diet and a little fine weather will have a salutary effect upon the health of the paupers. But it is indispensable that an additional medical officer should be appointed, and also a *resident apothecary*; for, with scattered establishments containing 2,000 inmates, it is utterly impossible for *one* medical man to duly attend to all the sick. A young man whom Dr. Egan engaged as an assistant is laid up with fever.

The inhabitants generally of this Union have sustained a most severe loss in the recent death of three medical men, Doctors Purdon, Twiss, and Frazer; the two latter of fever; and in this populous but very poor and miserable locality, there is but one medical man (Dr. Egan) resident in a circle of many miles extent.

The collection of poor rates this week amounts but to 419*l.*; this sum would not have been so small had not the collector for Scariff been laid up with fever.

In short, there is so much sickness here that the clerk was obliged to go to Limerick yesterday and bring back an assistant, as otherwise it would be impossible to keep account and other matters square.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

I AM to express the regret of the Commissioners at the prevalence of sickness in the Union.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners will readily sanction the appointment of a second medical officer as suggested; and under the peculiar circumstances of the Scariff Union, they will not object to a resident apothecary.

Mr. FISHER, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

WE have not ceased in our exertions to endeavour to have the rate collected as quickly as possible, and use every opportunity to urge the collectors to take proceedings against defaulters. The imperfections of the rate-books make it advisable in many cases to endeavour to collect the rate without resort to the law, as the identity of particular holdings would in many instances be difficult to prove with accuracy.

We are sorry to have to report a very small collection this week:—

		Total collected.	Uncollected.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Tulla	34 0 0	2,532 1 2	1,259 8 3½
Feakle	37 0 0	1,199 19 8	1,433 19 11
Killaloe	78 19 0	1,887 4 1½	890 18 6½
Ogunnella	8 6 0	504 11 4½	634 1 8½
Killuran	27 0 0	756 1 7	245 11 9½
Kilno	67 3 4	1,334 0 1	445 18 6½
Scariff	..	1,067 18 4	1,228 10 3
Woodford	..	355 15 3½	128 1 7
Clonrush	..	502 3 11	351 7 6½
Mount Shannon . .	..	272 7 10½	328 10 10
	252 8 4	10,412 3 5	6,941 9 0½

Mr. Taylor, collector for the Scariff electoral division, still continues confined to bed with illness.

We think it would be well to commence a new valuation at once, so as to have all ready for making a rate on the 1st of August.

The contracts entered into have appeared on our minutes of 23rd instant. It is satisfactory that we were able to agree with the contractors for Indian meal and milk not to require payment until after the 1st August.

We were not able to conclude the bread contract in consequence of requiring six months' credit, and have, therefore, adjourned our decision until next Wednesday.

day. If we cannot agree for a satisfactory price with four to five months' credit for bread, we propose to get hot-hearths at once erected in the workhouse for baking Indian meal bread, as is done in the Limerick workhouse.

At present the health of the paupers seems to require the use of white bread.

We shall have a communication with the treasurer relative to an advance for the use of the Union, not to exceed 5000*l.*, on security of the rates.

The clerk has received the order for extending out-door relief to the able-bodied for one month, to 24th April. Every exertion shall be made by us to reduce the out-relief lists where it can be done without danger to the lives of the recipients. Some further inspection and control are required over the acts of the relieving officers and the superintendents of labour, which are now liable to much abuse.

We regret much to have to report several deaths among the officers of the Union since last week:—

Mr. Shaw, the master of the Moynoe workhouse.

Mr. Farrell, the assistant master of the Scariff workhouse.

Mr. Michael Kerwick, relieving officer of the Tulla electoral division.

Mr. Magrath, the medical assistant to Dr. Egan.

The first three were most useful, active, and intelligent officers, and are a serious loss to the establishment. Mr. Magrath was not an officer of the Union, but was a young man of promising abilities, and would apparently have been a useful assistant in the medical department.

We shall lose no time in seeking for a medical officer to divide the duties with Dr. Egan, and for an apothecary to reside on the premises, and shall report the result of our inquiries. It is most essential to the lives of the paupers that no unnecessary time should be lost.

In affording medical relief to out-door paupers, we wish to have the opinion of the Commissioners as to the best mode of remunerating the medical attendant; whether it should be by yearly salary, or by so much for each case. Where there are dispensary districts, an arrangement might be made by subscribing a certain amount to the dispensary funds, and authorizing the relieving officer to give tickets to the sick poor, entitling them to medicine and medical attendance. We have a proposal for such an arrangement from Mr. W. H. Blackton, surgeon to the Woodford Dispensary.

P.S.—I regret to have to add to this report that my colleague, Mr. John Christy, is unable to sign it owing to severe illness. He attended as usual on Tuesday last, although then evidently very ill. He was obliged to return home on Thursday and take to his bed. The doctor has pronounced him to be in fever, and I fear he will not be able to attend to his duties for some weeks. I shall be quite able to fulfil all the duties with the kind assistance of Captain Hart.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 31, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have met with some difficulty and delay which they did not anticipate in the negotiation which they entered into for a new valuation of the Union. They have now, however, so far completed an arrangement with a gentleman who has already valued several Unions for the poor-rate, that they have no doubt that the work will be immediately commenced; and although they do not expect that the entire valuation will be ready by the 1st of August, they have no doubt that it will be completed in many of the electoral divisions either before or soon after that date.

The Commissioners will be glad to hear the result of your application to the treasurer for a loan, in order that they may take the necessary steps to obtain authority to guarantee the payment of interest.

With reference to your observation that some further inspection and control is required over the acts of the relieving officers, the Commissioners request that you will explain your views more specifically on this head. The Commissioners would approve of the appointment of a general overseer of labour, whose duty it would be to act as a check on the local overseers, and the Commissioners wish to know whether you propose any arrangement of the same kind in reference to the relieving officers.

The Commissioners have read with much concern your statement of the deaths among the Union officers; they regret also to learn that Mr. Christy is confined by severe illness, and they have thought it advisable to request Captain Hart to act as Vice-Guardian in conjunction with yourself during Mr. Christy's illness.

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In regard to your inquiry as to the best mode of remunerating the medical attendant for affording medical relief to out-door poor, the Commissioners desire to state that, except in cases of sudden and urgent necessity, they do not think that medical relief should be given out of the workhouse, unless by a medical officer regularly appointed under the 5th section of the Act. No such appointment has yet been made in the Scariff Union; but the Commissioners will give their best consideration to any proposition you may make to them with the view of obtaining their authority for such an appointment. In the few appointments which have yet been made under the 5th section, the medical officer's remuneration is by a fixed salary, and the Commissioners doubt whether the proposal to subscribe to a dispensary, and to authorize the relieving officers to give tickets to the sick poor entitling them to medicine and medical attendance, would be so desirable as the appointment of a medical officer under the 5th section.

The Commissioners have already addressed the Board of Health with reference to the prevalence of sickness in the Scariff Union, and the Commissioners believe that Board is now making inquiries on the subject; and in considering the propriety of appointing a medical officer under the 5th section of the Act, it should be borne in mind that the Board of Health has full power to make adequate provision for the relief of the sick poor.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain HART:—*March 29, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received a report from Mr. Fisher, from which they learn with much regret that Mr. Christy is disabled by fever from discharging his duties as Vice-Guardian of Scariff Union.

Mr. Fisher states that, with your assistance, he will be quite able to fulfil all the duties; and the Commissioners have deemed it advisable to appoint you temporarily Vice-Guardian of Scariff Union at a nominal salary; and they will feel much obliged to you if, under the circumstances of the case, you will be so good as to act in conjunction with Mr. Fisher in the capacity of Vice-Guardian during Mr. Christy's illness.

The Commissioners do not anticipate that any material additional labour will be imposed upon you by this appointment, and they trust that the necessity for it will not be of long continuance.

Captain HART to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 1, 1848.*

I REGRET to have to state that sickness (although apparently on the decline) still exists to a considerable extent; and the loss we have sustained by the recent death of several valuable servants, and by the absence, owing to sickness, of others, is severely felt.

That any one medical man could afford due attendance upon all our numerous sick is an utter impossibility, and I therefore now pass several hours daily in visiting them, and seeing their wants attended to, ordering the diet of some, and administering medicine to others.

We hope during next week to secure the services of a second medical officer and of a resident apothecary, both of which are much needed.

We are also much in want of two or three efficient additional officers, and it is equally necessary that we should get rid of those whom we find unequal to the proper discharge of their duties.

We also wish to have the Commissioners' authority to appoint an officer whose duties would be, to immediately control the relieving officers; to be present at the issue of out-door relief; to visit (and institute inquiry on the spot) such parties as are alleged to be unlawfully receiving relief, and in short to be an effectual check upon the relieving officers. For this duty we should require a person of a superior grade, and we think that a salary of 2*l.* per week would not be too large.

We should likewise wish to appoint a head superintendent of labour, and with these additional officers we shall be enabled to keep the male part of the establishment in good working trim. But as regards the female part of the establishment, much remains to be accomplished, as at present there is no employment for

women except washing clothes and cleaning the houses. I should be thankful to receive the Commissioners' instructions as to the steps to be adopted towards providing employment for females.

During the past fortnight the collectors have notified the receipt of 695*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* In numerous cases it will be extremely difficult to collect much of the outstanding poor-rates. On Monday and Tuesday, however, several cases of rescue will be adjudicated upon by the assistant barrister, and I trust that a fresh impetus will be thus given to the collection.

It was with much concern that I read in a communication from the Commissioners to the Vice-Guardians that they could not hold out a prospect of a further donation from the British Relief Association. I sincerely trust that the Commissioners may be induced to give this important question reconsideration; and in expressing this hope, I beg leave to assure the Commissioners that I am duly impressed with the necessity which exists for husbanding the resources of the Association; indeed I have all along considered it as a sacred fund, to be drawn upon only in cases of the most urgent need, and thus it is that I have never applied for a single shilling to provide rations and clothing to school children, because I considered that we should greatly need every farthing which the Association could spare to any one Union for direct poor relief purposes, and that with the best control which our limited means could establish at least three-fourths of the charity would have been misapplied at the schools.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your report, dated the 1st instant, relative to Scariff Union.

The Commissioners are prepared to sanction the appointment of an officer as proposed by you, to control and act as a check upon the relieving officers. They are also prepared to sanction the appointment of a competent person as head superintendent of labour.

As regards the employment of the female inmates of the several workhouses in the Union, the Commissioners think that, in addition to washing clothes and cleaning the houses, the females may be usefully employed in sewing, knitting, and in making up the clothes required for the use of the workhouse.

With reference to your request that the question of further assistance from the British Relief Association may be re-considered, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they trust that for the present at least the Vice-Guardians will be able to dispense with the need of any assistance from the British Relief Association. At the same time the Commissioners admit that the absence in Scariff Union of any relief to school children from that Association is a point which ought not to be lost sight of in considering their application for direct assistance in aid of the poor rates.

Mr. FISHER, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 1, 1848.*

WE have again to report a small collection for the week; the collectors attended on Tuesday, except Mr. Taylor, who had not quite recovered from his illness, but I am glad to state he has been able this day to resume his duties.

The collectors for Tulla, Feakle, Killiman, and Mount Shannon, report that they have several cases of process and of rescue to be tried at the quarter sessions of Killaloe on Tuesday next, on which occasion Captain Hart and I intend to be present. Molony, the collector for Clonrush and Woodford, has seven processes to be tried at Portumna on Monday, the 3rd inst.

The collector for Killaloe electoral division states, that he has 73 warrants to receive from the magistrates against defaulters at the next petty sessions at Killaloe. It appears to be the practice with the magistrates, when parties are summoned before the petty sessions for non-payment of poor rates, to delay issuing the warrants until the next day of sessions, which sometimes does not occur for a fortnight, and by these means much delay and additional trouble is experienced by the collectors, besides giving time to those who are disposed to evade payment to remove their stock or effects out of the way. In one instance it was stated to us by Sullivan, the collector for Tulla electoral division, that by this delay one of the

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magistrates, who was on the bench when a warrant was ordered against one of his tenants for poor-rates, made use of the interval to seize his tenant's effects for rent, by which means there was no property left to seize when the collector received the magistrate's warrant.

So much delay has taken place in collecting the amounts rated against immediate lessors, that we have been obliged to call on all the collectors by minute to furnish lists of defaulters, that we may consult as to what proceedings it is best to adopt against them.

We have to bear testimony generally to the proper conduct of the farmers in this Union in paying their rates cheerfully and promptly, but, from whatever cause, we do not experience the same readiness on the part of the landed proprietors, with some honourable exceptions.

Mr. Marcus Pattison, whose correspondence with the Commissioners on the subject of the 7s. 6d. rate has been printed in the Fifth Series of Papers, had not paid any part of his rate on Tuesday last, when the collector gave in his report.

We have to complain of the conduct of agents of the properties of absentees in this Union, who frequently refuse to pay the rates of their principals unless the collector attends at their offices in Limerick, Ennis, or wherever they may be, to point out all particulars. We think it ought to be the duty of those gentlemen to come to Scariff and examine the rate-books, so as to satisfy themselves, and not to put the collector to the expense and delay of travelling to a distance out of his district for their convenience. In many cases of absentee proprietors it is difficult to find the agent or to make him pay; we wish to know how to act in cases where the immediate lessor is residing in England or in a foreign country.

Some of these difficulties will be obviated under a new valuation, as we shall have the immediate lessor rated by name in all cases where he can be ascertained. In our present rate-books there is not a single instance where the name of the immediate lessor is inserted.

The amount collected this week is 299*l.* 16*s.* 9½*d.*, particulars as follows:—

	This Week.			Total.			Uncollected.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Tulla	102	2	5	2,634	3	7	1,157	5	10½
Feakle	73	16	3	1,273	15	11	1,360	3	8
Killaloe	..	..	..	1,887	4	1½	890	18	6½
Ogunillo	18	9	6	523	0	10½	615	12	2½
Killuran	41	0	0	197	1	7	204	11	9½
Kilnoe	51	0	0	1,385	0	1	394	18	6½
Scariff	..	..	..	1,067	18	4	1,228	10	..
Woodford	..	..	..	355	15	3½	128	1	7
Clonrush	4	11	4	506	15	3	346	16	2½
Mountshannon	8	17	3½	281	5	2	314	13	6½
Total	292	16	9½	10,712	0	2½	6,641	12	2½

We are very glad to find that the arrangements for securing the services of a valuator of the Union are so nearly completed, and that the work will be commenced immediately.

We have written to the treasurer, explaining the situation of the Union, stating the security afforded by the rates, and the guarantee we expected to receive for payment of interest, and asking an advance of money from time to time, as required, not to exceed 5000*l.*, at 5 per cent. per annum, and to be paid out of next rate.

We have not been able yet to conclude a satisfactory contract for bread, owing to the high price demanded by those who would be willing to remain six months without payment. The cost of bread for the week, owing to being obliged to use white bread for all the paupers, is about 90*l.* We have an offer to supply white bread of best quality for six months at 6½*d.* per 4 lbs., and brown bread at 5½*d.* per 4 lbs., and no payment to be required until 1st October next. We have another offer to supply white bread at 6½*d.* per 4 lbs. for three months, and payment to be then made.

The cash price of white bread is 6*d.* per 4 lbs. at present, but we have offers to supply it for three months at 5½*d.*, on condition of being paid weekly.

To take a contract for three months at 6½*d.* per 4 lbs., to be then paid, would be equivalent to allowing interest at the rate of 145*l.* 9*s.* per cent. per annum.

To take a contract for six months at 6½d. per lb., to be paid 1st October, would be equivalent to allowing interest at the rate of 90l. 18s. per cent. per annum.

This may give some idea of the high rate of interest paid by the late Board of Guardians on taking supplies for the workhouse on credit at advanced prices, and it is a system we are most anxious not to imitate.

In the contracts for meal and milk, we think the prices agreed for are very reasonable, and not much (if at all) above the ordinary cash prices.

We think it advisable, as soon as possible, to have ovens erected, to enable us to bake Indian meal on the premises, as it is done in Limerick workhouse, but, in the meantime, you will perceive that it would be better for us to pay 10 or 20 per cent. per annum interest for money than to pay a farthing per lb. additional in order to obtain credit.

We have received from the Commissariat at Tarbert, for the second order of the British Association, through Captain Hart:—

	£.	s	d.
15½ tons of Indian meal, at 8l. 8s. per ton	130	4	0
7½ tons of barley meal, at 7l. 14s. per ton	56	5	0
9½ tons of rye meal, at 7l. per ton	66	10	0
3 tons of biscuits, at 13l. per ton	39	0	0
	291	19	0
260 sacks, charge at 1s. 11d. each	24	18	4
60 bags, at 1s.	3	0	0
	319	17	4

We have also received from Captain Hart two orders for money from the British Association, amounting to 640l., which have been lodged with the treasurer.

The clothing of the paupers being still very deficient, and much of it out of repair, we have been obliged to order materials to the amount of about 70l.

We have had a visit from the sub-sheriff who presented two writs, one on behalf of Mr. Vance, for 87l. 8s. 11d.; and one on behalf of Mr. Deane, for 51l. 19s. 4d., both dated 31st January, 1848, and returnable the 15th April; unless some arrangements be made before that day, it will be the duty of the sheriff to sell the furniture seized.

At present there appears only one of two courses to pursue, viz., either to allow the sheriff to proceed with the sale, and to become the purchasers ourselves, in which case we think we should obtain the goods at a nominal value, or to pay the full amount of both writs, with costs to the sheriff, and so end the matter.

Not being satisfied that proceedings have been in legal form as against a Board of Guardians, or that the checks were duly presented and protested, for non-payment at the bank, we do not feel inclined to pay the full amount of the writs. It is a question with us whether the issuing of such cheques by the Board of Guardians was legal, and whether Mr. Vance's suit should not have been against those Guardians who signed the cheques. Taking this view of the question, we are rather inclined to allow the sale to proceed.

We continue to be much annoyed in many ways by the operation of the quarter acre clause. It seems almost impossible, in many cases, to determine whether the person who has had land in his possession, has really ceased to occupy. In almost all cases the tenant, who has land and seeks relief attempts a deception.

We have reports every week from the relieving officers, of houses of paupers being thrown down in some cases with the consent of the tenants, who cannot by other means become entitled to relief, and in others by legal process of ejectment enforced by the sheriff.

We are aware that in many instances the landlords are not to blame for endeavouring to get into possession of property for which they are liable to pay heavy rates, but out of which they can obtain no rent.

These processes, however, tend to increase our embarrassment by rapidly increasing the number of paupers.

I have a list of 10 persons who have voluntarily given up their land and houses, in Sheane and Cappabaun, in the electoral division of Scariff, in order, as they say, to entitle them to get into the workhouse, or receive out-door relief.

The houses of these persons were immediately thrown down by the drivers of

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Thomas Sampson, Esq., who is the agent. The property belongs to John Sampson, a lunatic, the tenants thus dispossessed, owed rent to the amount of 101*l.*, together with poor rate and county cess, and some of them received money for giving peaceable possession.

While this system is going on so extensively around us, it is impossible for us to reduce our relief lists, having besides no workhouse test to offer.

The number of names on the relief lists, is so great, that they are not yet prepared for being posted up in the several electoral divisions, and the relieving officers are by no means quick in their operations, we hope to have them all ready next week.

The inspection we consider necessary to be exercised over the relieving officers would be partly answered by the appointment of an overseer of labour, but we would also desire that the same person should investigate cases of relief, to others than the able-bodied, wherever complaints were made of the relieving officer. We think the appointment of a respectable person at a salary of 2*l.* per week, would be advisable, with a certain allowance for travelling from one electoral division to another, each of which he should visit weekly.

The mortality in the workhouse last week, was very considerable, 37 having died; I thought it necessary to get a special report from the medical officer in consequence. Several of the deaths occurred at Moynoe House, and we think much of the illness there was caused by insufficient clothing, a deficiency of which we have been endeavouring to remedy as quickly as possible. Captain Hart, and I visited Moynoe House on Friday, and inspected it very closely, we were pleased to find the number of invalids much reduced, and the diseases of the children generally not of a malignant type, of the deaths last week ending 25th March, there were in all the houses:—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Typhus Fever	..	1	..	1	2
Hectic Fever	..	..	..	2	2
Remittent Fever	..	..	1	1	2
Gastric Fever	..	..	■	..	3
Small-pox	..	..	..	1	1
Diarrhœa after Fever	2	4	..	9	15
Dentition	..	..	3	..	3
Chronic Dysentery	3	2	..	1	6
Wasting of the System	1	..	..	1	2
Organic Disease of Stomach	1	..	..	..	1
Total	7	7	7	16	37

We are satisfied that so much illness is caused by want of proper ventilation, that we are determined at once to adopt the plan suggested in Dr. Collins's pamphlet on the prevention of contagious diseases.

We have a medical officer in view for the workhouse, whose appointment we shall recommend, in addition to Dr. Egan, as heretofore proposed, and at a salary of 70*l.* per annum. We have also heard of a person who would be well suited to act as resident apothecary, but we may not be able to obtain his services for a few weeks.

We think it very desirable to have medical officers appointed in several districts of this Union, either by the Board of Health, or by us under the 5th section of the Act; as there is no more prevalent causes of destitution in this country, than neglected cases of disease, before recommending any individual appointment, we wish to be informed what ought to be the duties of such medical officers, and what scale of salaries would be sanctioned by the Commissioners. The dispensary physicians might be induced to act in their respective districts, both for the purposes of vaccination and general medical relief, and they should also contract for the necessary supply of medicines. We shall await the result of the inquiries now making by the Board of Health.

We have received a communication from the treasurer and medical officer of the temporary fever hospital at Feakle, who attended our Board on Wednesday last, and they state that "in consequence of the frightful increase of fever throughout the country, the number in their hospital has been increased within the last fortnight to 80; but having only bedding for 50, it was necessary to place many of them two in a bed." As they state there is room in the hospital for 80 beds,

I have written to the Board of Health to authorize that number, and we shall then supply the additional quantity of bedding.

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REPLY to the foregoing :—April 10, 1848.

THE Commissioners will bring under the notice of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that part of your report which relates to the practice of the magistrates to delay issuing warrants for recovery of poor rates until the next petty sessions day after conviction, and to the case in which a magistrate who was in the bench when a warrant was ordered against one of his tenants, took advantage of the interval to distrain for rent, thus leaving no effects to be taken under the magistrates' warrant when granted.

The Commissioners learn with satisfaction that the farmers in the Union are paying their rates cheerfully and promptly, but they regret to find that you do not generally experience the same readiness on the part of the landed proprietors. The Commissioners do not doubt that you will continue to use the most vigorous measures to enforce payment by this class as well as every other class of rate-payers in the Union, and they are convinced that you will not hesitate to adopt such legal proceedings against them as may be necessary to compel payment. The law furnishes you with the most ample powers for the enforcement of the rate, and the Commissioners presume that you do not see any reason for making an exception in favour of Mr. Marcus Pattison, to whom you refer as not having yet paid his rates.

The difficulties which you describe as being occasioned by the agents of the properties of absentees who refuse to pay the rates legally due by their principals, unless the collector attends at their offices (which are in some cases out of the Union) to point out all the particulars is much to be regretted, and is, no doubt, very embarrassing; but at the same time as no proceedings can be taken against the agent or against the principals where they reside out of the country, the Commissioners can only advise the Guardians to proceed to recover the rate from the occupiers in such cases, when after every effort they have failed in obtaining payment from the agent; the occupiers will be entitled to deduct the whole amount of rate from his next payment of rent.

With reference to the claims of Messrs. Vance and Deane, the Commissioners do not see, under the circumstances stated by you, how you can avoid paying the debt and costs.

The Commissioners are fully aware of the difficulties which occasionally arise in reference to the 10th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act. The Commissioners, however, trust, that increased vigilance on the part of the relieving officers, together with the publication of the names of persons receiving relief, may have the effect of checking, if not of altogether preventing deception, in regard to the occupation of land. In the case which you mention where the landlord gave a certificate that the tenant had surrendered his land, when in fact he had not done so, and the tenant having obtained relief now persists in retaining the land, the Commissioners presume that the relief was stopped immediately on the facts becoming known to you; the Commissioners, however, do not see that you can take any other step in the matter. It may, perhaps, be advisable in any future case in which there is reason to expect that the surrender is not *bonâ fide*, that the relief afforded should, if practicable, be given in the workhouse only.

With reference to your question as to the duties to be performed by district medical officers, I am to enclose a copy of an order issued to another Union in which the duties prescribed by the Commissioners are set forth.

You will observe that under this order the cost of medical and surgical appliances is to be paid by the electoral divisions and is not included in the medical officer's salary.

SKIBBEREEN UNION.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the collectors attended on Wednesday, and had their books checked by the clerk; and from this week's return it will be seen that the rates are coming in freely. The Guardians are now enabled to pay off their outstanding cheques, and a considerable balance is to their credit in the hands of the treasurer.

I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, when the report was received from the Committee appointed to prepare a plan to remedy the defects in the present rate-books, and adopt means to have a revision of them preparatory to another rate being struck. A copy of the report is forwarded with the minutes, and it contains several important suggestions, which when carried into effect, will tend to the regularity of the rate-books in future, and be productive of much benefit to the Union. Tenders were received for clothing, and according to the invitation in the advertisement to industrial societies and private individuals (who have flannel and linen manufactured) to send in samples and tenders. I have much pleasure in reporting that a considerable quantity appeared, and was taken by the Guardians; and in order to afford increased employment in the Union, more will be taken as manufactured, and not purchase a full supply from those at a distance as hitherto. From the increased pressure upon the workhouse, a resolution was adopted to rent a large store in West Skull (about 16 miles from Skibbereen), which will accommodate 600 paupers. It is proposed to have an assistant master and matron for that house, and that certain classes be sent there from the workhouse, by which it is expected sufficient room will be had for all.

The female children have been removed from the workhouse to the store fitted up for their permanent accommodation, which will, I expect, be attended with beneficial effects; this change gives additional day-room for the adult females, which was much wanted.

A resolution was passed in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee appointed at a previous meeting to concentrate the hospitals, and have only five in the Union; but it is proposed that the present hospitals remain open until sufficient accommodation be provided in the several districts named for the reception of the patients to be admitted. I have more fear of the western part of the Union, and that Kilmoe and East Skull would require distinct hospitals at least for three months longer.

A meeting of the Kilmoe Relief Committee will be held to-morrow, at which I purpose attending, to have their opinion with regard to the safety of closing the hospital there, of which I shall report. In some parts of the Union fever and dysentery prevail to some extent, but few deaths occur.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 10, 1848.*

WITH reference to the proposal of the Guardians to rent a store in West Skull for an auxiliary workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners will readily sanction the renting the store at Skull, if you are of opinion that it is well adapted to the purposes for which it is intended.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 10, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, when the several relieving officers attended, and had their books checked and signed; they send them in the day previous to the clerk, by which arrangement the business is more satisfactorily done. The stores in West Skull are being fitted up for the permanent accommodation of paupers to be drafted from the workhouse, and it is proposed to send none but men there, and have the greater part of the house for adult females. It is expected that 300 will be sent on Monday next, and as the arrangements are completed more will be sent; the stores are calculated to contain from 500 to 600; this will relieve the workhouse very materially.

The Guardians have ordered that two sheds be erected in connexion with the probationary wards, according to the plan suggested by Mr. Wilkinson, and I have arranged to have these completed without delay; if necessary, they will afford excellent day-rooms, and should it be found necessary, more stores will be taken, as I anticipate a considerable pressure for the next six weeks, and the Guardians are determined to meet the wants of the Union as far as in their power, and carry out the intentions of the law to the utmost. An additional supply of clothing was taken to-day, and all hands are employed making up as required. A large quantity of flannel and coarse linen has also been purchased from the industrial societies in the Union, and more ordered, which will have a good effect in stimulating the people to industry, and afford employment to many of the females in the Union. The Guardians are determined as far as possible to encourage this useful manufacture. The rates continue to be got in well; over 1900*l.* is this day to the credit of the Union in the hands of the treasurer.

Skibbereen Union.

A meeting of the Kilmore Relief Committee has been held there, and a resolution adopted, that a letter be addressed to the Central Board of Health, stating their decided opinion against closing the hospital, in which I fully concur, at least for the next two months. I am sorry to say there is very little employment in the Union for the labouring population, which increases the pressure upon the workhouse. Were it not for the relief afforded the children at the schools by the British Relief Association, the consequence would be difficult to contemplate, as from the dense population of paupers, the rates could not by any means meet the expense of affording out-door relief to the able-bodied, which would otherwise be inevitable. I am still of opinion that we shall get over the season without having recourse to that which would check all industry and swamp the Union. The accountant selected to arrange the books of the Union is diligently engaged in doing so, he appears to be very competent; no money is to be paid until the whole be completed satisfactorily.

MR. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that 100 of the male paupers were sent to the auxiliary workhouse in West Skull on Monday last, and 300 more will be sent there to-morrow. The two sheds alluded to in my last report in connexion with the probationary wards are nearly finished, one of which will be occupied to-morrow. This will afford much accommodation, and prevent the danger from overcrowding in the probationary wards. There has been a considerable increase in the admission to the workhouse during the week; but when the sheds are finished, and the other arrangements (in progress) completed, I expect sufficient accommodation will be provided for the present, but should it be found necessary, additional buildings will be rented. On sending the male paupers out to the house at West Skull over 100 refused to go, but took their discharge in preference, as I had arranged to send those in the house from the eastern part of the Union to the west.

The clerk having had to attend at Bantry sessions this week upon a prosecution, the collector's books were not checked; about 900*l.* has been lodged since last return. The rates continue to be collected without difficulty. The returns for this week and next shall be forwarded together. The roofs of the several buildings will be examined immediately, and a contractor had to put them in proper repair.

Captain Gordon.

I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, when the relieving officers attended, and had their books and accounts checked. On hearing of the serious illness, I went over to Bantry yesterday, and took Dr. Donovan with me to see him. I regret to say he is dangerously ill in fever. I purpose going there again to-morrow to assist in having the school accounts made up for the last week. Dr. Donovan will accompany me to see Captain Gordon, as he is considered most skilful in fever cases. If sanctioned by the Commissioners, I would go over to Bantry once a-week during Captain Gordon's illness, to assist the Guardians there, and prevent any irregularity in the school accounts.

P.S. I omitted reporting that an assistant master has been appointed, subject to the approval of the Commissioners; he seems a competent person, and highly recommended.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 22, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners are obliged by your offer, and they request that you will have the goodness to proceed to the Bantry Union once in each week, as you propose, until Captain Gordon is able to resume his duties.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 21, 1848.*

I HAVE to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that an act of insubordination and plunder was committed at the auxiliary workhouse at West Skull, on Sunday morning last. The paupers there, forced their way into the store in which the provisions were kept, and took what was provided for their dinner and breakfast next day. The assistant master in charge, sent for Mr. Limerick, the magistrate at Skull, and the police, and had the ring-leaders arrested, and they have been sent to Bridewell, in order to have them tried for the offence. I am also sorry to have to report that the paupers returning from the store in Skibbereen (in which they sleep) to the workhouse this morning, attacked a bread cart on its way to the schools, and took a quantity of bread. An example will be made, as such attempt at insubordination must be met at once with firmness, or the consequence would be much destruction. Many of them solicit to be sent to gaol, and do not stop at anything to accomplish this, as they say "they get a better allowance there than in the workhouse." If the gaol allowances were assimilated to that of the workhouse dietary it would have a good effect; otherwise sending them to prison is no punishment, but a boon. If a representation were made to the proper quarter upon this subject it might be attended with good effect.

With reference to the tabular return ordered by the Commissioners of the in-door and out-door relief of the four weeks preceding the 12th instant, I have been urging the clerk to complete it, but find a great difficulty in having it done; in future I shall endeavour to have them sent more regular. I have much pleasure in reporting that Captain Gordon is going on favourably, and hope to be able to report him out of danger in a few days; I shall continue to go over to Bantry as often as I can be spared here during his illness, to assist the Guardians.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON :—*February 26, 1848.*

(A.) I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant, a copy of a report which they have received from Mr. Marshall, Temporary Poor Law Inspector for the Skibbereen Union; and I am to request the attention of his Excellency to the passage in the report marked (A), relating to the dietary allowed in the county gaol.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 26, 1848.*

ON Thursday I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians in Skibbereen, when the relieving officers' books and accounts were examined. Tenders were received for sheeting; and one tender was *received*, and also *accepted*, for repairing the roof of the several buildings of the workhouse. More paupers have been sent to the house in West Skull this week. One of the sheds in connexion with the probationary wards has been completed, and is now occupied; the other will be ready for paupers next week. This affords much accommodation, and will prevent danger from overcrowding these wards, and they can afterwards be converted either into day or school rooms. The rates continue to come in freely. Over 2,600*l.* is now in the hands of the treasurer to the credit of the Union. Every exertion is making to cultivate the land, and prepare for the spring crops. A number of persons have been admitted to the workhouse the last week, who acknowledged they have taken small portions of land in the way of *conacre*, upon which to plant potatoes, and will leave the workhouse to do so next month. A question was raised in the Board on Thursday, whether their having done so disentitles them to relief, but the majority were of opinion, that a person taking *conacre* for the crop, cannot be considered as holding land; they are not liable for

the rates or taxes, but merely pay for the use of the land while the crop is growing. Many would avail themselves of relief through the poor-law, while their potatoes are coming to maturity, and a much greater quantity would be planted if they can be allowed to have it. This is an important consideration, and one upon which the Commissioners may decide.

The sanitary state of the Union continues favourable; very little fever, and few deaths from any cause. Much distress prevails in many localities. The relief afforded at the schools continues to have valuable effects to the Union, and they can now be conducted with more regularity. Over 71,000 children are fed daily. The Committee of Guardians in the eastern part of the Unions meets every Wednesday at Milltown Rosscarberry, and manage the affairs well. The formation of this Committee has been of great advantage to that district. Exertions are making throughout the Union to give employment by manufacturing flannel and linen, and in a short time it is expected that a sufficient quantity will be made to supply the workhouse. I am sorry to report there is very little employment afforded under the Drainage Act. Several applications have been made for loans, but there seems great delay in having the arrangements completed.

Skibbereen Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 4, 1848.*

WITH reference to the cases of persons who have been admitted into the workhouse of the Skibbereen Union, and who it appears had previously rented small portions of land, as conacre, with a view to planting potatoes, I am to state that the Commissioners having taken the opinion of Mr. Henn, Q.C., on the subject, he states that he does not consider hiring ground in his way as occupation, within the meaning of the Act 10 Vic. cap. 31.

The Commissioners consider that relief, by way of loan, would meet such cases.

An extract from your report, relating to applications for loans under the Land Improvement Act, has been forwarded to the Board of Works.

MR. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I attended a meeting of the Finance Committee on Wednesday last, when the Aghadown and Kilcoe Hospital accounts were examined and passed. The amount due since the 30th September will be paid by the Guardians. The accounts of Tullagh Hospital were also passed; a balance of 50*l.* remaining in hands of the treasurer, from the sums advanced to the Relief Committee there under the Temporary Relief Act, which should be applied to liquidate the debts of the hospital: but the treasurer refuses to hand it over without orders from the Commissioners. I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians here yesterday, when a resolution was passed to suspend the relieving officer for Ardfield, Rathbarry, and Kilkerranmore, for charges as stated on the minutes; and I would recommend his dismissal, as it is most important that an example be made in his case from the manner he has acted. A resolution was passed to apply to the Commissioners for a sealed order to give out-door relief to the able-bodied, with a view to enable those taking conacre, or holding less than a quarter of an acre of land, to plant potatoes and sow turnips. The Guardians would not think of having recourse to this should the Commissioners not sanction their carrying out the plan proposed, and restrict it to a limited period to those actually engaged in this work on their own account; and that proper arrangements be made to prevent the relief going beyond it, I stated to the Guardians the usual terms upon which the Commissioners granted such order—"that labour by task-work (generally in breaking stones) was insisted upon;" that the Guardians should accompany their application with the particulars of the plan proposed. This will appear on the minutes. No doubt if it be practicable to accede to their application, it would be attended with beneficial effects; and the Guardians would, I have no doubt, endeavour to carry out this mode of relief to the best advantage, as they have, during my experience, shown every disposition to carry the law into effect fairly, and afford every relief to the poor. The amount of rate collected is a strong proof. In your letter of the 4th instant, with reference to persons renting conacre being admitted to the workhouse, Mr. Henn, Q.C., does not consider having ground in this way as occupation within the meaning of the Act 10 Vict.

Skibbereen Union.

cap. 31; that the Commissioners consider relief by way of loan would meet such cases. I would be glad to know in what way this loan is meant—whether any assistance would be given to those out of the workhouse in money or provisions, to enable them to till their gardens.

Mr. Keane, the agriculturist from the Royal Agricultural Society, has arrived, and attended the meeting of the Guardians, when arrangements were at once made to have meetings throughout the Union, for the purpose of his giving instructions to the farmers. I shall attend with him when my duties permit, and afford every assistance in carrying out so desirable an object, to stimulate the people to energy and a better system of cultivation. There appears to be every disposition in this Union to receive information upon this subject.

I am sorry to have to report that dysentery has been on the increase. Arrangements are about being made to have more hospital accommodation at Skull, in order to receive any cases that may arise in the workhouse there. In a former report I stated my fears of the consequence of closing any of the hospitals in the Union before sufficient room be had in the districts proposed, and suggested that all should be kept open to receive fever patients, and bad cases of dysentery, for at least two months longer. I am still of this opinion, and that the Central Board of Health be cautious in rescinding the present appointments of their medical officers, as contemplated, or closing any of the hospitals before that period. The person appointed to arrange the books of the Union will soon have them completed, in order that the audit for the 25th instant, be made in proper time.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that relief by way of loan to able-bodied persons can only be given in food, and under the usual conditions.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners have communicated with the Board of Health the statement in your report as regards the temporary fever hospitals in the Union.

MR. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 6, 1848.*

I ATTENDED a meeting of the district Committee of Guardians at Milltown, Rosscarbery, for the eastern part of the Union on Monday last, when the out-door relief lists were examined, and other business transacted of considerable importance.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, to pass the hospital accounts; they are in future to meet weekly for this purpose. In the evening I went to Bantry, and next day proceeded to Castletown Berehaven, with Mr. Clarke, the Vice-Guardian, and on our way inspected the schools; directions had been given to the relieving officers to strike off all children from the out-door relief lists; additional rations were ordered in some cases for the schools, but in general the children had been receiving from both sources. This will lessen the expenditure for out-door relief, which has been much higher than in the Skibbereen Union. At Castletown I accompanied Mr. Clarke to his districts, where he meets the relieving officers and initials the lists as the paupers appear; I inspected the several schools, and gave directions to the superintendents with regard to their proper management, and that those children struck off the out-door relief lists be provided for.

In many of the localities destitution prevails to a great extent; and dysentery is on the increase; there appears to be great exertion to prepare the land for potatoes and other crops. I have great pleasure in reporting Captain Gordon much better, and recovering rapidly.

On my return to Skibbereen, I find by the minutes of last meeting of the Guardians, that notice of a motion has been given for next Thursday to apply to the Commissioners for a sealed order to give out-door relief to the able-bodied for a period not exceeding six weeks, with a view to support those while planting potatoes; but as labour is required in return, by task work, I fear there would be some difficulty in carrying out this, and none in possession of more than a quarter of an acre could be allowed this relief. If the Commissioners would point out any plan by which this could be carried into effect it would be desirable; hitherto I have adopted every means to prevent the necessity of making such an application. It should be confined to those able-bodied labourers while actually employed preparing their gardens for potatoes or other crops on their own account.

I have to report that the probationary sheds have been completed, and are of *Skibbereen Union*. great advantage. I propose having the sewerage of the workhouse examined and improved, as this is most essential to prevent disease in the house. A wash-house is also about being erected of timber, in connexion with the infirmary, to prevent the clothes of the sick being washed with the others. Dysentery is rather on the increase, but this may be attributed to the severity of the weather.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 18, 1848.*

THE attention of the Board of Health has been drawn to the increase of dysentery in the Union.

As regards your observations on the proposed extension of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor in the Union; I am to refer you to the Commissioners' answer to your subsequent report on the subject.

An extract from your report relating to the erection of a wash-house at the infirmary, and the improvement of the sewerage, has been forwarded to the Commissioners' architect.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners, that I went to Bantry on Monday the 13th instant, and proceeded to Castletown with Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Crawford, and Mr. Clarke, when a site for the workhouse there was selected and I gave directions with regard to the schools.

I returned to Bantry next day and inspected the workhouse with Mr. Crawford, and came to Skull in the evening; next day, Wednesday, Mr. Crawford and I inspected the auxiliary workhouse there, and gave orders for the employment of the paupers in that place. We attended a meeting of the Relief Committee in Kilmoë, when Dr. M'Cormick was present, and the allegations contained in his statement to the Board of Health were investigated, but they could not be supported. It was satisfactorily shown that the relieving officer had done his duty and afforded relief to those eligible to receive it. Destitution in that district prevails to a greater extent than in any other we visited.

On Thursday Mr. Crawford returned with me to Skibbereen and attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians and inspected the workhouse.

From the increased number of applicants for relief in Kilmoë, I found it necessary to suggest to the Board to appoint a relieving officer for that electoral division, and divide the present district. The Guardians resolved that the salary of the present relieving officer be reduced to 35*l.*, and that West Skull and Kilmoë have one each at least during the pressure in these divisions. Mr. Crawford concurs in this arrangement, as it is necessary to have every attention given to the western part of the Union to meet the numerous cases who require relief at present. An application has been forwarded to the Board of Works for a supply of tools, in order to keep the able-bodied paupers at Skibbereen and Skull employed.

Insubordination has been evinced in the workhouse; but by making examples of those concerned, this will be checked at once.

I beg to enclose a copy of a notice, to the effect that any pauper committing any depredation be at once discharged—and I hope the Commissioners will sanction this; as being obliged to send the male paupers to sleep in the stores rented for that purpose, they made several attempts on their way to plunder the bread sending to the schools. I have had these notices printed, since when there has not been a repetition of the kind.

With reference to the revision of the rate-books, the revisor has been ordered to divide the Union into districts, and give notice of the days he will attend in each to receive objections, and have the names correctly entered of those liable for the rates, as many changes have taken place within the last year.

A resolution was adopted to have the names of all persons receiving in-door and out-door relief at once printed, and I shall have a copy sent to each landlord in order to show the necessity of employment being given in the Union, to save them from heavy rates and prevent improper persons receiving relief.

Mr. Keane, the agriculturist, has had four meetings in the Union, which were well attended by the farmers, from which I anticipate good results. On my way to and from Castletown I found a very general appearance of exertion among the farmers preparing the land for potatoes.

Skibbereen Union.

ENCLOSURE referred to.

Notice.

As frequent depredations have lately been committed by the paupers of the workhouse at Skibbereen and Lowertown, the Board of Guardians are resolved to discharge any pauper from the house at once who may be found committing any such acts or not obeying the orders of those placed over them.

It is to be hoped this notice will have the desired effect of preventing the like occurrence in future, and the Guardians from being obliged to carry this resolution into effect.

Signed by order,

Skibbereen, March 9, 1848.

J. J. O'SULLIVAN, *Clerk to Union.*REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 22, 1848.*

WITH reference to the mode adopted for punishing paupers guilty of plunder or insubordination, I am to state that the Commissioners prefer that disorderly or refractory paupers should be punished in accordance with the workhouse regulations or the provisions of the 58th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act.

The discharge of persons from a workhouse in a destitute condition may lead to melancholy results, for which the Board of Guardians would not be held to be wholly blameless.

The attention of the Board of Health has been drawn to the statement concerning Dr. M'Cormick, of Kilmoe.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I proceeded to Skull on Saturday last, and inspected the auxiliary workhouse at Lowertown, and found it much improved, and the paupers more amenable to the orders of the assistant-master there.

I also visited Kilmoe, and examined further into some charges brought by Dr. M'Cormick against the relieving officer of that district; but in every case I found no cause of complaint, but that he had done his duty to my satisfaction.

On Monday I went to Bantry, where I found much destitution prevailing in some localities and an increase of dysentery.

In giving directions to the persons appointed to inspect the schools in that Union, I desired, when visiting their districts, that they should report any cases among the adults to the relieving officer that require his immediate attention, by which means relief would be afforded to proper objects; and I have had circulars printed for the guidance of those inspectors, but not in any way to interfere with the duties of the relieving officers, which will have a good effect, and prevent deaths from destitution or neglect.

I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day in Skibbereen, when contracts were entered into for a supply of provisions, &c.; these we had on good terms, owing to the Guardians being in better funds. Contracts for clothing were not taken, as it is proposed to purchase such articles as can be had in the Union, in order to afford as much employment as possible, and encourage home-manufactures.

A resolution was adopted that the Finance Committee shall not receive estimates for the support of more than the five hospitals proposed to be kept open in the Union beyond another fortnight, therefore all the other hospitals must be closed at that period. I shall endeavour to urge the Guardians to provide accommodation for those requiring admission from other districts in proper time. If a few canvas tents were had, such as were sent last summer from the Commissariat stores, they would be of great advantage.

The Guardians have resolved that a relieving officer for Kilmoe shall not at present be appointed, but that the present officer continue to do the duty as hitherto, there and in West Skull: he is most efficient. Should it be found necessary to make another appointment, I shall bring it before the Guardians.

One of the rate collectors (John Kelly) did not attend last day with his books; should he not attend next Board-day, and account satisfactorily for this neglect, I shall recommend his dismissal. I have much pleasure in reporting that the rates continue to be well paid, as will be seen by the amount in the treasurer's

hand—over 3200%. The sanitary state of the Union is favourable; few deaths occur, and none from starvation. A considerable number of the able-bodied paupers took their discharge from the workhouse last week: there will be considerable employment for them immediately; and those landed proprietors who have obtained loans under the Land Improvement Act will take all from the workhouse in their locality. As the weather improves I anticipate little pressure. Over 2200 children receive bread at the schools at present through the bounty of the British Association, which is of incalculable benefit to the Union. The rate-payers reap the advantage also, as from the commencement these children receiving this relief were struck off the out-door relief lists, by which the expense to the Union has been saved over 200% a week; and there is another great advantage resulting from this valuable assistance, the great saving of potatoe for seed, which many of the parents would have been obliged to consume to support their children. All are fully sensible of the bounty conferred, and are most grateful.

I have great pleasure in reporting that Captain Gordon is much better; he will soon be able to remove for a short time for change of air. I shall continue to visit Bantry weekly till he is able to resume his duties in that Union.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 30, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners, that having received a letter from Captain Ommanney (the Poor Law Inspector at Kenmare), requesting information with reference to the management of the schools, and being obliged to visit Bantry, I proceeded to Kenmare, and returned to Bantry on Monday last, after visiting some of the schools and the workhouse there. On Tuesday I attended a meeting of the Vice-Guardians in Bantry, after which I went to Drimoleague, at which Mr. Keane, the agriculturist, had a meeting, and delivered a lecture; it was well attended, and I anticipate much good from the information given at these meetings; others will be held throughout the Union. I proceeded to Skull yesterday and attended an inquest held to ascertain the cause of Margaret Driscoll's death, which had been alleged to have been from starvation; but from the doctor's evidence, this does not appear to have been the case. I have forwarded a copy of the evidence and the verdict by this post.

I attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, when Mr. Sommerville was re-elected chairman, and Committees of the new Guardians were formed to have the business of the Union conducted with regularity and efficiency. In West Skull the local Guardians had the paupers on the out-door relief lists brought before them on Wednesday last and inspected. This plan is intended to be carried out generally, which will be attended with advantage and correct abuse. The accounts are in a forwarded state of being settled preparatory to an audit. A resolution was adopted to convert the auxiliary workhouse at Lowertown into an hospital for the western division of this Union, and close those at East and West Skull and Kilmore. This building will afford ample accommodation for that district, and is most desirable with reference to situation; and, if necessary, patients can be sent from Skibbereen, who may be removed that distance with safety.

It was also resolved to rent a store at Leap, about six miles from Skibbereen, as an auxiliary workhouse till September next, to supply that of Lowertown, and remove the paupers there immediately. This arrangement, I conceive, will be attended with advantage to the Union, as in order to afford sufficient hospital accommodation in the western district, a considerable expense will have to be incurred, which will be avoided. The Lowertown stores will contain 300 beds if necessary. Means will be taken immediately to concentrate the other hospitals in the Union. Although dysentery prevails to a considerable extent, I expect ample accommodation will be provided. I laid the circular before the Guardians with reference to emigration to Australia; they received it as a boon, and have resolved to adopt means for carrying out the objects. Lists will be prepared of those eligible for free passage out of the workhouse.

I found it necessary to draw up instructions for the persons appointed to inspect the schools in the Union, that the destitute children might be provided for and prevent abuses; and also that they should report any cases among the adults that required immediate attention, to the relieving officers, which will prevent any suffering by neglect. I beg to enclose a printed copy herewith.

Skibbereen Union.

ENCLOSURE.

INSTRUCTIONS to INSPECTORS of SCHOOLS in the SKIBBEREEN UNION.

You shall visit the several schools in your district at least twice a week, and see that the roll and register be correctly kept in each, according to the form given; that the children in attendance, and those on the sick list, correspond with the number on the roll receiving rations that day; that no children over 14 be receiving rations, and those only of the destitute class; that those children who were upon the out-door relief lists shall be first provided for, and that the rules shall be strictly attended to by all, a copy of which to be posted in each school. A weekly report of your business transacted shall accompany the returns of the schools in your district, and have all forwarded to the Poor Law Inspector by each Monday as ordered; that you shall, when inspecting the schools in your district, also visit the children who are on the sick list, in order to ascertain whether they be really sick, and if so, that they receive the bread allowed them at home. You shall also obtain as much information as possible, of such cases among the adults as require relief, and are eligible to receive it under the Poor Law, and report at once the names and place of residence to the relieving officer, in writing, that he may examine into them, and thus assist, but not interfere with him in his duty, and prevent deaths by neglect from starvation; should any such cases occur, you will state them in your report to the Poor Law Inspector, and give the particulars, and also report generally as to the state of your district. You will inspect the bread supplied to the schools frequently, and see that it is well baked, and the proper weight, and that it be delivered regularly at the several schools before 1 o'clock each day, in order that the children may eat their ration before leaving the schools.

To Patrick Sullivan,
School Inspector for Kilmoe.

JOHN J. MARSHALL, *Poor Law Inspector.*

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 31, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners that I attended an inquest held at Skull on the 29th instant, upon the body of Margaret Driscoll, said to have died from starvation, and beg to enclose a copy of the evidence taken, and also the statement of the relieving officer connected with the circumstance of the death of Peter Driscoll, from which it appears there is no blame to be attached to the relieving officer.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

Skull, March 13, 1848.

I have to state that on yesterday it was reported at the barrack here that a woman was lying on the road, convenient to the town, dead or dying; when I immediately sent the constable to inquire about the matter; he found her as stated, being then quite exhausted and insensible. He had her removed into a cabin at hand, and on our communicating the matter to the doctor here, he had her conveyed to the hospital, where she shortly afterwards died. Conceiving it to be a case coming under the Circular of 18th ultimo, I have made the inquiries thereby directed, and find from the son of the deceased (whose name was Margaret Driscoll, and over 70 years of age), that till about six weeks ago his father held about 2½ acres of ground at a place called Dunmanus, the most wretched in this district. This the son states was given up to the landlord about the time mentioned, and that then the father applied for out-door relief, and was refused till he should satisfy the relieving officer that the ground had actually been given up as stated. For this purpose, the son states, his father went about a fortnight since to his former landlord to obtain a certificate of the land having been given up, when on his return he became so exhausted (I presume by inanition) that he died on the road, and since the death of his wife I have heard that the certificate required was found on him when discovered.

It is necessary to explain that I did not hear of this case until last night, when inquiring relative to the death of the woman, when the son added that she, too, fell under precisely similar circumstances, having been, he states, repeatedly refused relief till she produced a like certificate as was required of her husband. She undertook the journey for the purpose of obtaining it, part of which the son states he carried her on his back, but finding her exhausted and unable to return, he states he put her into an unoccupied house, from which I presume she removed till found as already stated. I fear I should sooner have stated as directed, that the place where this woman died was in the Skibbereen Union, and townland of Coondarrigan.

By directions of Mr. Limirick, the local magistrate here, I have requested the coroner's attendance, but as he resides in Bandon, 50 miles from here, and understanding that he is not in the habit of attending to requisitions of this description, from this part of his district, it is probable this will form no exception, in which case should the magistrates hold an inquest, the result shall be communicated.

RICHARD W. CLARK, *2nd Sub-Inspector.*

II.

Skull, March 13, 1848.

Sub-Inspector Clark reports the death of Margaret Driscoll, in Skull, on the 12th instant, whose husband held about 2½ acres of ground, which he gave up to his landlord, and obtained

a certificate, but died on his way from him. Word was brought to the Sub-Inspector that the woman was dying in the streets of Skull, when he had her removed to the poor-house, where she died. The husband repeatedly applied for out-door relief, but was refused until he could produce the landlord's certificate of surrender. Notice has been sent to the coroner, who lives at Bandon, and a copy of the inquest will be communicated. Skibbereen Union.

III.

At an Inquisition held at Skull on the body of Margaret Driscoll, on the 29th March, 1848, before John Limirick, Esq., and Richard B. Hungerford, Esq.

Jeremiah Driscoll, sworn and examined, depose and saith.—Left Dunmanus three days before the death of deceased, to come to relieving officer to get relief, accompanied by deceased, who told deponent that if she (deceased) got a writing from Mr. Swanton, her landlord, to say she gave up her land she would get relief without going to the workhouse. They did proceed to Mr. Swanton's, and got from Mr. Swanton a writing; deceased also got from Mrs. Swanton a pint of meal and one penny; deponent put deceased (his mother) into a house at Gurtnagruah, where he boiled the meal there with a pint of milk he also got from Mrs. Swanton, which pint of meal and milk boiled, he gave to deceased with the exception of three spoonfulls he ate himself; and deponent took the penny himself; deponent after leaving his mother at Gurtnagruah, proceeded to Ardmaud, near Skull, where he slept that night, and next day went to Dunmanus; did not come to look for his mother until the following day, when he saw her carrying by two men on a hand-barrow up to the hospital in Skull; saw marks of violence on her person, but does not know how she could have received them. Deponent swears that his mother did not give up the land.

(Signed)

JOHN LIMIRICK, J. P.
R. B. HUNGERFORD, J. P.

(Signed)

his
JEREMIAH X DRISCOLL.
mark.

James Fitzgerald, sworn and examined.—That he recollects a woman being brought into his house by constable Jordon and another man on or about a fortnight ago; after some hesitation he allowed her to remain in his house; Dr. O'Donoghue came in to see her and gave deponent some money to get spirits, and ordered him to boil some water with which he had her bathed, and gave her a small quantity of spirits; in a short time afterwards she was removed to the hospital; did not hear her complain of any injuries.

(Signed)

JOHN LIMIRICK, J. P.
R. B. HUNGERFORD, J. P.

(Signed)

his
JAMES X FITZGERALD.
mark.

Dr. Sweetnam, sworn and examined.—On being called on by constable Jordon and another man, had the deceased immediately removed to the hospital, where she very shortly after died; carefully made a post mortem examination; saw external marks of violence, several incisions and contusions on the fore arm, and on the knees, and appeared to have been recently inflicted; examined her throat minutely, there were slight marks on the neck not sufficient to cause death, and a mark on the right eyelid; found in the stomach and intestines sufficient food to support nature, and to warrant the conclusion that she did not die from starvation; consider her death was the result of a combination of circumstances, old age, probable exposures to cold and exhaustion; the injuries of themselves (though severe) were not sufficient to cause death.

(Signed)

JOHN LIMIRICK, J. P.
R. B. HUNGERFORD, J. P.

(Signed)

STEPHEN SWEETNAM, Surgeon.

Mr. Robert Swanton sworn and examined.—That deceased's son, Jeremiah Driscoll, went to his house, who told him that he would give up his house and land on Dunmanus; deponent told him that he would go to Dunmanus on the next day to take up the possession, but not to take him (deponent) down there, unless he would give him the possession; deponent there said that he would give him one day that he might be prepared before him, but the said Jeremiah Driscoll then said that he had given up the land to his brother. In about a week afterwards the deceased and her son the said Jeremiah Driscoll came to deponent and offered possession of their land, when deponent then gave a ticket to the relieving officer.

(Signed)

JOHN LIMIRICK, J. P.
R. B. HUNGERFORD, J. P.

(Signed)

R. SWANTON.

Verdict.

At an examination held on the body of Margaret Driscoll, at Skull, in the parish of Skull, and county of Cork, before two of Her Majesty's justices of peace for said county to ascertain the cause of her death; now we, being twelve of the jurors empanelled on the said inquisition, find and present that the deceased Margaret Driscoll came by her death in the following manner, viz.:—From old age, exhaustion, and exposure to cold; and also find deceased's son Jeremiah Driscoll has grossly neglected her two days before her death, and that no evidence came before us as to how she received those wounds which appeared on her person.

STATEMENT of the RELIEVING OFFICER.

Skull, March 29, 1848.

The man named Peter Driscoll did apply to me for out-door relief, which I refused, knowing him to be in possession of a farm of land which he acknowledged to me when he made the application that he did not give up to the landlord, and that he was residing on the land, but that he would at any moment it would be demanded. I then told him that on his producing me a certificate from the landlord of his giving up the possession, that I would give him out-door relief, he being old and infirm. I heard nothing about him after till I heard that he was carried dead to the town of Skull, he having died, as I am informed, on his way to Robert Swanton, Esq., the agent to the property, to surrender the land to him. At the house of Patrick Driscoll, of Ratravane, where he was in the habit of stopping some days occasionally, Patrick Driscoll told me that Driscoll was at his house eight days before he died, and that every care and attention was paid him in food and other necessaries. Patrick Driscoll seems to be a comfortable farmer, and, he tells me, a near relative of the deceased, Driscoll. He also says that he, the deceased, did not go to Mr. Swanton's; I have also learned that a son of both the deceased Driscolls is at present residing with Patrick Driscoll, of Ratravane, where Driscoll died; immediately after Driscoll's death his wife Margaret Driscoll did apply for out-door relief, and told me her husband was dead, and also the circumstances relative to his death. I then inquired if she or he had given up the land, to which she replied, that they did not, but that he went to give it up. I then told her that she could not be relieved either inside or outside the workhouse as long as she held the land. She then requested me to write a note to Mr. Swanton, that she may send it to him, informing him of her destitution, and also of the death of her husband, and that she would give up the land, which I did; during eight or ten days after I heard nothing more about her until her son brought me a note from Mr. Swanton, saying that her son told him that she gave possession to another son a few days previous; I then inquired where Margaret Driscoll was, and he told me at Gurtuagruah, in East Skull, seven miles from West Skull; I was then on my car going to visit other destitute cases by appointment with them.

Mr. Robert Swanton's testimony at the inquest, and also her son's testimony there, will show that the land has not been given up by either the late Margaret Driscoll or her husband; consequently I could not give them relief or place their names on my books as applicants for relief.

The man named Peter Driscoll never went to Mr. Swanton, but went to a friend's house at Ratravane, where he died; he did not die on the road. The above is a portion of his son's testimony at the inquest held at Skull, the 29th March, 1848.

WM. O. D. WILLIAMSON.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*April 11, 1848.*

WITH reference to the communication referred to the Commissioners on the 21st ultimo, relating to the death of Margaret and Peter Driscoll in the Skibbereen Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant a copy of a report which they have received from Mr. Marshall, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, on the subject.

I am at the same time to observe as regards the case of Margaret Driscoll, that it does not appear that the Constabulary Inspector's report of the case is borne out by the evidence. Neither does the verdict of the jury state that her death occurred from starvation.

With reference to the case of Peter Driscoll, it appears that he held land which was not given up, and which it would appear he did not cease to occupy.

It is stated that he died in a friend's house where he had been for eight days, and where every care was taken of him.

Mr. MARSHALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 7, 1848.*

I ATTENDED a meeting of the Finance Committee in Skibbereen on Wednesday, when the accounts of the Tullagh and Caharagh Hospitals were examined and passed.

In the evening I went to Ballydehob and Skull, to examine the schools there, and I was glad to find the people extremely busy in the western part of the Union planting potatoes and preparing the land for crops.

Dysentery prevails in that district to an alarming extent at present, and not confined to the lower classes. Arrangements are made to remove the paupers from the Lowertown store in this week, in order to have that building available for the reception of fever and dysentery patients at once.

CASTLEBAR UNION.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 4, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 27th ultimo, acknowledging the receipt of my report of the 23rd January, relating to the state of the finances of the Castlebar Union, and stating that application had been made to Count Strzelecki for an advance of 300*l.* from the funds of the British Association, to enable the Vice-Guardians to continue the relief afforded to the destitute poor in the Union (which has been duly received in provision from the Commissariat stores, and issued); also desiring to be informed whether I am able to certify that the rate-payers of the Union will not be able to meet their liabilities, and that they are making such exertion as can reasonably be expected from them, and requesting me to report specially on the following points:—

1st. What is the sum total of the poor-rates paid in the Castlebar Union since the Vice-Guardians were appointed, and to how many shillings in the pound on the net annual value does it amount?

2ndly. What is the obstacle to the rate being collected? Is it that there is negligence or dishonesty in collectors or rate-payers? Is it that the crops have failed? Are the means of the proprietors and occupiers exhausted, or likely soon to be exhausted; and if so, how is this proved?

I beg to state that I am not able to certify that the rate-payers in the Union will not be able to meet their liabilities, so far as the rate now in course of collection is concerned; but I am of opinion that they will not be able to meet the full weight of the enormous burden of destitution now pressing upon the Union funds; and the consideration of this question I am desirous to keep distinct from the subject of this rate, which I think ought to be exacted, and to meet which I cannot certify that reasonable exertion has been made by the majority of the rate-payers.

The amount of the rate collected, as shown by the collectors' books at the last examination, was 1640*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.*, or about 7½*d.* in the pound on the net annual value of the Union, but a further sum has been obtained since.

The collectors' books have been a little more than three months in his hands; they were given over at the latter end of the month of October last. Weekly examinations of his accounts have taken place since the 19th November. There has been some negligence on his part in completing detailed accounts, and omissions in technical points, mentioned in my reports; but I believe this has not been wilful. These matters have however contributed to delay the collection, and have given an opportunity to parties anxious to avail themselves of the occasion, to defer payment of the rate.

I am not in a position to say that there has been dishonesty on the part of the rate-payers; but a great disinclination to pay the demand made upon them has been shown by many, rendering a recourse to legal measures necessary for enforcing the collection. A number of cases, as the Commissioners are aware, of defalcation on the part of immediate lessors, are now in the hands of the solicitor of the Union, who is taking the necessary measures to obtain payment; and other parties have been summoned by the collector, and decrees obtained, which sufficiently prove the existence of this disinclination; and I fear that such measures as these must be resorted to throughout, to obtain the portion of the rate now unpaid.

With regard to the causes of this inclination, the complaints on the part of the immediate lessors are, that the rate-books are incorrect, that the lessor has been charged with the rate in cases when the occupier holds under lease, and in some instances when the land is not the property of the individual at all. They have not availed themselves, however, of the remedy pointed out by law, viz., by an appeal to the Quarter Sessions; and the Vice-Guardians have no power to alter the rate-books. The rate-payers (householders) in the town say

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it is hard they should pay a new rate whilst the arrears of an old one remain uncollected, as they assert. The burden thus falls doubly upon them; and the occupiers in the rural districts plead their utter inability to meet the demand, in consequence of the losses they sustained in the failure of the potato crop. With respect to the grievance alleged by the householders, the arrears of the former rate have been brought forward, and payment enforced, with the collection of the present rate. And with regard to the rural occupiers, there are some undoubtedly who have not the ability to pay the rate; but there are others who take advantage of this fact to urge the same excuse, though fully able to meet the demand.

That the rate-books require a revision cannot be doubted, and it is most desirable that such revision should take place before a new rate is struck; but it is not in the power of the Vice-Guardians to apply a remedy in the present instance, the parties aggrieved having neglected to avail themselves of the course pointed out by law. There is, therefore, no alternative but to enforce the collection by all legal means, and such a course is now in operation.

The rate now in course of collection varies from 3s. 1d. in the pound, in some electoral divisions, to 4s. 7d. and 5s. in others; and supposing that nearly the whole of it is collected—which, under all circumstances, cannot be expected—it would only suffice, after paying off 50 per cent. of the liabilities incurred by the former Board of Guardians, and the debts in full contracted since, to liquidate the expense of establishment, salaries of officers, and maintenance of the inmates of the workhouse, for a few weeks, as detailed in my report of the 23rd ultimo, leaving the cost of the out-door relief unprovided for.

The expenditure of the Union for out-door relief now amounts to about 350l. per week, so that another rate of at least 5s. in the pound would be required to meet this and the balance of former liabilities for the next seven months; leaving still two out of twelve months from the date of the signing of the collector's warrant in October last, of both in-door and out-door relief unprovided for, although for the expenses of ten months, rates varying from 8s. to 10s. in the pound will have been struck; and this without raising one penny to meet the charges on the Union for sums advanced by Government for building, or for advances made under the Temporary Relief Act.

Whilst, therefore, I am of opinion that the rate now in course of collection should be enforced, as the poundage is not so heavy as to cause serious inconvenience, I do not think the district could meet the whole burden of the destitution thrown upon it, if it is to fall altogether on the Union funds.

I am anxious at the same time that it should be understood, that I mean only so far as the Union funds are concerned, because I am satisfied that the Union contains ample room for remunerative and productive employment—by reclamation of waste lands, deepening of rivers, surface drainage, sub-soiling, fencing, improved cultivation—by which the able-bodied could be employed now; and in the event of these capabilities being handled in a judicious manner, permanent good would be obtained, the condition of the lower classes raised, and a recurrence of the periodical distress which, before the present famine raged, was felt in this part of Ireland, prevented.

The majority of the proprietors, however, are not in a position to make these extensive improvements at the present time. Many of the estates are under the Court of Chancery, and others weighed down by debt and incumbrances.

The tradespeople have also been affected by the badness of the times, rendering them less able to meet their burdens; many have left the country for America, and some of the more comfortable class of small farmers have followed their example; and in a district like this, so entirely dependent heretofore upon the potato, it need not be stated that the loss of that crop pressed heavily upon those who remained; and that the revolution in agricultural arrangements caused thereby, is of too recent a date to have yet permitted matters to right themselves by the opening of new channels of production.

Under these circumstances, when after struggling for some weeks to provide the weekly provision orders for out-door relief, without the means of meeting the contractors' bills for the same; with liabilities to the amount of 1500l. (since increased) incurred since the present rate was struck, and the debts of the former Board pressing upon the Vice-Guardians; knowing the efforts they

were making for obtaining funds from the rate-payers, and that the legal processes which had been resorted to would be tedious, and that each day was adding to the difficulties of their position—I felt called upon to make an appeal to the Commissioners, and to certify “that the Vice-Guardians having made every effort in working out their arrangements, the extent of the distress really exceeded their powers duly and fully exerted;” conceiving that, concurrent with their efforts for enforcing the collection by all the legal means in their power (which measures had been put in operation, are now going on, and will be continued until the amount of the rate has been obtained), assistance might be given, instead of such aid being deferred until the lapse of some months hence, when an enormous amount of debt would have been accumulated (even if the contractors would have advanced supplies, a matter scarcely to be anticipated), as a considerable period must necessarily elapse before the greater part of the rate can be collected, there being but one collector in the Union, the law proceedings being tedious, and the decrees requiring time for their execution; and I still beg respectfully to submit that such assistance, however limited it might be, would be of infinite value at the present moment, and would not be permitted to act as a clog upon the collection, or an excuse for evading the rate.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 7, 1848.*

WE have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a letter addressed to our solicitor by the Earl of Lucan; and as some facts of his Lordship's observations can be explained by the letters of Mr. O'Donel, we forward copies of them also. In the matter of Mr. Lynch, of Partry, alluded to by Lord Lucan, if any arbitration has been entered into or acted upon, it has been done without our advice or consent; from the hour the rate-books were signed, we have, whenever objections have been spoken of by rate-payers, clearly and openly disavowed our possessing any authority or privilege of making the slightest alteration in them; and when, on the 22nd ultimo, Mr. Lynch waited on the Board in Ballinrobe, and required the Chairman to adjust some cases of rating objected to by Mr. Lynch, the Chairman stated that that was the first intimation he had received of such a mode of alteration having been agreed on; and as Mr. Lynch had appealed, and even caused his notice of appeal to be printed and circulated through the country, he ought to have abided by the remedy he had chosen; and the Chairman refused to go into any investigation, or being a party in any way to a private adjustment. Dr. Dempster, the Temporary Poor Law Inspector, then said he would adjust the objections in his own office, and retired with Mr. Lynch; and since that time there has not been any further communication with us on the subject. Upon that occasion the Chairman asked Dr. Dempster, had the Commissioners sanctioned his arbitrating so important a matter? He replied that he considered himself authorized; and on being requested to show the authority on which he acted, he said he had written to the Commissioners offering his services in the matter as an arbitrator, and as his offer was not declined, he considered silence gave consent. If, therefore, the collector has received any directions to abate part of the claims on Mr. Lynch, as set forth in his collecting book, such directions have not emanated from us.

See Ballinrobe Union, page 8.

Lord Lucan's observations respecting our having founded the present rating on the valuation, as set forth in the last rate-books, are not very happy. The Union was originally valued by Charles O'Malley and James Lynch: on this valuation a rate was struck; and prior to the second rate, Mr. John Sheridan was appointed to revise the Union, and this is the revision Lord Lucan stigmatizes as so generally incorrect, and so false and fallacious throughout, that it would be found impossible to act upon it; and yet Lord Lucan and the Board of Guardians re-appoint the author of this false and fallacious revision, to mislead them over again, and abuses us for not having done an impossibility—not having acted on a document which was not completed when we demanded it; and when said to be completed, was refused to be delivered to us unless we paid for it, although it was notorious we had not a shilling of the money of the Union at our command.

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On the point of Lord Lucan's agents having fruitlessly endeavoured to obtain an inspection of the rate-books, we beg to transmit a report from the clerk, which we believe is correct.

His Lordship's letter is so unnecessarily vituperative and offensive, that we would have declined subjecting you to the annoyance of reading so passionate and indecorous a production, but as in the last paragraph his Lordship states his intention of repeating his offer to refer (we suppose the subject to arbitration), and in the event of its being declined, and the case being brought into a court of justice, defending himself to the last, we feel it our duty to lay it before you. His Lordship's reply to Mr. O'Donel's first letter is already before you.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. O'DONEL to the Earl of LUCAN:—*January 12, 1848.*

I HAVE received instructions from the paid officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the Castlebar Union to apply to your Lordship for payment of the sum of 692*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, being the amount of poor-rates claimed to be due by your Lordship to them on foot of the rate-book, the particulars of which have been, as I understand, furnished to your agent. I am further instructed to request your Lordship's earliest attention to this application, as the exigency in which the Guardians find themselves placed by the numerous and urgent pecuniary demands upon them admits of no alternative but to press upon the several persons charged with the rates the necessity of immediate payment.

The urgency in which the paid Guardians find themselves placed is so great, that I am reluctantly obliged, without waiting for your Lordship's answer to this application, to request that if your Lordship feels bound to dispute the legality of their demand, you will be so good as to instruct your solicitor to receive on your Lordship's part, the necessary legal process to bring the dispute to an issue.

Mr. O'DONEL to the Earl of LUCAN:—*January 25, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 15th instant, and beg to state that, in compliance with the directions it contained, I did not fail to forward a copy of your Lordship's letter to the paid Guardians of this Union, who transmitted that copy for the consideration of the Poor Law Commissioners.

It would appear that your Lordship labours under a misconception, as the paid Guardians inform me that the particulars of the rates in question were furnished long since to Mr. Ormsby, your Lordship's agent, who subsequently produced these bills of particulars to the Chairman of the Board.

The Guardians feel that your Lordship must have been aware of the reasons which compelled them to adopt the valuation, &c., contained in the old books which had been previously acted upon by the dissolved Board, of which your Lordship, I believe, was chairman, from the fact that the subject underwent some discussion between your Lordship and the Chairman of the paid Board of Guardians.

Your Lordship, if aggrieved by the rate, not having deemed it prudent or expedient to avail yourself by appeal of the only mode of redress pointed out by the Poor Law Acts, and for which abundant time had been afforded, the paid Guardians feel that they have no course open to them but to proceed to enforce payment of the rates by using the powers given them by the statutes.

In this latter conclusion the Poor Law Commissioners have, by their letter of the 22nd inst., concurred.

May I, therefore, request that your Lordship will be good enough either to direct immediate payment of the amount of rates claimed in my letter of the 12th instant, or refer me to an attorney who may receive legal process.

The Earl of LUCAN to Mr. O'DONEL:—*January 29, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant.

Your not considering deserving of notice my proposal to refer all claims against me for poor rate to any arbitrator conversant with the provisions of the Poor Law Act, is no surprise to me, instructed as you are by Mr. Twisleton, who, since his arrival in Ireland, has so consistently evinced the same spirit of litigation. I am told that a reference similar to one now so unceremoniously declined was in the case of Mr. Lynch, of Partry, acted upon certainly with the sanction, if not at the suggestion of the Poor Law Commissioners.

I deny being under any misapprehension respecting the particulars of the rates; I am assured that only very lately a supplemental list has been furnished, but in a perfectly unintelligible shape, and that my agents have hitherto fruitlessly endeavoured to obtain an inspection of the books, to enable them to elucidate it.

I am aware that at my instance a list of objections, prepared with much labour and care by myself, was furnished to Mr. Lecky, who declined to consider or examine it, although that gentleman had assured me that it was his intention to act fairly, and only to press honest and legitimate demands. It is quite true that the paid Guardians, at a private visit they paid to me, did mention the circumstances which had induced them to continue the old valuation, though condemned and discarded by the former Board of Guardians; and I told those gentlemen that I considered it most unfortunate, for they would very soon discover, if it was not already well known to them, that it was so generally incorrect, and so false and fallacious throughout, that it would be found impossible to act upon it. On such an occasion I was not called upon to say more, indeed ordinary civility forbade my doing so; but your observation forces me to state that I consider the paid Guardians, in striking a rate on a valuation notoriously false and fallacious, and one already condemned, acted most arbitrarily, most unjustly, and quite contrary to law. Such a proceeding is unjustifiable; but these gentlemen cannot pretend to an ordinary excuse for conduct so illegal and extraordinary; the revised valuation was, as I am informed, actually offered to them, and without payment, and they rejected it because the valuator had, I think, wrongly insisted upon previous payment only a few days antecedent. In England a rate struck under such circumstances must be instantly quashed; in Ireland it is attempted to extort the most groundless and most extravagant demands under it, and by paid Guardians who are as conversant with the falsity of the valuation as the rest of the public, and who profess and promise to act with fairness and justice.

It is droll to be reminded that the Board of which I was chairman, had acted upon this valuation, when that Board (which by the by I never once attended) was actually dismissed because it refused to do so, because it refused to comply with Mr. Twisleton's mandates, and to enforce by law, against their convictions and against their consciences, rates that they stated they knew to be wrong and improper; and when it is recollected that Mr. Twisleton, most wantonly and most offensively naming me as a great defaulter, though aware that all I fairly owed had been paid, positively charged the Board with corruption in not prosecuting claims against members of its own body which they knew and had declared to be ill-founded. This valuation would long previously have been set aside, but for Mr. Gulston's assuring me that the errors respecting the immediate lessors would be remedied by resorting to the land; and this is the law at the present time, a course just to all parties, but not the less most consistently rejected by Mr. Twisleton.

You with great simplicity call upon me to direct immediate payment of the gross amount of rates claimed by you, and which you, Mr. Twisleton, the paid Guardians, and Captain Farren, who is said to be the principal instigator of these proceedings, know full well I do not owe, or to refer you to an attorney to receive legal process; I shall at the present time adopt neither of these courses. I decline to pay for houses that do not exist, for lands that do not belong to me, or for holdings under 4*l.* value where I am not the immediate lessor. I can as ill afford as the Union wantonly to embark in unnecessary, costly, and disgusting litigation. I deny the right of Mr. Twisleton, through his nominees, citing me to a court of law, in the hope, contrary to all common honesty, of extorting from me moneys which he and they know I do not owe, but trusting to establish their unfounded claims through the accidental omission of some form given for protection and defence. I protest against conduct on the part of gentlemen, the paid servants of the public, so harassing to the individual, and so odious as naturally to excite opposition to a law I am most anxious by precept and example to support.

I shall, at whatever inconvenience to myself, immediately repair to Ireland, and shall endeavour to adjust these claims; if one shilling, contrary to my anxiously repeated injunctions, is accidentally still owing, it shall be at once discharged. I shall repeat my offer to refer. If I am, notwithstanding all my efforts to avoid it, dragged into a court of justice, I must and shall defend myself to the last; if I am robbed according to law, the consequences cannot fail to secure the amendment of a law found to be outrageously unjust and oppressive, although so lately out of the hands of Mr. Twisleton, its author and administrator.

The clerk reports that on Tuesday, the 25th of January last, after leaving his office at the workhouse, where he had been making up his minutes, he went to the Vice-Guardians' house and took with him some letters for the Commissioners, which he took to the post-office and posted, and then went home to breakfast. In some time after Captain Farren, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, called on the clerk at his house, and handed him two bundles of papers containing lists of names of the several persons in some of the electoral divisions of the Union who were receiving out-door relief, and asked him up to the printing offices: that he went with Captain Farren to the "Constitution" newspaper office, where they left some of the lists with directions, and from thence to the "Telegraph" office with other lists, which the clerk, by direction of Captain Farren, left at the "Constitution" office again.

On the following morning (Wednesday), as the clerk was returning from the post-office, he met Mr. William Young (under agent to Lord Lucan), who said that he was coming up from the workhouse where he had been to see the rate books: the clerk said that he was just returning from the post-office and had not then breakfasted; Mr. Young took and looked at his watch, and named an hour he would meet the clerk after his breakfast at the workhouse.

The clerk shortly after went to the workhouse, where he furnished Mr. Young and Mr. Richard Gallagher, Lord Lucan's clerk, with all the rate books which they called for, and they remained until evening taking abstracts. They came the next morning (Thursday), and re-

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mained until about 12 o'clock, Mr. Gallagher being obliged to attend the Petty Sessions Court, of which he is the clerk.

They also attended on the next day, Friday, and remained until evening, and also on the Tuesday following, during all which time they were well pleased with the attention and civility of the clerk, who furnished them with pens, ink, &c., and with the old and new rate books, and they expressed themselves well pleased (particularly Mr. Young) when leaving the Board-room on Tuesday, the clerk having expressed his willingness to afford them at any time every attention in producing the books, &c., when required.

February 6, 1848.

PATRICK FLINN,
Clerk of the Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—February 8, 1848.

YESTERDAY we had the honour of forwarding to you copies of the correspondence which has taken place between our solicitor and the Earl of Lucan, on the subject of the amount of poor rate due by his lordship in this Union. Mr. O'Donel has handed us a copy of his reply to Lord Lucan's last letter, which we think it right to lay before you.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. O'DONEL to the Earl of LUCAN :—February 7, 1848.

YOUR lordship's letter of the 29th ultimo, the receipt of which I have the honour to acknowledge, is written in such a tone of invective, and casts so many serious imputations upon the acts and intentions of the officers connected with the administration of the law for the relief of the poor in this Union, in language as unmeasured as I believe it to be undeserved, that I cannot regret it should form no part of my duty to reply to it in detail.

As the law does not sanction an arbitration such as your lordship desired, the proposal to arbitrate was one which it was not in the power of the Vice-Guardians, or I believe of the Poor Law Commissioners, to accede to, and I think it will be found that in no similar instance has such a course been adopted or sanctioned by them.

Your lordship has been pleased to say that I have demanded payment of a sum "which I, &c., know you did not owe." In answering this charge I have only to observe that, save by the statements contained in the two letters your lordship favoured me with, I know nothing of the injustice of that demand, opposed to which claim to exemption on your part stand the rate books, made out and struck in October last; and although your lordship was here in November, and aware, as you have proclaimed, of the alleged false basis upon which they, as well as the previous rates, were framed; yet your lordship, aware of all this impending injustice, and no doubt also aware of the relief that could be afforded you by appeal to the then following January quarter sessions, did not deem it proper to have recourse to that tribunal for protection and redress.

I have delayed a few days in forwarding this letter in order to ascertain if the Vice-Guardians had any further instructions to give, and not having received any, I have only to inform your lordship that I must proceed for the recovery of the rates remaining unpaid.

REPLY to the foregoing :—February 11, 1848.

THE Commissioners desire to acknowledge the receipt of your reports of the 7th and 8th instant, referring to correspondence between your solicitor, Mr. Manus L. O'Donel, and the Earl of Lucan, with respect to your notice to take legal proceedings for the recovery of poor rates, amounting to 692*l.* 4*s.* 2½*d.*, assessed on his lordship.

The Commissioners are not aware that they are called upon to take any part in the question raised as to the Earl of Lucan's liability. The rates have been assessed by you as Vice-Guardians, and on your application, the Commissioners have consented, in pursuance of Act 6 and 7 Vic. cap. 92, to your proceeding in the superior courts against several immediate lessors named in your list of those whose rates have not been paid, including the Earl of Lucan.

The Commissioners beg to observe that they have not in any case sanctioned an arbitration of claims to rates. In the case referred to in the correspondence, they were informed by a report from Dr. Dempster, Temporary Poor Law Inspector at Ballinrobe, dated 18th December, 1847, that Mr. Lynch, of Partry, had sent notice of appeal to the clerk of the Union, in reference to which Dr. Dempster was informed (as the collectors excused their inactivity by referring

to such notices) "that under the 110th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, rates are payable notwithstanding the appeal." However, in the next report from Dr. Dempster, dated 25th December, 1847, he stated that he had arranged with Mr. Lynch to withdraw the appeal, and had undertaken to arbitrate the matter disputed.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 8, 1848.*

WE have the honour to inform you that the amount of poor rate lodged to our credit by the collector for the last week is 212*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*; and we have paid thereout 212*l.* 10*s.* for meal supplied by contractors for the out-door relief, and for other current expenses.

The quantity of meal required for the ensuing week's distribution to the persons on the out-door relief list is 40 tons 7 cwt. 2 qrs. 8 lbs., and costs 410*l.*, thus adding largely to a debt of about 2000*l.* already incurred for the same purpose; but you will perceive by the letter which we have the honour to enclose, last night received from our contractors, that we cannot expect any further supply from them.

We have been strongly urging the rate collector to increased exertion, and he has informed us that he has obtained decrees which he purposes to have executed this week, and that he is proceeding against a large number of defaulters, upon whom he is serving summonses to the Petty Sessions Courts.

We send you his written reply to the queries contained in your letter, dated the 4th instant, No. 4325, by which it appears that the magistrates in question did not of themselves raise any objections to defeat the cases brought before them. The collector states that he has applied to the receiver for payment of the rates due on Mr. M'Donnell's property, and that he will also call upon Dr. Dillon for payment of his rate.

ENCLOSURES.

Messrs. MALLEY and HYNES to the POOR LAW GUARDIANS:—*February 8, 1848.*

ALTHOUGH a considerable sum of money is now due to us, as contractors for the above Union, yet viewing (as we wish to do) the great necessity for administering to the destitute poor this week's provision, we beg to say, that notwithstanding the serious injury we sustain by reason of your incapability of paying us the large amount now due, we will supply the several electoral divisions of the said above Union this week; but we protest against any further risk, unless being in the meantime paid a good portion of the debt already due to us.

Mr. MALLEY to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 7, 1848.*

IN reference to the letter of the Commissioners of the 4th instant, requiring to know whether the magistrates presiding at the Castlebar petty sessions had of themselves dismissed the cases relative to the poor rates, I beg to say, that such was not the case, but because of the notices not having been signed by the collector. One of the magistrates presiding was Dr. Dillon, who has not paid his poor rates.

With respect to the Ballavary petty sessions, but one magistrate presided. Francis Crosbie M'Donnell had not called of himself for evidence of the signature to the warrants of the collector, but was required by the attorney employed by the defendants, contrary to the opinion of the magistrate. I have also to state, that the same magistrate had left the bench and ordered out the police to disfrain, some parties having used threats to the collector in case of attempting to distrain their premises. This magistrate has not paid his poor rates; his property under the courts.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 9, 1848.*

I AM to state in reply, for your information, that the Commissioners have made application for a further advance of 350*l.* to you, to assist you in providing for the relief of the destitute poor in the Union.

With regard to the latter part of your report, I am to request that in your next weekly report relating to the collection of the rate in the Castlebar Union, you will have the goodness to state whether the two rates due on account of the property of the two gentlemen to whom you refer have been paid; and if not paid, in what stage the proceedings to enforce payment are.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 8, 1848.*

THE amount of rate collected during the week, as shown by the collectors' books examined on Friday, was	£165	2	5½
The total sum now collected is	1805	16	6½
Leaving uncollected	8141	6	4½

The Rate-abstract Books do not, however, show the full amount received by the collector, as he has been in the habit, although repeatedly urged to discontinue the practice, of taking sums on account which he could not enter in the abstracts, as the parties paying would not name the items of the rate for which the payment was made; nearly 2000*l* has therefore been lodged by him. I do not impute any improper motive to the collector, as I have been informed that on one occasion he lodged a sum of money out of his own pocket to meet the expenses of the Union; he has, however, been decisively called upon to put a stop to the practice, and insist upon the rate-payers naming the items of rate for which they pay, in order that the authorized receipts may be given and checked off in the collecting books.

On Friday I attended at the Court of petty sessions at Ballyvarry, when some poor-rate cases—adjourned at the previous sitting of the magistrates, in consequence of an objection made by the attorney for the defendants, who required that the signature of the chairman of the Board of Vice-Guardians to the collector's warrant, should be proved—were disposed of, and decrees made. When the attorney for the defendants saw that the clerk of the Union was present and the collector prepared, he withdrew his objection; but in order to prevent the necessity of the personal attendance of the clerk in future at the Court, he proved the chairman's signature to the warrants, and the fact was noted in the books of the Court. The magistrates present were Mr. Morony, the resident magistrate, and F. C. M'Donnell, Esq.

The collector having issued fresh warrants in lieu of those previously served on rate-payers in this electoral division, the parties will be summoned before the magistrates at petty sessions at this place, on Thursday next. I enclose a memorandum from the collector, of the number, by which it appears that 42 notices have been served; in four cases the rate has been paid, leaving 38, to which summonses must be issued. I have this day ascertained that the summonses have been served. I purpose being present at the Court, and have informed the collector that I shall attend on every occasion on which parties are summoned for non-payment of the rate, for the purpose of giving him all the support in my power.

As it appears that all the names of the immediate lessors who have not paid the rate have not yet been laid before the Board of Vice-Guardians, the collector has been directed to furnish a supplemental return on the next Board-day, containing the names of every immediate lessor, not included in previous returns, who has not paid the rate; he has also been directed to hand in a return of the decrees obtained in cases of persons summoned for non-payment of rate, showing the name of the person, the amount decreed, and the steps taken for enforcing the same: the return to be continued from week to week.

The collector is aware that the resident magistrate will afford every assistance, and that the aid of the military will be available in enforcing the law. They have already been employed on one occasion, as mentioned in my reports.

On Saturday and Monday I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians.

Number of applicants on books of relieving officers	1,918
Of which—admitted to workhouse	29
Placed on out-door relief lists	1,411
The total number now receiving out-door relief is	14,287

The following return shows the number of applicants for relief, the number placed on out-door relief lists, and the total number on out-door relief lists, each week, commencing at week ended 4th December last:—

	Board Days, Weeks Ended									
	1847				1848					
	4th Decem.	11th Decem.	18th Decem.	27th Decem.	2nd January.	8th January.	15th January.	22nd January.	29th January.	5th Feb.
Applicants for Relief	364	1,459	3,270	4,007	2,469	..	3,510	1 41	2,113	1,918
Placed on Out-door Relief Lists . . .	341	1,466	1,382	3,463	180	1,532	3,221	1,465	1,419	1,411
Total on Out-door Lists	472	1,919	3,301	6,821	6,798	8,401	11,358	12,450	13,148	14,287

The greatest pressure occurred in the week ended 27th December, when there were 4007 applicants on the books of the relieving officers, and 3463 were passed by the Board of Vice-Guardians.

The number still seeking relief is considerable, and parties are every day qualifying themselves by giving up their land; and in some localities the chief occupation of the people, is looking for the relieving officer, neglecting the cultivation of the land and preparation for a future crop.

I am anxiously expecting the arrival of one of the instructors from the Royal Agricultural Society, whose presence would, I am satisfied, be of much service. If within the province of the Commissioners, I would suggest that a communication be made to the Society, with a view to one of the lecturers being directed to proceed to this Union.

The following is the Labour Return for the Week:—

	Number in Gangs.	Total Days' Work.	Work executed—Boxes of Stone broken.	Number of Labourers struck off for absence or idleness.	
Addergoole .	151	341½	303	..	Saturday, snow—Thursday and Friday, wet. Saturday snow.
Balla	78	339	347	..	
Ballintubber .	143	517	392	77	Saturday and Monday snow. Working in workhouse grounds.
Ballyhean . .	149	288½	332	54	
Breafy	69	218½	153	1	
Castlebar . . .	116	365½	61½	7	
Drum	211	711½	661½	20	
Islandeedy . .	80	204½	176	1	
Strade	118	312½	371	16	
Turlough . . .	104	338	308½	34	
	1,209	3,636½	3,105	210	

The books of the overseer of work in the electoral division of Addergoole not being considered satisfactory, he was dismissed by the Board.

210 labourers were struck off for absence or idleness, they and their families thereby losing their rations.

With reference to that part of my report of the preceding week relative to employment on productive works, I have seen a printed report of an engineer of the Board of Works, upon the drainage of lands along certain lakes near this town, called "The Lough Lannagh District," for which work all the requirements of the Drainage Act have been complied with, and final notice to that effect given by the Commissioners of Public Works. The lands to be recovered amount to 2454 acres; the estimated cost of the works is 12,940l.; and the profit is calculated at 8½ per cent. The engineer in his report states, "Of the many advantages which the proposed drainage will confer on the proprietors, there is one I cannot overlook, that is, the great source of employment it will give to the labouring population living near the works." Again, "From the peculiar nature of them (the works), it will take two years for their completion; and I estimate that daily, on an average, employment can be given to 260 labourers, who otherwise will most likely be obliged to seek relief from the workhouse or other sources." The report is dated 1st September, 1847.

A portion of this district lies close to the town of Castlebar; in fact, the river running through the town forms a part of the proposed work, which would be

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most serviceable for the employment of the poor in the electoral division of Castlebar.

There is also another extensive drainage work, called the Drainage of the Balla District, in the case of which the Commissioners of Public Works have in like manner published a final notice, stating that all the requirements of the Act of Parliament have been complied with. The estimated cost of the work is, I understand, about 16,000*l.*; it will effect the recovery of land bordering on the Manulla river, running through three electoral divisions of this Union, viz., Strade, Balla, and Drum.

These drainage works, called respectively "The Lough Lannagh District" and "The Balla District," would permanently benefit the proprietors of the lands affected, and would be of much value at the present moment in relieving the poor-rates of a portion of the heavy burden of destitution indicated by the foregoing returns. I have, therefore, thought it my duty to bring them to your notice, as that, if deemed fitting, a communication might be made to the Commissioners of Public Works, requesting that they may be commenced at an early period.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 12, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have communicated with the Royal Agricultural Society, with regard to a lecturer being sent by the Society to the Castlebar Union.

With reference to the collection of the poor-rate, I am to state that the Commissioners consider the collector's practice of receiving sums on account of rate, for which he does not issue receipts, to be seriously objectionable, and one which cannot be permitted to continue. They recommend that in every such case ascertained, the full rate assessed be debited to him; and they request that the Vice-Guardians may be moved to pursue that course.

An extract from your report, relating to the drainage of the Lough Lannagh and Balla districts, has been forwarded to the Board of Works.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 13, 1848.*

IN compliance with that part of your letter of the 9th instant requesting that on every Saturday the Vice-Guardians and myself will forward an estimate of the amount which will be required for out-door relief to the able-bodied during the ensuing week, I beg to state that there will be about 8095 able-bodied individuals and their families on the out-door relief lists for the week ending 19th February. The quantity of provision required will be about 22 tons 10 cwt., and the value, at 10*l.* per ton, 235*l.*

As the books of six electoral divisions only were examined on Saturday (yesterday), Monday being the day for examination of the remaining four, the calculation for the latter must be considered an approximation; it will, however, I think, be found very near the amount.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 15, 1848.*

APPLICATION has been made to Count Strzelecki for a further advance of 235*l.*, to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the wants of the destitute poor in the Union.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 15, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians of this Union having been placed in a position of great difficulty yesterday, in consequence of the refusal of the contractors to supply a deficiency of 7 tons 7 cwt. and 2 qrs. of meal, required to complete the supply of provisions to the paupers receiving out-door relief, for the week ending Saturday next, the grant of 350*l.* worth, received from the British Association, being that quantity short of the amount required; and as very serious consequences would ensue if the poor of the Castlebar electoral division (the district unsupplied) were left for a week without food, I have taken

upon myself to place at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians a portion of a grant of 200*l.* upon Ballinrobe Commissariat Dépôt, received from Count De Strzelecki for rationing the children attending schools in the Union, upon the understanding that the Vice-Guardians will replace it, viz., 7 tons 7 cwt. and 2 qrs, value 66*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, out of the next grant of provision allotted to them by the British Association.

It was after every effort to procure a supply from the contractors had failed, that I took upon myself the responsibility of this proceeding, and I have taken the earliest opportunity of reporting it to you and the Count De Strzelecki.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February* 17, 1848.

I AM to express the Commissioners' thanks for the course which you adopted to enable the Vice-Guardians to provide the requisite supply of food required for the maintenance of the poor entitled to out-door relief in the Castlebar Union.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners have made application for a further advance of 500*l.*, to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the relief of the destitute poor in the Castlebar Union.

The Commissioners have requested the Vice-Guardians to make a close scrutiny into the cases of the parties who are receiving out-door relief in the Union, and to press forward vigorously the collection of the poor-rates.

For the future, the course which the Commissioners are prepared for awhile to adopt, is to undertake to make weekly advances for the relief of the able-bodied men out of the workhouse, provided, that the Vice-Guardians will relieve from the poor-rates able-bodied men and their families in the workhouse, and destitute persons entitled to relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, out of the workhouse.

The Commissioners have requested the Vice-Guardians to supply them on Saturday in each week with an estimate of the weekly sum which in their opinion will be required in order to preserve from starvation the destitute poor who are entitled to relief in their districts, forming a separate estimate for each of the three following heads:—

1st. Relief in the workhouse.

2nd. Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

3rd. Relief to able-bodied persons entitled to such relief under the 2nd section of that Act.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February* 15, 1848.

WE have the honour to state that the collector of poor-rate has lodged to our credit in the last week 200*l.*; and we have paid 200*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* on account of the current expenses of the Union.

The number of destitute persons entitled to out-door relief is 14,968, and the quantity of meal required for the week's distribution is 44 tons 17 cwt. 3 qrs., in aid of which we have to acknowledge a grant from the British Association, through Captain Farren, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, of 350*l.* worth of provisions, equivalent to 38 tons 18 cwt. (the carriage and distribution of which will cost about 30*l.*), and is 6 tons short of the requisite supply. This we have been unable to obtain upon any terms short of our own personal security; and after every exertion, till near midnight, to induce some contractor to give it in the usual way, without avail, Captain Farren, at our earnest request, kindly consented to advance it out of provisions at his disposal, upon the undertaking that we will return it to him out of the next order granted to this Union by the British Association.

In reply to your letter dated 9th of February, desiring to be informed what steps have been taken by the collector in the cases of the two magistrates mentioned in our report, the collector states that he has applied to the receiver upon Mr. Crosbie M'Donnell's property for payment, whose reply being that he has no funds, he has been returned in the list already furnished to our solicitor; he also states that he has served Dr. Dillon (the other magistrate alluded to) with a notice, preparatory to a summons to petty sessions.

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The minutes of our proceedings will show that we do not consider the collector is using due diligence in the execution of his duty, and our determination to proceed against him as the law directs, if he shall oblige us to take that course.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 17, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have made application for a further advance of 500*l.*, to assist you in providing for the relief of the destitute poor in the Castlebar Union.

I am at the same time to request that you will have the goodness to make a close scrutiny into the cases of the parties who are receiving out-door relief in the Union, and that you will press forward vigorously the collection of the poor-rates.

For the future, the course which the Commissioners are prepared for awhile to adopt is, to undertake to make weekly advances for the relief of the able-bodied men out of the workhouse, provided that you will relieve from the poor-rates able-bodied men and their families in the workhouse, and destitute persons entitled to relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, out of the workhouse.

The Commissioners request you to supply them on Saturday in each week with an estimate of the weekly sum which, in your opinion, will be required, in order to preserve from starvation the destitute poor who are entitled to relief in your districts, forming a separate estimate for each of the three following heads:—

1st. Relief in the workhouse.

2nd. Relief out of the workhouse to persons entitled to such relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

3rd. Relief to able-bodied persons entitled to such relief under the 2nd section of that Act.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 15, 1848.*

THE rate collected during the week, as shown by the collectors' books and accounts, was £ 171 16 5½

The total sum collected now amounts to 1977 12 11½

Leaving uncollected 7969 9 11½

On Thursday I attended the Petty Sessions at Castlebar, the collector having summoned parties before the magistrates for non-payment of the rate. Decrees were obtained in every case (34) save one, which had been settled.

None of the decrees yet obtained have been enforced by the collector, who was called upon by a minute of the Vice-Guardians, adopted last week, to produce a list of all the decrees obtained, with observations showing the measures taken for enforcing the same. The list was accordingly handed in yesterday, but it contained only the decrees obtained at Castlebar on Thursday last, although others had been ordered by the magistrates at Ballyvanny Petty Sessions on two previous occasions. The Commissioners will see by the minutes of yesterday, that the Vice-Guardians have informed the collector of their intention to put the 100th section of the 1st and 2nd Vict. chap. 56, in force against him, unless he does his duty.

The lists of immediate lessors not included in former returns, who have not paid the rate, and of the 20 highest occupiers, handed in by the collector on Saturday, not being considered satisfactory, the observations not being sufficiently explicit, the collector has been called upon to give additional information respecting each case, and to furnish the amended returns on the next Board day.

It is to be feared that the collector's duties, as barony cess collector, will interfere with the collection of the poor-rate.

With regard to the cases of defaulting rate-payers placed in the hands of the solicitor of the Union, the solicitor is now in Dublin making the necessary arrangements for filing bills in the superior courts.

On Saturday and Monday I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians.

Number of applicants on books of the relieving officers	1963
Of which admitted to workhouse	9

Placed on out-door relief lists	1821
Also discharged from workhouse to out-door relief	56
The total number now receiving out-door relief is	14,968

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The quantity of provision required to supply this multitude of paupers, amounted to 46 tons; but as the grants allotted by the British Association did not exceed 39 tons—the value of the orders being 350*l.*, and the price of Indian meal per ton at the Commissariat dépôt being 9*l.*—there was a deficiency of about seven tons to be provided for. The contractors when applied to refused to furnish the meal, it was however still hoped, at the rising of the Board at 8 o'clock, P.M., that an arrangement would be made. The relieving officer of the Castlebar electoral division, the district unprovided for, undertook to renew the effort, but late in the evening reported to the Vice-Guardians that he had been unsuccessful. Seeing the painful position in which the Vice-Guardians were placed, and apprehending that very serious consequences would ensue, if the poor of the electoral division of Castlebar were left for a week without food, I took upon myself to place a portion of the grant entrusted to me by the British Relief Association for the relief of the children of the Union, at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians, on the understanding that it would be replaced out of the next grant made to them by the Association, which circumstance I reported specially to you and the Count de Strzelecki by this morning's post.

A deputation from the creditors of the Union waited upon the Board yesterday, and urged the fulfilment of the agreement made with them for the payment of their claims, and submitted that no payment had yet been made, notwithstanding the understanding that 50 per cent. of the rate collected from 1st January should be set aside for the purpose.

The Board admitted the justice of the appeal, and adopted a resolution to set apart all the rate received in future, until the amount collected shall reach a full moiety of the sums received since 1st January last.

This arrangement, which the Board of Vice-Guardians are certainly pledged to carry out, will place them in a most difficult position.

The rate collected and expended since the 1st January last amounted to about 900*l.*, one-half of which, under the agreement alluded to, is claimed by the creditors. Not one penny of the future incomings can therefore be touched until this amount is realized, and 50 per cent. of the collection in future must also be reserved for a like purpose, whilst liabilities to the extent of 2000*l.* incurred since the dissolution of the former Board, a considerable portion for provision, must also be met.

The contractors positively refuse to furnish any further supplies unless their accounts be paid; the contractor for the workhouse excepted, who will comply with the terms of his contract for that establishment.

Although, therefore, the Commissioners have stated in their letter of the 9th instant, that “on the understanding that the Vice-Guardians will maintain the inmates of the workhouse, and all parties receiving out-door relief, under the 1st section of the Irish Relief Act, they will for a while advance means for granting out-door relief in the Union to able-bodied men and their families;” it will not be in the power of the Vice-Guardians to provide food for any of the classes receiving out-door relief, as from the foregoing causes they will have no funds at their disposal for the purpose.

That a great portion of the rate will be ultimately got in I am satisfied; in fact, it *must* be exacted; but the delays in the law proceedings, want of business habits on the part of the collector, the insufficiency of his staff, his additional duties as barony cess collector, the passive resistance of many of the rate-payers, the inability of others, will render it a work of time.

In the meantime, whilst from these causes the collection has been delayed, former debts and current expenses have anticipated nearly the full amount to be realized by the rate, as shown in my reports of the 23rd January and 3rd February; the difficulties of the Union are consequently becoming every day more burdensome and complicated.

It would not be expedient to strike a new rate at the present moment, with an arrear of 7000*l.*, and law proceedings now commencing in the superior courts against defaulters; moreover, the burden of a new rate would fall heavily and unfairly upon those who have paid the rates of 3*s.*, or 4*s.* 7*d.*, or 5*s.* in the pound. I have, therefore, no alternative, but to recommend the case

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of the Union to the consideration of the Commissioners, in order that the British Association may be requested to provide funds for the support of all the classes receiving out-door relief; and at the same time continue to urge upon the Board of Vice-Guardians, who I must admit are equally anxious upon the point, to put in force all the powers they possess to compel the collectors to use redoubled energy, and to press proceedings against immediate lessors as far as the law will allow them.

The quantity of provision to be issued this week for out-door relief amounts to 46 tons, value 416*l.*; and should an increase of numbers take place next Board day in the same proportion as heretofore, the quantity for the ensuing week will be 51 tons, the cost of which will be about 459*l.*

The published lists of paupers receiving out-door relief, some of which have been completed by the printer, and are in course of distribution, will, it is hoped, lessen the burden; but the pressure has been so great upon the relieving officers that revision has been almost out of the question. The labour test has enabled the Board to detect a great many cases; no less than 973 labourers having been struck off at various times for absence or idleness, who, with their families, amount to from 5000 to 6000 individuals.

Two of the relieving officers yesterday resigned their appointments, one from ill-health, brought on from over-exertion. It will be difficult to supply their places with efficient persons.

Owing to the difficulties the Vice-Guardians have had to contend with in the distribution of the meal, the system of a daily issue of provision to the able-bodied for the daily task of work has not yet been put in operation. No contractor could be induced to undertake the distribution of the meal received from the Commissariat stores, which duty was therefore unavoidably placed upon the relieving officers.

There are numerous provision dealers who would readily undertake to provide and distribute the food in each electoral division, who, under present circumstances, will have nothing to do with it. If not inconsistent with the arrangements of the British Association, the issue of grants in money, instead of provision orders on the Commissariat depôts, would simplify matters much, and remove many of the embarrassments which affect the present system, and seriously interfere with the Commissioners' rules and instructions, particularly as regards the relieving officers, who urge the extra duties placed upon them as a reason for the non-completion of their books. The check upon the distribution obtained by calling in the aid of a contractor is moreover desirable; the cost and risk of carriage now incurred is another consideration.

I had hoped that the system of issuing rye-bread to the able-bodied and their families on out-door relief daily would have been established this week; and tenders were received from bakers in the electoral divisions for the purpose, but owing to the uncertainty yet on the points above adverted to, and the Vice-Guardians not being in a position to pay for the baking of the bread, if the meal were even provided by the Association, it was found necessary to defer the matter until a reply had been received from you upon this point. I enclose a list of the tenders given in, as it shows in a gratifying manner the progress of the attempt now making to introduce the rye-bread into this district, by means of the relief afforded to the schools by the British Association. At the early part of the month of December last this bread was unknown in the Union; the first loaf was baked in December; nearly 5000 children are now receiving it daily; and on Saturday tenders were made by 18 bakers, some in remote localities of the Union, offering to provide it for the able-bodied paupers and their families receiving out-door relief, at a cost of from $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* to $1\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* per lb.

Before concluding this report, I beg to suggest that the Vice-Guardians may be authorized to appoint a person to superintend generally the working gangs throughout the Union. At present there is no person to visit the work depôts but myself; and a supervision will be most necessary when the duty of issuing the daily ticket to the labourer, authorizing the contractor to issue his rations, will fall upon the steward of the depôt. One superintendent could visit each depôt in the Union once, and probably twice a week; test the measurement of the stewards, and exercise a general supervision over them. The saving to the Union effected by such an officer, in the prevention and detection of abuses, would cover the cost of his salary.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 19, 1848.*

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I AM to state that under the circumstances mentioned by you, the Commissioners have applied to the British Association for a further advance to Castlebar Union of 500*l.*; but the Commissioners still hope that by redoubled efforts on the part of the Vice-Guardians, it will be possible for them to collect sufficient rates to maintain the inmates of the workhouse, and all paupers receiving out-door relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

It appears from your statement that the uncollected rates amount very nearly to 8000*l.*, that is, to 7969*l.* 9*s.* 11½*d.* Now the Commissioners cannot but be of opinion, that if the collectors and the rate-payers perform their duty in reference to that 7969*l.* 9*s.* 11½*d.*, it will be possible for the Union to depend upon its own resources, except as far as relates to the out-door relief to able-bodied men.

The Commissioners admit that the course pursued by the Vice-Guardians towards their creditors is just; but it will reduce the Union to a state either of bankruptcy or of absolute dependence on the British Association, unless the rates are collected more speedily than has been the case hitherto.

The Commissioners much regret to learn that owing to the difficulties adverted to by you, the system of a daily issue of provisions to the able-bodied for the daily task of work has not yet been put in operation; as independently of other objections, the Commissioners apprehend that if rations for a week are given to the able-bodied paupers, they will sometimes be so improvident as to consume the whole in four or five days, leaving nothing to themselves at the end of the week.

The Commissioners will communicate to the British Association your request, that you may receive supplies of money instead of food; and they will address you again on the subject.

The Commissioners will raise no objection to the appointment by the Vice-Guardians of an assistant relieving officer as a superintendent of the working gangs throughout the Union; but the Commissioners deem it desirable that any proposition of the kind should be inserted by the Vice-Guardians in their weekly minutes.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 16, 1848.*

I BEG to enclose a list of tenders for rye-bread, omitted to be forwarded with my report of yesterday's date.

This list is forwarded merely to show the progress made in introducing the rye-bread into the Union as an article of food.

ENCLOSURE.

TENDERS for SUPPLY of RYE-BREAD to Able-bodied PAUPERS and their Families receiving Out-door Relief, opened in the Board Room, Castlebar Workhouse, 14th February, 1848.

Electoral Divisions.	Name of Person who offers to Contract.	Price, per lb.	
Addergoole .	William Barrett . .	<i>d.</i> 7	Delivered at Westport. Delivered wherever it may be required, or any one division in Castlebar Union. Castlebar division.
	John M'Andrew . .	1	
Ballintobber .	James Lawless . .	1	
Balla . .	John Higgins . .	7	
	William Sutton . .	3	
	William Walsh . .	4	
	Pat Henelly . .	1½	
Castlebar . .	P. Heraghty for Mr. M'Donald, Westport .	4	
	Michael Healy, Castlebar .	7	
Breaffy . .	Martin Walsh . .	1	
Drum . .	Pat Walsh, Ballina . .	1½	
	Charles M'Evila, Dunamon .	3	
	Wm. Ludden, Balla . .	2	
	John Higgins, Balla . .	7	
	John Monahan . .	1	
	Wm. Walsh, Balla . .	2	
Turlough . .	Martin Walsh . .	1½	Or 3½ <i>d.</i> per 4 lb. loaf.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 19, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 16th instant, transmitting a list of tenders for supplying rye-bread in the Castlebar Union, and I am to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the progress made in the introduction of rye-meal into the Castlebar Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 21, 1848.*

WE have the honour to state, for your information, that the collector of this Union has not lodged any sum on account of the rates collected during the week, nor has he attended the Board to give any explanation.

We have received from Captain Farren, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, orders for 735*l.* worth of provisions, granted by the British Association in aid of the destitute poor; and he has informed us that he holds a further grant of 500*l.* in money from the same source, to be applied to a similar purpose when necessary.

The numbers on the books entitled to out-door relief this week are 16,381, requiring 49 tons 8 cwt. of meal, costing 444*l.* 12*s.* We estimate that about 55 tons 5 cwt. of food will be necessary for the ensuing week's supply for out-door relief.

1st. Relief in the workhouse			63 <i>l.</i> about.		
Persons.			Tons. cwt. qrs.		
			Cost.		
			£.	s.	d.
2nd. Sec.	8,588		26	16	3
3rd Sec.	9,106		28	9	0
Total, 17,694			55	5	3
			561	1	9

We have to report that the rate collector is out this day enforcing payment of the rates under the protection of the civil authority in the Ballyhean district, which will account for his absence from the Board, and from which we hope for results favourable to the future collection. We also understand that he is to be in the Strade district to-morrow, similarly supported.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 23, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 21st inst., in which you state that the collector of poor-rate in the Castlebar Union has not lodged any money during the past week, and that he has not attended your Board to give any explanation on the subject.

The latter part of your report, however, seems to show that the collector is now taking active steps in the discharge of his duty, and the Commissioners refrain from making any observation on the subject further than to request that your continued attention may be directed to the collection of the rate in the Union, as the collection hitherto cannot be considered satisfactory.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 22, 1848.*

THE amount of rate collected during the week in this Union, as shown by the Collectors' books, was

The total sum now collected amounts to	£ 136 13 4 ³ / ₄
Leaving uncollected	2,114 6 4 ¹ / ₂
	7,832 16 6 ¹ / ₂

The collector not having furnished the additional particulars required in the cases of the immediate lessors and occupiers, whose names were entered in the lists recently handed in by the collector, which lists were returned to him for the purpose, and not having given in a list of the 20 next highest occupiers, which he was called upon to do, or shown the steps taken by him for enforcing decrees ordered by the magistrates in poor rate cases, the Vice-Guardians have

directed that he shall be summoned before the magistrates, under the 100th section of the 1 and 2 Vic. cap. 56, for not obeying their orders in these respects.

The collector was sent for in order that he might explain to the Board the causes of their omission, but he was not to be found, and although it was said that he was in the country enforcing the decrees, and in the absence of any reply to the many and pressing communications made to him by direction of the Vice-Guardians, and looking to the small amount of the collection, they felt bound to put their powers in force against him.

The solicitor has moreover again complained that he has not yet obtained from the collector the statements of accounts required by him to carry on legal proceedings against defaulters, whose cases the Vice-Guardians had placed in his hands.

On Saturday and Monday I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians.

Three relieving officers were appointed in room of those resigned or displaced in the electoral divisions of Drum, Turlough, and Castlebar.

Number of applicants for relief on the books of the relieving officers	1,091
Of whom admitted to workhouse	49
Placed on out-door relief	955
The total number now receiving out-door relief	16,340
Of which 8,650 are able-bodied men and their families depending upon them.	

The grants from the British Association enabled the Vice-Guardians to issue provision orders upon the Commissariat dépôt for the support of the destitute on the out-door relief lists, the contractors, as reported in my letter of the 15th, having refused to furnish any further supplies unless they were paid a portion of the bills.

I am happy to report that tenders for the supply of rye bread to the able-bodied and their families daily in eight electoral divisions of the Union were accepted, and the parties will attend on Saturday next with their sureties to complete the contracts. They will be prepared to issue early next week. The printer is preparing the necessary forms for carrying out the new system, and copies of the instructions to all parties concerned shall be forwarded to you in another communication.

The lists of destitute persons receiving out-door relief in nine electoral divisions have been printed and put in circulation, one only now remains in the printer's hands. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to show the full effect of this measure; some good, however, has already resulted. I enclose one of the lists and a copy of the circular containing the minute of the Vice-Guardians, and form on which objections should be made. In future lists the names will be arranged by townlands, and the "No. of rations" daily will be inserted instead of "No. of lbs."

Since writing the foregoing I have been informed by the clerk of the Union, that the collector having seen the Vice-Guardians and explained to them his proceedings, by which it appeared to them that he had been actively engaged in enforcing the decrees, a considerable quantity of cattle and produce having been taken and brought by him into the town of Castlebar, the Vice-Guardians withdrew their order alluded to in the commencement of this report, and hope to report more favourably of the collector's movements in future. The clerk also adds that the collector has handed over the accounts adverted to, which the clerk has forwarded to the solicitor in Dublin.

ENCLOSURES.

Castlebar Union.—Electoral Division of Ballyhean.

RETURN of PERSONS receiving OUT-DOOR RELIEF, as Paupers, in the above Electoral Division, Week ending
22nd January, 1848.

No. in Application and Report Book.	Heads of Families and Adults.	Christian Name of Wife.	Age.	Number of Children under 15.	Residence.	Number of lbs. daily.	No. in Application and Report Book.	Heads of Families and Adults.	Christian Name of Wife.	Age.	Number of Children under 15.	Residence.	Number of lbs. daily.
74	Honor Henaghan .	..	64	..	Aughadrina .	1	9	James .	..	17	..	Clooncurra .	1
75	Mary (daughter) .	..	22	..	..	1	260	Mary Swords .	..	52	..	..	1
83	Judy Jennings .	..	35	2	Drimlogbra .	2	1	Biddy .	..	25	..	..	1
86	Mic Flanagan .	Biddy .	33	2	Buncorn .	3	2	Ellen .	..	22	..	..	1
89	Mary Flynn .	..	16	..	..	1	3	Catherine .	..	22	..	..	1
90	Richard Lyons .	Catherine	50	3	Ringaravin .	4	264	Cicily .	..	20	..	..	1
92	Mary (daughter) .	..	16	..	..	1	5	Austin .	..	18	..	..	1
96	Catherine Madigan	..	32	1	Mt. Daisy .	2	6	Sibby Tunny .	..	56	..	Creevash .	1
97	Nappy Walsh .	..	38	4	Derrynaska .	4	7	Honor .	..	20	..	..	1
102	Patt Walsh .	..	5	..	Hollyhill .	0½	8	Mary .	..	22	..	..	1
4	Cicily Gavan .	..	40	3	Westlands .	3½	208	Biddy Dempsey	..	45	3	Clooncurra .	3½
111	Bridget Gibbons .	..	50	1	Cloonamore .	1½	272	Mary Rearden .	..	60	..	..	1
2	Kitty .	..	17	..	..	1	3	William .	..	30	..	..	1
3	John .	..	15	..	..	1	4	Patt .	..	26	..	..	1
115	Kitty Lawless .	..	50	..	Mt. Daisy .	1	5	Biddy .	..	20	..	..	1
6	Peggy .	..	24	..	..	1	6	Mary .	..	15	..	..	1
7	Luke Killean .	Hannah .	50	3	Derrynaska .	3½	7	Tom M'Hale .	..	60	..	Errew .	1
129	Patt Carroll .	Mary .	60	3	Cloonfert .	4	8	A. Mulrooney .	Margaret	40	4	Aughadrina .	4½
131	Tom .	..	18	..	..	1	284	Mary Kelly .	..	70	..	Clooncurra .	1
135	Mary Faden .	..	60	..	Mt. Daisy .	1	285	John .	..	30	..	..	2
136	Sibby M'Greevy .	..	50	1	Ballyhean .	1½	286	Catherine Walsh	..	22	..	..	1
7	Owen .	..	20	..	..	1	287	Mary Coyne .	..	40	..	Goosepark .	1
8	Mary .	..	16	..	..	1	288	James Fergus .	Judy .	44	3	Aughadrina .	4
140	Mary M'Neely .	..	45	2	Aughadrina .	3	293	Anne M'Greevy	..	40	3	Ringarano .	1
143	Betty M'Hugh .	..	33	3	Knockbrack .	2½	4	Peggy .	..	22	..	..	1
147	Mary Davitt .	..	60	..	Drimloughbra	1	5	Anne .	..	20	..	..	1
148	Mary Geraghty .	..	60	..	Aughadrina .	1	6	Kitty .	..	17	..	..	1
149	Margaret .	..	17	..	..	1	7	Winny .	..	16	..	..	..
150	Judy .	..	16	..	..	1	301	John Toney .	Mary .	52	3	Aughadrina .	4
151	Tom Sheridan .	Winnny .	40	6	Kiladeer .	6	7	Michael .	..	16	..	..	1
159	Betty M'Nally .	..	20	..	Frenchhill .	1	308	Mary Rider .	..	50	..	Buncorn .	1
160	Billy Walsh .	..	40	3	..	3½	9	Nancy Rider .	..	50	..	Westlands .	1
161	Mary .	..	18	..	..	1	10	Thomas .	..	25	..	..	1
165	Mary Carroll .	..	80	1	..	2	1	John .	..	20	..	..	1
166	Redmond .	..	28	..	..	1	312	Peter .	..	19	..	..	1
167	Catherine .	..	20	..	..	1	313	Honor Walsh .	..	40	2	Clooncanvon .	2½
169	Martin Farragher	..	70	..	Derrygonrif .	1	314	Biddy .	..	15	..	..	1
170	Bessy Dunleavy .	..	40	..	..	1	317	Honor Walsh .	..	60	1	Creevagh .	2
171	Mary Rabbit .	..	35	3	Mt. Daisy .	3	319	Biddy M'Dermott	..	32	1	Mt. Daisy .	1½
172	John .	..	15	..	..	1	321	Peggy Cannon .	..	60	..	..	1
176	Mary Reilly .	..	50	1	Goosepark .	2	2	Margaret .	..	20	..	..	1
177	Patt .	..	20	..	..	1	3	Mary .	..	16	..	..	1
180	Nanny Langan .	..	46	..	Mt. Daisy .	1	324	Nancy M'Gough .	..	60	..	Aughadrina .	1
181	Mary .	..	20	..	..	1	5	Mary .	..	35	..	..	1
182	Judy .	..	18	..	..	1	6	Ellen .	..	18	..	..	1
183	Bessy Jordan .	..	50	3	Errive .	4	7	Anne .	..	15	..	..	1
187	Honor Rowley .	..	50	..	Ballyhean .	1	8	Martin .	..	23	..	..	1
188	Martin .	..	15	..	..	1	309	Patt Mullen .	Honor .	40	4	Coarsepark .	4½
189	Judy Gallagher .	..	30	..	..	1	335	Sibby Mullen .	..	40	..	..	1
190	Mary Fynn .	..	22	..	..	1	336	Mary Mullen .	..	52	..	..	1
191	Biddy (sister) .	..	15	..	..	1	337	Nancy M'Govran	..	60	..	Cloonamore .	1
192	Kitty Blouke .	..	54	..	Aughadrina .	1	8	Owen .	..	26	..	..	1
193	Laurence .	..	23	..	..	1	9	Peggy Burns .	..	70	..	Westland .	1
184	Mary .	..	20	..	..	1	340	Biddy Flannery .	..	60	..	..	1
195	Mary Ludden .	..	50	..	Coarsepark .	1	1	Peggy Fitzpatrick	..	30	..	Cornaveigh .	1
6	John .	..	15	..	..	1	2	John Burke .	Mary .	36	4	Derrynaskag .	5½
198	Mary Maley .	..	60	2	..	2	4	Bridget Burke .	..	16	..	..	1
9	Patt .	..	20	..	..	1	9	Mary Butler .	..	50	..	Aughadrina .	1
200	Peggy .	..	16	..	..	1	350	Ellen .	..	17	..	..	1
201	Mary .	..	15	..	..	1	351	Mary .	..	15	..	..	1
204	Thomas Burke .	Anne .	42	5	Ballyhean .	4	352	Honor Kenny .	..	40	..	..	1
206	Patt .	..	16	..	..	1	4	Mary .	..	20	..	..	1
212	Mary Gallagher .	..	20	..	Aughadrina .	1	5	Anne .	..	15	..	..	1
	Anthony .	..	18	..	..	1	6	Honor Broderick .	..	45	1	..	2
	Ellen .	..	15	..	..	1	7	Michael .	..	21	..	..	1
215	Patt Mulowny .	..	52	4	..	5	8	Patt .	..	17	..	..	1
221	Mary Murphy .	..	30	1	..	1½	360	Lackey Coen .	Mary .	60	1	..	3
223	Biddy Tunny .	..	30	3	..	3	362	Margaret .	..	22	..	..	1
242	Winnny Kelly .	..	40	2	Deradda .	2	3	Catherine .	..	18	..	..	1
244	Bridget Gibbons .	..	60	..	Coarsepark .	1	4	Biddy .	..	16	..	..	1
245	Bridget .	..	25	..	..	1	366	John Cusack .	Katty .	40	3	Buncorn .	5
247	Tom Tonra .	Judy .	61	..	Aughadrina .	1	8	Biddy .	..	17	..	..	1
249	Mary .	..	32	..	..	1	372	Nancy Murphy .	..	50	..	Westlands .	1
250	Kitty .	..	22	..	..	1	3	Mary .	..	21	..	..	1
251	Bridget .	..	20	..	..	1	4	Nancy .	..	19	..	..	1
252	Margaret .	..	18	..	..	1	376	Joe Ormsby .	..	20	..	..	1
253	Stephen .	..	15	..	..	1	7	John Ormsby .	..	16	..	..	1
254	Biddy Murray .	..	50	..	Clooncurra .	1	8	Patt Ormsby .	..	15	..	..	1
5	Catherine Murray	..	60	..	..	3	9	James Ormsby .	..	73	..	..	1
6	John Walsh .	Biddy .	60	1	..	1	380	Mary Ormsby .	..	9	..	..	1

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

No. in Application and Report Book.	Heads of Families and Adults.	Christian Name of Wife.	Age.	Number of Children under 15.	Residence.	Number of lbs. daily.	No. in Application and Report Book.	Heads of Families and Adults.	Christian Name of Wife.	Age.	Number of Children under 15.	Residence.	Number of lbs. daily.
381	Richard . . .		7	..	Westlands . . .	7	Thomas . . .			20	..	Kiladur . . .	1
386	John Higgins . . .	Catherine	40	4	Coarsepark . . .	4	Nancy Mallowny . . .			60	..	Knockbrack . . .	1
403	Anne Keane . . .	..	40	1	Creavagh . . .	2	Mary M'Evily . . .			60	..	Rocklands . . .	1
4	Anne . . .	..	18	..	..	1	Mary Carty . . .			60	..	Ballyheane . . .	1
5	Mary . . .	..	15	..	..	1	Nancy Philbin . . .			50	1	Frenchhill . . .	1
411	Michael Morris . . .	Kitty . . .	40	4	Baynesfort . . .	4	Myles . . .			18	..	..	1
426	Stephen Tonra . . .	Biddy . . .	40	3	Aughadrina . . .	3	John . . .			16	..	..	1
8	Anne . . .	..	15	..	..	1	Honor . . .			20	..	..	1
9	Mary . . .	..	17	..	..	1	Patt Joyce . . .	Bridget . . .		50	5	Caroclogher . . .	5
423	Mary Tonry . . .	..	60	3	..	4	John Shaughnessy . . .	Margaret . . .		40	2	..	3
472	John Jennings . . .	Biddy . . .	54	3	Coolodge . . .	2	Anne Joyce . . .	..		70	..	..	1
5	Mary . . .	..	20	..	..	1	Mary . . .	..		18	..	..	1
6	Judy . . .	..	15	..	..	1	Tom Walsh . . .	..		50	4	Hollyhill . . .	4
457	Biddy Lavelle . . .	..	50	..	Kinturk . . .	1	Catherine . . .	..		18	..	..	1
493	Michael Gannon . . .	..	60	2	Ballyhean . . .	2	John Duddy . . .	Biddy . . .		46	2	Errew . . .	3
495	Mary . . .	..	11	..	..	1	Lucy . . .	..		18	..	..	1
498	Anne Byrne . . .	..	60	..	Maghera . . .	1	Mary . . .	..		26	..	..	1
499	Mick Elliott . . .	Catherine	40	1	Ballyheane . . .	2	Michael Devine . . .	Biddy . . .		35	6	Westlands . . .	6
501	Tom . . .	..	21	..	..	1	Michael Kilcoyne . . .	Biddy . . .		40	3	Kiladur . . .	4
2	Michael . . .	..	18	..	..	1	Tom . . .	..		18	..	..	1
3	John . . .	..	16	..	..	1	Anne Lyons . . .	..		40	..	Ringarawn . . .	1
521	Mick M'Devinot . . .	..	60	..	Goosepark . . .	1	Mary . . .	..		16	..	..	1
2	Peggy Gannon . . .	..	60	..	Aughadrina . . .	1	Honor Garvey . . .	..		45	3	Coruaveigh . . .	3
3	Bab . . .	..	20	..	..	1	John Kelly . . .	Mary . . .		40	5	..	5
4	Biddy Mallowny . . .	..	60	..	Mt. Daisy . . .	1	Patt Malley . . .	Catherine . . .		60	2	Cloonahmon . . .	4
5	Mary . . .	..	30	..	..	1	Mark . . .	..		18	..	..	1
548	Honor O'Donnell . . .	..	60	..	Cloonfert . . .	1	Patt Walsh . . .	Mary . . .		60	..	Buncom . . .	3
554	James Dolan . . .	Mary . . .	30	3	Derroul . . .	3 ¹	James . . .	..		26	..	..	1
569	Bridget Ruby . . .	..	45	1	..	2	Biddy Walsh . . .	..		22	..	..	1
570	James . . .	..	18	..	..	1	Mary . . .	..		16	..	..	1
1	Mary Browne . . .	..	50	..	Aughadrina . . .	1	Bridget Vahey . . .	..		18	..	Gurtasmuthaun . . .	1
3	John Keane . . .	Mary . . .	36	2	..	3	Anne . . .	..		20	..	..	1
7	Peggy Lyons . . .	..	60	2	Knockbrack . . .	2 ¹	Mary M'Hale . . .	..		70	..	Lishnavilla . . .	1
581	Ellen Doyle . . .	..	40	3	Ballyhean . . .	3	Richard . . .	..		50	..	..	1
5	Mary M'Hugh . . .	..	35	1	Coolodge . . .	2	Richard Kim . . .	..		69	..	Derroul . . .	1
596	Mary Gibbons . . .	..	56	1	Mt. Daisy . . .	1	Mary . . .	..		18	..	..	1
7	Anne . . .	..	22	..	..	1	John Connor . . .	Eliza . . .		65	2	Ballyhean . . .	4
8	Toby . . .	..	17	..	..	1	Mick M'Entire . . .	Judy . . .		40	2	Derroul . . .	3
604	Widow Joyce . . .	..	80	..	..	1	Margaret Burke . . .	..		40	..	Kiladeer . . .	1
5	Mary . . .	..	40	..	..	1	John Flynn . . .	Nancy . . .		45	2	Cornamora . . .	4
6	Patt Browne . . .	Mary . . .	70	1	..	3	Mary Broderick . . .	..		40	..	Aughadrina . . .	1
8	Rose . . .	..	20	..	..	1	Ned M'Hale . . .	Nancy . . .		40	4	Ringarawn . . .	4
9	Mary . . .	..	16	..	..	1	Biddy Reilly . . .	..		60	1	Clooncunra . . .	2
622	Bridget Gibbons . . .	..	45	3	Mt. Daisy . . .	3	Biddy . . .	..		20	..	..	1
9	Tom M'Hale . . .	..	70	1	Lishnavilla . . .	1	Michael . . .	..		19	..	..	1
630	Michael . . .	..	25	..	..	1	Judy Foy . . .	..		60	..	..	1
631	Thomas . . .	..	28	..	..	1	Biddy Ruby . . .	..		70	..	Mt. Daisy . . .	1
638	Thady Malley . . .	Mary . . .	52	3	Westlands . . .	3	Sally . . .	..		21	..	..	1
640	Mary . . .	..	21	..	..	1	Mary . . .	..		15	..	..	1
1	Biddy . . .	..	19	..	..	1	Honor Staunton . . .	..		60	..	Durrows . . .	1
2	Kitty . . .	..	16	..	..	1	Mary . . .	..		65	..	..	1
651	William Dunn . . .	Mary . . .	50	2	Kiladur . . .	4	Biddy Mallowney . . .	..		65	1	Aughadrina . . .	2
686	Mary Garvey . . .	..	50	4	Errew . . .	5	Martin Ruby . . .	..		22	..	Clooncunra . . .	1
7	John . . .	..	18	..	..	1	John . . .	..		24	..	..	1
8	Anne . . .	..	16	..	..	1	Mary M'Avilly . . .	..		30	..	Kiladeer . . .	1
69	Biddy Londra . . .	..	30	3	..	3	Mary Sheridan . . .	..		44	..	Clooncunra . . .	1
700	Tom Connor . . .	Ellen . . .	50	4	..	4	Mary . . .	..		18	..	..	1
724	Mary Mulligan . . .	..	60	..	Aughadrina . . .	1	Patt . . .	..		22	..	..	1
5	Patt . . .	..	30	..	..	1	Margaret M'Gough . . .	..		40	2	Aughadrina . . .	2 ¹
6	John . . .	..	22	..	..	1	James Dea . . .	Catherine . . .		52	3	Deradda . . .	3 ¹
7	John Reilly . . .	Mary . . .	55	4	Cornamora . . .	5	Michael Fynn . . .	..		20	..	Ballyhean . . .	1
730	Bridget Connor . . .	..	30	2	Clooncunra . . .	2 ¹	Mary Gayin . . .	..		28	1	Baynesfort . . .	1
9	Betty Malley . . .	..	70	..	Buncom . . .	7	Anne . . .	..		20	..	..	1
740	Mary Munnely . . .	..	50	4	Coolodge . . .	3	Kitty Kilroy . . .	..		70	2	Creavagh . . .	3
1	Anthony . . .	..	18	..	..	1	Patt Walsh . . .	Agnes . . .		52	3	Errew . . .	3
2	Mary . . .	..	22	..	..	1	Honor . . .	..		24	..	..	1
3	James . . .	..	26	..	..	1	Biddy . . .	..		20	..	..	1
8	Patt Geraghty . . .	Judy . . .	80	..	..	2	Agnes . . .	..		17	..	..	1
753	Nelly Philbin . . .	..	50	..	Aughadrina . . .	1	John . . .	..		15	..	..	1
4	Judy Philbin . . .	..	46	..	..	1	Anne Garvey . . .	..		20	..	Clooncunra . . .	1
776	John Mitchel . . .	..	45	..	Cornaveigh . . .	1	Bridget . . .	..		18	..	..	1
7	Kitty Mitchel . . .	..	35	..	..	1	Thomas . . .	..		10	..	..	1
8	Peggy Mitchel . . .	..	30	..	..	1	Biddy Malley . . .	..		50	1	Ringarawn . . .	4
9	Patt . . .	..	9	..	..	0	Anne . . .	..		24	..	..	1
779	Honor M'Hale . . .	..	75	..	Baynesfort . . .	1	Bridget . . .	..		16	..	..	1
780	Anthony Thornton . . .	Catty . . .	60	..	Kiladur . . .	2	Thomas M'Avilly . . .	Bridget . . .		47	3	Ballybean . . .	4
1	Joseph . . .	..	19	..	..	1	Thomas . . .	..		16	..	..	1
5	Widow M'Evily . . .	..	60	..	..	1	Mary Mornban . . .	..		73	..	Cornamora . . .	1
6	Kitty . . .	..	26	..	..	1	Mary . . .	..		40	..	..	1
7	Honor . . .	..	20	..	..	1	Richard Walsh . . .	..		49	..	Aughadrina . . .	1
8	Biddy Staunton . . .	..	60	..	..	1	Larry . . .	..		18	..	..	1
9	Anne M'Evily . . .	..	80	..	..	1	Mary . . .	..		15	..	..	1
793	John Knight . . .	Ellen . . .	50	2	..	3	Patt Graven . . .	Bridget . . .		40	3	Deradda . . .	4
5	Patt . . .	..	25	..	..	1	John . . .	..		16	..	..	1
6	Bridget . . .	..	23	..	..	1	Mary Munnely . . .	..		40	3	Ballyhean . . .	1

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

No. in Application and Report Book.	Heads of Families and Adults.	Christian Name of Wife.	Age.	Number of Children under 15.	Residence.	Number of lbs. daily.	No. in Application and Report Book.	Heads of Families and Adults.	Christian Name of Wife.	Age.	Number of Children under 15.	Residence.	Number of lbs. daily.
1293	Patt Reilly . . .	..	54	4	Cumamore . . .	4	6	Michael . . .	..	15	..	Kiladeer . . .	1
8	John Burke . . .	..	28	..	Errew . . .	1	51	Biddy Hopkins . . .	..	49	2	Blockfield . . .	3
9	Bridget Malley . . .	..	10	..	Ballyheane . . .	1	2	Anne . . .	..	18	..	..	1
1300	James Kelly . . .	..	13	..	Errew . . .	1	3	Thomas . . .	..	15	..	..	1
1	Mary . . .	..	12	..	..	1	6	Bridget Carney . . .	..	30	2	Aughadrina . . .	2½
2	Bridget . . .	..	8	..	..	0½	7	Biddy & Mary Kane . . .	..	50	..	..	2
3	Peggy Browne . . .	..	45	3	Aughadrina . . .	4	67	Patt Bourke . . .	Catherine	45	3	Kiladeer . . .	4
7	William Walsh . . .	..	20	..	Errew . . .	1	72	Honor Larkin . . .	..	40	3	Ringarawan . . .	3½
8	Peggy Gorman . . .	..	70	..	Kiladeer . . .	1	76	Pex Malley . . .	..	40	..	Westlands . . .	1
1650	Anthony Tunny . . .	Catherine	40	6	Mt. Daisy . . .	6	7	Mary Dolan . . .	..	60	..	Cloonsana . . .	1
2	Biddy . . .	..	21	..	..	1	8	Bridget M'Gough . . .	..	40	3	Derynagotee . . .	3
3	Mary . . .	..	19	..	..	1	9	Biddy . . .	..	18	..	..	1
1660	Kit Dunteavy . . .	Catherine	40	3	Derrygoriff . . .	4	80	James . . .	..	15	..	..	1
5	Honor M'Hugh . . .	..	70	..	..	1	84	Catherine Murphy . . .	..	30	..	Aughadrina . . .	1
1670	Owen Coyne . . .	..	20	..	Coarsepark . . .	1	5	Mary Murphy . . .	..	10	..	..	1
1	Thomas . . .	..	14	..	..	1	6	Tom Henaghan . . .	Mary	25	..	..	2½
4	John Gibbons . . .	Mary	40	2	Aughadrina . . .	3	9	John Connor . . .	..	60	..	..	1
8	Bridget Darcy . . .	..	30	..	Cloonscuna . . .	1	90	Patt . . .	..	27	..	..	1
9	Mary . . .	..	13	..	..	1	1	Bridget . . .	..	26	..	..	1
1680	Michael Staunton . . .	Bridget	45	4	Kiladeer . . .	5	2	Peggy . . .	..	18	..	..	1
2	Martin . . .	..	15	..	..	1	3	Honor Tonra . . .	..	40	..	..	1
7	Thomas M'Namara . . .	Bridget	80	1	Derrynaska . . .	2	4	Tom Kelly . . .	Biddy	50	1	Errew . . .	2½
1690	Mick Malley . . .	Honor	50	2	Goosepark . . .	3	6	Honor . . .	..	18	..	..	1
2	Patt . . .	..	16	..	..	1	7	Sally . . .	..	16	..	..	1
6	Biddy Walsh . . .	..	30	..	Westlands . . .	1	9	Ellen O'Brien . . .	..	50	..	Baynesfort . . .	1
7	Sarah Joyce . . .	..	70	..	Kiladeer . . .	1	100	James Dunne . . .	Bridget	34	2	Kiladeer . . .	3
7	Peggy Davin . . .	..	40	2	L. Meadows . . .	2½	4	Bridget Philbin . . .	..	15	..	Mt. Daisy . . .	1
1700	Mary M'Greevy . . .	..	48	..	Ballyhean . . .	1	5	John Philbin . . .	..	12	..	..	1
1	Jane Tunny . . .	..	50	1	Coarsepark . . .	2	6	Bridget Healy . . .	..	13	..	..	1
3	Henry . . .	..	16	..	..	1	7	David Lighton . . .	Eliza	50	1	Lightfoot . . .	2½
4	John . . .	..	19	..	..	1	110	John Malley . . .	..	12	..	Buncom . . .	1
5	Anthony Reily . . .	..	45	3	Mt. Daisy . . .	3	1	Mary Malley . . .	..	8	..	..	0½
1737	Patt Sheridan . . .	Bridget	35	2	Errew . . .	3	2	Patt Killeen . . .	Ellen	35	4	Errew . . .	5
9	Tom Murphy . . .	Biddy	40	3	Aughadrina . . .	3½	8	Patt Malley . . .	Mary	56	1	Aughadrina . . .	2½
1740	Mary Murphy . . .	..	19	..	..	1	120	Arthur . . .	..	28	..	..	1
1	Patt . . .	..	17	..	..	1	1	Catherine . . .	..	26	..	..	1
1765	John . . .	..	15	..	..	1	2	Mary . . .	..	24	..	..	1
6	James M'Gough . . .	..	60	2	..	3	4	Martin Tonry . . .	Anne	50	4	..	5
7	Mary . . .	..	16	..	..	1	130	Michael King . . .	Mary	35	2	..	3
8	Patt . . .	..	24	..	..	1	4	John Walsh . . .	..	50	..	Durrow . . .	1
1804	Kitty . . .	..	22	..	..	1	135	Patt Henaghan . . .	Mary	50	2	Aughadrina . . .	5
1812	John Gavin . . .	Mary	35	1	Boherbee . . .	3	140	Winny Philbin . . .	..	13	..	Ballyheane . . .	1
1832	John Fallon . . .	Mary	33	3	Cloonscuna . . .	4½	3	Mary Walsh . . .	..	55	..	Westlands . . .	1
1860	Winny Tuohy . . .	..	70	..	Deradda . . .	1	4	Mary M'Nally . . .	..	40	..	Frenchhill . . .	1
1869	Lake Christopher . . .	Mary	56	2	Ballyhean . . .	3½	6	Edmund Dunleavy . . .	..	60	..	Baynesford . . .	1
1	Mary Brennan . . .	..	70	..	Kiladeer . . .	1	148	Julia Prendergast . . .	..	77	..	Lightford . . .	1
3	Winny Donnelly . . .	..	53	1	G. Smuthaun . . .	2	9	Thomas Fallon . . .	Bridget	26	3	Cloonscuna . . .	4
8	Anthony Gallagher . . .	Kitty	35	3	Aughadrina . . .	5	154	John Walsh . . .	Kitty	35	4	Mt. Daisy . . .	5
9	Anthony Geraghty . . .	..	15	..	Derroule . . .	1	160	Mary Cavanagh . . .	..	40	..	Cloonsmore . . .	1
10	Martin Geraghty . . .	..	13	..	..	1	1	Biddy Moran . . .	..	80	..	Derynashark . . .	1
11	James Browne . . .	..	70	..	Aughadrina . . .	1	2	Mary Boyle . . .	..	40	3	Maghera . . .	3½
12	Mary . . .	..	30	..	..	1	3	John . . .	..	15	..	..	1
13	Biddy . . .	..	26	..	..	1	5	Judy . . .	..	16	..	..	1
14	Judy Philbin . . .	..	50	..	..	1	8	Mark Henaghan . . .	Mary	68	..	Aughadrina . . .	2
15	Bridget Connor . . .	..	30	..	Cloonscuna . . .	1	170	Ellen Kilcourse . . .	..	75	..	Durrow . . .	1
20	Mary Connor . . .	..	4	..	..	0½	1	Kate . . .	..	40	..	..	1
3	Patt Mulroony . . .	Mary	30	1	Aughadrina . . .	2½	2	Honor . . .	..	38	..	..	1
6	Margaret Mullen . . .	..	40	2	Coarsepark . . .	3	3	Mary Walsh . . .	..	45	2	..	3
33	Mary M'Gough . . .	..	22	..	Aughadrina . . .	1	6	Catherine Ruane . . .	..	50	..	Curraglogher . . .	1
3	Bessy Mulloony . . .	..	40	3	Kiladeer . . .	2	7	Michael . . .	..	18	..	..	1
4	Mary . . .	..	20	..	..	1	8	William . . .	..	15	..	..	1
5	Bridget . . .	..	18	..	..	1							
	Thomas . . .	..	16	..	..	1							
Total, E. E. . . .												748½	

Ballyhean, January 22, 1848.

ANTHONY J. FERRICH, Relieving Officer.

SIR,

Castlebar, 1848.

I AM directed by the Board of Vice-Guardians to transmit the subjoined copy of a minute, adopted by the Board on 31st January, 1848; and to forward the enclosed lists of paupers receiving out-door relief, in certain electoral divisions of the Union.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

To _____

Clerk of the Union.

COPY of a MINUTE adopted by the BOARD of VICE-GUARDIANS of the CASTLEBAR UNION, on 31st January, 1848.

THERE being reason to suppose that notwithstanding the inquiries of the relieving officers, and the scrutiny of this Board, parties unqualified, or not in a state of destitution, have obtained out-door relief, and believing that a publication of the names of all parties receiving out door

allowances, as paupers, would place the ratepayers of the Union in a position to afford much valuable assistance to the Vice-Guardians, in revising the relief lists, whereby the pressure upon the Union funds would be diminished; the Vice-Guardians have accordingly directed such lists to be printed, and posted in the most public places in the several electoral divisions, and generally distributed, and they earnestly call upon the magistrates, ratepayers, and all well-disposed persons to afford them all the information in their power, respecting any cases of abuse and imposition which may come under their observation from time to time, and to embody the same in a form similar to the subjoined, which it is requested may be forwarded to the clerk of the Union.

CASTLEBAR UNION.

Electoral Division of _____

No. in Application and Report Book.	Names.		Age.	Residence.	Observations.
	Head of Family or Adult.	Name of Wife.			

Dated at _____
this _____ day of _____ 1848.
Signature _____

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—February 28, 1848.

WE have the honour to state that the amount lodged to our credit by the rate collector since our last report is 400*l.*, a portion of which he has not had time as yet to return in account to the clerk. We have paid on account of out-door relief 605*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*, and for the current expenses 224*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* We have not been able to discharge any part of the old debts; the importunity of contractors who had hitherto supplied the meal for out-door relief being so urgent, we have been again reluctantly obliged to break through our engagement to the old creditors.

The numbers on the out-door relief lists this week are 17,602, and judging from the progressive weekly increase, we estimate in anticipation for the next week that the returns will stand nearly as follows:—

					£.	s.	d.
Relief in the workhouse about	.	.	.	.	80	0	0
	Nos.	Tons.		Cost.			
Relief under 1st sec.	8,889	25 9 1		£254 12 6			
Under 2nd sec.	9,746	27 18 1		279 2 6			
	18,365	53 7 2		£533 15 0			

Total sum required for relief under the three heads . 603 15 0

We are very anxious to draw your particular attention to the minute on our proceedings relative to the state of the Union accounts, from those of the late clerk and the two last masters not having been closed; to effect this most desirable object, we would earnestly request that a competent person, having experience of Union accounts, may be sent down, as there is not any person here sufficiently conversant with such matters, and we would most respectfully suggest that a clerk from your own office may be selected.

Captain Farren has handed to us 500*l.* in aid of destitution, of which we have applied 168*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* to this week's distribution, leaving a balance of 331*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* to meet a part of next week's supply.

Castlebar Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that application will be made for a further advance of 300*l.*, to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

As regards the adjustment of the Union accounts, I am to state that a clerk from this office cannot be detached for the purpose in the present pressure of business; but a competent person may be found among the candidates for employment here, whose services could be obtained for 30*s.* a-week, and his travelling expenses.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 29, 1848.*

THE amount of rate collected during the week in the Union, as shown by the

	£.	s.	d.
Rate receipt abstract books examined on Friday, was	69	17	0½
Making the total sum now collected	2184	3	5
Leaving uncollected	7762	19	6

The collector, however, reported on Monday, that he had obtained an additional sum of 400*l.*, not then entered in the abstract. He has been pursuing a more vigorous course, and during the week made seizures of property for poor-rates, in the electoral divisions of Ballyhean and Strade, on Friday he was supported in this duty by detachments of cavalry and infantry.

After the cattle had been seized, some of the parties concerned paid the rate. In other cases, the cattle and property have not been released, and when put up to auction no bidders could be found, the collector's bailiff therefore bought them in, and they are on the collector's lands.

There is a determination on the part of the public not to purchase in poor-rate cases, in order that the law may be defeated, and the local papers sympathize in the feeling, and add to it by sending reporters to publish all particulars of these auctions.

As there is but one collector in the Union, and it being impossible for him to perform his duties satisfactorily without assistance, it will be seen by the minutes that the Vice-Guardians have called upon him to appoint at least two respectable persons as deputies, whose aid it is hoped will accelerate the collection. He has also been called upon to serve 15 days' notices upon the immediate lessors residing in the county, whose names are included in a supplemental list handed in by him; and also to serve six days' notices upon certain occupiers included in another list laid before the Board; their names will be found entered on the minutes.

On Saturday and Monday I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians.

Number of applicants on books of relieving officers	1,389
Admitted to workhouse	59
Placed on out-door relief lists	846
Discharged from workhouse to out-door relief	7
Total number now receiving out-door relief	17,602

The grants made by the British Association enabled the Vice-Guardians to provide for the parties receiving out-door relief, and a balance of 331*l.* remains available for the ensuing week; but as the estimated amount required for out-door relief for that week will be 533*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, there will be a deficiency of 200*l.* The demands of the creditors of the former Board and of the contractors who have furnished provisions upon orders of the present one, being of a very pressing nature, the Board having moreover pledged itself to meet them with the first of future incomings as detailed in my reports, the amount of rate which will be available on the next Board-day will have to be appropriated to the liquidation of these claims; unless therefore assistance be afforded to meet the deficiency, I dread a repetition of the occurrence of last Monday fortnight, when the contractors having refused to supply any more provisions without payment, the poor of some of the electoral divisions would have been left without food had not a portion of a grant given by the British Association

for another purpose been temporarily appropriated to meet the emergency. I, therefore, hope the Commissioners will take the case into their consideration, and request a further grant from the British Association.

I am happy to report that the issue of daily rations of rye bread in return for a daily task of work, has this week been brought into operation in some of the electoral divisions of the Union, and will be extended to the other districts as soon as possible. I trust the measure will have a good effect. The details of the system will however press heavily on the Union officers, and the cost of printing forms, tickets, &c., will be considerable; the overseers alone will have to fill up 12,000 tickets in each week. I have considered whether the forms might be simplified and the number reduced, but do not think it advisable, as the effect, as a check, would be lost if the food tickets were not filled and signed daily, and given to the labourers and left as vouchers with the contractor.

Another relieving officer has resigned his situation, alleging as a reason the difficulties of the office.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 3, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners regret to perceive that so much opposition exists to the collection of the poor-rate in the Union. The Commissioners approve the arrangement proposed by the Vice-Guardians for enabling the collector more readily to discharge the duties of his office, and they rely upon the Vice-Guardians taking such steps in assisting and advising the collector as will be sufficient to meet and overcome the opposition to which you advert, keeping in view also the ability of the parties rated to pay their rates, and the necessity of providing funds for the relief of the destitute poor of the Union. I am at the same time to draw your attention to the opinion as to the sale of cattle distrained which is put in the collector's manual, and I am to state that the attention of the Government has been called to your report, with a view to the adoption of such measures as the circumstances of the case may seem to require.

The Commissioners have applied for a further advance of 300*l.* to the Vice-Guardians, which will probably be forwarded to-day.

The Commissioners perceive with satisfaction that daily rations in cooked food are issued to persons receiving out-door relief under the 2nd Section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, in some of the divisions of the Union; and they trust that the Vice-Guardians will make exertions to have a similar system universally adopted in the Unions under their charge.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 5, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 2nd instant, stating that the Commissioners deem it desirable to determine or to suspend on the 18th of March instant, all orders under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men; and wishing to know whether, in my opinion, there could be any decided objection to this course in Castlebar Union, I beg to state that distress prevails so extensively in the Union, and the pressure for relief is still so great, that the consequences of such a suspension of out-door relief would be of a very serious nature.

The number of individuals who received out-door relief during the week just ended was 17,373, and of them 9198 consisted of able-bodied men and their families.

As there are very few persons employed by proprietors under the Land Improvement and Drainage Acts, (I am aware of only one instance in the Union,) and the spring work being generally executed by the smaller holders (who form the mass of agricultural occupiers in this district) with the assistance of their own families, without calling in labourers; and the large occupiers who will employ labourers at money wages, being small in number, their sources even with the assistance afforded by the British Association to the schools, will be totally inadequate to meet the wants of the numerous class now receiving relief under the section in question,

Under these circumstances, as much suffering would be occasioned if the pro-

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 8, 1848.*

It will be observed, that under that order, single men and men with only two children will be thrown on their own resources.

Relief in the workhouse, about 80%.

			Tons.	cwts.	qrs.		£.	s.	d.
Under the 1st section . .	8106	. .	23	0	0	. .	230	0	0
Under the 2nd section . .	9746	. .	27	18	1	. .	279	2	6

The sum required for the next week, about 509 2 6

We are sorry to say that our colleague, Mr. Thomas, is confined by illness and unable to attend the Board this day; we hope, however, a few days will restore his health.

IN reference to the non-attendance of the collector of poor-rate and non-payment of any money on account of his collection, I am to state that his collection of county cess and of poor-rate are presumed to proceed simultaneously, and therefore should not prevent the payment of the poor-rate to the Union treasurer. The

Commissioners consider his omission of sufficient importance to require your serious notice and attention.

Castlebar Union.

I am at the same time to state, that application has been made to the British Association for a further advance of 500*l.* to assist you in providing for the wants of the destitute poor in the Union.

As regards the employment of a person to arrange the Union accounts, the Commissioners will have a person selected for the purpose and sent to the Union in a few days.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 7, 1848.*

THE amount of rate collected during the week in this Union, as shown by the rate receipt abstracts, examined on Friday, was 159*l.* 2*s.* 2½*d.* This, however, is a portion of the additional sum of 400*l.* (mentioned in my report of last week), stated by the collector to have been obtained and not entered when the "accounts" for that week had been examined. It does not therefore appear that any payments have been received since that report was written, or that the full amount of the sum in question has been accounted for by the block receipts or in the Abstract Books.

The total amount now collected, as shown by the Abstract Books and block receipts, is 2343*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.*, whereas the lodgments in the foregoing seasons exceed this sum. It will be seen by the minutes of yesterday, that as the collector has not complied with a former minute, requiring him to issue receipts for all sums received by him from the rate-payers, the Vice-Guardians have again desired him to do so; otherwise they will call upon the rate-payers, by advertisement, to notify to the clerk of the Union the sums they have paid, in order that receipts may be given, and confusion in the accounts prevented.

The amount uncollected, as shown by the Abstract Books and block receipts, is 7603*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.*

No lodgement having been reported to the Vice-Guardians on Saturday or Monday, the collector was required by the Chairman to attend and afford some information respecting the collection; he however neither attended nor gave any explanation.

As the assizes will be held during this week, his duties as barony cess collector, and the preparation of the accounts of that office, have no doubt taken up his time and attention.

The collector has not yet reported the names of persons to act as his deputies; and has only given in one list of 20 highest occupiers who have not paid their rates, since the receipt of the minute which required him to continue such lists from Board-day to-day.

The appointment of deputies is a matter of much importance, and I had an opportunity of urging the point upon the collector during the week; he alleged that a difficulty existed in getting persons in whom he could place confidence, but admitted the necessity of obtaining such assistance. This step will be insisted on.

On Saturday and Monday I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians. Mr. Otway, Poor Law Inspector, was present a portion of each day.

The numbers applying for relief have not diminished, there were	1,389
Of whom admitted to workhouse	193
Placed on out-door relief lists	488
The total number now receiving out-door relief is	17,717

The publication of the lists of persons receiving relief has not been so successful in procuring information of abuses as could be wished, very few cases having been yet reported to the clerk of the Union. The rate-payers generally have not come forward to afford this information; and without their co-operation in indicating such cases, revision is almost impossible. Letters are written to the local newspapers complaining of frauds, but the parties do not take the course which they have been entreated to do by the Vice-Guardians, viz., to send them the necessary information, in order that the abuses may be inquired into and corrected; however I trust the rate-payers will yet comply with the appeal of the Vice-Guardians, as their local knowledge will be of infinite value in checking the frauds which do exist, and in preventing their recurrence.

A dread of becoming obnoxious to the people, and that their property will suffer

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in revenge for their being the means of stopping the relief to the parties receiving it, seems to be the foundation of this disinclination to give information of abuses on the part of the well-disposed of the community.

In carrying into effect the system of daily rations of rye bread to the able-bodied some frauds have been discovered. A man who had been receiving meal under the former system presented his ticket to the contractor, but his name not having been returned to the overseer on the change of system, he therefore did not get the ticket for bread, and was refused. He complained to the Board, also stating that a woman who had 11 acres of land was receiving rations. The relieving officer was directed to inquire into the facts, and found that it was the case. She was, of course, cancelled.

The relieving officer who reported this woman's case as a fit object for relief, resigned his situation some weeks since. The necessity for a revision of the lists of parties receiving relief becomes more apparent every day.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' regret at the very unsatisfactory state of the collection of the poor-rate in the Union.

I am at the same time to enclose herewith a list of the immediate lessors who were defaulters referred to in your report to the Commissioners, dated the 6th January last; and I am to request that in your next report you will state the names of those immediate lessors who have since then paid their rates, and that you will return the list, with a note of the stage in which the legal proceedings to compel payment now are in each of the other cases.

The Commissioners also request that you will bring the unsatisfactory state of the collection pointedly before the Vice-Guardians at their next meeting, with a view to such steps being adopted and prosecuted as will enable them to satisfy themselves that the collector is endeavouring to do his duty, or to give such directions and advice as may be requisite to place the collection in a less disastrous condition.

The Commissioners also think it desirable that the attention of the Vice-Guardians should be directed to the expediency of visiting the relief depôts, with a view to the detection of cases of simulated distress, and the due enforcement of the labour test.

It will also be advisable that their attention should be specially directed to the offer of relief in the workhouse as a test of destitution; and the Commissioners are desirous of being informed of the means which have been adopted in the workhouse for carrying strictly into effect the 16th article of the general regulations with regard to the occupation and employment of the inmates.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 9, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, referring to my report of the 5th instant, relating to the proposed suspension of the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men in the Castlebar Union, and requesting me to report whether the provisions of the order to Listowel Union (enclosed in your letter) could be carried into effect in this Union. In reply I beg leave to state that, in my opinion, the provisions of such an order suspending relief to single men and men with only two children, and authorizing the continuance of out-door relief to the other classes of destitute persons, from the 18th instant, could be carried into effect.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 9th instant, stating your opinion that an order suspending out-door relief to single men and men with only two children, and directing the continuance of out-door relief to the other classes, adverted to in the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, could be carried into effect in the Castlebar Union; and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have accordingly given directions for the preparation of an order to that effect.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 14, 1848.*

Castlebar Union.

Owing to the causes adverted to in my last report, viz., the collector's time and attention being given to the completion of his accounts for barony cess, for presentation at the assizes now going on in this town, the amount of rate entered in the abstract books as collected during the week, is inconsiderable, viz., 77*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.*

The total amount of rate now collected is . . .	£2,422	3	0
Leaving uncollected	£7,538	3	11½

It is hopeless to expect exertion from the collector until his accounts of barony cess have been disposed of, which will be at the end of this week. I have been informed that owing to the difficulties of the times a very large arrear of that comparatively popular tax remains outstanding.

The Vice-Guardians have had an interview with one of the collector's sureties upon the subject of the state of the collection, and urged the appointment of deputies to assist the collector in his duties. He saw the necessity of the measure, and stated his determination to exert all his influence with the collector to induce him to redouble his exertions.

The collector asserts that a great portion of the rate will ultimately be got in, and that he has offered the appointment of deputy collector to several respectable persons whom he could depend upon, but they could not be persuaded to undertake the duty; he has been urged to renew the effort.

With reference to the list of immediate lessors who had not paid their rates, forwarded to the Commissioners in January last, I enclose a return of the names of the parties who have since paid the rate, and showing the amount paid. (A.)

I have requested the solicitor of the Union to furnish me with his observations as to the stage in which the proceedings for enforcing payment in the other cases in that list now are, but owing to the pressure of business upon him at this moment (the assizes now being held), he has not yet furnished me with this information; as soon as I obtain it I will report specially upon the subject.

The case of defalcation on the part of the late rate collector was heard in the Record Court here yesterday, and a verdict given in favour of the Vice-Guardians; the collector's sureties being required to pay the balance of the last collection not accounted for, less the amount of poundage due to the collector.

On Saturday and Monday I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians.

The number of applicants on the books of the relieving officers had increased one-half, as compared with the returns of the three preceding weeks.

Number of applicants	1,702
Of which placed on out-door relief list	1,201
Admissions to workhouse	52
The total number now receiving out-door relief is	18,954

The Vice-Guardians are fully impressed with the value of the workhouse as a test; and the return of last week, when vacancies existed in that establishment, shows its efficacy, one-third only of the number of applicants having been placed on the out-door relief lists, whilst on the last Board-day, when the vacancies were but few, the proportionate number ordered out-door relief was double, viz., two-thirds. Every effort will be made to render as many vacancies as possible available in the workhouse each week for the application of this test.

Two hundred and sixty-nine individuals were struck off the relief lists in Castlebar electoral division, upon the report of the relieving officers, as not destitute, or cases of fraud; and at the examination of the labour books of the Union, 64 labourers were cancelled for absence from the different work depôts.

With regard to the occupation of the inmates of the workhouse, the female paupers are employed in making articles of wearing apparel most required in the house, and the men at stone-breaking. Inconvenience is felt from the want of a house-steward to superintend the labour department; a man was appointed, but he resigned. Notice of the vacancy has been published, with the view to other parties offering themselves for the situation.

The Vice-Guardians labour under great difficulty in obtaining fit persons for the different offices of the Union; it is almost impossible to procure properly qualified individuals.

(A.)

NAMES of IMMEDIATE LESSORS included in the List of Defaulters, dated 10th January, 1848, who have since paid their Rates.

Name.	Amount paid.						
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
Sir Robert Lynch Blosse, Bart.	159	0	0	10	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	still due.
Mervyn Pratt, Esq.	21	10	9	78	11	9	due.
A. C. Lynch, Esq.	50	2	8	30	6	5	due.
Ormsby Ellwood, Esq.	28	12	7 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Malachi Tuohy, Esq.	24	14	6				
John Finn, Esq.	23	10	2 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Lord Clanmorris.	21	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Walter Joyce, Esq.	20	8	2 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Lady Norbury	26	17	9				
Anthony J. French	10	17	7				
W. Kearney, Esq.	18	0	0				
St. Clair O'Malley, Esq.	21	3	6	13	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	unpaid.
George H. Moore, Esq.	38	0	11 $\frac{1}{2}$				
	£464	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$				

March 14, 1848.

WILLIAM MALLEY, *Collector.*

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 20, 1848.*

WE have the honour to inform you that the rate collector of this Union has not made any lodgment on account of his collection with the treasurer since our last report, nor has he, as will be seen by reference to the minutes of our proceedings, complied with the orders made at previous Boards. The reason he has assigned is his having been for the last fortnight engaged at the assizes as collector of grand jury cess, and he has promised to devote himself in the most strenuous manner to the collection of the poor rates henceforward.

Our position has become extremely embarrassing both by the non-collection of the rates, and that a considerable portion of the rates already collected have been applied to out-door relief, as well as that a large sum is still due to contractors who supplied food previous to grants being made by the British Association to aid us in providing for the persons on out-door relief. We have no funds to pay the contractors for the carriage and distribution of the meal drawn from the Commissariat depôts, and we fear that all the contractors will stop the supplies for the house, and that none will come forward to enter into new contracts from the 25th instant.

There are now 20,051 persons on the relieving officers' lists, 1016 having been added this week, from such numbers of applicants, having qualified themselves by a tender of a portion of their holdings, reserving the house and quarter-acre, and being reported destitute; but as those entitled to relief will be very considerably lessened in consequence of the order to discontinue it to certain classes, we do not estimate that more than 400*l.* will be required for the week ending the 1st of April.

The relieving officers' books having been ruled on Saturday, and the order issued for the provision, we were unable to put your sealed order, dated on the 18th instant, and this day laid before the Board, in force further than to direct the relieving officers not to issue rations to the able-bodied men of 18 years and above, and to be prepared to strike off the married not having more than two children dependent upon them, at the next Board day.

Captain Farren handed in two orders, each for 250*l.* worth of provisions, granted by the British Association to assist us in providing for the destitute poor, and we have issued orders on the depôt at Ballina for 207*l.* worth, and on that at Ballinrobe for 239*l.* 15*s.* worth.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 25, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to state, that under the circumstances mentioned in your report of the 20th instant, they will make application for the further advance of 400*l.* required to provide for the exigencies of Castlebar Union in the week ending the 1st proximo.

The Commissioners observe that the collector has promised you to devote himself strenuously henceforward to the collection of the rates outstanding; and they rely on your keeping him to his duty by requiring cause to be shown from time to time for the non-collection of every sum of considerable amount which shall appear to be unpaid.

In reference to your expression of an expectation that the number of persons to be relieved will now be reduced by the order limiting the able-bodied classes that may be relieved, the Commissioners feel it necessary to request that their order may not be considered as requiring relief to be given to all persons of the classes referred to in it, but only as enabling the Vice-Guardians to relieve persons of such classes who, on inquiry, appear to be actually destitute.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 21, 1848.*

THE amount of rate collected during the past week, as shown by the Rate Abstract Receipt Books, was very trifling, viz. £29 9 11½
The total amount of rate now collected is 2,408 18 11½
Leaving uncollected 7,508 14 0

The collector, who attended at the meeting of the Board yesterday, stated in explanation, that he was occupied during the assizes with the arrangement of his accounts, as barony cess collector, and that he found it impossible under such circumstances to give his attention to the poor-rate, but that the assizes being now over, he would devote himself to the latter duty.

The progress of the collection for some time past has been unsatisfactory, and the measures taken by the Vice-Guardians, with the view of assisting the collector in his duties, as well as to enforce the collection, have, in consequence of the collector's non-compliance with their instructions, been unsuccessful; thus, the directions the collector received from the Vice-Guardians to serve notices upon certain parties whose names were returned as defaulters in supplemental lists, furnished by the collector after having been repeatedly called for, have not been carried out; and he has not yet appointed deputies to assist him in the collection. It will be seen by the minutes that the Vice-Guardians have again called his attention to these points, urging him to seek for persons properly qualified to assist him as deputies; and with respect to the notices, informing him that unless they are served before the next Board-day, the 100th section of the Poor Law Act must be put in force against him.

With regard to the immediate lessors whose names were included in the list of defaulters handed over to the solicitor of the Union, with the sanction of the Commissioners, in January last, to be proceeded against in the superior Courts, I now enclose the return of their names, &c., containing the observations of the solicitor as to the stage in which the proceedings in each case now are.

In a few instances the parties have paid the rate since the original list was furnished in January: their names were stated in my report of the 14th instant.

In the others, the solicitor has taken the measures necessary for obtaining decrees in the approaching term.

On Saturday and Monday I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians.

The applications for relief were still very numerous, viz.	1359
Of which admitted to workhouse	39
Placed on out-door relief lists	822
Number rejected	498
Persons discharged from workhouse to out-door relief	15

The sealed order suspending out-door relief to able-bodied single men above 18 years of age, and to able-bodied married men having only two children, reached the clerk on Sunday, and as the books of the relieving officers, with one exception, were ruled on Saturday, it was found impracticable to bring the order into full effect this week. The relieving officers have been, however, instructed to issue no rations to the able-bodied single men above 18 years; and to warn the other class alluded to, viz., the able-bodied married men having only two children, that in future they must depend on their own resources.

I have visited the workhouse frequently during the week; considerable improvement in the industrial departments of the establishment has taken place; arrange-

Castlebar Union.

ments have been carried into effect, by which the clothing required both for the male and female paupers is made up in the house, principally by the women, for whose use the school-room formerly occupied by the girls, now located in the auxiliary workhouse, has been appropriated as a workroom. Some of the boys, under the superintendence of a tailor, are also employed in making up the clothing, and others in shoemaking. The able-bodied male paupers are occupied in breaking stones for the pathways.

The contractors' bonds for the erection of the fever hospital have been signed, and the workmen are now employed on that edifice.

ENCLOSURE.

CASTLEBAR UNION.

Names.	Residence.	Amount.			Solicitor's Observations.
		£.	s.	d.	
1. The Earl of Lucan	Castlebar House	692	4	2½	Bill of privilege filed.
2. Sir Robert L. Blosse, Bart..	Balla	169	3	1½	Paid all but 5 <i>l.</i> odd.
3. Colonel Charles N. Knox . .		119	13	10½	This should be 67 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> , as appears by the account; and a writ has issued against Colonel Knox, returnable on the 14th April next.
4. Peter Bourke, Esq.	Ballinew	106	8	2½	Writ issued; returnable 14th April. The collector has been paid a portion of this account, which should have been stated at 141 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> 3½ <i>d.</i> , being liable for the sum charged to No. 24.
5. Mervyn Pratt, Esq.	Enniscroe	100	2	6	Paid part. Writ issued; returnable 14th April, for balance.
6. Colonel Thomas Fitzgerald.		105	17	8½	Receiver in this case applied to, and refused payment. Application to be made for an order for payment to Master of the Rolls first day of Term.
7. Sir Samuel O'Malley, Bart.	Kilboyne House	90	1	8½	Writ issued; returnable 14th April. No expectation of having it served personally, but must endeavour to obtain leave to substitute service.
8. Captain St. George Cuffe . .	Deel Castle	81	14	11	Writ issued; returnable the 14th April.
9. Marquis of Sligo	Westport	77	8	10	His agent, Mr. Hildebrand, has undertaken to pay immediately; if not, a bill of privilege shall be filed the moment I receive his account in detail.
10. James Anderson, Esq. . . .	Woodpark	72	9	1½	In gaol. Receiver on his property refuses to pay, not having funds to pay head rent. Application as in No. 6.
11. Andrew C. Lynch, Esq. . . .	Clogher	80	9	1	Paid 50 <i>l.</i> Writ issued for balance; returnable 14th April.
12. Lord Kilmaine	The Neale	67	0	8½	Bill of privilege drafted.
13. Captain W. M. Fitzmaurice	Lagaturn	63	3	7½	Receiver in this case like as No. 6.
14. William Kearney, Esq. . . .	Ballinvilla	53	14	5½	Paid part, and is making arrangements for payment of the balance.
15. John Walsh, Esq.	Castlehill	46	14	9½	As this gentleman is an attorney, a declaration shall be filed against him on the 15th April, unless payment sooner made.
16. Conyngham Jones, Esq. . . .		43	6	2½	Writ issued; returnable 14th April against Henry Shaw Jones.
17. Lord Avonmore	Moate	42	4	0	His Lordship, and his son acting as his agent, have both promised payment by their letters. A bill of privilege has been prepared in this case. The account returned to me amounts to 38 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> 8½ <i>d.</i>
18. Colonel John Brown	Breaffy	42	3	1½	Receiver same as No. 6.
19. John Cheevers, Esq.	Killion, Co. Galway . .	39	18	3½	Not in the kingdom. His agent has promised payment.
20. Charles M. Coyne, Esq. . . .	Westlands	89	11	5	Writ issued for 14th April.
21. George H. Moore, Esq. . . .	Moorehall	39	0	11½	Paid.
22. Charles A. O'Malley, Esq. . .		36	14	2	Abroad. No agent. These lands about to be evicted by Lord Kilmaine, head landlord, for non-payment of rent. I recommend the occupiers who pay no party to be served with the "monthly notice."
23. Joseph D. Bourke, Esq. . . .	Westport	36	5	7	Writ issued; returnable 14th April.
24. Captain John Knox	Greenwood Park	35	7	1½	This account should have been charged to No. 4.
25. James Hardiman, Esq.		34	11	0½	Writ issued; returnable 14th April. Payment promised.

Castebar Union—*continued.*

Names.	Residence.	Amount.			Solicitor's Observations.
		£.	s.	d.	
26. St. Clair O'Malley, Esq. . . .		34	8	11½	Dead. The greater part of this rate has been paid by Mr. Boyd for the trustees of Mr. O'Malley's settlements.
27. Thomas Irwin, Esq. . . .		31	4	7½	Cannot make out his address or that of his agent.
28. Michael Rowland, Esq. . . .	Mucknaugh	30	18	6½	Writ issued; returnable 14th April.
29. Francis C. M'Donald, Esq. . . .	Toormore	30	8	1½	Like.
30. Ormsby Elwood, Esq. . . .	Loughmask	28	12	7½	Paid.
31. Major Owen O'Malley	Castebar	27	13	1	Dead. His representative not yet known.
32. George M. Sheridan, Esq. . . .	Pheasant Hill	26	9	8	Not in Ireland. I recommend the monthly notice to be served on the occupiers.
33. John Bodkin, Esq. . . .		25	3	4½	Abroad.
34. Charles Goodwin, Esq. . . .	Swineford	24	19	7½	Writ issued; returnable 14th April.
35. Isadore P. Blake, Esq. . . .	Ballylahen	24	16	1½	Like.
36. Malachy Tuohy, Esq. . . .	Kil'ersliehane	24	14	6	Paid after writ.
37. John Finn, Esq. . . .	Ballymagibbon	23	10	2½	Paid after writ.
38. George Blake, Esq. . . .		23	7	9½	Writ issued; returnable 14th April.
39. Lord Clanmorris. . . .		21	2	7	Paid.
40. Walter Joyce, Esq. . . .	Castelucas	20	8	2½	Paid.
41. Rev. John Leech		18	12	0½	Residence not yet known. Agent applied to, and promised payment.
42. Walter Bourke, Esq. . . .		16	17	4½	Writ issued; returnable 14th April.
43. John H. Peyton. . . .		16	16	6	Writ issued; returnable 14th April.
44. Lady Norbury		15	15	11	Paid.
45. Dominick Browne, Esq. . . .	Brownehall	15	13	8	Writ issued; returnable 14th April.
46. Earl of Erne. . . .		14	14	3	Promised payment of his account by his agent, who has disputed a few items of his account, but has promised to collect these disputed items from the proper party, and pay all in a few days.
47. John Knox, Esq. . . .	Castlereah	13	15	8	Receiver, same as No. 6.
48. Francis B. Knox, Esq. . . .		12	19	7½	Paid.
49. Anthony I. French, Esq. . . .	Ballyheane	10	17	7	Writ issued; returnable 14th April.
50. Jos. Myles M'Donnell, Esq. . . .	Doo Castle	8	13	2½	Receiver, same as No. 6.
51. — Ormsby, Esq. . . .		23	17	8	The receiver on the minor's estate, Mr. Oliver C. Jackson, frequently promised payment, and got the account, but has not yet paid. The proceedings must be as in No. 6.

Castebar, March 21, 1848.

REPLY to the foregoing:—March 24, 1848.

THE Commissioners desire to observe that explanatory statements of the solicitor, as to his proceedings against each of the immediate lessors, is so far satisfactory; and they recommend that as the period for each stage of his proceedings shall arrive, care shall be taken that they are carried on.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—March 27, 1848.

WE have the honour to inform you, that the rate collector has lodged 130*l.* on account of his collection since our last report. He has been examined on oath by Captain Farren, and complains that he is delayed in enforcing payment by distress, from his being unable to take that course without the protection of the civil power which he cannot at all times obtain in consequence of the resident magistrate being so pressed by business in the Westport Union and other parts of his very extensive district. He also stated that on Thursday last he attended the petty sessions at Castlebar, to which he had several persons summoned for poor-rates, and that on his arrival at the Court-house shortly after 12 o'clock, the magistrate, Dr. Dillon, who had signed the summonses, told him he had adjourned the Court, as there was only one magistrate in attendance. The collector states, he remonstrated with the magistrate, told him one had the power to decide poor-rate cases, and that if he then refused to go into the inquiry, the rates would be lost, as the parties were carrying away their property; but Dr. Dillon still refused to re-open the Court.

Under such circumstances it is most desirable that a resident magistrate shall

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be stationed for some short time at Castlebar, both to protect the collector in his collection, and to secure the hearing of poor-rate cases brought before the petty sessions' Court.

There have been 1520 able-bodied married men, including those dependent upon them, and 548 able-bodied single men struck off, making a total of 2068 persons; and leaving 17,036 to be provided for to Saturday, the 1st of April; 510 new applicants were added to the out-door relief lists this week, and in consequence of the present pressure we estimate that 600*l.* will be required for the week ending the 8th of April.

We have received from Captain Farren, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, 400*l.* granted by the British Association, to assist in the maintenance of the poor in this Union; and we have issued orders on the depôt at Ballina for 47*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.* worth of provisions, on the depôt at Ballinrobe for 171*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* worth, and have purchased from Charles Malley, contractor, 202*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* worth, to be supplied and distributed by him; the cost of carriage and distribution from Ballina and Ballinrobe being about 15*l.*

We have paid for the current expenses 140*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, and on account of the out-door relief, 44*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March* 30, 1848.

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 600*l.* to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners have communicated with Her Majesty's Government with regard to the non-attendance of magistrates at Castlebar petty sessions, and your suggestion to have a resident magistrate stationed at Castlebar.

Captain FARREN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March* 28, 1848.

ALTHOUGH on examining the rate receipt abstract books and the block receipts on Friday last, it appeared that the amount entered therein, as collected during the week, was trifling (*viz.*, 45*l.* 18*s.* 7½*d.*); there has been some improvement in the collector's progress, he having attended at the Board-room yesterday, and stated that he had obtained the sum of 130*l.*, which would be lodged with the treasurer the next day.

The following return shows the state of the collection to the date of the examination of the accounts, Friday last:—

Electoral Divisions.	Collected during Week ended 23rd March.	Previously Collected.	Total Collected.	Remaining Uncollected.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Addergoole . . .	7 12 0½	98 5 7½	105 17 8	788 14 5½
Balla . . .	. . .	322 3 1½	322 3 1½	529 1 0
Ballintubber . . .	. . .	192 9 4½	192 9 4½	516 5 4
Breafy . . .	. . .	128 19 10	128 19 10	386 7 8
Ballyhean . . .	. . .	86 2 0½	86 2 0½	663 13 7
Castlebar . . .	6 0 5	906 16 1½	912 16 6½	1,773 11 3
Drum . . .	. . .	348 11 3½	348 11 3½	550 9 9½
Islandeedy . . .	. . .	10 10 10½	10 10 10½	475 10 0½
Strade . . .	19 13 6½	154 12 5	174 5 11½	1,283 9 2½
Turlough . . .	12 12 8	189 18 3	202 10 11	555 11 0½
Totals . . .	45 18 7½	2,438 8 11	2,484 7 6½	7,462 15 4½

£. s. d.

By which it appears that the total sum now collected, not including 130*l.* specified above, amounts to . . .

2484 7 6½

Leaving uncollected . . .

7462 15 4½

Of the latter, 2903*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* is due by immediate lessors whose cases are in the hands of the solicitor of the Union. The stage in which the proceedings now are in each case, was stated in the list which accompanied my report of last week. As the period for each stage of the solicitor's proceedings shall arrive, care will be taken that they are carried on.

With regard to the other cases. In my last report I informed the Commissioners that the directions the collector had received from the Vice-Guardians, to serve notices upon parties whose names were returned as defaulters in supplemental lists, furnished by the collector after having been repeatedly called for, had not been complied with; and that he had been accordingly informed that if this were not done by the next Board-day, the 100th section of the Poor Law Act would be enforced against him. This measure, I have now to state, had the desired effect, so far as the six-day notices upon occupiers were concerned;—these notices having been served upon the parties in question (with one or two exceptions, which were explained to the Vice-Guardians; and in these excepted cases, the notices will be served this week), some of the parties have paid; summonses will be issued against those who have not, in due course. In the cases of the immediate lessors, upon whom fifteen-day notices were ordered to be served, the collector gave as an excuse that he had none of the forms; they were immediately ordered, and handed over to him yesterday.

The Commissioners will not infer that these instructions of the Board are intended to supersede the collector's powers of distraint without notice, as he has been constantly urged to follow that course whenever it will serve the collection; but specific orders have been given him in particular cases, when the Board could obtain the lists from him, in order that he might have no excuse for not enforcing the collection, and moreover, that such orders might be the means of supporting him in his duties.

The Commissioners have already been informed of the instructions given to the collector to obtain deputies, and of the reasons stated by him for his non-compliance with their wishes in this respect, viz., the impossibility of obtaining properly qualified persons in whom he could place confidence; he was urged to renew his efforts to procure such persons—but none have been yet appointed. With such a large arrear of rate to collect, and such an extensive district, (the entire Union), the assistance appears to be indispensable. I regret that it does not appear that the Vice-Guardians have the power to compel the collector to make such appointments. The collector's books have been in his hands nearly five months; and the arrears now outstanding amount to two-thirds of the whole rate. It is true that nearly 3000*l.* has been taken out of his hands, and unavoidably remains in abeyance until term commences, viz., the middle of the next month, when I trust the solicitor will carry the cases through the superior courts and obtain decrees; but upwards of 4000*l.* of arrears still remains which will require much energy and perseverance to collect. The appointment of deputies, therefore, is a matter of much importance, as their assistance would advance the collection. The Vice-Guardians continue to urge the matter; but unless a penalty can be enforced for non-compliance, or the influence of the Commissioners be brought to bear upon the collector, I fear it will not be done.

In the meantime the collector finds other difficulties. Having yesterday complained, "That he could not attempt to distrain without the protection of an armed force, which must be accompanied by a magistrate; and that he had applied to the resident magistrate at Westport, who has attended several times when his other duties would permit; but in consequence of the extent of the district under his (the resident magistrate's) charge, comprising parts of the Ballina and Westport Unions, as well as that of Castlebar, he is unable to attend sufficiently often; and that the progress of the collection is consequently delayed." Further, "That on Saturday morning last, he applied to the resident magistrate, by letter, to accompany him with the usual escort on Monday or Tuesday; and that at that hour, 6 o'clock, P.M., he had received no reply." I thought it right to take down his deposition to that effect, and now enclose it for the information of the Commissioners (marked A), not with the view of urging any complaint against the resident magistrate, who, the collector states, he has found most anxious to give assistance, and to which I can also willingly testify; but in order that, should the Commissioners deem fitting, the Government may be requested to secure such assistance continuously to the collector, by the appointment of a resident magistrate, to reside at Castlebar, as the extent of the district allotted to Mr. Morony, who resides at Westport, renders it impossible for him to meet the pressing demands made upon him from this and the adjacent Unions, for his presence in enforcing the Poor Law.

I beg also to enclose another deposition (marked B.), which I took down

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yesterday, in which the collector complains that he attended on Thursday, the 23rd instant, at the court-house, Castlebar, for the purpose of proceeding against certain parties who had been summoned to appear before the magistrate at petty sessions for that day, for non-payment of poor rate; that he went into the judge's-room, adjoining the bench, and met the magistrate, Dr. Dillon, of this town, who told him the court was adjourned (it then not being half-past 12 o'clock); that he (the collector) informed Dr. Dillon that one magistrate could act in the cases in which he (the collector) was concerned, viz., poor-rate cases; and that it was necessary for him to do so, as the parties were taking away their property, and about to leave the country; but that he replied, the court was adjourned, and that he (Dr. Dillon) would not go back again. The collector adds, that 12 o'clock is the hour fixed for the opening of the court of petty sessions, but the magistrates usually do not meet until about 1 o'clock; and that Dr. Dillon was the magistrate who signed the summonses.

This statement I conceive it my duty to forward for your information. At the same time it is to be regretted that the collector did not attend at 12 o'clock, when there could have been no excuse for an adjournment, as, although two magistrates are required to constitute a bench in ordinary cases, one can adjudicate in those arising out of the Poor Law Act. I also regret that the collector did not notify to me that he had cases to be brought before the magistrates on that day, as I should have made it my business to have attended, in order to afford him all the countenance in my power, I have frequently requested, that he will always let me know when he has such cases, in order that I might be present; being most anxious for many reasons, as I have repeatedly informed him, to attend the petty sessions on such occasions.

Whilst writing, a note has been handed to me, which the collector has received from Mr. Morony (the resident magistrate), in which he states that he has appointments for every day this week, and cannot possibly give the collector a day until next week, and wishes him accordingly to name a day next week for the purpose. This will at once show the Commissioners the almost impracticability of enforcing the collection under existing circumstances.

I attended meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians on Saturday and Monday, and I may add on Sunday also; these days, to a late hour last night, having been occupied with the business of the Union, a complete revision of the Application Books being necessary to carry the provisions of the sealed order, suspending out-door relief to able-bodied single men above 18 years of age, and married men, able-bodied, having only two children, into effect.

After much labour the whole was completed, every case being duly ruled and initialed.

The following table shows the number of the classes in question cancelled in each electoral division:—

Electoral Divisions.	Married Men, Able-bodied, having only two Children dependent upon them. Number of Individuals.	Able-bodied Single Men above 18 Years of Age.	Total Suspended from Out-door Relief.
Addergoole . . .	160	90	250
Balla	113	43	156
Ballintubber . . .	163	90	253
Ballyhean	114	57	171
Breafy	72	15	87
Castlebar	288	68	356
Drum	228	28	256
Islandeady	149	75	224
Strade	107	60	167
Turlough	126	43	169
Totals	1,520	569	2,089

By which it appears that the number of individuals suspended under the first column was 1520

And under the second, viz., able-bodied single men above 18 years 569

And that the total number suspended under the sealed order was 2089

This order has caused considerable excitement in the rural districts, as might naturally be expected from the lower classes having thrown themselves so completely upon the Poor Law for support. I must, however, state, that I have since seen a greater number of individuals engaged in agricultural operations than for a considerable period; and as measures have been taken for admitting to the workhouse such individuals of these classes as may apply for relief on the grounds of not being able to obtain work, the salutary effect of the order will not, I trust, be marred by any distressing consequences.

ENCLOSURES.

A.

William Malley, sworn, states,—I am collector of the poor-rate in the Castlebar Union. In many of the districts the Union, where considerable rates are now due and might be enforced, I cannot attempt to distrain without the protection of an armed force. I have applied to the resident magistrate at Westport, who has attended several times when his other duties would permit; but in consequence of the extent of the district under his charge, comprising parts of the Ballina and Westport Unions as well as that of Castlebar, he is unable to attend sufficiently often, and the progress of the collection is consequently delayed. On Saturday morning last I applied to him by letter, to accompany me with the usual escort on Monday (this day) or Tuesday; and to this hour, 6 o'clock, P.M., have received no reply. I am, therefore, in doubt whether the duty will be carried out or not. I do not make this as a complaint against the resident magistrate, who, on the contrary, I have found most anxious to give his assistance; but state, that without such assistance being continuously afforded me, the collection of the rates must be considerably delayed if not defeated.

WILLIAM MALLEY.

Sworn before me at Castlebar, this 27th day of March, 1848.

R. T. FARREN, *Captain 47th Regt.*
Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

B.

William Malley, sworn, states,—I am collector of the poor-rate in the Castlebar Union. On Thursday morning last, the 23rd instant, I attended at the Court-house at Castlebar, for the purpose of proceeding against certain parties who had been summoned to appear before the magistrates at petty sessions for that day, for non-payment of poor-rate. I went into the judge's room, adjoining the bench, and met the magistrate, Dr. Dillon, of this town (Castlebar), who told me the Court was adjourned (it then not being half-past 12 o'clock); I gave him to understand that one magistrate could act in the cases in which I was concerned, viz., poor-rate cases; and that it was necessary for him to do so, as the parties were taking away their property and about to leave the country. He said the Court was adjourned, and that he would not go back again. Twelve o'clock is the hour fixed for the opening of the Court of petty sessions, but the magistrates usually do not meet until about one o'clock. Dr. Dillon was the magistrate who signed the summonses.

WILLIAM MALLEY.

Sworn before me at Castlebar, this 27th day of March, 1848.

R. T. FARREN, *Captain 47th Regt.*
Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 31, 1848.*

I AM to state, that an extract from your report, relative to the proposed appointment of a resident magistrate at Castlebar to aid in the collection of the poor-rates, has been forwarded to the Government.

I am at the same time to state, that it is very much to be regretted that the poor-rate collector was not punctual in his attendance at the petty sessions.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 4, 1848.*

WE have the honour to inform you that Mr. Malley, the rate-collector, has not reported to us any lodgments of rates made by him during the past week, neither has he attended the sittings of the Board on either Saturday or Monday, though requested to do so, nor has he submitted his weekly abstract to the clerk; however we are aware that he has been engaged with the civil and military forces in various parts of the Union ever since Thursday, enforcing the payment of the rates, and has also received the full amount of those due on the

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—

estate of Sir Roger Palmer in this Union. It is most disagreeable to be obliged to make this report of Mr. Malley's conduct, but still he appears to be much more zealous in the fulfilment of his other duties and to devote his entire time and attention to their discharge.

We are sorry to inform you that the applications for admission to the work-house and for out-door relief appear to be rather on the increase, as a very large number of persons presented themselves before us at our two sittings, but having provided 80 vacancies in the house, we were enabled to administer what has always proved the most effectual test of destitution—admission to the house,—and consequently great numbers declined relief in that way; those ruled on the relieving officers' books for out-door relief were 445 adults, and 131 children; but in some respects to balance this increase, a number of persons with their families have been cancelled for non-attendance at work.

Captain Farren, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, has handed us two orders from the British Association on the Commissariat depôts of Ballinrobe and Ballina, each for 300*l.* worth of provisions, of which we have appropriated about 242*l.* worth from the former, and 217*l.* worth from the latter, leaving a balance of 141*l.* worth to meet the next week's distribution, for which present appearances leave us a hope about 400*l.* will be sufficient.

It is satisfactory to be able to inform you that a considerable progress is being made in the tillage and cropping of the land, since the commencement of last week, the weather which had been most unfavourable, has assumed a settled character, and a pretty general appearance of industry and employment is manifested.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 6, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 400*l.* to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

CLONMEL UNION.

Captain HILL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 24, 1848.*

HAVING, in accordance with instructions received at your office, left Dublin on the evening of the 15th instant, I have now the honour to report my arrival here the following morning, and that I attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians on that day.

The chair, in the absence of Colonel Phipps, (the regularly appointed chairman), was taken by Mr. Smith. No business of much apparent importance beyond the usual routine took place, excepting the perusal of a communication from Colonel Phipps, intimating his intention of declining to act as chairman after the 25th, if chosen by the new Board. This determination, I fear, will be attended with considerable inconvenience, more particularly as at the late nomination of Guardians for the ensuing year, some of the most active and useful now in office were omitted; and as part of those there named have since objected to act, I think it advisable to subjoin a list of the remainder with their electoral divisions, by which it will be seen that seven of the ten will not be represented, and that but one-third of the proper number of elective Guardians will be available.

Mr. C. Bianconi, for Clonmel,
Mr. Joseph Kenny, Clonmel,
Mr. Alderman Quinn, Clonmel,
Mr. William Mahony, Clonmel,
Mr. Thomas Prendergast, Clonmel,
Mr. Patrick Wall, Lisronagh,
Mr. James Henneberry, Rathgormack.

Total, Seven.

From conversations with Colonel Phipps and others, it appears that but few, if any, of the ex-officio Guardians regularly attend, and that the attendance of the elected has been, with few exceptions, irregular also. I therefore am disposed to think that a paid Board will eventually become necessary.

In the course of the past week I have visited the three houses of the establishment, and though my inspections were not so minute as I intend them to be in future, the general cleanly appearance and management of them I consider creditable to the officers of the different departments.

I attended the meetings of the Board on Monday, the 20th, and yesterday. The following shows the state of the houses taken collectively on both days:—

Aged and infirm males	154
Do. females	199
Able-bodied males	189
Do. females	446
Boys between two and fifteen years	391
Girls do. do. . . .	395
Children under two years	45
Total on Saturday	1819
Add since admitted	122
	1941
Deduct discharged 206	
„ died 4	
	210
Total yesterday	1731

Who, at an average cost of about 1s. 7½d. per week, amounts to 138l. 16s. 9½d.

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Of the above were sick on Saturday—

In main house	54
Infirm wards	86
Additional ward	162
In fever at the hospital from workhouse	1

303

Add, in fever at the hospital, admitted from the electoral divisions	21
--	----

Total sick 324

The following table shows the number of paupers on the out-door relief lists of the Union and electoral divisions, on Saturday, the number of applicants since from each, those admitted, the number sent from the houses to receive out-door relief in each, and the total number now receiving relief, and how chargeable:—

Divisions.	Numbers on Saturday.	Applicants since.	Admitted.	Discharged from Houses to out-door relief.	Total now remaining chargeable.
Clonmel	1610	339	184	22	1816
Kilsheelan	71	73	47	1	119
Temple Etny	169	125	52	11	255
Lisronagh		39	23	1	
Newchapel	653	85	40	3	717
Innislonaghty		47	21	..	
Kilronan	360	247	157	29	546
St. Mary's	621	71	24	9	654
Killaloan	188	19	14	..	241
Rathgormack		47	85	4	
Union at large	246	..	..	8	254
Totals	3917	1092	597	88	4602

The practice in the Union has been to give each person above 15 years of age one pound of Indian meal, and half to those under that age, per diem; if, therefore, we suppose half of the above number to be under 15, and the price of the meal to be 1*d.* per pound, the weekly cost will be 100*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.*, or about 5½*d.* for each individual. This, added to the cost of the inmates of the houses, will produce a total (exclusive of other expenses) of 239*l.* 10*s.* 2½*d.* per week.

To meet this expenditure there remains in the hands of the treasurer about 3000*l.*, or sufficient to last 12 weeks, supposing it continues as at present, and as will be seen by the following table, 2654*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*, or rather such portion of it as may be collected, which remains due from the rate-payers out of 19,389*l.*, the amount of the rates struck on the 25th March last:—

Divisions.	Collected since 18th March.	Uncollected.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Clonmel	20 0 0	1428 1 2
Lisronagh	..	22 12 2½
Newchapel	5 0 0	70 9 7½
Innislonaghty	10 0 0	178 6 1½
Kilsheelan	..	92 5 5
Temple Etny	..	115 1 7
St. Mary's	5 0 0	292 8 8
Killaloan	..	31 7 10
Rathgormack	15 0 0	175 3 1½
Kilronan	..	249 2 0
	55 0 0	2654 17 9

The collectors have been directed to submit to the Board on the 25th instant, lists of the rate-payers who have not paid their rates, with the reason assigned opposite the name of each as given by himself, or such other causes of non-payment as may be applicable with the view of taking more decided steps towards recovery.

The Guardians, at their meeting yesterday, decided on trying the bread referred to in Mr. Stanley's letter of the 11th instant, of Indian and rye-meal in equal proportions, for which purpose, tenders for the supply of the latter were directed to be advertised for.

They also entered a minute on their proceedings to the effect that application be made for permission to continue out-door relief to destitute able-bodied men *in return for labour*, having wives, and more than two children under 15 years, or able-bodied widowers, with a similar number of children dependent on them. Such persons to be considered destitute, though in possession of trifling articles of furniture. The principal reason assigned was, that if all able-bodied persons are struck off the lists on the 1st April, according to the order of the 18th instant, work will not, it is supposed, be procurable for them, and a greater number of cases will arise for relief in the workhouses than can be provided, and as the accommodation at present disposable in them is said to be but for 169, I beg respectfully to recommend that the application be acceded to; in addition to this, as the cost of maintenance in the workhouse is so much greater than out of doors, economy may perhaps be also pleaded. The reason for recommending that such persons as may be possessed of *trifling* articles of furniture may not be excluded is, that if they are, they will be reduced to the necessity of selling or pawning them (if unable to procure work), and thus will have nothing to induce them to keep out of the workhouse; whereas experience proves they now frequently refuse the offer of admission, stating that their little cabins and property will not be taken care of.

With respect to the labour required from paupers receiving out-door relief, I have arranged for the employment of about 150 in the course of next week, being as many as the Turnpike Board can now find work for (*viz.*, stone-breaking), and shall use every exertion in my power to increase the number.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 30, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 24th instant, on the present constitution of the Board of Guardians of Clonmel Union, the state of the workhouse, the funds for relief, and the application of the Board for an extension of the out-door relief order, which will expire on the 1st proximo.

The Commissioners desire to refer you to the provisions of the Acts 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 56, and 6 and 7 Vic., cap. 92, which may be made available for the election of Guardians for those divisions in which you state that no step for that object has been taken under the general election order, in the present year.

As it appears that so very large a proportion of the rates uncollected are due in Clonmel electoral division, the Commissioners request you will make a very strict examination of the collectors' books, and require that prompt exertions shall be made for the collection of the amount outstanding, as far as recoverable. It is desirable that in all the electoral divisions the collectors should press for the rates still due, so that their books may be closed, and the arrears transferred to the new rate, which ought now to be in preparation.

The Commissioners are not prepared on the information at present before them, to extend beyond the 1st proximo, the present out-door relief order, which was issued to Clonmel Union on the 18th instant. They agree with you that out-door relief to a given number of destitute persons is less in cost than the in-door maintenance of a like number; but it must be recollected that the applicants for the former will always be found much more numerous than those willing to accept the latter; and this, therefore, occasions an important diminution of the total relief expenditure, while it fully provides for the wants of the classes requiring relief. Keeping this in view, the Commissioners request you to press on the Guardians the importance of having in-door accommodation reserved for the families of able-bodied persons; and if this be no longer practicable, either by transferring to the out-door relief lists, the infirm classes, of which 353 are now inmates of the workhouse, or by obtaining an additional building; out-door labour, at stone-breaking, should be immediately provided at work stations to be formed throughout the Union.

The Commissioners observe that you propose to have 150 men employed this

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week on a turnpike-road, in breaking stones for the trustees; but it cannot be considered proper that the rate-payers should have to provide and support labourers for the turnpike trustees, who, if requiring labour, should hire it in the ordinary course. However, if it be intended only that the stones are to be broken for the Board of Guardians, and that the trustees shall pay for them the price of the district according to measurement, there is no objection to such sale of the stone; but this appears to present no advantage to the trustees equal to the hiring of labourers in the ordinary way.

As so little time remains for the duration of the present out-door relief order to able-bodied persons, the Commissioners request you to confer immediately with rate-payers who possess experience in the affairs of the Union, on whose judgment you can rely, and report whether it be really indispensable that the order should be renewed, and if so, for what number of days.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire to state that there are few Unions in Ireland in which the Board of Guardians has hitherto been found so efficient as in Clonmel Union. And the Commissioners trust, therefore, that you will give no encouragement to the idea of its becoming necessary to dissolve it.

Captain HILL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 31, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of Mr. Stanley's letter received this morning, directing me immediately to confer with rate-payers possessing experience in the affairs of the Union, on whose judgment reliance can be placed, as to whether it be really indispensable to continue out-door relief to the able-bodied paupers as requested by the minute of the Guardians on the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report that I have consulted with Messrs. Davis, Smith, Quinn, and some of the relieving officers. The former is of opinion that it should be for a month, and the others at least a fortnight. They affirm that they are averse to preventing the people from relying on their own energies, by affording them any inducement to depend on relief from the rates, but they consider that the employment as yet to be had in the country, is inadequate to provide means of support to *all* who have only their labour to depend on; and although the Guardians intend to apply the work-house test as far as possible, by offering to discharge the infirm to make room for others, they have, from the reports of the relieving officers, reason to expect that so many already struck off the lists will request admission to the house on the next Board day, that their accommodation will, if those with large families are also discontinued, be impracticable.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 1, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have given directions for the renewal of the order for one week, until the Guardians have time to meet and consider whether an order may not be substituted, limiting relief to widows with one child, to orphans whose parents are both dead, and to men, one of whose family is sick.

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Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 2, 1848.*

AT the weekly meeting of the Guardians of this Union, held yesterday, 1st February, I pointed out to them that the collection of rates for the last week had fallen off 316 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., instead of improving, as I anticipated; that their expenditure had exceeded the collection by a sum of 323 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., and that they were in debt to their contractor for meal in the large sum of 3,429 $\frac{1}{2}$ l.; and I also read them the communication of 21st January, from Commissioners to the collectors.

The vice-chairman informed me, that he was aware that the collectors were making the utmost exertions in the discharge of their duty; that the most stringent measures were in progress against all defaulters; that several decrees had been obtained; and on the day previous, the 31st January, a sum of 445 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. in addition had been lodged in bank by the collectors. The bank receipts were shown me. I called on the Board to reconsider the subject of taking the house in Ballingarry for an extra workhouse, and read the observations of the Commissioners on the subject. I pointed out that the Commissioners might sanction the schoolmaster and mistress with the whole of the children, and a few able women for household purposes, being located there. This would save the salary of a master and matron, and make room for about 400 persons in the workhouse. The Board came to the determination to take the house at once; and a Committee was named, consisting of the *ex-officio* Guardians and Electoral Guardians of Ballingarry, Castletown, and Kilmeedy electoral divisions, to carry this measure out. The only difficulty will be in obtaining the attendance of this Committee; two of the *ex-officio* Guardians who live close by having stated, "that they had plenty to attend to besides."

The contractor for raising the idiot wards and completing them, having totally broken faith with the Guardians, and left his work in an unfinished state, orders were given to proceed at law against his securities.

A report was read and adopted on the subject of taking some land close outside the walls of the workhouse; and a special meeting was named for Thursday, the 3rd instant, to take that subject into consideration.

On examining the relieving officer's book, the lately-elected Guardian for Rathronan stated, that "he warned the relieving officer not to give relief to a girl who refused to take a servant's situation in his house; and notwithstanding, he gave her a ticket of admission to the workhouse;" it appears there was not room for her, and on Saturday last the Guardian saw her receive rations at the food depôt.

On remonstrating with the distributor (who is a brother of Mr. Hartnett, the relieving officer) he (the Distributor) replied, "that he did not care whether the Guardian liked it or not, he was justified in giving relief to her." Relieving Officer says, that her name is not on the out-door relief books, and that if she got rations it was without his knowledge.

My opinion on this is, that the relieving officer ought to be dismissed, and the distributor also. The former is a person I have no confidence in; he is a weak, intimidated, popularity-seeking person. In my opinion the system of the Guardians providing for their relatives and friends, by appointing them relieving officers, and distributors, and superintendents, is the source of every kind of jobbing and abuse. On calling on the relieving officers, I find that the wetting of the meal has been properly carried out except in one electoral division (the same Rathronan), where the Guardian informs me the distributor merely sprinkled a little water on the meal with his hand.

I warned all the relieving officers to observe the greatest vigilance on this subject, and at once report any neglect or imposition on the part of the distributors; and I held them strictly responsible for the carrying out of the Commissioners' orders on this subject, as well as on the stone-breaking.

In two electoral divisions, Castletown and Kilmeedy, under one relieving officer (Mr. Minahan), in spite of weather, 48 and 50 persons have been set to

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work; and when there was a difficulty in procuring stones, he made the labourers collect them off the fields. Two persons called on by him did not go to work, and have been struck off the lists. In the other divisions, 37, 20, 20, 24, 25, have been put to work, but the names of non-attendants have not been struck off, "owing to the severity of the weather." In four electoral divisions it has as yet been found impossible to procure quarries; in one, "Ardagh," the men were prevented entering a quarry by the occupying tenants armed with pitchforks, &c., although leave to work there had been granted by the landlord.

I informed the relieving officers that I would admit of no excuse in future for non-attendance, except in case of sickness or *very severe* weather, and held up to them the activity and determination of Mr. Minahan as an example to follow.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 7, 1848.*

I AM to express the great regret of the Commissioners at the unsatisfactory state of the collection, and to state that the Commissioners rely on your inspecting the collectors' books, and on your stimulating them to greater exertion by your personal admonitions.

The Commissioners are glad to learn that the Guardians are now willing to take a house at Ballingarry; and the Commissioners will readily give their sanction to the hiring it and fitting it up properly for a workhouse. A visiting Committee should be appointed, whose special duty it should be to inspect it and report upon it to the Guardians once every week.

In reference to the relieving officer referred to in your letter, the Commissioners have called upon him for an explanation. With regard to the distributor, the Commissioners would recommend you to bring his conduct under the notice of the Board of Guardians. He is not an officer of the Union, and therefore the Commissioners cannot precisely remove him from his situation.

The COMMISSIONERS to the RELIEVING OFFICER:—*February 7, 1847.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed extract from a report which the Commissioners have received from Mr. Maxwell, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, in which it is stated that relief was afforded to a girl in Newcastle Union who refused to take a servant's situation; and I am to request that you will furnish the Commissioners with an explanation in regard to this statement.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 9, 1848.*

At the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday I read the communication of the Commissioners regretting the unsatisfactory state of the collection in the Union, and pointed out to them the increase of their difficulties. They had exceeded their weekly collection for the article of food alone in the sum of 83*l.* 4*s.*, and their debt to their contractors was about 3700*l.* I produced a return of the 10 highest rate-payers in each division, and I called on them to make their solicitor take the most unsparing steps against these persons, among whom there appear three members of the Board (who were present). Lord Muskerri, a defaulter in 75*l.*, stated that he had been absent from home for a considerable time, and had only just returned, but would pay his rate without loss of time. The Vice-Chairman, also a defaulter in 10*l.* 10*s.*, also sent word to the collector that he would pay immediately.

An order was made by the Board that their solicitor be instructed to proceed, without further delay, against all the highest defaulters.

Additional time was given to the collectors to close their collection until the new Rate Book were made out; and I informed the Board that I should conceive it my duty to report the collectors as inefficient, if the collection was not in a most satisfactory state at that time.

In consequence of my representing that I had visited one of the stone-breaking depôts at 3 o'clock (in fine weather), and had found the workmen leaving their

work for the day, the Board made an order that the superintendents strike off the lists, all who do not work for eight hours per day, or perform their task.

On reading to the Guardians the letter from the Commissioners, expressing their satisfaction that the Board were now willing to take the house at Ballin-garry, I was informed by the Vice-Chairman that, since last meeting, he had made inquiries, and had reason to state that this house and property were in the Court of Chancery, that Major O'Dell had no right to let it, and the receiver had stated that he would distrain for debt any property he found on the premises.

William Cox, Esq., then proposed to inquire about another house at Ballin-garry, and report at next meeting.

On bringing under the notice of the Board the conduct of the distributor in Abbeyfeale, in compliance with your letter, it was resolved to reprimand him, this being his first offence. But Mr. Woulfe, the Guardian, having brought forward another charge against him, for opposing him, and using language tending to inflame the people against him, the Board, by a large majority, agreed to write to Mr. O'Donnell, the contractor, to dismiss him.

I then called attention to the report and letter from the Commissioners' architect, upon which the securities for the contractor came forward and took the matter into their own hands, and promised to complete the building within the time named by the assistant-architect.

The Board determined to employ the clerk of works recommended, if his terms were moderate.

On considering the letter of the Commissioners to the Guardians, "suggesting that the rates in Ardagh, Newcastle, and Abbeyfeale electoral divisions be raised to the same level as the other divisions," a long series of resolutions come to by a Relief Committee in Abbeyfeale were read, and it was ordered to forward them to the Commissioners for their opinion and sanction.

The object of this Committee is (in my opinion) simply this: they are anxious to employ a sum of 200*l.*, remaining in their hands, in taking con-acre land, and seeding it for the paupers in that district, and thereby restore the potato cultivation, which has succeeded so well on a small scale, this year in this county; and this Committee want (in my opinion) to bind the Guardians to continue out-door relief to those persons until the potatoes are fit for food.

The Guardian for Ardagh complained loudly "at the rate being raised to 3*s.* in his electoral division, inasmuch as the original estimate of the clerk for all expenses for six months was only 2*s.* 6*d.*"

The Board came to the resolution of adopting the suggestions of the Commissioners.

This electoral division has been well and closely attended to by the rate-payers, Guardians, and relieving officers; imposition has been checked, and its expenses are consequently low. I therefore venture to suggest to the Commissioners that their sanctioning the 2*s.* 6*d.*, or a less rate, would be attended with good, and set a useful example in the Union. The rates have also been well paid in Ardagh electoral division.

I called the attention of the Board of Guardians to a fact that had come to my knowledge, viz., that one of their relieving officers, Mr. Hallinan, was at present under arrest for debt. This man has been absent from his duty for the last four or five weeks from ill health. He is a person perfectly unfit for his situation, in my opinion, from age and broken constitution. I have received many complaints of his conduct, including charges of drunkenness; but I have not yet been able to investigate into them, owing to his continued illness.

I ordered the relieving officers to put to work 50 more men from their lists in each electoral division.

The Board adjourned till next Thursday, the 10th instant.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February* 14, 1848.

WITH reference to your suggestion, that a rate of 2*s.* 6*d.*, or less, should be sanctioned in Ardagh electoral division, I am to state that, as the Guardians have resolved to strike a rate of 3*s.* in the pound on Ardagh division, the Commissioners cannot act on your suggestion to sanction a 2*s.* 6*d.* rate in that division. Moreover, you will see, in reference to the enclosed copy of a letter

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addressed to the Guardians this day in regard to Abbeyfeale division, that a 3s. rate will be required in reference to the repayment of advances under the Temporary Relief Act.

With reference to the statement that Mr. Hallinan, one of the relieving officers, is under arrest for debt, and that he has been absent from his duties for the last four or five weeks, I am directed to inform you that the Commissioners have called on this relieving officer to resign.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the GUARDIANS:—*February 14, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had their attention drawn by Mr. Maxwell, to the resolutions of the Abbeyfeale Relief Committee, relative to the Commissioner's suggestion to raise the rate in Abbeyfeale electoral division to 3s. in the pound; they have also had before them the Guardians' minutes, in which reference is made to those resolutions, and to which a copy of them is attached.

The Commissioners, however, see nothing in the resolutions of the Abbeyfeale Relief Committee to induce the Guardians to strike a lower rate in Abbeyfeale electoral division than 3s. in the pound.

The Guardians will perceive, on referring to the Commissioners' letter of the 31st ultimo, that the Commissioners made therein the suggestion respecting a rate of 3s. in the pound in the Abbeyfeale electoral division, *in reference to the repayment of advances under the Temporary Relief Act.*

It is on account of such repayment that the Commissioners now again request the Guardians to strike a rate of at least 3s. in the pound in Abbeyfeale electoral division.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 10, 1848.*

I BEG to state that I examined the collectors' books minutely, and informed them that they had now about 10 or 12 days to complete their collection; and that if I found at the end of that time an unsatisfactory account of the rates due, I should consider it my duty to report them as inefficient, to the Poor Law Commissioners.

They inform me that there are warrants or decrees against every defaulter who is "at all able" to pay his rates; and they promised me that, on or before Saturday, the 19th instant, their collection would be completed.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 12, 1848.*

IN this electoral division (Newcastle) I find that out of 138 persons ordered to break stones, 73 have refused, and in consequence have been struck off the relief lists.

I am informed that most of these persons are tradesmen and artizans in this town. They say, "they would rather die than break stones;" and many of them intend to demand admission to the workhouse on Tuesday next. I presume the Guardians will be justified in refusing their application.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 14, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that the Guardians are by no means obliged to give relief in the workhouse, even if there is room in it, for the accommodation of the applicants; and that the Guardians would be fully justified in refusing relief altogether to the able-bodied applicants, if they refused to break stones.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 16, 1848.*

AT a meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday I informed them that I had urged the collectors by every means in my power to increased exertion in the execution of their duty; and I now regretted to find that the collection this week only amounted to 263*l.* (the smallest collection made since my taking charge of the Union), whereas their expenditure for food alone amounted to 780*l.*, and their debts had increased to about 4000*l.*

The vice-chairman informed me that he believed the collectors were doing all that men could do to collect the rates.

Mr. Moylan, the only collector in attendance, being called in, informed me that he had exerted himself to the utmost the last week; that he had cattle impounded to the amount of 150*l.*, and had that morning sent into the Bank 200*l.*

I submitted to the Board a letter I had received from William Cox, Esq., on the subject of a house in Ballingarry.

The feeling of the Board was that the rent was too high, and that they did not feel justified in taking any house for a term of years. The subject was postponed, in order to communicate further with the proprietor.

I called upon the relieving officers to extend the labour system to the whole of the able-bodied males in each district.

In one part of the Union, Knockaderry, the Guardians have been refused every quarry hitherto; further application is to be made to a proprietor.

I am informed by the relieving officers that a considerable number of persons have been struck off the relief lists, in consequence of their having refused to work.

During the sitting of the Board, the persons belonging to Newcastle electoral division who were employed at the stone-breaking depôt, came in a body to the workhouse, and sent in a letter protesting against the hardship of their being forced to labour eight hours per day for one pound of meal.

Having called on the Board to resist anything like intimidation, and do their duty firmly, I sent for two of the most intelligent of the applicants, and I read to them "the able-bodied out-door relief order," and the Commissioners' communication of the 14th instant, stating "that the Guardians are fully justified in refusing relief altogether to the able-bodied applicants, if they refuse to break stones." They then retired.

I called on the relieving officers to make me a return of the number of persons who refused to work in each electoral division. This I shall forward for the information of the Commissioners.

A road contractor in Abbeyfeale electoral division came before the Board and offered to provide stones, and to pay the Guardians 3*d.* per ton for the breaking them. This was accepted.

On the order being made to advertise for a relieving officer to supply the place of Mr. Hallinan, resigned, the vice-chairman called on the members of the Board not to pledge themselves to support any one, but to come to the Board unbiassed, and prepared to select the persons best qualified, thereby doing their duty by the rate-payers of the Union. I also advised them to be very particular in their selection, as I would never hesitate in reporting any relieving officer whom I considered unfit for the situation.

I have to express my satisfaction at the cleanliness of the interior of the workhouse, and I find both master and matron most active in keeping the able-bodied inmates constantly employed.

Orders have been made to provide flax, wool, and spinning-wheels, &c.

I hope soon to have the bread made and baked in the workhouse. This will cause a saving of sixpence per week per inmate.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 21, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report which relates to the collection of the rate, I am to enclose for your information a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have this day addressed to the Board of Guardians on the subject; and I am to request you will be so good as to report in detail the reasons why the collection of the rates is in such a backward state.

The Commissioners regard the present financial condition of the Union with the most serious apprehension, as, unless greater efficiency is manifested by the Board of Guardians and the collectors in the collection of the rates, the Union will inevitably become bankrupt.

The Commissioners request you to give your special consideration to the question of whether there is a reasonable prospect that the finances of the Union will be relieved without a dissolution of the Newcastle Board of Guardians.

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ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the GUARDIANS:—*February 21, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are desirous of calling the serious attention of the Newcastle Board of Guardians to the unsatisfactory progress of the collection of the rates in Newcastle Union.

The weekly expenditure during the week ended February the 12th cannot have been less than 800*l.*, while the rates collected did not exceed 263*l.* And it appears that the net debts of the Union on the 31st ultimo, after deducting money in the collectors' hands, amounted to 4565*l.*

It further appears that during each of the three months of November, December, and January, the expenses of the Guardians exceeded their receipts; the excess in November having been 661*l.*, in December 530*l.*, and in January 784*l.*; so that during the three months of the year which may perhaps be considered the most favourable for the collection of the rates, the Newcastle Board of Guardians, instead of reducing their existing debt, added to that debt a sum only a very little short of 2000*l.*

The Commissioners therefore urgently call upon the Guardians to take decisive measures for enforcing the payment of the outstanding rates, and of their bringing the new rate into collection with the least possible delay; and the Commissioners would suggest that the collectors should be peremptorily instructed to distrain under their general warrant, the goods and chattels found on premises the rates upon which are in arrear, and that legal proceedings should be at once instituted by the Guardians against immediate lessors who have not yet paid their rates.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

At the weekly meeting of the Guardians yesterday I beg to state I called their serious attention to the very alarming state of their finances. Their expenditure in food alone having exceeded the collection by 376*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, and their debts amounting to upwards of 4500*l.* I read your letter of the 21st February, and called on them to take final and decisive measures against all defaulters; upon which the collectors were ordered to make a return of all the defaulters on Tuesday next, the 29th instant, specifying those who can and those who can never pay.

I pressed the adoption of expensive legal measures against some defaulters in the rank of gentlemen, but this was not attended to.

After a great opposition it was carried that the Board of Guardians take the house at Ballingarry belonging to the Rev. Mr. Gubbins, subject to the sanction of the Commissioners, and the children under the schoolmaster and mistress be sent there. The only disadvantage I see to this is the distance—eight miles. The Guardians are much averse to sending others than the children, as it would entail the expense of staff.

The subject of the rate in Abbeyfeale electoral division being raised to an uniform rate of 3*s.* in the pound, was considered and carried, after a most violent and intemperate opposition of the Guardian of that electoral division, who stated that employment would be put a stop to, and the whole of the pauper population would be thrown on the rates. I pointed out to him that it was for the purpose of paying a just debt that the rate was raised to that amount.

Mr. O'Connor was elected relieving officer almost unanimously. This young man has been acting for the last four or five weeks in lieu of Mr. Hallinan, who resigned in consequence of being arrested for debt. One of the unsuccessful candidates was son of the man who had him arrested. O'Connor is son-in-law to Hallinan.

The relieving officers have not exerted themselves sufficiently to bring the labour system into full operation, except in one instance. In this district, Castletown and Kilmeedy electoral divisions, the relieving officer reports 600 persons at work on Monday, the 21st.

On Saturday, the 19th, 33 persons had been struck off the lists for refusing to work.

In the other divisions the numbers at work vary from 150 to 45; but the proper returns have not been sent to me. I have cautioned the relieving officers against neglect in future.

The amount of work done has been small, and the overseers complain of the severity of the weather, the badness of the tools, &c.; but I attribute it chiefly to the vicious and perverse habits of idleness of the people.

No less than 19 men, 21 women, and 46 children left the workhouse last week, in consequence of their being obliged to work. I made the master give their names, &c., to each relieving officer, and cautioned them against submitting them on their books for out-door relief. Newcastle Union.

In consequence of the almost impossibility of obtaining a quarry in Knockaderry district, I request the sanction of the Commissioners to the paupers being put to break stones that were quarried under the Board of Works in the neighbourhood of an unfinished road.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of WORKS:—*February 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you, to be laid before the Board of Works, the accompanying extract from a report which the Commissioners have received from Captain Maxwell, the Inspector in charge of Newcastle Union, relative to the employment of paupers in breaking stones quarried under the Board of Works; and I am to request that the Board will be so good as to allow the stones to be broken as requested.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

IN compliance with your request, conveyed in communication of 21st February, I beg to state that the chief reasons, in my opinion, why the collection is in such a backward state, are, the lately very disturbed state of the country, the intimidation under which the collectors have been labouring, and the want of support given them by the civil power previous to the 26th January.

Previous to October last, I am informed that the people were urged by persons having the greatest influence over them not to pay any rates, and the feeling prevailed among them that by such means the Government would be compelled to renew the operations of the Temporary Relief Act. I may say the collection of the rate struck on the 10th June last only commenced in earnest in October last. The chief arrears of this (modified to 3s. in the pound), are in Mr. Moylan's district. The electoral divisions of Castletown, Kilmeedy, and Ballingarry, are the chief defaulters, and there exists the most abject poverty. Numbers of rate-payers have been ejected or have run away from their holdings; there is no stock on the land to seize, or any means to get at. There remains uncollected of the rate 1086*l.*, of which the collector states not more than 200*l.* can be got, and that not immediately.

Mr. Hannigan has collected all the 3s. rate in his district, except 311*l.* He has executed 55 warrants, and has 20 more; he has been repeatedly opposed in the execution of his duty. He states that "the cattle are all housed now, and he cannot get at them; but when they are turned out in May, when there will be no more house-feeding left, he will be able to collect the arrear, and he hopes the new rate also."

Mr. Leahy "has only about 120*l.* uncollected in his district, and is afraid there is about one-half of that sum that never can be collected, from mistakes in the books, property changing hands, and there being either no stock on the land or its being locked up." He states, "that a system has been lately adopted, viz., of no one bidding for the distrained cattle, and applies that the master of the workhouse be sent to bid at the public sale."

I beg to state that I have heard but one opinion with regard to the collectors, viz., that they are honest and trustworthy. This I believe; but like every one in this country, they have been intimidated.

As to the rate-payers, there are many of the defaulters who are able to pay, and I pointed out by name a justice of the peace and deputy lieutenant living in the county Clare, a clergyman, the Inspector of Drainage under the Board of Works, a landed proprietor, a farmer rated at 62*l.* per annum, and the Board's milk contractor, as defaulters without excuse. I called on the Board to take proceedings in the higher Courts, and take out writs against their persons; but that suggestion was not attended to. In my opinion they have been stern enough with the higher classes.

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As to the administration of the funds of the Union, I consider that the reckless manner in which out-door relief was given in October without sanction, and has been continued since with scarce a check, at an expense far exceeding the collection, speaks most forcibly for their want of economy or forethought in the manner of managing their finances.

But very few instances on the part of individual Guardians to check abuse have come under my notice; and in my presence it was stated by one of themselves that they all, and every farmer in the country, were trying to get or getting out-door relief for their cottier, or herdsmen, or occasional labourers.

They have as yet shown anything but economical management in their work-house, the average cost of a pauper being 2s. 1½d.; whereas in the neighbouring Union of Rathkeale it is only 1s. 6d. This, however, will soon be corrected.

With regard to this subject, there are many of the *ex-officio* Guardians and respectable part of the Board who wish, beyond measure, for the appointment of Vice-Guardians; but the rest are most anxious to preserve the patronage and influence of the situation.

I am certain that the affairs of the Union would have been far better managed by Vice-Guardians; and I would have expressed my opinion on the subject before, but that I was informed it was not considered necessary by the Commissioners that such should be appointed.

The vice-chairman expressed himself yesterday at the Board, "that if there had been a paid Board of Guardians, they would have struck a 7s. rate instead of a 3s. one." He at the same time informed me that he was convinced the 3s. rate sanctioned by the Commissioners, and now ready for signature, would be collected, but that nothing higher would be possible.

I much fear that the reduction in the expenditure will not be commensurate with the state of finances of the Union, and that no contractor will be found to supply them with Indian meal for the next month.

I annex a letter from one of the collectors.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. LEAHY, Collector, to Captain MAXWELL:—*February 23, 1848.*

I BEG leave to inform you that I have on yesterday applied to Sub-Inspector Coppinger, of Newcastle, for the protection of a few police to go about a mile out of Newcastle, on the resident magistrate's general requisition. He said on account of the short distance I had to go he would not refuse me then, but for the future he would give no protection without a fresh requisition for every day, and for every particular townland, and giving him two or three days' previous notice; and also that he would send his instructions to every police-station in his district to the same effect.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians:—February 28, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their serious consideration the present embarrassed state of the finances of Newcastle Union, in connexion with the resolution passed by the Newcastle Board of Guardians on the 2nd of November last, expressing an opinion that a paid Board of Guardians should be appointed who could devote their whole and undivided attention to the affairs of this Union.

Looking to the comparative wealth of Newcastle Union, and to the great number of individuals of rank and station who have property within it, the Commissioners were in the highest degree unwilling to supersede the functions of the representatives of the rate-payers, by the appointment of paid officers, and they accordingly declined to act in accordance with the resolution of the Board of Guardians. Although the debts of the Union were of a considerable amount, the Commissioners entertained the hope that the existing emergency would call forth extraordinary exertions, and that the Guardians would not fail to collect sufficient rates to pay off their debts and to place the finances of the Union on a satisfactory foundation.

In this hope the Commissioners regret to state that they have been wholly disappointed. Notwithstanding the representations of their Inspector, Captain Maxwell, the Guardians have not in any one of the last three months collected sufficient rates to defray even their actual expenses. The precise amount of their debts on the 31st of October was 3015l.; but in November the Guardians

incurred an additional debt of 661*l.*, in December 530*l.*, and in January 784*l.* so that on the 31st ultimo the total debts of the Guardians amounted to 4990*l.*, while the money to their credit was merely 575*l.*; and in each of the weeks of the present month the collection has fallen so far short of the expenses that the Commissioners cannot estimate the present debts of the Union at less than 5600*l.*

The Commissioners are unable to avoid the conclusion that this state of the finances of Newcastle Union is owing in a great measure to the default of the Board of Guardians in the collection of the rates, and they desire on this head to refer to the example of the adjoining Union of Kanturk.

Newcastle Union appears to be on the whole more wealthy in reference to its population than Kanturk, the population of Newcastle Union being 60,007, and the net annual value of its property under the Poor Law valuation being 109,499*l.*; while the population of Kanturk Union is 85,861, and the net annual value of its property is 106,114*l.*

On the 30th of last November the debts of Kanturk Union amounted to 6680*l.*, and the embarrassed state of its finances was one of the reasons which influenced the Commissioners in appointing Vice-Guardians to manage its affairs. The Vice-Guardians were appointed on the 16th of November; they made a rate of 16,837*l.* on the 27th; and the collectors' warrants were signed on the 30th of the same month. They then pressed forward the collection with such vigour and success that they collected during December 5677*l.*, during January 5948*l.*, and during less than three weeks of February 2945*l.*, sums amounting on the whole to 14,570*l.* By these means the Kanturk Guardians, instead of adding to their debt, raised as much as 8000*l.* more than the actual expenses, from the 30th of November to the present time.

Now, when the Commissioners consider the collectors' warrants in Newcastle Union were all signed either in June, or the first week of July, and that the amount put in collection was 15,149*l.* (the collection of which ought undoubtedly to have been closed by the end of last December at the very latest), it appears to the Commissioners evident that there has been a default of duty in the Newcastle Board of Guardians, in reference to that very important part of their functions, the levying of rates.

Under these circumstances, in order to prevent the Union from becoming involved in inextricable financial difficulties, the Commissioners deem it advisable to supersede the present system of management by the appointment of paid Guardians. The Commissioners have, accordingly, given directions for the preparation of an order dissolving the Newcastle Board of Guardians; the order will be formally issued by to-morrow evening's post, and the Commissioners will proceed with the least possible delay to appoint Vice-Guardians to manage the affairs of the Union.

RESOLUTION of the BOARD of GUARDIANS of the 2nd November, 1847, referred to in the foregoing Letter.

THE following resolution was proposed by Thomas Locke, Esq., and seconded by Captain Shelton:—"That from no willingness to abdicate our functions, but with the most anxious desire to discharge our duties as Poor Law Guardians to the utmost of our ability and exertions for the benefit and interest of all classes, we are under the strongest impression, that taking into account the constant and vigilant attention indispensably and daily necessary to the increasing and arduous duties of this Board, and the honest performance of our duties as members thereof, we are of opinion that it will be for the benefit of this Union, and the interest of the destitute poor and of the rate-payers, that a paid Board of Guardians be appointed, who could devote their whole and undivided attention to the affairs of this Union.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 24, 1848.*

I BEG to state for the information of the Commissioners, that leave to work in a quarry at Knockaderry having been at length obtained, 269 persons were ordered to go to work.

On assembling this morning they threatened the owner of the quarry and the overseer, and most of them refused to work—one man calling out that "they would rather be transported than break stones." The relieving officer and the overseer immediately reported the circumstance to me, I have struck

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off altogether four men, the ringleaders, and have stopped a week's relief from the others. I have also sent them word that if they did not immediately go to work they and their families would be deprived of out-door relief. I have reason to believe that in the Knockaderry district there has been a systematic combination to oppose the labour test. The whole country is studded with quarries; and every one of them, with one exception, have been refused to the Guardians, two or three by landed gentlemen.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 1, 1848.*

ADVERTING to your letter of the 24th ultimo, in which you state that a number of persons receiving out-door relief in Newcastle Union had refused to break stones, and that you had suspended relief to some of them, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they are of opinion that, under the circumstances stated in your letter, you were justified in assuming that the parties who refused to break the stones were not really destitute.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 1, 1848.*

AFTER the letter from the Commissioners dissolving the Board of Guardians had been read yesterday, I begged of them to remain and transact the business of the day. This request was cheerfully complied with, and a wish was expressed that a limited number of their body might be sanctioned to give their assistance to the Vice-Guardians.

The state of the finances of the Union is now as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Collection, week to 26th February	392	15	3
Expenditure in food alone	751	19	2
Amount of debt to Contractors	5,165	0	0

It was ordered that the collection be closed, and the arrears brought forward.

Each collector handed in a return of the whole of the defaulters on his books. I transmit them for the information of the Commissioners. Mr. Leahy, poor rate collector, stated that he would have collected a larger amount of rates last week, but that he was refused the assistance of the police; in consequence the seizures made by him and his bailiffs were on several occasions rescued from them.

Two contracts for Indian meal were offered to the Board: one from the present contractor, Mr. O'Donnel, at 10*l.* 15*s.* per ton, including all expenses; the other at 8*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, with the same conditions. The latter was accepted, and the day named for Mr. Russell to commence the supply.

The Board decided on causing a total revision of the Union, for the purpose of correcting the errors in the present rating.

A petition to Parliament, sent by a committee of Irish members to the vice-chairman, praying for an amendment of the Irish Poor Law, &c., was signed by all the members of the Board.

The Board recommended that an assistant to the master be appointed, and also a person to superintend the baking, and the industrial operations on the female side of the house. This latter appointment I think will be necessary. A number of masons, &c., are now employed in building a story over the idiot wards on the *female side*, and on that account the assistant or steward is obliged to attend constantly in the yard; but when the building is finished, and this man can resume his ordinary duties, I think there will be no necessity for an assistant to the master. The workhouse is clean and in good order, and I think there will be no difficulty in keeping it so with the present staff.

A letter was read from the farmers of one electoral division (Rathronan) proposing to give employment to the persons who are now breaking stones, for their out-door relief, and to give them *their dinner daily in lieu of wages*, provided neither they nor their families be struck off the relief lists, and continue to receive rations. I begged of the Guardian of that division to explain to

those farmers that such a proposal was contrary to every principle of justice, and could not be entertained for one moment.

The labour system has been extended further this week, but the amount of work done appears small. The weather has been very severe, and several of the quarries are filled with water.

The persons from Knockaderry district who last week opposed the overseer and refused to break stones have since come quietly to work. There exists a general underhand combination against the labour system. Several of the owners of quarries are withdrawing their permission to work in them, or charging enormous compensation for "trespass." In one case the broken stone has been seized by the owner of the quarry; it is evident this is caused by the labourers themselves.

I investigated into the loss of two blankets, a sheet, and a rug at the Church-town house; when it appeared that the schoolmaster neglected to count the bedding handed over to him by Wardmaster Collins; and the Board were of opinion that he should replace them at his own expense.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 4, 1848.*

As a few days are likely to elapse before the permanent appointment of Vice-Guardians can be completed, the Commissioners have appointed you as Vice-Guardian temporarily, and they request that you will be so good as to act *provisionally* as Vice-Guardians of Newcastle Union until the permanent Vice-Guardians arrive.

The Commissioners have requested Mr. Briscoe, Vice-Guardian of Kanturk Union, to act conjointly with you in like manner, in the beginning of next week.

The Commissioners have great confidence in Mr. Briscoe, whose efficiency as a Vice-Guardian has been proved in Kanturk Union; and they trust that you will be able to take decisive steps next Tuesday in carrying out the Commissioners' instructions respecting the administration of relief. For example, the Commissioners observe that in Newcastle workhouse there are 147 aged and infirm men, and 145 aged and infirm women, all (or at least almost all) of whom should receive out-door allowances. Other points will readily occur to you; but on this head the Commissioners think that no time should be lost in making such arrangements as will make the workhouse far more available than at present, as a test for the destitution of able-bodied men and their wives.

Further Letter from the COMMISSIONERS to Captain MAXWELL:—
March 6, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 1st instant, relative to the Newcastle Union; and with reference to the statement that Mr. Leahy, one of the collectors, would have collected a large amount of rates, but that he was refused the assistance of the police, I am to inform you that the Commissioners will bring this matter under the notice of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

The other points adverted to in your report should be brought under the notice of the Vice-Guardians, and their views ascertained.

The lists of arrears transmitted by you are herewith returned for the purpose of being laid before the Vice-Guardians.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

REFERRING to your communication of the 2nd March, 1848, I beg to state that, in my opinion, there is no objection to suspend the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men in this Union on the 10th instant; my intention was not to have applied for a renewal of it after the 15th March.

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REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 6, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 4th instant, in which you state that you know of no objection to the suspension of the order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied in Newcastle Union, and that you did not intend to apply for a renewal of it.

The Commissioners infer from this report that you do not think it necessary that the order should be renewed, and accordingly out-door relief to the able-bodied in Newcastle Union will not be legal after the 15th instant.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 8, 1848.*

REFERRING to my report on the subject of the out-door relief order to the able-bodied I beg to state that, on consulting Mr. Briscoe, I find that his opinion is that the order ought to be extended to the 1st April. Since I made that report a vast deal of rain has fallen. The greater part of this Union is low and flat, and excessively wet and swampy from the long continuance of rain; and general employment cannot begin until the weather sets in fine and the land dried.

Under the circumstances, and in deference to Mr. Briscoe's opinion, I beg now to request the Commissioners to extend the order to the above-named period.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the order will be issued as you request.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 14, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report for the week ended the 11th instant, that, in obedience to your instructions, we took temporary charge of this Union as Vice-Guardians upon Tuesday, 7th March instant.

Our first attention was directed to the financial department. We found that a rate varying from 1s. 10d. to 4s. 11d. in the pound was struck on the 8th June, 1847, and that on the 12th October only 1006l. 1s. 3½d. had been collected out of a rate of 18,698l. 1s. 3½d., and 1970l. due to the treasurer.

That the rate so struck was modified by the Guardians to 3s. as a maximum; but the whole of such rate was absolutely necessary, as the amount of debt due by the Union upon our appointment was 6448l. 13s. 1d.

It appearing that a new rate of 3s. in the pound upon the whole Union having been decided upon by the late Board of Guardians upon the 25th day of January, 1848, we considered it necessary to close the collector's accounts previous to striking such rate, which rate we have signed this day.

We find uncollected of the 8th of June rate, reduced to 3s. in the pound, a sum of 1189l. 6s. 5d.

This, with a balance of 3805l. 14s. 9½d. of the original rate, would make a sum of 4995l. 1s. 2½d., which would have considerably lessened the liabilities of the Union upon our appointment; and we intend to collect such sum of 4995l. 1s. 2½d. in addition to the new rate we have struck.

That were it not for the financial difficulties in which we found the Union, owing so large a sum as 6448l., a balance with treasurer of only 173l. 14s. 8d., and a weekly expenditure of 830l., we would not have decided upon striking the rate of 3s. upon each of the electoral divisions of the Union, as resolved by the late Board, but the alteration would have caused delay.

By referring to the abstract of the Union accounts (form 5 B) for the half-year ending September 29th last, the equal rating upon each of the electoral divisions of the Union we consider at variance with the 62nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 56.

We find that the first out-door relief was ordered by the late Guardians to section 1, for the week ended the 9th October last: 389 persons were relieved at a cost of 10l. 11s. 1d.

The next week, ending 16th October, 3699 persons, sec. 1, and 10,950, sec. 2,

were relieved by order of the Board of Guardians at their meeting of the 12th October, William Smith O'Brien, Esq., in the chair, (minutes of proceedings subsequently signed by M. Leahy, Esq.) The cost of the above amounted to 516*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

The next week, ended the 23rd October, 4901, sec. 1, and 14,638 persons, sec. 2, were relieved at a cost of 678*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*

The next week, ended 30th October, 4928, sec. 1, and 15,000, sec. 2, received out-door relief at a cost of 729*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* The order signed by J. P. Kennedy, Esq.

The relief to this period (30th October) was, previous to the order of the Commissioners of the 1st November, sanctioning out-door relief to the able-bodied.

The indiscriminate manner in which the relieving officers received application for out-door relief is evident from 5104 names in one day, and 2310 on another day, having been entered on their Application and Report Books.

On the 7th of March instant, when we took charge of this Union, 5302, sec. 1, and 17,215, sec. 2, total 22,517, were receiving out-door relief at a cost of 646*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* for week ended the 4th March instant, and this large number of persons not having been examined by the Board of Guardians.

To meet which weekly expenditure for out-door relief, the support of the house, officers, &c., and a debt of 6448*l.*, there was in the hands of the treasurer a sum of 173*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*

These persons were relieved solely on the recommendation of the relieving officers—22,517 out of a population of 60,007 (Census 1841), 2515 more than one-third of the whole population of that period.

We consider the dietary of the house upon too expensive a scale, and not in accordance with the spirit of the Poor Law Acts on that head.

We intend to propose a new dietary, and have no doubt but that we shall be enabled to effect a saving under this head alone of 1330*l.* 11*s.* yearly to the Union.

We find that contracts have been taken at much too high a rate, one instance that of milk; the contract for the winter months, January, February, and March of 1847, was at the rate of 8*d.* a gallon, and we find the same contractor has now a contract for the whole year at 9*d.*

This latter contract we find could easily have been obtained at 7*d.* per gallon, making a difference to the Union of 257*l.* yearly.

We find that the lowest tenders have not been accepted, as may appear on reference to unaccepted tenders. We may instance one article, soap, contracted for at 35*s.*, when another tender was in for 29*s.* 6*d.*

The last entry in the Visiting Committee's Book we find dated 25th November, 1846.

The labour test has been partially successful only, the superintendents cannot do their duty from intimidation and the violence of the people, who by mobs and clamour have always carried every point in this Union.

The state of the house is satisfactory; the ventilation under the superintendence of the medical officer excellent; the clothing of the inmates good.

The workhouse grounds are in a most unprotected state, a low wall round three sides, and before the house no wall or gate. It is perfectly exposed.

We have given directions that the aged and infirm not bed-ridden, shall leave the house to receive out-door relief, in order to afford room to allow the workhouse test to be applied to the able-bodied applicants for relief.

The master applied to us for an assistant "to keep his books;" and on our refusal to make such appointment, he tendered his resignation, which we have accepted.

We consider it advisable to reduce the salaries of the wardsmen, steward, and wardswoman: each received 21*l.* 9*s.* yearly and rations; now they are each to receive 10*l.* yearly and rations.

We intend taking into consideration the industrial training of the children, and have ordered to be repaired the spinning implements that had been laid aside. We have ordered additional wheels and reels.

The house at Ballingarry intended to have been taken by the late Board (we have visited) as a school-house, and we are of opinion that it is much too small, and totally unfit for the purpose; it would be impossible to keep a classifica-

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tion in it. The Commissioners will have the goodness to sanction the Vice-Guardians in not making use of it.

We consider that an immediate revision by personal examination of every person on the out-door relief list, both in section 1 and section 2, absolutely necessary.

The description of persons that have applied to us for out-door relief, respectable farmers and persons of a higher grade, who have made application to us to have their servants and labourers relieved, fully justify us in supposing that on the out-door relief list there are thousands that ought not to come within the operations of the Irish Poor Relief Act.

The late Board entered into a contract with the Messrs. Russell, of Limerick, for Indian meal, and one of the conditions was to pay weekly.

Not having funds to meet such condition if insisted upon, and not expecting at present much from our collectors, we submit for the Commissioners' consideration the affording us pecuniary assistance in the event of our treasurer, the Provincial Bank, Limerick, not agreeing to make us advances, which if they do you will be pleased to give consent to our paying them interest on such advances.

During the short time we have been in charge we have endeavoured, as far as time and personal exertion permitted, to give our best attention to the complicated affairs of this Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 18, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 14th instant, relative to Newcastle Union, and desire to express their thanks to you for the information contained in that report.

The Commissioners understand from your statement that you found remaining uncollected of the 3s. instalment of the last rate a sum of 1189*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, that the amount of the last rate, which was not put in course of collection (being the difference between the amount of the 3s. instalment and the total amount of the rate), was 3805*l.* 14*s.* 9½*d.*, and that these two sums, making together 4995*l.* 1*s.* 2½*d.*, have been carried forward as arrear into the New Rate Books, and will be collected as such with the new rate.

The Commissioners fully approve of your having adopted the 3s. rate on all the electoral divisions, as agreed to by the late Board of Guardians, not only because any other course would have occasioned delay, but also because they believe from the statements before them that there is no electoral division in the Union in which a smaller sum is required; and on this latter ground, and having regard to the provisions of the Temporary Relief Act in reference to the repayment of advances, the Commissioners are of opinion that no objection to an equal rate of 3s. in the pound on all the electoral divisions could in this case be sustained on the ground of such equal rate being at variance with the 62nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, to which you refer.

With reference to that part of your report which relates to the administration of out-door relief to the able-bodied before the Commissioners' order, under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, was issued, I am to acquaint you that the Commissioners have already directed the attention of the auditor to the subject, and they will now forward to him an extract from your report.

With respect to the house at Ballingarry, which was intended to be taken as a school-house, but which you consider is unsuitable, the Commissioners are willing to leave this matter in your hands. The Commissioners approve generally of the steps taken by you as detailed in your report, and they have no doubt that the measures which you state you have in contemplation will be productive of much benefit to the Union. The Commissioners are of opinion, from your statements, that a revision of the relief lists is a matter of the most pressing and immediate importance, and should not be delayed a day longer than can possibly be avoided.

With reference to your request for pecuniary assistance, or the consent of the Commissioners to pay interest to the treasurer, I am to state that the Commissioners trust that they may be in a position to guarantee the payment of interest for money borrowed from the treasurer.

If the treasurer will advance no money, the Commissioners will endeavour to assist the Vice-Guardians in their difficulties until the new rate is actually in progress of collection.

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Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

I BEG to state that I have just received information from a most respectable source, that a great meeting of the labouring classes is to be held on the 17th instant in this town, and that the intention is to attack and destroy the Union workhouse.

The stipendiary magistrate and the two local justices of the peace are absent at the assizes in Limerick.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have forwarded a copy of your communication to the Under-Secretary.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

I BEG to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that everything passed off perfectly quiet yesterday. There was a meeting in the town at which not more than 300 or 400 persons, including women and children, were present.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain REDINGTON:—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the enclosed copy of a report which they have received from Mr. Maxwell, the Temporary Inspector in charge of Newcastle Union, relative to the state of the Union on the 17th instant, with reference to the anticipated attack on the workhouse.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

I BEG to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that on the 16th instant, one of the relieving officers of this Union, Mr. Fitzgibbon, was waylaid and severely beaten by three men, one of whom he is able to identify. I had given him directions to swear informations before a magistrate as soon as he is able, and I have directed his brother to do his duty until he is recovered.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain MAXWELL:—*March 23, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have transmitted a copy of your report to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant for his information; and I am to state that the Commissioners approve of the steps taken by you in the matter.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

I BEG to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that this day, while the Vice-Guardians were sitting in the Board-room revising the relieving officers' books, a mob of some 200 or 300 persons attacked the workhouse. The outer door was burst in, and a few of them got as far as the Board-room door, which they broke, but they did not succeed in getting into the room. The constabulary were sent for, and they have arrested the ringleader and most violent of them. On the matter being reported to me, I called on the officer commanding the troops, who ordered the men under arms, but there was no magistrate, I was informed, in the vicinity to take charge. I immediately proceeded to the work-

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house, and on the way was met by the mob, who threatened my life, and uttered the most violent denunciations against me and the Vice-Guardians, but did not personally molest me. I beg to state, that I am decidedly of opinion that it will be necessary to have a strong body of police actually stationed in the house for its protection, and I also think that a stipendiary magistrate ought to reside in this town.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a large concourse of people have again assembled at the workhouse, and are holding most threatening language. I beg to state that it will be perfectly impossible for the Vice-Guardians to revise the relief lists, or do the duties of their office as long as this violence continues; and I consider it perfectly unsafe for them to attend at the workhouse until the most ample protection is afforded them by the civil and military power.

I have advised them not to attend at the Board this day, as I have good reason to believe they will meet with personal violence.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain MAXWELL:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM to express the concern of the Commissioners that any attempt should have been made to intimidate you, or the Vice-Guardians, in the discharge of your duty.

The Commissioners have forwarded your two letters to Mr. Redington, and the Commissioners do not doubt that due protection will be afforded to you and the Vice-Guardians by Her Majesty's Government.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

IN consequence of the very heavy rain that has fallen, the country is still quite unfit for cultivation; I, therefore, suggest to the Commissioners the advisability of extending the out-door relief to able-bodied class for eight days, from the 1st April next.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have given directions for the preparation of an order in accordance with your request.

Captain MAXWELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

I BEG to report that Messrs. Bell and Brehon arrived here on Saturday last, and at once entered on their duties. I have made them acquainted with every circumstance connected with this Union, particularly the manner in which the Poor Law has been administered; and I have pointed out the numerous abuses to remedy and correct. I am most happy to find in both these gentlemen persons of great experience in the working of the Poor Law, and men of judgment and ability. Under their management I doubt not the circumstances of this Union will be retrieved and things placed on a wholesome footing.

During the last fortnight I have put the workhouse test to a considerable number of able-bodied single men with universal success; some of them remained in the workhouse one day; and I am convinced that if the house contained 400 or 500 more, out-door relief to the able-bodied might be dispensed with altogether.

The last warrants for the collection of the new rate were signed by Captain Bell and myself yesterday, but the collectors are delayed until the receipt-books are printed; they are to be ready on Saturday next.

I have recommended to the Vice-Guardians a change in the dietary of the workhouse, with a view of lessening the expenditure. The great outlay has been in the best white bread and sweet milk. I have suggested that both should be done away with, and that bread of maize and whole meal, with cocoa, be substi-

stituted. This the Vice-Guardians have ordered, and it will be carried out immediately. Newcastle Union.

I beg to suggest to the Commissioners the great saving that would accrue, if by an order the whole of the contracts, except the one for Indian corn meal, were at once broken and fresh ones entered into. Almost every article is at too high a price.

One of the relieving officers, Mr. Hannigan, tendered his resignation yesterday, in consequence of my receiving sworn evidence of his allowing two gross cases of abuse to exist in his district. I have ordered the clerk to charge him with the amount of illegal relief he dispensed in these two cases.

I regret to state that I am receiving constant accounts of the increase of fever and other sickness in the electoral division of Ballingarry, and frequent applications are made to me for relief in money for these people.

I explained to the collectors the great embarrassment of the finances of the Union, and pointed out to them how necessary it was to make the most strenuous exertions to get in the rates without loss of time; and I warned them, that if I did not find them at once commence with the immediate lessors and make them pay, I would report the matter to the Commissioners with a view to their removal.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 27, 1848.*

WITH reference to the change in the workhouse dietary, which you have suggested to the Vice-Guardians, I am to inquire whether the medical officer of the workhouse has been consulted on the proposed change.

As regards the contracts for workhouse supplies, I am to state that the Commissioners entertain no objection to the contracts being broken, if the terms of the contracts admit of its being done.

With respect to the relieving officer who has resigned in consequence of two cases of abuse in his district having been proved, the Commissioners will call the attention of the auditor to the subject. The salary of the relieving officer should not be paid until his accounts have been audited.

The Commissioners have written to the Board of Health on the subject of the prevalence of sickness in Ballingarry.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

WE have the honour to annex our report for the week ending 25th instant.

On Monday, according to your instructions, we took charge of this Union, and proceeded by personal inspection to ascertain the state of the workhouse and its auxiliary branches; we found in the houses 663, leaving room for about 120.

Captain Maxwell's and Mr. Briscoe's able report to you of the general state and finances of this Union is before us, which has our entire concurrence, we therefore think it useless to go over the same ground.

From the lawless state of this Union, and the attempt last Wednesday (as reported by Captain Maxwell) to intimidate us in the execution of our duty, we consider it necessary for the protection of the property of the Union in the workhouse that police should be stationed in it. You have been informed that on the day above alluded to, they smashed the panels of the Board-room door which we had barricaded with the tables in the room, as we were afraid, even supposing personal violence would not have been used, that the records would have been destroyed, as everything seems hitherto to have been conducted by intimidation and mob-law. We are determined, as far as the dietary of the workhouse is concerned, to try and make a change, by acting with firmness and prudence. We have had up to this time police daily at the workhouse, and continue to revise the lists, notwithstanding our having been warned not to do so until we get a stronger body of police stationed at the workhouse, wishing to show that we will not yield to intimidation.

We are anxious, as far as possible, to make the workhouse the test of destitution; but it being so small, and the utter impossibility of getting additional houses, cripples us much; although we had only room for 120 last week, we gave tickets

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for admission for 600, to those under section 2, receiving out-door relief, that from information and personal investigation we conceived could get employment, or had other means of support; only 36 availed themselves of the admission tickets.

We have had the rate collectors before us; they have all received their warrants save one, Mr. Lynch, whose appointment waits your approval. We have impressed on them the necessity of rapidly collecting the rates, and of our determination to make them do their duty.

We found that Captain Maxwell applied to the treasurer of the Union, the Provincial Bank, to advance 2000*l.*; this has been declined; if it had been acceded we did not intend to avail ourselves of it, trusting to our getting in the rates.

We commenced getting bread baked in the house, composed, one-half of whole meal, ground by the paupers, the other half Indian meal, and giving it to the able-bodied of six years and upwards, instead of white bread, by which we expect to make a considerable saving. In a short time we propose to substitute skimmed milk for sweet, this will reduce the cost of the dietary also considerably; the medical doctor approves of the alteration.

In the house on the 18th instant	.	.	663	
Ditto 25th instant	.	.	701	
Increase	.	.	38	
Receiving out-door relief on Saturday, the 18th, under section 1	.		5,323	
Ditto ditto 2	.		15,634	
Total	.	.	20,957	
To Saturday, the 25th, under section 1	.	.	5,330	
Ditto ditto 2	.	.	15,169	
			20,499	
Decrease	.	.	458	
		£.	s.	d.
Cost for out-door relief, ending 18th March	.	495	9	5½
Ditto ending 25th March	.	434	6	1
Decrease	.	61	3	4½

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 30, 1848.*

I AM to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the energetic measures adopted by you to resist and put down attempts to intimidate you in the discharge of your duty. In order to insure due relief to the really destitute, and to prevent the idle and worthless from exhausting the resources of the Union, the Commissioners deem it absolutely essential that you should be unfettered in the exercise of your judgment within the limits permitted by the law. The Commissioners have received a report from Mr. Maxwell, the Temporary Inspector in charge of the Union, reporting a tumultuous assemblage at the workhouse, and threats held out to him and you, and having forwarded a copy of that report to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, they have been informed that the attention of the constabulary has been called to the subject.

The Commissioners fully approve of the spirit in which you propose to meet the financial difficulties of the Union, by enforcing payment of the poor-rates; and they trust that the rate-payers will cheerfully discharge their liabilities when they see that the preservation of the destitute poor from starvation depends upon such payment, and that the money raised in the Union will be economically and judiciously expended for the objects contemplated by the Legislature in the Irish Poor Relief Acts.

DONEGAL UNION.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 5, 1848.*

I do myself the honour to acquaint you in anticipation of my weekly report, and to save the post, that the Union workhouse is now full—553 inmates, including the temporary fever sheds.

The Board of Guardians met on Thursday, again this day, Saturday, and have further adjourned to Monday, with the view to scrutinize the lists, and by discharging all who come under classes Nos. 1, 2, and 3, afford accommodation for the able-bodied applicants. In furtherance of these arrangements, lists were commenced of those entitled legally to out-door relief, and the following scale of relief was ordered, viz:—

To every adult, 6lbs. of Indian meal per week.
 „ child, 3½ lbs. „ „

With 4*d.* per week in money to heads of families without a cabin, for lodging money. Great dissatisfaction however was found to exist among the paupers to accept the proffered relief, and a decided preference shown to remain in the house.

The Board of Guardians, in doubt as to their powers to compel the paupers to quit, have authorized me to consult the Commissioners, and their early reply will be valuable.

Measures will be adopted on Monday to remove the willing paupers of the three classes specified, and on the scale of relief, determined on.

I acknowledge with great thankfulness the attention paid to my remark on the property of Mr. Brooke of Lough Eask, for he has received his first instalment, and is in the market for labourers.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 8, 1848.*

IN reply to your inquiry as to the power of the Guardians to compel paupers who are legally relievable out of the workhouse, to quit the workhouse on out-door allowances, I am to state that the Commissioners have no doubt that the Guardians have such power, inasmuch as the 1st section of the Irish Relief Extension Act expressly provides, “that it shall be lawful for the “said Guardians to relieve such poor persons being destitute as aforesaid either “in the workhouse or out of the workhouse, as to them shall appear fitting “and expedient in each individual case;” at the same time it should be observed that the Guardians are bound to take care that the allowances are sufficient to provide for all the necessities of the paupers so discharged, whether in food, clothing, fuel, or lodging, and that they shall be such as to prevent the possibility of severe suffering from either cold or hunger.

In regard to the scale of allowances agreed to by the Guardians, the Commissioners desire to state that although the Guardians may properly lay down a scale for their own guidance, such scale ought not to be undeviatingly adhered to, but each case should be considered and decided on, and the amount of the allowances determined, according to the wants of the individuals to be relieved.

In regard to the particular scale adopted by the Donegal Guardians, the Commissioners cannot doubt that you have acquainted the Guardians with your opinion as to whether 4*d.* per week is sufficient to supply a family which has been hitherto in the workhouse, with lodging, fuel, and clothing; the Commissioners presume that the Guardians would in no case propose to give such an allowance, unless they were convinced that the family had legitimate means of subsistence from other sources.

The Commissioners forward for your information a copy of a circular which they have recently issued on the subject of discharging paupers on out-door allowances.

Donegal Union.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 6, 1848.*

I HAVE to state that the workhouse, built for 500, with a fever shed for 50, is now full, having 553 inmates.

The Board of Guardians have adjourned their meeting to Monday, with the view of scrutinizing the list, and of sending classes Nos. 1, 2, and 3, out of the house, with out-door relief in their several electoral divisions, and thus afford increased accommodation for able-bodied applicants.

My letter of yesterday will have brought to your attention the disinclination manifested by many of the paupers to quit the workhouse, with the relief proffered at their own homes, and the doubts the Guardians entertain of their powers to compel the unwilling ones to be removed. I shall hope for the guidance of the Commissioners on this subject at their earliest convenience.

The new rate-books and warrants for seven electoral divisions were signed yesterday, and prompt measures will now be taken to collect the rates. The sad negligence displayed in collecting the old rate induced me to urge upon the Guardians the propriety of fixing a limit to the present collection. Bonds and securities are accordingly to be passed to have the rates collected by the 1st day of May next.

The rate-books for the electoral divisions of Mount Charles, Inver, Dunkineely, and of Gleneny, were obliged to be postponed, owing to the continued disobedience on the part of Mr. Griffith, the collector, in not producing the old rate-books, as requested.

The Board of Guardians have given directions for his being summoned before the magistrates at the next petty sessions, and as his returns show a sum of 290*l.* still uncollected from a rate struck in April last, it may hereafter be deemed expedient to adopt legal measures against his securities.

I have every reason to believe the Guardians have now selected an efficient staff of new collectors, and Mr. Hoey, the former collector for four electoral divisions, has had his services retained for two divisions only.

The Commissioners will not deem me as travelling out of the line of my duties as their Inspector when I bring to their notice the case of Mr. Murray, a minor, a ward in Chancery in England, and a very large landed proprietor in this Union. Mr. Murray's estates would immediately afford highly profitable employment to a large number of tenants and of labourers, could the property be permitted to avail itself of loans of money under the "Land Improvement Act;" these tenants and labourers are now on the very verge of destitution, and if this case could be brought to the attention of the Lord Chancellor of England, his Lordship's comprehensive mind would readily suggest some practicable remedy, and save this property from being greatly deteriorated by heavy poor-rates.

Our weekly market still continues to be fairly supplied with grain and with excellent Swedish turnips, these latter furnishing the only food many of the rural population can command.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 10, 1848.*

IN regard to sending paupers out of the workhouse on out-door allowances, for the purpose of affording additional accommodation to the able-bodied, I am to refer you to the Commissioners' letter of the 8th instant, as affording an explanation of the Commissioners' views on this head.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners approve of the steps taken against collector Griffith, for the purpose of compelling him to produce the old rate-books, and which they trust will have the desired effect.

In regard to your statement relative to the estates of Mr. Murray (a minor and a ward in Chancery in England), I am to request that you will be so good as to furnish the Commissioners with the names and addresses of the guardians of Mr. Murray.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 14, 1848.*

MEASURES having been adopted to remove classes Nos. 1, 2, and 3 from the workhouse, 84 persons were discharged, and other destitute persons having been admitted, there yet remain 30 vacancies.

From this period out-door relief, under section 1 of 10 Vic., c. 31, may be stated to have commenced in the Union of Donegal; but as the Board of Guardians are fully impressed with the necessity of constituting the workhouse as a test of destitution, I entertain sanguine hopes that section 2 of the Irish Poor Relief Act will not be called into operation for some time to come.

The rate-books and warrants, which were not completed last week for the under-mentioned electoral divisions—

Mountcharles,
Inver,
Dunkineely, and
Gleneny,

having been signed at the last meeting, all the several collectors throughout the Union will commence their duties forthwith; and I see no reason to anticipate difficulties in the collection of the rates, being persuaded that judgment, combined with firmness, will surmount all obstacles.

The weekly market continues to show a fair display of grain and Swedish turnips; these latter at 13*d.* per cwt.

The Commissioners will be gratified to learn, the Guardians have contracted for the supply of excellent Indian meal for three months at 9*l.* 5*s.* per ton, which alone affords good evidence of the improved condition of this part of Ireland as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 21, 1848.*

OUT-DOOR relief has been extended to a large portion of persons who had been tested in the workhouse, and who came under section 1 of the 10th Vict., cap. 31; but an erroneous impression having been thereby produced that out-door relief was to come into general operation, a crush of applicants for relief presented themselves at the last ordinary day of meeting at the workhouse.

Temporary arrangements had, however, been made to receive all applicants into the house; and by the firmness of the Guardians in constituting this entry as the test of destitution, several, after a minute inquiry into their cases, quitted rather than accept the relief offered.

The experience of every day convinces me more and more of the necessity of the test of the workhouse being carried out with undeviating impartiality, exception alone being made in favour of the very aged and infirm.

The workhouse, built for 550, including the temporary fever shed, has now 582 inmates.

Every endeavour on the part of the Guardians to find a house suited to receive the children paupers having proved unavailing, their attention has been necessarily directed to making increased accommodation in the workhouse; and plans for such accommodation having been submitted to the Commissioners for approval, the Guardians are anxiously waiting the decision.

The Visiting Committee have also suggested making further accommodation in the dormitories of the children of both sexes, by temporary erections of a second half-floor or tier in each room; and I cannot convey to you the idea of the proposed arrangement without a plan better than stating it is like the berthing of troop-ships or steam-packets, one continuous tier at bottom, with a second tier six feet above. By this arrangement the dormitory accommodation for the children would be increased twofold, and, with the completion of the plans now under consideration of the Commissioners, would render the house available for 700 inmates.

During the three months I have been located in Donegal the weekly market has never been better supplied with grain and with turnips than was the last market; good Indian meal is retailed here at one penny per pound.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 25, 1848.*

IN reference to your remarks regarding the additional accommodation in the dormitories of the workhouse, I am to forward for your information the enclosed copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Vice-

Donegal Union.

Donegal Union.

Chairman of the Board of Guardians, in reply to a letter received from him on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. HAMILTON:—*February 22, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, in which you request the Commissioners' approbation of a plan to obtain additional workhouse accommodation by putting up a floor of planks in the attic story of the men's and women's dormitories.

In reference thereto I am to state that the Commissioners regret that they cannot give their sanction to the proposed arrangement, because where it has been adopted it is found to interfere with the ventilation and health of the inmates, as it is found to overcrowd the dormitories; and even if the galleries are erected the Guardians will have to provide additional day-rooms, the present day-room not being more than just sufficient for the number the workhouse was originally built to accommodate. The Commissioners would therefore much prefer that the Guardians should obtain some old suitable building to be used as an auxiliary workhouse for one class of the inmates, the male children, or the aged men or women, whichever it may be found most desirable to remove.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

I HAVE to state that a great pressure of applicants for relief occurred at the workhouse on the 24th instant, which, under the timely assistance of Mr. Otway was successfully treated by out-door relief being generally granted to those who came under the 1st section of 10 Vic., c. 31. Much of the evil of this accumulation of paupers at the workhouse door had originated from the erroneous impressions on the part of the relieving officers, which being now explained will, I trust, avoid a similar recurrence.

The number of paupers now in the house is 596, with accommodation for 550; which leads to the necessity of all our energies hereafter being directed to the means of finding increased accommodation in every practicable way; and this subject I shall not fail to urge on the attention of the Guardians.

Destitution, which has hitherto been kept at bay, seems now to be much increased in those electoral divisions where little or no employment has been found for the able-bodied labourers. The paupers from the divisions of Mountcharles, of Inver, and of Dunkineely, form the principal portion of the inmates of the workhouse, as well as those receiving out-door relief under section 1; and the last rate struck of 3s. in the pound, now in the course of collection, will soon be expended in these three electorates.

I have much satisfaction in reporting that the market continues well supplied with grain and turnips, at prices fairly remunerative to the growers, and advantageous to the consumers.

I have also to report that a notice has been given to the effect of the Commissariat stores at Killybegs being opened for sale to the public.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

THE Commissioners request you will be so good as to inform them what was the nature of the erroneous impressions on the part of the relieving officers, to which you allude as having caused the accumulation of paupers at the workhouse, and whence that impression was derived.

As regards the number in the workhouse, the Commissioners contemplate the issue of a sealed order limiting the number to be received into the workhouse; and they will communicate with their architect with that view.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 6, 1848.*

THE relieving officers in the gradual acquirement of knowledge of their duties are proceeding more efficiently; and although the applicants for relief in some of the districts were very numerous, they were all successfully arranged, and the decision of the Board of Guardians was communicated to the several paupers in their own localities.

The Board of Guardians having failed in their endeavours to find any old building suitable to receive either the women or the children as an auxiliary

workhouse, have turned their attention to the expediency of erecting a temporary shed against the wall in the women's yard, of a size to afford accommodation for 30 beds, and a day-room for 50 women.

Proposals to erect this shed are to be received at the ensuing Board day.

By this temporary shed, and the completion of the rooms for the boys already sanctioned by the Commissioners, the house will accommodate 650.

The number of paupers now in the house, including infirmary and fever shed, is 516.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

THE Board of Guardians at their last meeting have accepted the proposal to build a temporary shed against the wall in the women's yard, of a size to afford accommodation for 30 beds, and a day-room for 50 women, at a cost under 90*l*. As this temporary shed is to be completed by the middle of April, I entertain sanguine hopes that the Union will then be in a condition to check the gross deception now daily attempted to be practised by persons seeking relief on the plea of destitution, and declining the accommodation of the workhouse when offered.

At the last Board day, out of 217 applicants for relief, all represented themselves as subjects of destitution, no more than 60 have availed themselves of the accommodation offered in the workhouse.

In proportion as my experience increases in the administration of the Poor Laws, my conviction is strengthened that we are in a condition fully equal to grapple with the real destitution in the Union; and whilst possessing the means to master the falsehood and deception daily practised, by offering the workhouse as the test, so long shall we be secure from affording relief to section 2, 10th Vict., cap. 31.

Under these impressions I urge continually upon the attention of the Guardians, the necessity of increasing the workhouse accommodation by every practicable means.

The number of inmates, including the infirmary and fever sheds, is now 509, with ample accommodation for 600.

As an act of justice due to the British Relief Association, I have to record that by their liberal bounty of feeding every day 5200 children at school, the improved condition of these children is very apparent, and testifies in a strong manner the beneficial results of such plans. Sickness too, so prevalent at this time of the year, is comparatively trifling.

The Commissioners will be gratified to learn that a few days of spring weather during the past week, showed a strong muster of people about the soil, making preparations for sowing on a scale much more extended than as compared to last year.

The population of this Union continues as orderly and peaceable as ever.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter of the 7th instant, on the subject of emigration to South Australia, I do myself the honour to state, that the Board of Guardians thankfully accept the offer made by the Government, and have unanimously voted the sum of 200*l*., to bear the cost of outfit and expense of conveyance to the place of embarkation, of 35 to 40 females, young, eligible, and willing to emigrate, who are now in the Union workhouse, and who will be ready for examination by any agent authorized to make the final selection.

THE COMMISSIONERS to the COMMISSIONERS of COLONIAL LAND and EMIGRATION, London:—
March 22, 1848.

WITH reference to the correspondence which has taken place on the subject of the proposed emigration of young persons who are at present inmates of workhouses in Ireland, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of a communication which had been received from Captain Herbert, the Temporary Inspector in charge of Donegal Union, on the subject.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners propose from time to time to forward similar letters for your information.

Donegal Union.

The Commissioners will feel obliged if you will be so good as to acquaint them with the proportion of males to females which you would deem desirable among the 4000 emigrants whom it is proposed to send from the Irish workhouses.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will be so good as to furnish the Commissioners with the statement of the name and age of each of the orphans adverted to in your letter.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 20, 1848.*

THE poor-rates in steady course of collection, realized last week a sum of 362*l.* 19*s.*, and the rate collectors seem fully sensible of the exertions required to have the whole collected by the 1st May, according to their terms of agreement.

The applicants for relief at the last Board-day, were very numerous, but out of 212 who were offered the workhouse accommodation, no less than 103 have declined.

The number in the workhouse is 561, with accommodation for 600.

The weekly market continues to be well supplied with grain and turnips; but in my visit of inspection, I perceive the haggards are daily becoming "small by degrees and lamentably less."

I have the pleasing duty to report to the Commissioners, that notice has been given me of 500 suits of boys' clothing being on their way from the British Relief Association for distribution among the school children in this Union.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

By the unremitted attention of the Board of Guardians to their arrangements for relief of the poor, under section 1 of the 10 Vict., cap. 31, and by their firmness in constituting the workhouse as a test of destitution for all applicants of a doubtful condition, no less than 53 persons voluntarily quitted the house during the week, expressing their feelings by stating, "they would not have entered the workhouse but in the expectation of being immediately discharged on the out-door relief list."

I have already ventured to express my opinion, that this Union is in a condition to grapple with its real destitution, and that so long as the workhouse is made to offer its accommodation to the imaginary pauper and the able-bodied, we shall be carrying out the operations of the poor law with a merciful consideration to the poor themselves, and with strict justice to the rate-payers.

The number in the workhouse, including infirmary and temporary fever sheds, is now 543 persons.

The weekly market was well supplied with grain and Swede turnips of an excellent quality, selling at remunerative prices to the grower, and fair charges to the consumer.

Five hundred suits of boys' clothing, the munificent gift of the British Relief Association to this Union, is in course of being distributed to the several schools, affording joyous exultation to a number of juveniles, who have never been so well clothed before. The issue of daily bread to 5400 children, collected in 81 schools, has been the source of incalculable benefit.

It is particularly gratifying to report, the Union is comparatively free from sickness.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to forward you the accompanying paper, containing a statement of the name and age of each of the female orphans in the workhouse, volunteers to emigrate to Australia:—

ENCLOSURE.

Donegal Union.

FEMALE ORPHANS in the Donegal Union Workhouse between the Ages of 14 and 18 Years, denoting their several Electoral Divisions, and willing to emigrate to Australia.

No.	Names.	Age.	Electoral Divisions.	No.	Names.	Age.	Electoral Divisions.
1	Anne M'Clelland.	18	Loughderg.	25	Sarah Gallaspy . .	17	Inver.
2	Eliza Jane M'Clelland	17	do.	26	Anne M'Ginlay . .	18	do.
3	Matty Stewart . .	16	do.	27	Mary Harraghey . .	18	do.
4	Biddy Gallagher . .	17	Donegal.	28	Sally Gillen . . .	15	do.
5	Biddy Devlin . . .	18	do.	29	Madge M'Guire . .	15	do.
6	Bess Ellis	17	do.	30	Mary M'Gever . . .	17	do.
7	Catherine Ellis . .	15	do.	31	Ellen Boyle	17	do.
8	Mary Richey	18	Mountcharles.	32	Mary Mulligan . . .	16	do.
9	Sarah Mackey . . .	17	do.	33	Catherine M'Closkey.	15	do.
10	Susannah Mackey .	14	do.	34	Mary M'Cahill . . .	18	do.
11	Anne Simony	18	do.	35	Mary Brisland . . .	16	do.
12	Mary Fox	16	do.	36	Anne Gallagher . .	14	do.
13	Bell M'Neales . . .	17	do.	37	Biddy M'Cready . .	17	do.
14	Jane Rodden	16	do.	38	Mary M'Cready . . .	16	do.
15	Mary Ward	17	do.	39	Mary Brisland . . .	15	do.
16	Catherine M'Gowan .	18	do.	40	Margaret Gildea . .	18	Glenenny.
17	Sidney Brady	18	do.	41	Kitty Gildea	16	do.
18	Anne Edwards	14	do.	42	Biddy Gildea	14	do.
19	Eliza M'Gowan . . .	16	do.	43	Margaret Gorman . .	16	Laghey.
20	Letitia Coyle	15	do.	44	Catherine M'Glinshy.	14	do.
21	Maria Raily	14	do.	45	Susan M'Groarty . .	16	Clagher.
22	Mary M'Neales . . .	18	do.	46	Biddy Boyle	18	do.
23	Biddy Bogle	16	do.	47	Mary Boyle	16	do.
24	Kitty Gallagher . . .	17	Templecarne.	48	Anne Given	15	Dunkanneely.

GEORGE F. HERBERT,
Inspector of Poor Laws for the Union of Donegal.

Donegal, 27th March, 1848.

The COMMISSIONERS to the COMMISSIONERS of COLONIAL LAND and EMIGRATION,
London:—March 29, 1848.

WITH reference to the Commissioners' letter of the 22nd instant, relative to the proposed emigration of a certain number of inmates of the workhouse of Donegal Union, I am directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of a communication which they have received from Captain Herbert, the Temporary Inspector in charge of Donegal Union, transmitting a list of female orphans who are willing to emigrate, a copy of which list is also enclosed.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 3, 1848.

CONSIDERABLE employment having been found during the last fortnight for the able-bodied labourer, in the preparation of the land for seed, only 29 persons out of 143 have accepted the accommodation of the workhouse as offered to them when claiming relief on the plea of destitution.

The authority from the Commissioners to extend out-door relief to widows with one child, and to orphans with both parents dead, was read at the last meeting of the Board of Guardians, but the powers therein granted have not yet been called into operation; armed, however, with such authority, the workhouse test will continue to be applied, no less to the imaginary destitute than to the able-bodied pauper.

The number of paupers in the house, including the infirmary and temporary fever shed, is 550.

The poor rates are in steady course of collection, the collectors having attended very regularly with their books for my inspection, show a sum of 520*l.* 16*s.* to have been gathered during the last two weeks, but I have every reason to expect a better collection hereafter.

Donegal Union.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 8, 1848.*

My letter of the 18th ultimo will have acquainted you that the Board of Guardians had thankfully accepted the offer made by the Government on the subject of emigration to Australia, and had unanimously voted the sum of 200*l.* to bear the cost of outfit and expense of conveyance to the port of embarkation of 35 to 40 females, young, eligible and willing to emigrate to Australia, and now in the workhouse of this Union.

My subsequent communication will have placed the Commissioners in possession of the names and ages of these young persons.

It becomes my duty now to state that a meeting of the Board of Guardians, held yesterday and numerously attended by summons to take the question of emigration into consideration, it was resolved by a large majority, as noted in the minutes of the proceedings, that—

“Under the present state of the finances of the Union, it would be highly “imprudent that any of the rates should be appropriated for purposes of emigration.”

As this resolution vitiates the former vote of 200*l.*, it may be necessary for the Commissioners to consider whether it is now required for an emigration agent to be sent to Donegal for the purpose of making the final selection of these young persons, and whether any further steps may be deemed requisite.

At this moment there are 248 children under 15 years of age in the workhouse, and 120 of them are represented as being orphans.

It will be gratifying to the Commissioners to be assured that during the last week considerable progress has been made in cropping the land, and to a much greater extent than at the corresponding time of last year.

The weekly market has been well supplied with food, finding many purchasers; and a very considerable quantity of potatoes has been displayed, selling at prices varying between 8*d.* and 11*d.* per stone weight.

The total number of inmates at the workhouse, capable of accommodating 600, has fallen down to 536.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 12, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have informed the Emigration Commissioners of the resolution of the Board of Guardians not to incur the expense of the contemplated emigration.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 17, 1848.*

THE collection of the poor rates continues in steady progress, but not at that accelerated rate I could wish; for the collectors' books, at the fortnightly audit on Wednesday last, showed only the sum of 328*l.* 15*s.* to have been gathered.

I shall not fail, by every means in my power, to stimulate the several collectors to use increased exertions in their duties.

The Commissioners will perceive, by the minutes of proceedings of the Guardians at their last meeting, that a notice has been given to reconsider the portion of the resolution of the former meeting, “that the rates should not be appropriated “for purposes of emigration to Australia, with the view of its being rescinded.”

It is a very pleasing part of my duty to be enabled to report, that during the week of fine spring weather, a considerable number of the rural population was busily employed in preparations for sowing the land; and in all directions ploughs, harrows, and spade husbandry, were in active operation.

The workhouse, capable of containing 600 paupers, has this day 594 inmates, the temporary fever shed and infirmary both included.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 22, 1848.*

EMPLOYMENT in preparing the land for seed having been generally found throughout the Union, the number of applicants for relief during the week has considerably diminished

I consider it still to be sound policy on the part of the Guardians, to keep the workhouse in a state of accommodation suited to afford its test to all able-bodied applicants; and under this impression my letter requesting the sealed order of the Commissioners authorizing out-door relief to certain classes of destitute persons, might be extended from the 25th April to the 25th June next, was forwarded.

The Vagrant Acts have become so intimately blended with the correct operation of the Poor Laws in its administration of out-door relief, that the Guardians have entered a resolution in minutes of their proceedings at the last Board-day, to the effect of "seeking the authority of the Commissioners to appropriate a small sum of the poor rates, from 6s. to 7s. per week, in payment of the wages of a person to assist in carrying out the Vagrant Acts, to be armed with authority similar to that exercised by parish beables in England." I consider the appointment of such a person as deserving the experiment in the electoral division of Donegal, at least for a few months; for although all the recipients of out-door relief are particularly cautioned from committing acts of vagrancy, experience daily shows that mendicancy is still practised, notwithstanding all the precautions adopted by the constabulary force, ably superintended by the vigilance of the resident magistrate, Sir Thomas Blake.

The changes of inmates at the workhouse have diminished the numbers from 594 to 543, including the temporary fever shed and infirmary.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 25, 1848.*

WITH reference to the proposal of the Guardians to pay a person to assist in carrying out the Vagrant Acts, I am directed to state that the Commissioners are not aware of any legal authority under which such a payment could be legally made from the poor rates, neither are the Commissioners aware of any legal power to invest such person with authority similar to that exercised by parish beables in England.

Captain HERBERT to the COMMISSIONERS :—*May 1, 1848.*

THE collection of the rates continues in steady progress, the rate receipt-books of the several collectors at the fortnightly examination having shown a sum of 477*l.* to have been received, 96 defaulters of poor-rates having been summoned before the petty sessions holden at Ballintra last week. I made my appearance with the collector, to countenance and stimulate him in his duties, and I was delighted to find 93 had paid their rate before the Court assembled, one, in the Court, and only two remained to be proceeded against. These two defaulters have since paid their rates.

At the ordinary meeting of the Guardians during the week, an unanimous resolution was recorded in the minutes of their proceedings for rescinding a former resolution of the 6th instant, to the effect "that under the present state of the finances of the Union, it would be highly imprudent that any of the rates should be appropriated for purposes of emigration;" and as this amended resolution places the Union in a condition to avail itself of the offer of the Government, for female orphans, now in the workhouse, to emigrate to South Australia, the names of such young females who have volunteered, noting their ages, will be forwarded by the clerk of the Union to the Commissioners.

The employment generally offered to every able-bodied person in the preparation of the land for seed, has reduced the number of the inmates of the workhouse, capable of holding 600, to 553. The sealed order of the Commissioners prolonging the extension of out-door relief to certain classes of destitute persons, being widows with one child, or children whose parents are both dead, from the 25th April to the 25th June, was read at the Board, and will have beneficial effects throughout the Union in proportion, as the bread hitherto supplied to the children by the munificent bounty of the British Relief Association is gradually reduced, preparatory to its cessation.

It is gratifying to be enabled to state, that the workhouse is comparatively free from sickness, and that all hands have been actively engaged during the week in putting down large crops of cabbage plants, and have by spade husbandry prepared

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two acres of the land recently procured, and it has been sown with barley. Other portions of the newly acquired ground are to be prepared for potatoes and turnips.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*May 4, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have forwarded to the Commissioners of Colonial Lands and Emigration a copy of that part of your report in which you state that the Guardians have rescinded their previous resolution on the subject of emigration, and are now in a position to avail themselves of the offer of Government for the emigration of female orphans out of the workhouse.

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Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 27, 1848.*

First Weekly Report.

I HAVE to report for the information of the Commissioners that my inspection for the week ending this day has been principally confined to the examination of the poorhouse and its several departments of finance, regulation, work, &c.; also taking cognizance of the minutes and resolutions of the Board of Guardians.

It is gratifying to be enabled to state that I find the house particularly well ordered, clean, and healthy, and in my opinion reflects great credit on the Guardians for their judicious arrangements, and on the master and other officers for the correct manner in which these arrangements are carried out. A very little is required to make it a model to all other Unions.

By the Commissioners' seal the number of inmates for the house is at present limited to 1,100, including the infant in arms and extreme age; I think this number might be augmented without inconvenience; and as it appears most desirable at this moment to offer the house test to the daily increasing able-bodied applicants for relief, I beg to suggest to the Commissioners the propriety of augmenting the number to 1,300, for which accommodation can be obtained.

I have strongly urged the Board of Guardians to look for, and if possible, hire without delay, some large house or store into which the schools both of boys and girls might be removed; this arrangement would be beneficial to the children and leave in the house further accommodation for 250 able-bodied paupers.

The school-rooms are much too confined for the number of children at present in them; and the work-rooms attached, are totally inadequate to the increasing desire of the boys and girls to be taught the trades of shoemakers, tailors, sempstresses, &c.; were there sufficient accommodation, the entire clothing of the inmates might be made by these children.

The financial department appears to be conducted with praiseworthy economy, yet on a scale sufficiently liberal. With the concurrence of the medical officer* I have recommended to the Board that one-third rice be mixed with Indian meal forming the general dietary of the house; this suggestion the Guardians have adopted.

The drainage and sewerage of the house are at present very defective; with a view to the immediate rectification of this great evil, plans and estimates have been made, and will be shortly submitted to the Commissioners by the Board of Guardians.

With reference to the out-door relief I am sorry to report that it is daily on the increase, the number at present exceeding 15,000, entailing a vast expenditure on the Union. The adults receive one pound of raw meal per diem, and the children half that quantity. The custom is at present to give one week's rations at a time, from the depôts of the several contractors, the whole cost being a fraction over one penny per pound.

In accordance with the directions of the Commissioners I have brought under the notice of the Guardians the numerous advantages attendant on the issue of cooked food to the out-door recipients, and have used my best endeavours to convince them of the ultimate benefits likely to accrue to the country by the adoption of this system, both on the score of the people's health and economy to the rate-payers; but the Guardians generally appear to entertain strong prejudices against the system.

During the operation of the Temporary Relief Bill of last year it should seem, that notwithstanding the united exertions of the Government Inspector and Committees, the issue of cooked food was only partially established in a few electoral divisions, where it was soon discontinued in consequence of the numerous frauds committed by the people employed in the kitchens. The Guardians are alarmed at the outlay which would be required for fitting

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up these kitchens again, and also at the possibility of a recurrence of the same frauds.

Notwithstanding these and various other objections to the measure, I have so far succeeded as to induce the Board to direct the Town Guardians to confer with me during the week, with a view to establish a kitchen, if practicable, and give it a fair trial; this fairly set to work, I entertain hopes of establishing many more in the large villages at least, if not in the rural districts.

I have visited only two districts this week, having been called there on special business; I took occasion to inspect the relieving officer's books, and his method of fulfilling the duties of his situation. I shall reserve my remarks on these topics for my next report, but may here state I have seen enough to convince me that the strictest surveillance over these officers will become the most important part of an Inspector's duty.

It affords me much gratification to be enabled to report that the Union generally is in a very healthy state; there are but few cases of fever left in the hospitals, and the most of these are in a convalescent state. Some few cases of dysentery have made their appearance in the house during the last week, but I trust they will quickly disappear under the influence of the new dietary, viz., "stirabout," composed of two parts Indian meal, and one part rice.

In conclusion, I have every reason to anticipate that when we shall have the labour test in full operation, conjointly with that of the house and the cooked food, a very sensible diminution of the present number of applicants for relief will take place, as then only shall we be enabled to distinguish the truly destitute from the fraudulent recipient.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

WITH reference to your suggestion to increase the number to be accommodated in the workhouse from 1,100 to 1,300 I am directed to state that the Commissioners have received your separate report on this subject, and they are now in communication with their architect thereon.

The number receiving relief appears to the Commissioners very high, and the Commissioners cannot but apprehend that persons not really destitute may be receiving relief. The Commissioners are very desirous that you should give a full report on the state of the Union, in order to explain how 15,000 individuals, out of a population of 79,516 can be dependant on the poor rates for their subsistence.

The Commissioners rely on your insisting upon the introduction of the system of cooked food; the experience of last year has shown that the difficulties which are supposed to prevent its adoption are for the most part imaginary, and are at any rate such as may be met by energy and method on the part of the Guardians. The number of persons receiving relief in the Union is so great that no practicable safeguard against abuses should be omitted in the administration of relief by the Guardians.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 3, 1848.*

I BEG to inform you, for the information of the Commissioners, that on Wednesday last, the 1st instant, I held a long conference with the Guardians of the town on the subject of immediately commencing the system of cooked food to the able-bodied in the district.

I enumerated all the advantages of the system, not only as to the health of the people, but also as the surest test of real destitution, and used my best endeavours to impress upon them (in the interests of the rate-payers) the necessity of its immediate adoption.

They went through the same round of objections as at the general meeting, and were unanimous in declaring the subject should be postponed until the test of breaking stones had been tried; which, they insist, will diminish the applications for relief to a much greater extent than any other test save that of the workhouse.

I need not add that the objections are frivolous, and were easily refuted; but it is evident they have made up their minds on the subject, and I must conclude, that unless some *stringent order* be issued either by his Excellency the Lord

Lieutenant or the Commissioners (supposing they have the power), it will be impossible to introduce the system in this Union.

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I shall, however, again bring it under the notice of the Board at their meeting to-morrow (Saturday), and the Commissioners may rest satisfied that no exertions on my part shall be wanting to carry out their views which so fully accord with my own on the subject.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 5, 1848.*

I BEG to inform you, for the information of the Commissioners, that in compliance with their wishes I brought the subject of cooked food once more under the Guardians' notice, at their meeting of yesterday, and after considerable discussion, and being put to the vote, it was carried only by a majority of two, that it should be adopted as soon as the present contracts expire, viz., on the 25th instant.

They have promised in the interim to occupy themselves with preparing the kitchens and completing the organization; but I am apprehensive (such is their deep-rooted prejudices against the measure) that this is only said to gain time, in the hope, when the period arrives, it may no longer be required.

I shall, however, use my best exertions for the furtherance of the measure.

With reference to the suggestion of Doctors Nugent and Phelan, touching the treatment and accommodation of lunatics and idiots, I beg to state I have, in conjunction with the medical officer of the workhouse, inspected minutely the cells, and find the ventilation would be much improved by small gratings in the doors: in other and all respects they appear to be well attended to, and as there are but nine idiots—none under constraint, and no lunatics—the ordinary diet and clothing, with a constant change of beds when required, appear to offer no inconvenience.

The Guardians have ordered the gratings in the doors to be immediately placed.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

The Commissioners have had under consideration your reports dated respectively the 3rd and 5th instant, relative to the administration of relief in cooked food to the able bodied in Tipperary Union.

The Commissioners observe, with satisfaction, that the Guardians have at length yielded to your representations on this subject, and have consented to commence the necessary preparations at once, with the view of issuing relief in cooked food immediately upon the expiration of the present contracts. The Commissioners trust that the proceedings of the Guardians in this matter are *bonâ fide*, and that your apprehension that they have only made the promise for the purpose of gaining time will prove to be unfounded, as the Commissioners believe that in every instance where the system has been fairly tried, it has been advantageous both to the rate-payers and to the recipients of relief; its tendency being on the one hand to check fraudulent applications for relief by those who are not really destitute—cooked food not being so saleable, and therefore not so much an object of attraction—while, on the other hand, it is much better calculated than uncooked food to supply the need of those who are really destitute and in absolute want of food.

If, however, you should have reason to believe, from the omission of the Guardians to make preparations, or otherwise, that the Guardians have no real intention of carrying out the cooked food system, it will be proper for you to explain to them that the power of regulating the *kind* of relief to be afforded out of the workhouse is by the Irish Extension Act vested exclusively in the Commissioners, and that the Guardians and their officers are expressly required by the Act to administer such relief, subject to the rules and regulations made by the Commissioners; that, acting in accordance with this power, the Commissioners have, by their order authorizing out-door relief in Tipperary Union to persons not being of the classes described in the first section of the Act, made the following regulation, viz., “ Every person relieved under the authority of this order shall be relieved in food only, and such food shall, as far as practicable, be cooked food ;” and that it follows therefore that relief in uncooked food would be illegal, and

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liable to be disallowed by the auditor, and charged against the parties administering it, unless it should appear that it was not practicable to issue the food in a cooked state.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 5, 1848.*

I BEG to state for the information of the Commissioners, that I have during the past week visited most of the districts in the Union, but for want of time (being much occupied in attendance on the meetings of the Board of Guardians), my inspection has been cursory. I have seen enough, however, to convince me that very great destitution prevails throughout the Union, which may partly be attributed to the following causes :—

First. Vast numbers have surrendered their small holdings (upon which they had no crop), in order to render themselves entitled to relief.

Second. The potato seed being beyond their means last year, they could not plant any, and consequently had no provision for the winter.

Thirdly. The want of employment preventing them from earning a sufficiency to support themselves and families, notwithstanding the very low price of provisions generally.

But the chief cause appears to me to be, the evident disinclination on the part of the farmers and landlords to employ the people *unless on their own terms*.

Several instances have already come under my notice where farmers have asked me, "if a man refusing work was entitled to relief?" Upon inquiry I have found that the wages offered the man varied from 1s. to 1s. 2d. *per week*, in addition to his own living of two meals a day.

The above requires but little comment. It is quite clear that 1s. 2d. *per week* is insufficient to support the man's wife and family, consisting on an average of from five to six persons; he therefore refuses, and throws himself on the poor-rates, where he and his family are at least preserved from starvation, without the trouble of working. I have taken occasion to address the Guardians on this baneful state of things, pointing out the cruelty of taking advantage of the destitute state of the peasant, as well as the folly of not offering them a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. They plead their inability to meet the burden of taxation and the dues of the landlord.

I have in vain pointed out to them that this line of conduct only increases the burden of taxation, and have strongly urged them to call a public meeting of landlords and tenants for the purpose of devising some practical means of employing the people, and thereby diminish the rates of which they so loudly and constantly complain, but am apprehensive my recommendation will prove of little avail.

There are now 15,000 persons receiving out-door relief in this Union, out of a population of 79,516; and although there are, doubtless, many fraudulent recipients, I have every reason to believe (from my own observation and the information obtained from credible persons), that the greater part are really destitute.

When it is considered that for its extent this Union is by no means over-populated, and that it possesses the richest soil in Ireland, together with an extensive trade in bacon and butter with England, the amount of pauperism is altogether incredible, and can only be accounted for by that want of union between landlord and tenant which alone can render a country prosperous, and the existence of the peasant bearable.

It is my duty to state that a proposition was lately made by the elected Guardians (*i. e.* chiefly farmers), to meet the landlords for the purpose of considering the best means of giving employment to the people. This was not responded to, and this important subject fell to the ground.

I hear many complaints of the relieving officers for neglect of duty, but, on inquiry, find they arise, some from ignorance and many from the impossibility of fulfilling the most important part of their instructions, *viz.*, the visiting the dwelling and making themselves acquainted with the circumstances of all applicants for relief. This arose from the great extent of their districts, the necessary attendance at the Board of Guardians for the regulation of their books, two days out of the week, another day occupied in attending the distribution of the meal, together with taking down the increasing applications, little time was left for visiting.

The Commissioners having sanctioned the appointment of an additional number of these officers, sufficient to carry out the law to its fullest extent, there will be

no excuse for their future conduct; and as I shall make it a prominent part of my duty to see that they comply with their instructions to the letter, I entertain hopes I shall hear no more complaints.

I fully anticipate that the various tests (of the workhouse, breaking stones out of doors, the publication of lists of persons receiving relief, cooked food), when in operation, will considerably diminish the present list; but as *real destitution* exists to an enormous extent, no sensible diminution of the rates can be looked for until the able-bodied peasantry are employed by the farmers and landlords at a fair rate of wages.

If in describing the state of this Union, as it appears to me, I may have travelled out of the strict line of my duty, I beg the Commissioners to impute it wholly to my anxious desire to render service to the country.

This report will, I trust, serve as an answer to the Commissioners' circular of 2nd March, requiring my opinion as to the discontinuance of out-door relief to the able-bodied on the 18th instant. Such a measure would, undoubtedly, be attended with the most disastrous results from the causes above stated.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 8, 1848.*

WITH regard to your remarks as to the consequences of the withdrawal of out-door relief to the able-bodied on the 18th instant, I am to request that you will inform the Commissioners whether the state of the Union is such that the provisions of the accompanying order to Listowel Union could be carried into effect.

It will be observed that under that order single men, and men with only two children, would be thrown on their own resources.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 5, 1848.*

I BEG to inform you, for the information of the Commissioners, that in compliance with their directions I have inquired into the circumstances of the case of Michael Mulcahey, residing in the district of Pallasgreen, and find the following result:—

It appears certain that Mulcahey did apply to the relieving officer on several occasions, stating the situation of his family; that he was refused relief by the relieving officer, on the ground that he had been told he was in the actual possession of more than one acre of land. Mulcahey invited the officer to visit his hut, and convince himself he did not hold any land; this the officer never did, on the plea he had not time.

Mr. O'Grady, whose presence I had requested, made a number of strong assertions tending to accuse the chairman of the Board of Guardians, Mr. Bolton, of having used illegal influence over the relieving officer to prevent Mulcahey receiving relief, though legally entitled.

Upon my asking Mr. O'Grady if he was prepared to substantiate those charges by witnesses, he said he was not, and again continued his accusations against Mr. Bolton. After again saying I was ready to examine himself and witnesses on oath, at his own convenience, touching those charges, he again declined, in presence of the police force there assembled.

I am, therefore, led to conclude, that Mr. O'Grady has taken up this matter purely from personal pique to Mr. Bolton, and that the relieving officer is highly blameable for not having made himself acquainted with the circumstances of Mulcahey's exact situation by visiting his dwelling.

For the last fortnight this man and his family have been receiving out-door relief.

The relieving officer's name is Crowe, who lately resigned his situation, but has since been re-elected to the division of Doon.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

WITH reference to your report of the 5th instant, relative to the case of Michael Mulcahey, whose family was refused out-door relief in Tipperary Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to enclose, for your information, a copy of a

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letter which has been addressed to Mr. O'Grady on the subject ; and I am to request that you will be so good as to report to the Commissioners your opinion as to the fitness of Mr. Crowe for the office of relieving officer.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. O'GRADY :—*March 9, 1848.*

WITH reference to the correspondence that has taken place relative to the claim of Michael Mulcahey, of Pallasgreen, to out-door relief, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have received a report from Captain Haymes on the subject, in which he makes the following statement :—

"It appears certain that Mulcahey did apply to the relieving officer on several occasions, stating the situation of his family ; that he was refused relief by the relieving officer, on the ground that he had been told he was in actual possession of more than one acre of land. Mulcahey invited the officer to visit his hut and convince himself he did not hold any land ; this the officer never did, on the plea he had not time."

In reference to the relieving officer's plea that he had not time to inquire into the case, the Commissioners desire to observe that it is borne out by the fact, that he recently tendered his resignation, on the ground that from the great extent of his district he found himself unable singly to discharge the duties of relieving officer without committing mistakes ; that his resignation was accepted, and the district subsequently reduced in size. The Commissioners do not consider this a justification of the relieving officer, but it is certainly an extenuation of his offence.

The Commissioners understand that Mr. Crowe has been elected by the Guardians to one of the smaller districts ; and the Commissioners will not fail to bear this circumstance in mind before determining whether it will be proper to approve his re-appointment or not.

Captain Haymes informs the Commissioners that Mulcahey and his family have been receiving out-door relief for the last fortnight.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 7, 1848.*

I BEG to forward copy of a letter just received by the Board of Guardians, and to request you will move the Commissioners for an early decision on the subject it contains.

It appears to me important that the paupers should be usefully employed in any manner, at least until the implements for breaking stones are received from the Board of Works.

ENCLOSURE.

SIR,

Tipperary, March 7, 1848.

I AM directed by the Town Commissioners to state that at a meeting held on the 6th instant it was resolved that the Board of Guardians be requested to give the use of twelve able-bodied paupers to assist in cleansing the town and suburbs.

I am further directed to state that from the state of the funds at the disposal of the Commissioners they are unable to employ more than two persons during the week, which they intend continuing, but are quite inadequate to cleanse the town in a proper manner.

By the Board of Guardians complying with the above resolution, the Commissioners will feel much obliged.

*To the Chairman of the
Board of Guardians.*

By order of the Commissioners,
(Signed) JOHN LAMPHIER, Clerk.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 10, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 7th instant, enclosing a communication from the Town Commissioners of Tipperary, in which they request the Board of Guardians to give the use of twelve able-bodied paupers to assist in cleaning the town and suburbs, the funds at the disposal of the Town Commissioners not being sufficient to enable them to employ a sufficient number of persons to cleanse the town in a proper manner, and you request the decision of the Commissioners on the subject.

In reference thereto I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they think the Town Commissioners must in this case be considered merely in the light of private employers of labour, and the objections which on general principles apply to the employment of pauper labour on the property of private individuals, appear to apply to a certain extent to the present proposition, and the Commissioners must decline, therefore, to give their consent to the labour of the able-bodied paupers in Tipperary Union being given in aid of the rates which should be made for cleansing the town of Tipperary.

A copy of a letter addressed to another Union, in which the views of the Commissioners as to the employment of pauper labour by private individuals are stated, is herewith enclosed for your information.

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The Commissioners have again caused a communication to be made to the Board of Works as to the supply of implements required for employing the able-bodied paupers in Tipperary Union, and they have no doubt that the implements required will be placed at the disposal of the Board of Guardians without further delay.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 10, 1848.*

I BEG to inform you for the information of the Commissioners, that several district roads in this Union (the cuttings and repairs of which were begun but left unfinished by the Board of Works last year), are now (in consequence of the continued rains), almost impassable.

As there are no contractors for these roads, and as the material is on the spot, requiring but the breaking and placing in the holes, I shall be glad to learn from the Commissioners, whether the able-bodied recipients of out-door relief may not be employed in this manner.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 10th instant in which you request to be informed whether the able-bodied recipients of out-door relief can be employed on the cuttings and repairs of the several district roads left unfinished by the Board of Works.

In reply I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they are unwilling to sanction the employment of paupers on the unfinished roads until the system of stone-breaking has been fairly and fully tried, and as the implements required have now been forwarded by the Board of Works, the Commissioners think that the stone-breaking system should now be put in operation without delay.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 10, 1848.*

I BEG to enclose for the information of the Commissioners, a letter received from one of the collectors of this Union.

It appears he has great difficulty in discharging his duties after distraint has been made, for want of an auctioneer to sell the goods.

The nearest resident auctioneer is in Tipperary, who refuses to go that distance, 14 or 15 miles, for frequently a very trifling remuneration.

Query.—Could not the collector be authorized to sell in such cases?

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. O'DONNELL to Captain HAYMES :—*March 9, 1848.*

I BEG leave to call your attention to a very great inconvenience which I labour under in the discharge of my duty as collector of poor rate in the electoral divisions of Grean, Doon, Ulla, and Kilteely, which is, the want of an auctioneer to sell effects distrained by me from time to time. At present I am obliged to send a distance of 14 miles for an auctioneer, and often disappointed. I apprized the Commissioners of this inconvenience before, and had no reply. I expect you will call their attention again to it.

P.S. If I could be qualified myself as auctioneer, it would be more convenient.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 10th instant, enclosing a communication from one of the collectors, in which he states the difficulty he labours under in discharging his duties after distraint, for want of an auctioneer to sell the goods.

In reference thereto I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that a similar difficulty having been felt in another Union, the Board of Guardians proposed to take out an auctioneer's licence for some confidential person to enable him to sell the goods distrained for poor rate. The Commissioners acceded to this

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proposition, on the understanding that the use of the licence was to be carefully reserved for the purposes of the Guardians, and they see no objection to a similar course being adopted in Tipperary Union.

The duty should be paid only for the period unexpired.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 8th instant, enclosing a copy of an order to the Listowel Union, relative to discontinuance of out-door relief to able-bodied paupers above 18 years of age, whether married, with two children, or single, on the 18th instant, I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that having visited most parts of the Union, and having questioned both farmers and labourers, I find there is no work whatever going on in the country at present.

This may be attributed partly to the state of the weather, which still retards the spring tillage, but chiefly to the inability of the farmers (as they state) to give employment to the labourer. When the fine weather does set in, it is to be feared the small amount of labour that may be offered to the people, will be at such prices as to be totally inadequate to maintain the labourer's family.

In the poorer districts the people cannot obtain employment even for their keep, whilst, in the better, the maximum of wages hitherto offered appears to be 1s. 4d. per week.

Under these circumstances, I am of opinion, that the discontinuance of relief (even to those persons designated in the order) on the 18th instant would be attended with most disastrous effects.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 12, 1848.*

I BEG to report for the information of the Commissioners, that having visited the most part of the rural districts of this Union, and interrogated several farmers, relieving officers, and able-bodied recipients of out-door relief, I am led to conclude, that the wide-spread destitution now existing, arises wholly from the want of employment for the people.

The inclemency of the season has doubtless retarded the spring tillage; but from what I can learn, it is to be apprehended that a very small amount of labour will be offered to the people, even when the weather may admit of farming operations.

Without doubt there are some parties receiving out-door relief who are not justly entitled to it, and my utmost vigilance, together with that of the relieving officer, are insufficient to detect *all* such cases; but the several tests of the workhouse, the publication of lists, the labour test; above all, the cooked food, will soon rectify these abuses, which, I am glad to say, are far from numerous.

Many instances have been brought to my notice and decision, of peasants offering to surrender their small holdings, with the exception of their cottage and garden, and the landlord's refusal to take the land without the said appendages. In all such cases I have been guided by the legal opinion of Mr. Henn, and directed such persons to be relieved, with a notice that if a spade was put into any part of the land (so offered), the parties would become liable to prosecution for fraud.

Notwithstanding the obstacles thrown in the way to the adoption of the system of cooked food by some few of the Guardians, I do not despair of ultimately carrying it into effect, and am persuaded it will prove of the utmost benefit, both to the ratepayers and the really destitute.

I have received various complaints from the people, of the relieving officers unjustly debarring them from relief. I have made it my duty to give a patient inquiry to all such cases, and am happy to report I find the greater part frivolous and unfounded; in a very few contrary instances, the error of the relieving officers has proceeded more from the ignorance of the law, than any desire to deprive the pauper of relief.

Much benefit has been derived by the Union from the district fever hospitals, of which there are three. They have hitherto been supported by the surplus funds arising out of the "Temporary Relief Bill" of last year; these funds are

now exhausted, and the Guardians are providing means for their continued support, being fully alive to their great utility.

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I am gratified in being enabled to report, that as far as my observation has gone, the people appear to receive the relief given them with much gratitude; and there is no doubt that already it has saved the lives of thousands, who without it must inevitably have perished from positive starvation.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain HAYMES:—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to call your attention to the fact, that the Commissioners' order authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied poor in Tipperary Union will expire on the 1st proximo, and I am to request that you will be so good as to report specially to the Commissioners as to the necessity of continuing the authority to administer out-door relief in the Union under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

If you are of opinion that it is necessary to continue such authority, I am to request that you will state, whether it might not, in your opinion, be more limited than at present, and whether certain classes (such, for instance, as single able-bodied men, and married men not having more than two children,) might not be excluded from out-door relief.

The Commissioners will renew the order on the 1st April if you deem it absolutely necessary; but still the Commissioners are anxious to break through the habit of dependence on the poor-rates at a time when the labour of able-bodied men is required for the cultivation of the land.

Your report should reach this office by Friday morning next at latest.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 19, 1848.*

I BEG to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have visited several districts during the past week, and found the relieving officers (generally) attentive to their duties, and their books in good order.

I am sorry to report that destitution is much on the increase, the number of out-door recipients amounting to above 16,000.

This increase may be attributed to the inclemency of the weather and to the other causes I had the honour to state in my last week's report.

I have, however, heard of some instances of farmers promising work as soon as the weather admits of out-door operations; this, with the breaking stones, will, I trust, sensibly diminish the number now on the lists.

I have detected some attempts at fraud on the part of contractors issuing inferior qualities of meal to the people whilst the Guardians were paying the highest price for best quality. In all such cases the Guardians have dismissed the contractor.

Part of the tools from the Board of Works have been received and distributed to the districts. Arrangements have been made for the able-bodied to begin work to-morrow, Monday, 20th instant.

Having submitted to the Board of Guardians Captain Wynne's plan of baking bread in the workhouse, together with my proposals for carrying it out in this Union for the daily supply of all paupers, it was unanimously adopted. As the subject is one of great import, I beg to refer the Commissioners to my special report of this day's date on the occasion.

The workhouse continues to be well conducted; and it is gratifying to be enabled to state that, from the judicious treatment of the medical officer, Doctor Evans, the general health of the inmates is most satisfactory.

I am sorry to add that dysentery appears to be spreading to a great extent in the rural districts, the average number of deaths for the last two or three weeks being 80 per week. This, in a great measure, may be attributed to the people eating the Indian meal improperly cooked, the want of clothing, and exposure to the cold and wet weather which has so long prevailed.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

WITH regard to your observations relative to the frauds of the meal contractors, I am to request that you will be so good as to report the specific facts of

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each case, and to consider whether they come within the provisions of the 8th section of the Bakers' Act, 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 28, a copy of which is herewith enclosed for your information.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 19, 1848.*

ON the receipt of the Commissioners' letter, containing extracts from Captain Wynne's report, relative to making bread of Indian and rye meal in the workhouse, it immediately occurred to me that, if by any possibility the system could be practically carried into effect in this Union, where so large a number as 16,000 recipients were to be supplied daily, the advantages would be incalculable.

After giving much thought to the subject, and consulting the clerk of the Works, together with Mr. Massey, the chairman of the Board, I was enabled to place the whole matter in such a practical shape before a very full meeting of Guardians yesterday, when they unanimously resolved to adopt the system with as little delay as possible.

You will have received the resolution, together with the plan of the proposed bakehouse, by last night's post. The cost of this building will not exceed 150*l.*; and this sum may be saved in three weeks, having calculated there will be at least that sum, 50*l.*, weekly difference in the present system of relief and that proposed.

It is intended that the proposed bakehouse should be a permanent building, to be erected in the yard attached to the female wards, so as to correspond in appearance and situation with the shed in the men's yard.

When out-door relief shall no longer be required, the hot plates can be easily removed, and the building used as increased accommodation for paupers; or if, in years to come, out-door relief should be again found necessary, the building, by merely replacing the hot plates, is immediately available for its original purpose.

The system proposed appears to be extremely popular with both Guardians and rate-payers; and although I am not of opinion the bread thus made of rye and Indian corn meal would act as a prevention to dysentery in the same proportion as the stirabout composed of Indian meal and rice, yet, having consulted the medical officer, who is of opinion that this bread, being solid and particularly nutritious, it would ultimately produce the same effect, and the other advantages attendant on the adoption of this system being so evident and numerous, I do not hesitate to recommend it in the strongest manner for the sanction of the Commissioners.

The greatest benefit (in my estimation) likely to be derived from the proposed system is the utter impossibility of fraud, the whole operation being carried on within the house, under the control and inspection of the master and matron.

I have made calculations, and find the outlay for Robinson's steaming apparatus, together with materials for fitting up kitchens in the several electoral divisions, for the purpose of cooking stirabout, would far exceed the sum required for the proposed bakehouse, without reference to the difference in price of rations.

If a detail of the organization for a constant supply of this bread to so large a number of persons be deemed necessary by the Commissioners, I shall be happy to furnish it. In the mean time I beg to urge their sanction to the immediate adoption of the system, and shall be happy to take on myself all the responsibility of the details in carrying it into effect.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement, that it is the intention of the Guardians to adopt Captain Wynne's plan of baking bread, to be distributed in out-door relief, and to request that the Commissioners will at once sanction the adoption of the plan, I am to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Board of Guardians on the subject of the plan for hot plates proposed by them for the purpose of baking the bread.

When the plan is in operation, the Commissioners would be glad to receive from you a detail of the organization for distributing the food.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 26, 1848.*

Tipperary Union.

I BEG to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that during the past week the able-bodied recipients of out-door relief have been employed breaking stones; and from the number of absentees at "roll-call," I am led to conclude, this test will have the effect of considerably reducing the lists.

The weather, for the last few days, having proved more favourable, the farmers are taking advantage of it throughout the Union. The spring operations are proceeding with vigour.

Up to the present, but little employment has been offered to the labourer; whenever it is, even at a very reduced rate of wages, the people appear ready and willing to accept it.

Much inconvenience and abuse arises from the present system of distributing raw meal for the whole week. In order to put an end to it as speedily as possible, I trust the Commissioners' architect will transmit the specification for proposed bakehouse without delay.

Under the impression that one pound of meal is insufficient for an able-bodied man exposed to all weathers, and breaking stones for eight hours a-day, I yesterday proposed to the Board of Guardians, that the men so working, should be allowed 20 ounces in lieu of 16 per diem. They, however, demurred to this proposition on the plea, that it would tend to reconcile the men to the work.

Whatever truth may be attached to the above plea, my conviction is, that the men, already reduced by destitution and sickness, will, in a short time, from sheer exhaustion, become wholly unfitted for field works of any kind.

The workhouse continues to be conducted in a very orderly manner, every one of the inmates being employed—men and boys breaking stones, women and girls spinning and knitting stockings, &c. I am also happy to add, the health of the house is in a most satisfactory state.

Much difficulty is experienced in procuring a suitable building into which the schools, both of boys and girls, could be removed. As this step is of great importance, not only as regards the children themselves, but also of affording increased accommodation in the house for the able-bodied paupers, I am strongly of opinion that a detached building on the workhouse grounds would be the most advisable plan.

The collectors appear to be duly exerting themselves—their weekly returns to the treasurer averaging between 400*l.* and 500*l.* I have every reason to anticipate the whole amount of old rate (with the exception of bad debts) will be collected ere a new rate becomes necessary.

Some few instances have come to my knowledge of stock being found on the lands liable for rate driven and sold by the collector, such stock being the property of persons not liable. One of these cases appearing of peculiar hardship to the individual, I have made it the subject of a separate report for the decision of the Commissioners.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 7, 1848.*

ADVERTING to your report of the 26th instant, in which you express a doubt as to the sufficiency of the present scale of rations allowed in Tipperary Union to support men employed at stone-breaking, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you, that they have received a communication from the Central Board of Health, in which it is stated that the scale of rations referred to in the letter to the Relief Commissioners on the 10th March, 1848, is not, in the opinion of that Board, sufficient for able-bodied men who are required to work.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 28, 1848.*

I BEG to draw the attention of the Commissioners to their sealed order, authorizing out-door relief, which expires on Saturday next, 1st April.

As great destitution prevails throughout the Union, and but a very small portion of labour to be obtained by the people, I have to request the Commissioners will be pleased to extend their seal for a longer period.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 30, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to refer you to the letter addressed to you on the 28th instant, as to a modification of the order; and I am at the same time to request that when you receive this (if you have not already replied) you will be so good as to send your reply by return of post.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

IN reply to your communication of yesterday's date, in reference to the necessity of continuing out-door relief after the 1st of April, I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that destitution throughout the Union appears to be on the increase, as many applications for relief are admitted weekly by the Guardians.

Although the weather has set in comparatively fine, and the farming operations commenced, I cannot learn that the farmers are giving the least employment.

I, therefore, think the continuance of out-door relief to the able-bodied is of absolute necessity, and have to request the Commissioners will be pleased to order the same.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 31, 1848.*

I AM directed to inform you that the Commissioners have given directions for the renewal of the order for a period of one month.

Captain HAYMES to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 9, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners, that during the past week I have visited many quarries in the various districts of the Union, in which I have found the really destitute able-bodied men honestly performing their daily task of breaking stones.

This test is (as I anticipated) beginning to have the desired effect, that of diminishing the lists, not to any great extent it is true, but sufficient to distinguish the fraudulent from the really destitute recipients.

There are many absentees from sickness, all of which are authenticated either from personal visitation or medical certificate, all those at work complain of the insufficiency of the food allowed them when working for eight hours per diem.

The spring tillage is proceeding, but it is principally performed by the farmers and their families, very little work can be obtained by the labourer. In some districts, single men have offered themselves at 2d. per diem and their food, without being able to obtain employment.

I am in justice bound to add that the people bear their great destitution in the most peaceable and exemplary manner.

The health of the inmates of the workhouse, I am happy to report, continues most satisfactory. The deaths that have occurred during the last week arising wholly from people being admitted in a dying state, their relations having no means to bury them.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 13, 1848.*

WITH regard to the complaints of the insufficiency of the ration for working men, I am to request that you will be so good as to report specially to the Commissioners, after conferring with the Guardians on the subject of the amount of the ration to be allowed to an able-bodied man required to work, should the Guardians after such conference, still adhere to their previous views.

ENNIS UNION.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 9, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I arrived here on Monday, the 7th instant.

I have since then been occupied in collecting information respecting the general state of the Union.

I find instances of irregularity on all sides.

Imperfect out-door relief register, owing to neglect and inefficiency of the relieving officers; and this kind of relief afforded in some instances without the signature of the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, or counter-signature of clerk.

No stone-breaking test in operation, but employment of the able-bodied in repairing fences, altering of highways, water-courses, &c.; eight hours' labour nominally exacted, but not the fair complement of work done.

The workhouse test unapplied from want of room, and many names on out-door relief lists of persons suspected of being holders of more than a quarter of a statute acre.

Cost of out-door relief last week above 600*l*.

Cost of house same time, including staff, 91*l*. 1*s*. 7½*d*.

The Guardians at their Board this day, which I had the first opportunity of attending, and at which Mr. Owen Lloyd was also present by appointment, have consented to make trial of the stone-breaking test enjoined by the Commissioners, and urged by me, in those electoral divisions in which the requisite material is to be found; but there are three electoral divisions, viz.,

	Acres.	Population.
Inagh	21,141	3,895
Kilmaley	23,883	4,998
Clondagad. . . .	16,928	5,088

in which there is no lime-stone, as I am informed; I therefore request the Commissioners will advise what description of labour shall be required in these divisions.

It has been also this day resolved to inspect to-morrow, with a view to hiring them, two stores, by occupying which, considerable accommodation to test the destitute able-bodied will be afforded in the workhouse, and the lists it is hoped thereby reduced.

I have advised that the collectors shall be required to furnish by next Board day a list of all rate-payers in arrear, with a view to publicity of their names, classifying them by townlands, and have expressed my determination to report any collector or relieving officer neglectful of his duty.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 14, 1848.*

WITH reference to the statement contained in your report that there are three electoral divisions in the Union in which there is no lime-stone to be found, and that consequently those receiving out-door relief cannot be put to stone-breaking, and to your request for the Commissioners' advice as to what kind of labour should be required in those electoral divisions, I am directed to state that the Commissioners would wish to know how far stones would have to be brought from other electoral divisions, before they can answer your question specifically.

The Commissioners believe that no mode of employment is so well adapted for able-bodied paupers as stone-breaking. If, however, this is really impracticable, the Commissioners would wish to know whether there are any unfinished roads in those electoral divisions.

The Commissioners would not in the last resort absolutely object to the paupers being employed on any work of a public nature; but they would under no circumstances sanction the employment of paupers on private farms.

In deciding between different kinds of employment of a public nature, that mode of employment should have the preference which is the least attractive to applicants, and which admits most easily of effective superintendence.

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Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 17, 1848.*

I HAVE to report that there being on the Ennis Board a considerable majority of elected, over *ex-officio* Guardians, owing to the death and resignation of eight of the latter, and the consequent impossibility of preventing the elected members from carrying any motion they choose; and further, that the said elected members are nearly all related or connected, or bound by common interest, I directed the clerk to write to the eight justices of the peace who are highest rated, requesting to know if they would act as *ex-officio* Guardians. The clerk stated that he had already done so, but had received no reply. I therefore request the Commissioners will inform me whether application may be made to the eight justices who stand next those in scale of rating, and whether in the event of their assenting, they may act at the Board previous to the 29th September next.

The relieving officers having stated their inability—owing to the extent of their several districts, the number of applications, and the other duties required of them—to comply with that part of their instructions which requires them to visit the house, and inquire into the circumstances of each applicant for outdoor relief; and it being impossible, in consequence of intimidation, to get the ratepayers of the districts to give individual information of names that ought to be removed from the lists, I resolved on calling a meeting of the whole of the ratepayers of one district, in which there appeared, from the numbers on the books, to have been great abuse; when aided by two *ex-officio* and the elected Guardians, and assisted by the farmers, (who thus assembled together, felt no restraint), abuse to a considerable amount was detected, and a large number of illegal recipients removed from the lists. I gave the result of this investigation to the Board of Guardians yesterday; and they have passed a resolution, and acted on it, to form in each district a Committee of investigation, consisting of the *ex-officio* and elected Guardians, and three highest ratepayers, and holding a full meeting of the rate-paying farmers before the next Board day, thoroughly revise and correct their books and lists.

In compliance with the directions of the Commissioners stated by me at the Board of the 9th instant, stone-breaking has been in general operation in each district during the past week; and in several instances has proved a test of destitution, as shown by the overseers' lists.

The state of the interior of the workhouse is very satisfactory as respects its cleanliness, order, and regularity. The master and matron are very efficient. I regret to say that dysentery is prevalent, especially amongst the junior inmates.

In consequence of the access, during the recent bad weather, of the contractor's carts, workmen, &c., employed on the new buildings, the approach, yards, &c., are not in as neat order as they might and shall be. I have drawn the workhouse master's attention to the subject.

I regret to report that unavoidable delay is occurring in the application of this most efficacious test, by reason of the difficulty of obtaining a suitable building wherein to place the schools. The contractor's work has been greatly retarded by the unfavourable weather, which made it unsafe to hurry the building. In about a week more, however, there will be additional room in the house for 90 able-bodied men.

I have recommended the Guardians to receive tenders for hot-hearths and iron baking-plates, and to have bread made of Indian corn meal, baked in the house. This food alternating with that constantly used, would in the opinion of the medical officer, assist in arresting dysentery, which he ascribes in some measure to sourness of diet; whilst instruction in the art of baking would be most useful to the able-bodied female paupers, and a considerable saving effected in point of expense.

Much difficulty arises in cases of persons who offer to surrender their land. The landlord, or his agent, frequently refuses to accept it, unless the house be thrown down. When this is complied with, there is no legal asylum provided for these houseless paupers, the workhouse being full; and they then invariably flock into the town of Ennis, which has occasioned much dissatisfaction to the inhabitants and ratepayers of the town.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 22, 1848.*

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I AM to state that before the next rated Justices are called on, a notice should go to the others requesting them to state their willingness, or otherwise, by a certain day, or that they would be considered as declining. I am to request that you will be so good as to cause the result of such further notice to be communicated to the Commissioners. With reference to your remarks respecting difficulty in the relief of persons who offer to surrender their land, but which is refused unless the house be thrown down, I am to enclose for your information, a copy of a circular letter recently issued by the Commissioners on the subject.

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Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 24, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I attended the usual weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union yesterday, and regret to say that much of the business which I had hoped, from the resolutions passed at the previous meeting of the Board, would have been transacted, remains just as it was, much to the injury of the affairs of the Union.

With the exception of the vice-chairman of the Board (James Blake Butler, Esq., J.P.), and perhaps one or two other members, there is an apathetic indifference exhibited by the Guardians generally, which impedes the Union business, and to a great extent renders the Irish Poor Law Act inoperative.

It is the custom of the Guardians on each Board day, to assemble in respectable numbers, as the Commissioners will have observed in the copies of the minutes forwarded to them; but so soon as the particular object for which each member has come, is disposed of, he goes away, and the onerous duties of the Board, with the entire and serious amount of responsibility attached to them, are left upon the vice-chairman, who has hitherto discharged them at much personal inconvenience, remaining at the Board-room until a late hour in the evening, &c.

It is matter of much regret that additional workhouse accommodation cannot be procured here, as this efficacious test is much wanted in this Union.

Such of the able-bodied paupers as have hammers have been required to work at stone-breaking, or forfeit their rations. In several instances they have absented themselves from the work. When supplied with the requisite implements from the depôt of the Board of Works, this description of work shall in every available instance be enforced.

There has been a falling off in the collection of last week, to the amount of 620 $\frac{1}{2}$.

In compliance with the resolution of the Board of the 9th instant, lists of defaulters were handed in by the several rate collectors, on which appear the names of several persons whose rate should not be now unpaid. I have called upon the Collectors, on pain of being reported to the Commissioners, to use every exertion to collect those rates by the next Board day, and have urged on the Board to give orders to their solicitor to take proceedings against the several parties in the event of non-payment.

The exterior of the workhouse, the yards, walks, gardens, &c., are improved since my last inspection of them, and promise soon to be in complete order.

The interior exhibits its usual cleanliness and regularity. The inmates are kept constantly employed. There are, however, only seven able-bodied men, who with the adult boys are usually employed at stone-breaking.

On examination of the pupils, male and female, I regret to be obliged to report both schoolmaster and mistress as far from efficient. The boys read fairly, and have made a little progress in arithmetic. Their writing too is pretty good, but they read without understanding, or being instructed so as to explain the meaning of what they read. The girls read indifferently, and evince few evidences of instruction.

The last visit of the Visiting Committee reported in the book, is dated August, 1847.

Looking at the state of affairs in this Union, and the indisposition on the part of the Guardians to work them out effectively; considering that the quantity of business to be transacted would require a meeting of the Board twice, and I

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really think three times a week (at least during the continuance of out-door relief), and the impossibility of procuring its attendance oftener than every Wednesday; it is my opinion that unless the just remonstrance of the vice-chairman, again repeated yesterday, accompanied by a reiteration of his determination to resign his position on the next Board day, be productive of an increase of zeal and co-operation on the part of the other members, the affairs of the Ennis Union will not be conducted with justice to the ratepayers, or satisfaction to the Commissioners, by the present Board of Guardians.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 28, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement as to the manner in which the duties of the Board of Guardians are performed, and your opinion that unless the remonstrance of the vice-chairman (who has threatened to resign) be productive of an increase of zeal and co-operation on the part of the other members of the Board of Guardians, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they would be unwilling, except under circumstances of absolute necessity, to supersede the functions of the Ennis Board of Guardians, by the appointment of paid officers; and the Commissioners trust that Mr. Butler, vice-chairman of the Board, will continue to give the Union the benefit of his valuable services, and will be duly supported by the other Guardians.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. CRONYN:—*February 29, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them a resolution of the Board of Guardians of Ennis Union, on the 16th instant, calling attention to the Commissioners' order of the 4th ultimo, (which will expire on the 4th proximo,) authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied, with a view to its renewal; and I am directed by the Commissioners to forward to you a copy of the order in question, and to request that you will be so good as to report specially to the Commissioners after the meeting of the Board of Guardians on to-morrow, as to the necessity of renewing the order for any and what period, or of issuing any modification of the present order.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS in reply:—*March 1, 1848.*

I BEG to say it will be necessary to renew said order for two months, and respectfully request the renewed permission may be in the possession of the clerk of the Union on the 4th instant.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 3, 1848.*

I AM directed to state that the order remains in force until the 4th instant *inclusive*; and an order will be issued by to-morrow's post authorizing out-door relief for a further period, to expire on the 18th instant.

The Commissioners await your reply to their circular letter of yesterday's date on this subject.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for information of the Commissioners, a letter from Dr. Cullinan, medical officer of the Ennis workhouse, in answer to inquiries from me, as to whether he would sanction the admission to the house of 200 paupers more than it now contains.

It is the opinion of the master, an intelligent, careful, and experienced officer, that this additional number of inmates might safely be admitted. Several of the members of the Board of Guardians hold a similar opinion; and my own examination of the capabilities of the house leads me also to think, that no danger would be incurred by increasing the number of inmates from the present 800 to the amount proposed, viz. 1000.

I am most anxious that the amount of pauperism in the Ennis Union shall be tested by every possible means, and particularly by those of the workhouse, before the period arrives for estimating the expenditure of the Union for the next six months; and I therefore respectfully request the Commissioners will inform me whether they will sanction the admission of 200 more paupers to the workhouse.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. CULLINAN to Mr. CRONYN:—*February 29, 1848.*

I HAVE already expressed my concurrence in the opinion entertained by our Board of Guardians, to which your inquiries refer, viz., that a greater amount of evil will arise from the indiscriminate and absolute exclusion of all applicants for admission to the workhouse beyond 800, than would result from the temporary admission of 1000 inmates. When I stated to the Commissioners that injury to the health of the paupers would arise from overcrowding, my observation was not specially applicable to the circumstances of this workhouse; on the contrary, the facilities enjoyed by us for the immediate removal of all cases of acute disease or fever, would justify the straining to the very utmost limits which from experience the Commissioners find to be consistent with safety, the accommodation afforded by this workhouse. The great attention to cleanliness and proper ventilation enforced by the master and his subordinates, would render any trial on this subject less dangerous than if such care was not adopted.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that the propriety of admitting a greater number than 800 into the workhouse has been considered by the Commissioners on several occasions, the Guardians having several times brought the subject before them; and the Commissioners enclose for your information a copy of a letter which they addressed to the Board of Guardians on the 29th January last, in which their deliberate views on the subject are expressed.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the GUARDIANS:—*January 29, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration a resolution contained in minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Ennis Union on the 19th instant, requesting the Commissioners to extend the admissions to the workhouse to 1000, and stating that this may be safely done according to the testimony of the medical officer in his report of 1st December.

In reference to this resolution I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they have again referred to the medical officer's report of the 1st December. That report merely states, that on a pressing emergency the admission of paupers may be extended to 1000, without serious risk of propagating disease; and that assuming the crowding of the house would be only temporary, he considers the inconvenience and injury likely to result therefrom will be much less than the total exclusion of all applicants from admission. Now, as the medical officer in this report evidently contemplates some inconvenience and injury as likely to result from extending the number of admissions, and as the Guardians have full power under the Commissioners' order of the 4th instant, to administer out-door relief to all classes of destitute poor persons in the Union, the Commissioners would not feel themselves warranted in acceding to the wishes of the Guardians in this respect.

The Commissioners desire to add, that on the 6th December (subsequently to the date of the report above referred to) they received a communication from the medical officer, in which he stated in reply to an inquiry made by the Commissioners, that in his opinion 1000 inmates might be received into the workhouse temporarily, and under the pressure of a great emergency, without danger of propagating or creating dangerous contagious or infectious diseases, *but certainly not without material detriment to the health of the inmates generally.*

The opinion here expressed is in accordance with, and borne out by, the general experience of the Commissioners; and they trust that the Guardians will see that in again declining to extend the number that may be admitted into the workhouse, the Commissioners are actuated solely by a consideration of what they believe to be their duty in the matter; and they desire to assure the Guardians that could they satisfy themselves that the extension desired could be made without injury to the inmates of the workhouse, it would afford them much pleasure to comply with the Guardians' request.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 2, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the usual weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, at which there was a full attendance, and a disposition evinced to carry out more zealously than heretofore the instructions of the Commissioners, and the letter of the Irish Poor Laws; some of the Guardians remaining with the chairman and me until eight o'clock, P.M., for the purpose of leaving no business unfinished.

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I read the Commissioners' letter of the 28th ultimo, and Mr. Blake Butler, vice-chairman, and most of the other Guardians present, expressed their willingness to continue, for a time at least, to exercise their functions at the Board.

The workhouse is kept in a cleanly and regular manner. There are numerous though not increasing cases of dysentery; and as yet the check to it intended through the agency of Indian corn meal bread has not been tried. No tenders for supplying metal baking plates and the other requisite apparatus having been sent in, though advertised for, the Board have ordered another advertisement to be inserted in a more widely circulating newspaper.

The new shed, which when available will give additional workhouse accommodation for 90 inmates, I inspected accompanied by the architect and contractor, and they have assured me that it will be ready for use in a week from this time.

I have succeeded after much argument in inducing the Board to support out of the workhouse 90 of the present inmates who could be best discharged, and the room thus obtained will prove, I confidently expect, an effective means of thinning the out-door relief lists.

Much difficulty exists in applying the stone-breaking test vigorously. The stewards are quite afraid, in this Union at least, to exact the due return of labour, and excuses have been made that the implements expected from the Board of Works have not yet been supplied. Wherever the stewards have done their duty the test has proved a good one.

I have used every exertion to induce the Guardians to adopt the system of cooked food; read to them the Commissioners' circular and Mr. Bromley's report on the subject, as well as stated to them the result of my own experience of its benefits as a nutriment, and efficacy as a test, under the Temporary Relief Act, but the Guardians are resolutely opposed to it, on the ground of the difficulty attending its working in so thickly-peopled a Union as this; the insecurity to which the porridge kitchens would be liable, and the increase of expense of additional staff.

Finding that the Guardians and rate-payers of the several districts will not of themselves revise the lists, and strike off the names of parties not entitled to be recipients of out-door relief; I have notified my intention of going to the different districts in turn, and inviting the rate-payers to meet me and assist me in thinning the lists—a plan I successfully adopted already in two electoral districts.

There is an evidence of an increase of activity on the part of the relieving officers generally; some of them, however, I have had occasion to censure and threaten to report; and one I have already represented to the Commissioners as quite unfit to be continued in his situation, viz., Daniel Hastings, relieving officer of Clonlea electoral district.

Some of the rate collectors are using fair exertions to get the rate collected. Three of them have not been sufficiently active, and have shown a disposition to favouritism. The near approach of the time, however, for making a new rate, makes it advisable not to remove them before the 25th instant, but insist upon their making good the collection, and then coming on their securities for the balance uncollected.

I have already reported the necessity for a two months' renewal of the Commissioners' sealed order, which will expire on the 4th instant.

Much difficulty exists in cases where two or more members of a family are the joint occupiers of a farm. It frequently happens that one of them offers to surrender his portion to the landlord, which is of course refused unless they all surrender. The person so rejected then applies for out-door relief, which, according to the law as explained by J. Henn, Esq., Q.C., he would appear to be entitled to; his portion of the land meantime is worked by the other members of the family, joint occupiers with him, for their individual or mutual benefit.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 7, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement, that the Guardians are resolutely opposed to the introduction of cooked food, the Commissioners desire to state that they rely upon your again pressing upon the Guardians the advantages of the system, as proved by experience wherever it has been fairly tried, and upon your endeavouring to convince the Guardians that the difficulties which they anticipate are not so great as they imagine, and may be surmounted in this case as they have

in other cases by energy and determination. It will be proper also to explain to the Board of Guardians that the Commissioners are required by the 3rd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act to regulate and determine the kind of relief to be given out of the workhouse; and that the Guardians and their officers shall administer such relief subject to the rules and regulations of the Commissioners; that one of the regulations prescribed by the Commissioners in regard to the administration of relief to the able-bodied is, that such relief shall, as far as practicable, be given in cooked food; and that it follows therefore that relief given to the able-bodied otherwise than in cooked food will be absolutely illegal, unless it can be shown that it was impracticable to administer it in that shape. The Commissioners do not however prohibit the administration of relief in uncooked food until the arrangements for issuing the food in a cooked shape are made, but they trust that the Guardians will see, from the above statement, that it is their duty to take immediate steps for carrying out the Commissioners' regulation in this respect.

The Commissioners are not aware of the numbers on the out-door relief lists, the clerk having omitted to supply them with the usual statistical information (to which omission the Commissioners have called his attention), but they think that the circumstance that the cooked food system has not hitherto been adopted, and that the workhouse has not (as appears from your statement, that you have with difficulty prevailed upon the Guardians to discharge 90 of the present inmates) been made so extensively available as it might be for the relief of the able-bodied, should be taken into account in considering whether it will be necessary to continue the present out-door relief order for any further period beyond the 18th instant. The neglect to revise the relief lists should also be considered with the same view.

With reference to the difficulty in the application of the 10th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act in cases of joint occupancy, I am to state that the case referred to by you would seem to involve a question of fact, and would be a proper subject for the decision of the Guardians. As far as the Commissioners can form an opinion respecting the facts as detailed by you, it seems to them that in this particular instance the joint tenant has not ceased *bonâ fide* to occupy the land.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—March 8, 1848.

I ARRIVED here late last night from Ennistymon, for the purpose of attending the Ennis Board of Guardians this day, and I have been engaged in transacting the business of the Board in company with James Blake Butler, Esq., J.P., Vice-Chairman, who remained with me, after all the other Guardians had left, until 8 o'clock, P.M.

The motion of Mr. Singleton, for dissolving the Board and requesting the Commissioners to appoint Vice-Guardians instead, was brought forward by that gentleman, and considerable difference of opinion on the subject stated. On my impressing on the Guardians the unwillingness of the Commissioners to supersede their functions, the confidence the Commissioners had in them, and the hope they expressed that Mr. Butler would continue to give his valuable services to the Union, assisted by the zealous co-operations of his fellow-Guardians, an amendment to the motion was carried by a large majority, that the question of dissolution be postponed until the second meeting of the newly-elected Board of Guardians, and that in the meantime increased exertions be made by the different members of the Board to carry out effectively the provisions of the Poor Law in this Union. Mr. Blake Butler, however, to whose most efficient services and untiring zeal the Union is so much indebted, declared the intention of which he had previously given notice, that he should not again occupy the chair, finding it impossible, consistently with his other avocations, to devote the time to the business of the Union which he considers to be necessary to the careful discharge of it, but promising to give the Board all the assistance in his power.

The retirement of Mr. Butler from the chair of this Board is, in my opinion, a death-blow to its efficiency.

With reference to the Commissioners' letter, dated the 7th instant, in reply to my report on the refusal of the Guardians to introduce cooked food, I have to state that I again this day pressed on the Board the advantage of this description of relief, and the illegality, as pointed out by the Commissioners under the 3rd

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section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, of continuing to give any other kind. The Guardians expressed their willingness to conform in every way to the strict letter of the law and instructions of the Commissioners, but still maintained that "wetted meal" or "cooked food," with the present staff of relieving officers, would, in so large and populous a Union as this, be impracticable; at the same time they declared their readiness to adopt cooked food provided the Commissioners would sanction the appointment of a relieving officer to each electoral division.

I cannot report this week any perceptible good arising from the stone-breaking test: whether it be that the stewards, owing to intimidation, do not exact the due amount of labour of this kind, I cannot say, but certainly the lists have not been much thinned thereby this week.

I have resolutely refused to permit any other kind of work, though much importuned by several Guardians, *ex-officio* and elected, to permit the unfinished roads, commenced under the Labour Rate Act, to be put in useful order.

The workhouse test has proved most effective. Room for 90 inmates being last week made, offers of admission to that number of able-bodied were tendered, and only 24 accepted.

I have no doubt that next week a much larger reduction will be obtained by this means.

I have remonstrated more than once with the clerk of the Union on his want of activity in obtaining the returns necessary for filling the different forms required by the Commissioners within a reasonable time. I have more particularly found fault with him for not being in a position to use the new form of minutes, which he promises shall not occur again. He complains of the difficulty of getting the particulars often required from relieving officers and rate collectors, whose inattention has been more apparent during my absence from the office this last week, whilst on temporary duty at Ennistymon.

I much regret to say that the prospects of cultivation in this part of the country are not of a cheering kind. There has been very little wheat sown, and as yet but very limited preparation for an oat crop. There is a general disposition to try the potato largely again; and I am informed, by competent authority, that a good breadth of the soil will be this season occupied with it. Still much land, from which a pauper tenantry has been ejected, will lie untilled and useless.

I shall proceed to-morrow morning to resume my duties as Temporary Vice-Guardian of Ennistymon Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

WITH reference to the introduction of the cooked food system in administering out-door relief to the able-bodied in Ennis Union, and to the expressed willingness of the Guardians to adopt that system, provided the Commissioners would sanction the appointment of a relieving officer to each electoral division, I am to state that the Commissioners will sanction the appointment of such a staff as in your opinion is absolutely necessary for carrying out the system of cooked food, and requiring at least eight hours' labour every day from each able-bodied pauper as a condition of relief.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 8, 1848.*

THE amount of unquestionable distress in the Ennis Union will require the continuance of out-door relief beyond the 18th instant, although I have every reason to believe to a much less extent than at present.

A considerable number of able-bodied men hitherto recipients of out-door relief, have been struck off during the last week, having refused the asylum offered them in the workhouse.

By the arrangement reported by me as having been made at the meeting of the Guardians on the 1st instant, whereby workhouse accommodation for 90 able-bodied men was placed at the disposal of the Board, a very satisfactory test of destitution was applied, only 24 of those to whom the provision in the house was offered having accepted thereof.

The continued wetness of the season, and consequent backwardness of spring culture, will, when the weather permits, cause labour to be of course in good

demand; still the result of every inquiry I have made leads me to think that a good deal of able-bodied destitution will be found to exist even at the time that it would be reasonable to expect all such to be absorbed by the ordinary agricultural business.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will be so good as to inform the Commissioners whether the state of the Union is such that the provisions of the accompanying order to Listowel Union could be carried into effect.

It will be observed, that under that order, single men, and men with only two children, would be thrown on their own resources.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 14, 1848.*

IN reply to the Commissioners' letter of the 11th instant, I have to state that from the amount of able-bodied labour in this Union, for which there is as yet no demand, owing to the interruption of the usual spring business, caused by the continued wetness of the season; and from the existence of considerable distress in the Union, I am of opinion (concurring in by some of the best informed of the *ex-officio* Guardians, including the late Vice-Chairman, Mr. B. Butler,) that the refusing of out-door relief, after the 18th instant, to able-bodied single men and able-bodied men with only two children, would be premature.

I would, at the same time, respectfully suggest to the Commissioners to issue their sealed order for the continuance, as at present in this Union, of out-door relief until the 25th instant; and in the meantime the most strenuous exertions shall be made for removing (as far as it may be possible) from off the relief lists, persons belonging to the two classes whom the Commissioners propose should be thrown on their own resources.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have directed that the order for out door relief be renewed until the 25th instant, as you recommend.

I am at the same time to request that you will be so good as to report to the Commissioners, if possible, by the post of the 22nd instant, (the next day of meeting of the Guardians), stating what further order you recommend, if any.

The Commissioners trust that by the time the renewed order has expired, the Guardians will be prepared to receive an order similar to that issued to Listowel, or a still further modification of the existing order.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for information of the Commissioners, that I yesterday attended the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians, of whom (with the exception of those *ex-officio*) there was as usual at the commencement of the proceedings a good number present; Doctor Healy, an elected Guardian, in the chair.

The Board is unanimously of opinion that the necessity exists for continuing out-door relief to the able-bodied in this Union for the present.

For the last fortnight every exertion has been used to detect imposition—the labour and workhouse tests in many instances successfully applied; still in the face of these facts, the numbers on the out-door relief lists are increasing; the new applications in most districts exceeding the number of able-bodied removed from them, and the weekly cost of external relief.

On the 26th February, viz., ...	£599 15 7
Compared with that on 4th March	623 1 3
Shows an increase of	<u>23 5 8</u>

I again impressed on the attention of the Board, the necessity of compliance
4 M

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with the directions of the Commissioners on the subject of issuing cooked food, and read the Commissioners' letter setting forth the illegality of any other.

The Guardians are anxious to carry out the Commissioners' instructions.

On a full consideration and discussion of the subject, it was the conviction of all present, that in order to issue even *steeped meal*, it would be necessary to appoint a relieving officer to each electoral division, and in that of Ennis a "cooked food or wetted meal distributor."

At present each relieving officer (three excepted) has under his charge a district comprising two electoral divisions. In these there are not less than two, sometimes three, food depots.

The number of recipients is so large that it takes a whole day at each of these to issue the supply of meal for one week. Thus, in every instance, two days, and in some three, are occupied in distributing a week's rations.

The relieving officer requires one day in the week for making up his accounts. He is obliged to attend at the workhouse on two days in each week, for the purpose of having his accounts examined and checked by the clerk, and of submitting them to, and receiving his instructions from, the Board of Guardians at their weekly meeting. Thus five, and in some cases six, days are accounted for. The officer has, therefore, no time to devote to what is not the least important part of his duty, viz., visiting the homes, and making himself acquainted with the circumstances of the several applicants. Therefore, in order to apply the cooked food or wetted meal test, a relieving officer for each electoral division would, in my opinion, be necessary.

I have obtained permission of the Board of Guardians to introduce *cocoa* as an article of diet in the house. Besides the advantages arising on the score of health, from variety of diet, a considerable saving is expected in the article of milk, a commodity always expensive at this time of year.

Orders have been given to Messrs. Harrison and Lee, of Limerick, for fitting up hot plates for baking; when completed, Indian meal bread and cocoa will constitute one meal for the paupers.

I brought before the Guardians the necessity which I believe to exist for further workhouse accommodation for this Union. There is no fever hospital attached to the workhouse. All fever patients are sent to the county hospital, situated outside this town.

This has been frequently made subject of complaint by the grand jury, and at the last assizes a question was proposed requiring that payment should be demanded for the admission of each workhouse patient, which question was thrown out by a small majority. Whenever a workhouse patient is dismissed from the hospital, a strong feeling exists against his immediate re-admission to the workhouse, fears being entertained of his still bearing about with him infection. In such cases the master has found the greatest difficulty in procuring a lodging for the pauper; so great is the apprehension the lower orders have of fever.

There are, adjoining the workhouse buildings, about eight statute acres of good land at present out of lease, and now occupied by two or three cottiers as tenants at will.

If the Commissioners would permit the Guardians to rent this land, a house of recovery for fever patients might, at no great expense, be erected, and further workhouse accommodation if approved of. There is an excellent quarry on the spot, and other materials easily procurable. Besides these advantages, from five to seven acres might be cultivated for the benefit of the house, the employment of the able-bodied inmates, and the instruction of the youths in husbandry.

Nothing can be better performed than the duties of master and matron, assistant master and assistant matron, in the government and cleanly maintenance of this establishment.

The schoolmaster and schoolmistress are alone inefficient.

The implements lent by the Board of Public Works, are now in the hands of the several working gangs, and stone-quarrying, barrowing, and breaking, in general operation in the Union.

The rate-books still exhibit names of parties whose rate should not be now unpaid, and amongst them some elected Guardians, notwithstanding that lists of defaulters have been made public.

The collectors last week did not make the anticipated amount of lodgments. Some of them have used fair exertion, and two were *severely beaten* in attempting to resist a rescue of cattle they had seized.

Looking at the existing amount of destitution in the Ennis Union, I much fear that in some of the poorer electoral divisions, the exigencies of the next six months will require the imposition of a very heavy rate.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 22, 1848.*

WITH reference to the necessity for continuing the authority to administer out-door relief under the 2nd section, the Commissioners await your report after the meeting of the Guardians to-morrow, and if it should still appear to the Guardians and to yourself that it is necessary to continue the present order, the Commissioners will be prepared to renew it for a short period, in the hope that at the expiration of such further period, it may be found practicable to modify it with a view to its subsequent suspension.

The Commissioners are anxious to meet the views of the Guardians as far as possible, and to afford them every facility for administering relief in cooked food, and they will therefore sanction the appointment of a relieving officer for each electoral division as proposed, on the understanding that the system is to be at once effectually carried into operation; and the Commissioners feel convinced that notwithstanding the additional expense which may be entailed upon the Union by the increased staff, it will be found in the long run that the system is more economical than that which has hitherto been acted on in Ennis Union, by rendering the relief less attractive, and therefore less likely to be fraudulently sought after by those who are not really destitute.

At the same time, as the number of relieving officers will now be very large, and the districts small (the average population of the districts being very little more than 4000), the Commissioners think that the Guardians should make their arrangements with a view to a future consolidation of some of the districts, and a reduction in the number of the relieving officers by removing such of them as shall have been found least efficient, when the out-door relief to able-bodied is discontinued, and the pressure of destitution is not so great as at present.

You will be so good as to confer with the Board of Guardians as to the salaries to be allowed to the relieving officers under the new arrangement, and in doing so you will bear in mind the general views stated in the Commissioners' Circular Letter of the 16th July last, (a copy of which is enclosed).

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The Commissioners will readily co-operate with the Board of Guardians in obtaining additional workhouse accommodation, and a fever hospital as you propose; and they would not object to additional land being taken for the purpose; such land, however, must be conveyed to the Commissioners, and they will require in the first instance that the title be examined by their legal adviser. The Commissioners do not encourage the taking of land for the purpose of employing the able-bodied paupers in cultivating it, experience having shown that such a course is inadvisable. It is very desirable, however, that arrangements should be made to enable the pauper children to receive instruction in field labour, and the Commissioners will readily co-operate in the purchase or hiring of land to be occupied with the workhouse for this purpose.

The Commissioners request you will again urge upon the Guardians the great importance of appointing a Visiting Committee who will act.

The Commissioners presume that the collectors, who you state were beaten in attempting to resist a rescue of cattle seized for poor-rate, have sworn the necessary informations before the magistrates with a view to proceedings being taken against the parties concerned in the rescue.

The Commissioners will feel obliged by your procuring and forwarding to them a list of the Guardians who you state have not paid their rates; and they desire to add, that however unwilling the Commissioners may be to supersede the Ennis Board of Guardians, the fact of any considerable number of their body having been allowed to remain in arrear with their poor-rates, coupled with the want of attention to the other ordinary duties of the Board, which the Commissioners regret to find has to some extent existed in Ennis Union, would,

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in the opinion of the Commissioners, form sufficient ground to justify them in adopting that course. As, however, a new election of Guardians is now about to take place, the Commissioners trust that the new Board will enter upon the discharge of their important duties in such a spirit as will tend to the benefit both of the rate-payers and the destitute poor, and will render a resort to the extreme measure of dissolving the new Board unnecessary.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 22, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, in reply to the Commissioners' letter of the 16th instant, that I have this instant had a conference with the Board of Guardians, who are still sitting on the subject of the application to this Union of the sealed order issued to the Listowel Union; and the Guardians are of opinion, in which I concur, that the result of the operation of the workhouse test during the last 10 days upon the two classes alluded to therein, will fully justify the application of a similar order to this Union.

The Guardians are of opinion, in which I concur, that it will be necessary to continue the order in this modified form for one month longer; and the Guardians have commissioned me to state that in the meantime they will adopt the most strenuous exertions to render the order then no longer necessary, or at all events in a very greatly modified form.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 23, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the order for the continuance of out-door relief will be issued in accordance with the request of the Guardians.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 23, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the usual weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday, at which there was a full attendance of members, ex-officio and elected, notwithstanding that the day was very unfavourable, and many had to come a long distance. I attribute this to the interest all had in considering the question of the new rate, which it was known was to occupy the attention of the Board.

Considerable discussion as to what amount of new rate should be declared took place. An estimate calculated by the clerk as to the probable expenditure of the next six months was submitted to the Board, and was found to have embraced every consideration necessary in computing such a calculation. From this document it appeared that in some electoral divisions the required rate would be 15s. in the pound; in others, 10s.; in others, 7s. 6d.; and in none less than 5s., with the exception of three electoral divisions. The majority, and certainly the most intelligent portion of the Guardians, held, that to declare such rates as those named would have a most injurious effect, and would defeat altogether the object of the Poor Law.

The better class of farmers (they alleged) now able with difficulty to pay the present rate, would, on hearing of such a rate as 15s. being declared, at once surrender their holdings and give up all idea of tilling; arguing that such a rate, in addition to the other demands on them, would deprive them of all return for their labour.

I strongly urged compliance with the Commissioners' instructions as conveyed in their circular, No. 239, accompanying the form to which it applies. I pointed out the error they would commit by withholding from the Commissioners the true state of the finances of their Union; its exigencies for the next six months, as nearly as they might be estimated, and the false position in which their affairs would be placed if they did not comply with the instructions given. The Guardians finally resolved on calculating the six months' expenditure in the manner prescribed by the Commissioners, setting forth the several particulars required by the form alluded to, but declaring for each electoral division in the Union a rate of 2s. 11d. in the pound.

This they admit will be quite inadequate, but for the reasons before stated they would prefer striking another rate on this one being expended, to declaring

now a rate adequate as to amount, but which they declare would never be collected, and would besides exercise a most injurious influence in the Union.

I had the honour of stating in a former report that having induced the Guardians to make room in the workhouse for 90, which by further judicious selections on the part of the master was increased to room for 180 able-bodied persons, the officers of the Union were in a position to apply effectively the workhouse test.

Anticipating the Commissioners' proposition relative to the single able-bodied and married able-bodied with not more than two children, I on the 8th instant issued instructions to the several relieving officers to refuse rations to those two classes, and instead thereof to offer them admissions to the workhouse. The result was that of the 180 vacancies not more than 92 were at any one time filled, that those who came into the house at night generally left it the next day or the following one, and that yesterday morning there were but 40 of the 180 on the master's roll.

Being Board-day, it was of course to be expected that the applications would be unusually numerous, and accordingly before night 50 names were added to it.

I beg to lay before the Commissioners the result numerically of the application of this test.

Number on the out-door relief lists:—

	Hheads of Families.	Number of Recipients of Rations.
4th March . . .	8,408	19,820
11th March . . .	7,725	19,129
Decrease . . .	683	691

The nomination of additional relieving officers yesterday will enable me to put the cooked food test in operation without further delay.

Several cases have been stated to me of bartering the dry meal for tea, tobacco, &c., which will thus be prevented.

I have, when not expected, visited some of the gangs of paupers employed in stone-breaking. I found the amount of work done almost invariably insufficient. The men are in almost every instance at work on some one of the roads left unfinished by the Board of Public Works. They are divided generally into three parties, one quarrying the material, another conveying it to be broken, and another breaking it. I found in one or two instances some persons employed in completing the road-fencing on those unfinished roads which were for want of this almost impassable; and I beg the Commissioners will inform me if the occasional employment of some of the able-bodied in this description of work be sanctioned by them.

I regret to report a considerable amount of uncollected rate, a large portion of which will, I fear, have to be carried forward as arrears.

One of the collectors being very ill in fever, has made the uncollected sum larger than it would otherwise have been. The illness of this collector, too, occasions a great difficulty in the preparation of the new rate-books for the district in which he collects.

The Union house requires nothing but painting to be in a state of the most perfect cleanly and efficient order.

I beg to say that I conferred with Mr. Leary, agent to the proprietor of the land adjoining the workhouse, relative to the possibility of the Commissioners' sanctioning its being taken for the purpose of building, &c.

Mr. Leary is an elected Guardian, and most anxious to afford every assistance in his capacity of agent in furthering the wishes of the Board of Guardians; but he states that there would be considerable difficulty in getting possession just now of the land from the present cottier holders, but that at an advanced period of the year he has no doubt they can be got rid of without the attendance of unpleasant circumstances.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 27, 1848.*

WITH regard to that part of your report in which you request to be informed whether the occasional employment of some of the able-bodied paupers

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in completing road-fencing would be sanctioned by the Commissioners, I am to state that the Commissioners are desirous that stone-breaking only should in the first instance be carried out to the utmost practicable extent. If, however, the work done by the paupers is as stated by you "almost invariably insufficient," this defect should be remedied with the least possible delay. It would seem to be certain that there must have been some default of duty on the part either of the Board of Guardians or of the overseers of labour, and it will be necessary to ascertain with whom the fault really lies. If the Board of Guardians have directed the overseers to require merely the performance of a task of work which is insufficient, the Commissioners request that you will bring the subject pointedly under the notice of the Board of Guardians, with a view to their issuing fresh instructions on the point. If, on the other hand, the overseers of labour have not carried out the instructions of the Guardians, the Commissioners would suggest that you should make a formal report on their conduct to the Commissioners.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 30, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the adjourned meeting of the Board of Guardians on Saturday the 25th instant, and its regular weekly meeting on yesterday.

At the former I regret to say the principal object for which the adjournment took place, viz, the signing the rate-books, was defeated, owing to the books not being ready, notwithstanding that additional assistance had been accorded at the meeting of the Board on the 22nd, for the purpose of insuring their completion.

I think the clerk, by no means an active officer, is not blameable in this case, he having to my knowledge brought the subject of the new rate and its requisite preparations before the notice of the Board more than a month ago. It would appear that the valuator has not exercised diligence, and that the backward state of the books is chiefly owing to his supineness. But he in his turn throws the blame on the collectors, whom he states he was unable to get to attend him, for the purpose of giving him the necessary information in reference to their books; they alleging that their time was quite occupied in collecting. Much dissatisfaction is felt by all occupying tenants, whose gale day is the 25th March, at the rate not being made before that date, as they will have to lie out of their money for nearly six months.

The Board have adopted the suggestion of the Commissioners with reference to publishing the names of all persons (heads of families), stating also the number in family, who are receiving out-door relief; and I hope it will be as useful here in detecting imposition, as I understand it to have been in the neighbouring Union of Kilrush.

Additional relieving officers having been sanctioned by the Commissioners, the distributing of meal in a wetted state has been already commenced, this being the first day. The distribution is necessarily not as effectively done as it will be in a few days, when the relieving officers and the contractor's men acquire a little practice, and when the depôts shall have been provided with the necessary vessels for delivering the meal expeditiously.

I trust it may prove an effective test. Of one thing I am certain, that already it is said to be very much objected to.

The few reductions from the lists attributable to the stone-breaking test, and my own observation of the want of activity on the part of the stewards, whenever I have visited any of the gangs, led me to advise that as the number of stewards might be now reduced by reason of the striking off the lists considerable numbers of the able-bodied, and a large saving effected by such reduction, a head overseer should be appointed at a liberal rate of pay, whose entire time should be occupied in inspecting the different working parties, and the overseer in charge, measuring the work done, and reporting weekly to the Board, the result of his inspection. Thus I think the test may be accomplished, but I am sure it has not been hitherto sufficiently actively enforced.

Knowing that the Guardians could know little of the qualifications of the person required for this situation, and fearing that favouritism, or individual interest might accomplish an election which would produce nothing but disappointment, I proposed to the Board that, declining to take tenders for the situation,

and laying aside in this case the form of election, they should apply to Mr. Hill, the county surveyor, to recommend them a person of character and ability. This Mr. Hill has very kindly done, and a man named Rowan has, on his recommendation, been appointed at a salary of 30s. per week. It is required of him that he shall keep a horse for the purpose of enabling him the better to visit the different working parties; that he report such as he shall have visited during the week on the Wednesday meeting; and that every gang in the Union shall have been inspected by him, and their work measured, within a fortnight. The form of report to be used by him is a modified form of that used in the Ballina Union.

The new building called a shed, intended hereafter for a spinning-house, has been converted into a very comfortable school-room for the female children, and their ordinary school-room into a dormitory capable of accommodating 90 individuals. The consequence of this extension of room will be seen in the reduction of numbers on the out-door relief lists, by the application thus afforded of the workhouse test:—

Date.	Heads of Families.	Total of Recipients.
18th March	7,885	20,221
25th March	7,682	19,382

Independently of the reductions here stated, there have been a large number of new applications, many of which have been admitted to the lists. Of the additions which have been made to the wings of the main building, one is now available as a day-room for the increased numbers admitted to the house, and the other will be ready in a week or ten days. The dormitories afforded by these additions will be available within three weeks.

The Board of Guardians will resume the long-neglected system of visiting Committees on the next day of their meeting when the new Board will assemble.

I regret much not to be able to report more satisfactorily of the state of the collection, which is becoming less each week. This to a certain extent must be expected in the case of the end of an old rate and the eve of a new collection; still when the increasing weekly expenditure is placed in juxtaposition with a decreasing exchequer, it occasions just ground for some anxiety.

I beg to subjoin a statement of the amount of collection on the 18th and 25th March, with a comparison of the excess of expenditure above receipts on those weeks:—

Date.	Collection.			Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
18th March	282	2	0	411	0	8½
25th March	209	14	10	417	5	5½

I have every hope that the new Board of Guardians will enter upon their duties with the zeal so strongly impressed on them by the Commissioners' letter of the 21st instant.

REPLY to the foregoing:—April 4, 1848.

THE Commissioners will feel obliged to you to report to them more fully as to the circumstances which prevented the signing of the rate books on the 25th ult., stating who, in your opinion, is the party really responsible for the delay. It appears from your report that the supineness of the valuator was the cause of the delay, but you do not state whether there is any ground for his excuse, that he could not obtain the necessary information from the collectors.

The Commissioners observe that the old rate continues in course of collection; that a sum of 248*l.* was collected last week, and that a sum of 305*l.* was uncollected at the close of the week. The Commissioners presume you are aware that it will be necessary, before the new rate books are signed, to close the present collection, and bring forward all the outstanding rate into the new books as arrear. If this were not done, there would, on the signing of the new books, be two rates in force in the Union at the same time, and this would be illegal.

The Commissioners approve the appointment of a head overseer, at a salary of 30s. per week, as proposed by you to the Guardians, under the circumstances stated in your report.

Ennis Union.

The Commissioners regret to find that the collection of the rate is not proceeding more satisfactorily; they rely upon your urging the collectors to increased activity, and impressing upon them the importance of proceeding energetically, and adopting every means which the law enables them to do, to enforce payment during the time that the present collecting books remain in their possession, in order that the arrear to be carried forward to the new books may be as small as possible. The collectors might also be informed that their continuance in office to collect the new rate will, to some extent, depend upon the manner in which they close the present rate.

The small collection and large expenditure form strong reasons for putting the new rate into collection as speedily as possible; and if it should be found necessary to carry forward any considerable amount of arrear, care should be taken that those ratepayers from whom the arrear is due should be called upon for the arrear, and the new rate at the earliest possible period; and, if necessary, proceedings should be taken to compel the payment without delay.

The Commissioners rely upon your using every exertion to stimulate both the Guardians and the collectors to an energetic discharge of their duty, so that, on the one hand, the adoption of vigorous measures may ensure the rates being speedily and satisfactorily collected; and on the other, a vigilant supervision, and a judicious economy in all departments of the Union, both in regard to in-door and out-door relief, may reduce the expenditure without depriving the destitute poor of that due and sufficient relief to which the law entitles them.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 31, 1848.*

I BEG leave to bring to the notice of the Commissioners a case which has been reported to me by Mr. Charles Lysaght, relieving officer of Kilmaley electoral division, which is unhappily true, and which presents features of unnatural cruelty, such as, I trust, are not often to be found.

Michael Kearney, a lad 15 years old, presented himself to claim relief for himself and his little sister, whom he stated to be unable to attend from weakness. His father died, he said, of starvation about 10 days ago.

He lives with his mother and eldest brother (a young man). They own three cows, two heifers, and one calf, and have land.

On inquiring into the circumstances of this family the relieving officer ascertained the melancholy fact (which the Guardian of the division has corroborated), that the wife and eldest son refused the father any share of the food which they possessed. That he was completely intimidated by them, and that they literally allowed him to starve.

In like manner they have refused, with incredible cruelty, to give more food to the boy and child before alluded to, than is sufficient to inflict on them a lingering death, intending that their distressing appearance should move the relieving officer to include them amongst the recipients of out-door relief.

Mr. Lysaght, an intelligent, active, and trustworthy officer, reports their appearance to have been so distressing as to appal even one so accustomed as he is to look upon wretchedness.

He of course humanely supplied their necessities provisionally; and I beg the Commissioners will instruct me as to what course should be promptly adopted in this case, and will inform me if any and what steps can be taken to punish a parent and brother who have acted so culpably.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report dated the 31st ultimo, in which you bring under the notice of the Commissioners the case of a boy named Michael Kearney, aged 15, who applied for relief for himself and his little sister, the latter being unable to attend from weakness. It appears from your statement that the father had recently died; and it is alleged that the mother and eldest brother (who own three cows, two heifers, one calf, and have land) refused the father any share of the food which they possessed, and allowed him to starve, and that they have now refused to give more food to the boy and child alluded to than is sufficient to inflict on them a lingering death.

In reference to your request for instructions as to the course to be adopted and what steps can be taken to punish the parent and brother, I am to state, that the boy being 15 years of age should receive such relief as the necessity of his case requires; the child should also be relieved, but in her case, the mother being liable for her support, proceedings should be taken against her under the 2nd section of the Irish Vagrant Act (10 and 11 Vict. cap. 84), which provides that every person who shall wilfully neglect to maintain his wife or any child whom he may be liable to maintain, so that such wife or child shall become destitute, and be relieved in or out of the workhouse of any Union in Ireland, shall on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace be committed to the common gaol or house of correction, there to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding three calendar months.

The Commissioners have forwarded a copy of your communication to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS—(without date).

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 3rd instant, in answer to mine, dated 31st ultimo, and conveying to me the Commissioners' instructions relative to the course to be pursued in the case of the Kearneys detailed therein.

I beg to state, for information of the Commissioners, that two of the family of Mrs. Kearney were yesterday received into the workhouse, viz., Michael Kearney, aged 15 years, and James his brother, aged, apparently, about nine years.

Their sister, mentioned in my report dated the 31st ultimo, was not sent with them, and I have not had an opportunity of inquiring of the relieving officer why she was not; I shall see him this day, and shall direct him to see the child, and if her appearance be similar to that of her two brothers, I shall direct him to bring her also to the workhouse.

The Commissioners' instructions to proceed against the unnatural mother under the 2nd section of the Irish Vagrant Act (10 and 11 Vict. cap. 84) shall be duly carried out.

I beg to transmit herewith a letter forwarded to me from the relieving officer of Killmaley electoral division in reference to the two male children sent to the workhouse.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. LYSAGHT to Mr. CRONYN:—April 3, 1848.

I FOUND James Kearney nearly dead on the road side; he is brother to Michael Kearney, which you took notes of his mother's treatment to him; I also send Michael, as I fear he would die, as no person would allow him one night's lodging from his sickly appearance; his mother has six cows and corn and land.

REPLY to the foregoing:—April 10, 1848.

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have forwarded a copy of your report, and of the letter from the relieving officer which accompanied it, to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 6, 1848.

I AM glad to state that there appeared to be on the part of the newly-elected Guardians a strong disposition to devote their time and best exertions in carrying out the administration of the Irish Poor Law.

One of the first questions which occupied the attention of the new Board was the impossibility under the present pressure to transact the business of the Union at a one day a week attendance, and they have very satisfactorily resolved on devoting a second day to the affairs of the Union, disposing on the usual Wednesday meeting of routine and other matters requiring the attendance of relieving officers, and reserving for the second day's Board such business as is least pressing, and such as will not require the presence of a relieving officer to transact.

I am happy to report that the new Board have attended to the Commissioners' instructions in appointing a Visiting Committee of four, two ex-officio and two

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elected Guardians, to be succeeded each week by another Committee similarly formed, and I have no doubt the affairs of the workhouse will be materially served thereby, although I cannot but reiterate my former reports in reference to it, viz., that no establishment of the kind can, as far as appertains to the master and matron's department, be better managed.

Throughout the Union rations are now issued in the form of steeped meal, and the issue hitherto, once, is now made three times a-week. As was, of course, to be expected, the change from dry to wetted meal has occasioned universal dissatisfaction in the recipients, thus showing that it cannot but be a useful test of real destitution.

On Monday last a considerable mob of persons of both sexes in Ennis, and belonging to the Ennis electoral division, beset my lodgings, and on my going out to proceed to the workhouse collected round me; at length interrupting my further progress. They were loud in their denunciations of all concerned in the distribution of relief, the Commissioners, myself, the relieving officer, and the Board of Guardians.

I explained to them that what they received was an act of charity, for which they gave no value, without which they and their families would perish, and that it therefore became them to receive it with gratitude and obedience, and that their putting into execution any of their threats would be the cause of an immediate stoppage of all relief, in any form, and an unpleasant recourse to the law in putting down turbulence or riotous conduct.

This had the effect of ridding me of their annoyance, but not apparently of removing their dissatisfaction.

I communicated to the Board the Commissioners' instructions as contained in their letter, dated the 3rd instant, in reference to the improper conduct of the mother of the children (Kearneys), since admitted to the workhouse, and the Board have accordingly directed that she be proceeded against under the "2nd section of the Irish Vagrant Act."

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 20, 1848.

I ARRIVED from Dublin on Tuesday evening, the 18th instant, and attended the usual weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians on yesterday.

I reminded the Guardians that the order for administering out-door relief would expire on the 25th instant, (their next Board day), and conferred with them on the necessity for its modification or renewal.

The Guardians would not admit that the present order could be at present altered, and wished that a renewal of it for another month should be applied for.

To this I opposed strenuous objections, reminding them that if they (the Guardians) did not, in the busy month of May, throw the able-bodied on their own resources, it would be vain to attempt a reduction of their lists before the harvest, and that the expense of such an omission on their part, would, in my opinion, constitute an enormous abuse of the Union funds.

I stated that I thought it could not be right that, in the labour-absorbing month of May, 18,610 persons should be fed by public charity, and I strongly recommended the Board to ask for no more than a ten-day's renewal of the Commissioners' sealed order, firmly resolving at the expiration of that time to refuse out-door relief altogether to able-bodied persons.

In order to be prepared to maintain this resolve, I recommended the Board to hire at any reasonable cost, a store in this town, which, with the additions recently completed at the workhouse, and the temporary accommodation obtained by applying the female school-room to dormitory use will enable us to offer the workhouse test to about 400 able-bodied. The Guardians adopted my advice, and have named a committee (of whom I am one) to treat with the proprietor for the temporary use of the store above named.

From the very large reductions already made by means of the workhouse test, I have very little doubt that we shall get rid of the able-bodied class entirely on the 5th of May, if we shall be by means of this store, in a position to offer it to all applicants. Should we be so fortunate as to procure it, I shall use the best exertions to have it ready by the date above named.

In the case of Halloran, who died in the infirmary, and whose death a coroner's jury found had been by the "want of the necessaries of life," I examined the

wife and two sons of the deceased on oath; as, however, there was further evidence which Francis Tamplin, the relieving officer, wished to be examined, the further investigation of the case was adjourned to the 26th instant, the additional evidence being summoned in the interim.

I inspected the workhouse this morning, and found it in its customary state of cleanliness and order. Ventilation is strictly attended to, and the constant employment of the paupers never relaxed. The inmates are healthy. The rate-books and every necessary preparation for striking the new rate will be ready on Wednesday, the 26th, and the rate be in course of collection immediately afterwards; application being first made to those whose rate shall have been carried forward as arrears, and steps taken to enforce, where necessary, its payment. I beg to subjoin a synopsis of the comparative income and expenditure of the Union for the weeks ended April 8th and 15th.

Date.	Number of Recipients of Out-door Relief.	Cost of Out-door Relief.	Cost of In-door Relief.	Excess of Expenditure above Receipts.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
April 8. .	18,185	590 0 0	82 19 10	544 10 8
April 15 .	18,610	517 15 10	85 16 2	398 2 1

The apparent discrepancy, viz., that a larger number of recipients of out-door relief on the 15th April should have been fed at a less expense than the smaller number on the 8th is accounted for by the fact, that at that time the old contract for meal, at 11*l.* per ton, was superseded by the new one at 9*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The collectors have during the past week been exerting themselves, as appears by the following comparative lodgments on the 8th and 15th:—

	£. s. d.
8th April	128 9 8
15th April	205 10 0

They have promised by Saturday next to lodge a considerable sum in the hands of the treasurer, when their accounts will be closed, and the uncollected balance carried forward as arrear.

REPLY to the foregoing:—April 25, 1848.

THE Commissioners fully approve of the exertions made by you to dispense with out-door relief to the able-bodied on the 5th May next, and the steps suggested by you with a view to providing additional workhouse accommodation appears to be judicious.

In regard, however, to the appropriation of the female school for dormitory accommodation, the Commissioners presume that adequate provision is made elsewhere for the children, and the Commissioners wish to call your particular attention to their circular letter of the 6th December last, a copy of which is enclosed, as to the importance of having an amount of day-room accommodation available, proportioned to the amount of sleeping accommodation.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 27, 1848.

I ATTENDED yesterday the weekly Board meeting of the Guardians of this Union, of whom there was a good attendance as to members.

I communicated to them the Commissioners' approval of their exertions to take such steps as may enable them to discontinue out-door relief to the able-bodied after the 5th of May.

There was, however, a place suggested to the Board in every respect appropriate, viz., an old brewery with yard, detached residence for master and matron, shed, boiler, and other conveniences, and perfectly secured.

The rent agreed on is 100*l.* per annum, with a clause of surrender at any time by six months' previous notice.

These premises have hitherto been occupied as a depôt by the Board of Public Works, but the proprietor stated his ability to give us possession on the 1st of

Ennis Union.

May, and that meantime preparations necessary to our occupancy of them might be carried on.

The examination adjourned from last Board-day, into the circumstances attending the death in the infirmary of Jeremiah Halloran, was resumed, by the taking of additional evidence, and the inquiry would have been concluded, had John Richil, the principal witness in accusation, attended the summons which was duly served on him.

His non-attendance and positive refusal to give evidence has obliged me to have him summoned under the 20th Section of the Irish Poor Relief Administration Act, before the magistrates. His attendance being thus secured, the examination of this case will then be terminated.

The head overseer reported to the Board the progress made since last week in stone-breaking, when it appeared, that in those gangs which were kept constantly to eight hours' work, there were several stoppages of rations on account of absence.

His report also contained the names of those stewards whom he found to be inattentive and absent from their posts.

In these cases, the Guardians have stopped their week's pay, and intimated that a repetition of the charge will cause their dismissal.

The rate-books were signed, and the time required to elapse by the Act being passed, the collection of the new rate will be vigorously proceeded with.

The arrear to be carried forward appears considerable, but there are circumstances attending the collection of the last rate, which I would beg leave to call the Commissioners' attention to.

It will be remembered that the whole of the money collected was obtained in a district notorious for its dangerous and lawless character, and that it was only since the proclamation of it, and since the effect of the special commission has been felt that a collector could feel safe in the performance of his duty.

Meantime, I fear some inconvenience will be felt by reason of the funds being exhausted.

	£.	s.	d.
The whole amount of the collectors' lodgments for the week ended 22nd April, being	103	10	0
Sums lodged subsequently to the making of the treasurer's account	59	0	0
Total lodgments	162	0	0
Excess of expenditure above receipts	425	1	1½

Leaving a very small balance to the credit of the Union in the treasurer's hands.

The relieving officers being called on to explain the reason why, with a decrease in the number of cases there should be an increase in the number of recipients of out-door relief, stated in explanation that it was occasioned by the very numerous recent evictions as well as voluntary surrender of houses and lands, each case almost being that of a man with a family.

In consequence of a separate workhouse establishment being formed, an increase of staff will be of course unavoidable.

Additional medical attendance will then, I presume, be required, and I should feel obliged by having the Commissioners' views on the subject, as to which would be preferable, the appointment of a second medical officer, at a salary equal to that of the present one, or the allowance of an assistant to Dr. Cullenan, the present officer, with an increase of salary to him.

REPLY to the foregoing:—May 2, 1848.

IN reference to your statement, that the rate-books were signed, and the time required to elapse by the Act being passed, the collection of the new rate will be vigorously proceeded with, the Commissioners desire to observe that the rate is collectable immediately on the publication of the notice required by the 70th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, and the 11th section of the Temporary Relief Act.

The Commissioners desire to express their satisfaction at the introduction of the cooked food system in the administration of relief, as they are convinced that it will be found, if fully and fairly carried out, to be beneficial both in an economical point of view as regards the rate-payers, and in a sanitary point of view, as regards the poor recipients.

With regard to the necessity of additional attendance, in consequence of a second workhouse having been established, the Commissioners desire to state, that in most instances where temporary auxiliary workhouses have been obtained, the course adopted has been to remove an entire class or classes of inmates from the original workhouse to the additional workhouse, and to remove back again to the infirmary of the workhouse any members of such classes as may become sick, and require medical attendance. If the Guardians adopt this plan, the appointment of a second medical officer would appear to be wholly unnecessary.

The classes usually removed are the school children, and as the schoolmaster and schoolmistress are removed with them, no additional staff would appear to be required, and such assistance as the schoolmaster and schoolmistress may find necessary, could probably be given by trustworthy adult paupers selected from the workhouse for that purpose.

In reference to the person summoned before the magistrates for refusing to attend and give evidence, the Commissioners request you to observe that the offence is a misdemeanour, and punishable not on summary process, but by indictment.

Mr. CRONYN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 28, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for information of the Commissioners, that in reference to the case of Mrs. Kearney, whose children, now in the workhouse, were found in a state of destitution, bordering on starvation, though it was proved she was in circumstances to have afforded them sustenance, the presiding magistrate, Captain Lyne, has this day sent her to prison for one month, with hard labour, for the maintenance of her children in the poor-house; she shall also be held accountable.

COOTEHILL UNION.

The Rev. S. ROBERTS, Curate of Killeshandray, and the Rev. M. M'QUAID, P.P.,
to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 8, 1848.*

WE, the Protestant and Roman Catholic clergymen of the parish of Killeshandray, which includes the divisions of Tullyvin, Ashfield, and part of Cootehill electoral division, request that you will kindly lay the following statement before the Poor Law Commissioners.

We beg to say that no persons can know or do know more accurately the state of the poor of this parish than we do, being constantly resident amongst them, and by our callings, necessitated to witness their varied circumstances in life; and, therefore, we the more confidently lay before you their state. The poorhouse, as you are aware, is full to overflowing. The number of able-bodied paupers and their families in the parish exceed 1000 souls, deserted women and children more than 100 souls, exclusive of the aged and infirm. We, therefore, earnestly request your honourable Board, as the poorhouse of Cootehill is *full*—as there is *no employment* in drainage or otherwise, going on in the parish—as typhus fever is very prevalent indeed, owing in a great degree to the destitution—and as the number of destitute persons is daily increasing by the eviction of small farmers for non-payment of rent or otherwise—we earnestly request that you will, as soon as possible, afford relief to the above classes, lest the consequences of starvation, namely, *pestilence and death*, disgrace the Cootehill Union, as it did that of Cavan recently; for we beg to assure your honourable Board, that there is not a poorer district than the parish of Kill, in this part of the kingdom.

We further respectfully suggest, that a second station for issuing relief be opened in the Ashfield division *at Kill*, as owing to the great extent of said division, it extending nine miles in length, and the relieving officer residing in the *lower end*, many of the aged and infirm have, at this inclement season of the year, to walk *five or six* miles for their scanty relief, and very many of them are nearly naked.

We know that one house where the out-door relief was dispensed last summer, can be gotten at Kill for a very small annual rent; and this station would reduce the distance that these poor naked creatures have to travel, three miles at least.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have directed a communication to be addressed to the Board of Guardians on the subject.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF GUARDIANS:—*January 14, 1848.*

READ letter “from the Poor Law Commissioners, 11th January, accompanying a copy of a letter from the Protestant and Roman Catholic clergymen of the parish of Killeshandray, relative to the prevalence of distress, &c., in that parish, and calling the attention of the Guardians to the subject. Ordered, to be referred to the Guardians of the Ashfield division, and that they be requested to make inquiry relative to the statements therein contained, and report the result of their inquiries to the Board on next day of meeting.”

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF GUARDIANS:—*January 7, 1848.*

“A LETTER from the treasurer was read, stating that the first instalment of 750*l.*, amounting to 250*l.*, together with interest at 5 per cent., amounting to 37*l.* 10*s.*, advanced by the Bank for the erection of a fever hospital, becomes due to-morrow, and requesting a cheque on the Guardians' account for the amount. Ordered, that the clerk be directed to inform the treasurer that when funds sufficient shall be placed in his hands to meet the demand, a cheque will be drawn for the amount.”

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. BARRON, Inspector, on the foregoing :—
January 19, 1848.

Cootehill Union.

It appears that in consequence of this letter, the treasurer has impounded the balance in favour of the Guardians, amounting to 225*l.*, as part payment of his demand, and by this means, has left the Guardians without the means of giving out-door relief during this week. I purpose attending the Board on Friday, and if the Guardians do not raise funds for the purpose of relieving the destitute, and enforce the collection of the rate forthwith, the Commissioners must have recourse to the 18th section of the Act.

The Rev. S. ROBERTS to the COMMISSIONERS:—January 18, 1848.

I WILL thank you to lay the following particulars before the Commissioners for their serious and *immediate* attention.

It is not only with much pain, but with extreme reluctance, that I intrude on the valuable time of the Commissioners; but as the case is most urgent, a deep sense of duty to the poor compels me thus to act, for while I write *hundreds* are starving around me. For the last *three* weeks no relief has been afforded in the Tullyvin division of the Cootehill Union, or to any of those entitled to it under Section 1 of the New Poor Law. There was no money, neither was any relief afforded in the Ashfield division this week to the same class; the relieving officer of Ashfield had to *borrow* money last week on his *own responsibility* for that purpose. But Tullyvin division is, if possible, more destitute than Ashfield, as the property is under the Court of Chancery. I do not blame any party for this state of things; but I make this statement to your honourable Board, in order that you may at once rectify it, for every hour that relief is withheld is an hour of intense suffering to the starving poor. One poor little child, named Gulshenan, *died of hunger in Tullyvin division on Saturday last*. There is *no employment* in this parish for the labouring class, and, therefore, the distress is most urgent. Can, supposing that is granted, 8*d.* per week provide food, clothing, fire, and lodging for adults?—and this, you are aware, is the miserable allowance for adults, and these adults *aged and infirm*. I do not believe that the collectors are doing their duty; they were not recently. I know one most respectable rate-payer who in my presence gave a list of rate-payers to a Guardian as being fully competent to pay their rates, who were returned by the collector *insolvent*.

I am, alas! fully aware of the difficulties of carrying out the New Poor Law in such distressed districts as this is; but let *all due* exertion be used, and let not the New Poor Law be a solemn mockery. *I am quite sure* that each poor-house could nearly support itself. I am quite sure that, except the poor-houses become workhouses, where the youth of both sexes shall be trained to habits of self-denying industry, the Poor Law system will ere long become an *intolerable burden*. I am sure that if Count De Rumford's plan, as adopted by him at Munich, were earnestly carried out in our poor-houses, the aspect of the country would soon be altered; but then we must have pains-taking, energetic, business-like men to do this—men who, while they feel that *their all is at stake*, feel also an anxious desire to elevate their poor fellow-creatures in the scale of being; and idleness will not do that.

I would also beg respectfully to suggest to your honourable Board, that the Guardians, the wardens, and the relieving officer of each division, should meet at a given place weekly in the division, and form a sub-committee to investigate all applications for relief, and make their weekly report to the Board of Guardians at their sitting: thus much time would be saved the Board, who have many other things to attend to, as well as considering applications for relief; the rate-payers would be protected, and the *really destitute* poor would be relieved.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS:—January 20, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Board of Guardians of Cootehill Union, an extract from a further letter which the Commissioners have this day received from the Rev. Samuel

Cootehill Union.

Roberts, relative to the state of Tullyvin and Ashfield divisions of Cootehill Union; and the Commissioners request the attention of the Guardians to the statements therein, from which it would appear that effectual relief is by no means afforded to the destitute poor in the divisions referred to.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BARRON:—*January 20, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit to you herewith a further communication which they have this day received from the Rev. Samuel Roberts, relating to the state of the destitute poor in Tullyvin and Ashfield divisions of Cootehill Union, together with the previous communication from Mr. Roberts and the Rev. M. M'Quaid, relating to the same divisions, which has been already referred to you; and the Commissioners request that you will report generally on the condition of Cootehill Union, and regarding the best course to ensure effectual relief to the destitute poor.

The Rev. S. ROBERTS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 21, 1848.*

I BEG to forward to you, for the consideration of the Poor Law Commissioners, the following resolution passed at the last meeting of the Board of Health for the Tullyvin and Ashfield divisions.

"That a letter be written to the Commissioners to know whether in the case of persons leaving the hospital, the relieving officer is empowered and required to afford such persons relief of a temporary kind, and at an higher rate than that afforded to more healthy parties (who are on out-door relief), as some have been known to relapse from want of that temporary aid.

"JOHN MARSDEN in Chair.

"Board-room, Vicar's Hill,
January 19, 1848."

REPLY to the foregoing:—*January 25, 1848.*

PROVIDED the parties can legally receive out-door relief, the Guardians may order such relief as the necessity of the case requires out of the work-house.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS:—*January 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Guardians of Cootehill Union, a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from the Rev. Samuel Roberts, relative to the relief of sick persons after leaving hospital, together with a copy of the Commissioners' reply.

EXTRACTS FROM GUARDIANS' MINUTES of 21st January, 1848.

READ letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, 20th January, accompanying an abstract from a letter from the Rev. Samuel Roberts, relative to the state of the Tullyvin and Ashfield divisions, and requesting the attention of the Guardians to the statements therein.

The Guardians of the Ashfield division to whom Mr. Roberts' letter was referred on last day of meeting, suggested that a second depôt should be opened in the Ashfield division, at Kill, for the distribution of relief, which was unanimously agreed to, and the relieving officer was directed to attend there for that purpose till 1st April next.

The Rev. S. ROBERTS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 1, 1848.*

I BEG that you will lay the following particulars before the Poor Law Commissioners for their serious consideration. I had hoped that my last letter of the 18th January, would have altogether rectified the fearful and melancholy

state of things in the Union of Cootehill generally, but in the divisions of Ashfield and Tullyvin, as also in that part of Cootehill division lying in Kill parish, particularly with the state of which latter divisions, I am, alas! so intimately acquainted, for the following reasons:—by my being the resident clergyman for 12 years, and in being the chairman of the Tullyvin, and very generally the chairman of the Ashfield Relief Committees during the trying season of last year, together with being a constantly attendant member of the baronial committee of the Public Works last winter and spring. For four weeks there has not been any out-door relief administered in Tullyvin Division to any class; in Ashfield, the relief is afforded very irregularly; in Cootehill division, the poor on the out-door relief list had to pay the relieving officer of that district $\frac{1}{2}d.$ in their $8d.$ discount, as the relieving officer had to borrow the money himself!! I send attached to this letter a list of poor in the Tullyvin and Ashfield divisions, who have been hitherto refused relief by the Cootehill Board of Guardians or their relieving officers. From a letter from the clerk of the Board of Guardians, dated January 17, 1848, I send the following extract: "With reference to the poor widow alluded to in your letter, she is "not qualified to receive out-door relief except she has two or more legitimate "children actually dependent on her, if she is not permanently disabled by old "age and infirmity." This extract refers to a poor widow, named Sarah Mullen,* whose state you will see in the appended list. It appears to me a strange thing, that a widow without any children, or a widow with two or more children, should be competent for relief, but a widow with one child is to be allowed to starve. I now come to a class which I think ought to be regarded with particular attention, I mean deserted women and their children, for truly theirs is a most aggravated case, and they are suffered as yet to starve also. I now come to the able-bodied cottier: In this district there is no public or private work for such; no drainage; no employment, as the farms are generally so small, and the occupiers so poor, that whatever work is to be done, is done in 19 cases out of 20, by the occupier himself. Is this class therefore to continue to starve also? for their wretchedness is nearly intolerable; and were it not for the persevering activity of our worthy parish priest, Mr. M'Quaid, many outrages would long ere this have been perpetrated. In fact, gentlemen, the state of the poor in this parish and in the neighbouring parishes is heartrending in the extreme. Why has not the 3s. rate that was apportioned in October, now three months ago—why has it not been collected yet? Will it become easier of collection as the season advances? No. From my long experience of public matters in Ireland, a period of 25 years, I am fully convinced that none but paid Guardians will be found fit to carry out the law in its integrity in Ireland; for it is contrary to human nature as a rule, to expect that men, whether proprietors or farmers, and of these our Boards of Guardians are constituted, who are heavily encumbered, will carry out that relief for the poor, which is to come out of their own pockets. Another death has occurred in the Tullyvin division since I last wrote to your honourable Board, the little boy of an able-bodied cottier, named Mulligan. How long, gentlemen, are these evils to go on? How long are the poor to starve when there is a law for their provision? How long, when the haggard wretch goes to the relieving officer for relief, is he to be put off with a ticket to the poor-house, when the officer knows in his heart he cannot be admitted there? Your order, which is broken through every week, forbidding more people to be admitted as the house is overcrowded. How long is $8d.$ per week to be the stipend for providing clothing, lodging, fuel, and food for our aged and infirm, as well (when they get it) as for our able-bodied poor; $8d.$ per week outside, $17d.$ per week inside? I trust your honourable Board will this week amend these things, for if you do not, the death of many will be reasonably laid at your door; that is, if you have the power, and neglect to exercise it. Before paid Guardians were appointed in Cavan, the Union was heavily in debt, now they have 4000*l.* in hands; thus the poor are relieved, and contracts kept down. I trust you will excuse me for this letter, nothing but stern duty compels me, but it is the duty of my office, firmly, calmly, and perseveringly, to advocate the cause of my poor, poor people; and I will do so.

Cootehill Union.

ENCLOSURE.

LIST of STARVING POOR in TULLYVIN and ASHFIELD DIVISIONS for the week ending
January 29, 1844.

TULLYVIN DIVISION.

Name.	Town.	Age.	No. of Children.	General Observations.
Mary Henthorn	Drumilla	60	1	A widow, and starving.
Anne Clukin	Coyreegh	60	1	Ditto ditto.
Mary Hughes		40	2	Recently in fever, widow, and starving.
Anne Smith	Ahatobin	50	..	Herself, starving.
Betty M'Donald	Druncalles	60	1	Widow, starving.
Ellen Reilly	Anaglough	40	..	Single, very infirm, starving.
Biddy Clarke	Balrussan	60	..	Aged and infirm, starving.
Margaret Reilly	Drungan	70	..	Very aged and infirm, starving.
Kitty Hughes	Gorten	70	..	Widow, aged and infirm, starving.
James Brady	Trenany	30	..	An idiot, starving.
Margaret M'Entee	Balrussan	35	4	Deserted, starving.
Rose M'Cann	Drumatide	35	..	Infirm.
Biddy Smith	Aughboyle	40	1	Deserted, starving.
Rose Foy	Coyreegh	60	..	Very destitute.
Anne Foy	Dunegan	70	..	Old and infirm, starving.

ASHFIELD DIVISION.

Anne Donohoe	Lung	60	..	Totally destitute.
*Sarah Mullen	Cordo	60	1	Widow, infirm, and starving.
Sarah Clukin	Drungaf	45	1	Deserted, starving.
Anne Smith	Cordo	60	1	Widow, starving.
Anne Halton	Drumitton	45	1	Deserted, starving.
Rose Smith	Lung	45	..	Single, totally destitute.
Susan Travers	Cordo	50	2	Totally destitute.
Margaret King	Corfad	50	1	Widow, totally destitute.

SAM. ROBERTS.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 2, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are in communication with their Inspector, Mr. Barron, on the state of Cootehill Union, and regarding the course which may be best calculated to ensure effectual relief to the destitute poor therein; and the Commissioners are in daily expectation of a report from Mr. Barron on the subject.

The COMMISSIONERS to MR. BARRON:—*February 2, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit to you herewith a further communication which the Commissioners have this day received from the Rev. S. Roberts, relating to the distress in parts of Cootehill Union, together with the draft of the Commissioners' reply, and I am to call your attention to the letter addressed to you on the 20th ultimo, instructing you to report on the subject; and am to request that you will furnish the Commissioners with your report with the least possible delay.

The Rev. S. ROBERTS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 2, 1848.*

As I should be very sorry that any misstatement should be made by me in my communications to your honourable Board, I beg to say, that it was for three weeks no out-door relief was afforded, and not for four as I stated in my letter yesterday, in Tullyvin. It has also been stated to me that the reason Sarah Mullen did not get relief from the Guardians was, that she was a servant of mine, and that such statement was made to your Inspector by some person in the Board-room. *Nothing has less foundation for truth in it than such a statement.* I have her little daughter as a servant, but that is all, and her wages is but sufficient for her decent clothing. I think, Sir, with all respect for the Commissioners, that the answer of the Guardians should be always furnished

to any party making a charge against them. There is no elected Guardian for Tullyvin, he resigned. The two Guardians for Ashfield live, the one at the old bridge of Cootehill, or Clementstown, the other at Killacurry : what can they know of the state of the poor in my parish ?

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The COMMISSIONERS to the Rev. S. ROBERTS :—*February 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have referred your letter to their Inspector, Mr. Barron, with reference to the inquiry and report, which he has already been instructed to make on this subject.

Mr. BARRON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 6, 1848.*

ACCORDING to your directions I attended this Board, with the view of investigating the allegations contained in the letters of the Rev. Mr. Roberts, with reference to the destitute state of the Tullyvin and Ashfield electoral division in this Union. Considerable distress no doubt prevails in these divisions, but not to the extent stated in the different communications to the Commissioners. It appears that one of the persons particularly alluded to by the Rev. Mr. Roberts, the widow Mullen, was offered a ticket of admission into the workhouse on several occasions, which she refused ; and that the daughter of the said Mary Mullen is in his service. With respect to the other persons mentioned by the Rev. Mr. Roberts and the Rev. Mr. M'Quaid, I have made inquiries as to the facts from the relieving officers, and I annex a statement relative to each individual case.

The Commissioners, however, having requested of me to report generally on the state of the Cootehill Union, I beg to state that considerable distress prevails throughout the entire district ; that, with the exception of Lord Cremorne, Mr. Charles Boyle, and Mr. Lucas Clements, who are really anxious to relieve the wants of the poor, none of the landed proprietors of this district are giving employment. The farms are wretchedly small, and the farmers generally very poor. In this state of things it is difficult to provide for the wants of the destitute poor from want of funds ; the farmers being unable (in several divisions) to pay the poor-rate.

The out-door relief to persons relievable under the 1st section of the Act was discontinued by the Guardians in consequence of the want of funds ; and from the manner in which the rate is collected, the number of persons applying for relief, the liabilities of the Union, and its impoverished state, I apprehend that it will be utterly impossible for the Guardians to conduct the affairs of the Union unless they obtain a considerable sum of money for that purpose from their treasurer : this they cannot obtain unless the most influential portion of the Guardians give their own personal security, which they will not do. Under these circumstances, looking at the condition in which the Union is at present, its liabilities, the unfavourable contracts which the Guardians have entered into from want of funds, the small progress that has been made in the collection of the rates, the difficulty of collecting them, and the increasing destitution in the district, I consider that the Commissioners have no alternative but to dissolve the Board.

I cannot close my report without bearing testimony to the generous support I have received in the discharge of my duty from Lord Cremorne, Mr. Charles Boyle, and Mr. Lucas Clements ; and, but for the very embarrassed state in which I found the finances of the Union in taking charge of it, and the reduced state in which the farmers of the district are in this year, from various causes, I have no doubt whatever but that with their assistance, I should have been able to have brought the affairs of the Union to a healthy and satisfactory state.

ENCLOSURE.

PARTICULARS as ascertained from the relieving officers relative to the cases reported by the Rev. Samuel Roberts :—

Tullyvin Division.

Mary Henhorn,—getting out-door relief.
Anne Clukin,—able-bodied, has not applied.

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Mary Hughes,—not known.
 Anne Smith,—able-bodied, refused ticket to workhouse.
 Betty M'Donald,—not known, no application.
 Ellen Reilly,—ditto ditto.
 Biddy Clarke,—able-bodied, no family.
 Margaret Reilly,—not known, no application.
 Kitty Hughes,—ditto ditto.
 James Brady,—not idiotic, got ticket for workhouse, did not come in.
 Margaret M'Entee,—refused ticket to workhouse.
 Rose M'Cann,—ditto ditto able-bodied.
 Biddy Smith,—on out-door relief.
 Rose Foy,—ditto.
 Anne Foy,—not known.

Ashfield Electoral Division.

Anne Donohoe,—lives with son-in-law, Mick Murray, farmer, refused ticket to workhouse.
 Sarah Mullen,—on for two weeks in consequence of accident, one daughter in Mr. Roberts's service.
 Sarah Clukin,—refused ticket to workhouse, Guardians refused to give other relief.
 Anne Smith,—ditto ditto said Mr. Roberts said he would compel relieving officer to give her out-door relief.
 Anne Halton,—able-bodied, refused ticket to workhouse, has only one child.
 Rose Smith,—able-bodied, refused ticket to workhouse.
 Susan Travers,—ditto ditto lives with brother.
 Margaret King,—ditto ditto two illegitimate children.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*February 10, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their most serious consideration the recent correspondence with the Guardians of Cootehill Union, relating to the distress and destitution represented as prevailing in many parts of the Union, especially in the electoral divisions of Tullyvin and Ashfield.

The Commissioners observe with satisfaction that at the last meeting of the Guardians, exertions appear to have been made to relieve the existing distress, and that funds were placed in the hands of the relieving officers for this purpose, to the extent of 95*l.* 10*s.*; while the number of persons reported on the minutes as receiving out-door relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act during the previous week were, 3367.

The Commissioners are bound at the same time to remark, that relief on this extended scale should, in their opinion, have commenced at an earlier period in Cootehill Union, whereby great suffering on the part of many of the labouring classes would have been alleviated by more timely aid, and some fatal consequences perhaps prevented. The Commissioners are far from supposing that indifference existed on the part of the Guardians to the sufferings of the destitute poor, but they feel at the same time that due exertion has not been made by the Board and its officers to make and collect sufficient rates to meet a contingency, of the certain approach of which, warning has long been given. Thus it appears that in January, 1847, a rate of 5044*l.* was made, the collection of which lasted during the entire year, leaving an arrear of 835*l.* on the 31st December; while the larger rate agreed to by the Guardians in September last, remained in abeyance until nearly the close of the year; the rate-books for a part only of the Union having been signed on the 17th December, and the rates for some of the electoral divisions not having even yet been made.

The debts of the Guardians on the 31st December, 1847, were 2346*l.*, and the Commissioners observe a resolution on the last minute to apply to the treasurer for a loan of 1200*l.*

The consequence of this financial embarrassment is, that notwithstanding the present disposition of the Guardians to afford effectual relief to the destitute poor, they are by no means in a situation to do so; and the Commissioners derive from the past but little confidence in the future exertions of the Guardians and their officers, to realize the rates necessary to discharge their debts, and to provide for the requirements of the Union during the present emergency.

The Commissioners, therefore, while acknowledging the personal exertions of individual members of the Board, feel it their duty to provide for the effectual relief of the poor in Cootehill Union during the present season of

difficulty and distress, by dissolving the Board of Guardians, and appointing paid officers to act in the execution of their duties. Coutehill Union.

A copy of the order dissolving the Board of Guardians is enclosed herewith.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of Proceedings of Guardians :—*January 28, 1848.*

Resolved,—That the Poor Law Commissioners be applied to, to sanction out-door relief to widows with one child, and women with families deserted by their husbands previous to January, 1848; also to orphans, and convalescents able to be sent out of hospital.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION :—*February 19, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration minutes of proceedings of the late Board of Guardians of Coutehill Union on the 28th ultimo, in which they requested that an order might be issued to authorize out-door relief to certain classes of destitute poor not included in section 1 of 10 Vic., c. 31; and having communicated with their Inspector, Mr. Barron, on the subject, the Commissioners have resolved to issue an order to authorize out-door relief to widows with one child or more, to women whose husbands are in confinement or absent from Ireland, and who have a child or children, and to orphans.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 21, 1848.*

WE have the honour to submit to you, for the information of the Commissioners, our report of the state of this Union.

On our arrival we found 1121 paupers in the workhouse, built only to contain 840: the consequence was, from its overcrowded state, that fever and other sickness were increasing to an alarming degree; there were 73 cases of fever; other sickness, 138; total, 211: the number of deaths during the previous three months amounted to 74. This overcrowding of the workhouse was continued by the late Board of Guardians contrary to the repeated exhortation of the medical officer, and against the order of the Commissioners; and the only measure adopted by the Guardians was hiring two houses in the town as dormitories for the children, who were brought back every morning to the workhouse.

The applicants for out-door relief amounted to upwards of 6000; the elected Guardians, at all times willing to increase this list, although taking no steps to obtain funds to meet the expenses; and the relief given by the relieving officers was open to many objections on the part of the ratepayers, being in money, and not in food, and given, as was alleged, with a great deal of favouritism.

There were no funds in the hands of the treasurer to meet the demands for the relief of the destitute poor, daily increasing in numbers, with a rate struck on only six electoral divisions, being but one-half of the Union, the collectors of which were totally regardless of their duty; and no measures were adopted by the late Board to enforce the collection; the consequence was, that a heavy debt of nearly 3000*l.* was incurred, with which we had to contend, along with many other evils, on our taking charge of the Union. Two of the late collectors were defaulters; one of them, named Mohan, having absconded with his collecting books, and an arrear of rate amounting to 300*l.*; the other collector, McCabe, having likewise in his hands a sum of upwards of 50*l.*

The late Board had taken no decisive steps to bring those parties to justice, or to make their sureties available. The collectors' accounts were delayed being brought to a final adjustment, in consequence of the majority of elected Guardians outvoting the few of the Board who were inclined to propose any measure for a satisfactory arrangement of the accounts. The rate struck, as heretofore mentioned, amounted only to the sum of 6747*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, to meet the large debt due by the Union, and to support the expenses of the foregoing immense number of recipients of in-door and applicants for out-door relief. We also discovered that considerable jobbing had taken place by contractors; it was difficult in consequence to induce respectable parties to offer supplies. The accounts of the late master, imperfectly and fraudulently made up, in

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order to rob the Union, and prevent a correct view of the real balance, of either provisions or clothing, properly chargeable to him. We have now, after a searching and troublesome examination of his books, ascertained the correct balance, and directed proceedings to be taken against his sureties for the amount. The clothing department totally inefficient in supply to meet the changes requisite for the health of the inmates.

No trades or other useful occupation are encouraged or in progress, with the view of employment in the workhouse. The reports of the medical officer are most alarming; and the temporary fever hospital in connexion not at all sufficient to receive that class of destitution.

The majority of the ratepayers discontented with the want of a scrutiny of the valuation or a yearly revision, to meet the many changes daily taking place in the holdings of the Union. Such are a portion of the difficulties we had to encounter; and we shall now proceed to detail the measures we have adopted to overcome them, and to place the affairs of the Union in a better position.

We, immediately after our arrival, made inquiries with the view of renting a house in the Union, and thus to decrease the numbers in the workhouse, and to enable us to apply the test to the many able-bodied applicants for out-door relief. We failed in obtaining one suitable until the last week. We are now in treaty for an extensive concern, formerly used as a mill, situate near Aughamullen, about four miles from Cootehill, capable of holding upwards of 400. We have been offered this house at a rent of 35*l.* per annum; the roof and lofts are in good repair; and we propose, should the Commissioners sanction the proceeding, to send all the children of both sexes there, with the schoolmaster and schoolmistress and two female wardens; this arrangement will prevent the necessity of a second staff of officers, and thus prevent a considerable expense to the Union. The outlay on this concern will be but trifling, and can be made without much delay. This will be a great relief to the workhouse, and enable us to make use of the temporary dormitories rented in Cootehill for the reception of those afflicted with fever, and thus remove from the workhouse all contagious disease.

We have carefully examined into the books of the relieving officers, and made arrangements to give out-door relief in food, and not as heretofore in money. We invited the inspection of the ratepayers thereto; and we trust in a short time, by constantly revising them, to check the favouritism and fraud, and to give relief to those really deserving. With this view, we have requested and obtained the co-operation of many of the Protestant and Roman Catholic clergymen of the Union, who visited us on our arrival, cheerfully offering their services in that duty, as well as giving their assistance and advice towards a speedy collection of the poor-rate. In this latter and important part of our duty we had much and valuable assistance from the Right Rev. Dr. Browne, the Roman Catholic bishop of the diocese, who tendered to us all the aid his clergy might be able to give. The consequence has been, the rates are now speedily being collected; and we anticipate that in course of another fortnight we shall have the debt of 3000*l.* paid off, and a balance in the hands of our treasurer.

The collection of the rate has occupied our most anxious and serious consideration; only one-half the electoral divisions being, as before detailed, in course of collection, we have struck a rate on the remaining half; appointed collectors; and we trust that now the entire Union is being made available for that purpose, our funds will shortly be increased, our credit strengthened, and the tenders, now advertised for to be received next week, taken on more advantageous terms by one-half than heretofore.

We have adopted the most summary proceedings, under the advice of the solicitor of the Union, to compel the two defaulting collectors or their sureties to pay in the large balance in their hands; and we have every reason to believe, from the last report of that gentleman, that no loss will take place in this respect. We have taken steps to assure contractors that the system of unjust contracts, given heretofore by reason of friendship at the Board, will be now entirely discontinued; for that purpose we have had a box prepared, standing in the hall, to receive tenders up to the hour of the day for opening them, when each person proposing is invited to be present—thus seeing that no unjust preference to any person is given; and we offer cash payments hereafter, the result of which we are confident will be an enormous saving to the Union.

By weekly checking the collectors' accounts, and summoning them before the petty sessions, we have at length shown them that they must do their duty, and by this means a sum of 3027*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* has been collected of the present rate up to last Friday, and this only collectable on half of the Union; the rate on the other half, struck on the 11th instant, amounts to 4461*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, and which we have bound the collectors to pay in within two months, will enable us in a great measure to overcome the financial difficulties.

We regret to be obliged to state that many of the large proprietors are most backward in paying their rates; one landlord, being the largest in the Union, totally refuses to give his unfortunate tenantry one shilling of their legal allowance, threatening, in case they proceed to enforce it, to eject them, and for that purpose has heretofore had notice to quit served on several of them; even the rate due on his own immediate occupation had to be enforced under the threat of seizure of his cattle, and would not have been paid till our collector was proceeding to seize and drive his stock. This hardship and annoyance on a poor occupying tenantry has been a means of making the "Poor Law" very unpopular with the ratepayers; and it would tend much to the advantage of the Union, if the Legislature would devise some means by which, in the first instance, the rates should be paid by the landlord, and thus protect the occupier from the oppression alluded to.

We have advertised for a competent person to undertake the duties of revising valuator, at an annual salary of 30*l.*, whose duties will be to receive all objections as to the equality of the valuation and change of occupation, and who in short will be accountable that the rate-books are properly made out, so as to enable the Vice-Guardians legally and equitably to declare a rate which can give no just cause of complaint.

We here deem it our duty to submit to the Commissioners the fact of the want of employment to the able-bodied, on the part of the landlords and larger occupiers.

This Union contains 107,699 acres, valued at 73,490*l.* 4*s.*, with a population of 67,178. From every inquiry we have been able to make, we cannot ascertain that any proprietor at this moment has more than ten workmen in his employment; and this class of employers is very small indeed. From such an absence of employment it is easy to imagine the poverty that at present prevails; and it would have been an imperative duty on us to have submitted to your Board the propriety of issuing an order, under the 2nd section of the Extension Act, for out-door relief to the able-bodied, were it not at this period of the year the landed proprietors and farmers must offer speedy employment to till their land and put in the crop. Should this take place to the full extent even of other seasons, we cannot conceal from ourselves that such will be but for a short period; and in the absence of all public works, the destitution that is likely to take place during part of the summer months, will be a source of great anxiety to us, and well worthy the humane consideration of your Board. The gentry of this Union are far from being a wealthy class; and the prospect of employment from them is not to be looked to for the support of this very destitute Union. Unless they immediately come forward to give their assistance, which we regret to state they have not as yet done, or that some public work, assisted by emigration, is brought into practice, the destitution and consequent misery will entail the necessity of that which we have as yet struggled to avoid, namely, out-door relief to the able-bodied.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 27, 1848.*

I AM to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the course which you are taking, with a view to bring the Union into a better state.

The Commissioners approve of your taking the room from Mr. Deane, under the premises rented from Mr. Mitchell.

The Commissioners also approve of the hiring of the mill at Greenvale, near Aughnamullen, and the course which you propose to pursue in sending the children there under the schoolmaster and schoolmistress and two wards-women.

The Commissioners will be glad to be informed of the result of your adver-

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tisements for contracts, when the tenders have been received and the contracts made.

The Commissioners approve of the proposed appointment of a revisor, at a salary of 30*l.* per annum.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 3, 1848.*

WE beg leave to forward you the annexed report from the clerk of the Union in reference to proceedings against collectors, under section 100 of 1st and 2nd Vict., cap. 56, from which you will perceive it is impossible to punish those officers in consequence of the non-attendance of magistrates, whereby an efficient collection of the rates is greatly retarded, and much inconvenience is likely to arise to the Union.

The petty sessions day at Rockcurry is Wednesday each fortnight, the next day for that purpose should be Wednesday the 12th instant; we must again prepare and have served fresh notices on the collectors, summon them for that day in case of default, but we apprehend no good result therefrom unless Government shall direct a stipendiary magistrate to attend on that day.

You will also perceive that at the petty sessions at Cootehill no conviction was obtained, we therefore take leave to suggest to the Commissioners for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland that a stipendiary magistrate be directed to attend at Cootehill on Saturday the 8th instant, when we shall have the business again brought before the Court.

We apprehend no better result than that hereinbefore detailed at Newbliss, Monaghan, (see Clerk's report,) on next Wednesday the 5th, unless a similar order is made for that place.

ENCLOSURE.

The CLERK of the UNION to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*April 3, 1848.*

I BEG leave to report, that in pursuance of your directions I attended at Rockcurry on Wednesday last, the 29th ultimo, to prosecute a collector, Richard Nesbitt, for disobedience of your order, calling upon him to collect and lodge in the branch of the Provincial Bank in Cootehill, a sum of not less than 500*l.* on or before the 23rd March last; and having waited till late in the evening no magistrate attended, I was informed by the clerk of the petty sessions that no petty session was held there for the last six weeks in consequence of the non-attendance of magistrates.

I also attended at Cootehill on Saturday last to prosecute another collector, named Edward Reilly, for a similar offence; the magistrates adjourned the case till next Saturday, in order to give the collector an opportunity to produce his collecting books to show that he had used due diligence, stating, at the same time, that they were not in a position to state whether the order was a reasonable one or not.

I purpose attending at Newbliss on Wednesday next to prosecute the other collector, Joseph Wright, as the petty sessions are only held there every alternate Wednesday, as also in Rockcurry.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 7, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3rd instant, relative to certain proceedings against collectors of poor rate in the Cootehill Union, and suggesting that a stipendiary magistrate should be directed to attend at Cootehill on the 8th instant, and at Rockcurry on the 12th instant; and I am to state that the Commissioners have recommended the proposal for the favourable consideration of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

WESTPORT UNION.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 9, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I attended the meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians both yesterday and to-day. The number of applicants for relief still continues very large, and as there is but little doubt as to the destitution of those who apply, the Vice-Guardians have been obliged to add 2652 to the out-door relief list, the workhouse being quite full. The expenditure is thus increased—the quantity of Indian meal required for this week being over 46 tons, value 440*l.*, to this is to be added the ordinary expenses of the workhouse, as well as the payment of the officers, making the weekly outlay very nearly 600*l.*, while the amount of rate paid in since this day week, does not exceed 112*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

Both the collectors attended at the Board-room this day. Sir Richard O'Donnell reports that there are but two individuals in his *three* electoral divisions whose rate amounts to 5*l.*, who have not paid, and against these two persons he has commenced legal proceedings in the local courts, as well as against a very large number of others owing smaller amounts.

Mr. Loudon handed in a list of defaulters for very large sums, amounting altogether to nearly 2400*l.*, and including all the principal proprietors in the Union; but from his own statement he does not appear to have taken any steps to enforce payment. In no case has he done more than serve the legal notice of 6 or 15 days, and in several instances he has not even done this. It is quite clear if greater exertion is not used on his part, the rate will not be collected, for I find that out of the 2000*l.* paid in by him he has received nearly 1200*l.* from the Marquis of Sligo, and his lordship still owes nearly 800*l.*, if the list submitted by Mr. Loudon be correct. But to enable the Commissioners to judge of the manner in which he has acted, I beg to enclose his own document, and shall feel obliged by receiving their instructions as to what I should do.

I am sorry to be obliged to report that the funds of the Union are not equal to the present demand on the Vice-Guardians; and notwithstanding the liberal contributions of the British Association, I find they are now in debt over 1500*l.*, and towards the payment of this debt they have but *half* the incoming rate, the other half being allocated to the liquidation of the debts of the late Board; 1244*l.* of this debt has been incurred for Indian meal, to supply the out-door relief, on which the Vice-Guardians did not calculate when they struck the rate, the total cost being 2044*l.*, from which is to be deducted the sum of 800*l.*, received in three remittances from the British Association.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 9, 1848.*

Westport Union.

IN reply to your letter of the 4th instant, we have to state that we this day questioned Sir Richard O'Donnell as to what steps he had taken against Mr. Hilles, the magistrate mentioned in our last report, to compel payment of the rates due by him; and he has informed us that he had previously served a six days' notice, and yesterday gave a summons to that gentleman, who immediately paid a part, but will be proceeded against if the remainder is not paid against the next petty sessions' day. Sir Richard succeeded in obtaining decrees yesterday against 200 persons for poor-rates. He states there are but two whose rates amount to five pounds; and that he has no doubt he will enforce payment of the entire rate in his district, without the intervention of the superior Courts. We have very seriously urged the other collector, Mr. Loudon, to more active exertions. He laid before us a list of persons subject to the largest amount of rate in his district; but as it was not sufficiently explicit respecting the means he had taken to enforce payment, we have left it with Mr. Lynch, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, to obtain additional information on that point, as we did not consider that we could ask your sanction to sue the parties in the superior Courts, till it could be shown that the collector had taken proper measures to enforce payment.

The poor-rates collected and lodged to our credit in this Union during the last week amount to 112*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*; and we have received from Mr. Lynch, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, 200*l.*, granted by the British Association, in aid of the relief of the destitute poor in this Union. We have paid in part discharge of the out-door relief and the other current expenses 312*l.* 7*s.* 6½*d.*

The quantity of meal required for distribution to the destitute poor on the relieving officers' books for the ensuing week is 46 tons 11 cwts. 0 qrs. 24½ lbs., a large portion of which we have been enabled to contract for at 9*l.* per ton, distributed; the contract to continue for two months.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 9th instant, and have observed with much surprise that Mr. Loudon, one of your collectors of rates, has been allowed to remain nearly inactive. They have, therefore, apprised him, that if he does not give an explanation which is satisfactory to the Commissioners, they are prepared to issue a sealed order for his removal from office.

The Commissioners request that you will have his books closely examined, to ascertain the steps which he has taken already, and to direct the proceedings which should be resorted to where the rates shall not be paid within the time appointed after service of notice.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 16, 1848.*

WE have the honour to state that the amount to our credit in the Bank this day was 177*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, of which 51*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* was lodged by Mr. Loudon, rate-collector, during the last week; and we have paid for out-door relief and other current expenses 177*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*

There are over 20,000 persons now on the relieving officers' books entitled to receive relief; and the quantity of Indian-meal required for this week's distribution is 52 tons 17 cwt. 0 qrs. 3½ lbs. This we have been unable to provide, not having any funds for that purpose; and all the contractors have declined to supply any more till some portion of the money at present due to them for the meal already furnished is paid.

Upon our own personal responsibility, and with the advice of Mr. Lynch, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, we have procured the quantity required for a week's food for the people of Clare and Boffin Islands, as should the weather become rough, the inhabitants would be cut off from all communication, and deaths might ensue if left without any provision.

One of our body will attend at Westport on Saturday next, and be prepared to issue the necessary orders, if you shall determine to place funds at our disposal to pay for the week's supply.

Westport Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 19, 1848.*

IN connexion with the letter which the Commissioners have addressed to you by this day's post on the subject of the collection of the poor-rates in Castlebar, Westport, and Ballinrobe Unions, the Commissioners desire to state that they applied yesterday to the British Association for an advance to Westport Union of 530*l.* and the Commissioners trust that this sum has been received by the Vice-Guardians.

At the same time the Commissioners deem it right to state, that they have felt the greatest possible reluctance in making an application for so large a sum in an Union wherein the uncollected rates amounted on the 9th instant to no less a sum than 6,101*l.*

After making due allowance for the just demands of the creditors, a sufficient sum should be collected weekly, to defray the expenses of in-door relief, and of out-door relief to persons entitled to it under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act; and the Commissioners urgently request you to enforce the collection of the rates in Westport Union, in order to supersede the necessity of such large advances, which if continued, will tend to exhaust the funds of the British Association, and will be otherwise attended with disastrous consequences.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 16, 1848.*

THE number of applicants for relief still continues to increase, and the Vice-Guardians were this day obliged to add 2172 persons to the out-door relief list, leaving the total number, after deducting those who were struck off for non-attendance at the work, &c., 20,338; and to provide these people with food for this week, it would require 52 tons 17 cwt. of Indian-meal, value nearly 500*l.*, while the amount of rate collected since my last report is but 51*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; and as the Vice-Guardians had no other means at their disposal, the contractors refused to supply any further quantity till they were paid some portion of the amount already due to them; the Vice-Guardians therefore adjourned their meeting till Saturday next, by which time they hope to be put in funds through the interference of the Poor Law Commissioners. I beg to refer to my report of the 9th instant, in which I alluded to the embarrassed state of the funds of the Union, from which it was quite clear that the Vice-Guardians could not continue to pay the ordinary expenses of the workhouse, and support the multitude of persons on the out-door relief, unless they received considerable assistance in addition to the incoming rate of the Union.

The immediate attention of the Commissioners should be directed to the lamentable condition of these 20,000 poor persons, who are now solely dependent on what they receive from the Union for their very existence; and I cannot contemplate the delay of even one or two days without the most serious apprehension; and so great was the danger of delaying the supply for the islands of Clare Island, Boffin, and Innisturk, that I prevailed on the Vice-Guardians to become *personally* responsible for the quantity required for those islands.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 18, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have made application to Count Strzelecki for a further advance of 530*l.*, to enable the Vice-Guardians to provide for the maintenance of the destitute poor during the ensuing week; and the Commissioners will address the Vice-Guardians on the subject by to-morrow's post.

Mr. LECKEY, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

IN compliance with the minute of the proceedings of the Board of Vice-Guardians held here on Wednesday last, I attended this day for the purpose of receiving your instructions relative to the supply of provisions to the destitute poor on the out-door relief lists; and received from Mr Lynch, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, an order from the Agent of the British Association for 530*l.* worth of provisions, on the Commissariat stores at Ballinrobe, to be applied to that purpose. But on consideration of the urgent

destitute condition of the great bulk of the people, crowds of whom had assembled in the town, and were clamorous for food, and dreading that fatal results might occur by awaiting the transport of the food from Ballinrobe to the various localities of this extended Union, which must occupy several days, I thought myself called on to induce Mr. Lynch to join me in a personal engagement to the contractors (who had previously refused the Board any further supplies of food on credit), to guarantee payment to them, if they would distribute the necessary quantity of meal for the week.

I am happy to say Mr. Lynch promptly co-operated with me in this arrangement; and on application to the town contractors they acceded to our written request, and I trust the rural contractors, to whom we have also written, will do so likewise. The quantity of meal I have ordered amounts to 494*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; and as the probable lodgments by the rate collectors in the ensuing week will be required to meet the current expenses of the Union, I do not entertain a hope of the Board being in a position from the rates, to liquidate so heavy an expenditure, agreeable to the prospect we have held out to the contractors. I trust you will see the necessity of placing funds at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians sufficient for the purpose.

Under ordinary circumstances, and without the concurrence of the Board, I should not have felt authorized to have adopted this extreme course; but from the reports of the relieving officers, and the wretched appearance of the people assembled in the town, I dreaded the most disastrous consequences might result from delay.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February* 19, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, stating that the Commissioners had made application to Count Strzelecki for a further advance of 530*l.* to enable the Vice-Guardians to provide for the maintenance of the destitute poor for the ensuing week; the same post brought me a letter from the Count Strzelecki, enclosing an order on the Commissariat dépôt, Ballinrobe, for provisions to the amount of 530*l.*, but as it was quite impossible to make this order available for the present week's distribution, and as the poor people were waiting in the town for their weekly supply of meal, and as Mr. Lecky and I felt convinced that any disappointment might be attended with the most serious consequences to the vast multitude who are now entirely dependent for food on what they receive from the Union, we were compelled to give our personal security to the contractors for the amount of the meal required for this week's supply, amounting to nearly 500*l.* The contractors in Westport at once agreed to issue the meal on our guarantee, and I trust the country contractors will do the same. I enclose a copy of the letter of guarantee addressed to each contractor.

I beg you will assure the Commissioners, that nothing but the most urgent necessity could have induced me to have thus interfered between the contractors and the Vice-Guardians; but from the statements made to me by the relieving officers, and from the wretched and miserable appearance of the poor people who came into town yesterday and to-day (Fridays and Saturdays are the regular days of distribution), I felt I would be wanting in my duty if I did not make every exertion in my power to have them relieved.

I trust, therefore, the Commissioners will approve of the course which has been adopted, and that they will place sufficient funds at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians, to enable them to pay off this heavy liability, for I am sorry to be obliged to say there is little hope of their being enabled to do so out of the incoming rates, which are barely sufficient to sustain the workhouse, and pay off a portion of the debts of the late Board, to which the Vice-Guardians are pledged to allocate one-half of the present rate, till they have discharged 50 per cent. on the old debts.

Arrangements shall be made to convey the 530*l.* worth of meal from the Commissariat dépôt, Ballinrobe, to supply the several districts in this Union during the ensuing week.

Westport Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS and Mr. LYNCH respectively :—
February 21, 1848.

THE sum of 530*l.* will be remitted to-morrow to assist you in providing for the wants of the destitute poor in the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LYNCH :—*February 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them the minutes of proceedings of the Vice-Guardians of the Westport Union on the 16th instant, when the Guardians directed the clerk of the Union to examine Collector Loudon's books, with a view to ascertaining the course which he was adopting in enforcing payment of the rates.

The Commissioners think that the collection of the rates at the present time is a matter of great importance; and that it would have been very desirable that the Vice-Guardians should themselves have examined Mr. Loudon's books.

An examination of the collector's books by the Vice-Guardians would enable them to detect, and at once to give definite instructions in cases in which it should appear requisite to require the collector to make greater exertions; and the Commissioners request that you will have the goodness to communicate with the Vice-Guardians accordingly.

The Commissioners also think it would be desirable that the attention of the Vice-Guardians should be directed to the duty of more strictly scrutinizing the out-door relief lists.

For this purpose one of them might attend at the depôts and see the paupers, and examine into their circumstances; and it would probably be in your power to give him the benefit of your advice on some of these occasions.

I am, at the same time, to draw your attention to the case of Charles Malone, referred to in the minutes of the Vice-Guardians' proceedings on the 16th instant. It appears desirable that the circumstances of the case should be considered by the Vice-Guardians, with a view to his being punished for the fraud which he seems to have committed.

With regard to the sale of the stones broken by the able-bodied poor receiving out-door relief, I am to state that they should not be sold under the market price.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 23, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant. I have also received a bank letter of credit from the Commissary-General's office for 530*l.*, which I have handed over to the Vice-Guardians, to provide for the wants of the destitute poor in this Union.

By this remittance the Vice-Guardians have been enabled to pay off the several contractors for the meal delivered for the week ending the 19th instant, and they have issued orders on the Commissariat depôt in Ballinrobe for the amount of the grant made in my favour on the 18th instant by Count de Strzelecki for 530*l.* In addition to this, they will be obliged to draw on the contractors for a small balance, and they will also have to provide for the cost of carriage and distribution, which, on the 530*l.* worth of meal, will amount to about 60*l.*

The rates continue to come in very slowly; since my last report Mr. Loudon has lodged but 164*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* It appears to me that a great part of his time is occupied in the collection of the grand jury cess in the barony of Murrisk, as he is bound to settle his account on the 8th or 9th March, the day on which the grand jury meet at Castlebar. The clerk has called on both the collectors to assist him in making out the lists of all defaulters rated at or over 10*l.*, to be made out on the printed forms furnished from the Poor Law Commissioners' office; and as this return will require a statement of the proceedings taken to enforce payment, it will, I trust, have a good effect in exposing the collectors, if they have been guilty of any negligence.

I attended the meeting of the Board of Vice-Guardians both yesterday and to-day, and was much surprised to find that the number of applicants for relief continues fully as large as it was during the last month; and on inquiry I find the majority are persons who are represented to have offered the possession of their land to their landlords or to their agents, who have refused to accept the surrender

of the land unless accompanied by the surrender of the house; and in many cases I fear this course is resorted to for the purpose of evading the 10th section of the Act. The Vice-Guardians admitted this day 16 into the workhouse; they added 2282 to the out-door relief list, and the entire number now amounts to 22,640. Had the recipients of relief been limited to the persons not holding more than a quarter acre of land, the number in this Union could not have exceeded 18,000 or 20,000; but if the practice of giving up, or offering to give up possession continues as heretofore, I fear we shall have to provide for more than half the entire population.

I found it my duty to bring the state of the workhouse under the special notice of the Vice-Guardians. The new master does not appear to me to be possessed of sufficient determination to enforce the rules of the Commissioners; the paupers do not appear to have that respect for him which is so essential to secure obedience. The house and yards are not kept in that clean and orderly manner so absolutely necessary to preserve the health of the inmates. The Vice-Guardians pointed all this out to Mr. Johnston, and intimated to him that if there was not a very considerable change for the better they would feel obliged to recommend his removal.

Much inconvenience is experienced by the clerk by the irregular manner in which the out-door relief accounts are kept by the relieving officers. The consequence is, that he is unable to furnish the Commissioners with the information called for from time to time. I have frequently called the attention of the relieving officers to this part of their duty, but have not been enabled to induce more than three of them to keep their "relief list" regularly written up.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 23rd instant, relating to the Westport Union, and I am to state that the Commissioners have made application for a further advance of 600*l.* to enable the Vice-Guardians to provide for the relief of the destitute poor of the Union during the ensuing week.

The Commissioners regret to find that so small an amount of rates has been collected during the past week, and they request your attention to their letter of yesterday's date regarding the examination of the collectors' accounts. The Commissioners have to-day received a letter from Mr. Loudon, dated the 22nd instant, expressing his hope to have a large sum collected in the course of a week; and he states that he has furnished lists of their rates to the immediate lessors who are defaulters, and has served them with the 15 days' notice. This should be followed up by immediate proceedings in cases of non-payment. And the Commissioners are desirous that you should keep the special attention of the Vice-Guardians directed to the subject, with a view to their taking the necessary steps to have the collection of the rate effected, and to stimulate the collectors to the prompt and energetic discharge of their duties.

With respect to the pressure of applicants for relief, I am to draw your attention to the Commissioners' letter of yesterday with regard to the checking and examination of the relief lists; and I am to request that you will direct the attention of the Vice-Guardians to the necessity for a strict application of the labour test, and that you will report specially to the Commissioners on the present operation of that test in the Westport Union, and the number of persons to which it is applied. The Commissioners desire at the same time to observe, that in every case wherein the Guardians have reasonable cause to believe that there is any collusion in reference to the supposed ceasing to occupy more than a quarter of an acre of land, the applicant should be rigidly refused all relief.

The Commissioners think that it may also be necessary to direct the attention of the Vice-Guardians to this point as regards the workhouse inmates, and they wish that the Vice-Guardians should report to them in their next weekly report as to the description and extent of work which is required from the several classes of inmates.

As regards the master of the workhouse and the relieving officers to whom you refer, I am to state that the Commissioners are prepared at once to remove any inefficient or negligent officers; and the Vice-Guardians should proceed promptly in any such case in accordance with the 41st article of the General Regulations.

You will have the goodness to report the names of those relieving officers who do not keep their books properly.

Westport Union.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 15th instant, enclosing an extract from the report of the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union, relating to the employment of the poor persons receiving out-door relief.

I have carefully read and considered the instructions issued by the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union to their relieving officers, storekeepers, and overseers, and am of opinion that the system laid down, though very good in theory, is not adapted to the class of persons to be found in the west of Ireland to undertake the duties of relieving officers, storekeepers, and overseers, particularly if applied to Unions having from 20,000 to 30,000 paupers receiving out-door relief.

For this Union I would suggest the continuance of a *weekly* distribution of uncooked food, requiring in return the entire labour of the male able-bodied; such labour to be applied to some useful *public* work, and in a district where there are so many really useful *new* roads in an unfinished state, I would strongly recommend the Poor Law Commissioners to have a selection made of those roads already commenced, and in so forward a state as not to require the assistance of professional men to enable the overseers to have them properly completed. There are many such roads in the Union of Westport, and without much difficulty two or three might be selected in each electoral division; more than half the paupers should be kept to stone-breaking for the use of these roads, while the remainder executed the other portions of the work. Such an arrangement would, I have no doubt, enable the Vice-Guardians to keep the paupers more regularly at work, would give much greater satisfaction to the rate-payers, and would confer some benefit to the public in return for the large sums which are necessarily being expended on the out-door relief.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 29, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 26th instant, in which you recommend the issue of weekly allowances of uncooked food in return for the labour of able-bodied paupers, one-half of whom you think should be employed in breaking stones to lay down on the unfinished roads, and the other half in preparing the roads for the stone.

The Commissioners are of opinion that great efforts should be made to introduce the system of giving rations in cooked food daily.

The Commissioners have reason to believe that where rations of meal have been issued weekly, they have sometimes been entirely consumed during three or four days of the week, to the great detriment of the paupers during the remaining days.

The great point to be borne in mind is the due relief of destitution in the manner which is at the same time the most effectual and the most economical. The Commissioners think that in reference to the improvidence which has been found to exist, this end can be best secured by daily rations of cooked food.

The Commissioners consider stone-breaking as the best labour to be provided; but they do not preclude themselves from entertaining any recommendation which shall be made for giving employment in completing an unfinished road, for which there is not a contract, and the state and object of which shall be fully reported.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 1, 1848.*

WE have the honour to inform you that neither of the collectors have lodged any sum on account of poor rates during the past week. Mr. Loudon states that he had relied on promises to pay made to him by persons owing large amounts of rate, but had been disappointed; he, however, produced a letter from the agent of one of the largest rate-payers, who says he will pay him at the assizes at Castlebar on the 6th instant. From Sir Richard O'Donnell we have not had any account.

The number of vacancies at present in the workhouse has enabled us to offer it as a test to a large number of applicants for out-door relief with the best effect, very

few having consented to accept it. We have commenced a scrutiny of the out-door relief lists, and for the last two weeks have struck off the lists several who had in the first instance imposed on the relieving officers; and now that the great pressure from applicants has very considerably abated, we hope to purge the lists completely by offering admission to the workhouse in all doubtful cases we find on them.

Mr. Lynch, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, has handed us 600*l.*, granted by the British Association in aid of destitution. We have paid 595*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* on account of out-door relief, and in part payment of carriage and distribution 41*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*; we have also paid 33*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* for the current expenses.

The numbers now on the out-door relief lists are 22,795, being 568 over the week ending the 26th of February; and we estimate that 600*l.* will be sufficient to supply the food required for the week ending on Saturday, the 11th instant, as we do not calculate upon an increase of numbers to any great extent.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 1st instant, relating to the Westport Union, and stating that no sum had been lodged on account of poor rates during the past week; and I am to state that the Commissioners regard with the greatest dissatisfaction the fact that no poor rates were collected in Westport Union during the last week.

The Commissioners cannot believe that this would have been the case if the collectors had done their duty, and the Commissioners are inclined to believe that Westport Union is the only Union in Ireland in which no poor rates were collected during that week.

The Commissioners request that each of the collectors may be admonished by you on this subject, and should be made to understand that the Commissioners cannot but be of opinion that there has been an absence on their part of that energy and perseverance in collecting rates which the circumstances of the Union so imperatively demand.

At the same time the Commissioners request to know your opinion as to whether you think that there is a reasonable prospect of the poor rates being properly collected by the present collectors.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 1, 1848.*

SINCE my last weekly report I have visited several electoral divisions in this Union, and I regret to be obliged to say that the attendance on the part of the paupers receiving the out-door relief is very irregular, and the amount of labour executed falls far short of what might be reasonably expected from the large number of able-bodied paupers on the lists. I annex a copy of a statement which I laid before the Board of Vice-Guardians yesterday morning; the great difficulty appears to be in procuring proper persons to act as stewards. I have strongly recommended the Vice-Guardians to direct the paupers to be brought closer together, and to have an overseer constantly over each detachment, and thus to enforce a regular attendance for 10 hours each day.

The Vice-Guardians have selected Mr. Dominick O'Malley as a supervisor over the stewards employed in the six southern divisions of the Union, and contemplate making a similar appointment for the other four electoral divisions; these arrangements, with the immediate striking off of all paupers found absent from the work, will I trust have the effect of securing a more regular attendance.

The circumstances connected with the distribution of the meal to the poor people in Kilmaclasser and Islandady were fully investigated this day, and the Vice-Guardians were so fully convinced of the fraud practised that they called on Mr. Thomas Burke, the relieving officer, to send in his resignation; and I have directed a summons to be served on his brother, Mr. William Burke, with a view of having him severely punished by the magistrates for using an illegal beam.

The Vice-Guardians have removed Mr. Kerrigan, the steward over the male inmates of the workhouse, and have appointed Mr. Charles Costello to take his place; I look to a favourable result from this change. Mr. Johnston, the new master, appears to be better acquainted with his duties, and I trust he may be able to discharge them with more efficiency.

Westport Union.

I looked this day into the accounts of the relieving officers, and find them tolerably regular, except those of Mr. Thomas Burke, resigned, and Mr. Martin Hynes, of Newport, who has been only lately appointed, and who will, I have no doubt, be able to have all his books posted up by this day week. Mr. Ward, the newly-appointed relieving officer, of Clare Island, has never attended the Board since the day of his appointment: the communication between the islands and the mainland is very uncertain and difficult in stormy weather.

Mr. Loudon attended this day, and stated to the Board that he was disappointed by several ratepayers who promised to come in and settle by this day; neither he nor Sir Richard O'Donnell have lodged any money since my last report, and from the confused lists which Mr. Loudon has handed in of the defaulters, it is difficult to say where the fault lies. The clerk is actively employed making out the lists of all those who are rated at or over 10*l.*, as directed in the Commissioners' communication of the 19th February.

I received from the Commissary-General's office 600*l.*, which I handed over to the Vice-Guardians; they paid off the greater portion of the sums due to the several contractors for out-door relief, and issued fresh orders on them for this week's supply.

The number of applicants for relief was not so numerous as usual, neither were they of so destitute a class, and having so many vacancies in the house the Vice-Guardians offered in-door relief to several hundreds, who refused to accept it; not more than 62 were admitted, while 568 were placed on the out-door list; but the relieving officers having discovered several cases of fraud, and the Vice-Guardians having struck off many of those who did not regularly attend at the work, the total number to be relieved this week is fully 2000 less than the last.

ENCLOSURE.

Newport Electoral Division.

I was in this division on Thursday, the 24th, and though it was only a little after three o'clock I did not find a single pauper at work. I sent to the house of Nixon, the steward; he had not returned from Westport. Roland, the newly-appointed steward, had not received either book or list. I could not see Mr. Hynes, the relieving officer.

Kilmaclasser Division.

Here I found the paupers at work breaking stones; I did not meet the steward, Kirkpatrick, therefore could not call over the roll. I heard numerous complaints from the poor people in this district that they did not receive the full allowance of meal allowed by the Vice-Guardians.

Islandeady Division.

I went through this division on the 25th; I found that the newly-appointed steward, Fahey, did not visit any of the labourers on Thursday last. He stated to me that he was taking applications for the relieving officer. He also stated that Thursday, the 24th, was too wet a day for the men to work, but on inquiry I found, from the police, that several of the paupers were at work. The labourers in this district are too much scattered, and appear to have been very badly looked after.

Aughagower Division.

On Saturday, the 26th, I called the roll at the two principal places of work in this division, viz., Knockcruisky and Moyhasten, and though it was early in the day, fully four-fifths were absent; and on my return from Landkill to-day I found the paupers at Moyhasten had quit work before four o'clock.

Frauds in the distribution of the Meal.

On Saturday last I visited the three stores in Westport, where the meal was being given out for the electoral divisions of Westport, Aughagower, and Islandeady; in the two first everything appeared very regular, but at William Burke's, who is brother to Thomas Burke, the relieving officer, I found the beam tied up with a piece of cord, so as always to show "standing beam," no matter what quantity or weights were in the scales; it was in this place the poor people of Kilmaclasser were served the day before; and the people of Islandeady were unanimous in their complaints of short weight. I returned to this store in the evening, and took Mr. Egan, the clerk, with me; the person attending informed me that all the people were served; I then called on him for his books, and asked what quantity of meal remained; after a great deal of difficulty I found there were seven commissariat bags untouched, two and a half cwt. each, besides a half bag and some loose meal. These circumstances should be rigidly examined into, as I apprehend gross fraud.

State of the Workhouse.

I have frequently called the attention of the Vice-Guardians to the state of the workhouse, and though there is an improvement in the state of cleanliness, in other respects I regret to say

things are not at all satisfactory. Order and system, so essential to the proper management of a large institution, are quite overlooked; the clothing of the paupers is disgraceful to the Union; and the insubordination existing amongst the male inmates, if not properly and immediately checked, may be productive of the most serious consequences; when I called at the workhouse this evening they were in a state of the greatest confusion. I directed a roll to be made out of each class of inmates, and upon comparing these rolls with the numbers appearing on the books I find a difference of nearly 150; the number really in the house being but 851, while the books show nearly 1000. These matters call for the serious attention of the Vice-Guardians.

Westport Union.

(Signed)

RICHARD M. LYNCH.

February 28, 1848.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 6, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 1st inst., relating to the Westport Union, and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 400*l.*, to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

I am at the same time to request your special attention to a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Vice-Guardians, relative to the collection of the poor-rates, as the Commissioners regard the present state of the collection of poor-rates in Westport Union with the greatest dissatisfaction and displeasure.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have received from Sir R. A. O'Donnell, in which he states that employment had been offered by him to a number of persons who are in the receipt of out-door relief in the Union, who declined to work on the terms proposed.

I am at the same time to forward a copy of the Commissioners' reply.

ENCLOSURES.

Sir R. A. O'DONNELL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 2, 1848.*

My object in writing to you is to benefit the rate-payers and poor of my electoral division. Having received a loan under the Land Improvement Act, I am anxious to employ, as far as lies in my power, the able-bodied poor of my district.

The Vice-Guardians have directed the relieving officer to give me a list of 50 able-bodied men receiving relief, residing in the neighbourhood of two farms upon which I am anxious to carry on improvements. A portion of these 50 persons attended once at the works at Deradda farm, and informed my agriculturist that they would not work by task, but that if I gave them one shilling per day they would work for me. My agriculturist is well known in the district as a humane, honest man, that understands the value of labour well, and he assures me that if the men were only inclined to work they could make at his prices one shilling per day.

My works at Deradda farm are stopped for want of labourers, although we have, I am informed, more than 6000 persons receiving the out-door relief in this unfortunate electoral division; and my works at other farms are going on in an unsatisfactory way from the same cause.

I am prepared to give employment to 600 men a-day, and to take them from the out-door relief list; and if the other landed proprietors of this district will do the same according to the extent of their properties, the rate-payers will be relieved and the poor saved.

Gentlemen, you have shown energy and determination in collecting poor-rates, I now call upon you respectfully to save our country by protecting the rate-payers with the same energy, &c., and using your influence in the administration of the Poor Laws to raise the poor of Ireland out of their lazy habits of dependence upon others, with all the immoral results arising therefrom.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., informing the Commissioners that the Vice-Guardians of the Westport Union had ordered 50 of the able-bodied men who are in receipt of out-door relief in the Union to proceed to two farms upon which you were anxious to carry on some improvements, and that the men refused to work unless paid at the rate of one shilling per day for their labour.

In reply, I am to state that the proper course to be pursued in this case appears to the Commissioners to admit of no reasonable doubt; and the Commissioners cannot presume otherwise than that it has been adopted by the Vice-Guardians as a matter of course.

Westport Union.

If any able-bodied pauper refuses employment which is offered to him at wages adequate to preserve him from starvation, he ought, as an ordinary matter of routine, to be struck off the relieving officer's books.

The Commissioners will forward a copy of your letter, together with a copy of the Commissioners' answer, to the Vice-Guardians of the Westport Union.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 8, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 3rd and 6th March, in reference to the collection of the rates in this Union, and in accordance with your directions, I wrote to both the collectors to admonish them, and communicated to them the surprise expressed by the Commissioners. Sir Richard O'Donnell has since paid in a sum of 177*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, which added to the former sums paid by him, makes over 800*l.* collected, the rates on his three electoral divisions being 1605*l.*; so that within three months he has paid in half the entire sum entrusted to him for collection, and I am of opinion that the greater portion of the balance will be collected within the next three months. Mr. John Loudon has not made any lodgment since my last report; he did not attend at the Board either on yesterday or to-day, and sent no reply to my letter dated the 4th instant. The only way in which I can account for this seeming neglect is, that being deputy to the collector of Grand Jury Cess, his time has been entirely devoted to this collection, which must be arranged by the barony constable on the assembling of the grand jury in Castlebar on this day. I trust for the future he will be enabled to devote his entire time to the collection of the poor-rate, and thus make amends for the time hitherto lost.

The Vice-Guardians had before them the lists of defaulters in Mr. Loudon's seven electoral divisions, as well as in the division of Newport (the lists for Achill and Ballycroy are not as yet completed); there appear very large sums due principally by immediate lessors, and the Vice-Guardians have selected the names of the parties against whom they consider it necessary to obtain the sanction of the Commissioners to take proceedings in the upper courts, and in many cases, I trust, an intimation from their solicitor that such sanction has been obtained will have the effect of causing immediate payment.

The number on the out-door relief list remains pretty nearly the same as last week, for while 275 persons were added, 769 were struck off. The applicants were very numerous, but having a considerable number of vacancies in the work-house, many of these people were offered admittance, which they refused; the total number admitted was 132. The house is now quite full (1000).

I received an order on the Commissariat dépôt, Ballinrobe, for 400*l.* worth of provisions from the British Association, which I handed over to the Vice-Guardians. The weekly expense for out-door relief is about 530*l.*, including cost of carriage from Ballinrobe.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 13, 1848.*

IN reference to your statement respecting the amount of rate already collected by Sir Richard A. O'Donnell, the Commissioners request you will be so good as to ascertain how much of the arrears in his divisions are due by immediate lessors.

The Commissioners consider Mr. Loudon's collection very unsatisfactory, and they would issue an order for his dismissal, but that so large a portion of the arrears appear to be due by immediate lessors, against whom he could not take any effective proceedings without directions from the Vice-Guardians, which they do not appear to have given.

The Commissioners have addressed a letter to the Vice-Guardians this day, in respect more particularly to the course adopted towards the immediate lessors who owe these very large arrears; and they trust that keeping in view the urgent wants of the Union, more energy will in future be manifested in providing the means which the law has appropriated for meeting such exigencies.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 8, 1848.*

WE beg leave to request your sanction to our taking proceedings in one of the superior courts in Dublin against the parties named in the accompanying list.

ENCLOSURE referred to.

SUMMARY of RATE Due by Immediate Lessors in the District of Mr. John Loudon, Rate Collector.

Names.	Residence.	Amount.			Observations.
		£.	s.	d.	
Marquess of Sligo	Westport House	1,648	0	11½	There are some doubts if application has been duly made for the whole of this amount; nevertheless, the Vice-Guardians consider it desirable to obtain sanction for proceedings in case it may be necessary to proceed.
Earl of Lucan	Castlebar House	309	1	10½	Sanction required.
Sir Roger Palmer	Kennure Park	310	8	4	His agent promises to pay, but still it may be necessary to proceed.
Robert Buchanan, Esq. . . .	Prospect, Westport	20	13	7	Proceedings in the superior courts are considered the only effective means of recovering this.
John C. Garvey, Esq.	Murrisk, Westport	78	5	5	Occupier, Ditto ditto, refuses to pay. Ditto ditto. Ditto ditto. Ditto ditto. Ditto ditto, lives out of county. Ditto ditto, is in difficulties; rate cannot be otherwise recovered.
Courtney Kenny, Esq.	Ballinrobe	23	5	0	
Mr. Robert Ekins	Quay, Westport	23	16	7½	
Mrs. Garvey	Tully, Louisburgh	21	11	6	
Wm. Sharpe Brabazon, Esq. . .		88	2	2	
Sir Samuel O'Malley	Kilboyne House, Castlebar	256	14	0	
Mrs. Moore	Moore Hall	14	10	9	Ditto ditto.
Mrs. Garvey	Old Head, Louisburgh . . .	31	1	8	Ditto ditto.
Rev. Francis Rutledge		36	9	3	Ditto ditto.
Dominick J. Bourke, Esq. . . .	Green Hills, Castlebar . . .	12	3	5	Ditto ditto.
John Knox, Esq.	Castlereagh, Killala	79	6	8½	A receiver in this case; if not paid within ten days from application, let the Solicitor apply to the Lord Chancellor.
Sir Richard A. O'Donnell . . .	Newport House	88	6	9½	Fifteen days' notice has been served; nevertheless, the Vice-Guardians think it right to be prepared for taking proceedings.
Walter Bourke, Esq.	—, London	11	14	1½	Lives in England; proceedings must be taken.
Charles M'Donnell, Esq.	Moyou, Westport	23	18	6½	Proceedings appear to the Vice-Guardians to be the most effective means.
John M'Loughlin, Esq.	Achill, Newport	8	4	4½	Owes in other electoral divisions; a receiver having been lately appointed, it is desirable to obtain sanction for application to the Lord Chancellor to compel payment.
		3,085	14	11	

8th March, 1848.

JOHN EGAN, Clerk Westport Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—March 13, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had before them your letter of the 8th instant, requesting the Commissioners' sanction to your taking proceedings, in pursuance of the 2nd section of 6 and 7 Vict., cap. 92, in the superior courts of record in Dublin against the following persons who are defaulters in the payment of poor-rates in the Westport Union, namely:—

The Most Noble the Marquess of Sligo.	Mrs. Moore.
The Right Hon. the Earl of Lucan.	Mrs. Garvey (Old Head, Louisburgh).
Sir Roger Palmer, Bart.	Rev. Francis Rutledge.
Robert Buchanan, Esq.	Dominick Joseph Bourke, Esq.
John C. Garvey, Esq.	John Knox, Esq.
Courtney Kenny, Esq.	Sir Richard A. O'Donnell, Bart.
Mr. Robert Ekins.	Walter Bourke, Esq.
Mrs. Garvey (Tully, Louisburgh).	Charles M'Donnell, Esq.
William Sharpe Brabazon, Esq.	John M'Loughlin, Esq.
Sir Samuel O'Malley, Bart.	

and the Commissioners hereby signify their consent to your bringing an action in any one of the superior courts of record in Dublin against the said—

Most Noble the Marquess of Sligo.	Courtney Kenny, Esq.
Right Hon. the Earl of Lucan.	Mr. Robert Ekins.
Sir Roger Palmer, Bart.	Mrs. Garvey (Tully, Louisburgh).
Robert Buchanan, Esq.	William Sharpe Brabazon, Esq.
John C. Garvey, Esq.	Sir Samuel O'Malley, Bart.

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Mrs. Moore.
 Mrs. Garvey (Old Head, Louisburgh).
 Rev. Francis Rutledge.
 Dominick Joseph Bourke, Esq.
 John Knox, Esq.

Sir Richard A. O'Donnell, Bart.
 Walter Bourke, Esq.
 Charles M'Donnell, Esq.
 John M'Loughlin, Esq.

for the recovery of the arrears of poor-rate made on them respectively as immediate lessors in respect of certain property situated within the Westport Union.

THE COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 13, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th instant, and to the Commissioners' letter of this date, relative to the proceedings proposed to be instituted for recovery of the poor-rate due by immediate lessors of property in the Westport Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that while any of the parties referred to are out of Ireland they cannot be sued in the superior courts, and it would therefore be unadvisable to commence the proceedings until such parties return to Ireland. It is therefore for consideration whether in such cases it might not be expedient to serve notice on the occupiers.

The Commissioners also desire to state, in reference to Mr. Sharpe Brabazon, named in the list of persons against whom you propose to institute proceedings, that his property in the Swineford Union is understood to be under control of the Court of Chancery, and that Mr. Oliver Jackson, of Ballina, is the receiver.

The Commissioners observe, that the word occupier is written opposite the name of Mr. Kenny, of Ballinrobe, and they desire to state, that if he also resides in the Westport Union, and the rate is due on a tenement there occupied by him, he cannot be sued in the superior courts for recovery of the amount due, that course being only authorized in case of an immediate lessor.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 8, 1848.*

WE have the honour to state that 177*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* has been lodged by Sir R. O'Donnell, rate collector, but Mr. Loudon has not lodged any sum on account of the collection during the past week, nor did he attend the Board. It is evident that as a barony cess collector his whole time and attention have been directed to that duty; however as he will now be discharged from his responsibility on that head by the grand jury, we expect that he will devote all his time and energies to the collection of the rates; and much as he deserves dismissal, yet when we take into consideration the critical state in which such an extreme measure would leave the collection, and the time that must elapse before a successor could be fully in operation (if an eligible person could be found to undertake it), as well as the prejudice that would arise in the public mind, and the persuasion that it was impossible to collect the rates, we do not feel justified in recommending you to adopt such a course.

Mr. Lynch, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, has handed us an order on the Commissariat store at Ballinrobe for 400*l.* worth of provisions, granted by the British Association in aid of destitution, and we have issued orders on the officer in charge for 393*l.* 15*s.* worth; the quantity required in the electoral divisions of Achill and Ballycroy, being most distant from the dépôt (the former at least 50 miles), we have ordered from Sir R. O'Donnell, the contractor.

The total numbers on the relief list are now 22,525, only 300 being added this week; the beneficial effect of the workhouse test being again apparent, out of 1194 applicants only 141 accepted in-door relief. There have also been a great many struck off for not attending the stone-breaking, owing to the vigilance which the newly appointed supervisor has exercised over his department; and agreeable to the determination we expressed to Sir R. O'Donnell, when he applied some time since to us to take able-bodied labourers off the rates and give them employment, we have struck off all who refused to accept work from him; taking all these circumstances into account, we do not anticipate that a larger sum than 600*l.* will be required to supply the wants of those who will remain on the out-door relief lists for the ensuing week.

Eight out of the ten lists from the electoral divisions of the Union have been laid before us, from which we have selected the names of persons, immediate

lessors, to be proceeded against in the superior courts, if you shall determine to sanction that course; and as the 14th of April is the last day upon which such proceedings can be taken for next term, as little delay as possible should occur in letting us know your wishes.

We regret to say that Lord Sligo's name stands at the top of that list, but every precaution has been taken to inform his agent of the state of the case both verbally and by letter, a copy of which we enclose.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. LECKY to Mr. HILDEBRAND:—*March 8, 1848.*

AFTER the conversation I had with you yesterday I feel at greater liberty to write to you on the subject we then spoke on, and which I assure you has engaged a great deal of our thoughts.

In the exercise of the duties with which we are entrusted by the Commissioners, we are obliged to ascertain and lay before them from time to time the names of all such persons as have not paid their rates, and on the top of the list yesterday made out Lord Sligo's name is entered as owing a large amount, exceeding 1600*l.*

It will be very painful to us, and also, I feel certain, to the Commissioners, by whom his lordship is highly respected, to have the list forwarded under such circumstances, and to have it accompanied by a request for their sanction for instituting proceedings in the superior courts in Dublin against the parties therein named.

We therefore most anxiously hope that you will endeavour to place the matter in such a state as will render it unnecessary for us to take a step so prejudicial and annoying to his lordship.

If you can make it convenient to come to the Board-room this morning, I shall feel obliged.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that application has been made to the British Association for a further advance of 600*l.* to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 13, 1848.*

THE Commissioners regret to observe by your report of the 8th instant, that in Westport Union, as in Castlebar Union, a collector of rates who is also collector of county cess, has in consequence of the settlement of his accounts and payments in the latter capacity, omitted to send in his books as poor-rate collector pending the assizes, or to make any lodgment on account of the rates which he may have received.

The Commissioners further regret to observe that the rates not yet returned as collected in Westport Union, by the collector referred to, Mr. Loudon, amount to 4536*l.*, and they would have deemed this fact conclusive evidence that Mr. Loudon was unequal to the duties of his office, were it not that as much as 3085*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* of the arrear of poor-rate in the Union appears to be due from immediate lessors.

The Act which provides for recovery of rates due by immediate lessors, does not enable a collector to proceed without direction from the Board of Guardians, not even to serve the notice preceding a distress; and the Commissioners have not any information to show them whether the Vice-Guardians have given directions to the collector for proceedings which he has neglected to take.

The Commissioners see no ground for the course which the Vice-Guardians appear to have adopted towards the immediate lessors owing arrears. There is no reason for extending indulgence to them, more than to the occupiers; and in the administration of the Poor Law, it is only necessary to apply the provisions, according to their obvious intention to all classes who fail to discharge their legal liabilities.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 9, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of circular, dated 2nd March, in reference to the suspension on the 18th instant of the order authorizing outdoor relief to the able-bodied, and expressing the wish of the Commissioners to

Westport Union.

know whether in my opinion there would be any decided objection to this course in the Union of which I am the Inspector.

In reply I am obliged to report that I am fully convinced that such a course would be attended with the most serious loss of life, for I can state with certainty that the principal portion of the persons now receiving this relief have no other means whatsoever of support for themselves and their families; and though, no doubt, there may be some of the able-bodied labourers required to assist the better class of farmers in the cultivation of the land, still taking into account the peculiar position of this Union, where nine-tenths of the tillage land is held by persons who are themselves labourers, I do not anticipate any very great demand for the labour of the class at present on the out-door relief list. The Vice-Guardians should direct the several relieving officers to reduce the number of the able-bodied paupers on their list as much as possible, but I could not recommend the total suspension of the order under the 2nd section of the Extension Act.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will have the goodness to inform the Commissioners whether the state of the Westport Union is such that the provisions of the accompanying order to Listowel Union could be carried into effect.

It will be observed that under that order single men, and men with only two children, would be thrown on their own resources.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 15, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that the number of persons applying for relief during the past week, has been much smaller than usual. I attribute this reduction to the large number of applicants in the previous week, who were offered in-door instead of out-door relief. The number on the out-door list is about the same as it was last week, for though the Vice-Guardians added this day 333, there were 265 taken off, independent of those who will be struck off on Friday, for no attendance at work.

There are now a very large number of stout able-bodied men in the workhouse, and they created serious alarm this morning by refusing to go to their ordinary work, alleging that they did not get enough of food; but their real motive was to be put on the out-door relief. I made inquiry and find that these men get two meals in the day, at each of which they are served with half a pound of meal made into stirabout, with a small allowance of either milk or molasses, while those on the out-door relief receive but one pound per day of raw meal.

On being made acquainted with the turbulent state of the house, I directed a list of the most prominent actors to be made out, and from this list I selected 28 who were either single men, or being married, had not more than two persons depending on them, and upon their admitting before me and one of the Vice-Guardians that they refused to work, we had them at once discharged from the house, and having intimated to the other paupers, that the same course would be adopted in every case where the able-bodied refused to work, the other men went most obediently to their work, and order was thus restored.

I fear in taking this course I may have exceeded the authority vested in the Boards of Guardians by the Commissioners' order for "regulating workhouses in Ireland," dated 5th June, 1844; but with so large a number of able-bodied young men; no magistrate in the town; no petty sessions to be held till the 23rd instant, (the magistrates are all attending the assizes at Castlebar,) I felt called on to take the steps I did, and I only did so when requested by the Vice-Guardians to interfere, and assist them in restoring order. I beg to add that the Vice-Guardians fully concurred in the expulsion of those parties, though I see no minute in reference to it on their books.

I received by yesterday's post an order on the Ballinrobe Commissariat dépôt, from the Count de Strzelecki, for 600*l.* worth of provisions which I handed over to the Vice-Guardians to enable them to provide for the current week. I find they will not require more than 500 pounds' worth of meal, though the total expense will be fully 600*l.*

I regret to be obliged again to report that the rates are coming in very slowly. Sir Richard O'Donnell has made no lodgment, and Mr. John Loudon has lodged but 40*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* within the last week, and I have not seen either of the collectors for the last six days; they are, I believe, attending the assizes at Castlebar.

I have carefully examined the accounts of the several relieving officers. The books for seven out of the ten electoral divisions are complete and correct to the 4th March; the remaining three are those in the hands of Mr. Ward, Mr. Hynes, and Mr. Edward Goff, who were only lately appointed, and had to post up the arrears of their predecessors; the two latter will, I have no doubt, have all their books ready by this day week, but I fear Mr. Ward is not competent, and I have recommended the Vice-Guardians to make some change.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 20, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners are unable to sanction the course of discharging from the workhouse able-bodied persons who refuse to work or to submit to workhouse rules, there being for such cases an express provision in the Act 1 and 2 Vict. cap. 56, sec. 58.

The Commissioners desire to suggest that in every case of the kind, the directions of the Vice-Guardians should be recorded on their minutes.

Similar instances have frequently occurred in other Unions under ordinary Boards of Guardians, and the Commissioners in all such cases have been in the habit of writing to such Boards, in order to express the Commissioners' disapproval of the course pursued.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 15, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, enclosing a copy of the out-door relief order issued on the 7th March, for the Union of Listowel, with a request that I might inform the Commissioners whether the state of the Westport Union is such that the provisions of this order could be carried into effect here; and in reply I have to state for the information of the Commissioners, that I am of opinion that all able-bodied single men, as well as married men not having more than two persons dependent on them, should be excluded from all participation in out-door relief. I substitute the word persons for children, for I fear in many instances it might not be safe to exclude a man having a *wife* and *two* grown-up children depending on him, while there would be no objection to exclude the man with a wife and only one child, or the man who had no wife, but who had two children for whose support he was legally accountable.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 15th instant, relating to the proposed modification of the order authorizing out-door relief in the Westport Union, in which you suggest that in the modified order the word "persons" be substituted for "children;" and in reference thereto I am to state that the Commissioners were unwilling to introduce the phraseology of "persons" instead of "children;" but they have substituted the words "wife and one child, or widower having two children," with a view to meet your recommendation.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 15, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report that Mr. Loudon, rate collector, has lodged 40*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* during the past week on account of his collection. Sir R. O'Donnell has not made any lodgment since our last report. We have paid on account of carriage and distribution of Indian meal for out-door relief 40*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, and for the petty expenses 3*l.* 10*s.*

Mr. Lynch, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, has handed us an order on the Commissariat store at Ballinrobe for 600*l.* worth of provisions, granted in aid of the destitute poor by the British Association; and we have issued orders on the

Westport Union.

officer in charge there for 525*l.* worth of Indian meal to supply their wants for this week.

There are 21,239 persons now on the out-door relief lists, 185 having been added this week, and we estimate that a sum of 500*l.* will be necessary to provide the food required for the week ending the 25th instant.

The electoral divisions of Achill and Ballycroy are so distant from Ballinrobe (the former about 50 miles), we would beg leave to suggest that any future orders for provisions that may be sent in aid of this Union, may be left so that we can draw such part of the supply as may be necessary for that part of the Union, from the depôt at Achill, and thus save much time and expense.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th March, and in accordance with your request, I beg to inform the Commissioners that the sum due by immediate lessors in the district of Sir Richard O'Donnell, rate collector, amounts to 402*l.* 6*s.* 11½*d.* I annex a list of the persons by whom it is due, and shall take care to draw the particular attention of the collector to the fact, that he is himself the largest defaulter.

ENCLOSURE referred to.

POOR RATE Due by Immediate Lessors in the District of Sir R. A. O'Donnell, Bart., Rate Collector.

Names.	Residences.	Electoral Divisions.									Total.		
		Newport.			Achill.			Ballycroy.					
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Marquess of Sligo	Westport House .	54	4	6½	14	1	11½	2	1	1	70	7	7½
Sir R. A. O'Donnell	Newport House .	84	9	4½	102	18	11½	44	5	4	231	13	8
Petar Bourke, Esq.	Ballinew, Castlebar	5	17	7							5	17	7
James Hilles, Esq.	Maryland, Newport	3	5	8							3	5	8
Charles M'Donnell, Esq.	Moyour, Westport .	2	5	0							2	5	0
Dominick M'Loughlin, Esq.	Achill	4	5	2½							4	5	2½
John M'Loughlin, Esq.	Achill	4	6	9½	22	2	9				26	9	6½
Representatives of P. M'Loughlin, Esq. .					28	14	10½	9	4	4	37	19	2½
Representatives of Captain O'Donnell .								20	3	6½	20	3	5½
Total due											402	6	11½

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 20, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 17th instant, forwarding a list of the immediate lessors who are defaulters in the payments of poor rate in the Newport, Achill, and Ballycroy divisions of the Westport Union; and I am to return the list herewith, and to request that you will be so good as to state, against the name of each of the defaulters, the nature of the proceedings which have been taken to compel payment of the rate, and the dates when such proceedings were taken in each case, together with any explanation which can be afforded of the delay which has occurred on the part of the Vice-Guardians in enforcing payment.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners will sanction proceedings being taken in the superior courts of record in Dublin, in any of the cases in question; and they think that it will be desirable, both with a view to saving of legal expenses to the defaulters, as well as with regard to the more speedy realizing of the rates, that proceedings by notice and summons, or by civil bill, should be taken where practicable.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LYNCH:—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to enclose herewith a copy of the list of persons in Collector Loudon's district who have not paid their rates; and I am to request that you will have the goodness to lay the list before the Vice-Guardians, in order that they may insert in the columns ruled for the purpose—
1. The date when they applied for the Commissioners' sanction to take proceedings in the superior courts in each case in which they have made such an application;

2. The reason why proceedings by notice, summons, and distress, or by civil bill, were not taken in each of such cases; 3. The reason for the delay which has taken place in the service of the notice, in each case in which it was served; 4. The reason why some of the parties had not been served at the time when you forwarded the list; 5. And any observations which the Vice-Guardians may wish to make as to the very unsatisfactory state in which the collection of those rates is found to be, for enforcing payment of which, special powers are given to them by the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Amendment Act.

The Commissioners request that you will be good enough to return the enclosed paper, with the requisite observations in each column, at your earliest convenience; and it is the wish of the Commissioners that similar information should be afforded in the case of Sir R. O'Donnell's district.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS of the Ballinrobe, Castlebar, and Westport Unions:—*March 22, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration a report which they have received from their Inspector, Mr. R. Bourke, in which he states that relief out of the workhouse is given in the Westport Union in uncooked food, and that to the able-bodied it is still issued weekly, which practices he has always opposed, but found it difficult to induce you to abandon.

The Commissioners consider this matter of so much importance that they desire me to draw your special attention again to the subject. The Commissioners are of opinion, that great efforts should be made to introduce the system of giving rations in cooked food daily.

They have reason to believe, that where rations of meal have been issued weekly, they have sometimes been entirely consumed during three or four days of the week, to the great detriment of the paupers during the remaining days.

The great point to be borne in mind is, the due relief of destitution in the manner which is at the same time the most effectual and the most economical; and the Commissioners think, especially in reference to the improvidence which has been found to exist, that this end can be best secured by daily rations of cooked food.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that I attended yesterday and the day before at the meeting of the Board of Vice-Guardians. The applicants for relief still continue numerous, but as the relieving officers have now more time to examine into the circumstances of those hitherto put on the list, they are enabled to strike off in each week very nearly as many as the Vice-Guardians are obliged to put on, so that the number actually receiving out-door relief does not exceed 21,000, and to supply this number it takes about 60 tons of Indian meal, which at the present price costs 525*l.*, but to this is to be added cost of carriage from Ballinrobe, and distribution about 1*l.* per ton.

The Vice-Guardians have taken much pains to reserve as much of the accommodation as possible in the workhouse for the able-bodied men with small families, and they find that this has the effect of throwing many of this class on their own resources who would prefer remaining a burden on the rates. During the last week there were 71 taken into the house, and 49 discharged—the greater portion of those discharged were put on the out-door relief list.

I regret to have to report the death of Mr. Geraghty, the schoolmaster; he died of fever on the 21st instant: and Mr. Egan, the clerk of the Union, is also attacked by fever, and consequently unable to attend to the duties of his office. The Vice-Guardians have directed Mr. John Moran to act in his place during Mr. Egan's illness.

Though I have repeatedly spoken to Mr. Loudon, the collector, he is making very little progress in the collection of the rate; he has lodged but 30*l.* within the last week. He has, however, issued several summonses, which are to be heard at the petty sessions this day. He made a seizure a few days since of some cattle, the property of Mr. Burke, of Greenhills, and the cattle were rescued. I directed him to have informations sworn against the parties, and spoke

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to Mr. Morony, the magistrate, who promised me that he would take out some of the police to protect Mr. Loudon in the execution of his duty, but as yet he has not gone out. It is absolutely necessary that strong measures should be taken to enforce the law, particularly in cases where gentlemen of Mr. Burke's station are concerned.

Sir Richard O'Donnell has made no lodgment since my last report.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 27, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 500*l.* (in provisions,) to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor of the Union.

I am at the same time to inform you that the attention of Government has been drawn to the rescue of the cattle seized by one of the rate collectors for the payment of the rate due on the property of Mr. Burke, of Greenhills.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LYNCH:—*March 25, 1848.*

MR. LYNCH is requested to report his opinion as to the time for which a renewal of the order authorizing out-door relief to be administered to certain classes, will be necessary.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

I AM of opinion that the able-bodied men who are not married, as well as the married men with only two persons depending on them, may be safely left to their own resources till the beginning of May, as there will be sufficient demand for their labour, but for all other classes a renewal will be necessary on the expiration of the present order.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 3, 1848.*

IN accordance with the suggestions contained in your report of the 27th ultimo, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they have given directions for the renewal of the order authorizing out-door relief in the Westport Union.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, returning me the enclosed list of defaulters in the district of Sir Richard O'Donnell, collector, requesting of me to state against the name of each the nature of the proceedings which have been taken to compel payment of the rate, &c.; and in reply I beg to inform the Commissioners that Sir Richard O'Donnell attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians this day, and informed them that he hoped, in the course of a week or so, to be able to close his collection in the electoral division of Newport; and that the delay in the collection of the rate in Achill and Ballycroy was occasioned by his being obliged to send up his books once a fortnight, as well as on other occasions, by orders of the Vice-Guardians; he further stated, that if allowed to take his own course, he would collect every available shilling of the rate, and that there would be no necessity to call for the sanction of the Commissioners to proceed in the superior Courts.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 13, 1848.*

WITH reference to your report of the 29th ultimo, I am directed by the Commissioners to request that they may be informed whether Sir R. O'Donnell

has concluded the collection of poor rates in the Newport electoral division of the Westport Union.

I am also to inquire whether the rates due by the immediate lessors named in the list enclosed with your report, including Sir R. O'Donnell himself, have yet been paid.

If not paid the subject should be brought under the special notice of the Vice-Guardians without delay.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to return the list of defaulters in Mr. Loudon's district of the Westport Union, with the several columns filled up as you directed by the Vice-Guardians.

Sir Richard O'Donnell states he will be able to collect all the rates in his district, and will not require the interference of the Vice-Guardians.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to your communication of the 29th ultimo, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of the list of immediate lessors of property in the Westport Union, against whom the Vice-Guardians propose to institute proceedings for recovery of the rates due by them; and I am to request that you will be good enough to inform the Commissioners whether the usual fifteen days' notice has been served in each case.

I am at the same time to state, that although there may be a doubt as to whether summary proceedings before justices would have proved successful in the cases named in the list, still the Commissioners are of opinion that such a course might have been employed much more generally in the Westport Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

WE have the honour to state that Sir Richard O'Donnell has lodged 138*l.* and Mr. Loudon 308*l.* on account of the collection of poor-rates, since our last report, and we hope that in our next we may be able to speak of their continued activity. We have paid 187*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* for the current expenses of the Union, and on account of amount due for out-door relief 258*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*

In compliance with your sealed order, 2117 persons have been removed from the relieving officers' lists, reducing those now to receive food to about 19,000, and taking into account an addition to this number from new applications, we estimate that 500*l.* will be required to maintain them for the week ending the 8th of April.

We have received from R. M. Lynch, Esq., Temporary Poor Law Inspector, an order granted by the British Association on the Commissariat store at Ballinrobe for 500*l.* worth of provisions, and we have drawn on the officer in charge there for 505*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* worth, having had a balance of last week's order remaining to our credit.

We regret to inform you that attacks were made on Friday and Saturday last, by large parties of people, upon the carriers on their way from Ballinrobe with meal, ordered for the supply of the poor in this Union, and a quantity forcibly carried away. Informations have been sworn, several of the parties identified and warrants issued for their apprehension; part of the meal has also been recovered. We have sent requisitions to Mr. Morony, resident magistrate, stationed here, and Mr. Arabin, resident magistrate at Ballinrobe, to furnish sufficient escorts to protect the meal (this day ordered) from the dépôt to its destination.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 1, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further advance of 500*l.* in provisions, to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Westport Union.

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Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 4, 1848.

ADVERTING to a recent letter of the Commissioners, I beg to state that I applied to the clerk of the petty sessions for a list of the persons to whom dismissals were granted by the magistrates on the 23rd of March, and he refused to give me any information, I had therefore to wait till I saw Mr. Loudon this day. I now enclose a list of the names and amounts, and I have instructed the collector to proceed against these parties at the approaching quarter sessions.

ENCLOSURE.

LIST of PERSONS summoned by Mr. Loudon for Poor-rate, and whose cases were dismissed by the Magistrates at the Westport Petty Sessions, March 23, 1848.

	£.	s.	d.
28 Pat Gibbons, Castleaffy	0	18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
30 Myles Gibbons, ditto	0	18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
31 Honor Devir, ditto	0	17	6
32 Thomas Gibbons, ditto	0	17	6
33 Pat Joyce, ditto	0	18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
34 Anthony Joyce, ditto	0	18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
35 Michael M'Greal, Owenwee }	0	12	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ Sally M'Greal, ditto }			
„ Richard M'Greal, ditto }			
36 Pat Cunniff, ditto	1	12	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
51 Michael Burke, Clagan South	1	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
52 Pat Gallagher, Rosskeeren	0	16	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
53 Harry Salmon, ditto	0	16	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 Pat Clarke, Culleen	1	17	7 $\frac{1}{2}$

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 5, 1848.

THE Vice-Guardians of this Union held their weekly meetings yesterday and to-day, and though the applicants for relief still continue numerous, yet the amount of food issued has not increased, as the numbers put on do not exceed those struck off.

There were about 60 vacancies in the house which were filled up by a class of persons of whose real destitution there appeared to be some doubt. Of the number admitted last week no less than 86 have since been discharged at their own request; these were principally from the electoral division of Islandeady, where I fear there has been a good deal of fraud and imposition, much of which must be attributed to the several changes which have taken place in the relieving officer.

Though there are still over 50 cases of fever in the hospital, they are of a light description; measles have, I regret to say, made their appearance, there have been over 30 cases and 2 deaths; the medical attendant states that the character of the disease is generally very mild, but I fear it will be likely to spread from the present crowded state of the house. Small-pox has also been introduced into the house, three of the children lately admitted have been severely attacked, and one has died and another continues dangerously ill.

The Vice-Guardians have entered into a contract with a Mr. Kelly for the proper ventilation of the house, and I hope he will have his contract completed before the warm weather sets in, otherwise the most serious consequences may be apprehended.

Mr. Johnson, the master, has tendered his resignation; he was obliged to admit, that after a fair trial he was not equal to the very onerous duty of the office; since his appointment he has conducted himself with the strictest honesty and propriety.

During the week Mr. Loudon has been exerting himself to collect as much rate as possible. Mr. Morony, the resident magistrate, was out with him all day on Saturday last; he served a great number of notices, and he seized five or six head of cattle, three of these were released on payment of the rate, the other two were sold in the town of Westport on last Monday, and realized the sums for which they were seized. Mr. Morony tells me that if it had not been for the presence of the police force, it would have been quite impossible to have brought the cattle from off the land, and that it was with the greatest difficulty the notices were served; they found all the doors closed, and it was

through the key holes and under the doors that the papers were put in. Mr. Loudon has lodged 112*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, but Sir Richard O'Donnell has paid in nothing since my last report.

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From the statement made this day to the Vice-Guardians by Mr. Mears, the supervisor of the working parties, there is reason to apprehend that the labour test in the electoral division of Achill has been altogether overlooked. Mr. Leckey and I have arranged to start to-morrow morning, with a view of putting the whole system on some better footing.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April* 10, 1848.

I AM to state that the Commissioners rely upon the Vice-Guardians taking every possible precaution to prevent the spread of disease in the work-house, by effectually separating the sick from the healthy inmates.

The Commissioners trust that the collectors will not be permitted to relax their exertions for the recovery of all collectable rates in the Union, and that active steps will be taken in order that a task of work as the condition of receiving out-door relief, may be required from the able-bodied persons relieved.

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Captain MUSTERS, Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS:—
February 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to state that since my arrival here on the morning of the 16th instant, I have made a careful and minute inspection of the poor-house, of which I am happy to say I can give a very favourable account, finding it very clean, with a few trifling exceptions in good order, and in every department that came under my observation, I consider the rules and regulations have been fairly attended to by both master and matron.

The Visiting Committee appear, however, seldom to attend, only one member of that body having made any report (since last October) in the visiting book kept for that purpose; I am informed that only one elected Guardian resides in the town of Callan, the remainder all residing at a considerable distance from it.

The number of paupers in the house at the present moment is 441, and 56 in fever hospital, making a total of 497; in this number are included about 15 infirm old men, and about double that number of women, the remainder being all able-bodied. This leaves 123 vacancies.

There is an abundance of good clothing in the house, and I consider it will be in the power of the Board of Guardians to apply the workhouse test on the next Board day, not only to those persons then applying for relief, but to many who are now receiving out-door relief.

The lists or returns called for, of the number of destitute poor persons relieved out of the workhouse in each week, from the commencement of out-door relief in this Union, up to the week ended Saturday, 12th instant, will be completed by the next Board day, and then forwarded as directed.

There are two stores taken in the town for the male and female children, in which there are at present 232. The buildings appear to be very old, and the boys' house very much out of repair; they were, however, as clean and orderly as under the circumstances could be expected.

In conclusion, I have only to mention that I also visited the fever sheds, in which there were 118 patients; the medical man informed me that there were two or three bad cases of typhus fever only, the remainder not being of a malignant character.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 26, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request that in your next report you will have the goodness to inform the Commissioners of the steps which have been taken to apply the test of labour to persons in the receipt of out-door relief in the Union.

I am at the same time to request your attention to the Commissioners' circular letter of the 18th ultimo, and I am to state that the parties removed from the workhouse, who come within the meaning of the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, may, in addition to the weekly allowance of food, be provided with allowances for fuel, clothing, and lodging.

Captain MUSTERS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to reply to the instructions I received in your communication, dated Dublin, February 26, 1848, to state, that by order of the Board of Guardians, as shown by the minute of their proceedings of January 5, 1848, all able-bodied paupers are required to work eight hours each day, and to break 1½ cubic yards of lime stone, and one cubic yard of grey stone; and where any defi-

ciency of work appears, the relieving officers are directed to allow rations only in proportion to the work done. This is in operation all over the Union; and though I have not had time at present to visit the different depôts in the Union, I have reason to believe, from the relieving officers' books and statements, that it is properly carried out.

The number receiving out-door relief up to the week ending Saturday, February 26, 1848, was 9812.

The relieving officers have complained that they are unable to put many of the able-bodied to work for want of the necessary tools; and a letter was written by the clerk by order of the Board of Guardians, on Wednesday last, to the Board of Works, requesting an immediate order on the nearest depôt to Callan, and stating that they would pay the carriage of them from that depôt.

With respect to the Commissioners' letter of the 18th of January, 1848, I find that up to the present period no extra allowance has been made by the Guardians to persons discharged from the workhouse under section 1st of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act; but by the master's Discharge-book it appears there was only one case, a widow and two children, removed from the workhouse since the Commissioners' circular of the 18th of January, 1848.

I have visited the workhouse daily since last Board-day (March 1), and found everything regular, clean, and proper: the house well ventilated. The new fever wards are now being aired, and will be ready for reception about the beginning of next month.

The number relieved during the past week in the house was 814; remaining in the house at the present moment, 782; in this number are included 63 in house infirmary, and 41 in fever sheds.

In Ballingarry fever ward, 35.

The deaths during the past week, in workhouse 2 adults; in fever sheds 1 child.

On the last Board-day, March 1, 1848, the numbers admitted into the house were 178, out of which number only 58 came in; the greater part of these, if not all, were taken from the relieving officers' out-door relief lists, and were principally able-bodied paupers.

At the present time there are 98 vacancies.

The last two days I have been engaged investigating charges made by some of the paupers as well as by the master, a report of which I have already forwarded.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

WITH reference to your observation, that only one widow and two children were removed from the workhouse since the Commissioners' circular letter of the 18th January, I am to recommend that room should be made in the workhouse for testing the destitution of applicants for relief, by discharging the classes coming under the 1st section.

I am at the same time to draw your attention to the Commissioners' circular of the 18th January, by which you will more fully perceive the Commissioners' views on the subject.

By each week selecting a certain number of persons from the lists of the relieving officers, and offering them relief in the workhouse, a large number of persons may be brought within the scope of the workhouse test.

Captain MUSTERS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

IN reference to your communication of the 9th instant, I have the honour to state that at the present time there are not more than seven cases in the workhouse coming under section 1, 10 Vic., cap. 31, the rest being either able-bodied, or too infirm to remove. These seven cases will be brought before the Guardians on the next Board-day, when I will recommend their removal, according to the directions contained in the Commissioners' circular of the 18th January, 1848.

The number of all classes relieved out of the workhouse during the week

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ending Saturday, March 4, 1848, was 8515, showing a decrease of 377 from the former week.

The workhouse test was applied to every case coming under section 2, which was brought before the Guardians on Wednesday last by the relieving officers; and 83 applicants for relief under the 2nd section were admitted to the workhouse, out of which number only 11 have up to this date gone in.

The last sealed order for out-door relief to the able-bodied will expire on the 25th of this month; and I have cautioned all the relieving officers to have lists made out and ready to lay before the Guardians at their next meeting, showing every case on their respective relief lists falling under the 2nd section of the Act, for the purpose of at once striking off a certain number, and if possible all, by the 18th instant. But from what I have been able to collect of the state of the distress in this Union, I am inclined to recommend that, with the exception of the two electoral districts of Kells and Burnchurch, Grove and Kilmanagh, the remaining five electoral districts should be allowed the benefit of the last order for relief out of the workhouse till it expires on the 25th instant, there being very great poverty in these districts, particularly in the mining district of Ballingarry. This continuance of wet weather has also greatly retarded the farming and out-door operations of all sorts.

The number relieved in the workhouse during the past week was 802, remaining at the present moment 746, in which number is included 81 infirm patients, 58 fever shed patients, and 240 children, leaving 134 vacancies.

These, with the vacancies that may occur from discharges between this time and the 18th instant, will, I consider, leave about 150 or 170 vacancies at the expiration of the out-door relief to the able-bodied, which I hope (with the assistance of the farming and out-door work, which ought to be in operation by that time) will be found sufficient to meet the distress the discontinuance of that order will necessarily occasion in some of the districts of this Union.

I have visited the workhouse daily, and, with the exception of the infirmary, have found it always clean and regular. The nurse in the latter establishment I do not consider competent to fill the situation, which subject I shall bring before the Guardians on the next day of meeting.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM to inform you, that in accordance with your recommendation, the Commissioners do not propose to revoke the order, which will therefore remain in force until the 25th instant.

Captain EVANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

MAY I beg leave to call your attention to the following resolution which was entered on the minutes at the meeting of the Board this day. From all I can learn from the gentlemen of the Board, it will be very necessary to continue the out-door relief under the 2nd section for at least another fortnight; and your sanction and reply by the return of post, addressed to Kilkenny, will oblige, &c.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. GODFREY JOHN GREEN moved, seconded by William Conway—That immediate application be made to the Poor Law Commissioners for a further extension of time, say one month from the 25th March instant, for the distribution of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor of the Callan Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

I AM to state, that in accordance with your recommendation, the Commissioners have given directions for the renewal of the order for one fortnight.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain EVANS :—*March 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners observe by minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Callan Union, on the 8th instant, that the meeting was adjourned on that day to the 18th instant, and in reference thereto I am directed to state, that Mr. J. Burke, Poor Law Inspector, is of opinion that it is necessary that the Board should meet two or three times each week, otherwise much inconvenience will arise, owing to the large number of persons receiving relief in the Union.

Mr. Burke suggests that it would be desirable that you should prevail on the Board of Guardians to meet on two or three days in each week, as he considers it impossible that the business of the Union can *now* be transacted in one day.

Captain EVANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 2, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the Callan Board of Guardians on Wednesday, the 29th March, Lord Desart in the chair, and a large number of the members of the Board were in attendance, and the business of the day was conducted in the most regular and orderly manner. The relieving officers were examined and books revised, and although there were only 135 vacancies in the house, admission to 286 of the able-bodied were offered, and out of that number only 20 entered the house on that day, and three on the 31st; and two out of the 20 admitted on the 29th went out of the house on the 31st. You will see that the workhouse test has been effectually applied, and the names struck off the relief lists; and a greater reduction will take place in the course of next week; but as much distress exists in many parts, more particularly in the Ballingarry electoral division, a colliery district, in the county of Tipperary, and also in Mulnahone, where a Mr. Stephenson, who was decreed in consequence of his not paying his rates, having discharged all his men employed in his quarry.

It was deemed advisable to administer out-door relief till the following Board day.

The paupers, males, in number 98, are well clad and fed, and are employed on the grounds, some in paving the new fever hospital, &c., &c.; and the females, who are equally well clad and fed, 236 in number, in spinning and making clothes, which is superintended by the matron and wardmistress; and with the exception of the male paupers, who, in consequence of hearing that the Kilkenny paupers had made an attempt to oblige the Vice-Guardians (in which they failed) to give them an increase of rations, tried the same experiment, but were checked by the chairman, Lord Desart, who acted in a firm and determined manner; and with this exception there is no complaint.

The collectors have not been so active in the discharge of their duties as they might have been, and have neglected to furnish the lists of the defaulting rate-payers; and it was my intention (with your sanction) to have proceeded against them, under the 102nd section of the Act Vict. 1 and 2, for disobedience of orders and neglect of duty; but at the last meeting of the Board they requested that I would withhold my report till the following meeting, when they would have all their rates collected. I did so, giving them at the same time to understand, that in the event of the rates not being collected in full on the 25th instant, on which day they were by bond bound to complete their collection, I should without hesitation recommend the Guardians at once to proceed against the securities.

I have had no reason to complain of the relieving officers as yet. I visited one of their districts on the 31st, where the able-bodied were employed breaking stones in the Ballintagart quarry, county Tipperary, and found them breaking them too large, which it would appear was an order from some of the Guardians; however I ordered them to be broken smaller, giving them a two-inch ring as a gauge. I find on making inquiries that no man could quarry and break stones for the use of the roads for less than 10d. per ton. The road contractors I hear give 5d. per ton for quarrying and 3d. for breaking, when laid on the side of the road for doing so, which task is performed by old men and

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boys, and in many instances by women; but the farmers have assured me, that they could not provide the broken stones for the contractors for less than 10*d.* per ton; and only 4*d.* has been offered to the Guardians, which I have requested them not to accept, as they will be able shortly to come to some understanding with the grand jury, to compel the contractors to purchase from their Union, which it will be their interest to do.

The expense of the house is gradually reducing, it being 1*s.* 9½*d.* per head for the week ending the 18th of March, and 1*s.* 8½*d.* for the week ending the 25th; but I anticipate a further reduction when we enter into new contracts.

WATERFORD UNION.

MR. BURKE to the COMMISSIONERS—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians :—*
March 17, 1848.

I FORWARD herewith a letter (A) dated 11th instant, with two enclosures (B and C), from Sir Henry Winston Barron, Bart., M.P., relating to the state of the Waterford Union, and impressing the absolute and pressing necessity there exists, of either dissolving the Board of Guardians or appointing an Inspector of the Union. On receipt of this communication I altered my arrangements for this week and proceeded at once to Waterford, and having on Tuesday made an inspection of the workhouse and of the additional wards in connexion with it, I attended the meeting of the Guardians on Thursday and submitted to them the accompanying report (D).

Of the incapacity of the master to conduct the management of the workhouse I have had frequent instances, the laxity of discipline and the idleness prevailing within it render this workhouse no longer a test for the lazy and ill-conducted. At the meeting on Thursday one of the medical officers, Dr. Elliot, made a report (E. 1) on the bad quality of the food and the want of clothing for the children, a sample of the bread in use being produced, it was of a very inferior description, although the person supplying it had tendered to give it of the best quality, and for which he had a fair price—namely, 6d. per 4 lb. loaf; this man has been supplying the workhouse since the 18th February, (E. 2), and Dr. Elliot stated that the bread was generally worse than the sample then produced, yet no report of this fact was ever made by the master; on calling for the contract, it appeared that none had ever been entered into, nor was it the practice to have contracts entered into with parties who supplied the workhouse, the tender being the only evidence of the transaction. With regard to the badness of the broth mentioned in the medical officer's report, the person who supplied the meat had 4½d. per pound, and it was to be of the best quality; instead of which it appeared he supplied shins of beef, which generally consisted of eight pounds of bone and only five pounds of meat. I should say from what came out at the meeting of the Guardians on Thursday, that the testing of every other article supplied to the workhouse is equally neglected.

With respect to the finances of the Union, it appears that of the rate made upwards of seven months since, about one-fourth remains uncollected (F), and there seems to be no trouble taken by the Guardians to have this large arrear got in. You will see from the return that while Collector Gamble has collected ten-elevenths, and Collector Jones nine-tenths of their warrants, Collector Fitzpatrick has collected but three-fourths, and Collectors M'Donald and Cosgrave but little more than two-thirds of their warrants. Collector Cosgrave has the collection of the City of Waterford electoral division, and although I urged most strongly on the Guardians at the time of the making of this rate, that the sum to be collected on this electoral division was too large for one collector, and that two collectors ought to be appointed, yet it was agreed by the Guardians that Collector Cosgrave should have the entire collection of the Waterford electoral division; the consequence is, that of 7308l. 12s. 4d., there remains 2177l. 17s. 6d. uncollected by him; and from a return (G), which I got him to furnish, it would appear that of this sum more than two-fifths are due by 100 persons of a class well able to pay.

About a year since a collector of the name of Phelan was found to be a defaulter for nearly five hundred pounds, and having urged on the Guardians to have this man's bond put in suit, it was done accordingly six months since, but, from what cause I cannot learn, the amount of Phelan's defalcation has not since been recovered, although it is stated his sureties are solvent.

The money now in bank to the credit of the Union is but 106l. 15s. 10d., the liabilities of the Union are about 1640l., and the weekly expenditure about 296l. 16s. 1d. (H), yet with this state of things it appears that little or no progress is being made with regard to the striking of a new rate; the Guardians

Waterford Union.

on Thursday stating as their reason for not preparing for making a rate, that they cannot get the books from the revisors. The Union will thus be unprovided with means to carry it on. At the meeting on Thursday the estimate for the Waterford fever hospital could not be paid for want of funds with the treasurer.

From the return of the attendance of the Guardians (I 1 and 2), it will be seen that at the meetings of the Board for deciding on the applications for relief, but few attend. Mr. Bogan, a Guardian, stated on Thursday, that he had to wait for two hours one day this week, before he could get two other Guardians to form a Board; and while writing this report I received a note (K. 1) from Mr. Hayes, a Guardian, stating that there was "no attendance, and the house surrounded with poor objects shivering in the cold." I immediately advised Mr. Hayes, that although it might not be strictly legal, he ought, assisted by the relieving officers, to hear and decide on the applications for relief (K. 2), and from Mr. Hayes's reply it appears he sat unassisted by any other Guardian until 11 o'clock at night, and decided on cases which included 600 persons (K. 3).

It will be seen by the return (L), that but 10 entries appear in the Visiting Committee Book for the last year, and of these seven have been made by Messrs. Newport and Hayes, who are the only Guardians since June last who inspected the workhouse. Mr. Hayes stated at the Board on Thursday, that he has ceased to make entries in the Visiting Committee Book, as they were never attended to by the Guardians.

It will be seen by the return already referred to (I), that but few of the ex-officio Guardians attend the meetings of the Board, and that the management of the Union had in a great measure devolved on the Guardians of the City of Waterford electoral division, many of whom however well inclined, having their own affairs to attend to, cannot be expected to devote the time which the increased duties now devolving on Boards of Guardians require.

The Guardians, as will be seen by the extract from their minutes of proceedings of the 9th instant (M), expressed their opinion "that the general superintendence of this establishment with its intended auxiliaries as well as the general administration of the Poor Law, requires a much more vigilant and constant daily inspection than the Board of Guardians can conveniently or satisfactorily give," and "they therefore resolve that the Poor Law, as regards the interests of all concerned, and without seeking the dissolution of the constitutional formation of Board of Guardians, would be more efficiently, economically, and satisfactorily administered by the assistance of a resident Inspector or paid Guardians, and beg leave to submit this declaration for the consideration of the Commissioners for administering Relief of the Poor in Ireland."

As the suggestion of having paid Guardians acting with a Board of Guardians as at present constituted is quite out of the question, the only matter for your consideration is whether an Inspector is required, and in viewing this matter it must be borne in mind that no order for out-door relief to the able-bodied has been issued in this Union as in the Unions to which Inspectors have been appointed.

The number on the out-door relief list is not large compared with other Unions, being for the week ending 11th instant, 5959. (N).

There is enough of intelligence and business-like habits amongst the Guardians to manage the affairs of the Union if they had but the inclination and could afford the time, and I think if an Inspector were appointed as they propose, it would not be the means of making such a radical change as is required; the Guardians would retain and exercise all their powers and patronage as at present, attend but seldom to the affairs of the Union or to the management of the workhouse, resting satisfied that any defects which might appear in either could be charged to the responsibility of an officer, who so circumstanced, would have many obstacles to contend with in correcting abuses, and placing the affairs of the Union on a better footing.

ENCLOSURES.

Waterford Union.

A.

DEAR SIR,

85, *Harcourt-street*, March 11, 1848.

I ENCLOSE you two letters received from Waterford on yesterday.

Allow me to impress on you the absolute and pressing necessity of either dissolving the Board or appointing an inspector. The jobbing and neglect of the relieving officers, and the total inefficiency of the master, together with the negligence and jobbing of a portion of the Guardians, are altogether incredible if not witnessed; and ultimately these matters combined, are fast bringing the law into disrepute, and rendering it most unpopular with all parties. If not speedily remedied by the Commissioners, you will find it impossible to carry out the law much longer in that Union.

Faithfully yours,

H. WINSTON BARRON.

I leave this for London to-night.

B.

MY DEAR SIR HENRY,

John's Hill Villa, 4 o'clock, P.M., March 9, 1848.

I WROTE enclosed in a hurry at Board-room, fearing I should be late for post.

Owen Carroll, and Phelan, the mayor, moved an amendment to my resolution to apply for one Inspector only, but affirming the principle that we do require assistance by a resident Inspector. This was evidently done as a side-wind to try and defeat the original motion; but it was at length decided that the original, with the amended part, in regard to *one* instead of "*one or more*," should be sent to the Commissioners. A division for the substitution took place, and the amendment was carried by *one* majority. It is therefore now in the power of the Board of Commissioners to take the subject into consideration, and I hope ultimately to have the entire management of the concern under their own officers, for we are every day becoming worse in regard to the general state of the establishment.

Yours very truly,

G. NEWPORT.

For amendment to substitute "*one*" for
"*one or more*."

Against.

S. Phelan,
O. Carroll,
M. Carrigan,
P. A. Power,
— Strange,
— Lambert,
— Ryan,
Pat Power,
— Kelly,
W. Morris.

W. Christmas,
G. Newport,
R. Hayes,
J. Bogan,
Michael Dobblyn,
N. A. Power,
George Meara,
Dr. Mackesy,
Mr. Coghlan.

9

10

The clerk then received instructions to send the *original motion* with the *amendment*—not a very usual way of doing business; but such has been the case; and in such way the Commissioners must see that the principle of having assistance has been reluctantly affirmed by the party who would prefer matters to remain as they are. Mr. Morris, the chairman, has this day resigned, and who they are to get to act in his place is a puzzle.

I think you had better see Mr. Twisleton on the subject ere you go over; and you can show him that all the landed interest are in favour of some decided step being taken.

C.

THE following notice of motion by Captain Newport is for discussion by the Board of Guardians on Thursday, the 9th of March instant:—

"That although the Guardians of the Waterford Union do not desire to shrink from the performance of their duties to the utmost in their power, yet from experience they cannot avoid expressing their opinion that the general superintendence of this establishment, with its intended auxiliaries, as well as the general administration of the Poor Law, requires a much more vigilant and constant daily inspection than the Board of Guardians can conveniently or satisfactorily give.

"They therefore resolve that the Poor Law, as regards the interests of all concerned, and without seeking the dissolution of the constitutional formation of Board of Guardians, would be more efficiently, economically, and satisfactorily administered by the assistance of one or more resident Inspectors or paid Guardians, and beg leave to submit this declaration for the consideration of the Commissioners for administering Relief to the Poor in Ireland."

By order,

JOHN P. HENEY,

Clerk of the Union.

Board-room, March 2, 1848.

Waterford Union. MY DEAR SIR HENRY,

ANNEXED is the circular for my motion this day :—

Two o'clock—Board-room.

An amendment was adopted that the application to the Commissioners should be for the appointment of *one* Inspector, to be paid by the Consolidated Fund.

It was then arranged that the original resolution, with the amendment, should be sent up to the Commissioners; therefore it is quite in their power to take very decided steps towards placing this Union under their more immediate control.

Yours truly,
G. NEWPORT.

D.

Thursday, March 16, 1848.

MR. BURKE, Poor Law Inspector, having on Tuesday last inspected the workhouse and the two additional wards in connexion with it, has again to call the attention of the Guardians to the over-crowded state of the day-rooms. In a shed in the men's yard, there was scarcely more than standing room for the men and boys in it, and it would be most desirable for their health's sake, if instead of being allowed to remain in such a fetid atmosphere, these people were employed in the open air at some work on the grounds, however useless it might be. Several of the male inmates had on their own filthy clothes, the master stating that he has not a sufficient supply of house clothing; from this cause, and from the over-crowding of the day-rooms, it is not unlikely, as experience has proved, that disease will be generated to some extent.

The alterations of Grady's store, which are now going on for nearly three months, might reasonably be expected to be done in as many weeks, but the work still lingers on; if the alterations in this store were completed, there would be ample day-room accommodation.

There is a system being pursued of having work done by tradesmen at day's wages, which is objectionable, besides being contrary to the Poor Law Act. The master at present has carpenters at work making 80 bedsteads for the new hospital; the regulations for contracts provide that every contract should be procured by tenders duly advertised for; the system of day's work is open to many objections, and is but justice to the tradesmen of the Union to give all an opportunity of offering for goods or work required for the workhouse, besides by tenders, it is done for a defined sum, when by purchasing materials and paying for day's work it is found very difficult in coming at the real cost; in the same way tradesmen are employed by the master repairing Grady's store. The master of a workhouse has quite enough to attend to without adding to his duties the superintending of tradesmen.

Two of the dormitories in the workhouse are still occupied by the sick, but as the new hospital will be finished in a few days, this irregularity, it is hoped, will be discontinued.

It is a matter of regret, and one which the Guardians should endeavour to remedy, to see the number of young men and boys unemployed; the workhouse has in this, as well as in other respects, ceased to be a test: the male paupers seem to be under no restraint as to going in and out of the workhouse, as they are to be met with in all directions through the town.

The workhouse was not as clean as it should be. Grady's store was in neat order, and the wardmaster there appears to be an efficient officer. White's store was very dirty.

Mr. Burke has again to call the attention of the Guardians to the late Collector Phelan's defalcation of nearly 500*l.*, which as yet remains a debt to the Union, although nearly 12 months have elapsed since this defalcation was ascertained.

E. 1.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of PROCEEDINGS of BOARD of GUARDIANS, on Thursday,
March 16, 1848.

Medical Officer's Report.

DR. ELLIOTT, one of the medical officers of the workhouse, reports that the broth provided for the inmates has been so bad as to prove actually pernicious to many of those who partook of it, especially to the children, so that he and Dr. Burkett have been obliged to interdict its use. The bread is also of very inferior quality, and very frequently disagrees with those who use it. Dr. Elliott also reports that much fatal illness is caused among the female children by want of clothes and shoes, as well as by over-crowding.

(Signed) JOHN ELLIOTT, A.M., M.B.

March 6, 1848.

Moved by Counsellor Hayes, seconded by D. Holden,—“That the report be adopted and entered on the minutes.”

Passed.

JOHN P. HENRY, Clerk of the Union.

E. 2.

Waterford Union.

THE bread contract commenced the 18th of February for three months, at the rate of 6d. the four pound loaf.

JOHN P. HENEY, *Clerk of the Union.*

March 18, 1848.

F.

RETURN of the Amount of each Collector's Warrant, the Amount of Rate collected, and the Amount uncollected on the 16th of March, 1848, of the Rate made in July, August, and September, 1847.

Collectors.	Amount of Warrant.			Amount Collected.			Remaining Uncollected.			Collected.
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
James Cosgrave . . .	7,308	12	4	5,130	14	10	2,177	17	6	$\frac{3}{4}$
Samuel Jones . . .	2,320	6	2½	2,088	0	5	232	5	9½	$\frac{1}{16}$
Stephen Gamble . . .	1,932	5	6½	1,756	7	2	175	18	4½	$\frac{1}{16}$
John M'Donald . . .	1,481	5	3	1,031	12	5	449	12	10	$\frac{3}{4}$
Michael Fitzpatrick . .	1,176	10	1½	891	10	0	285	0	1½	$\frac{3}{4}$
Total . . .	14,218	19	5	10,998	4	10	3,320	14	7	

JOHN P. HENEY, *Clerk of the Union.*

G.

RETURN of Names, &c., of 100 of the highest Rate-payers who have not yet paid their respective Rates in the Waterford Electoral Division.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
13. Ben. Doyle, Cathedral-square . . .	4	4	0	702. W. Power . . .	8	15	9
146. Thomas R. Cherry, Johnstown . . .	33	8	2	41. R. Grady (relieving officer) . . .	8	10	0
185. James Millar, Ballytruckle . . .	11	5	4	51. J. Fitzgerald . . .	8	3	3
264. Repres. of Hauna Palmer . . .	11	3	11	718. R. Lawless . . .	3	12	0
295. Repres. of W. Sutton . . .	4	2	0	729. Catherine Doyle . . .	5	14	11
590. John Strangman, Newtown . . .	4	7	0	621. R. E. Pope . . .	15	17	1
726. House in Mall-lane . . .	3	19	4	756. Wm. Hennebery . . .	10	0	0
727. Repres. of E. Rice . . .	10	14	0	757. Bartholomew Shea . . .	9	12	0
596. John Ringwood, Newtown . . .	3	18	6	758. John Moran . . .	5	4	0
739. Moses Robinson, Bolton-street . . .	12	18	0	763. Repres. of R. Pope . . .	13	0	0
772. Wm. Hearne, Catherine-street . . .	9	5	11	422. J. Campion . . .	11	4	0
933. Repres. of W. Hart . . .	5	13	11	11. J. Butler . . .	3	13	0
626. Waterford Corporation . . .	39	4	7	146. E. Power . . .	3	0	0
1065. Mary Magrath, Ballytruckle . . .	5	0	10	157. J. Doyle . . .	6	0	0
742. R. Henderson, Bolton-street . . .	8	7	6	158. M. Murphy . . .	5	12	0
793. Wall and Hardy . . .	10	12	0	167. Warehouse, Quay . . .	3	15	10
1094. M. Flahavan . . .	13	2	11	176. James Morrison . . .	5	0	0
1092. J. Breen . . .	4	12	7	238. J. Milling . . .	3	0	0
1102. Patrick Hearne . . .	3	17	0	239. J. M'Kenzie . . .	3	12	0
1123. Matthew Power . . .	4	10	3	200. A. Markey . . .	5	8	1
86. Francis Lyons . . .	4	7	0	271. P. M'Laren . . .	3	0	0
20. P. Hayes . . .	2	18	0	288. Jerm. Ennett . . .	7	0	6
198. W. Quinn . . .	5	9	4	309. P. Ennett . . .	3	4	6
141. T. Morgan . . .	4	15	0	189. Mary Wall . . .	11	9	11
174. A. Gordon . . .	3	3	4	678. J. Magrath . . .	12	0	0
525. E. Maher . . .	3	4	0	683. M. Ryan . . .	14	14	7
412. E. Maher . . .	3	18	0	685. E. Brennan . . .	7	18	4
188. J. Killilea . . .	11	2	0	687. W. Magrath . . .	8	12	0
532. R. Curtis . . .	15	1	2	701. J. N. Power . . .	11	0	0
538. R. Fleming . . .	8	14	8	705. James Phelan . . .	4	0	0
23. W. Phelan . . .	5	4	0	706. Thomas Power . . .	4	10	0
531. W. Dobbyn . . .	7	8	8	708. James Moran . . .	3	7	0
697. D. Keffe . . .	9	4	0	727. W. Power . . .	11	10	0
706. Thomas Phelan . . .	36	15	0	771. T. Kent . . .	6	8	0
708. F. Wyse . . .	8	10	0	528. R. Kehoe . . .	4	12	0
687. P. Hayes . . .	11	2	9	534. E. Lynch . . .	4	2	0
				697. J. Carroll . . .	5	18	0
				187. R. Brennan . . .	4	3	5
				743. R. Fennelly . . .	4	16	0
				968. Thomas Wyse . . .	57	13	0
				1735. D. Whelan . . .	3	8	0
				1736. E. Hally . . .	10	14	0
				1743. J. Delany . . .	5	16	0

Waterford Union.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1758. P. Fitzpatrick.	8	14	0	1733. M. Sheehan	4	10	0
1765. P. Brien	6	19	0	1742. R. Whittel	11	11	2
1768. M. Hackett	7	0	0	811. W. Waters	4	15	4
1772. M. Magrath	6	8	6	603. G. Adams	2	4	0
1784. B. Mulcahy	5	17	0	631. J. Sparrow	2	12	0
485. A. Walsh	29	3	3	642. M. O'Brien	2	4	0
257. T. Whelan	11	7	2	654. E. Hobson	2	16	0
1249. T. Lynch	9	15	2	687. T. Power	3	0	0
918. E. Dignam	5	6	0	726. Warehouse	3	19	4
54. W. Morris	8	19	4				
1666. T. Clarke	6	5	0				
1728. R. Hearne	8	8	0				

Total due by 100 persons on
premises rated . . . £845 10 1

JAMES COSGRAVE, *Collector of Rate.*

JOHN P. HENEY, *Clerk of the Union.*

March 19, 1848.

The warrant in which the foregoing sums are included bears date 22nd July, 1847.

J. B.

H.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount of liabilities on the 18th of March, 1848, as near as could be ascertained	1640	0	0
Amount in bank to the credit of the Union on the 16th of March, 1848	106	15	10
Weekly expenditure in workhouse (average)	160	0	0
Weekly expenditure in out-door relief on the 11th of March, 1848, which is weekly increasing	136	16	1
	£296	16	1

JOHN P. HENEY, *Clerk of the Union.*

I.

RETURN of Attendance of Guardians from 26th March, 1847, to 16th March, 1848.

(There were 78 meetings during this period.)

Ex-Officio Guardians.

William Morris, chairman	49	Hon. R. S. Carew	5
Thomas L. Mackesy	43	Maurice Ronayne	4
Thomas Meagher, M.P.	36	Thomas Carew	3
George Wyse	22	George Meara	3
Roger Hayes	20	Sir Robert Paul	3
Sir Benjamin Morris Wall	21	Richard Duckett	2
Sir H. W. Barron, M.P.	18	Major Snow	2
John D. Coghlan	15	Lord Carew	2
Shapland C. Morris	12	Nicholas Power	1
Michael Dobbyn	9	James Keating	1
John H. Jones	9	James Galway	1
William Christmas	8	James Barron	1
Daniel Osborne	8	The Earl of Huntingdon	No attendance.
Samuel King	8	John Power O'Shea	
T. D. Sherlock	8	John Harris	
Major Whitney	6	Earl Fortescue	
Nicholas A. Power	5	Joseph Hayden	

Elected Guardians.

John E. Feehan	38	William Kearney (dead)	18
Simon Newport	37	Lewis Jones Lambert	18
John Bogan	34	Richard Asper	15
Patrick Carrigan	32	Thomas F. Strange	15
John Hackett (dead)	30	David Holden	13
P. A. Power	27	Arthur Dillon	13
Silvester Phelan	26	John J. Aylward	12
Thomas Ryan	25	John Kelly	12
William Kelly	22	Owen Carroll	7
Richard Walsh	21	Michael Dooly	7
James Delahunty	20	William Hearn (resigned)	6
Thomas Gamble	19	Benjamin Finnucane	5
Walter Cummins (dead)	19	Thomas Dillon	5
Patrick Power	18	Paul Heaney (never attended).	

JOHN P. HENEY, *Clerk of the Union.*

MEETINGS OF GUARDIANS, NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES, &c., from the 25th of March, 1847,
to the 17th March, 1848.

Date of Meetings.	Number of Guardians.	Observations.
1847		
April 1	9	Each child under two years to get $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. meat made into broth. Appointment of the several committees for the year.
8	11	Resolution to declare a rate. Notice to collectors to give a satisfactory account of the state of the collection.
15	19	Notice for dismissal of county of Waterford rate collector, unless a satisfactory account be given. Same, as to the city of Waterford and county Kilkenny collectors. Appointment of an assistant master, at a salary of 2s. 6d. a-week.
22	8	Resolution to co-operate with the corporation to establish public baths and wash-houses.
29	13	Previous to new rate being struck to have valuation carefully revised. Resolution to bring into operation 9 and 10 Vict., for the prevention of fever.
May 6	14	
13	7	Request to treasurer to advance a loan of 1000 <i>l</i> . Resolution that county Waterford collector may engage assistants to enforce payment of rate.
20	16	Treasurer agrees to advance the loan of 1000 <i>l</i> ., at 5 per cent. interest. Agreed that a rate of 2s. in the pound on the Waterford electoral division, and 1s. on rural divisions, be made. J. Morrissey appointed as wardmaster, at a salary of 10 <i>l</i> . a-year.
27	12	Collectors ordered to close accounts forthwith.
June 3	14	
10	12	Clerk directed to write to Mr. Phelan's sureties to pay up the deficiency in the collection of the rate.
17	11	
24	8	Apothecary's salary increased from 30 <i>l</i> . to 50 <i>l</i> . during the pressure.
July 1	9	County Waterford rate collector dismissed.
8	29	Sir Benjamin Morris Wall resigned the chairmanship of the Board.—Vote of thanks to him. The county of Waterford divisions of the Union divided into two districts; Samuel Jones appointed for No. 1 district, and Stephen Gamble for No. 2. William Morris, esq. was elected chairman of the Board; J. Hackett, vice-chairman; Owen Carroll, esq. (mayor), deputy vice-chairman.
15	6	Four of the county of Waterford rate books signed. Resolution to build addition to hospital.
22	26	Solicitor of the Board directed to take proceedings against Mr. Phelan's sureties.
29	9	Notice to raise the medical officers' salaries from 40 <i>l</i> . to 50 <i>l</i> .
Aug. 5	41	The rate books of sixteen electoral divisions were signed. Mr. Fitzpatrick appointed poor-rate collector for five divisions of the Kilkenny portion of the Union. W. Hearne, J. Murphy, M. Gorman, M. Power, M. Blunden, and W. Holden, appointed relieving officers.
12	14	Medical officers' salaries raised from 40 <i>l</i> . to 50 <i>l</i> . a-year.
19	14	W. Holden incompetent as a relieving officer. M. Blunden unduly elected.
26	26	John Carr and John Lynagh appointed relieving officers.
Sept. 2	14	The rate books of four divisions signed.
9	20	The Rev. D. Keon appointed Roman Catholic chaplain; salary, 60 <i>l</i> . per annum.
16	32	Medical officer's report; 1200 paupers can be safely accommodated in the house; 6d. to be paid committee of new cemetery for interment of each pauper. E. Walsh appointed a relieving officer.
23	23	Committee recommend the taking of the Presentation convent as a house for additional accommodation for paupers.
30	26	Hour of meeting of the Board altered from 12 to 11 o'clock. Dietary increased to children between 5 and 15 years.
Oct. 7	18	Letter from superiresses of convent, agreeing to let it for 139 years, at a rent of 80 <i>l</i> . per annum.
14	15	
21	14	
28	22	
Nov. 4	9	
11	10	The clerk reported the two months granted Mr. Waddy for payment of Mr. Phelan's deficiency had expired.
18	9	
25	11	Resolved that a sanitary committee be appointed.
26	5	Sixty inmates of the workhouse discharged on out-door relief.
Dec. 2	13	Mr. White's malthouse taken for additional accommodation of paupers.
6	6	Fifteen inmates discharged on out-door relief.
9	10	Eighty inmates discharged from workhouse, and sent to other Unions.
16	13	
20	8	
22	6	

Waterford Union.

Meetings of Guardians, Number of Attendances, &c.—*continued.*

Date of Meetings.	Number of Guardians.	Observations.
1847		
Dec. 23	7	Mr. Clarke's store taken at 1 <i>l.</i> per week for pauper accommodation. Assistant master's salary raised from 2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 5 <i>s.</i> per week. Hour of meeting again changed from 12 to 11 o'clock.
24	7	
27	8	Mr. Clarke's store deemed unsuitable. Grady's store taken at 60 <i>l.</i> for one year.
30	28	Notice of motion to have paid Guardians withdrawn by Captain Newport.
31	9	
1848		
Jan. 6	15	Relieving officer appointed for Waterford without the usual notice.
13	37	Mr. Lloyd's inquiry relative to out-door relief.
14	8	To hear and dispose of applications for relief.
14	7	Ditto ditto.
19	7	Ditto ditto.
20	18	Medical officer's report on workhouse accommodation.
21	5	To hear and dispose of applications for relief.
24	6	Ditto ditto.
26	4	Ditto ditto.
27	15	Notice of motion to appoint additional relieving officer for Waterford electoral division.
28	3	For admission of paupers, and dispensing out-door relief.
31	4	Ditto ditto.
Feb. 2	5	Ditto ditto.
3	21	Relieving officer for Waterford appointed.
4	3	For admission of paupers, and dispensing out-door relief.
7	5	Ditto ditto.
9	3	Ditto ditto.
10	12	Report of Kilmacthomas Fever Hospital Committee.
11	3	For admission of paupers, and dispensing out-door relief.
14	3	Ditto ditto.
16	4	Ditto ditto.
17	14	Mr. Burke's report on inspection of workhouse.
22	■	For admission of paupers, and dispensing out-door relief.
23	3	Ditto ditto.
24	18	Captain Newport renewed his notice of motion relative to paid Guardians. Relieving officer appointed.
March 2	7	Election of porter postponed.
3	3	For admission of paupers, and dispensing out-door relief.
6	3	Ditto ditto.
9	20	Porter appointed for Grady's store.
16	10	Mr. Burke, Inspector, reported on the state of the workhouse.
17	1	Roger Hayes.

JOHN P. HENRY, *Clerk of the Union.*

K 1.

Board-room, March 17, 1848.

MY DEAR BURKE,—I wish you could spare a few minutes to walk up here to witness with your own eyes the effects of no attendance, and the house surrounded with poor objects shivering in the cold.

Joseph Burke, Esq., &c., &c., &c.,
Commercial Hotel.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER HAYES.

K 2.

Two o'clock, Friday, March 17, 1848.

MY DEAR HAYES,—I am so occupied that I cannot find time to go out to-day, but although not strictly legal, you should, assisted by the relieving officer, decide on the application of the poor, who should not be allowed to go away unrelieved.

Roger Hayes, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Faithfully yours,
JOSEPH BURKE.

K 3.

March 18, 1848.

MY DEAR BURKE,—What a job you assigned to me yesterday,—had to sit alone until 11 o'clock last night—600 persons relieved.

Joseph Burke, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Yours faithfully,
R. HAYES.

L.

RETURN showing the total number of Entries in the Visiting Committee Book of the Work-house, and the Names of the Guardians by whom made, for the year ending March 25, 1848.

Date.	Names of Guardians.
1847.	
April 5 . . .	J. E. Feehan.
April 15 . . .	J. Hackett.
June 2 . . .	J. Hackett and J. E. Feehan.
July 2 . . .	S. Newport.
September 24 . . .	S. Newport.
November 8 . . .	R. Hayes.
November 17 . . .	S. Newport.
1848.	
January 13 . . .	Roger Hayes.
January 20 . . .	S. Newport.
February 5 . . .	S. Newport.

JOHN P. HENEY, *Clerk of the Union.*

M.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of GUARDIANS, on Thursday, March 9, 1848.

MOVED by Captain Newport, seconded by Mr. Christmas—

“ That although the Guardians of the Waterford Union do not desire to shrink from the performance of their duties to the utmost in their power, yet from experience they cannot avoid expressing their opinion that the general superintendence of this establishment, with its intended auxiliaries, as well as the general administration of the Poor Law, requires a much more vigilant and constant daily inspection than the Board of Guardians can conveniently or satisfactorily give.

“ They therefore resolve that the Poor Law, as regards the interests of all concerned, and without seeking the dissolution of the constitutional formation of the Board of Guardians, would be more efficiently, economically, and satisfactorily administered by the assistance of resident Inspectors, or paid Guardians, and beg leave to submit this declaration for the consideration of the Commissioners for administering Relief to the Poor in Ireland.”

The following amendment was moved by Alderman Carroll, seconded by the Mayor—

“ That only one Inspector be appointed, and that he should be paid out of the consolidated fund.”

The amendment was put from the chair, a division took place, and the amendment carried. The numbers of the Guardians present and voting were—

For the amendment . . .	10
Against it . . .	9

JOHN P. HENEY, *Clerk of the Union.*

N.

March 18, 1848.

NUMBER on out-door relief for week ended 11th March . . . 5959.

JOHN P. HENEY, *Clerk of the Union.*

O.

BOARD of GUARDIANS—THURSDAY.

ON this day the usual weekly meeting of the Board took place; Wm. Morris, Esq., J.P., in the chair.

Present—Counsellor Dobbyn, L. J. Lambert, P. Carrigan, Captain Newport, John Coghlan, P. Power, Mr. E. O'Meara, Owen Carroll, John J. Aylward, P. A. Power, his worship the Mayor, John Kelly, J. Ryau, N. A. Power, Belview, W. Christmas, John Bogan, Roger Hayes, J. Rivers, T. F. Strange.

The clerk read over the minutes of the last day's meeting.

Captain Newport inquired how much the out-door relief for the past week was.

The clerk answered, 859*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* for 14 weeks. It is over one penny in the pound on the whole Union.

Mr. Lambert said, he heard that persons possessed of substantial farms were in receipt of out-door relief.

Waterford Union.

Captain Newport and several Guardians said, very many persons who were in receipt of outdoor relief afterwards begged about the country.

Mr. Grady, the relieving officer, said he thought it necessary to attend the Board, in consequence of the extreme destitution that was now prevailing. He found it quite impossible to attend to all the cases which came before him; he knew it to be as frequent for families to be 24 hours without a particle of food as it was for him to eat three times. The poor people had sold out clothes and furniture, and the applicants were daily, even hourly, increasing on his books. He thought three relieving officers would be required to take cognizance of the distress in his district.

Counsellor Dobbyn thought the poor people belonging to Waterford ought to get the preference.

Captain Newport said it would be of the greatest possible importance if the Corporation would employ some of the able-bodied paupers in draining Lombard's Marsh.

His worship the Mayor said the Harbour Commissioners were obliged to keep their dredge boat idle at the quay for want of funds.

Mr. P. A. Power said the Corporation was limited to 20*l.* per week in their labour outlay, and they were actually exceeding it.

Captain Newport did not intend to find any fault with the management of the Corporation, but he thought if an application were forwarded to the Commissioners under whose surveillance the accounts of the Corporation were, they might consent to have the outlay of the Corporation increased.

The election of porter was then proceeded with, and no less than 12 persons presented themselves for the office.

On the Chairman calling for Captain Newport's notice of motion, and which having been read by the clerk,

Captain Newport said he felt it unnecessary to repeat the several grounds upon which he had on former occasions advocated the necessity of applying to the Commissioners to appoint paid Inspectors to administer the Poor Law in this Union. He had so far altered the terms of his original motion as not to interfere with the present constitutional frame of the Board of Guardians, but simply to ask for the assistance of one or more Inspectors, who would be responsible to the Government for the due and equitable administration of the law as regards the interests of the poor as well as the rate-payer. There were now 28 or 30 Unions under paid Vice-Guardians, and a letter he had received from a large landed proprietor in the Union of Kanturk (which had been in a great state of disorder) mentions that Mr. Briscoe, the Vice-Guardian, had brought it to a very satisfactory state of discipline, and that the expenditure had been considerably checked. He would not trespass further on the time of the Board, as he felt sure every Guardian had duly considered the question, and he did not anticipate any decided objection or opposition to the motion which he now begged leave to move for adoption.

Mr. Christmas said, that although on a former occasion he expressed an unwillingness to resign the powers of the Board of Guardians into other hands, as regards the taxation of the Union; still he was free to say, that on the fullest consideration of the subject, he was not adverse to the motion in its present form, which he thought not only unobjectionable, but advisable; and would, therefore, second the motion.

Counsellor Dobbyn said that every day's experience convinced him more and more of the necessity of having responsible paid officers; in fact, the law would not be rightly administered without them. He should therefore support the motion.

Counsellor Hayes said that not only the various contracts, but especially the quality of the food supplied, required a much closer attention than had latterly been given. He had understood from undoubted authority that the children were dying fast of dysentery, from the unwholesome description of food given them. He saw every necessity for Inspectors as Vice-Guardians.

Mr. Aylward deprecated the idea of stultifying the Board of Guardians by applying for Inspectors to assist them, and to look to the Fanning Institution for an example. He would oppose the motion.

Mr. Strange said he thought enough had been proved to show the necessity of adopting the principle of the resolution, and would therefore vote for it.

Dr. Mackesy felt bound to declare that he knew there were very strong grounds for a more satisfactory system in regard to the food, as well as the general management of the establishment; and though at some inconvenience, he remained thus long at the Board to give his cordial support to the motion.

Mr. S. Phelan (Mayor) proposed, and Mr. Owen Carroll seconded, to alter the words from "one or more Inspectors or Guardians," to "one Inspector, to be paid by consolidated fund."

Upon which a division took place, when the numbers and votes were as follow:—

For Mr. Phelan's amendment—Aldermen Phelan, Carroll; Messrs. Carrigan, P. A. Power, Strange, Lambert, Ryan, P. Power, Kelly, William Morris.

For original as it stood—W. Christmas, Esq., George Meara, N. A. Power, M. Dobbyn, Dr. Mackesy, John Bogan, Roger Hayes, J. Coghlan, S. Newport.

Majority for amendment—one.

Captain Newport replied, that he felt the resolution, even in this amended form, would be productive of good, as the general principle had been affirmed.

The original resolution, with amendment, was then ordered to be transmitted by the clerk to the Commissioners.

State of the House.

Waterford Union.

Admitted	70
Discharged	66
Died	24
In hospital	177
In the house	2013

Cash.

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Cosgrave	120	1	8
Mr. Jones	19	2	2
Mr. Fitzpatrick	27	13	0

Mr. BURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 20, 1848.*

WHEN leaving Waterford at 12 o'clock to-day, I met the assistant-master of the workhouse, who informed me that he was in search of a Guardian to make up a Board, two Guardians only being in attendance, and waiting for a third, to enable them to hear and decide on the applications for relief.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the GUARDIANS:—*March 22, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration a resolution which was passed by the Waterford Board of Guardians, on the 9th instant, requesting the Commissioners to appoint either a resident Inspector or paid Guardians in Waterford Union; and in connexion with that resolution, the Commissioners have likewise had under consideration a report from their Inspector, Mr. Burke, on the management of the affairs of Waterford Union by the Waterford Board of Guardians.

It appears to be agreed on all hands that the duties of the Waterford Board of Guardians are not at present effectually discharged according to the intentions of the Irish Poor Relief Acts; and the Commissioners, therefore, deem it unnecessary to advert either to a former report of their Inspector, Mr. Lloyd, or to the above-mentioned report of Mr. Burke, for a long and detailed statement on this subject. The only question which admits of any reasonable doubt is, whether the appointment by the Commissioners of a resident Inspector is the appropriate remedy for the evils which are admitted to exist.

On this head the Commissioners have to observe that they are authorized to appoint such an Inspector in those Unions only wherein a sealed order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men has been found necessary. No such order, however, has been requisite in Waterford Union, and the Commissioners deem themselves, therefore, precluded from giving a favourable consideration to this alternative; more especially as the Commissioners are otherwise convinced, from the following circumstances, that its results would fall short of what the exigencies of the Union demand:—

From the return of the attendance of Guardians, it appears that but few Guardians attend at the meetings of the Board, for deciding on the applications for relief. One of the Guardians stated to Mr. Burke that he had to wait during two hours on one day last week before he could get two other Guardians to form a Board; and on the day of writing his report, Mr. Burke received a letter from Mr. Hayes, another Guardian, stating that "there was no attendance, and "the house surrounded with poor objects, shivering in the cold!" Mr. Burke advised Mr. Hayes, that although it might not be strictly legal, he ought, assisted by the relieving officer, to hear and decide on the applications for relief; and the Commissioners perceive from a letter of Mr. Hayes, that he sat, unassisted by any other Guardian, until 11 o'clock, and decided on cases which included 600 persons.

It further appears that there are only ten entries in the Report Book of the Visiting Committee during the last year, and that of these, seven have been made by Messrs. Newport and Hayes, who are stated to be the only Guardians who have inspected the workhouse since June last. And the Commissioners are informed that Mr. Hayes stated openly to the Board on Thursday last, that he had ceased to make entries in the Report Book, because they were never attended to by the Guardians.

Waterford Union.
—

Moreover, it seems that but few of the *ex-officio* Guardians attend the meetings of the Board, and the management of the Union has, in a great measure, devolved on the Guardians of the City of Waterford Electoral Division, many of whom, however well inclined, cannot be expected to take upon themselves more than a fair share of the important and onerous duties which ought to be discharged at the present time by themselves and their colleagues conjointly.

On the whole, therefore, the Commissioners have arrived at the conclusion that the default of duty on the part of the Board of Guardians is of such a nature as to render it necessary for the Commissioners to exercise their powers under the 18th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act. They have, accordingly, decided to dissolve the Waterford Board of Guardians, and they will proceed with the least possible delay to appoint paid Guardians to manage the affairs of the Union.

The order dissolving the Board and staying further proceedings in the election of Guardians will be issued by the post of to-morrow night.

NEW ROSS UNION.

Mr. BURKE to the COMMISSIONERS: *Dissolution of the Board of Guardians :—*
March 8, 1848.

I HAVE received your letter of the 29th ultimo, acknowledging the receipt of my report of the 21st ultimo, relating to the New Ross Union, and informing me that you have addressed the Guardians on the subject of the out-door relief lists, and have forwarded a copy of my report to the Inspector of the Union, and requesting me to inform you whether the Guardians have applied the test of labour to those persons who have received out-door relief.

In reply I have to inform you, that having this day attended the meeting of the Guardians I inquired into the matter, and I found that the labour-test has been applied but in three electoral divisions, viz.:—The Rower, Graigue, and Saint Mullins. In the electoral division of the Rower, owing to the exertion of Mr. Chapman, an ex-officio Guardian, the labour-test is applied pretty fairly; but in Graigue and Saint Mullins' electoral divisions I should say it is not. In those electoral divisions Committees were appointed under your order; and it appears that those Committees assumed all the functions of a Board of Guardians, appointed stewards or superintendents of labour, contracted for meal, decided on the cases of applicants for relief, and gave relief not through the relieving officers, but through the stewards or superintendents of labour; such cases not having been brought before the Board of Guardians or initialed by the chairman, until done on my suggestion at the Board to-day. Having examined the relieving officer on the subject, I herewith forward his statement (marked A). The out-door relief accounts have not been checked by the clerk of the Union, nor have the relieving officers with their sureties executed their bonds; and I should say from the Board of Guardians endeavouring to do all their business on the one day in the week, instead of spreading it over three or four days, as I have recommended them, that the out-door relief system has been carried on in this Union in any but a satisfactory manner. With reference to your Minute of the 3rd instant, stating that Mr. Charles Tottenham, of New Ross, called to request that I would attend at the next meeting of the Board of Guardians, to investigate the conduct of the master of the workhouse, who is found to have been charging rations for more paupers than are in the workhouse; and who also stated that the schoolmaster is inefficient, and who has represented that the principal proprietors desire a paid Board; and also to your letter of the same date, stating that Mr. Tighe, chairman of the New Ross Union, had called at the office to state that it was very desirable that I should attend the meeting of the New Ross Board to-day, and adding your being desirous that I should attend accordingly; I have to state, with reference to the charge against the master, I herewith forward the master's statement (marked B). As to the excuses there given by him, I have to observe that had the master carried out the regulation of having the roll called daily, the charging of so many on the provision consumption account beyond the real number in the workhouse could not have occurred. You will find, on reference to reports which I have addressed to you, that I have frequently called the attention of the Guardians to the mismanagement of the workhouse, particularly to the idleness and want of discipline which prevails within it, and I have also had to call the attention of the Guardians to the manner in which the boys' school is conducted, but all to no purpose. On every occasion that I have brought before the Guardians matters connected with the mismanagement of the workhouse, and which brought into question the efficiency of the master, matron, and schoolmaster, my reports were met by statements from Guardians excusing those officers from every irregularity that I may have reported on. There is no regular Visiting Committee; and on looking at the Visiting Committee's book, I found but five entries of visits by Guardians in it for the last year, the latest visit being made on the 20th October last. I have had frequent occasion to complain of the manner in which the clerk's duties have been performed; and in addition to what I have stated as to the relieving officers' books not being regularly checked, I have to state that the collector's accounts are not regularly checked by him. He stated at the Board

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to-day, that it was impossible for him to attend to those important matters, although an assistant to him has been allowed by the Guardians.

You will see from the return of the attendance of Guardians for eight months, ending on the 29th February (marked C), that the attendance of ex-officio Guardians, with the exception of the chairman, Mr. Tighe, Mr. Brehon, Captain Budgeon, and Mr. Tyndall, averaged little more than twice during that period, that of the elected Guardians, the average attendance of six was twenty-four times, and of the remaining twenty-four was but nine times.

On the whole I see nothing but apathy and indifference on the part of the Guardians, with but a few exceptions, to the proper management of the affairs of the Union.

ENCLOSURES.

(A.)

I beg to state that there are at present 248 cases of able-bodied persons with their families, comprising 904, who have been getting relief in the district of Graigue and St. Mullins.

The Guardians of those districts entered into contracts for meal, and employed those people under overseers to manage the superintending of the men, and the giving out of the relief, such relief being given by the overseers without coming through me.

PATRICK MURPHY.

Relieving Officer for Graigue and St. Mullins' District.

(B.)

In consequence of a greater number of names appearing on the workhouse books than there appeared to be inmates in the house, when counted by Mr. Brehon, one of the Guardians, the master was called on for an explanation by the Board of Guardians. In compliance with this call the master most respectfully lays before the Board the following explanation:—

Having been ordered in the month of November last to take charge of the two extensive districts of Graigue and St. Mullin's, as relieving officer, and obliged to act as such for five or six weeks, during this period the pressure of applicants for in-door and out-door relief was extreme; the Board of Guardians sitting up until three o'clock in the morning, and then obliged to adjourn from day to day, so that crowds were daily assembled about the workhouse during those meetings. The admissions took place in several parts of the house; several and several admitted that never stopped, or if they did stop they slipped away next day or the day after with the crowd, there not being a sufficiency of clothing ready for such an increased number. To add to this the whole house was knocked down with influenza and measles, so that several of the dormitories in the body of the house had to be converted into sick wards; together with all this, there was the speedily fitting up and preparing accommodation for the Market house wards; so that the duties, until "some relaxation took place," nearly wore the master off his limbs; so that the inaccuracies complained of principally occurred in the way above alluded to. As soon as the master had any relaxation, he felt uneasy lest those things might have occurred, and had actually commenced revising the house a day or two previous to Mr. Brehon's visit; in fact he was at work the morning of that day with the assistant master, going through each division, and which he has continued until he went through the whole Union, and made such a minute scrutiny that he can safely say that there is not a name on the books at the present moment that is not actually and *bonâ fide* in the house. He merely states this to show he was not insensible of his position. He hopes the difficulty of the situation under such circumstances will be some palliation for the inaccuracies that have occurred.

As to the rations the explanation the master has to give is, that in the article of bread, for instance, though apparently rations are charged for a number of the healthy greater than what actually received them the overplus was afterwards allowed in the charge for the sick. So in the article of milk; in fact the milk actually consumed was not equal to what is actually allowed, if it could be got. One thing he is certain of, and is ready to verify the same, that a pound of bread has not been issued as rations except to those persons actually and *bonâ fide* in the house, as he is almost invariably present in the hall at meal-time, and has it so arranged that it is impossible it could occur. The arrangement is this: "sixteen persons are placed at each table and counted by the master;" two four-pound loaves are then laid on each table; the same system is adopted at every meal. With respect to the stirabout and milk, no bread diets to the sick are given except according to the medical officer's directions. Every Saturday night the provision store is counted, and finding the exact number of loaves of bread in store, and knowing the number in store the previous week, together with the receipts of the week, it will show the quantity actually consumed; the master only then placed to the infirm sick, as consumption, the difference between all other charges added together, and the actual consumption as stated above; although the infirm sick consume more bread than appears charged to them, so that the overcharge for the healthy is deducted from the sick. The same system is adopted in every article of consumption in the house, except the material for the stirabout; in that and that only any wrong calculation could occur, and in that even there is an increase of 700 lbs. of meal.

The master hopes the Committee will understand this statement; it is long, but the master felt it his duty to be as clear as he possibly could, as he stated nothing but what he can vouch as truth; at the same time he does not mean to say a cut of bread might not be taken by stealth, which might happen if the numbers were the other way. Neglect there was he must admit; at the same time it was next to impossible to avoid mistake. Known as long as he is master of the house, he will take care such mistakes will never occur again. The master will not say more, but leave himself in the hands of the Committee; his only anxiety is that nothing dishonest or dishonourable should be attributed to him.

The master, in conclusion, subscribes himself, with all due respect to the Board of Guardians,

Their most obedient servant,
(Signed) TERENCE J. ROGERS, *Master*.
(Copy.) THOMAS BARRON, *Clerk of the Union*.

(C.)

A STATEMENT showing the attendance of each Guardian at the respective meetings, from the 1st of July, 1847, to 29th of February, 1848.

Ex-officio Guardians.

	Times.		Times.
Right Hon. Wm. F. Tighe	10	Thomas Brehon	22
Charles Tottenham	0	Edward Bolger	2
John St. George Deane	0	Pelham Babington	0
R. C. Browne Clayton	0	Doctor Howlett	2
Robert Tyndall	11	Henry Lambert	1
John Richards	0	David Burchcull	1
Strangman D. Goff	4	Victor E. O'Farrell	6
William M. Glascott	0	John R. Allen	0
George P. Houghton	5	Captain R. Budgeon	16
Captain Richards	4	Robert H. Langrish	1
Samuel T. Harman	3	Lord Templemore	1
James Talbot	5		

Elected Guardians.

	Times.		Times.
John Cooney	6	Henry Burchcull	3
James Moore	7	John Kelly	10
James Shea	11	Peter Dalton	6
Richard Barron	16	Patrick Kavanagh	8
John Rossiter	22	Pierse F. Garvey	2
Walter Cadogan	9	Edward M. Chapman	17
John Kehoe	17	James Dunphy	12
Michael Furlong	13	William Cotterell	28
James Downes	17	James Galavan	27
Timothy O'Farrell	8	Laurence Galavan	24
Edward O'Farrell	7	James E. Howlett	20
Thomas Doyle	21	Henry Williams	15
John Corcoran	3	Edmond Sweetman	3
Michael Breen	11	William R. Hartrick	9
Bryan Fogarty	10	Elliott Warburton	0

Mr. BURKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 8, 1848.*

THE clerk of the Union in reading the return of destitute persons relieved out of the workhouse, and not comprised in section 1, on coming to No. 6 district, comprising the electoral divisions of Graigue and Saint Mullins, said, that although the number stated in that return as—30, number of cases relieved, with 60 dependent on them—that there were 200 cases not comprised in this return receiving out-door relief, whose cases were not initialed by the chairman, or came before the Board of Guardians.

Mr. Chapman, an ex-officio Guardian, stated that a similar circumstance occurred with regard to the electoral division of the Rower.

Mr. Michael Brien, a Guardian for Saint Mullins, said that the parties who were receiving out-door relief in Graigue and Saint Mullins were entered on the relieving officer's book, but that the chairman on that day, Mr. Brehon, refused

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to initial the names, because none of the Guardians of these electoral divisions were present at the Board.

Mr. Chapman stated, that on the last Board-day, the 1st March, he and Mr. Brehon, and Mr. Rossiter sat until nightfall, and from the number of applicants outside the door, he was sure there were 200 cases not disposed of. Mr. Chapman, Mr. Rossiter, and Mr. Brehon then left.

The clerk states, that in about an hour and a-half, Mr. Howlett and Mr. James Galavan, two of the Guardians for New Ross, who had been out the early part of the day, returned, went into the applications from New Ross, and continued from half-past seven until near ten o'clock deciding on applications.

Mr. Galavan, a Guardian, stated that he and Mr. Howlett went home to dine; having agreed to meet again at the Board-room at half-past six, when they met Mr. Brehon, and they then proceeded with hearing the applications from New Ross.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*March 18, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration a report which they have received from their Inspector, Mr. Burke, relating to the administration of relief in New Ross Union, by the New Ross Board of Guardians.

It appears from Mr. Burke's report that in one electoral division, (the Rower), out-door relief has been provided regularly, owing to the exertions of Mr. Chapman, an ex-officio Guardian of the Union; but it also appears that in St. Mullins and Graigue electoral divisions, out-door labour has been provided under the direction of a Committee which the Commissioners sanctioned, for hearing applications and reporting on them pursuant to the 6th section of 10 Vict., cap. 31, and which the Guardians have permitted to assume all the functions of a Board of Guardians, in ordering relief and making contracts for supplies.

It appears by the relieving officer's report that in these latter divisions 248 able-bodied persons are relieved with their families, comprising 904 persons, and that the relief is given by the overseers instead of the relieving officer.

It is further stated that the out-door relief cases in Graigue and St. Mullins divisions have never been brought before the Board; and that the out-door relief accounts are not checked by the clerk of the Union; and that bonds have not been entered into by the relieving officers and their sureties.

It is also found that the clerk is permitted to omit the checking of the collector's accounts regularly, although allowed an assistant.

On examining the financial state of the Union the Guardians appear to have been in debt, on the 31st of January last, 840*l.* beyond the amount in the treasurer's hands; and the current expenses for January were 215*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* being 73*l.* more than was collected; so that the Guardians have been allowing the debt of the Union to augment, notwithstanding that the rateable property is of the annual value of 109,748*l.*, and the population in 1841 was only 74,923.

Mr. Burke has also reported, that although he has frequently called the attention of the Guardians to the mismanagement of the workhouse, particularly the idleness, want of discipline, and the manner in which the boys' school is conducted, no remedy has been applied by the Board; and it is likewise stated that when irregularities were noticed by him, which brought in question the efficiency of the master, matron, and schoolmaster, the Guardians excused these officers.

The Commissioners are further informed that there is now no visiting Committee, and that only five entries were made in the Committee's book in the last year, the last being on the 20th October, 1847.

The consequence of the latter neglect of the Guardians is, that the roll has not been called daily in the workhouse, as required by the regulations; and the master has been charging in the provisions account for a greater number of persons than were in the house.

The master, in a report forwarded by Mr. Burke, ascribes his irregularity to his having been ordered in November last to act as relieving officer for St. Mullins and Graigue electoral divisions, where he was for five weeks; at which period he states that the Board of Guardians had to sit until three o'clock in the morning, adjourning from day to day.

However, the absence of the master and the pressure in the meantime on the

house still more required the observance of the prescribed regulation of the daily roll call, which presents so easy and perfect a check on the accounts. New Ross Union.

The Commissioners have further to observe that the attendance of the Guardians at regular meetings to discharge the duties imposed upon them as a Board, has not been satisfactory.

It is shown by a return of the Guardians' attendance, that in eight months, ended 29th ult., the attendance of *ex-officio* Guardians, with the exception of the chairman and three others, average little more than twice, while seven did not attend at all; and that of the elected Guardians, although six attended twenty-four times on an average, yet as many as twenty attended only nine times.

On a consideration of all the above-mentioned circumstances, the Commissioners are of opinion that notwithstanding the valuable services of the chairman and of other individual Guardians, the Board of Guardians as a whole has failed, duly and effectually, to carry out the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Acts. The Commissioners therefore transmit herewith a sealed order for the dissolution of the Board, and they will proceed to appoint paid officers to manage the affairs of the Union.

Captain BURMESTER to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 24, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians experience great difficulty in carrying out the instructions of the Commissioners with the present staff of workhouse officers; they are without exception quite incompetent.

They have given the master notice that as soon as another can be obtained his services will be dispensed with, and have issued a notice that they will receive applications from candidates for the office. The Vice-Guardians propose to do the same with the matron as soon as her health shall be sufficiently re-established.

The clerk, although allowed two assistants, has not obeyed the repeated instructions of the Vice-Guardians, and the tenor of his conduct is a tissue of excuses for his neglect, instead of attention to his duties.

Under these circumstances, the Vice-Guardians request the Commissioners' authority to procure another clerk in place of Mr. Barron, who they find it impossible to get to discharge his duties from idleness and procrastination.

Should the Commissioners have it in their power to recommend any competent person to undertake the duties of clerk, the Vice-Guardians will be most happy to give such salary as the Commissioners will sanction, and request he may be sent to New Ross forthwith. Perhaps, from the *emergency of the case*, the Commissioners may send a clerk from their office in the meantime.

From the state of arrear into which the business has been allowed to run, and from the remissness of duty on the part of the clerk, some of the collectors, and the officers generally, it is absolutely necessary that immediate measures be taken to prevent a total stoppage of the Union business, and the closing of the house.

REPLY to the above :—*March 25, 1848.*

The Commissioners fully approve of the Vice-Guardians taking active steps to replace any of the present Union officers by persons who will discharge the duties required, efficiently.

The Vice-Guardians will have the goodness to suspend, in accordance with the 41st article of the General Regulations, such of the Union officers as they may deem to be inefficient, stating briefly on the minutes of their proceedings the facts which have influenced them in their decision in each case. Such officers should then be called on to send in their resignations.

The Commissioners are prepared to sanction a salary of 80% or 90% for a competent clerk of the Union, and they would suggest that the Vice-Guardians should at once advertize for candidates for the office.

The Commissioners regret that it is not in their power to detach any gentleman employed in their office, to act as clerk of the Union.

New Ross Union.

Captain BURMESTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice the following important subjects:—

Last evening between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock I happened to be out from my quarters, when I observed several paupers rambling about the town. I desired two of them to accompany me to the police-station, where I obtained the assistance of a constable, and then brought them to the workhouse. On my arrival at the house I found lights in all the dormitories, fires in the rooms, and numbers of persons, some employed in the washhouse, and others idling about. I desired that all persons should be sent to their beds, and the lights and fires extinguished. The master I desired to call the roll; he stated that the paupers were very disorderly, and "that it was as much as his life was worth."

This morning about half-past 10 Mr. Braddell and myself were in the act of transacting business in the Board-room, when the whole mass of paupers, male and female, rushed into the hall, and endeavoured to break down the door dividing the entrance from the Board-room stairs. (This door the porter had locked on seeing the rush of paupers from the main building). As I found the riot increase I desired the door to be opened, in order that I might see what was going on, and if possible appease the tumult. I was thus enabled to identify certain individuals, and Mr. Braddell some others of the ringleaders. The people proceeding to acts of personal violence to some of the paupers who endeavoured to defend us, throwing caps, cans, and sticks at Mr. Braddell, the porter, and myself, I desired the porter to go to the police barrack and obtain a party of men, and to give notice of the state of affairs to a magistrate. In the course of a few minutes a party of the 34th regiment arrived, and soon afterwards some police, when order was directly restored.

We selected the ringleaders, two men and four women, who were at once sent to the court-house, where Mr. Cooke, resident magistrate, Mr. Talbot, and Dr. Howlitt, magistrates, had assembled. After our depositions had been taken the whole of the offenders were taken from the dock to Wexford gaol, having been sentenced to the full penalty the laws allowed, viz., one calendar month imprisonment with hard labour.

I beg most respectfully to urge that the Commissioners will, if it be in their power, send persons to fill the offices of master, matron, and clerk. With all our exertions we cannot preserve order without competent officers to carry out our directions, and the proceedings I have stated above will I am sure show the necessity that exists for immediate assistance on this point.

I may mention that the paupers said their object was to get back their old Guardians and master who have been dismissed.

Mr. George Braddell who was with his brother was severely hurt, being struck with stones and pursued through the streets by the paupers to the police barrack.

Mr. Tottenham, one of the principal persons in this district, well described the house to me yesterday in a few words; he said "it was a pleasant hotel for paupers."

Mr. Braddell and I will do all in our power to render it what it should be. I attribute the riotous proceedings of this day to those steps we have taken to establish order, and which we will enforce; the paupers hitherto being uncontrolled.

I trust that the line of conduct we have adopted on this occasion will meet with the approval of the Commissioners.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 25th instant, relating to the disturbance which occurred in the workhouse of the New Ross Union on the 24th and 25th instant, and I am to state that the Commissioners entirely approve and thank you for the prompt steps which were taken to restore order. The Commissioners trust that the efforts of the Vice-Guardians to bring the establishment into proper condition will be successful.

If the master of the workhouse had not been already called upon to resign, the Commissioners would have issued an order under seal for his dismissal.

New Ross Union.

The Commissioners regret that they are unable to send down to New Ross a master and matron for the workhouse, and a clerk for the Union; they find, however, that the Vice-Guardians will be enabled to obtain at once the services of an efficient clerk, and they trust that they will be equally successful with regard to a master and matron, for whom advertisements should immediately be published.

A copy of a letter has this day been addressed to the clerk of the Union, notifying the Commissioners' intention to issue an order for his dismissal.

Captain BURMESTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

HAVING reference to my report of the 25th instant, relating to the riotous proceedings of the inmates of the workhouse, the Vice-Guardians have received information which induces them to believe that to certain of the officers of the establishment may be attributed the origin of these irregularities. I annex copies of statements made by some of the paupers, and it is the intention of the Guardians to have Michael Neal and the four women who assaulted Eliza Myers brought before the magistrates to-morrow, to be dealt with as the law directs.

The paupers are naturally dissatisfied at the change that is making in the habits of indolence and disobedience that they have so long indulged in, and the officers are opposed to a system that will entail on them attention to their duties and a less prodigal expenditure of stores.

I am daily more convinced that until a total change of the present set of officers be effected, there will be but little advantage to be obtained.

I beg to suggest that Mr. Burke be requested to inquire minutely into these matters on his next visit to this Union.

Mr. Hill, the officer of police, was present at the time the annexed statements were made to me.

It is worthy of remark that all the doors of communication had been unlocked, and that no attempt was made to preserve order by any officer of the house, with the exception of the porter.

STATEMENTS referred to in foregoing.

John Allen states that he heard Michael Neal, a pauper in the house, calling on the people to riot on the morning of Saturday, the 25th March, and he said that those who would not join were a parcel of cowardly fellows.

Anne Long states that Michael Neal, one of the paupers, came to the women's day-room, and told them to be ready to make a riot as soon as the Guardians came to the house. She also states that the acting matron gave a boy the key to let Neal into the women's yard; she was told that some men had received a bottle of whiskey. On some of the women (*Kate Grady* in particular) returning from the attack on Mr. Braddell, and saying "they had killed him," she (the acting matron) laughed and told them to go back again, and she did not open the door to let the women into their own building, until the police arrived.

Eliza Myers states that she was severely beaten by four women named Magee, Mary Holden, Bridget Connolly, and Biddy Kent, because they said she was an informer.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 27th instant, relating to the disorderly conduct of some of the inmates of the workhouse of the New Ross Union, and I am to state in reply that the Commissioners are of opinion with you that it will be advisable that inquiry should be made with a view to the punishment of the parties who may have been concerned in instigating the inmates in the disorderly conduct referred to.

Mr. Burke proposes to be at New Ross to-morrow, and he will be instructed to make the necessary inquiry at once. Should anything prevent Mr. Burke from attending at New Ross as proposed, the Commissioners request that you will be so good as to conduct the inquiry yourself upon oath, for which purpose

New Ross Union. you are invested with exactly the same powers as Mr. Burke, or any other Poor Law Inspector.

Captain BURMESTER to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 30, 1848.*

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your letter, dated 23th March, I have the honour to forward an abstract of the evidence I have been able to obtain on the subject of the disorderly proceedings of the 25th instant. The only important fact elicited is, that Johanna Dunphy, the acting matron, was cognizant of a riot being intended, and that she connived at it.

ENCLOSURE.

Thomas Roche, a pauper in the house, being duly sworn, states that on the morning of the 25th March, 1848, the doors of the sleeping-rooms were opened before the usual hour, much sooner than he had ever before known; they were opened by John Malowney.

his
THOMAS X ROCHE,
mark,

A. E. BURMESTER.

Witness,

WILLIAM W. BRADDELL.

John Finnerty, being also duly sworn, states, that a man named Thomas Allen told him that George Rogers, the master's son, came into the day-room on the 25th March, and asked the men why they did not join in the riot; Allen told him (Rogers) to go about his business. As far as evidence can ascertain, a boy, named Peter Keogh, obtained the keys from the acting matron to let the women out of their building.

JOHN FINNERTY.

A. E. BURMESTER.

Witness,

WILLIAM W. BRADDELL.

Thomas Allen being duly sworn, states that during the riot on the 25th, four men, named Cooney, Tobin, Myers, and Butler, came in and desired the men in the day-room to turn out; evidence does not recollect having seen George Rogers on the 25th, or having told Finnerty anything about him on that day.

his
THOMAS X ALLEN.
mark.

A. E. BURMESTER.

Witness,

WILLIAM W. BRADDELL.

Henry Shanahan being duly sworn, states, that just before the riot he was sitting at his breakfast, (having been detained at the usual hour of breakfast by the priest,) he saw Miss Dunphy, the acting matron, give the key of the women's yard to a woman who handed it to Peter Keogh, who immediately opened the door in the presence of Miss Dunphy, who called out, "Let out the women—let out the women."

HENRY SHANAHAN.

A. E. BURMESTER.

Witness present,

WILLIAM W. BRADDELL.

Anne Long being duly sworn, states, that she was present when some of the women came back from the attack on Mr. Braddell, and she heard one of them (Kate Grady) say, "they had killed him," on which Miss Dunphy, the acting matron, who was present, laughed, and told the women to go back again. The acting matron kept the women locked out of their own side of the house until the police arrived.

her
ANNE X LONG.
mark.

Witness,

WILLIAM W. BRADDELL.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 6, 1848,*

WITH reference to your communication of the 30th ultimo, forwarding evidences on the subject of the disorderly proceedings of the 25th ultimo, which occurred in the workhouse of the New Ross Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they have given directions for the preparation of an order directing the dismissal of Johanna Dunphy from the office of assistant matron of the workhouse.

Captain BURMESTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 28, 1848.*

New Ross Union.

IN continuation of my reports dated the 25th and 27th instant, I have to inform you that several of the paupers who were engaged in the riot of the 25th March were this day brought before the magistrates of New Ross, and were dealt with as follows:—

Michael Neal, to stand his trial at the ensuing quarter sessions.

Patrick Kelly, two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Bridget Magee, Mary Holden, Bridget Connolly, each one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

Bridget Kent, fourteen days' imprisonment.

I forward copies of the informations sworn against Michael Neal.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing.

County of Wexford, } The information of John Allen, Thomas Roche, Anne Long, and
to wit. } Catherine Fretton, paupers in the New Ross Union workhouse, who
being severally sworn on the Holy Evangelists, depose and say as follows:—

The said John Allen saith, I remember a riot which took place in the New Ross Union workhouse, on Saturday the 25th day of March instant; Michael Neal declared in the room where I and other paupers were, that they were a cowardly set if they did not turn out, meaning to resist the newly appointed Guardians.

The said Thomas Roche saith, on the morning of Saturday the 25th of March instant, Michael Neal came into the ward where I and other inmates were, and said this is the time, now or never, to turn out and keep out the gentlemen, meaning the newly appointed Guardians.

The said Anne Long saith, on the morning of Saturday the 25th day of March instant, Michael Neal came into the womens' day-room in the New Ross Union workhouse, and told them all to be ready to make a riot, now or never; called out the mob, held up his hand, and called upon them to follow him, not to let them (the new Guardians) come into the house, to take their lives if they did.

The said Catherine Fretten saith, I recollect the riot in the Union workhouse, on the 25th of March instant. Michael Neal came into the women's day-room, said come on now, that they should have their own old master and mistress.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 4, 1848.*

WE beg leave to inform you that we have devoted very considerable time and attention to an inquiry into the actual state and position of the New Ross Union, embracing the financial affairs of the Union, the economy and management of the workhouse, the state of its inmates, and the mode in which out-door relief has been administered,—an inquiry in which we have had to encounter obstacles of no ordinary difficulty, arising as much from the want of all method, and the absence of all order on the part of the clerk, in the transaction of the usual routine of his duty, the consequent confusion and disarray of his papers, and impossibility of obtaining access to the necessary documents from which information might be obtained, as from the most palpable neglect upon his part of the common and ordinary duties of his office; nor has this inefficiency been confined to the clerk.

The master appeared to us to have completely neglected the most important duties of his department, and to have delegated those duties to subordinate and irresponsible deputies. All the officers seem to have been originally selected without the slightest reference to fitness or capacity.

Our first step was, to call upon the Commissioners to dismiss those officers forthwith. The effect of this decisive step was exhibited in a regularly organised riot upon the part of the inmates, acquiesced in, if not originated, by the officers.

The doors separating the different apartments in the workhouse were on the morning of the 25th ultimo unlocked, the inmates of the workhouse in one mass rushed into the porter's hall, forcing the door, and attempting to break into the Board-room. Missiles of various descriptions were hurled against the Vice-Guardians. Mr. George Braddell having attempted to expostulate with the rioters, was instantly assailed with stones, knocked to the ground, kicked, and had several severe contusions inflicted upon different parts of his body; he succeeded in breaking away from them, and brought up the police and military to the rescue of the Vice-Guardians. Order was then restored, and some of the most turbulent rioters were at once brought before the magistrates, and dealt with according to law.

New Ross Union.

The financial position of this Union on the 14th day of March, shortly before our appointment, was most unfavourable; a balance of 73*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* appeared by the Bank book to its credit. A considerable sum was then due to the various creditors of the Union, amounting (from what we can at present discover by our own unassisted exertions) to a sum of 1139*l.*, exclusive of officers' salaries. We are engaged in the investigation of those demands.

An appeal against the rate made upon the New Ross electoral division, with the grounds of which the Commissioners are already conversant, having been brought before the assistant barrister, he decided against the legality of the rate. We fear the effect of this decision will be embarrassing, and that the Vice-Guardians may be called upon to refund moneys already collected, creating thereby an increased demand upon their funds.

A rate appears to have been made in July last, amounting to the sum of 20,094*l.*; of this rate and arrears of the former a sum of 6668*l.* remained uncollected upon the 31st ultimo, of which sum 2348*l.* remained uncollected on the electoral division of New Ross at the same date.

On several divisions, viz., New Ross, Adamstown, Clongeen, Horetown, Templedeegan, and St. Mullins, the rate made exceeded 3*s.* in the pound.

We are informed, although no document to that effect can be produced to us, that the Commissioners have remitted so much of the rate upon those divisions as exceed 3*s.* in the pound; this, therefore, must diminish by that excess, the sum to be now collected.

From this statement of the amount still uncollected, it is obvious that the rate-collectors have not discharged their duties with due diligence, and that they have suffered that period to elapse at which it would have been comparatively easy to enforce the collection of the rates.

No proper examination of the collectors' accounts has been observed, and no possibility hitherto of ascertaining whether they retain any money in their hands. We have instituted a minute and rigid examination into the state of their accounts, and have examined their block checks from the commencement of the rate made in July; the result of this examination has been, that two of the collectors appear to have small balances in their hands.

One, Mr. White, on being notified thereof, appeared and undertook to lodge the amount forthwith; the other, Mr. Galavan, who got notice to the same effect, has written to excuse his attendance, on the ground that his haggard was burned by some malicious persons, and that he was engaged in serving the usual notices to recover the value. We consider the latter a most inefficient officer, and but that his collection is so near its close, would feel it our duty to call for his instant dismissal.

The conduct, however, of all the collectors has been so extremely dilatory, that we have served them with notice that they must lodge each week a certain sum proportioned to the amount remaining uncollected on their divisions; and have instituted a regular weekly examination of their Rate Receipt Check Books, and enforced from them the observance of the Commissioners' order of October last.

We attempted to obtain from them daily statements of their progress in the collection of the rates; but this we find inconvenient in practice, and difficult to enforce. We have fixed on the 24th instant for the final close of the collection of the rate, and the collectors' accounts.

The effect of this constant supervision over the collectors will be seen from the fact, that on yesterday, the 3rd instant, the balance in favour of the Union, as per treasurer's book, is 680*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, and would have been considerably greater but for the damaging effect of the assistant barrister's decision, which has of course paralyzed the collection of rates in the Rossbercon portion of the New Ross electoral divisions.

We propose to make a new rate forthwith, that it may be put in process of collection about the 1st of May, and are now endeavouring to procure some data to show the amount which should be levied on each division.

The expenditure of this Union has been gradually increasing in amount, and threatened to absorb any rate that could be made unless arrested in time.

The expenditure for out-door relief amounted on the 23rd March to 276*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*; the expenditure on foot of this account has, principally by our exertions in scrutinizing the out-door relief lists, been so far reduced as to amount now to only 164*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* for one week. We propose making this

scrutiny retrospective, and to examine every name on the lists with a view to such further reduction as may be expedient.

We fear that one at least of those officers, namely, Mr. Cody, has not hitherto been always guided by the provisions of the statute and the order of the Commissioners in his administration of relief.

In every other department there seems ample room for retrenchment: one further instance may suffice. We annex a table, showing the alleged consumption of wine and ardent spirits for the half-year ending 25th March last, together with the explanation given by the medical officer on the subject,—an explanation we deem inadequate.

We find that the books of account prescribed by the Commissioners have not been duly kept. There is not a figure in the Ledger since September, 1847.

Those very important books, the relief lists, have been much neglected; the abstract of the relief lists has not a figure since the eighth week of the last half-year.

The clothing books have not been properly written up and balanced; nor can the state of the clothing in store be collected from the Clothing Receipt Book.

Notwithstanding the number of bills for articles supplied, not a single entry is discoverable by us in the Inventory Book since August last. No Labour Book appears to have been kept; nor can we find that the Wants' Book has been kept by the master. The last entry in the Visiting Committee Book appears to have been made on the 2nd of October last.

The out-door register was not written up with sufficient regularity. The relieving officers' accounts were not regularly and properly examined, and great time has been expended in getting up the arrears.

The workhouse we have endeavoured to make available for such able-bodied persons as we must hold to be destitute; and we attribute the diminution of the out-door relief lists to the rigid application of the salutary test arising from the offer of the workhouse to able-bodied applicants for relief. We contemplate a personal examination of the inmates of the workhouse, in order, if possible, to make it still further susceptible of this test, by giving the aged and infirm the option of being relieved outside.

The discipline of the workhouse has been most lax; no proper classification has been observed. That restraint, without which a workhouse ceases to be a test of destitution, has been totally neglected; the paupers were daily to be seen wandering at pleasure, not only through the town of New Ross, but the adjoining county (living instances of mismanagement and abuse), to the great annoyance of the respectable portion of the community. An instance came before our notice, where one of those paupers knocked at a gentleman's door in the vicinity and demanded alms.

The workhouse grounds have been much neglected, and will probably remain for this season partially uncropped. Yet there are at this moment in the house 88 able-bodied men, and 47 strong healthy boys over 15. This we can only remedy by the exertions of an efficient master.

Accompanied by your Temporary Poor Law Inspector, we on Thursday night last, between the hours of 9 and 11 o'clock P.M., inspected and examined the several dormitories. It would be difficult to convey the most faint conception of the utter want of ventilation that existed in those apartments; on the opening of each door, a dense steam of confined air, impregnated with the most noisome and pestilential effluvia, assailed us, almost intolerable to endure even for a moment. It is a matter of surprise how any living being could long exist in an atmosphere so polluted. We would, therefore, request that the Commissioners may be good enough to direct the attention of their architect to this subject, with the view to remedy what we conceive to be an evil of no ordinary magnitude, and calculated to engender contagious diseases. The children's dormitories did not appear to us to have had any grown person present for the purpose of giving such assistance as might be required to those helpless creatures, who lay in various attitudes about the room.

The dysentery ward appeared less objectionable, and more cleanly.

We inspected a building styled the Market-house, in which the male paupers sleep. We found it cleanly and well ventilated; it gives rise, however, to the inconvenience, unavoidable with the present staff of officers, of affording

New Ross Union. facilities to the roving habits of the paupers, and the relaxation of due restraint.

The day-room for male and female paupers appeared to us close and confined, and imperfectly ventilated; the paupers, able-bodied and infirm, huddled together, rendering the atmosphere insupportable.

Proper attention has not been given to ensuring a sufficient supply of water; recourse is too frequently had to the fever hospital pumps, thereby exposing the inmates of the workhouse to imminent risk of contagion.

The pipes leading to the laundry have been suffered to go out of repair, and for the purpose of obtaining a supply of water, the very objectionable course is adopted of admitting male paupers among the females.

We visited a building set aside for the children, styled the "College Ward," now under the superintendence of a ward-mistress of our own appointment. This ward does not appear to us to be at all suited for its present purpose. The ward-mistress reports that she cannot exercise due control over the nurses, who are principally young women, nor prevent their absenting themselves, there being no wall or enclosures to this place. We purpose, with the sanction of the Commissioners, to make another arrangement, and to place there instead, the sick and infirm paupers, who have neither inclination nor ability to wander, and for whom this place, from its position and elevation, is peculiarly adapted. The refractory ward is dilapidated, and, in its present state, unsuitable as a place for punishment.

We visited the schools, male and female, and examined the children as to their proficiency. The male school was not in a satisfactory state as regards the cleanliness of its occupants or general appearance; the female school was much more creditable, and the children appear to have been attended to.

We have observed that hitherto the streets of New Ross have been infested by hordes of mendicants plying their wretched calling with all the outward semblance of misery and want; yet on inquiry we find that those very persons are recipients of out-door relief. We have, therefore, required the relieving officers to notice them, that in future they will be struck off the lists if found begging.

The remedial measures we propose under this state of things are, in the first instance, the appointment of an efficient staff of active and intelligent officers, to assist us in the administration of the relief of the poor; the enforcement of the due collection of the rates, by a daily supervision of the progress of the collectors, and subjecting their accounts to a stringent systematic and weekly examination; and in future by the selection of competent collectors, at a fair remuneration, annexing a condition to the bond of those officers, that their collection must be closed within a fixed definite period; by obtaining, as far as possible, all supplies required by the workhouse at contract prices, for which we advertised, having previously placed the funds of the Union in such a position, as to enable us to avail ourselves of such tenders; by availing ourselves of the sealed order of the Commissioners, empowering us to hold meetings in various parts of the Union, and by personal inspection of the mode in which out-door relief is administered, by constant supervision of the discharge of their duties by the respective officers of the workhouse.

Out-door relief having been hitherto administered in money, we have substituted relief in kind by giving 1 lb. meal to adults, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to all under 15 years of age, being of opinion that, independently of its value in an economic point of view, an additional test will be thereby obtained, and real destitution discriminated from its simulation.

REPLY to the foregoing:—April 12, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 4th instant, relating to the management of the affairs of the New Ross Union; and with reference to the amount of rate remaining uncollected in the Union, I am directed to request your attention to the Commissioners' letter of the 5th October, 1847, in which it is stated that where the rate exceeded 3s. in the pound, an instalment of this amount, duly calculated by the clerk, might be received in the first instance.

The portion of rate left unpaid may be now collected separately, or carried into the new rate under the head of arrears.

It will be observed that the order regulating the collection of rates directs a weekly attendance of each collector with his books, for examination, if the Guardians so require; and if any of them shall wilfully disobey this order, he may be proceeded against under the 102nd section of the Act 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 56, if the Vice-Guardians make a written direction for the weekly attendance, and have it served personally on each collector.

The Commissioners fully approve of the Vice-Guardians' revision of the out-door relief lists, and recommend that all the relief stations be occasionally visited, for which object they will be prepared to sanction an allowance for the outlay in providing conveyances to and from these places. If any relieving officer be found inefficient, he should be called upon to resign; and if more than inefficiency be proved in any case, the officer should be reported for dismissal by the Commissioners.

In reference to the quantity of wine and spirits consumed in the hospital, the Commissioners desire to draw attention to the annexed copy of a circular from the Board of Health, recommending the use of spirits instead of wine.

The observations on the neglect of ventilation in the dormitories have been communicated to the Commissioners' architect. The windows have been made to open, and care should be taken that they are not closed at night. It is also useful to place perforated zinc plates in the upper part of the windows to carry off foul air.

The proposed arrangement for placing in the additional building, called the College Ward, only the sick and infirm inmates of the workhouse, is very judicious, and should be at once carried into effect.

To check mendicancy in the Union, the proposed withdrawal of out-door allowances from all persons found begging, should be rigidly enforced.

The Commissioners regret to observe that so many able-bodied men and boys are in the workhouse, while the grounds are uncultivated; and they trust that immediate steps will be adopted for setting them to work in rendering the site available for some useful object.

Captain BURMESTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 6, 1848.*

YESTERDAY I attended the weekly meeting of the Vice-Guardians. I acquainted them that I had received a letter of credit for 500*l.*, being the amount of a loan from the British Association to the Vice-Guardians, and that I had placed that sum in the hands of their Treasurer, to enable them to provide for the destitute poor, at the same time intimating that repayment of the loan will be required out of the proceeds of the new rate.

The Vice-Guardians have many very serious difficulties to contend with, owing to the total want of accounts and documents. The late clerk places every difficulty in their way; and it is almost impossible to obtain the necessary information regarding the state of the finances. As the Vice-Guardians have a portion of the clerk's salary in their hands, I recommend them not to pay it until he furnishes the accounts of the Union.

I am glad to be able to state that some energy has been shown in getting in the rates during the past week. One collector (Mr. Galavan), has been most remiss, and has been informed that steps will be taken against him unless he proceeds with more despatch.

The reduction of expenditure on account of out-door relief is also satisfactory, the reduction made being from 276*l.* to 164*l.* in one week.

The Vice-Guardians published a notice requiring all persons having claims on the Union to send in their accounts. Bills have already been sent in to the amount of upwards of 1300*l.* The due investigation of these accounts will be a matter of considerable difficulty, from the want of the necessary record. This debt of 1300*l.* includes only a portion of the salaries.

The late Guardians appear to me to have, in some instances, expended money in a manner not contemplated by the Act of Parliament. I find some charges for combs, beads, and books.

The expenditure of wine and spirits has been most unreasonable. The wine consumed from 29th September to 25th of March last was 1547 bottles of whiskey 347 bottles; porter 294; and brandy 62 bottles. The statement furnished by the medical officer only accounts for 554 bottles of wine, 97½ of

New Ross Union.

whiskey, and 25½ of brandy. In fact, the system hitherto adopted in this workhouse appears to have been one of disorder, and misappropriation of public money.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 10, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 6th instant, relating to the New Ross Union, in which you state that you have recommended the Vice-Guardians not to advance the portion due of the salary of Mr. Barron, the late clerk of the Union, until the accounts of the Union are placed in a satisfactory condition; and in reference thereto I am to state that Mr. Barron is not entitled to receive his salary until the accounts up to the 25th ultimo have been audited.

I am at the same time to state that Mr. Barron should be informed that the Vice-Guardians will have to consider what proportion he will have to bear of any expense which may necessarily be incurred in putting the accounts which he has left in confusion into order.

As regards the items of expenditure mentioned in your report, I am to state that Mr. J. Burke, Poor Law Inspector, has been instructed to institute an inquiry into the circumstances. The attention of the auditor will also be drawn to the subject.

CAHIRCIVEEN UNION.

The KNIGHT of KERRY to the Right. Hon. Sir W. M. SOMERVILLE, Bart., M.P. :—
January 29, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of the Government, an unexaggerated description of the state of the district with which I am connected.

ENCLOSURE.

Second Statement of the actual State of the Electoral Division of Valencia.

THE people of all classes were better off in the beginning of 1847 than in the beginning of 1848; their houses were better thatched; they had some furniture in them; they were better clad; they had some money laid by. The children were well clad; the small farmer had some stock on his ground; from one cow up to five or ten; they had more or less of potatoes in store; there was some stock of oats in the country; some gains were obtained from the public works, however improvidently conducted, generally speaking.

The potato lands have not been cultivated; oats (except in some instances where the seed was advanced to the farmer) are little sown.

In the present year the houses are miserably, if at all, thatched; the furniture has been sold for food; the clothing is in rags; all little hoards of money have been exhausted; the cattle have been sold, whether for rent, provision, or taxes; fishing, which generally supplied a large portion of food, has been unproductive from the unexampled severity of the weather.

People are making extraordinary efforts to restore potato culture; never before has there been so much sea manure collected at this season; it is of the greatest importance that the poor people may be enabled to apply it to seed for the ensuing year; many a poor man would forego a meal in the day to spare a little seed.

There is very little employment from independent sources, except what the proprietor may apply. The people are greatly less able to work in 1848 than in 1847; honest laborious men have continued to struggle on in their enfeebled state, until they have fallen over their spades in exhaustion, even in the lightest description of labour.

There are above 700 persons in the parish of Valencia in extreme want; another class comes after these, who are now a little less in want, of these not one-sixth hold land under the proprietors.

M. FITZGERALD, *Knight of Kerry.*
January 29, 1848.

To the Right Hon. Sir W. M. Somerville, Bart.
 &c. &c. &c.

Colonel CLARKE'S OBSERVATIONS on the foregoing.

THE comparative state of the people as drawn by the Knight of Kerry is unfortunately too true, and is equally applicable to the whole of this Union. and, I believe, every other in the south and west of Ireland; but the Knight's observations refer principally to the class of persons who cannot be relieved under the Poor Law; and though one-sixth of the destitute persons may not hold land directly from the proprietor, fully one-half of the remainder hold as sub-tenants, and appear on the rate-books. At the same time advantage has not been taken of the means of relief at command; and the people profess that their attachment to the island, of which the Knight is the lord, is so intense, that they prefer a lingering death by starvation, to crossing a ferry of one-third of a mile (which they do daily on the most ordinary occasions) and go into the workhouse.

Everything possible under the Poor Law has been done for Valencia; a separate relieving officer has been appointed on the Knight's own nomination; every name he had on his list, approved by the Vice-Guardians, and food issued to him for their support. In addition to this, 460 children are fed daily in the schools, which is a greater proportion than in any other electoral division; at the same time 200 labourers are constantly employed on drainage and the slate mines.

W. A. C.
February 9, 1848.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*February 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners beg to return the enclosed papers, referred to them on the 3rd instant, in which the Knight of Kerry draws attention to the present state of the poorer classes on the island of Valencia, as contrasted with their

Cahiriveen Union. condition at the beginning of 1847, and the extreme want to which a large number of them are now reduced.

The Commissioners annex a copy of the observations made on these papers by Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, resident in the Union.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 5, 1848.*

I HAVE much gratification in being able to report to you that I do not yet feel myself called upon to recommend out-door relief to the able-bodied. To avoid this has been the more difficult on account of it having been resorted to in the adjoining Unions; but I have impressed so strongly on the rate-payers that such a measure would press most heavily upon them, that I believe a healthy spirit has been roused, and that there will not be that wholesale trade of imposition practised which prevailed during the last and preceding years; at the same time it must be admitted that there is much distress and misery amongst the small landholders, who will not give up possession; and it is this class that is alluded to in the various representations made respecting the island of Valencia.

The number now receiving in-door relief exceeds 1200. There are 200 female children lodged in two convenient houses close to the town (but separated by a branch of the harbour), where they sleep and are fed under the care of a superintendent and the schoolmistress. In the immediate vicinity of the workhouse a house is appropriated solely for nurses and infants: this is a great relief to the workhouse, as this class is always most difficult of management. About 350 men and boys occupy other houses near the workhouse as dormitories only. By these means the Vice-Guardians have been able to treble the in-door relief; and as soon as the sheds shall be made habitable, 120 more may be admitted.

The great evil is the want of clothing. I had made arrangements for the immediate supply of 300 suits; but it appears the contract had expired, and the Guardians did not feel themselves at liberty to sanction what I had done, but have advertised for tenders. I am sorry for this delay, but believe they have acted in strict accordance with your instructions.

Somewhat more than one-third of the 3s. rate has been collected, and many of the highest rate-payers have promised payment immediately after the fair, which takes place next week.

An application has been made by the Roman Catholic clergyman of Glenbeigh for a medical officer, recommending the appointment of his brother. It appeared to me very objectionable to place the whole operations of relief under the control of one family,—the one brother having the entire patronage of four National schools, in which 740 children are fed, another being the relieving officer; and it was not shown satisfactorily that sickness to any extraordinary extent was prevalent. The Vice-Guardians did not, therefore, feel themselves under the necessity of applying to you under the 5th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, which was communicated to the reverend gentleman, on which he wrote to the Vice-Guardians saying that the people were dying almost daily of disease and starvation; and though he felt bound in conscience to mention these things, that, *of course*, the Guardians would not notice them. I had the relieving officer before me on Thursday, when one of the clergy of this parish and many other persons were present, and examined him closely as to whether any person had died during the last three weeks, after applying to him for relief; if so, had he refused relief, and on what grounds; and whether the Guardians had supplied him with the means of relieving all cases of sudden emergency. He fully admitted that he had no knowledge of any such cases, that he must have known of them had they occurred, and that he had money at command. I was glad of an opportunity of giving so complete a negative to a grave charge, affecting not only my own character, but that of gentlemen who are unceasing in their endeavours to perform their arduous duties conscientiously.

The rate-payers generally are very desirous that relieving officers should be appointed for each electoral division. I think this might be done as a temporary measure under the present pressure. The electoral divisions of Caher and Killinane are at present combined; the population is about 10,000 and the

area 46,000 acres, embracing the most destitute part of the Union; and though I recommended Prior and Killemanagh to be united, which, in appearance on the map, form a very compact district, I find the communication is intercepted by a range of mountains, is always difficult, and often impracticable. I think it would, therefore, be desirable to appoint temporary relieving officers for Killinane and Prior. Cahiriveen Union.

I have great reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the master and matron of the workhouse have conducted their duties under no ordinary difficulties. The house is kept beautifully clean throughout, and, comparatively speaking, there are few disorderly or refractory cases. I felt it so necessary to make a prompt example of any that might arise, that last week I had three tailors brought before the Court of Petty Sessions for refusing to work, who were sentenced to a month's imprisonment, with hard labour.

The deaths in the infirmary have been few—the last week only nine. I am informed that at this period of last year from 20 to 30 died weekly, when the inmates of the house only averaged about 350. I think, considering the character of extreme destitution which has always been attached to this Union, that the facts of no out-door relief having been required until within the last fortnight, and that out-door relief to the able-bodied is not yet absolutely necessary, show that the benefits I anticipated from the dissolution of the late Board of Guardians, were not overrated.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are prepared to take into their consideration the reconstruction of the relief districts, as you suggest.

I am at the same time to request that you will have the goodness to communicate on the subject with the Vice-Guardians, in order that they may record on the minutes of their proceedings at their next meeting, the arrangement which they may propose to make.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 10, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you, that at the ordinary meeting of the Vice-Guardians, which took place this day, tenders were put in for the supply of clothing and bedding, which will relieve the most pressing necessity.

The clerk of works has arrived, and will proceed immediately to make the temporary sheds habitable, and erect the boundary wall. It is desirable that I should know the exact sum that remains from the building loan, in order to regulate the expenditure accordingly.

I am gratified in being able to state that there is a manifest improvement in the appearance of the paupers generally, and most particularly with the children; and when they shall be clothed it will make a very great improvement in their condition. There was this day 1241 in the workhouse and auxiliary buildings; of these, 155 were in hospital, not a very great proportion, considering the condition of those who came into the house. Deaths are very few, and from what I can learn, malignant disease was never less known in this part of the country.

There is much importunity for relief by those who will not go into the workhouse; but there is no turbulence nor disorder, and I believe the determined attitude assumed by the Guardians has been mainly instrumental in producing that effect. About 6000 individuals, including those in the schools, are now fed with the greatest order and regularity; and I believe few now remain who can be relieved under the Poor Law; but the lists will increase weekly by the addition of those whom circumstances will oblige to give up their land.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 18, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, enclosing certain regulations adopted by the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union, for the employment of able-bodied paupers receiving out-door relief.

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I had given my attention to the subject, and was prepared to lay before the Vice-Guardians some suggestions not differing materially from those under consideration. It is well known throughout the Union that labour will be exacted from those receiving relief, either in or out of the workhouse; and the applications from the able-bodied are comparatively few; and as there will be additional room in the workhouse by the completion of the sheds, out-door relief to that class is not yet required.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

IN my report to you of the 5th instant, I had the honour to bring under your notice the subject of a letter from the Roman Catholic Clergyman of Glenbeigh to the Vice-Guardians, stating that the people were dying almost daily of disease and starvation. I transmit herewith a return made by the relieving officer, by which it appears that only one person died who had made any application for relief, and that, before the Vice-Guardians had commenced their duties.

ENCLOSURE.

DEATHS within the ELECTORAL DIVISION of GLENBRIGHT during the three weeks ending the 3rd February, 1848.

January 22nd.—Margaret Shea, 40, single, of influenza; lived with her father at Ballinakilla, who has the grass of one cow; did not apply for relief.

January 30th.—Mary, wife of Owen Sullivan, of Curra, of influenza; held no land; aged 60 years; applied for relief before the 1st January.

January 17th.—Julia Griffin, 80, widow, died of old age at Ballinakilla; lived with her daughter, who has four cows; did not apply for relief.

February 1st.—Catherine Keane, 80, widow, of old age; lived with her son Simon; had no land; did not apply for relief.

January 6th.—Mary, daughter of Michael Riordan, at Coolnahorigal, aged 10; died of chin-cough; did not apply for relief.

January 22nd.—Mary, wife of John Griffin, of Reenuligaun, of fever; held no land; aged 32; did not apply for relief.

January 20th.—Margaret Shea, 55, wife to Tom Shea, of Curriheen, of fever; held a small portion of land; made no application for relief.

January 15th.—Joyce, wife of John Naughten, of Curriheen, aged 65; died of old age; held no land; did not apply for relief.

Daniel Murphy, 42, single, died of inflammation in the bowels; lived at Curriheen; held no land; did not apply for relief.

Killorglin.

February 4th.—Michael Brennan, 18, single, at Knocknaboulla, of small-pock, at the house of his mother, a poor woman without land; applied for relief, and was admitted into the workhouse a short time before.

Dated this 10th day of February, 1848.

Signed by me,
JOHN ENRIGHT, *Relieving Officer.*

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

ON maturely considering the circumstances of this Union I cannot but arrive at the conclusion that the time has now arrived when the aid of the British Relief Association has become absolutely necessary.

The various reports I have had the honour to make to you, have put you in complete possession of every particular connected with the administration of the Poor Law since my appointment as your Temporary Inspector. When I arrived, I found the Union deeply involved in debt; credit at an end; and the workhouse without clothing for the inmates, and devoid of every necessary. By the unceasing efforts of the Vice-Guardians, all these evils have been greatly mitigated, and the in-door accommodation increased from 400 to 1,200. Debts of old standing nearly all paid off—credit restored; and I believe, a more healthy spirit of self-dependence engendered in the country; but unless the Vice-Guardians be enabled to maintain this position, a retrograde movement must take place; and at the expiration of my period of service, I should have the mortification of leaving the Union in as bad if not worse state than I found it.

The present rate will be mostly collected, and the most energetic measures

are now in progress to enforce payment from those who are holding back; but it must be considered that to provide clothing and necessaries for the great additional number of in-door paupers, and to pay off incumbrances, will absorb almost to the last penny; and it is my honest conviction that the country is not able to bear any additional taxation at the present time. I would therefore suggest that your recommendation of this Union to the British Relief Association for immediate consideration, is highly important.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, requesting a list of immediate lessors who have not paid their rates, and a special report on certain points connected with the collection of rates and the condition of the people.

I have called upon the collectors for a return of immediate lessors who have not paid, and I have reason to believe there will be very few cases in which it will be necessary to have recourse to legal proceedings.

The actual amount of rates collected since my appointment to the present time is about 2400*l.*, being somewhat more than 2*s.* in the pound; but this sum embraces part of a 1*s.* rate which was struck in July last, and the 3*s.* rate now in course of collection, of which about 1400*l.* is still unpaid.

The obstacles to the rate being collected arise from various causes:—the first and most prominent is the general impoverishment of the people by the failure of the potato, it being the only produce of the country; corn of any description being almost unknown. Grazing for one or two cows, with a potato garden, is the usual holding; the butter pays the rent, while the skimmed milk and potatoes form the only diet known. To elucidate more clearly the class of persons who form the bulk of the population of the Union, I will take an electoral division, which is not the most destitute, and show an analysis of the holdings, of which there appears 804 rated to the Poor Law:—

438	are valued under	£4
287	over £4 and under	10
52	„ 10 „	15
14	„ 15 „	20
10	„ 20 „	25
2	„ 25 „	30
1	the highest and only tenant rate-payer over 30 <i>l.</i>	47
804		

This will represent about 4000 individuals subsisting on the land, and as the population is about 5250, 1250 are without any support whatever. This in itself shows a state of pauperism scarcely to be imagined in a civilized country, and it is surprising how the majority of these persons have contrived to pay 4*s.* in the pound, in addition to county cess, amounting in some instances to 1*s.* 9*d.* more, since July last.

The extreme poverty of the tenantry naturally affects the proprietors. I believe the rents are generally two years in arrear, and in many instances much more. I have knowledge of gentlemen in this Union who would make any sacrifice rather than have their names brought forward as defaulters; and yet are unable to meet the full amount of their present rates.

I do not think there is negligence or dishonesty in the collectors, but it is easy to imagine that men in their class of life feel diffidence in approaching their superiors, probably their landlords, to demand money; but I believe the rate will be mostly collected, and the defaulters, with very few exceptions, be those who are really unable to pay.

In consequence of the people not having tilled their land but to a very limited extent for want of seed, potatoes are now as scarce and dear as at the corresponding period of last year; and this being purely a pastoral country, there is no absorption of labour for money wages, by which other food might be procured; therefore the small farmers have been obliged to sell their milch cows, upon which they should depend, for their next payment of rent. There can be no stronger proof than this

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of the exhaustion of means; and the representation of the Knight of Kerry, upon which I submitted some observations under date of the 9th ultimo, most feelingly points out the actual state of destitution of the people generally.

I considered my appointment to this Union to embrace a two-fold duty:—in the first place to see that the laws for the relief of the poor were carried out in their fullest integrity; and in the second, to produce a moral revolution in the minds of the people, by convincing them that their well-being depended upon their own industry and exertions, and not in becoming craving recipients of food, wrung from the means of those scarcely better off than themselves. Had I arrived here in ordinary times, and found the Union clear of incumbrances, I could have pledged myself to success in both those objects, and even now I perceive signs of a more healthy state of feeling than has prevailed; but if additional taxation be now imposed, the people will sink in despair, become reckless of consequences, and the country be in a worse state than ever: and this feeling would be greatly aggravated by the fact of the Union having been selected as one to receive aid, provided every exertion were made; and I believe but for that expectation, the present rate could not have been collected, and that in place of active industry now displayed in cultivating the ground, the mass of the people would have given up possession and thrown themselves on the Poor Law for support.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 8, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' thanks for your report.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for an advance of 200% to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 6, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, requesting my opinion as to how far it may be desirable to suspend, on the 18th instant, all orders under the second section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

As out-door relief to the able-bodied has not yet been found necessary in this Union, the question is, whether it may not yet become unavoidable. If I were to be guided by the relief lists of last year, and that there is no prospect of labour being required, and that the months of April, May, and June are those in which distress is most severely felt in this country, I should be forced to the conviction that out-door relief to the able-bodied will become a necessity; but every day's observation the more strongly convinces me that the greatest imposition was practised under the Temporary Relief Act; and 300 persons of that class having discharged themselves from the workhouse during the last three weeks, induces me to hope it may be done without.

I have now about 3600 children attending public schools who are fed daily: this will be increased 200 in a few days; and I have made the system of the Count Strzelecki instrumental in establishing three additional schools in districts where education had been totally neglected, and is re-opening a National school that had been abandoned. Taking these, with about 4000 widows, orphans, and impotent persons receiving out-door relief, and 1200 in the workhouse, making a total of 9000, it forms a very large proportion of the entire population, and ought to be fully equal to the real wants of the Union.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM sorry to have to report to you that a spirit of insubordination has broken out amongst the able-bodied male paupers in the Union workhouse. On Thursday they combined in a determination not to work unless they were paid for so doing by additional food. I had about 30 of the most refractory brought before me, and was met by open defiance. I was apprehensive that they would have proceeded to violence, and sent the master to the nearest magistrate to acquaint him with what was going forward, and to request the aid of the police; but Dr. Barry was from home, and chief-constable Perry, commanding the police

force in the absence of Mr. Fletcher, refused to give any assistance without the order of a magistrate. This state of things continued all yesterday; but this morning, Dr. Barry having returned, I have had informations sworn against seven of the ringleaders, who will be lodged in the Bridewell this night.

It is unpleasant being exposed to the attack of such ruffians without any protection, and it may be worthy of consideration if the Vice-Guardians should not be put in the commission of the peace. I have been consulted by some of the gentlemen of the country as to whether an appointment to the magistracy would be pleasing to me; but I have objected to any application being made, as I know every unpleasant duty would be thrown entirely on myself.

Mr. Power informed me yesterday that the most urgent and pressing private affairs required him to be absent from the Union for a few days. I informed him that I had no power to grant leave of absence, and that if he went it would be entirely on his own responsibility. I believe nothing short of the most absolute necessity would have induced him to absent himself at this particular time. Should he not return before the next Board-day I will make a special report to you on the subject.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of Government has been drawn to your communication with reference to the case of insubordination in the workhouse, and the want of protection for the workhouse officers.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 1, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that I have received a communication from the Count Strzelecki, on the part of the British Relief Association, informing me that the demands upon their funds are so heavy as to oblige them to limit the period of affording relief to the 30th June, and requesting my opinion as to the most eligible mode of bringing operations to a close. I have been obliged, in my reply, to enter rather largely on the present state and future prospects of the Union, and as it embodies most of those points I was about to bring under your consideration, I do myself the honour of transmitting a copy of my letter to the Count.

I have endeavoured to collect the materials required for the return referred to in your letter of the 29th ultimo; but I find the clerk has kept no account whatever of salaries or liabilities, and I am convinced that every return he has furnished connected with finance is fictitious. I shall sit with him daily until every account is brought into a state of regularity and the returns completed.

With respect to the renewal of your sealed order authorizing out-door relief to widows with one child and orphans, I should not consider it necessary, but that our in-door accommodation will be contracted, as one of the temporary sheds will be occupied as an infirmary until the works now in progress shall be completed. It is, therefore, desirable that it should be renewed for two months.

ENCLOSURE.

Colonel CLARKE to Count STRZELECKI:—*April 1, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, which has received my most serious attention. I was apprehensive that the pressure on the funds of the British Relief Association would be such as to exhaust them before the time when the forthcoming crops would become available.

It is not to be inferred from the small number of persons in this Union on the relief lists, as compared with last year and other Unions, that extreme poverty and destitution does not exist; on the contrary, I believe there is no Union in Ireland where it is more universal. On examining the accompanying analysis of the rate books, it will be seen that only eight persons hold land and tenements, valued at more than 50*l.* per annum, and only 22 above 30*l.* The highest rate-payer in the Union is valued at 30*l.*, which comprises a salmon fishery; while the average proportional valuation is only 14*s.* 4*d.* to each individual.

Under such a state, it is not to be expected that rates can be collected from persons who are scarcely removed from absolute pauperism themselves; for it is universally admitted that there is not a farmer's family in the Union so well fed and clothed as the inmates of the workhouse, and but for the quarter-acre clause, I believe that four-fifths of the entire population would have been on the relief lists.

At a moderate calculation, the expense of maintenance of paupers to the 29th September next will be about 4000*l.*; this is exclusive of establishment charges. The amount to be col-

Cahirciveen Union. lected of the current rate, with the small balance in the treasurer's hands, will about discharge present liabilities; and the question remains, how this 4000*l.* is to be raised, and it has caused me much anxious thought. Looking to the circumstances of the people, I know that a rate struck at the present time would be unproductive, and ruinous in those cases where it might be enforced. In agricultural districts the growing crop cannot be seized; but here the growing crop is the cow, on the produce of which a man depends for the payment of his rent and feeding his children, and if he be deprived of it, as he might and would be, he at once becomes a permanent pauper.

I almost fear that my not having been an urgent claimant on the funds of the Association, may induce the belief that the Union did not require extensive aid; but my object has been to carry out the Poor Law in its utmost integrity, and to found a claim for assistance on showing honesty of administration, and that the country, after making every exertion, is not able to bear any additional burthen at the present time. In proof of the latter, I have only to state that within the last nine months poor-rates and county cess, to the amount of 5*s.* 9*d.* in the pound, have been collected, and to meet the expenditure up to September next, it will require 4*s.* in addition. If I am enabled to find food for the destitute until that time, I should entertain the hope of more prosperous times than have ever been known in this Union. The fearful calamity of nearly two years' famine has not been an un instructive lesson, and I perceive a healthy spirit of industry and exertion springing up, which cannot fail to produce a beneficial effect on the minds and habits of the people. I have never desponded; I have relied greatly on the natural elasticity of the Irish character, and if the germ of future prosperity should first take root in this remote spot, I shall consider my having been connected with it the most gratifying event in my public career.

I have given the subject of reducing the number of rations to the schools due consideration, and on the receipt of your letter, intimated that, as a general principle, 20 per cent. would be struck off the ration lists on the 30th April, to be followed by another 20 per cent. on 28th May, and that the period of the final close would depend upon your instructions; but that I thought it would not extend beyond the 30th June. I am of opinion that this arrangement is preferable to making a clear sweep at any one time, as seeing the number gradually reduced prepares the minds of those that remain; and I believe this is the view generally understood on the subject.

ANALYSIS of Rate Books, classifying the Ratepayers according to Amount of Poor Law Valuation.

Electoral Divisions.	Under 4 <i>l.</i>	Over 4 <i>l.</i> and under 10 <i>l.</i>	Over 10 <i>l.</i> and under 15 <i>l.</i>	Over 15 <i>l.</i> and under 20 <i>l.</i>	Over 20 <i>l.</i> and under 25 <i>l.</i>	Over 25 <i>l.</i> and under 30 <i>l.</i>	Over 30 <i>l.</i> and under 50 <i>l.</i>	Over 50 <i>l.</i>	Total Amount of Ratepayers under 50 <i>l.</i>	Population.	Estimated area in statute acres.	Total of Net Annual Value of Holdings under 50 <i>l.</i>	Proportion of Valuation to each Individual.
Cahir . .	649	351	45	7	6	2	4	1	1,064	6,315	19,100	£. s. d.	s. d.
Killinane .	352	228	25	9	5	4	..	..	623	3,569	26,868	2,848 0 0	15 11½
Valencia .	385	95	16	7	8	1	3	2	515	2,920	6,371	1,880 0 0	15 11½
Kellmelaugh	223	175	30	3	2	..	3	2	436	2,728	11,857	2,166 0 0	12 10½
Prior . .	231	191	41	7	1	1	1	1	473	3,323	11,798	2,403 0 0	15 10½
Dromod . .	437	287	52	14	10	2	1	1	803	5,247	50,702	3,876 0 0	14 5½
Glenbeigh .	400	94	21	3	5	2	6	1	531	3,011	30,808	1,998 0 0	14 9½
Glencar . .	46	74	14	14	1	3	1	..	153	1,089	7,919	1,075 0 0	13 3½
Killorglin .	172	82	17	6	5	5	3	..	290	2,686	12,925	1,466 0 0	19 8½
	2,895	1,577	261	70	43	20	22	3	4,888	30,888	178,348	22,255 0 0	10 10½

Cahirciveen, April 1, 1848.

WILLIAM A. CLARKE.

REPLY to the foregoing:—April 5, 1848.

I AM to state that the Commissioners will at once renew the limited outdoor relief order adverted to in your report.

The Commissioners assure you that they appreciate the value of your services, and they attribute the comparative absence of demands for pecuniary assistance from Cahirciveen Union to the course which has been adopted by you.

When there is an absolute necessity for further extraneous assistance to the Union, the Commissioners rely on your formally reporting to them again on the subject accordingly, as they are convinced that you will not request aid from the funds of the British Association prematurely or unreasonably.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 5, 1848.

WITH reference to your letter of the 1st instant, respecting the verdict returned on a coroner's inquest on the body of Daniel Brien, found dead on the high road, I have the honour to transmit the report of the relieving officer of the district in which the circumstances occurred.

ENCLOSURE.

Cahiriveen Union.

Mr. Joy, Relieving Officer, to the VICE-GUARDIANS of the Cahiriveen Union:—
April 4, 1848.

In reply to your communication concerning Daniel Brien, deceased, I have to inform you that it was proved before the magistrates who attended the inquest, that he was from Tuosist, in the Kenmare Union, and that he was strolling about Killorglin for four or five days; that he belongs to the Killarney Union; that he could get no lodgings there; that he strolled about until he got into a house in my district, of a man of the name of Patrick Robert, who treated him with the greatest kindness, and procured some boiled milk for him; that the following day he left Robert's house, and was found dead in a field on the lands of Annadale. In short, gentlemen, he was only a day and night in my district, and never applied to me for relief.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 11, 1848.*

I AM to state for your information that a copy of your report has been forwarded to the Under Secretary for Ireland.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 15, 1848.*

THE good effects of a general system of regularity are already perceptible in the improved condition of the in-door paupers.

The only difficulty the Vice-Guardians have now to contend with is the want of funds; and how this is to be met is a matter for very grave consideration. I have a list of defaulters to the present poor-rate; and as each case will require investigation in order to decide upon ulterior proceedings, I have deemed it best not to take any step until the return of Mr. Burchaell.

The defalcation of the secretary of the Tralee savings' bank falls very heavy on this part of the country, and will form the ground of excuse for non-payment of poor-rate, even by those who were not depositors.

Colonel CLARKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 19, 1848.*

As the period approaches when my term of office as your Temporary Inspector will expire, I am desirous of making you acquainted, not only with the present state of this Union, but as to the probable operation of the Poor Law in the time to come.

The various reports I have had the honour to make to you have put you in full possession of every particular as to the state in which I found affairs on my arrival, and the measures adopted to meet the pecuniary embarrassments and pressure of distress existing in the Union. These measures have been attended with more success than I could have anticipated; a great proportion of the outstanding debts have been discharged; clothing in abundance provided for the workhouse; the dietary of the paupers improved; out-door relief to the able-bodied not required; and not a single authenticated death from destitution. I am myself surprised at these results, particularly when I look at the returns from other Unions in this county, where there are rich proprietors, with extensive farms of the most fertile soil, with a proportionate valuation to the population trebling those of this Union.

This is a gratifying picture, but must not be mistaken for a sign of riches or prosperity, but as a proof that the Vice-Guardians and relieving officers have done their duty, and that the poor have been most patient and forbearing under their privations.

There never could have been a more unpropitious time for trying a gigantic experiment in political economy than that when the present law for the relief of the poor came into operation; with the mass of the people demoralised by being gratuitously and almost indiscriminately fed during the preceding two years, the effects of which will naturally clog the prosperous working of the law for years to come.

Could this Union be brought back to its nominal state before the failure of the potatoes, the expenditure under the Poor Law, at a fair moderate calculation, would be about 3200*l.* per annum, or an uniform rate on the Union of 3*s.* in the pound: this, though heavy upon so poor a district, would not be unsupportable. But circumstances are totally changed; there are upwards of 3000 persons, of

Cahiriveen Union. the classes entitled to out-door relief under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, who may now be considered as permanent paupers. These were formerly supported by the charity of their neighbours and friends; but the dire necessities of famine have frozen up those kindly feelings, which were so prominently conspicuous in the character of the Irish peasantry; and the knowledge that they are entitled to relief under the Poor Law, leaves no prospect of any reduction of this number but by the death of the aged and infirm, and the growth of children into adults.

This consideration naturally leads to the question as to the capability of the Union to bear the expense of supporting such a body of paupers. By a return I had the honour of transmitting you on the 8th instant, it appears that, even supposing the present rate to be collected in full, an additional sum of 6980*l.* is required to meet the expenditure up to the 29th September next, to raise which would require an uniform rate of upwards of 6*s.* in the pound. The collection of such a rate upon an Union where only 40 ratepayers hold lands or tenements valued at more than 30*l.* per annum, would be problematical under the most prosperous circumstances; and at the present time I believe that to strike any rate would have the worst possible moral effect, and be totally unproductive. I know that, with the exception of the few parties who will be proceeded against, a great effort has been made, not only to pay the current rate, but to keep impostors off the relief lists, and that the workhouse and out-door relief can only be sustained until the next harvest shall become available, by the liberal aid of the Government and the British Relief Association.

In your letter of the 5th instant you did me the honour of expressing your conviction that I would not request aid prematurely or unreasonably. I am highly gratified with that assurance, and it emboldens me in reiterating my conviction that every possible exertion has been made by the Vice-Guardians and the people, and that the moment has now arrived when the promised aid may be legitimately demanded.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 26, 1848.*

I AM to state that, whenever the current rate outstanding in the Union shall be sufficiently reduced to leave only a moderate amount of arrears to be carried forward, a new rate should be made, although not put into collection at once; and that when the urgent necessities of the Union may require advances from the British Relief Association, the Commissioners will be prepared to recommend such aid to be given on applications from time to time.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON UNION.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 31, 1848.*

1. HAVING been duly invested with the administration of the affairs of this Union by your sealed order of the 26th instant, we beg now, conformably to your communication of the 28th instant, to present a report on the aspect of the Union, and our proceedings.

Rates.

2. It appears that a rate of 2s. 11d. in the pound, conjointly for the purposes of Temporary Relief Act, and ordinary expenditure, amounting nominally to 11,920l., was signed by the late Board of Guardians on 27th November last. From disappointments in procuring collectors, the placing of the rate in proper collection has been delayed up to the present time. An arrangement, however, existed during a part of the current month, by which the clerk of the Union received rates paid at the Board-room, first through the medium of treasurer's receipts, and subsequently in cash; a rebate of 2s. 6d. in the pound was made for such payments. By this mode of collection a sum of 2,112l. has been lodged with the treasurer. In the greater number of the divisions we have discovered that the arrears had not been inserted previous to the signing of the rate, and in some their introduction is unfinished yet; these arrears, as returned in the collectors' arrear sheets, differ materially from the actual sums appearing by the minutes to be due of former rates, the differences being unaccounted for by the previous collectors. The rate-books in no instance express the chargeability of the immediate lessor by name, but merely by the words "immediate lessor;" and in all cases where the rate is so entered, the names of occupiers are altogether omitted, rendering the description of the person liable for the rate extremely vague, and identification hereafter by the collector possibly attended with difficulty. The returns made up by the clerk, of which copies are transmitted to you, show the rate and arrears amount to 11,920l.; but in reality when the rate-books are made up, from the defalcation in the arrears, the total will be considerably short of that sum.

3. With reference to the difficulty connected with the rates, we have already addressed a letter to you, in which we suggest a resignature of the books by us as paid officers, if that be practicable, so as to ensure the legality of a proceeding of such vital importance as the making of a rate; and the probability of appeals renders it more than ever a matter of the utmost necessity, that a rate should be able to stand the test of legal investigation. We have urged the clerks to greater diligence in finishing the books, so that they soon will be in a completed state.

Rate Collectors.

4. The services of four persons, Messrs. Scott, Fitzgerald, Shaw, and M'Culloch, from distant parts of the country, have been engaged for the collection of the rate. Being satisfied with their sureties we have duly appointed them. Pending your approval we have directed their bonds to be perfected; and they are in the interim making themselves acquainted with their duties, so that when all preliminaries are arranged, they may at once vigorously commence the actual collection of the rate.

Workhouse.

5. A review of this establishment exhibited to us many defects. In the points of management, we observed that the majority of the inmates, embracing nearly all the adults, were without the Union clothing, and remained in the tattered and miserable garments which form the dress, or rather absence of dress, of the pauper population. The supply of bedding was so meagre, that many of the inmates were huddled together in the dormitories, and, with the

animal heat generated by close contact, tried to make up for the absence of covering. The schools appear most defective in the requisites for educational or industrial training. The serving of the meals most irregular, accomplished without system, and not until an advanced period of the day, calculated sadly to augment the progress of disease. Classification imperfect: the able-bodied men and the women, with the exception of a few females who sew a little, totally unemployed. Repairs to a considerable extent required: the pump in men's yard gone altogether to destruction, the well being only available by means of a bucket, and everything connected with the plumbing department being entirely out of order, the supply of water dependent on its conveyance from the Shannon river, half a mile distant; thus causing (or at least pleaded as an excuse for) the absence of cleanliness which characterizes the establishment, and the lateness in having the meals prepared. The glazing of the windows defective, and regulated ventilation, the medical officer states, thereby prevented; thus encouraging the spread of disease amongst the inmates. Whitewashing for a long time unused, which, independent of sanitary consequences, gives an unsightly aspect to the wards. The earthen floors, from inattention, full of pits and inequalities; the yards irregular and unclean; the drains allowed to become completely useless, so that in rainy weather some of the wards are completely inundated, though, from the position of the building, sufficient facilities for good drainage exist; the locks out of order, and every facility existing for the intermixture of the classes and sexes; cesspools requiring cleaning; sickness prevailing amongst the inmates, beyond those in infirmary, and patients suffering from infectious diseases, in dormitories of main building, amid the healthy; the mortality high, and appears to have been so for some time past; a defective supply of implements and utensils; dietary of an imperfect, but by no means of a correspondingly economical character; the infants in nursery wearing a miserable appearance, and the paupers generally exhibiting unhealthiness, although the house is not inconveniently crowded—indeed we think, by proper management, it might be made to contain many more inmates, as some wards are yet quite unoccupied; no contracts were in existence, and therefore the supplies of a most defective description, not even compensated by cheapness in price, and the deliveries of some articles irregular and opposed to the convenience of the establishment; no amount of stores, either as regards food or clothing, such as should be, to provide against temporary embarrassment arising any hour, causing much evil; any property there was, such as fuel or straw, unprotected from waste.

6. Few of the wretched habits of the paupers when living outside seem to have been corrected since their admission, and their state appears little ameliorated or improved save by their having the shelter of the workhouse walls.

7. We have had scarcely yet sufficient opportunity of forming an accurate estimate of the capabilities of the officers. The schoolmaster has tendered his resignation. The master, it appears, was withdrawn from his duties recently by illness, which occasioned some additional confusion. The temporary assistant master has scarcely exhibited that diligence since our arrival which we should desire. The matron and schoolmistress seem to be active officers, and we doubt not, under proper management, shall effectively perform the duties of their respective situations. However, future reports shall convey more minute and deliberate opinions with regard to the officials.

8. Our supervision has been exercised to correct, as far as possible, the evils to which we have referred. We have advertised for contracts, directed the introduction of several improvements in details of workhouse management, and we are preparing an amended dietary table. A schoolmaster will be forthwith elected in room of the person resigned. We have received, through Captain Wynne, a supply of clothing, which will be most usefully applied when properly marked (a process heretofore unattended to). We propose to convert the upper idiot wards to increased infirmary accommodation, opening a communication between them: to sink a new well, appropriating the machinery of old pump, now lumber, as far as possible for it; we would require to deepen the former well to make it of any use, and we think it better, and likely to be little more expensive to make a new well altogether in a more desirable part of the premises, and removed from the line of drainage.

We shall proceed to the important duty of employing the able-bodied male inmates so soon as the present severe storm is over, from this we expect salutary results; we arrange also for the more effective employment of the women. We have succeeded, perhaps to a slight extent, in arousing energy amongst all connected with the institution, already productive, we think, of advantage.

Account.

9. Nothing can be more miserable or hopeless than the aspect of the accounts; they are in the extremity of confusion, a state which has been in existence from a period many months past. The master's books, during the employment of a former officer, fell altogether into arrear, and of course all the accounts dependent on them ceased to be kept. The present master's accounts, from his late illness, were, for some weeks preceding our taking charge, left unattended to. He and his assistant have been employed during the past week in bringing them up; but of their correctness we must have doubts, as materials did not exist for preparing them (from the defective system of recording transactions) even for that recent time. The accounts, when a former clerk and master were in office, can never be made to represent the actual transactions of the Union—an unfortunate circumstance both in connexion with the economy of the expenditure and statistics. The waste and loss of Union property appear to have been great, but it is impossible ever to determine the extent of this loss, or indeed to draw a correct conclusion of any kind, where accounts are to be assumed as the basis.

10. Our especial direction shall be given to this part of Union affairs, so essential to the well working of the Poor Law system. The main safety in restraining waste and promoting honesty, arises from the punctual keeping of the accounts and adherence to the forms provided for same. When officers are not accurate in this department, they are usually found defective in every other. We will make it our object, by removing the ignorance of the officers, and exciting diligence with regard to the accounts, to effect as many improvements as possible. We are not without fears that the number of inmates appearing by the books to be in the house may not exactly correspond to the facts; and we shall, by an early enumeration, investigate this particular. The provision and ledger accounts, so important, shall be put in course of immediate restoration to order, and we will employ additional assistants for this purpose.

Funds.

11. In this particular, a balance of 603*l.* was at disposal. From the removal of the branch of the London and Dublin Bank, which acted as treasurer heretofore, we were obliged to transfer our account to the National Bank Branch in Boyle. We trust the sum at disposal will keep us afloat until the new rate collectors recruit our finances.

Out-door Relief.

12. These officers (nine in number) have been all before us: in most cases they appear competent, but not particularly conversant with their duties; their books were in a most defective state. The Application and Report Books, with the exception of a page or two at the commencement, had not been initialed by the chairman, or received the directions of the late Board, scarcely any relief being authorized by it. Many hundred applications recently received by the relieving officers had been yet uninquied into. No arrangements had been made for the relieving officers receiving proper supplies of food for distribution, nor stations provided them; they seemed to have relieved the able-bodied indiscriminately, although distinctly informed by Captain Wynne to alone send that class to the workhouse. It appears to us that, by the defective manner they have been managing their duties, applicants crowd upon them who have no claims for relief.

13. We proceeded to investigate the applications so far as we were able, and will complete the entire examination of the Arrear Book with the least possible delay. Until a provisions' contractor can be obtained, we have placed money

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

in the officers' hands to purchase meal: we have instructed them to give no relief to the able-bodied without exacting a task of work; and to enable them to do this have directed them to employ temporary superintendents at 1s. per day, wages, and procure stones for breaking at 6d. per ton, until more formal arrangements can be made. We have applied to the offices of Public Works for hammers; and so soon as the weather improves, we hope to have the test of stone-breaking in full operation.

14. We are quite sure that, from want of a proper supervision of the relieving officers by the Board of Guardians, numbers have been provided with relief who are not proper objects for such: we are also disposed to think that many who should receive relief have not yet been reached by these officers. The test of the workhouse having been altogether removed by the late course adopted, of turning persons out of the workhouse to be placed on the extern relief lists, without regard to their length of residence therein, or the class to which they belonged, persons seek admission into the workhouse as a channel to out-door relief. The number of applications was increased from this cause, the applicants being unrestrained by the fear of an order to the workhouse; latterly, the relieving officers were even sending to the workhouse persons of the very classes which should have been kept on out relief. We conclude that the stone-breaking system, and using our available workhouse space alone for the able-bodied, will have a successful effect in restraining the pressure for relief; but it is unfortunate that it has already received such an impetus.

Temporary Fever Hospitals.

15. We have been called upon to make disbursements on account of the expenses of patients (30 in number) in temporary fever sheds. The expenditure has not been authorized by a relief committee, nor the accounts presented through them, and the cost per head of patients seem high. We conceive we cannot be considered unreasonable in asking the committee to perform their part by affording assistance in examining the accounts of this establishment, and enabling us satisfactorily to meet them, which we could not otherwise do. We have addressed a circular to the members of the Relief Committee, a copy of which we append.

Liabilities.

16. We understand that law proceedings are in course against the late Board of Guardians, for the recovery of debts due by them to contractors, &c., of the workhouse, and some law processes have been served since our taking charge. A communication has been made to these creditors, a copy of which is herewith.

ENCLOSURES.

COPY OF LETTER TO RELIEF COMMITTEE:—*January 29, 1848.*

SIR,

I AM directed by the Vice-Guardians to communicate with you relative to temporary fever sheds, under the control of the Carrick-on-Shannon Relief Committee, of which you are a member.

You are aware that this Committee still retains all its functions under Fever Act, and the exercise of these appears to be of considerable importance at the present time; the sheds are at present in operation, and can scarcely be expected to be less necessary for some time to come. The support of the patients now involves a considerable expenditure, and at a high rate (5s. per week being the average for each patient). This expense is expected, the Vice-Guardians learn from Dr. Sullivan, the medical officer under Board of Health, to be borne by the Vice-Guardians. Now, unless the Committee exercise its part of the duties, by supervising the management of the institution, and examining and authenticating the accounts, the Vice-Guardians would not feel justified in contributing to the expenditure, which they are otherwise disposed to do. Should you desire to make any arrangement with the Vice-Guardians, they shall be happy to confer with you at their next meeting on Saturday next.

I am, &c.,

JOHN CLARKE, *Clerk to Union.*

COPY of a LETTER to UNION CREDITORS:—*January 29, 1848.*Carriek-on-Shan-
non Union.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Vice-Guardians of this Union to communicate to you their views in reference to the proceedings which you have thought proper to institute for the recovery of certain sums you allege to be due you by the late Board of Guardians.

It appears to the Vice-Guardians that this course is dictated by a misapprehension of the actual prospects of the discharge of your claim which law proceedings afford.

The pressure of a legal action may operate favourably on a private individual in producing a settlement, but in the case of a Union, where the seizure of property or person need not be feared, the only result of an action at law can be the accumulation of costs.

It is notorious that there are no funds at the disposal of the Guardians beyond what is required to meet the immediate pressure of destitution, one penny of which could not be converted to any other purpose; law suits cannot, therefore, have the slightest effect in extracting the smallest payment; and whatever be the consequence of such proceedings, they must be passively endured. There are no stores in this workhouse, nor are any likely to be further than what is required for the wants of a day. Indeed all the moveables in the house, which could be rendered available under an execution, would be an equivalent but for a very trifling amount.

The seizure of these could produce little benefit to a creditor, nor difficulty to the Vice-Guardians; but if even the occupation of the workhouse was rendered no longer practicable by an act of this kind, which would not be the case, the expedient of transferring all the paupers to out relief could be accomplished, and the workhouse thus dispensed with.

One object of the administration of the affairs of this Union being transferred to us was, doubtless, that it should be placed in a position to liquidate its debts. This, on the part of the Government, is a great boon to the individuals who are creditors. The rates, the only source from which the finances of the Union can be recruited, will now be rigidly exacted; and if a shadow of hope exists to the creditors, it is from the law being properly carried out.

It is manifestly the interest of every person who expects the favourable consideration of the present Union authorities (who can be looked to as the only resource), not to provoke their displeasure by vexatious law proceedings; and further, it is their fixed course of action that the claims of those who persist in compulsory measures shall be the very last which shall receive the benefit of any future resources that may be available. The Vice-Guardians thus, for your own sake, desire to place you in possession of the real state of the case, so that you may not blindly be involved still deeper; though at the same time they think it right to state, that the line of conduct you may pursue is to them a matter of total indifference.

I am, &c.,

JOHN CLARKE, *Clerk to Union.*REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 10, 1848.*

I AM to express the great concern of the Commissioners at the deplorable state in which you have found the workhouse; but the Commissioners trust that by acting strictly on the regulations laid down by the Commissioners, and by constant and vigilant inspection, you will be enabled to restore the workhouse to a state of cleanliness, decency, and order.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 5, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that for the last week I have turned my attention to the following subjects:—

1st. The present state of the Union (as regards the amount and urgent nature of destitution) as compared with that which I found to exist in the end of November and the month of December last, when I visited the same localities.

2nd. The amount of destitution to which relief has not yet reached, and the causes which have prevented its doing so.

3rd. The amount of employment at present afforded in the Union.

4th. The probable amount of able-bodied applicants for out-door relief, should employment continue to be altogether withheld as at present.

5th. The selection of the most convenient situations for depôts for the employment of the able-bodied on out-door relief, taking into account the facility of obtaining stores, and probability of disposing of them advantageously hereafter, by reason of the proximity of contemplated works of drainage or finishing of roads.

I regret to say I find that destitution has increased to a fearful extent; in

Carriick-on Shan-
non Union.

fact, in some localities it may be said to have reached the entire population. I could discern a palpable change in many of the persons whose appearance I recollected in December, and who were then comparatively in health and vigour.

In most cases these poor persons are landholders, who, though apparently willing to surrender their land, still clung to their cabins, and were therefore unable to prevail on the landlord to take the land, and give them a certificate to that effect, which the relieving officers require. In some cases the multiplicity of applications to the relieving officers rendered it impossible for them to visit all the parties, place their names on the list, and issue rations, with that dispatch which would be desirable; but the preliminary steps are found to be indispensable, as all cases are represented as most destitute and urgent, and every species of fraud and imposition practised by the applicants.

I regret to say, that from personal observation, and from reports by the relieving officers, I do not think there are in the entire Union 20 labourers employed.

It appears to me that no effort whatever is being made in any branch of improvement or in agricultural operations, to employ the able-bodied; nor do I see any grounds for expecting any movement in this direction before the end of next month, when it is to be hoped that self-preservation will induce the farmers at least to undertake the necessary agricultural operations; till then, I see no other prospect of support for at least three-fourths of the labouring class than the Poor Law.

The out-door relief list amounts at present to 2268. The numbers in the workhouse amount to 830. The number of children receiving daily rations of bread, 4300, besides several families peculiarly circumstanced, to whom I afford relief from week to week.

The Commissioners will perceive that at this moment a very large amount of relief is given in the Union; yet such is the extent of the demand, and such the amount of misery and suffering from various causes, that in some localities our efforts are scarcely perceptible, their increasing exigencies keeping pace with those efforts to meet them. It cannot be denied that destitution is assuming a more formidable character than during any period of the past year; though food is cheap and plenty, there is but one mode of obtaining it by the mass of the people, that is through the medium of the Poor Law.

We hope to have the able-bodied at work generally throughout the Union, and to fix our depôts in such situations as will render the stones when broken valuable for drainage and other purposes.

Some gentlemen have intimated a wish to contract for broken stones for their drainage operations; but as such a course would in some degree interfere with private employment, I think it would be objectionable; there can be no doubt, if the landed proprietors ever put their projected improvements into execution, any quantity of broken stones may be advantageously disposed of.

In consequence of the vast numbers of able-bodied at present throwing themselves on the relieving officers for out-door relief, and the impossibility of visiting the residences of the parties within a sufficiently short time, consistent with the proper discharge of their other duties, I would beg to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the expediency of allowing them an assistant each for a fortnight or three weeks; the duties to be performed by this assistant should be confined to receiving applications and issuing rations, &c.; leaving those duties which involve responsibility, viz., visiting and reporting on the several cases, to the relieving officers; this would accelerate their movements, which at present are not as rapid as is desirable. I believe, however, they are doing their utmost, and that such is the standard of education in this country that we could scarcely expect to find more efficient persons to fill their situations.

Considerable improvements are being effected in the interior economy of the workhouse.

We are taking steps to put the supply of water on a better footing, as also to put the pipes and cocks in proper repair.

We have received the supply of clothing which I purchased when in Dublin, and which will effect a considerable improvement in the comfort and appearance of the house and inmates.

I regret to say that disease is gaining ground upon us in the house as well as out of it. There have been 37 deaths this week, all confined to recent admissions, who come to us in a most hopeless state, quite beyond human aid. There is considerable alarm amongst the officers in consequence of the increase of fever and dysentery.

Under existing circumstances I think it would be advisable not to admit the persons who present themselves; but we have no choice but admit them or allow them to die at the gate.

Numbers of children who have been placed for some time on out-door relief, and who have received rations, having lost their parents, are refused lodgings or admissions to the houses of their other relations on any terms, and are, consequently, sent to us in a state past all hope of recovery, from previous neglect: we must admit them.

No lodgings can be obtained; the remaining houses and cabins in the Union are crowded, and becoming fewer daily.

I shall call the attention of the Vice-Guardians again to the Elphin store, and request of them to visit it in the course of next week, with a view to making it available as an auxiliary workhouse.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 9, 1848.*

THE Commissioners regret to be informed by your report of the 5th instant that destitution and sickness are both increasing in Carrick-on-Shannon Union to a very serious extent.

They are unable to point out any remedy applicable to the cases of those poor persons referred to, whose landlords will not take the land from them unless they also give up possession of their cabins; but whenever occupation is abandoned, there is no longer a question for inquiry, and relief may be given.

The Commissioners observe with apprehension for the result, that no effort is made in the Union to provide employment for the labouring population; and the owners as well as the occupiers of land will necessarily feel the consequences of this supineness in the augmented amount of poor-rates and the frequency of assessments.

The Commissioners concur in your opinion that the Vice-Guardians cannot enter into agreements with any parties to supply broken stone for land drains. It is to be hoped that persons undertaking drainages will employ labourers themselves for each portion of the work; however, it will of course be open to the Vice-Guardians to sell broken stone for any purpose, but in all cases the full price of broken stone should be charged, otherwise the labour of the paupers would be rendered as available to the profit of the purchasers and as detrimental to hired labour, as if the Vice-Guardians directly provided pauper labourers of the drainage works, by contract, in the way proposed.

The Commissioners object to the employment of assistant relieving officers to receive applications; they prefer that the existing districts should be divided, where the present duties require more than one officer; in which case additional officers should be temporarily employed; and there is not any reason to suppose that the persons who could be entrusted with the receiving and registering of applications would not be competent for all the duties. If, however, the assistance necessary can be limited to the issuing of rations, while the relieving officer is present, there is no objection to employing men for that purpose at moderate weekly wages.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 8, 1848.*

1. We beg to provide our second weekly report on the affairs of this Union.

Rates and Rate Collectors.

2. We have succeeded in placing only one district, comprising two electoral divisions, yet in collection. The amount of rate on this district is 1717*l*.; 515*l*. of which has already been received in the Board-room under the arrangement of the late Board; the remainder 1201*l*., we trust, will soon be made

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available by the collector, Mr. M'Cullagh, who has received his warrant, and seems likely to prosecute his work with vigour. The delay in placing the remaining districts in collection has arisen from the bonds of the other three collectors not being yet perfected (arising from want of forethought previous to our arrival), to our great annoyance and disappointment. Prior to our next report we expect to have the rate of the entire Union in collection. The arrears are all duly carried into the collecting books, and it remains but for the collectors to be finally fixed in their office by the perfecting of their bonds, to have the warrants for all the divisions signed and the rate put in full process of collection.

Workhouse.

3. Our efforts have been vigorously exerted during the past week to effect improvement in the condition of the workhouse in its several departments. The dietary appears to us of primary importance, and suggests itself in connexion with the large and increasing amount of sickness amongst the inmates, one of the great evils at present of the establishment; some changes which we have made with the concurrence of the medical officer in this important particular shall appear in our next minutes. The illness of the master, feared from fever, has retarded our progress, and we are sorry that we have much reason to dread his being eligible for a continuance in the office; independent of his uncertain health, we are inclined to fear his incapacity to perform efficiently the duties of a workhouse master, although we admit he has exhibited considerable zeal since our taking charge. The recent supply of clothing we have received will enable us to accomplish most useful results.

Out-door Relief.

4. The pressure continues extreme; and without the workhouse test for the able-bodied, as we are at present, the administration of this portion of the affairs is by no means satisfactory. Our urgent and unceasing injunctions to the relieving officers for the vigilant and zealous discharge of their important duties, together with our lengthened examinations of their books, have tended considerably to provide more effectually for relieving the unhappy amount of destitution which surrounds us. The difficulties connected with the employment of the able-bodied men receiving out-door relief has retarded its introduction, but we shall persevere in the accomplishment of this necessary measure. One relieving officer has resigned, and we proceed at once to elect a successor.

Additional Accommodation.

5. When we complete the repairs of the shed adjoining male yard, and economize space by a better arrangement of the classes, which will be ere long, we hope to have room for the admission of able-bodied men. We are on the look-out for suitable auxiliary buildings wherein to place some of the present inmates of the workhouse, of classes suitable for the transfer. We are not disposed to organize auxiliary workhouses in distant parts of the Union, as has already been contemplated by Captain Wynne. From local circumstances, we fear such a project would be impracticable; the difficulties in procuring suitable houses, the impossibility of having them managed, and the impediments which would arise in a country like this to their working, removed from central authority, we fear must oblige us to consider the attempt hopeless.

Temporary Fever Sheds.

6. The accommodation afforded for fever patients by these sheds is of the most miserable kind, and the relief they provide extremely limited, or even questionable, and altogether inadequate to their expense: eleven wooden huts formed of thin boards, rags and mud, capable of containing three patients each, resting on a bog, surrounded by manure heaps which reach the interior, in danger of destruction by fire or storm, under no management, without proper nurses, no fixed dietary or adequate accounts kept, out of the way of any supervision, seems to us a very imperfect description of fever hospital, and its use we think should only be the last resource. There is no safety for the bedding or food required; the cost of each patient is at the high rate of between 4s. and 5s. per head per week; the number of patients admitted and discharged is beneath the proper proportion, and we think that persons would be more likely

to acquire diseases therein caused by cold and wet than be cured of fever. The sort of gipsy life which a residence in these hovels engenders is congenial to the habits of the lower orders, and we are led to believe that the unfortunate people would prefer them to a better regulated hospital, and would even feign sickness to be allowed to continue inmates. We consider such a place discreditable to a community, and productive of injurious moral effects: we cannot suppose that the medical officer could have permitted such a state of things without strong remonstrances and demands for better provision.

7. We propose to erect a fever shed of cheap construction on the workhouse grounds, capable of containing 60 inmates, at a safe distance from the house, and we have solicited the Board of Health to permit our converting the timber of the present sheds to assist in its erection, and the patients in the huts on the common shall be provided for in new sheds; we are anxious to be informed if this procedure would meet your sanction, and shall, on receiving same, at once advertise for contracts and have them prepared.

8. The expense of the temporary sheds alluded to seemed so excessive, and their mode of management so unsatisfactory, that we felt reluctant to devote the Union funds to their support without proper control, that at first we asked the assistance of the old Relief Committee in the supervising of the accounts, which we believe would have been a legitimate exercise of their functions as continued by Fever Act, we designed it also as an act of courtesy; they however, with one exception (Captain Cox), refused to act. A number of this Committee, *ex-officio* members of the late Board, waited on us, and certainly they did not seem actuated by very benevolent or philanthropic motives; but under no circumstances, experience tells us, could these temporary sheds now be continued in operation.

9. Your order enabling us to have meetings at any part of the Union will afford facilities for the transaction of our business.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 8th instant, on the progress of your arrangements for the more effectual administration of the laws for the relief of the destitute poor in Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

The Commissioners regret to observe that you are delayed in proceeding with the collection of the rate, except in one officer's district, by the non-completion of the other collectors' bonds; but it is to be hoped that this object will not be further retarded.

The illness of the master of the workhouse should not, in the opinion of the Commissioners, preclude you from providing another master, if you have satisfied yourselves by an examination of the workhouse accounts, and your observations of the present officer's mode of executing his duties, that he cannot efficiently fill the office.

The Commissioners do not object to your erecting proper sheds on the workhouse site for reception of persons in fever; but the huts which you describe as the temporary hospital of the Relief Committee cannot be interfered with by you unless by sanction of the Board of Health, although you are bound to provide for the maintenance of such hospital accommodation while that Board may consider it necessary. As, however, the Committee will not act, and you propose to provide proper accommodation in lieu of the temporary huts which the Committee caused to be constructed, and which you consider unfit for human habitations, the Board of Health may probably sanction your using as proposed such portions of the timber in these huts as could be made available in the construction of proper sheds. The Commissioners will therefore forward to the Board of Health an extract from your report, and request the consideration of it.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 12, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have been engaged for the past week in the performance of the following duties:—

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

I have visited many parts of the Union, with a view to ascertain the manner in which the relieving officers were discharging their important duties, and the effect produced by the relief already afforded, whether there were any, and just grounds for complaint which I had received against those officers, of inattention to the wants of the poorest classes, or whether they were using their utmost endeavours to visit and relieve every legitimate case in their respective districts.

The result of my observation, and of many investigations into particular cases, has been certainly favourable to the relieving officers, with the exception of Mr. Laird, who has been lately appointed, and in whom I am much disappointed. He came to us highly recommended, and possessing an extensive knowledge of the locality over which he has been appointed, having been clerk to the late Relief Committee during the operations of the Temporary Relief Act. He, however, does not appear to have any feeling for the sufferings of the people, and has certainly neglected to give precedence to the most urgent cases. I think we shall be under the necessity of dismissing him, inconvenient as such a step will be at the present moment, when every hour of the relieving officer's time is of the utmost importance, and when, therefore, every cause of delay should be avoided.

The other relieving officers are, in my opinion, using their best exertions, and endeavouring to retain their situations, but their books are still in an unsatisfactory state, owing, I think, to their inability to keep them better, particularly at this crisis in their affairs, when it must be acknowledged they have considerable difficulties to contend with and guard against, in the shape of fraud and imposition, every imaginable species of which is resorted to by the applicants for relief.

I yesterday visited Kilmore electoral division, in consequence of having received many complaints against the relieving officer, who is a young, active, and rather intelligent man. Captain Routh accompanied me, being anxious to see and make himself acquainted with the state of destitution in the Union.

I found no just cause of complaint against the relieving officer; on the contrary, he must have used much exertion and activity to have accomplished so much in the time.

We found a fearful amount of suffering from want of shelter and from fever amongst the adults, and dysentery amongst the children; but we also found that the relieving officer had done his duty as far as in his power lay. The sufferers were all, without exception, in receipt of out-door relief; but they were in the ditches, with a few sticks and a little straw thrown over them, forming their sole shelter from the severe weather that has just passed. In one of these abodes of misery we found the mother dead, with five children around her. She had been dead some time, and, no doubt, would have remained unburied, but that Captain Routh and I gave money to procure a coffin. She had died of fever.

The state of things on the townland on which we found this wretched family is not to be wondered at. 22 families, or 132 individuals, were unhoused on the 25th of October, the houses or cabins destroyed, and the wretched inhabitants sent wandering through the Union, half-naked, without any means of subsistence, not even a day's employment.

I give no opinion on the propriety or expediency of this step; but I do not hesitate to say, that it has given rise to a state of things that neither I nor any other person in my situation can cope with, under the circumstances of the Union, and the local difficulties they present.

No auxiliary workhouse accommodation can be procured in the Union.

There are but two buildings in the Union that would answer our purpose, Elphin store and the Jamestown mill. The former cannot be procured at present; while the latter is offered on conditions which preclude our acceptance, viz., "that the building should not be diverted from its original design and intention."

There remains, then, the alternative of building additional accommodation on the site of the present workhouse; but the scale on which this should be done, in order to meet the necessity of the case, renders the undertaking very formidable, and, in my opinion, impracticable.

Lodgings cannot be obtained, except in very few instances, and in the immediate neighbourhood where the wanderers formerly resided, where in many instances not a single cabin remains.

I fear, therefore, the poor sufferers must remain as they are at present, in huts erected in the ditches, and in the walls of unroofed cabins, where sickness, and contagion, and the inclemency of the weather will continue their work of destruction. All we can do with the great mass will be to supply them with food, which it is our determination to do as long as rates can be collected by the most vigorous and energetic measures.

In the electoral division of Kilmore, which I visited yesterday, and which is certainly the scene of more misery than any other in the Union, although, perhaps, the richest in point of soil, there are receiving relief under the Poor Law, between the out-door and in-door relief lists, 1680; add to this number 456 children, to whom I supply rations daily, and we have 2136: the entire population being, in 1841, 5164; and at present, I should say, 4500.

I have called the attention of the Vice-Guardians to that portion of your letter of the 9th instant, in which you express the objection of the Commissioners to the appointment or sanction of assistants to the relieving officers, and their preference for the appointment of additional officers where the present duties require such a step.

Under ordinary circumstances I should not have recommended the former course; but, under existing circumstances, I considered it better suited to meet our case, for the following reasons:—

The pressure is on us at the present moment, and may be reasonably expected to be removed in three weeks, before which time it would be difficult to make a careful and judicious selection of relieving officers, perfecting their bonds and teaching them their business, which we find requires a considerable time. Assistants would be available on the moment.

I am not of opinion that the duties of receiving and registering applications involve much responsibility, as in no case is the application refused; neither does that of issuing rations, as the recipients know the exact quantity to which they are entitled by the specific order in their particular cases, and by the general scale on which that order is founded, and are always ready to prefer a complaint if they conceive themselves aggrieved.

I conceive the important duties of the relieving officers to be, granting provisional relief in urgent cases, visiting promptly and reporting honestly on all others. These duties I should not wish to impose on officers selected without sufficient time to weigh and ascertain their qualifications and character, and who, I fear, being aware that their appointment was only for a short time, would not be operated upon by what appears to be the strongest of all incentives to the honest discharge of their duties, viz., the fear of losing their situations.

The Vice-Guardians have already authorized assistants, till such time as the Commissioners shall communicate their further wishes on this subject, when they shall be put forthwith into execution.

I have visited the workhouse daily, morning and evening, during the week; and, with the assistance and untiring exertions of the Vice-Guardians, have done all in my power to effect improvement in its condition and interior economy.

I regret to say we make but slow progress, owing to many causes which militate against our success.

The master, matron, and schoolmaster are laid up in fever, and have been so during the week. The consequences are, that discipline, which was making some progress, has retrograded for the last few days.

Disease is gaining ground in the house, and, indeed, in every part of the country; but does not appear to be of so malignant a type as heretofore.

I am of opinion that, if such a step will meet the wishes of the Commissioners, we may make the workhouse available for 200 or 250 additional inmates, which will again place the workhouse test within our reach, and enable us to dispense with the temporary fever sheds, which are not by any means a satisfactory establishment. The Vice-Guardians concur in this opinion, and I believe have already transmitted a specific plan.

I am most anxious to put into operation the test of stone-breaking, and have fixed on several depôts which appear advantageously circumstanced. We have not as yet got the hammers from the Board of Works, which is now the only cause of delay. Our out-door relief list is increasing with alarming rapidity, being now 7701.

The inmates of the house amount to 769, in consequence of some discharges in the course of the week.

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non Union.

We have received the clothes which I purchased in Dublin, and are appropriating them as judiciously as we can.

An overcharge of 11*l.* 11*s.* has been made by Mr. Cosgrave, in consequence of which he has not yet been paid.

I have written to Mr. Cosgrave to correct the error in his account and settle the matter at once, so as to entitle the Union to five per cent. for ready money, as per agreement.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 18, 1848.*

THE Commissioners recommend that the Vice-Guardians should immediately require Mr. Laird to resign, or suspend him with a view to his dismissal under order, and proceed to obtain the services of a more fit person for the responsible duties of a relieving officer.

They consider it of much importance to have the relieving officers' books properly kept ; and trust that the Vice-Guardians will promptly adopt measures for this object.

In reference to your observations on the proposal of the Vice-Guardians to appoint assistants to the relieving officers, the Commissioners desire to state that if such aid be only required for so short a time as you mention (three weeks), it would not be advisable to alter the districts as already settled, and it would be more advisable to employ persons to execute the clerk-work described, with a view of allowing the officers more time for visiting the abodes of applicants for relief.

The Commissioners have read with much concern your account of the destitute condition of families who have been deprived of their cabins, and for whom workhouse accommodation has not been as yet provided, although you subsequently state that you consider it practicable to provide additional accommodation at the workhouse for 200 or 250 inmates. The Commissioners trust that for this object such means as may be available, will be immediately applied.

Mr. O'REILLY, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 15, 1848.*

I BEG to be favoured with the views of the Commissioners on the following subject :—

A property in this neighbourhood over which the late Mr. Waldron, who was recently shot, had been receiver under the Court of Chancery, has residing on it a great number of pauper tenants, who are every day applying to the relieving officer for relief, but he finding them in occupation of more than a quarter of an acre of land, refuses relief; these people are anxious to give up possession of their land, but know not to whom they should surrender; the bailiff refuses to take it, and there is as yet no agent or receiver appointed, meanwhile the people may die of starvation as we cannot take them into the workhouse. Under these circumstances I would wish to be favoured by the Commissioners, at their earliest convenience, with their opinion as to what would be the best course for me to adopt.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 16, 1848.*

I AM to state that by the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, it is merely the occupation or non-occupation of a quarter of an acre of land which is made a criterion of destitution, provided that an applicant for relief may otherwise be deemed entitled to it.

Hence the Vice-Guardians, as far as that clause is concerned, are warranted in relieving any body who is not in such occupation; and they are not bound to investigate title at all, or to ascertain whether the tenant's interest has been legally determined by surrender or otherwise.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 15, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that on consultation with the Vice-Guardians this day on the subject of some

pressing demands upon us, and the probable amount of funds which may be immediately available to meet those demands, it was deemed expedient to apply to the Commissioners for a loan of 500*l*.

I must at the same time say that I am very much averse to seek foreign aid, and would greatly prefer depending wholly on our own resources which I have little doubt will be available as soon as we shall require them.

The four collectors are now in action, and I have no doubt will be found to discharge their duties zealously, vigorously, and with credit to themselves.

The delay that has taken place in getting the collection into operation is much to be regretted.

I feel tolerably confident we shall not require to touch the loan should the Commissioners be pleased to grant it, and for my own part I should consider it more creditable to myself to dispense altogether with it, nevertheless, as it may be the more prudent course to have it available in case of need, I deem it right to forego every other consideration and make the application.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February* 18, 1848.

I AM to state that application has been made to Count Strzelecki for a loan of 500*l*. to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the immediate wants of the destitute poor in the Union, pending the collection of the poor-rate.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February* 16, 1848.

1. Our report of the past week's transactions in the Carrick-on-Shannon Union is as follows:—

Rates and Rate Collectors.

2. No rate has yet been lodged by the collector, who has already been at work, and we will not likely ascertain his progress until next meeting. We yesterday placed the remaining rate collectors in operation, their warrants being signed by us, so that the rate in all the electoral divisions of the Union is now in progress of collection. The collectors seem zealous in their duty, and our vigilance and attention shall be directed to this service to the fullest extent. The unavoidable delays (from the position in which we found the Union in respect of rates) in placing the rate in collection, has left us short of adequate funds to meet our expenditure for the extensive relief in operation, and we have already applied to you for a loan of 500*l*., which application we trust may be successful.

Workhouse.

3. The illness from fever of the master, matron, and schoolmaster, has created much inconvenience in the management of the workhouse during the past week, still we think the state of the house is not retrograding. Our personal exertions have been much engaged with the duties of the workhouse officers. Some improvement has been effected in the dietary, and in numerous minor arrangements. One great defect is the want of adequate means of keeping employed the able-bodied men in the workhouse; this can only be remedied by a more effective staff of officers. We obtain, on Friday next, the services of Mr. Heran as temporary master, from whom we expect good assistance; and we have also elected a schoolmaster and assistant-clerk. As the minutes of our meetings contain full details of our proceedings, we need not allude to such here at greater length.

Out-door Relief.

4. From the delay which has taken place in receiving implements from the Board of Works, we have yet been unable to set the able-bodied men to stone-breaking. Superintendents are engaged, stones contracted for, and every thing ready to commence the system of employing the able-bodied. This test, together with the employment that will likely soon be given by the farmers, the numbers we will be able to admit to workhouse, so soon as we get more effective officers, and the additional clothing we have ordered, will we doubt not effect a great reduction in our lists, upon which are now almost 8000 receiving out relief. We are proceeding as rapidly as possible to bring up the

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arrears in the relieving officers' books; and the applications hitherto unattended to have now been nearly all visited.

5. We have every hope of the affairs of the Union shortly presenting a better aspect than they have for some time exhibited.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 19, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have found it necessary to turn my attention for the past week to the Boyle Union.

Numerous communications have been addressed to me, representing in the strongest terms the vast extent of destitution, and the consequent suffering existing in that Union, and the urgent necessity for the prompt application of the funds of the British Relief Association on an ample scale.

In order to make myself acquainted with the extent of the evil, and to determine the scale on which relief would be necessary, I made a personal inspection of many localities, from which, and from all the local information I was able to obtain, I came to the conclusion that no sufficient grounds existed for those strong and urgent representations.

Many townlands exhibit strong marks of the march of the enemy, in the multitudes of ruined cottages or cabins, the absence of every description of cattle, and the neglected state of the land; yet these contain less destitution, and stand less in need of relief, than the most favoured townlands in the majority of the electoral divisions in this (Carrick-on-Shannon) Union.

I have established three bakeries in the Union, which I think will supply ample means of relief; the workhouse oven at Boyle, two small ovens at Keadew, and two at Clogher. They are already in operation, and I hope to be able to supply in the course of next week as large a quantity of bread as may be required to meet the wants of the juvenile population.

The Guardians have allowed me to erect a second oven in the workhouse, which will be in operation on next Monday week, when I purpose supplying the entire Union from the two workhouse ovens, which will greatly facilitate control and supervision, and the prevention of fraud.

I have supplied during the past week 18,620 rations to 2,660 children attending 38 schools in the Boyle Union. I have made arrangements to add next week one-third more, which I hope may be found sufficient.

I regret to have to observe that, beyond incessant letter-writing, I find still less disposition to active assistance and co-operation on the part of the patrons of schools in the Boyle Union than I found in this; nor can I induce any individual or Committee to incur the trifling expenses of sending proper carriers and baskets for the bread. This, however, I attribute to the fact, that the case of Boyle is not nearly so urgent as that of this Union.

Nothing can be more satisfactory than the rationing of the schools in this Union. All parties appear aware of the vast benefit which is derived from it, and consequently render much more assistance than in the commencement; in fact I have now little trouble with this portion of my duties.

I have issued the past week 28,363 rations to 4242 children, attending 62 schools in this Union.

Our out-door relief list has increased very considerably, and I think will amount next week to 9950.

As yet we have not received the implements applied for to the Board of Works; this delay is productive of the worst consequences.

We have fixed on the necessary depôts for stone-breaking in the several relief districts, as also fit and proper persons as overseers, and are quite prepared to go to work the moment we receive the implements, when I fully expect our list will rapidly decrease.

Notwithstanding the vast amount of destitution to be contended with in this Union, I think the amount of relief now afforded ought to be ample to meet it. You will perceive that next week 25 per cent. of the entire population of the Union will be in receipt of relief from various sources.

The collection of the rates is in full operation, and although not as large as might be wished, the week's receipts are, as I anticipated, quite sufficient to enable us to confine ourselves to our own resources, which I am most anxious to do as long as possible.

The amount actually collected is 276*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.* The collectors whose duties lay in the rural districts were not anxious to receive cash on their first application, but preferred, as the safer course, serving the six days' notice, and being paid at their office in Carrick-on-Shannon; hence the amount collected is not as large as it otherwise would have been.

With one exception, there has been no violence or threat attempted towards the collectors, nor do I anticipate much, so changed is the state of the country by the proclamation, special commission, and the relief afforded.

The exception referred to was the case of a gentleman of some importance in the county, who threatened to shoot Mr. Shaw if he called again. We mean to try the matter with him on Monday, and by the adoption of strong measures, endeavour to nip the system in the bud.

We appointed a relieving officer (Mr. George Mills, of Cherrybrook), in the room of Mr. Bird, late relieving officer of the Elphin electoral division.

He is of a better class than those persons heretofore appointed to the office in this Union; and I should recommend that his salary should be raised to 35*l.* per annum; 30*l.* (the salary which his predecessor received) being, in my opinion, inadequate remuneration for such a person as it is desirable to employ in a situation of such heavy responsibility. The district is not so extensive as many others in the Union, but the duties are very onerous.

The relieving officers generally are, I believe, exerting themselves to their utmost, but from their inefficiency and ignorance of business habits, their books are not yet in a satisfactory state.

We shall avail ourselves of the first opportunity of dispensing with the services of Mr. Laird, relieving officer.

I shall feel obliged for the Commissioners' sanction of Mr. George Mills' appointment; he is already acquainted with the duties, and ready to go to work without delay.

The state of the workhouse has improved during the past week, but by no means to that extent which might be expected from the judicious arrangements of the Vice-Guardians, and their indefatigable labours to carry them out. Disease exists to a formidable extent, though the type is certainly considerably mitigated. We have at present 160 in hospital, and 21 deaths during the past week, exhibiting an increase of disease and a decrease of mortality, by more than a third; the deaths which have taken place have been confined almost exclusively to recent admissions.

We have effected much improvement in the arrangements for the supply and management of water for the house; the pipes, cocks, and boilers, are now in good working order, and a commensurate improvement is discernable in the kitchen and laundry operations.

We have at present only 760 inmates in the house, and we hope that after we have thoroughly cleansed and whitewashed the entire house, and fitted up the shed already standing on the workhouse site, we shall be able to accommodate 350 additional inmates, and again apply the workhouse test to the able-bodied.

The books are again in arrear, in consequence of the illness of all the officers, except the clerk. I trust, however, that this may be the last time I shall have to report this circumstance, as our new master is determined to use every possible exertion to bring them up during the next week.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February* 24, 1848.

I AM to state that the attention of the Board of Works has been drawn to the application for implements for the employment of the able-bodied persons receiving out-door relief in the Union.

The Commissioners await answers to the usual queries relating to Mr. Mills, whom the Vice-Guardians propose to appoint relieving officer for the Elphin electoral division.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

1. WE beg now to afford our weekly observations regarding the Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

Rates.

2. The progress of the collectors cannot be fully known until Saturday, up to which time it is our wish they should give their undivided attention to their duties in their respective districts, and we have therefore not called on them for attendance on us. We have much confidence in their vigorous discharge of the duties, and hope in our next report to be able to afford satisfactory evidence in this respect. We are endeavouring to ascertain the amounts in the hands of former rate-collectors, which amounts arise from two sources, viz.:—Sums which appear to have been collected by them and not lodged, and sums which they have returned as arrears, although actually received by them, and receipts given. When we ascertain clearly these defalcations, we shall proceed to consider what proceedings shall be adopted against the defaulters. From these causes a great deficiency will arise in the proceeds of former rates—a deficiency arising altogether from want of proper supervision of the rate-collectors' accounts during the existence of the late Board, and which will amount to many hundred pounds.

Workhouse.

3. The temporary master (Mr. Horan) we employed, has been most efficient, and under his superintendence we have strong expectations of great improvement in workhouse management. One important point is the restoration of the establishment to a state of healthfulness. The prevalence of sickness (attributable to the imperfect dietary among other causes) exhibited so painfully in the children, requires that the greatest attention should be given to arrest its progress.

Out-door Relief.

4. The applicants still continue numerous, and the relieving officers all unite in testifying to the wide-spread distress which exists in the Union, justifying the extended relief which is being given at present. From the delays in procuring the implements from the Board of Works, the labour-test has not been introduced, but hope however for its immediate introduction; and in our next report shall likely be able to describe its working. We are not disposed to think that many evils have yet arisen from the relief to able-bodied men being untested; but for a further period that system we are convinced would be most disadvantageous.

5. The order on Commissariat stores for 500*l.* worth of provisions which shall aid us usefully in meeting our expenditure for relief until the rates are made available.

Fever Shed.

6. We shall proceed with all possible promptitude to substitute a proper shed (the erection of which we are taking measures to accomplish) for the present wooden huts; but some time must necessarily elapse from the defective description of operatives in this country before its completion, unless we can manage to get a contractor from another locality.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 26, 1848.*

CONSIDERABLE improvement has taken place in the interior economy of the workhouse; discipline, order, and cleanliness have advanced even beyond my expectation; the culinary and laundry machinery are in good order, and the operations of those departments regular and satisfactory; classification has progressed, every inmate able to do anything has been put to work; our new clothing has been appropriated; whitewashing, cleansing, and ventilation are going on in various parts of the building; the yards and gardens are being put in order, and the entire establishment begins to wear a totally different aspect from what it has done heretofore.

The sanitary condition of the house is decidedly improving rapidly; and we may now with perfect safety apply the spare accommodation which we have prepared in the house to the admission of 300 or 350 from the out-door relief list, which, if honestly and judiciously done by the relieving officers, will most probably strike off 2000 or 3000 from that list. We have placed from 20 to 30 vacancies at the disposal of each of these officers, directing them to test in the first instance those on their respective lists on whom the test is most likely to operate, and intimating that we shall judge of the judgment and zeal with which they have discharged this important duty by the results in each particular case.

I anticipate the most beneficial results from this move, if judiciously and dexterously executed, but the stupidity, awkwardness, or dishonesty of our subordinates mar to a certain extent our best considered plans.

The out-door relief list still continues to increase with alarming rapidity, and this week has reached the enormous number of 14,700, notwithstanding that we are rigidly enforcing the quarter acre clause, but destitution is almost universal in this Union.

In consequence of complaints preferred against the relieving officers by individuals, I investigated many cases during the past week; the result has led to the conclusion that very few persons are at present receiving relief on our out-door relief list who are not legally entitled to it, and none who do not stand in need of it.

The complaints were principally of non-feasance on the part of the relieving officers, few of mis-feasance were made, and none proved.

We have now in receipt of relief in this Union 20,600 individuals, more than one-third of the entire population. On the in-door and out-door lists 15,400, rationed in the schools 5000, and receiving cash and food according to their necessities, being cases to which neither of the aforesaid sources are applicable, 200.

The clamour for relief still continues, and still the streets and roads are disgraced by beggars, who although receiving relief are allowed to continue their profession as an auxiliary, in consequence of an apparent determination on the part of the magistrates not to enforce the Vagrant Act.

Complaints have been made during the past week of the difficulty of obtaining labourers, in consequence of the out-door relief to the able-bodied; but we found that the complainants required services either in liquidation of old debts, or for "their bit," as this mode of remuneration for labour is termed; in neither of which cases did we consider that we would be justified in directing that the recipient of relief should be struck off the lists.

The relieving officers have orders in all cases where fair terms are offered by the applicant to the recipient of relief, to strike off the latter in case of his refusal.

In consequence of the very serious amount to which the expenditure on out-door relief has now reached, the consideration of the best means to promote economy and prevent fraud and imposition has become of still greater importance than heretofore.

As the best means of achieving these important objects, I should strongly recommend the adoption of cooked food in the shape of ryemeal bread, or bread made of that material mixed with either Indian corn meal, or, what is better and cheaper, barley meal. This bread possesses many advantages over any other form in which I have as yet seen food relief dispensed. Its appearance in a house at once stamps the owner as a recipient of charity, or it is evidence of fraud which may easily be detected. It cannot be so easily converted into money as the raw material. It is decidedly the cheapest and most wholesome food, as is evident from the improved appearance of those children who have received it for the last 10 weeks in this Union, and is peculiarly suited to the present condition of the Union, where there are such vast numbers of the poor who have not any means of cooking meal, not having houses of their own, and in many cases not being able to procure lodgings.

Impressed with the value of this description of bread, as applicable to purposes of out-door relief under the Poor Laws, I have directed my attention this past week to the erection of ovens in the workhouse, and will transmit a plan and specification to the Commissioners in course of next week. I would propose to place them, four in number, off the mill-room, making that apartment available for peel

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

room, &c., and a loft to be erected over it for bread and meal store—the cost would be about 50*l*. The oven which I have been allowed by the Guardians to erect in the Boyle workhouse, together with the peel-room, will cost about 8*l*.; it is nearly finished, and will be in operation next week.

In this Union rye-meal bread is produced for three-fifths of a penny per pound, as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Meal, per ton	7	0	0
Salt	0	1	3
Baking, per ton	1	0	0
	8	1	3

Producing 3000 lbs. of bread at a little more than three-fifths of a penny per pound.

In the Boyle Union, where I bake in the workhouse, the baking costs but 5*s*. per ton, which reduces the bread to a little more than a halfpenny per pound.

Bread of rye and Indian meal, in equal quantities, stands in five-sevenths of a penny in this Union, and something over four-sevenths in Boyle Union.

The weekly cost of the youngest class of children on my list is 2*d*. in this Union on bread of two meals, rye and Indian.

	d.
Second class	3½
Third class	4
Average	3½

In Boyle it is less. Weekly rations of ryemeal bread stand in the Boyle Union for—

	d.
Youngest class	2
Second class	2½
Third class	3½
Average	2½

The daily rations are 8 ounces, 10 ounces, and 12 ounces.

I regret to say the collectors have not succeeded as I expected in the past week's collection, the total amount being only 153*l*. 7*s*. Mr. Scott has been detained the greater part of the week at Roscommon assizes, and consequently unable to do much; the other collectors report that every gentleman's door was shut against them, and that they received no rates except from the poorest class, the highest amount paid by any individual being 15*s*.

Upwards of 1000 notices are served, but, as there will be no sessions till after the assizes, it is the determination of the collectors to drive the next week every gentleman's lands who may be a defaulter. The poorer classes appear to pay whenever they are able.

I am of opinion it will be necessary to renew the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied, which will expire on the 29th instant, for a period of two months.

In this the Vice-Guardians coincide with me.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will be good enough to furnish the Commissioners with a statement of the extent to which committals under the Vagrant Act have been already made in the Union, and the number of arrests made where committals were subsequently refused, stating the grounds of refusal, and the names of the magistrates in each case.

I am at the same time to express the Commissioners' thanks for your observations with regard to the advantages to be derived from the issue of cooked food to recipients of out-door relief.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 29, 1848.*

WE have the honour to submit to the Commissioners our usual weekly statement regarding the affairs of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

Rates.

2. The collectors have made the following progress :—

	Collected during the week.	Collected altogether since employed.
Mr. Scott	£8	£230
Mr. Shaw	60	60
Mr. Fitzgerald, unknown, as he did not attend.		
Mr. M'Culloch	£70	70

These sums are made up chiefly of payments from the smaller class of occupiers, very little yet having been received from immediate lessors, or those liable for large amounts. The collectors state, however, that from the arrangements they have made, considerable payments are expected during the current week from the latter classes. These officers evince every anxiety to prosecute their work with vigour, and we are urging that course by all the means in our power. The difficulties which the collectors had to contend with at their outset, in becoming acquainted with the localities—and few people being disposed to pay on the first demand—together with the absence at the assizes of many of those by whom large sums are due, perhaps sufficiently account for the small progress made last week in the collection; next week, when these causes may not exist to the same extent, we trust will bring a large accession to the finances of the Union.

Funds.

3. The small amount of rates made available has rendered our finances incommensurate to meet the demands upon us for the supplies for present consumption. At our meeting on Saturday, the bills contracted for articles furnished under our own orders amounted to 500*l.*, and only a sum of 260*l.* was in treasurer's hands. This deficiency we hope will not again exist.

Workhouse.

4. Under the management of Mr. Horan, our recently appointed acting master, the house is assuming a greatly improved appearance. All the defects are being remedied, and we hope ere long the institution will approach a satisfactory condition. The accounts are commenced on a new footing, and for the future, at least, the keeping of proper records, and accuracy in them, will be ensured. The improved sanitary state of the house, the introduction of adequate arrangements for the diet, clothing, and all the physical requirements of the inmates, and the establishment of discipline and order, have placed us in a position to receive almost immediately an increase to the numbers to the extent of 300.

5. Mr. Kelly, the master, still suffering from fever, has tendered his resignation. The new schoolmaster is giving fair promise; and we have removed from the establishment, according to previous arrangement, the former schoolmaster, the assistant schoolmaster, and the assistant master, and find advantage from the condensation and alteration in the workhouse staff.

Accounts.

6. The clerk has been employed at the arrear accounts, and has a prospect of having those for the half-year ending 25th March, 1847, completed in a few days. Although the backward state of his work is presumptive evidence of his neglect, still we must testify to his extreme industry since he came under our observation. We have every hope that at no distant time the accounts will all be made up, and the Commissioners' order in this respect fully complied with.

Out-door Relief.

7. We have issued instructions to each of the relieving officers, that they have power to transfer 10 able-bodied men and their families from the out-door relief lists to the workhouse. The spare space in the house already alluded to, we think, has warranted us in this procedure; and we are convinced that if the relieving officers exercise the power they possess, in thus ordering actual admission into the

Carriek-on-Shannon Union.

workhouse to 10 cases, they may at once exclude almost all the doubtful persons of the class of able-bodied men from their lists. They have been directed to offer the workhouse to those least likely to accept it; in the event of the first 10 to whom they order this relief refusing its acceptance, to extend the test to a further number, until they get 10 cases who will really enter the workhouse. This will also be a preparative for the labour test, which we are prepared to introduce the day the implements are obtained from the Board of Works. The proposed mode of managing the employment of the able-bodied, we append a statement of (vide Enclosure No. 1), which is probably as simple and economical as could be adopted, and as likely to succeed as one which would involve a more expensive staff. Proper contractors could not be procured to supply the rations to the poor; and more frequent issues than weekly could not be accomplished by the present number of relieving officers. We look forward to our relief lists soon containing those alone whose destitution is ascertained by an adequate test.

8. From our observation we are not disposed to think the out-door relief provided in this Union, extensive as it is (14,000 being on the lists last week, and the relieving officers' estimate of provisions required for succeeding week amounting to 40 tons), exceeds what the occasion demands. From the character and position of the country, the total absence of manufactures or any employment, and almost sole dependence on the produce of the land, a large proportion of the population were, for some months preceding their being relieved, dependent for support on the most slender means. The deficiency of food and the inclemency of the winter, with the inadequate means of resisting the latter, had reduced this helpless section of the community to a state of the greatest debility and attenuation, of which full and sad proof was afforded by their aspect. At the same time we doubt not that many of these persons would have rejected workhouse relief or relief when subjected to a labour-test; they would have endeavoured to sustain existence, but the effort would have rendered them too weak now for work, and prepared them for the ravages of disease. Those persons who had recently merged into subjects for relief by relinquishing their small holdings of land would, from a sense of degradation, have been peculiarly likely to reject relief which was to be obtained through the medium of stone-breaking or the workhouse. It appears to us, therefore, that numbers who, however industriously disposed could not find employment, would have sunk into comparative starvation rather than accept the tested relief. Further, those who might have accepted relief, submitting to the test of stone-breaking, would in all probability have acquired the germ of disease by the exposure to the severe weather of the past season, and the burden upon society of widows and orphans, and the helpless beings with shattered frames and broken constitutions, already weighty (the consequence of the employment under Labour Rate Act), would have been increased. The work, however, which is opening to some extent at spring labour, will now afford a resource to those really destitute who would not accept relief in the workhouse or with labour, and the present becomes a suitable time for the introduction of a full test. Its being further deferred we are sensible might foster indolence; but the object has been effected—the able-bodied who could be legally relieved have been fed and kept in strength (it is hoped) to meet the ensuing labour; their constitutions have not been sapped nor the elements implanted for a coming season of renewed pestilence; and we trust the moral evils which under ordinary circumstances are the result of out-door relief to the able-bodied have not resulted.

9. For the purpose of drawing the attention of the relieving officers to the prevention of the abuse likely to arise when the labour-test is commenced from able-bodied men deserting their families, and relief being given to persons not destitute, we propose, with your sanction, to issue to them the instructions contained in Enclosure No. 2.

10. The Commissariat meal was so defective in quality that we could not take advantage of the full amount of the order for 500*l.* which we received from the British Association, and only used two hundred and four pounds' worth. We have, however, made adequate arrangements for the proper supply of all the relieving officers.

Liabilities.

11. We have formed an estimate of the expenses of the Union until the 1st of November next, previous to which time another rate could not be made available; and we have also estimated the amount likely to arise from the rate at present in

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

Temporary Fever Hospital.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON UNION.

Electoral Division.—Labour List.

[illegible]

NOTE.—This Form may be printed to suit a number of Weeks.

The superintendent is to devote his whole time to the working parties, observing that each man attends with regularity, and performs his work properly. At the close of the week he is, under his own personal inspection, to have each man's work during the week measured, the

Carriek-on-Shannon Union.

quantity noted in column of list, and the stones removed to a heap in some safe and convenient place. He is to attend at the relieving-house on the day they are served to give in the list and receive it when revised. The quantity of stones in reserve heap must correspond with the total of the column in list, to be ascertained by a monthly measurement of heap. The superintendent to keep an account of stones received from quarry contractor, and to be accountable for all implements.

The relieving officer, in issuing rations both to able-bodied and infirm, to use tickets, which will be provided him. These tickets to be given by him to the paupers; they then to present them to the relieving officer's assistant (who acts as storekeeper, being in constant attendance there, the relieving officer being responsible for all he does), who weighs out the quantity stated in ticket. At the close of the day the tickets in hands of assistants should be given up to the relieving officer for re-issue, and should correspond with the sum of relief lists, and be in accordance with the stock. If possible, the place where the relieving officer issues the tickets should be a little apart from the store.

The bills for the payment of assistants and superintendents to be presented on the first Friday in each month to the clerk to the Union; each bill accompanied by the receipt of the party, without which no bill will be paid. The wages allowed are as follows:—

Assistants, per week		6s.
Superintendents, do.		7s.

II.

SIR,

Carriek-on-Shannon, February 29, 1848.

I AM directed by the Vice-Guardians to request that you will take prompt measures for the apprehension of all persons, any members of whose families they are liable by law to support, are on your relief list, and whom they have deserted. A copy of the Vagrant Act, empowering you to take such proceedings, is enclosed, and also forms for convictions, which, if necessary, you can supply to the magistrates before whom you bring the cases.

I am also to request you will make a record of the amount of all relief you may have given to persons subsequently ascertained not to have been proper objects for relief, with the view of measures being hereafter taken, under the 5th section of Irish Poor Relief Act, for the recovery of the cost of such relief, which in these cases is to be considered as a loan, to be repaid.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN CLARKE, *Clerk to Union.*

To

Relieving Officer of

District.

III.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON UNION.

Notice.

THE Vice-Guardians request that all persons having claims against the late Board of Guardians of the above Union will furnish their accounts forthwith to the clerk, with the view to an arrangement being made with regard to same, at as early a date as possible. Each account will be required in detail, and supported in every item by the Guardians' order, otherwise there will be a difficulty in their settlement.

Board-room, February 26, 1848.

By order of the Vice-Guardians,

JOHN CLARKE, *Clerk to Union.*

IV.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON.

ESTIMATE of probable EXPENDITURE and RESOURCES of UNION for next Eight Months, being up to 1st November, 1848.

Cost of out-door relief for 35 weeks, at 200 <i>l.</i> per week	£7,000
Cost of workhouse relief for same time, at 90 <i>l.</i> per week	3,150
Establishment charges, including officers' salaries, rate-collectors' fees, building fever-sheds, &c.	2,500
	12,650
Deduct proceeds of rate, assuming that three-fourths of the amount at present uncollected will be recovered	6,750
	5,900
Deficiency before another rate can be collected	5,900
Debts of Union	3,350
	9,250
Total deficiency at 1st November, 1848.	£9,250

V.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON UNION.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

SIR, Carrick-on-Shannon, February 29, 1848.

THE Vice-Guardians perceive, by a statement furnished the Poor Law Commissioners by the accountant of the Relief Commission, that a balance of £ was left in your hands as Chairman of the division, at the close of the operations under Temporary Relief Act.

I am directed by the Vice-Guardians to request you will have the kindness to inform them if such sum still remains in your possession; or, if disposed of, the purposes to which it has been converted.

I have, &c.,

JOHN CLARKE, Clerk to Union.

To
Chairman of Relief Committee.

REPLY to the foregoing:—March 3, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 29th ultimo, relating to the Carrick-on-Shannon Union; and they perceive with satisfaction that the collectors of poor-rate have entered fully upon the discharge of their duties. The Commissioners fully approve the determination to proceed with promptitude and vigour in the collection of the rate due by the wealthier class of ratepayers, from whom you state that little has as yet been received by the collectors; and the Commissioners rely upon the Vice-Guardians and the collectors taking energetic steps to obtain, and, if necessary, enforce, payment from all classes of ratepayers, bearing in mind only the ability of the parties to pay, and the necessity which exists for the supply of funds to relieve the destitute poor of the Union.

The Commissioners regard the prospect of the establishment of order and regularity in the workhouse with much satisfaction.

As regards the issue of rations to persons receiving out-door relief, the Commissioners are of opinion that great efforts should be made to introduce the system of giving rations in cooked food daily.

The Commissioners have reason to believe that where rations of meal have been issued weekly, they have sometimes been entirely consumed during three or four days of the week, to the great detriment of the paupers during the remaining days.

The great point to be borne in mind is the due relief of destitution in the manner which is at the same time the most effectual and the most economical. The Commissioners think, in reference to the improvidence which has been found to exist, this end can be best secured by daily rations of cooked food.

The Commissioners do not object to your giving instructions to your relieving officers, as proposed, for taking the necessary proceedings before magistrates against persons who desert or wilfully neglect to maintain their wives or children; but they consider that some additions may properly be made to the instructions appended to your report. The relieving officers should be apprized of the liability of husbands and fathers under the 53rd section of the 1st and 2nd Vic., c. 56; also that in case of persons in such relationship offending against the 10th and 11th Vic., c. 84, proof of the offence should be given before a magistrate, according to section 5, and then a warrant is to be executed with a view to the ultimate proceeding directed by section 2.

The further instruction proposed, as to declaring relief a loan, also requires revision; the declaration being necessary when the relief is offered, and not after the paupers shall have received it.

The Commissioners recommend you to postpone the consideration of the amount of additional funds that may be required in aid of the amount which can be collected out of the rate already made; but they approve of your arrangements for ascertaining the actual amount of debt due to the late contractors; and your clerk will shortly receive forms, on which he is to prepare an estimate of the expenses and income of the Union to the 29th of September next.

The Commissioners do not object to the letter proposed to be addressed to Chairmen of Relief Committees requesting information as to the expenditure of the balance in hands at the close of the relief operations under the Act 10 Vic., c. 7.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 5, 1848.*

THE workhouse continues to improve in every department. The staff of officers is now perfect, with the exception of the newly-appointed schoolmaster, who I regret to say is in fever. The various operations of the kitchen and laundry are carried on with regularity and satisfaction. Whitewashing has extended over the greater portion of the building; classification is nearly perfected; our new clothing has been appropriated; and, altogether, the establishment wears an entirely altered aspect.

Before, however, I shall be able to report that the house is in such a state as will satisfy me, I think it will be necessary to put the walls in a better condition than they are in at present, as in their present state the house can never be neat, clean, or comfortable in wet weather.

The temporary shed has been put in repair, and is now ready for any purpose to which we shall find it expedient to appropriate it.

Considerable improvement has been effected in the hospital arrangements, and although there are 151 at present in hospital, yet decided improvements in the sanitary condition of the house has taken place.

There have been 20 deaths during the week, principally from chronic dysentery.

We still retain the workhouse test in our hands to nearly the same extent as last week. As I anticipated, the relieving officers have not used the means placed at their disposal with that judgment and discretion which more efficient officers would undoubtedly have done; the result, therefore, is not so satisfactory as it might be. They have struck off 537; only 27 have accepted the alternative of the workhouse, and even those have been badly selected, there being but four able-bodied amongst them. I have no doubt but that 3000 names would have been struck off our out-door relief list, if the test had been judiciously used by the relieving officers. We have now ordered them to send all the able-bodied to the workhouse; and if they can only discriminate between able-bodied and the reverse, the lists will be greatly reduced before our 300 vacancies are filled up. Simple and easy as this duty appears to be, it would seem to present insurmountable difficulties to these officers, who by their inability or unwillingness to separate the two classes embarrass all our proceedings in which they are concerned, and render our best-considered plans comparatively abortive.

I am as yet unable to give an opinion of the working of the labour test in this Union, as it cannot be said to be in operation yet; I however expect more beneficial results from the workhouse test as a practical measure.

The collectors have made but little progress this week, notwithstanding every possible exertion on their part; they report to me that every gentleman's house is shut against them, but that the poorer classes have paid in most cases, and have been civil in all. Circumstances prevented the adoption of strong measures for the enforcing of payment during the past week.

There were not any petty sessions held, in consequence of the assizes, nor could the assistance of police be obtained, from the same cause; these obstacles are now removed, and during the ensuing week I hope to see the law carried out. The entire collection for the week only amounts to 119*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*

In my progress through this and the Boyle Union I was glad to observe a commencement of agricultural employment, as also of drainage operations. Should this movement increase to any considerable extent, I am of opinion that the expediency of continuing out-door relief to the able-bodied beyond the middle or end of this month will become very questionable. I propose to make a tour of my district next week, in order to obtain the best information on this subject, and ascertain what may be the prospects of employment for that class.

I shall transmit by next post the plan, specification, and estimate for the erection of four ovens in the workhouse, by which I would propose to bake bread for out-door relief for the entire Union, as well as for the purposes of the house.

The very satisfactory manner in which the baking is going on in the Boyle Union workhouse has confirmed me in the opinion I have already expressed on the value of a large baking establishment in every workhouse, and the advantage baked bread possesses over every other form of *food relief for out-door purposes.*

I have employed a baker for three weeks, and already the paupers have acquired such proficiency that I shall be able to dispense with his services immediately.

Notwithstanding the untiring exertions of the Vice-Guardians, and the exercise

of the strictest control over the relieving officers, the out-door relief list amounts this week to 19,466.

I have investigated many cases of persons stated to have been improperly placed on the list, but in no instance did I find the statement well founded. Land has been given up very generally; and where the landlord has refused to accept of it, it has been made over to a neighbour for a trifling consideration.

We may render our relief as little attractive as possible, and thereby force the able-bodied to accept service with the employer on terms which he otherwise would reject; but should even these terms not be offered, or should the employers not extend their scale of employment very considerably, I greatly fear our tests will either prove unproductive of good or in some instances (if vigorously applied) productive of evil results, so entirely dependent are the mass of the population of this Union on the provisions made for them by the Poor Law.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 7, 1848.*

As regards the relieving officers, I am to state that the Commissioners trust that they will become more efficient by means of instruction and experience in the discharge of their duties, or that the Vice-Guardians will be enabled to replace them by better officers.

With respect to the collection of the rate, I am to state that the Commissioners are desirous of being furnished with lists of the immediate lessors and other parties who owe 4*l.* and upwards for poor-rates, who are still defaulters. Forms for this purpose are enclosed herewith, which you will probably be enabled to have filled up and returned with your report for the week after next.

With reference to the probable absence of employment adverted to in the latter part of your report, and the evil results which you apprehend from a strict adherence to the tests of destitution, the Commissioners feel it necessary to observe, that residence in the workhouse, or out-door labour, should be required from every able-bodied man, in return for the subsistence supplied to him and his family by the Union, conditions which involve no hardship that should be regarded as productive of evils to the recipients of relief, while they are necessary to guard against the evil of reliance on pauper relief, in preference to independent labour, where available.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 6, 1848.*

IN reply to printed circular of the 2nd instant, requiring my opinion on the expediency of determining or suspending out-door relief to the able-bodied in this Union on the 18th of March instant, I have the honour to state that I do not conceive it would be prudent to relinquish the power of relieving this class till such time as a decided agricultural movement shall manifest itself in the Union, or till a disposition shall appear on the part of the proprietors to commence operations under the Land Improvement Act, as an extensive employment can alone determine the necessity which at present undoubtedly exists for the relief of this class.

I have observed with pleasure that the movement which I reported last week has increased considerably for the last 10 days. This I attribute in a great measure to the alarm created by the amount of out-door relief and the conviction on the part of the employers of the necessity for employment as the only means of self-preservation.

I do all in my power to promote this feeling, and trust by next week I shall be enabled to report employment to a considerable extent.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 9, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will have the goodness to state whether the state of the Union is such that the provisions of the accompanying order to Listowel Union could be carried into effect.

It will be observed that under that order single men; and men with only two children, are thrown on their own resources.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 7, 1848.*

1. We beg to state, with reference to the past week, as follows:—

Rates.

2. The progress of the collectors has been far short of our expectations, the sum collected being under 100*l*. They state the tardiness of those liable for large amounts as the cause of their limited collection; but the period having expired which had been given to those parties for payment, they will now commence most vigorously law proceedings for the recovery of the sums due by such defaulters. At the fortnightly examination of the collectors' accounts, which takes place on to-morrow, we trust they will exhibit an improved aspect for the current week; but until the pressure of law proceedings is applied large payments will not result.

Workhouse.

3. The establishment is continuing to improve; and we have no doubt that when the master (Mr. Horan) becomes thoroughly acquainted with his duties, and the matron's health quite restored, that no fears need be entertained for its successful management. The schoolmaster, whom we recently appointed, is suffering from violent fever, with which he was attacked soon after his arrival. Some admissions have been made during the week, and a considerable increase is expected for some days by the admissions of able-bodied men and their families from the out-door relief lists.

Out-door Relief.

4. The application of the workhouse test to the able-bodied men is reducing the number of that class most satisfactorily. The space we managed to render available has performed a most important service; and we hope, by means of the 300 admissions we were in a position to make, many hundreds will be swept off the out-relief lists. We have accomplished the employment of the able-bodied, to whom the workhouse could not be offered to a considerable extent. Stone-breaking and the sweeping of the streets of towns (brooms being provided by us for the latter purpose) will, we trust, drive to independent exertion all who can possibly do so. The out-door labour test we confine to labourers with large families; all others being selected for the workhouse.

5. We visited several of the relief stations during the week, and shall continue to give to them close inspection. The necessary steps are being taken for the erection of four ovens at the workhouse, estimated to produce sufficient bread for the entire Union. When the completion of these ovens enables us to give a bread ration, we have little doubt that the out-relief system will be immeasurably improved.

6. From the difficulty in procuring supplies of provisions here, being dependent on one merchant, who, of course, is not so easily dealt with in consequence, and the possibility of considerable inconvenience being suffered if he should cease to supply, we would beg to solicit an application from you to procure a further quantity of Commissariat provisions, the cost of which we shall repay at the earliest period the collection of the rates will permit.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners have made application to the British Association for a further loan of 500*l*., to assist you in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

This advance should be repaid at the earliest possible period.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have considered the terms of the Order to Listowel Union as applicable to the present state of this Union, and can see no valid objection to its adoption, on the contrary I think it desirable, taking into consideration the season and prospects of employment.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

I AM to inform you that, in accordance with your recommendation, the Commissioners have given directions for the issue of an Order in the Carrick-on-Shannon Union similar to the Order issued in the Listowel Union.

The Commissioners request that you will have the goodness to inform the Board of Guardians accordingly.

COPY of ORDER above referred to.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON UNION.

(*Out-door Relief.*)

To the Paid Officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union; to the Clerk and other Officers of the said Union; and to all other Persons whom it may concern:

Whereas, it has been shown to our satisfaction, that, by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the said Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded therein to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled, or destitute poor persons disabled by sickness or accident, or destitute poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them; or to destitute poor persons, being able-bodied men who are not married and are above 18 years of age, or, who being married, have not more than two children dependent on them respectively; and it is expedient to authorize and empower the paid officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the said Union to administer relief out of the workhouse to such destitute poor persons for a limited time as hereinafter mentioned.

Now, therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the said paid officers to administer relief out of the workhouse in food to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect, and not being persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, and thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, whom they are liable by law to maintain, and not being poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them; and not being able-bodied men who are not married and are above 18 years of age, or being married, who have not more than two children dependent on them respectively, for the period from the date of this Order to the first day of April next, inclusive.

And we do hereby make the following rules and regulations as to the granting, ordering, and giving of relief to all persons who shall be relieved by the said paid officers, under the authority of this Order, that is to say:—

1. Every person relieved under the authority of this Order shall be relieved in food only, and such food shall, as far as is practicable, be cooked food.

2. Every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of this Order shall, so far as is practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives such relief.

3. No able-bodied person who shall be in employment, nor any part of his or her family, shall receive relief as a destitute person under the authority of this Order.

And for the more effectual administration of relief under this Order, we do hereby authorize and direct the said paid officers to appoint so many relieving officers as shall be found sufficient, from time to time, to superintend the labour of such persons as shall be set to work, in pursuance of the regulations in this Order contained, and otherwise to assist in the administration of relief under this Order, as the said paid officers, subject to our approval, shall direct.

Sealed with our seal this eighteenth day of March, in the year of
our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight.

(Seal.)

(Signed)

E. T. B. TWISTLETON.

(Countersigned)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

Captain WYNNÉ to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that in compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 2nd instant, I have used my best endeavour to furnish the statement required thereby.

I am unable to do so with that accuracy which I should wish, from the circumstance of there not having been any record kept of arrests where no committal took place. Such appears to be the practice of the constabulary, to whom I have made application, and whose return I herewith transmit.

I am enabled to state, from my own knowledge, that previous to 18th of January, 10 persons were brought by the police, at my instance, before Mr. La Touche, J.P., and were discharged without any reason having been assigned, except "that the clerk of sessions required payment for his services before-hand," or something to this effect.

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Six persons were also brought by the police before Captain Cox, J.P., at my instance, and were discharged by him on the grounds (as stated to me by the police) of his having too much business of his own to attend to.

Several other arrests were made by the police of which I have not any note, with similar results.

On the 18th of January, 37 persons were brought by the police before Mr. Kelly, R.M., of whom 12 were committed for 7 days to the gaol, 13 sent to the workhouse, and 12 discharged with a caution not to appear again in the streets begging.

In every case a conviction was had; of the 13 sent to the workhouse 7 left it the next day and were again on the streets, of the 12 discharged 8 continued on the streets, and of the 12 committed, 8 are this moment in the streets having resumed their occupation at the expiration of the 7 days' confinement, 6 remain in the workhouse, and 4 have not since appeared.

The reasons assigned by Mr. Kelly for not committing the entire party were, "first, the crowded state of the gaol; secondly, the expense of a prisoner being so much heavier than that of a pauper in the workhouse," the former 3s. 6d. per week, the latter 1s. 9d. During the remainder of the month I sent parties almost daily before Captain Cox, some committals were had which do not appear in the accompanying constabulary report, but in most cases the parties were discharged on condition that they would go to the workhouse, while in others, without any reason having been assigned that I could learn.

On the 1st of February a large number of persons were brought before Captain Cox and Mr. Peyton, J.P., of whom 8 were committed, the remainder discharged.

On the 2nd of February another party was brought before Captain Cox, of whom 2 were committed.

I regret I am unable to furnish the Commissioners with the exact number of arrests made by the police, but I can take upon myself to say, that the proportion of arrests to committals has been as 10 to 1.

The reasons generally assigned were, the crowded state of the gaol, and the expense of a prisoner on the county.

ENCLOSURE.

RETURN of VAGRANTS arrested by the Constabulary at CARRICK-ON-SHANNON, and brought before the Magistrates, Committed, and disposed of.

No.	Names of Vagrants.	Before what Magistrate Committed.	Date of Committal.
1	Anne Flaherty	N. Kelly, Esq., R.M. . . .	January 18, 1848
2	Margaret Flaherty. . . .	" "	"
3	Patt Colwell	" "	"
4	Bridget Dockrey	" "	"
5	Bridget Hamilton	" "	"
6	Mary Hamilton	" "	"
7	Alexander Reilly	" "	"
8	Anne M'Nulty	" "	"
9	Catherine Flaherty. . . .	" "	"
10	Anne Cox	" "	"
11	Mary Kelly	" "	"
12	Patt Colman	" "	"
13	Patt Cox	" "	"
14	John Rogers	John H. Peyton, Esq., J.P., Charles Cox, Esq., J.P. . . .	February 1, 1848
15	Michael Tegue. . . .	" "	"
16	James M'Weeney	" "	"
17	Francis M'Nulty	" "	"
18	Alexander Reilly	" "	"
19	Patrick Colwell	" "	"
20	Catherine Casey	" "	"
21	John Casey. . . .	" "	"
22	Michael Casey	" "	"
23	Michael Beirne	Captain Cox, J.P. . . .	February 2, 1848
24	Anne Beirne	" "	"

W. E. Fox, Esq., Sub-Inspector.

CHARLES TIGHE, Constable.
March 10, 1848.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

Carrick-on-Shan-
non Union.

THE Commissioners are unable to suggest any mode of overcoming the difficulties to which you have drawn attention, as they appear to originate in the crowded state of the gaol, and the non-existence of a house of correction.

If the latter could be provided, the discipline, labour, and diet, might be so regulated, as to render confinement in it an effectual check on vagrancy; but these are arrangements within the province of the local magistrates and county authorities.

The Commissioners observe, that paupers taken before one of the magistrates on the 18th of January last were discharged, on a question with respect to the fees of the clerk of petty sessions. However, on referring to the 4th and 7th sections of the Act 10 and 11 Vict. cap. 84, it will be seen that vagrancy cases are not intended to be tried at petty sessions, but before any justice of the peace as soon as reasonably practicable after arrest, and such justice is to transmit a copy of the conviction to the next petty sessions in the district.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

I HAVE great pleasure in reporting the steady progress of improvement in every department of the workhouse establishment, but I regret to say we are deprived of the valuable services of our new master, by an attack of fever with which he is this day confined to his bed.

I fear this circumstance will greatly check our progress, particularly as the new schoolmaster is also in fever, and the matron scarcely able as yet to do anything.

Every means have been resorted to to expel infection from the house. The entire establishment has been cleansed and purified, the walls and ceilings whitewashed, the inmates newly clothed, and constant ventilation kept up. Still there is no doubt infection still lingers in the house.

These measures have however produced their effects on the general health and appearance of the inmates, and in the decreasing mortality, which the last week amounted to only 15, one-half the average of January last.

There still remain in hospital 150, principally cases of chronic dysentery, and for the most part hopeless.

The number on this day in the house is 747; 89 able-bodied have entered during the last week, but many of them will not remain.

Our collection for the past week has disappointed my expectations; the doors of the better class closed as heretofore against the collectors, who are using the best exertions to discharge their duties.

Nothing has been effected as yet by means of summons, although many have been issued, but the sessions are not regularly held.

The collectors have found driving to be the most effective means of enforcing payment, and have adopted this course wherever distress could be found on the lands.

A large number of summonses have been served for next week, and it is my intention to attend the several courts in person.

I hope I shall be able to report a much larger collection next week; every possible exertion shall be used to accomplish it. In very few instances has payment been refused; in most cases a few days have been requested, and in no case has any violence been resorted to; in fact the district is now perfectly quiet and the people peaceable.

I have visited in the course of the past week many of the labour depôts, where the able-bodied paupers are now at work; in some the system has been put into operation cleverly, while in others the inefficiency of the relieving officers has again marred or retarded our proceedings.

As yet this test has not produced much effect, even where well and judiciously applied; but I have no doubt but that the moment an extension of the ordinary employment of the country offers a choice to the recipients, the results will be different. A few persons have not come to work at the time appointed, and have been in consequence struck off the lists.

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Some of the relieving officers have applied the workhouse test more judiciously and with more effect this week, the consequence is, that 1619 have been struck off the lists. Had all these officers discharged their duties properly, and as directed, this number would have been considerably increased.

We still retain 253 vacancies in the workhouse, which I think will go far towards testing the entire out-door relief list, if the test works as it has done for the last week.

There are (as might be expected) a great many complaints and a good deal of discontent amongst those persons struck off, but having investigated many of the cases I think there are no valid grounds for them.

The general employment which I observed in the commencement of the week was, I regret to say, checked by the unfavourable change in the weather; but I trust it will be resumed on Monday. Many extensive employers have stated to me their intention of assisting us to reduce the out-door relief list, by giving increased employment *at a fair rate of wages paid weekly in cash.*

Many offers have been made of employment which could not be accepted in the present circumstances of the people, viz., to pay off old debts for the maintenance of the individual employed, or with a distant and precarious prospect of remuneration.

I regret to be obliged to repeat my complaint of the non-enforcement of the Vagrant Act. Our streets and roads are worse than ever; groups of half-naked children are to be seen till twelve o'clock at night, when I am under the necessity of sending them for lodging to the workhouse, from which they demand their discharge next day and resume their occupation.

I need not enumerate the many and serious objections to this course, but I have only the alternative of allowing them to die in the streets.

Both the Vice-Guardians and I feel strongly that the management of this Union can never do us any credit so long as we lack the power of remedying this disgraceful state of things.

I have used the only means in my power, by withdrawing relief from the parties who send out their children in the manner I have mentioned; but it is very difficult to trace these children to their parents, being in all cases taught to say they have none.

The rationing of the schools goes on in both Unions most satisfactorily; indeed each week impresses me more strongly with the value of baked bread as a form of out-door relief.

The new oven at Boyle is in operation and fully answers our expectations.

The expense will be about 7*l.* 15*s.*

The Vice-Guardians and I are very anxious to hear from the Commissioners on the subject of our projected bakery in the workhouse of this Union.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the attention of the Government has been drawn to the irregularity on the holding of the petty sessions, and the non-enforcement of the Vagrant Act, as stated in your report.

I am at the same time to request that you will have the goodness to state more particularly the points upon which you wish a communication with reference to the proposed bakery in the workhouse.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 13, 1848.*

WE now afford our usual weekly statement regarding the Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

Rates.

2. The following abstract exhibits the progress of the collection up to Friday night last:—

Collectors.	Collected last Week.			Lodged last Week.			Collected since commencement.			Lodged during same time.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Scott	51	6	8	75	0	4	308	0	0	277	0	0
Mr. Fitzgerald . .	36	5	7	"	"	"	113	0	0	79	0	0
Mr. Shaw	62	18	0	98	0	0	202	0	0	168	0	0
Mr. M'Cullagh . .	24	13	9	15	5	6	110	0	0	86	0	0
	175	4	0	188	5	10	733	0	0	610	0	0

Subsequently Mr. Shaw lodged 94 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., and Mr. Fitzgerald 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., which sums do not come into the past week's accounts. From the expectations and prospects the collectors possess for the current week, we shall be much disappointed if the lodgments in it do not exceed 500 $\frac{1}{2}$ l.

3. The collectors complain much of the tardiness of those gentlemen who owe large sums, and the difficulty of procuring a settlement from them. The days mutually arranged for payment have frequently arrived without producing a satisfactory result to the collector. The embarrassed circumstances of many of the persons possessing property in the Union doubtless occasion these defalcations; in some cases the amount claimed for holdings valued not exceeding 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., being (as stated) incorrect, is the alleged or real cause. After the expiration of the week, extreme measures must be at once resorted to against these parties for the recovery of the sums due by them, and the collectors have been so instructed; failure on their part being on pain of proceedings against themselves, to enforce the penalties of their bonds.

Finances.

4. The slow progress of the collection has reduced our funds to a state occasioning much inconvenience. An expenditure approaching 400 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. per week (which however will soon be considerably reduced), has a fearfully exhausting effect; your prompt attention to the request contained in our last report, that you should procure us an advance of 500 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. worth of Commissariat provisions, however, relieves our position. The rate to be collected this week will, we are pretty confident, meet our liabilities; and the amount of the loan referred to will, we trust, equal the demands upon us, until the further collection of the rates places the Union beyond the reach of immediate embarrassment. We shall not fail in making repayment of this loan at the earliest possible period.

5. On other grounds it is most desirable we should be able to avail ourselves at all times of Commissariat provisions. The commercial position of this locality is such that we could not depend on the ordinary channels of supply, through traders, for the quantity we require, without incurring the risk of imposition, undue prices, or entire disappointment; and this week, had it not been for the order on Commissariat, we should have been most disagreeably situated, in consequence of the refusal of the only merchant we could look to in the place to supply. We would therefore take the liberty of suggesting that the necessary permission should be extended to us by which we may be enabled to procure our supplies, by purchase, from Commissariat stores, and that a sufficient supply being kept on all occasions at the Carrick-on-Shannon depôt might be ensured; and would beg to request you to make an application on this behalf. From 20 to 25 tons per week will probably be the quantity we shall require for some time.

Workhouse.

6. It is with extreme regret we have to state that Mr. Horan, our recently appointed master, has been seized with violent fever. His activity and efficiency during the brief period we have had his services, elicited our entire approbation, and conferred the greatest benefits on the establishment. Both our newly employed officers, the master and schoolmaster, from whom we anticipated such good results, of which we had the earnest, have thus fallen victims. The matron, who we also found very active, has been suffering from dysentery, so that the state of the establishment is, to our pain and discouragement, again retrograding. We have recalled our late assistant-master, and will make summarily such arrangements, and employ such others officers as the urgency of the case demands. One satisfactory circumstance is, that the health of the inmates is improving—the mortality last week being reduced to 15, a number beneath average—and fever

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declining considerably. A strange continuance of misfortunes seems to be attached to our officials, and will, it is to be feared, deter proper persons undertaking the duties. It is certainly no slight pain to us, that just at the period when the establishment was merging into order, the transition should be arrested, and new difficulties interposed; we shall, however, adopt all the measures in our power to meet the exigency.

7. We are proceeding to provide for the erection of four ovens (as already notified); the hiring of a house wherein to place the fever patients, at present in the miserable sheds; and to obtain suitable ground for a cemetery for deceased workhouse inmates, removed the prescribed distance from the building. We are much gratified to learn that the necessary funds can be obtained through you for the erection of a permanent fever ward in connexion with the workhouse, and have selected a site for it, and will proceed to advertise for contracts when the plans are prepared.

Out-door Relief.

8. By means of the 100 admissions into workhouse made the last ten days, 1600 persons of the class of able-bodied men and their families have been removed from the relief lists. We have instructed the relieving officers to relieve alone by an order to the workhouse, those able-bodied men still remaining on lists who have not more than a wife and two children, preparatory to the issue of the forthcoming sealed order, withdrawing the power of relieving out-of-doors that class. The labour test on a simple, economical, and what we think will be an effective plan, is being applied to all other able-bodied men. With all the reductions which tests will accomplish, still the amount of relief required in this impoverished and famine-stricken Union will be enormous. The deepest concern must be felt that no tendency is apparent on the part of the farmers to give employment. Little progress is being made in preparations for the tillage of the land, so that it is impossible to be sanguine as to the restoration of society to a healthy basis. The farmers look on with seeming indifference with their land untilled, while the able-bodied are being supported in unproductiveness—the cost of which they must eventually bear. Numerous fresh applications for relief have been made during the past week, many of whom have recently surrendered their land. We are using every means to urge the relieving officers to the vigorous and discriminating discharge of their duties; any failure in which we are determined to visit with a severe penalty.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

I AM to state, that the Commissioners will communicate with the Commissariat dépôt, relating to the supply of provisions for the use of destitute poor persons in the Union.

The Commissioners regret to perceive by your report that the collection of the rate proceeds so unsatisfactorily, and that the prospect of employment for the labourers in the Union is so unfavourable. The Commissioners can only recommend you to see that every means which the law has placed at your disposal shall be used with promptitude and energy for the making and collecting sufficient rates for the relief of the actually destitute poor persons in the Union.

As regards the proceedings which it is necessary to take against immediate lessors who are defaulters, I am to draw your attention to the Commissioners' Circular of the 14th January last; and I am to observe, that it is requisite that you should yourselves give specific directions to the collectors in each case in which proceedings are to be taken by notice and summons before the magistrates. In either of the other two modes of enforcing payment of the rates, you, and not the collectors, will institute the proceedings. In every case in which the rates are not paid, proceedings should be immediately commenced and vigorously prosecuted.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

The health and appearance of the inmates who have been some time in the house are undoubtedly much improved; but we are constantly obliged to admit poor persons who, although for some time recipients of out-door relief, from various circumstances, such as sleeping in the open air, and eating badly or

uncooked food, in consequence of their inability to procure lodgings, are a mass of undefinable diseases; and from my own experience, I feel convinced that it is constant contact with those deplorable cases that proves fatal to the health and services of every officer we place in the house. Our probationary wards are often intolerable, notwithstanding the adoption of every precaution within our reach, ventilation, fumigation, &c.

We have at present persons employed to discharge the several duties of the house, but I greatly fear we may find some difficulty in procuring future services unless things improve.

I have turned my attention for the last week to the state of employment in the Union, feeling as I do the vast importance of the subject as regards our future operations.

I have visited many of the labour depôts, and in all cases found the men working cheerfully and, with few exceptions, fairly.

I also received many complaints from employers of the difficulty of obtaining labourers, in consequence of the encouragement they received under our system of out-door relief.

On making inquiry I found that the wages offered, taking into account the prospect of punctual payment, were not such as could be accepted.

I also found on inquiry that the labourers at present employed in the district, were not receiving in any case more than 6*d.* per day, while many were working for their *bit* (as they termed it).

It was stated to me by those labourers that they would take service with any employer at 6*d.* per day, if punctually paid *weekly*; and indeed there appears no reason to doubt this statement from the fact, that they are at present working at the rate of 4½*d.* per day paid in meal, and giving (at a fair valuation) 10*d.* worth of labour.

This will appear from the following calculation:—

Take five as the average family, according to our out-door scale of rations they will receive 4 lbs. of meal daily, or 2 stone 4 lbs. weekly, being at the present prices of meal, 2*s.* 4*d.* per week, or 4½*d.* per day, (if there be but one able-bodied in the family), if two 2½*d.* per day.

Now I think when a preference is given to terms so unprofitable and so undesirable, it must be obvious that employment is at present on an unsound footing, and that before any permanent improvement can take place in the condition of the labouring classes, and the present pressure on the Poor Law can be effectually removed, an adjustment of this important question must take place on sound principles.

We are reducing our out-door relief list rapidly and extensively, by means of the workhouse test; but if employment be not given as rapidly and extensively, we shall have the parties very soon applying again, and in such a state as will render them proof against all tests.

At present the employers see that the system of money wages is inevitable, yet hesitate to commit themselves to any standard of wages which it would be desirable to see permanently adopted; while, on the other hand, want of confidence in the punctuality of weekly payments militates against the acceptance on the part of the labourers, of terms which (although quite inadequate to the wants of the people, and far below what it would be desirable to see established as a permanent settlement of the question) would be considerably more remunerative than those which they now appear so anxious to obtain, viz. 4½*d.* worth of meal per day.

Thus stands at this moment employment suspended between both parties, at a time when there is an ample field for the labour of the entire able-bodied population for two months to come, in the preparation for and sowing of the spring crops, the digging of stubble and second digging fallow, would in itself achieve this object, and repay in harvest next fourfold the amount expended. These operations are performed in this country by spade and not ploughs as elsewhere.

I am of opinion that in this juncture of affairs the labour test, if judiciously managed, may be made the instrument by which much permanent good to the country may be effected, by forcing both parties to an arrangement of this all-important question on sound principles.

On the one hand it must clearly show the employers "that our relief lists are in their hands, and that they alone possess the power of reducing them and

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with them their own taxation;" "that the able-bodied are in absolute and undoubted destitution, from the fact of their accepting of 4½d. worth of meal for a fair day's work;" and that the reconsideration of the terms heretofore offered to them by the employers is absolutely necessary, from the fact of 4½d. worth of food being preferred to those terms.

On the other hand, it will always be in our power to force acceptance of such terms as may appear reasonable, and likely to lead to the establishment of a better adjustment of this question.

The collection has proceeded more prosperously the last week. Extremely active measures have been adopted by our collectors; driving has been resorted to in most cases of refusal, wherever distress could be found, and a number of magistrate's decrees obtained.

On Thursday I attended the petty sessions of Drumshambo, where Mr. Fitzgerald, (collector,) had issued forty summonses. We obtained a decree in each case, with the exception of two, in which the parties pleaded having paid their rates to the late collector, without having taken a receipt: these cases were postponed to next sessions' day.

The magistrates, Mr. Lindsey Burchell and Mr. Kelly, R.M., gave us every facility and assistance. Many of the parties paid in the Court.

I trust the zeal and activity of our collectors, will show the ratepayers the difficulty of resisting payment of their rates, where they possess the means of paying. Some most salutary examples have been made during the past week.

The amount collected this week, I calculate at 450L, but Mr. Scott has not as yet sent me the return which I require from each collector on Saturday.

We have at present in the house 831, 115 of whom have been admitted during the week.

We have 153 in hospital, with 13 deaths during the week, showing a small decrease in hospital, and a very large one in mortality. There can be no doubt as to the improvement in the general sanitary state of the house. Fever has decreased, as has also dysentery, but the latter has assumed a more malignant type. The officers are now the chief sufferers.

1933 have been struck off the out-door relief list this week. There still are 12,716 on. The workhouse test has been applied more judiciously by the relieving officers then heretofore.

The rationing of the schools in both Unions, is going on very satisfactorily. In Boyle, some inconvenience has been experienced in consequence of the master, Mr. Breaky, being laid up in fever, some sacks were burned and some bread stolen.

The new oven in the workhouse is working exceedingly well, and clearly demonstrating the advantages of a *small* over a *large* oven, when worked with *turf fuel* and *pauper labour*.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

WITH reference to the past week we beg to report as follows:—

Rates.

2. The rate-collectors have lodged during the week less than we expected. Mr. M'Culloch, we regret, is making but slow progress. The other collectors, we are convinced, are using exertions to the full limits of their powers. We at once proceed to institute the necessary proceedings for the recovery of sums due by immediate lessors, and those owing sums exceeding in amount the jurisdiction of the local courts. We trust the abstracts of the collectors' accounts, which will be provided you at the close of the week, will present an improved aspect.

Workhouse.

3. The imperfect staff of officers renders the management of the workhouse a source of considerable anxiety. The business of the establishment is, however, proceeding with as little disorder as could be expected. We await the result of Mr. Horan's illness before taking any step towards providing another master. The temporary wardmaster we have employed is, by his activity, materially assisting in the due employment of the paupers; and the house, as regards the health of the inmates and general cleanliness, is perhaps not losing ground.

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non Union.

4. The application of the workhouse test has reduced considerably the numbers of able-bodied men hitherto receiving out-door relief. All of that class now on the lists have large families, and from them the required portion of labour is rigidly exacted, of which we are convinced by personal inspection. We have no doubt that did employment exist in the Union to any extent, our lists should not contain a single able-bodied man; but at present their only resource from starvation is the relief we extend to them, and its paucity, compared to the work they perform, is, we conceive, unerring evidence of their destitution and the total absence of any means of independent exertion.

5. The facilities which are now afforded us for the purchase of Commissariat provisions, will be of the greatest service to the interests of the Union, and will prevent disappointments in providing the relieving officers with the necessary supplies.

6. The general question of the financial position of the Union, we hope we shall soon be enabled to submit for your consideration, when the return in reference thereto which you have called for shall be furnished: this, with other returns, and the half-yearly accounts, our clerks are busily employed in preparing. From the extreme confusion which existed in every department connected with the accounts, the preparation of returns, and the bringing up of the books, is a task of no ordinary difficulty. Indeed, the amount of labour thrown upon the clerks, as well as ourselves, is of the most weighty and harassing description.

Additional Accommodation.

7. The erection of the temporary hospital is receiving our attention; and we hope soon that our arrangements will be completed for the occupation by the female children of the house, to contain 100 inmates, about which we are in treaty.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

CONSIDERABLE exertions have been made by the temporary officers for the past week, which, with the judicious measures adopted and carried out by the Vice-Guardians, have in a great measure re-established order, discipline, cleanliness, and general improvement.

The health and appearance of the inmates are much improved, particularly of the children, who show the effects of improved dietary and care. Employment is general throughout all classes, and much useful work heretofore never attempted in Carriek-on-Shannon workhouse has been performed.

The sanitary state of the house is certainly improving, although the cases which have recently occurred of fever and dysentery are of a very malignant type.

The number in the house is	870
The number in hospital	152
The number of deaths during the week . .	18

I have brought the state of the probationary wards, and the circumstances which induce that state, &c., under the notice of the Vice-Guardians.

It appears to be a state of things inseparable from the existing circumstances of the Union, viz., the vast numbers of houseless wanderers, the insecurity afforded them in the vocation of begging, although receiving relief, and the necessity of constantly being obliged to afford them shelter in the probationary wards, or allow them to perish in the streets. We however adopt every possible means of diminishing this evil by fumigation and ventilation, removing all persons into the body of the house (who do not demand their discharge after their night's lodging) with the least possible delay.

I have visited during the week many of the labour depôts, and have found the men performing their task of work cheerfully and well, and in all cases evincing great anxiety to be continued at work.

Very many of these men have been struck off during the week, by the application of the workhouse test, by which I think the entire of the able-bodied will be struck off, and permanently, if employment be given, but not otherwise.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

The number struck off this week 607, leaving on the out-door relief lists at present 11,857.

Employment has increased during the week, but by no means to the extent necessary, and in some instances I have found that an improved rate of wages has been given.

The Shannon Commission is about to resume operations, and some works under the Land Improvement Act are about to commence; but I fear little will be done this year under that Act in this Union.

The collectors have used all possible exertions during the week to accomplish the collection of the rates. I have attended (where time would permit) at the petty sessions, and in every case a decree has been obtained.

The magistrates have given every facility and assistance on these occasions.

£428. 3s. 10d. have been collected during the week, and in most cases the collectors have been obliged to have recourse to compulsory measures, more especially with the better orders.

I send the return of all defaulters whose liabilities amount to 4*l.* and upwards, as called for by the Commissioners. I have only just received it from the collectors, who plead their close application to their ordinary duties as the reason why it was not furnished sooner.

The return contains but few names, as the bulk of the rate is composed of liabilities varying from 9s. to 2*l.* 10s.

The relieving officers are, generally speaking, improving in the execution of their duties. I have investigated many complaints against them during the week, and have not found any valid cause to exist; perhaps in some few cases the quarter acre clause has been used with too much vigour from their inability to exercise the discretionary power which we have given them. I fear we shall be obliged to dismiss two of them for want of capacity.

The Vice-Guardians and I have inspected the grounds adjoining the workhouse, with a view to selecting the best site for the erection of the proposed fever hospital.

The site on the western side of the workhouse grounds would be preferable to that on the eastern, but from the nature of the tenure by which it is held it is not available.

The site on the eastern side appears to me unobjectionable, and may be had on fair terms, as it is held by a yearly tenant, who agrees to receive for his interest the award of arbitration. The landlord also agrees to take the same terms as those on which the workhouse grounds are held.

There does not appear therefore any cause for delay.

I have received the plan and specification of the ovens about to be erected in the workhouse, and shall proceed with the work at once.

From practical experience, I have no doubt of the advantages of two small ovens over one large for workhouse purposes, where pauper and unskilled labour is used, and particularly where the fuel is turf. With skilled labour, coal fuel, and the increased exertion of tradesmen working for wages, the case would be different. One of the 6 feet 6 inches by 6 feet ovens will bake sufficient bread for the consumption of the house; will require less time and less fuel to heat it, and less skill and exertion to charge and draw it.

I also find that at the Boyle workhouse it bakes as much as the large oven.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 29, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having had before them your report of the 25th instant, in which you refer to the practice of permitting destitute persons to remain in the probationary wards of Carrick-on-Shannon Union workhouse, as shelter for the night, without being intended for admission into the house,—and also to a rigorous application of the clause in the Relief Extension Act, which prohibits relief to persons occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land,—the Commissioners request that you will draw the attention of the Vice-Guardians to the necessity of applying a remedy in each case.

The Commissioners are aware of the difficulty created in this Union by depriving many families of their cabins, and the only remedy in this case appears to be, an extension of workhouse accommodation by sheds or auxiliary houses. The practice of admitting persons for night shelter to the probationary

ward, must be productive of many evils, and tend directly to encourage mendicancy.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

The Commissioners recommend a rigid enforcement of the Vice-Guardians' power, in checking corrupt practices of relieving officers, wherever it shall appear that they have lent themselves to the promotion of any object, affecting the administration of relief, which shall not have been in strict conformity with their defined duties.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS.—*April 1, 1848.*

THE workhouse (notwithstanding the illness of our master, and the difficulty of procuring an efficient person to discharge his duties) is improving rapidly under the indefatigable and well-directed exertions of the Vice-Guardians.

Every individual of every class who is able to do anything is employed.

Meals are prepared and given at regular hours, of well-cooked food, and in proper quantities; cleanliness, ventilation, and fumigation are strictly attended to, and the effects are discernible in the improved health and appearance of the inmates and the decreased mortality, which for the past week only, amounts to 12, most of whom were recent admissions labouring under chronic dysentery.

We have admitted during the week 46, and discharged 23, and have at present in the house 883, which leaves the workhouse test still available.

We have this week 12,063 on our out-door relief list, notwithstanding that 230 able-bodied have been struck off by the application of the workhouse test; but many applicants have given up their ground who have hitherto clung to it, this accounts for the increased number since last week.

There are only 107 able-bodied at present on the list, consequently I found the labour depôts, in most cases, deserted, in others a few men working very well.

The ensuing week will dispose altogether of this class, when we shall apply the workhouse test to such class or classes as the circumstances of the Union shall, from time to time, render it advisable to strike off the lists.

We contemplate commencing with able-bodied women single, or widows with not more than two children, as these classes could be usefully employed at this season in the agricultural operations of the district.

We also propose to commence immediately our issue of out-door relief in bread (rye and barley meal), and, pending the erection of the ovens in the workhouse, to bake by contract in those parts of the Union where bakers can be had. I hope to be able to report the most favourable results from this experiment.

In some parts of the Union a decided increase in employment has taken place within the last week, and particularly in those where the relieving officers carried out their orders with zeal and ability, and have thereby clearly demonstrated that the rate-payers and employers must either support the able-bodied unprofitably to themselves, or give extended employment with fair and adequate wages and weekly payments, or else, in the event of their inability or unwillingness to adopt the latter alternative, that they must give up their position to others of more industrious habits and in better circumstances; as also that the sooner they take this step the better for themselves and for the community.

In Elphin electoral division, where we have our best relieving officer (Mr. Mills), very considerable employment is being given; indeed a large portion of the able-bodied are employed in spade labour.

I observed in a field of about 10 acres 120 men engaged in spade tillage, their wages varied from 8d. to 10d. The employer is Mr. Loyd, of Croghan. A few such would soon lighten our labours.

The amount of the past week's collection is not as large as I expected; 357l. 10s. has been collected, and 302l. 12s. 10d. lodged with treasurer, a very small portion of which has been collected without the adoption of extreme measures on the part of the collectors, and the incurring of legal expenses on the part of the rate-payers. I trust the latter will see the folly of continuing this system of passive resistance.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

I have called the attention of the Vice-Guardians to the necessity that exists for taking immediate steps with a view to obtaining a better description of men to discharge the important duties of relieving officers, as our establishment must be imperfect while some of the present men remain in office.

We are taking active steps towards the erection of a temporary fever-shed, as also for that of the workhouse ovens, which we hope to have in operation in three weeks.

The rationing of the schools in both Unions is going on extremely satisfactorily, as is also the baking in the Boyle workhouse, where the small oven is baking a larger quantity than the large, or two batches for one.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 22, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to lay before the Commissioners the following particulars in reference to the condition and management of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

I am enabled to report uninterrupted progress of improvement in every department of the workhouse; the inmates looking extremely well; the clothing good and clean, bedding good, clean, and abundant; the dormitories neat, clean, and well ventilated; and what is of paramount importance, all classes, able to work, fully and usefully employed.

The house contains at present 939, so that we have nearly lost the workhouse test.

We propose to draft 100 of the female school children to the new school in the town on Monday, which will give us considerable additional accommodation in the house for adults, and enable us to work on till we can obtain auxiliary workhouse accommodation, which will become indispensable, and which, I trust, we may now entertain a reasonable hope of being able to obtain.

The mortality has increased for the last week, the number of deaths being 23; however 10 were recent admissions, who entered the house in a dying state a few days, and some a few hours before their death; there can be no question as to the improved sanatory state of the inmates of the house.

I regret to say that, in many parts of the Union, the reverse is the case, and that where employment has not yet been in some degree commensurate with the reduction which we have lately effected by means of the workhouse test, the parties struck off have fallen considerably into destitution, and very many into fever. I may instance Drumshambo, Kilglass, and Coothall, where very little employment is, as yet, afforded, and where fever and dysentery have greatly increased with destitution.

I anticipate, as I have already stated in my report of the 4th of March last, that many of the parties struck off at that time by the workhouse will immediately become applicants again, and I fear in such a state as will render them proof against any test that may be applied.

Employment cannot be had as yet by one-third of the able-bodied, and cheap as food may be considered to be, there is no other way by which the remaining two-thirds can procure it, but the Poor Law.

There is a good deal of tillage going forward; but the labour is performed for the most part by holders of the land, and perhaps a few labourers working for their *bit*; there is scarcely to be met with an instance of employment on sound principles, such as would lead to the indulgence of any reasonable hope of a termination to the present lamentable condition of the people, both physical and moral.

Nothing can be more singularly melancholy than to see hordes of able-bodied of both sexes lounging about unemployed and now no longer seeking employment; but devoting their entire energies and ingenuity to the practice of every species of device, subterfuge, and fraud, in order to procure the largest possible amount of relief, as their only means of subsistence, having almost entirely abandoned the hope of procuring employment.

This picture is rendered still more melancholy when you see at the same time two-thirds of the district comparatively waste and unproductive.

In the electoral division of Elphin, and a few other localities, a large amount of employment is being given, and the parties struck off within the last five

weeks are, for the most part, at work, and in some instances at tolerably fair wages.

As therefore for the reasons which I stated in my report of the 4th of March, and which I have now adverted to, we may expect a heavy pressure on the workhouse; we have turned our attention again to the Jamestown mill as the only building in the Union suited to our purposes as an auxiliary workhouse; and which, I think, we shall now be able to convert to those purposes, without diverting it from its original design and intention, which appeared to be the only condition on which we could obtain it from the Shannon Commissioners.

I have had a plan and specification prepared, showing the contemplated alterations, which I propose to take up to the town on Sunday night, in order that I may make any further explanations the Commissioners may require; and at once close with them, if possible.

Dispatch is of the greatest importance; we feel the pressure for the last few days, and expect it to increase rapidly—already have the Guardians been obliged to send some able-bodied to stone-breaking, to avoid filling the house and losing the test.

The mill will only require repairs of floors, roof, and doors, with some new ones broken out, which will not alter the design of the house; it will also require glazing.

We estimate the expense at 100*l.*, and think it will accommodate 250, reserving the necessary storage room for the Commissioners.

We are of opinion that by this arrangement, and that which we have just perfected, and which we hope in a few days to see in full operation, viz., bread rations for the entire Union, we shall effect a saving of 150*l.* weekly; and a material improvement in the general health of the pauper population, as many instances have come under my notice where health has suffered irreparable injury by exposure to the inclemency of the weather, and eating uncooked or badly cooked Indian meal.

The out-door relief list has increased a little the last week; many husbands have deserted their wives and families, some to England, others to Leinster, some have remained in the country, and a few of the latter we have committed to gaol on the informations of the wives; but the same difficulty, viz., "the crowded state of the gaols and the heavy expense of a prisoner," will be found to exist in the carrying out of this provision of the 1st and 2nd Vict., cap. 56, as in the case of the Vagrant Act.

The week's collection amounts to 387*l.*

This week, like last, considerable difficulties have been experienced by the collectors, and in some instances opposition of a very serious nature was shown; however, by determination on the part of the collector (Mr. Scott), and extremely prompt assistance on the part of the police, the collector carried his point in every case, and succeeded in lodging this week 210*l.*

I have used my best endeavours to organize the Committee necessary to enable the small and needy farmers of this Union to avail themselves of the advantages of obtaining seed held out to them by the Central Committee. I fear, however, that no such Committee can be formed; nobody appears inclined to stir in the matter, and I think that this valuable opportunity will be lost to this Union. This is more to be regretted, as there is the greatest anxiety to plant potatoes wherever seed can be obtained. Household furniture, stock of every description, and every marketable commodity, is being sold to enable the sellers to buy a few stone of potatoes, which are, strange to say, 40 per cent. dearer in this market than they are at Ballahadereen, 20 miles distant.

Unless some means of affording a facility for the purchase of seed for those farmers who still possess some means, and for a loan to those who possess none, be adopted, I fear the potato crop will be a very short one, as also the oat crop—the country is not suited to barley.

It was proposed to call a general meeting of the Union to take this subject into consideration. I objected to this course, as such a meeting in the present times would be likely to take a political turn; and recommended calling together those gentlemen only who were in a position to become members of the required Committee, as the first step necessary to be taken.

This course was adopted; with what success remains to be proved.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*May 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, enclosing a copy of a communication from the Under Secretary's Office, relative to the decease of a poor man named Patt Crosbie, stated in verdict of coroner's inquest to have died from "want of food and general debility."

In reply, I have to state that, after the most careful investigation into the circumstances of the case, and the examination of such witnesses as were likely to throw any light on the subject, I am unable to discover any valid grounds for the verdict.

I am of opinion that the inquest was called for with a view to obtaining a coffin; indeed, the foreman of the jury (Mr. Maxwell) stated that circumstances came to their knowledge after they had returned their verdict, which left no doubt on their minds that such was the motive in calling for the inquest.

Deceased received relief (out-door) up to 29th of March, when, being able-bodied, and there being room in the workhouse, he was offered admission, and having refused, it was struck off.

Relief was continued to deceased's mother and two children under sixteen, who still receive it.

From the period of deceased being struck off till that of his death, he occasionally procured employment for his bit (never receiving wages).

When no employment could be procured, even on these terms, deceased shared with his mother and brothers their weekly allowance of one stone and a-half of Indian meal.

On the day previous to his death, deceased eat as good a dinner as at any time during the distress, but would have eaten more if he got it; he went to bed perfectly well, called to his brother in the night for a drink of water, became cold immediately after he had taken it, and was dead before his mother, who was called at once, could light a candle.

Deceased's mother (whom I examined on oath) was unable to assign any reason or cause of death, but fully corroborated the facts stated above, of the truth of which I have not the slightest doubt.

Deceased never at any time laboured under general debility, as stated in verdict, but was a strong healthy young man, of 23 years.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON :—*May 8, 1848.*

WITH reference to the communication referred to them on the 19th ultimo, relating to the death of a poor man named Patt Crosbie, in the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a report which they have received from Captain Wynne, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, on the subject.

It appears, from Captain Wynne's report, that the deceased never at any time laboured under general debility, as stated in the verdict, and that the inquest was called for the purpose of obtaining a coffin.

No sufficient grounds appear to have existed for the verdict.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*May 6, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of the Commissioners, the following particulars in reference to the condition and management of the Carrick-on-Shannon Union for the past week.

The workhouse continues to improve in all respects; the inmates are healthy and in good spirits, well fed, and well clothed: the dietary appears to agree with all classes, and particularly with the children, who are completely metamorphosed.

Every part of the house is in a highly creditable state, as regards cleanliness, order, and regularity. A great deal of work of various kinds is being done in and about the house; in fact, it is at present a busy scene.

The sanatory condition of the house is still further improved; the deaths for the week are 12. There are in the house 939, and in hospital 130.

The out-door relief list has increased during the week, in consequence of the numbers of women who have been deserted by their husbands.

We have obtained warrants against many of the latter, and some are already in gaol.

Many parties have been lately evicted from lands, and have fallen on the poor-laws now that the disability is removed; this has also tended to increase the out-door relief list.

There are still a few able-bodied on the list, and employed at stone-breaking; but as we shall have room in the house next week, they will be offered admission, and we propose to abolish the few labour depôts still remaining.

There are at present on the out-door relief list 11,408; struck off during week 140.

Employment has improved during the past week, and in many instances fair money wages have been given; still, working for the individual day's food is very general.

I met with several instances of respectable farmers who for 20 years have not handled a farming implement, and who are now struggling to till their land with their own hands. Such is the scarcity of money, and the anxiety of those who have it, to hold it. The Board of Works are resuming their operations, and have this week set nearly 600 to work.

Many have left the workhouse for the purpose of being employed, and the anxiety generally manifested throughout the district to obtain a share of this employment is very great.

The opposition to payment of poor-rates appears to increase: during the past week the collectors met with obstructions of rather a serious nature, though overcome without the aid of police; as an instance, Mr. Shaw spent two days in the recovery of 14s., with ten men employed, some of whom were knocked down and otherwise maltreated, and the cattle twice rescued; he however succeeded in impounding and getting the money. Several instances of this description occurred during the week; but no serious injury has been sustained by any party. Amount lodged this week, 287*l.* 10*s.* I look forward to increased facility of collection for some time to come; the grass land must now be stocked, and afford the collectors something tangible; the spring fairs are nearly over, which kept the cattle in a constant state of transition, and the prompt and energetic steps being taken against defaulting lessors, must greatly facilitate the collection and increase the available fund.

In the mean time the Vice-Guardians will be under the necessity of seeking a further loan from the British Relief Association, to meet the current expences for the relief of the destitute. After repaying on this day the 300*l.* which they borrowed on this day week, they were obliged to borrow 247*l.*, to obtain the week's supplies, or rather part of the week's supplies, from the Commissariat.

The bakeries and depôts have been established throughout the Union, and will be in full operation next week, when it is my intention to inspect each, and examine the bread, which appears, from the samples sent in, to be very good.

I would suggest that the best receipt for making barm (wholesome and economical) should be procured and furnished to all bakers who are required to use that ingredient in their bread; as, generally speaking, the art is but imperfectly understood in the provinces, and much mischief is to be apprehended from the use of deleterious ingredients.

The samples we have received are not much improved by the addition of barm, and not at all where rye meal formed the principal ingredient, without the mixture of wheaten meal, which cannot be procured in the local markets.

The relieving officers have improved very much, with the exception of two, who appear hopelessly indocile. The Vice-Guardians, however, issue their orders in language which it is difficult to mistake.

The transaction for the Jamestown Mill, as an auxiliary workhouse, has not been as yet concluded with the Board of Works, but the terms are agreed on, and the Vice-Guardians are taking steps to have the necessary repairs and alterations put into operation.

The Vice-Guardians also contemplate taking Liscarban House, near Drumshambo, as a temporary fever hospital, and have requested my opinion as to the fitness of the building for the purpose, and the probable expenses of repairs and alterations that would be required.

The building of the ovens at the workhouse progresses satisfactorily.

CASTLEREAH UNION.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 13, 1848.*

I BEG to state for the information of the Commissioners that I have been employed the most part of the last week for the British Association. I have 7400 children in daily attendance at the schools, receiving weekly 51,919 rations; there will be a further increase this week. I am afraid that there will be great abuse, as I find it impossible to visit all the schools. I had two boys brought before the stipendiary magistrate for stealing two of the tubs belonging to the workhouse, but we failed in the prosecution. The Guardians turned them out of the house.

Yesterday I had to attend the sessions. Captain Gray, a magistrate, was summoned for poor-rates. He came before the Guardians the week before, and promised to pay both yesterday. To my astonishment he had a barrister employed to defend him. After a long trial I had him decreed. Yesterday, when the order was read to dissolve the Board of Guardians, there was a most stormy debate; at first they refused to grant the supplies to carry on the house. After a deal to do I got them to grant them. Mr. O'Connell, the stipendiary magistrate, goes to-morrow to French Park, with the military and police, to assist the rate collector.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 16, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 13th instant, relating to the Castlereagh Union, and expressing your fear that abuses would occur, as you find it impossible to visit all the schools in the Union.

In reply, I am to state that in other large Unions one Inspector visits all the schools; and that Captain Wynne, Temporary Poor Law Inspector for the Carrick-on-Shannon Union, visits those of two Unions.

I am at the same time to recommend you to appoint a meeting with Captain Wynne at Carrick-on-Shannon, and there learn the course adopted by him.

The attention of the Under Secretary for Ireland has been drawn to that part of your report which relates to Captain Gray.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 20, 1848.*

I BEG to state for the information of the Commissioners that Mr. O'Reilly, one of the Vice-Guardians, arrived here yesterday. There was no business done, except to sign orders for the expenditure of the house. I had Mr. O'Reilly round the workhouse, and he highly approved of the clean manner in which it was kept. I can state with confidence that no workhouse can be kept more clean, or better ventilated. I have made it my business since I came here to be there four hours a day, and to visit daily every part of the establishment. There is still a deal to be done outside the house. I have been much engaged during the week on the part of the British Association. Friday I attended at a sale for poor-rates, as I was determined to see that John Duffy, the collector, did his duty; he sold a quantity of hay and oats belonging to a Mr. Thurston, for 18*l.* due; the man was well able to pay; the collector could not get carts to draw it away; he is to get a number of men to-morrow to thresh the corn, and I have got him a police protection. Patrick Giblin, another collector, had the military and police at French Park for two days and a half; he seized upwards of 40 head of cattle, and collected 147*l.* John Costello, another collector, had a police protection for one day last week, which was of great service to him. Michael Waldron, another collector, states that he was assaulted last week three times while on duty; he cannot collect the rates without a protection. Thomas Rogers also states that he could not get any person to pay him last week, and

that he was afraid to go on the lands to look for the rates without the police. The resident magistrate here states that when the assizes of Roscommon are over he will give them every assistance. Mr. Gray has paid his poor-rate. Amount lodged this last week by the collectors, 564*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* For the first time since I came here there is standing to the credit of the Union the sum of 22*l.* I regret to state that the distress is daily increasing. Mr. John Hurley came to the Board-room yesterday; he states that there is a family of seven persons in his district who have been living on horse flesh for some days.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 22, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request that you will have the goodness to state whether in your opinion it has now become necessary to issue an order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men in the Union.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

I BEG to forward you a letter from Mr. Knox, the resident magistrate at Tubbercurry, to show you the difficulty there is in procuring police protection for the rate collectors in this Union.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. KNOX to Mr. AUCHMUTY:—*February 19, 1848.*

I SHALL at all times attend to the rate collectors of my district, when in my power, with much pleasure; but as I am at present situated I can be of very little use to them. I have six petty sessions to attend, and the nearest magistrate ten miles from me. I have seven poor rate collectors to protect also, and I find it impossible to give each of them the assistance I would wish. I am situated thus as to duty for the next week:—

Monday February 21st	Ballaghaderreen Petty Sessions.
Tuesday	Coolavin ditto.
Wednesday	Coolony ditto.
Thursday	Tubbercurry ditto.
Friday	Swineford ditto.

Saturday the 26th I can attend Costello, at Ballaghaderreen, collecting the rates, but not sooner; and I think it would be advisable to send him carts as he cannot procure them in his own neighbourhood.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 25, 1848.*

I AM to state that although the same difficulties necessarily exist in other Unions, the rates are still enforced through the activity of the Inspectors, Vice-Guardians, and Collectors.

Mr. Knox's communication is herewith returned.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

WE beg to inform you that we have commenced our duties here as Vice-Guardians, and have received your letter of the 19th instant, in reply to which we assure you no exertion on our part shall be wanting to have your directions carried into effect.

We have as yet been able to acquire very little information as to the collection, not having been able to see the collectors. We have perceived that there is a large sum due by immediate lessors, and that returns of them have been sent to you. We would suggest that we should be sanctioned by you in taking immediate legal proceedings for recovery of same.

When we first visited the house on the 20th, in company with the Inspector, we found it clean and well ventilated; and the paupers in general clean. On visiting yesterday we found the provisions generally of a very inferior description, and have adopted steps to prevent such occurring in future. We found no industrial work of any kind going on except stone-breaking. We would

Castlereagh Union.

respectfully suggest that we should have your permission to employ a shoemaker and tailor to instruct the boys in their trades; and also to employ the women and girls in spinning wool, and in knitting stockings for the use of the paupers.

The books of the Union do not appear to be regularly kept; the ledger has not been posted since the 25th of March last. The clerk states that he was unable to do so, as the relief lists do not agree with the provision check account. This state of things cannot be permitted to continue.

The clerk and master both appear active and zealous; but we consider that they would both require assistants to enable them to discharge their duties efficiently; and would suggest that the clerk's salary should be *increased*, so as to *enable* him to provide his own assistant; and that we should be permitted to appoint an assistant master; the present master has had fever, and is still weak.

We will, as soon as the funds permit us to commence giving out-door relief, take care that the house shall be available as far as possible for the able-bodied.

In conclusion, we beg to state, that our most earnest attention shall be devoted to the collection of the rate, and to finances in general; and shall keep you continually informed of the progress we may be enabled to make respecting them.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 24, 1848.*

I AM to state, that the Commissioners approve of your taking steps to have the payment of the outstanding rates enforced from the immediate lessors as well as other defaulters. The Commissioners think it will be better that the summary mode of proceeding against immediate lessors by notice and summons should be resorted to when practicable, in preference to taking proceedings in the superior courts; where however that course is deemed necessary, the Commissioners will readily consent to proceedings being taken, on your forwarding to them a list of such immediate lessors.

The Commissioners have no objection to the appointment of a shoemaker and tailor to be employed in the workhouse as you propose; and they are prepared to sanction an increase in the clerk's salary, and the appointment of an assistant to the workhouse master.

MR. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 25, 1848.*

I BEG to state for the information of the Commissioners, that I have had a communication with the manager of the National Bank in this town. He has informed me that there would be no difficulty in borrowing a sum of money from the directors (say about 4,000*l.*) at five per cent., provided the Commissioners would sanction the loan to be re-payable in instalments out of the rates. From the great necessity there is for commencing out-door relief immediately, I see no other means of our beginning.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 26, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' approval of the proposal to obtain a loan from the Union Treasurer for this purpose, and to state that the Commissioners will guarantee the payment of interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, for six months, or such shorter period as it may be required, on any loan, not exceeding 4,000*l.* which the Vice-Guardians may be able to obtain from their Treasurer.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 29, 1848.*

WE beg to inform you that our attention has been constantly applied in endeavouring to establish discipline and classification in the workhouse. We have in some degree succeeded, but much remains to be done.

We would again call your attention to the advantage of having the female paupers employed in spinning wool and knitting stockings; and request your sanction for same. We do not propose to use fire in doing so.

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We have endeavoured to ascertain the state of the finances in this Union; as yet we have not been able to do so, in consequence of the manner in which the books were kept. We are of opinion, as is also Mr. Auchmuty, the Inspector, that a person conversant with the details of Union accounts should be sent here by you to investigate and wind up to this time all the accounts of this Union. The late Guardians have been in the practice of giving checks on the treasurer to the contractors and others, though they had no funds in his hands to meet them. We have not as yet been able to ascertain to what amount such checks are still outstanding.

We have had before us most of the collectors, they are 14 in number. Some of them appear to be very inefficient; collecting books and receipt checks very incorrectly kept. In some instances no entries made in their books before they came to the clerk to check their accounts. Some of them are the tenants (one the bailiff) of large proprietors and immediate lessors, all of whom they have permitted to continue defaulters to this time. We have had the collectors served with notices to pay in 50*l.* each on next Saturday. In case of their not doing so we intend, with your approval, to have them summoned to petty sessions for disobedience of orders. We have also directed them to serve 15 days' notice on all defaulting immediate lessors who have residences within the county, and recommend that all who have not such residences should be proceeded against without delay in the superior courts.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 1, 1848.*

You have full authority, and it is part of your duty, to have the female inmates of the workhouse employed, without receiving any special sanction for the purpose from the Commissioners. In any matter affecting the insurance of the workhouse from fire, you should communicate with the agent of the insurance company who have insured the workhouse premises.

As regards the Union accounts, the Commissioners must decline at this time to detach from this office an accountant to arrange the books of the Castlereagh Union; they suggest that you should communicate with the auditor on the subject, and advertise for a competent person to do what is required in that respect, charging the due proportion of expense on each of the present or former Union officers through whose default the arrear has occurred.

With respect to the collectors of poor-rate, I am to state that it will be an important part of your duty to take such steps as may be necessary to render those officers attentive and zealous in the discharge of their duties. In any case of continued neglect or inefficiency you should suspend the officer, in pursuance of the 41st article of the General Regulations, and the Commissioners will immediately take the case into consideration, with a view to the issue of an order of dismissal. The collectors should be informed that they and their sureties will be held responsible under their bonds for any neglect or disobedience in the discharge of their duties, and also that in case of dismissal they and their sureties will still be legally responsible under their bonds for any rates which shall be shown to have been lost by their negligence or default.

You will have the goodness to report to the Commissioners the names of the immediate lessors in the Union against whom you shall recommend that proceedings should be instituted in the Superior Courts of Record, stating at the same time the amount due by each, and the steps which may have been taken to obtain payment of the rate.

MR. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 2, 1848.*

I ATTENDED yesterday at Ballaghaderreen relative to cattle that Thomas Costello had impounded for poor rate. There was a meeting of magistrates, and Mr. Dillon, the solicitor, attended. The magistrates ordered that the cattle should be returned to the owners, and that Costello should pay all

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expenses, on the ground that the regular 31 days' notice had not been served by the collector. The Vice-Guardians have ordered Patrick Giblin to give up two cows that he had in pound, on the same grounds.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 3, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will have the goodness to report to the Commissioners the reasons why the collectors, in the cases referred to, proceeded against the occupiers of the lands instead of against the immediate lessors.

The collectors should in all cases where immediate lessors are rated use every means to recover the rate from them; and the provisions of the 3rd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act should not be resorted to except under peculiar circumstances.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

THERE are upwards of 10,000 children receiving relief under the British Association. The population in 1841 was 92,864. We have not commenced out-door relief here as yet. The Vice-Guardians and I are of opinion that relief should be confined to the 1st section. We are in hopes that employment will now become general.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 8, 1848.*

IF the Vice-Guardians provide accommodation in the workhouse, by discharging on out-door relief all classes coming under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, they will probably be enabled to make room for the reception of able-bodied applicants for relief.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 5, 1848.*

I HAVE been in attendance on the Vice-Guardians the entire week. We have been actively employed in examining the rate collectors' books. I regret to state that some of them have been very negligent in their duty, but I hope in another week that there will be an improvement; if not, the Vice-Guardians and I are determined to take active steps against them.

We have had the relieving officers before us with their books. The moment we have funds we will commence out-door relief. I regret to state that distress is increasing every day.

I was much pleased on going to Ballaghadereen to see the men employed on the land. Potato planting will be carried out there extensively, as seed is plenty and not dear in that locality.

Mr. Darcy, a magistrate, has promised me next week to give the collectors at Kilkerrin and Glaunamodda a police protection, and to go with them himself. Mr. O'Connell goes with the military and police on Wednesday to Ballyhaunis for three days to assist the collector.

I think that unless I am empowered to call on all the local magistrates to give the collectors assistance, and in case of their refusal to represent their conduct to the Castle, the poor-rates will never be effectually collected.

I have further to report that I have got every assistance from Mr. Baker in carrying out the discipline of the house. The entire establishment is clean, and I have at last got all the paupers well clad.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

I AM to request that you will have the goodness to inform the Commissioners of the result of the application for a loan which the Union treasurer was stated to be willing to advance.

As regards the assistance required by the collectors of poor-rate, the Commissioners recommend you to apply for the assistance of the magistrates, and to report the result of your application.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 9, 1848.*

WE beg to inform you that we have been principally engaged since our last report in investigating the collectors' accounts, the greater part of them are now in a satisfactory state. We consider some of the collectors very inefficient, and would without hesitation suspend them did we not fear our doing so would retard and confuse the present collection; we hope that by close attention and keeping them strictly to their duties that we will be able to get in the present rate sooner than by dismissing them. We regret to say that the directors of the National Bank have declined advancing the loan of 4000*l.* which you sanctioned our applying for; they say they are ready to lend us a smaller sum, say 2500*l.*, provided we guarantee that the rates as collected shall be appropriated to the payment of that loan; our doing so would not place us in a better position than we are at present. As far as we can ascertain there is considerably over 2000*l.* due to contractors and tradesmen.

From the great distress prevailing in this Union we felt ourselves called on to commence giving out-door relief in money to the parties included in your first order for out-door relief. We were enabled to do this by the Inspector, Mr. Auchmuty, inducing the manager of the National Bank to advance 300*l.* for that purpose; we hope that this sum will enable us to afford considerable relief, and that an increased collection of the rates will permit us to continue doing so for some time.

There still remains over 9000*l.* of the rate to be collected; but from all the information we can procure, we fear that about 4000*l.* of that sum cannot be collected, being principally due by parties unable to pay, and who have nothing to be distrained. The state of the workhouse as to discipline, classification, and the appearance of the paupers, is much improved. Our attention is still directed to the accounts of the Union, which we hope will be soon in a satisfactory state.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' regret that you have not been able to obtain the proposed advance from the Union treasurer.

I am at the same time to state that it appears to the Commissioners that if you communicated personally as well as by letter with the manager of the Bank, you might still be enabled to obtain an advance on terms sufficiently advantageous to warrant you in availing yourselves of it.

The Commissioners rely upon your attention being continually directed to the collection of the outstanding poor-rates with promptitude and vigour.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 12, 1848.*

I HAVE been employed at the workhouse with the Vice-Guardians the entire week. We have had all the relieving officers before us. I am happy to say that out-door relief is given under the first section. We will have room for a good many able-bodied paupers in the house from the changes that we are making, and I am in hopes after a time I shall be enabled to get the grounds about the workhouse into order. One of the contractors for the fever-sheds will have his part done in about a fortnight; it will accommodate 50 patients. Mr. O'Connell has been at Ballyhaunis since Wednesday with the military and police. I cannot state what money has been collected, as I have not seen the collectors. I have had Commissary Dobree and Mr. Flanagan here during the week. I think they both seemed pleased with the clean manner the workhouse is kept.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 14, 1848.*

WE beg to inform you that since our last report, we have been chiefly engaged in initialing the relieving officers' books, for those persons entitled to relief under the 1st section of the Poor Relief Extension Act. Those three classes we regret to say are very numerous, we cannot exactly say the number; by a rough

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calculation we found it necessary to give the relieving officers cheques for 215*l.* on the treasurer, to afford relief to those we directed. Yesterday a number of persons, over 300, came from the relief districts of Ballymoe and Ballinakill to the workhouse to demand relief; we admitted a few of them to the Board-room, and explained to them the extent to which we could legally extend relief; they were perfectly peaceable and respectful in their conduct, but said that if they were not relieved that bad work would take place in the country. We offered to admit many of them to the workhouse, but they refused, with the exception of one man, who has a very large family; and they generally said that they would rather die by the ditches than come into the workhouse. Many of them held small portions of land, and they appeared much disappointed when we explained to them the impossibility of our giving them relief, while they continued to hold more land than a statute quarter acre. John Hurley, the relieving officer of this district, stated that all those poor persons were desired on the previous Sunday at Ballymoe, by Mr. Thomas N. Baggot, a magistrate, and late *ex officio* Guardian, the parish priest, and himself, to go to the Vice-Guardians to the workhouse, as they themselves could do nothing for them. We have applied by letter and personally to the manager of the Bank here for a loan of 2500*l.*, to be paid out of the rates in harvest next. He has forwarded our application to London, but has not as yet received an answer. We are of opinion that the collectors generally are using increased exertions; the stipendiary magistrate has been assisting some of them with the police and military. No exertions shall be spared on our part to keep them to a strict discharge of their duties. We have discharged from the workhouse numbers of persons who can get out-door relief, under the 1st section, and will endeavour to make the house as available as possible for the able-bodied.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

I AM to request that the Commissioners may be informed whether you recommend that an order should be issued, authorizing out-door relief to the able-bodied, under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 15, 1848.*

THE relieving officers of this Union have stated to us that many persons have applied to them for relief who hold more than a statute quarter acre of land, and that to entitle them and their families to relief they have offered the landlord possession of the land, retaining the house, and in some instances the house and the quarter acre. In many cases the landlord has refused to accept the possession without getting possession of all. The Vice-Guardians request to know if they may afford relief to such persons, though they may still continue to occupy such land under the above-mentioned circumstances, provided they are otherwise legally entitled to it.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 16, 1848.*

I AM directed to state, that the mere refusal of a landlord to accept a surrender of land does not disqualify a person who has ceased to occupy more than a quarter of an acre of land from receiving relief.

By the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, it is merely the occupation or non-occupation of a quarter of an acre of land which is made a criterion of destitution, provided that an applicant for relief may otherwise be deemed entitled to it.

Hence as far as that clause is concerned, you are warranted in relieving anybody who is not in such occupation, and you are not bound to investigate title at all, or to ascertain whether the tenant's interest has been legally determined by surrender or otherwise.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 15, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter of the 14th instant, enclosing an extract of a report from Deputy Commissary-General Dobree, we beg to say that we have commenced to give out-door relief (as stated in our report of yesterday) to those entitled to it under the 1st section of the Poor Relief Extension Act, and would have done so at an earlier period had the funds of the Union permitted our doing so.

From every information we have been able to obtain, we are of opinion that out-door relief to the able-bodied, and to a great extent, is required in this Union. We would request the advice of the Commissioners in what way we should procure funds to afford such relief in case the Commissioners may deem it expedient to issue an order for our doing so. We have, together with Mr. Auchmuty, visited the house at Wilsgrrove, and consider it in every respect admirably adapted for affording further house accommodation, but the state of our funds for the present precludes us from availing ourselves of what would be of the greatest possible advantage to this Union.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 15, 1848.*

I BEG to forward, for the information of the Commissioners, a letter received from the manager of the National Bank. I regret the application has not been successful. We have a communication with the manager, who is of opinion that if a new rate were struck, that the application would succeed. I think that a new rate of 2s. 11d. should be struck over the entire Union. I am of opinion, from the number of applicants now pressing on us for relief, that we must extend it to the able-bodied. There are only ten undertakings under the land improvement in this Union, and some of the applicants have not got money. I have been most particular of late, in making inquiries from persons that I could depend on; and there is scarcely any proprietors who will give employment.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. POWER to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 15, 1848.*

I SUBJOIN a copy of a letter received this morning from the Court of Directors referring to your application for an advance of 2500*l*.

(COPY.)

SIR,

YOUR letter of the 9th instant, together with that from the Vice-Guardians of the Castlerea Poor Law Union, applying for an advance of 2500*l*., have been laid before the Committee of Management, by whom I am instructed to acquaint you that the Directors cannot entertain the question of any advance to the Board of Guardians which is not guaranteed by them to be repaid out of the rate struck, and in course of collection.

Your obedient servant,

J. N. Power, Esq.

V. S. KING, Secretary.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

THE Commissioners approve of the striking of a new rate immediately after the 15th of April, when the law proceedings for recovering the outstanding portions of the existing rate, may be expected to enforce payment in the majority of cases.

The Commissioners, however, do not approve of the indiscriminate rating proposed.

If in the rate of August, 1847, provision were not made for repayment of the advances under the Temporary Relief Act, it will be now necessary to make such provision, in addition to the current Union expenditure; but if in any case the amount necessary for both purposes shall exceed 3s. in the pound, this amount of rate only is to be levied in any such division.

With a view to the speedy commencement of proceedings against immediate

Castlereagh Union. lessors, so that the writs may be returnable on the 15th of April, the Commissioners request that you will recommend the Vice-Guardians to transmit without delay a list of the lessors to be sued, and to apply for the necessary consent.

The Commissioners return the letter of the local manager of the National Bank, declining to make a loan which is not to be repaid out of a rate already made and in progress of collection.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 17, 1848.*

I BEG to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that the Vice-Guardians and I are of opinion that out-door relief would be most desirable to be extended to the able-bodied, but from the state of the funds of this Union we cannot see how it will be carried out.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 18, 1848.*

THE Commissioners will issue an order authorizing relief to be afforded to the destitute able-bodied poor in the Union; and the Commissioners would make an application to the British Association for assistance to the Union if they saw due exertions made by the ratepayers to pay the rates.

The Commissioners observe, however, by the last return received from the Union clerk, that upwards of 9000*l.* remain uncollected of the last rate made in the Union; and the Commissioners are unwilling to do anything at the present moment which would encourage the idea that the funds of the British Association are about to supersede the necessity of local honesty and local obedience to the law in the payment of poor-rates in Castlereagh Union.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 19, 1848.*

I AM of opinion that in some parts of this Union that the rates cannot be collected unless the collectors get a police protection. Michael Waldron, one of the collectors, collected during the time he had a police protection 292*l.* Connell, another collector, only lodged 8*l.* last week. He states to me that if he gets the police protection, that he would collect 200*l.* in a few days. The people have the money, but boast that they will not pay unless the law is enforced.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 20, 1848.*

I AM to state that the collectors of poor-rate who require assistance should make application to the magistrates in the usual manner.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. AUCHMUTY:—*March 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have deemed it advisable to make application to the British Association for an advance of 300*l.*, to assist the Vice-Guardians in providing for the maintenance of the destitute poor in the Union.

As it appears from your report of the 19th instant, regarding the collection of the rates, that the ratepayers have the means although they decline to pay; the Commissioners rely on your not letting it be generally known that any assistance has been granted by the British Association in aid of the funds of the Union.

At the same time, the Commissioners perceive that no relief has yet been given in the Union, even under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and as they believe that the time has arrived when arrangements for this purpose ought under any circumstances to be made, they will feel a satisfaction in learning that such arrangements have been accordingly made, and that out-door relief under the 1st section has actually commenced in the Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 21, 1848.*

WE beg to inform you that we have been busily engaged during the past week with the relieving officers, enabling them to afford out-door relief to the

impotent classes. We have completed the initialing of all the books except that for Castlereagh, the relieving officer of which was totally unfit for the office. He has resigned, and we have appointed a young man who we hope will give satisfaction.

Some of the collectors have been successful in collecting the rate to what we consider a fair amount; others of them state to us the total impossibility of collecting the rate without the aid of the civil power; one of them stated that he was only able to collect 8%, but if he had the aid of the police he would be able to collect 200% in the week. We very much fear that any effort or exertions on our part to impress on the landlords or occupiers in this Union, a moral sense of their duties to the destitute poor would be of very little avail, as, with some exceptions, they appear from the report of the collectors to be most desirous to delay the payment of their rates by every means in their power. No exertions on our part shall be spared to carry your directions into effect, respecting the speedy enforcement of the rates; but we consider the continuous aid of the civil power absolutely necessary to enable us to do so with effect. The contractors are becoming very importunate for money; if we give them cheques we shall not be able to continue out-door relief.

We nearly completed the taking contracts for provisions yesterday. We consider we have obtained them on favourable terms, as, on an average of the present consumption, there will be a saving of about 1000% per annum.

We are preparing for you a list of immediate lessors in this Union who, we are of opinion, should be sued in the Superior Courts.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a report which the Commissioners have received from the Vice-Guardians of the Castlereagh Union; and I am to request your attention to the portion of the report relating to the assistance required by the rate collectors in the discharge of their duties.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

I BEG to state for the information of the Commissioners that out-door relief has been given out in this Union under the 1st section of the Poor Relief Extension Act since the 7th of this month. I have further to report that the military and police will be employed the entire of next week in protecting the poor-rate collectors in execution of their duty. I have further to add that if we get a grant from the British Association, no persons except the Vice-Guardians shall know from what source it comes.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

THE Commissioners are to-day informed by Count Strzelecki that he has transmitted to you 300%, to assist the Vice-Guardians of the Castlereagh Union in providing out-door relief in the Union.

I am at the same time to state, that it would be most desirable that the Vice-Guardians should, if possible, obtain from the Union treasurer a loan on terms which would be advantageous, and the Commissioners wish that they should again communicate with the Union treasurer on the subject.

The Commissioners request your attention to the subject of the new rate to be made in the Union, and the steps which have been taken to relieve the destitute poor therein, since the dissolution of the late Board of Guardians.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 26, 1848.*

I HAVE been engaged the entire week with the Vice-Guardians. I have had four carts and horses and all the paupers employed in removing the clay and rubbish from the workhouse grounds. I expect to have upwards of three acres of potatoes planted. There were three paupers admitted last week who are

Castlerea Union.

good masons; I have them employed in repairing the walls of the workhouse. The Vice-Guardians have made new contracts for supplying the workhouse with provisions; and, from the reduction they have made in the prices, there will be a saving of 1000*l.* a year to the Union. John Duffy, one of the collectors, brought in here yesterday, market-day, four head of cattle he distrained for poor-rates. I got plenty of bidders for them, and they were sold at fair prices. The amount of money lodged this week was not as large as I expected, 304*l.*; but as Mr. O'Connell and the military will be employed the entire of next week in protecting the collectors, I am in hopes that a large sum will be paid in.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 28, 1848.*

WE beg to inform you that since our last report we have afforded out-door relief to the impotent classes generally throughout this Union; we have discharged a great number of that class from the workhouse. We shall without delay have your directions carried into effect as to further making the house available for the able-bodied men. The collectors continue to state that they cannot enforce the payment of the rate, without the assistance of the police. The resident magistrate, Mr. O'Connell, went out yesterday with the military to Ballyhaunis, to protect the collectors. John Duffy, collector of Artagh electoral division, brought in four head of stock to this town on Saturday last, and sold them for poor-rate without any opposition.

The manager of the National Bank here says that the directors of that establishment will not lend us money before we have struck a new rate. We hope in a short time to be able to ascertain what rate may be necessary to strike for each electoral division, as the clerk has engaged an assistant who, from his testimonials, we trust will be competent to enable him to wind up his accounts. We feel much pleasure in stating that there is a decided improvement observable in the discipline and classification of the paupers in the workhouse, and we hope that in a short time that it will be in a satisfactory state. We shall have your order for out-door relief to the second class carried into effect, with as little delay as possible. We have already accepted tenders for Indian-meal to be distributed in rations for six electoral divisions, on what we consider advantageous terms. We conceived the tenders for the remaining electoral divisions too high, and have advertised for fresh tenders; in the meantime, we propose to supply the relieving officers with rations either from the workhouse or from the grant of the British Association.

One of the fever sheds is nearly completed; the contractor for the other, Mr. M'Greevey, is delayed for want of funds, in consequence of not being paid for the boundary wall. Mr. Dillon has served the securities of the late clerk with a writ, and is proceeding to recover the amount due. There is a great improvement in the sanitary state of the house.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

I BEG to have the opinion of the Commissioners on the following subject. There are numbers of women who are in the workhouse, and are making application daily to us for admission, they have been deserted by their husbands, who in most cases are gone to America and to England; if we could put them on the out-door relief it would be the means of making room for the able-bodied.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 1, 1848.*

As no order under the 2nd section of the Relief Extension Act, is in force in Castlerea Union, authorizing out-door relief to women whose husbands have gone to America or Great Britain, it is necessary that you should recommend the Vice-Guardians to apply for such an order if positively necessary, and state whether it should also include women whose husbands are in prison or have been transported. If such an order be issued the relieving officers should be required to watch the cases of alleged separation or desertion, otherwise serious evils may arise, and each officer should be made fully aware of the provisions in the 2nd section of the Act 10 and 11 Vict., cap. 84, under which husbands deserting their families or wilfully neglecting to maintain them, may be punished by imprisonment with hard labour.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*April 1, 1848.*

Castlereagh Union.

THE Commissioners have had before them the resolution passed at your meeting on the 30th ultimo, requesting the Commissioners' consent to your taking proceedings in pursuance of the 2nd section of the 6th and 7th Vict., c. 92, in the Superior Courts of Record in Dublin, against the following persons, who are immediate lessors and defaulters in the payment of the poor rate in the Castlereagh Union, namely:—

William Roe, esq.,
Rev. Lewis Hawkes,
Rev. James Taaffe,
Goughs, minors in Chancery,
James Dillon, esq.,
Balfes, minors in Chancery,
James Kenny, esq.,
Lord de Freyne,
Daniel Farrell, esq.,
George Knox, esq.,
Nicholson Jordan, esq.,
Minor Higgins,

Robert Hewston, esq.,
William Lloyd, esq.,
William Davis, esq.,
William Murphy,
D. H. Farrell, esq.,
Lord Dillon,
Patrick Balfe, esq.,
D. H. Kirkaldy, esq.,
Thomas Palmer, esq.,
Michael B. Birmingham,
Christopher Taaffe, esq.,
William Graydon;

And the Commissioners hereby signify their consent to your bringing an action in any one of the Superior Courts of Record in Dublin against the said

William Roe, esq.,
Rev. Lewis Hawkes,
Rev. James Taaffe,
Goughs, minors in Chancery,
James Dillon, esq.,
Balfes, minors in Chancery,
James Kenny, esq.,
Lord de Freyne,
Robert Hewston, esq.,
William Lloyd, esq.,
William Davis, esq.,
William Murphy,

D. H. Farrell, esq.,
Lord Dillon,
Patrick Balfe, esq.,
D. H. Kirkaldy, esq.,
Daniel Farrell, esq.,
George Knox, esq.,
Nicholson Jordan, esq.,
Minor Higgins,
Thomas Palmer, esq.,
Michael B. Birmingham,
Christopher Taaffe, esq.,
William Graydon,

For the recovery of the arrears of poor rate made on them respectively, as immediate lessors, in respect of certain property situated within the Castlereagh Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*April 4, 1848.*

WITH reference to the list transmitted to the Commissioners on the 31st ultimo, of immediate lessors who are defaulters in the payment of poor rate in the Castlereagh Union, from which it appears that H. Maypowder, esq., and Dean French are deceased, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that in these cases the Vice-Guardians should ascertain who are the parties now legally responsible.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 2, 1848.*

I BEG to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I reported, in connexion with Mr. Flanagan, that there were 8000 persons in this Union requiring relief, but in consequence of the great destitution that prevails here, it is as much as we could do to give relief to between 3000 and 4000 persons, under the 1st section of the Irish Poor Law Extension Act. The order for granting out-door relief under the 2nd section is in force this week on a limited scale, but will be next week on a more extensive one.

I have further to report that, if we had funds, we would have nearly 10,000 persons now receiving relief.

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REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 4, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have learned with surprise, from your report of the 2nd instant, that in consequence of the great destitution prevailing in Castlereagh Union, it was as much as could be done to give relief to between 3000 and 4000 persons, and that if funds could be provided, there would have been nearly 10,000 persons relieved.

As, however, you do not state in what way the latter number subsist, when they have not obtained relief, and the Vice-Guardians have not applied for an order to give relief under the 2nd section of the Extension Act, to any but classes which cannot be numerous in the Union, the Commissioners trust that you do not wish to be understood as reporting that there are so many thousand persons who are destitute, and to whom relief ought to be given, but have not yet received it.

The Commissioners request you to recommend for the immediate consideration of the Vice-Guardians, the classes for whom relief is indispensable, that they may apply for a further order, if requisite, and then direct their relieving officers to receive applications from such classes. At the same time, the probable expenses should be estimated, and application be made for an advance of such portion of the amount as may exceed the rates to be collected in the time.

It is the duty of the Vice-Guardians to make such arrangements as will prevent any destitute person in the Union from dying of starvation, and the Commissioners rely on your co-operating with them effectually for this purpose.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 4, 1848.*

WE beg to state that your order for affording relief to the second class of the destitute poor has been to a considerable degree carried into effect, and will be in general operation by the middle of this week. We have contracted on advantageous terms for a supply of Indian-meal, to be distributed by the contractors in each relief district according to our orders to the relieving officers. Giving the rations in this manner we consider will be of advantage to the Union, as the cost and risk of storage, and the salaries of assistants to the relieving officers will be saved ; but we fear that the want of funds will compel us to avail ourselves of the grant of the British Association to this Union ; we must do so for this week in one district, for which we did not accept a contract.

We consider that the distribution of rations by contractors in the commencement will enable us to make better arrangements for its future supply to the poor than if we did so in a hurry, for it as such, could not be avoided, from our being almost constantly engaged with the books of the relieving officers. The affording relief to the second class will give us an opportunity of making the house still more available for able-bodied men, who in general evince a great disinclination to come into the house. Six families went out yesterday when they found that they should work.

We regret that we cannot report favourably respecting the state of our finances. The collectors in general state that without police assistance they cannot collect, and that the rate-payers have evinced a determination not to pay until compelled, particularly since a meeting held at Roscommon respecting poor-rates. We have constantly urged the collectors to increased exertions. We fear that we must suspend two of them, for reasons which will appear fully in the minutes.

We have forwarded the lists of defaulting immediate lessors to our solicitor. The collectors have by our directions summoned some of those of that class residing within the county, and have in every case as yet reported, succeeded in obtaining decrees. Mr. Auchmuty, the inspector, attended the hearing of one case in Roscommon. We consider that it would be of advantage to the Union that we should inspect the arrangement and the giving out of rations together with the inspector, and would wish to know whether you will approve of our doing so.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 8, 1848.*

Castlerea Union.

WITH reference to the disinclination evinced by the rate-payers to pay their rates until compelled, I am to state that the Commissioners rely upon your continuing to cause active steps to be taken to meet and effectually overcome resistance to the law.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners have no objection to your inspecting the arrangements for the issue of rations in company with the inspector. They think it essential that you should visit the relief depôts periodically, either with or without the inspector.

Mr. AUCHMUTY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 9, 1848.*

I BEG to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that the Vice-Guardians and I had all the relieving officers before us yesterday, and from the statements they made to us of the great destitution that exists amongst the able-bodied class from want of employment, we are compelled to come to the conclusion that out-door relief ought to be extended to them unless further house accommodation could be taken, which we could procure if we had the necessary funds.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 10, 1848.*

I AM to state that in accordance with your recommendation the Commissioners have issued an order authorizing the Vice-Guardians of the Castlerea Union to afford out-door relief to able-bodied poor persons not comprised within the terms of the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

Tralee Union.

TRALEE UNION.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 1, 1848.*

5th Series, page 316.

WITH reference to my letter of the 30th ultimo, I beg to acquaint you that I brought together this day some of the influential Guardians and others interested, to discuss several matters connected with the division of the Union; the fitting up, for the reception of paupers in Dingle, a temporary workhouse; the most eligible site for the proposed new workhouse; the plan of operation for the revision of the relief lists, &c.; and after considerable discussion, it appeared to be the unanimous wish and desire of the meeting, and in which I most fully coincide, that the Union ought not to be divided until the permanent workhouse is finished and fit for the reception of paupers, but that in the meantime a temporary one should be taken, affording, when fitted up, accommodation for about 300 paupers, the expense for rent, alterations, &c., to be borne by the Union at large, observing that the temporary workhouse, when so fitted up, should be for the reception *exclusively* of paupers belonging to the electoral divisions which it is proposed shall form the *Dingle Union*, and who may *hereafter* apply and be eligible for admission. I have applied to the clerk of the Union to furnish me with a return of the paupers in the Tralee workhouse, with a view to show that from several causes the admission from the ten *Western* electoral divisions do not bear anything like an equal proportion to those admitted from the Tralee districts, and therefore that this portion of the Union is in justice and equity entitled to a temporary workhouse, at the expense of the Union.

It was also proposed that the Dingle Committee, *assisted by an Inspector*, should continue their functions, scrutinizing and revising the lists of applicants, as well as those receiving relief; but as much of the time of the relieving officers is occupied in going to and returning from Tralee, where they attend the Board, that it would be most desirable that such attendance should be dispensed with, and that in lieu of which, they be directed to attend at *Dingle*, to give their assistance there, and to go once in each month to Tralee to pass their accounts. This I think could be done in future, inasmuch as the whole of the ten electoral divisions are supplied with meal in *Dingle*, and therefore need not have considerable sums of money at their disposal as heretofore. Another subject brought under consideration, and to which I beg respectfully to draw the attention of the Commissioners, was the importance of attaching the Castle-gregory electoral division, in the event of the division of the Union, to *Dingle*, being the only one in the *Western* direction which is comparatively *wealthy*, because, as I stated in my report of the 30th ultimo, if the wealth of the district is reserved for Tralee, where there is *comparatively* little destitution, the pauperism of the proposed Union of Dingle would paralyze and swamp the entire property, there being no fewer than 10,000 persons receiving out and in-door relief (including the children who are fed by the British Association), which are nearly half the population of the district.

I have examined every large building in and near the town, and have, with the consent of the Guardians, subject, of course, to the approval of the Commissioners, hired a large house, with large *store*, offices, &c., attached, which, by an expenditure of about 150*l.*, would be capable of accommodating about 300 paupers, on a lease of seven years, with a clause to surrender at the expiration of two years, and every year afterwards, by giving six months' notice, at a rent of 100*l.* per annum.

I have also (accompanied by three of the Guardians) examined several sites for the proposed workhouse, and they approved highly of the one I drew your attention to in my letter of the 30th ultimo, as being in every respect most eligible, the land being of the best description, which could be had for about two guineas the plantation acre, the situation healthful, with a good road from the town, which is about half a mile distant. It is either Lord Cork's, or what is termed the Ventry trust property. Of the particulars as to title, &c., I can make myself acquainted when the Commissioners have decided as to dividing the Union, and of which I shall be glad to be informed as soon as possible.

I am not aware that there is any other subject of importance to which I should now draw your attention, further than to request that I may be favoured *soon*

with the determination of the Commissioners as to the several matters which I have felt it my duty respectfully to press upon their consideration.

With reference to the 7th section of the Poor Law Extension Act, if the Commissioners do not feel authorized to accede to the suggestions I have made respecting the non-enforcement of the relieving officers' duties, as contained in said section, then I take it to be impossible to continue things as they are, as the absence from the scene of their labours (sometimes nearly the whole of three days in each week), is attended with serious loss and inconvenience to the Guardians, rate-payers, and the unfortunate poor, and therefore the sooner the division of the Union takes place the better; at the same time that I would respectfully urge the just claim of the expense of fitting up, furnishing, &c., of temporary houses in Dingle, being made a charge on the Union at large; and as by law the paupers of Dingle Union now at Tralee would be turned out upon places being prepared here for their reception, the house and store alluded to in the former part of my letter would not afford room for half the number having a demand upon us, which would oblige us to hire another store of similar extent, and requiring a like sum to fit it up, and for this purpose, I presume, we must look to the Treasury or British Association to supply funds; and supposing the accommodation required was available to-morrow, "our gain would be a loss," inasmuch as we should have no room for the admission of one additional pauper, of the hundreds who are objects for a workhouse rather than out-door relief.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 7, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the question has already been very fully considered and decided on before you arrived in Dingle, and directions have been given for dividing the Union and constituting a new Union by the name of the Dingle Union. It is intended that the Dingle Union shall include Castlegregory division.

In regard to the proposed temporary workhouse at Dingle, the Commissioners are desirous that the proposition should be brought before the Tralee Board of Guardians for their consideration.

The Commissioners deem it right that the Tralee Guardians should advance the funds for fitting up the temporary workhouse, and the accounts will be adjusted on equitable principles when the Union is divided.

Although funds will be advanced by the Treasury for the new workhouse, which is to be erected at Dingle, no funds are to be expected from the Treasury for the temporary workhouse, or for the relief of the destitution in Dingle; and the Commissioners rely upon your being particularly explicit on this point, in order to prevent expectations which would, undoubtedly, be unfavourable to the prompt payment of poor-rates.

The two main points to which your attention should be directed at the present time are:—1st. To press forward the vigorous exaction of the poor-rates in the Dingle district; and 2ndly. To take care that relief is duly administered in that district in accordance with the Commissioners' regulations, to the really destitute, while at the same time imposition and favouritism are prevented or exposed.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I attended the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday.

As the out-of-door relief has been in operation for some weeks, and as it is not very probable that any serious increase to our numbers will take place, I may make a few remarks upon it.

The total number receiving relief out of the house in the Union is 15,400, or one-sixth of the population.

Tralee district, with a population of 23,583	gives relief to	2,225	or one-tenth
Castleisland	9,340	1,593	or one-sixth
Ballincuslane	8,572	955	or one-ninth
Ballymacelligott	5,994	778	or one-eighth
Castlemaine	5,664	690	or one-ninth
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Tralee Union.	Kilgobbin,	with a population of 10,609	gives relief to 1,185	or one-ninth
	Ballinacourty	" 7,724	" 1,238	or one-sixth
	Dingle	" 12,983	" 5,166	or one-half
	Ventry	" 7,194	" 1,474	or one-fifth.

I believe I may say that I am pretty well acquainted with the general circumstances of each electoral division; and I am also aware of the amount of assistance which the British Association are giving through the schools, and, comparing one electoral division with another, I think the general average which runs throughout, shows that the relief has been fairly administered as a whole, although individual cases of abuse must, and are occurring.

I have so often reported the state of affairs at Dingle to the Commissioners, that I need hardly point out to the Commissioners that that electoral division feeds nearly one-half of its population, or 5166 persons; and as the Association feeds 1200 also, I may say every other person living there receives relief; while in the adjoining district of Ventry, only one-fourth are thus sustained; and in Ballinacourty only one-fifth.

This at once indicates abuse, which we know of, but cannot control at Tralee. I am, however, in hopes that the division of the Union, and the presence of Sir Thomas Ross in that neighbourhood, may succeed more effectually in checking it than we have been able.

On the same grounds I am inclined to think that the relief in Castleisland is greater than there is occasion for; at least its adjoining electoral divisions are satisfied with a smaller proportion.

With a population of 92,000 persons thrown suddenly on one Board of Guardians, with an inefficient staff to assist them, in a season of severe distress, and in a straggling Union, 64 miles in length, it can hardly be a matter of surprise that a few persons may have died of starvation; but I am happy to state that all the reports and rumours which I have heard of, do not in the aggregate amount to 10.

It must, however, be acknowledged that the whole of the peasantry are suffering from the severest distress; and if the efforts of the Guardians have been successful in preventing actual starvation (at least with a few exceptions), the period of human life must be considerably shortened by the debilitating effects of a long-continued insufficient diet.

The return of the out-of-door relief which I have before given, seems to indicate that the pressure which has heretofore existed in towns, more particularly where the workhouses were built, causing a higher amount of rate than in the country electoral divisions, will now pass off, and the more general distribution of relief will produce more equalization of taxation.

Referring more particularly to the proceedings of the Board, I may state that a conversation arose as to the signing of the consent for borrowing money for the Dingle workhouse, which ended in a resolution which appears on the minutes; in answer to which the Commissioneers need only refer them to their own resolution on the subject, of 30th November, 1847, which is a complete answer.

Thirteen Guardians have signed the consent. I think a great deal of the feeling which exists against it arises from it not being generally understood how such loan will be repaid. The Tralee Guardians will not involve themselves for 7000*l.* for a workhouse which is to belong to a separate Union. The Dingle Guardians want to have a pledge as to the boundaries of their Union before signing it; and some gentlemen wish to save their money, whatever may be the result.

It is impossible for me to say whether I should succeed in getting this signed by a majority; and if the Commissioners have resolved to divide the Union, I recommend them not to wait for the signing of this consent, but to divide at once; and then the Dingle Guardians must see that they cannot do without a workhouse, and I think would be sure to sign it; and if they do not they could be dissolved.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 5, 1848.*

IN regard to the consent of the Tralee Board of Guardians to the expenditure for providing the new workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners

do not wish you to relax in your efforts to get the consent to the expenditure in building an additional workhouse signed; but at the same time the Commissioners intend to proceed in the division of the Union, without reference to the question of whether the consent is signed or not; and you will observe that, according to the 35th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, the Commissioners have full power to provide a workhouse for Dingle Union, when formed, without any consent from the Guardians.

If the workhouse had been commenced before the division of the Union, the expenditure would come under the 36th section, and in that case could not have been made without the consent of the Guardians; but the case is different in regard to expenditure prior to declaring the workhouse fit for the reception of the destitute poor.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 5, 1848.*

THAT the Committee of Guardians at Dingle has discharged its duties in a very careless and slovenly manner, can be attested by the manner in which the business has been allowed to fall into arrear; for, although I brought them together and kept them at work almost continuously since Monday, there is still, I regret to say, a great deal to be done, chiefly in revising the lists, scrutinizing the claims of fresh applicants, and getting the books of the relieving officers into something like order. The cause of this state of things was, in the first instance, the non-attendance of the Committee on the proper days, by which, instead of testing the applicants in person, the very objectionable practice of the names being sent in on slips of paper, where many of them remained from week to week (some dated as far back as December), until my arrival here.

In the revision of the lists, which is not yet finished, several hundred were struck off, while others, whose names were before the Committee for whole weeks, were added, so that no real lessening of the expense has been effected. I have intimated to the Committee that, immediately upon the arrears of business being brought up, they are to adopt the practice of the Board, which is to examine each case separately in the committee-room, referring them in the first instance to the relieving officers, who will submit the names with such information as he may be able to collect in each case. In conclusion, I must do some of the Guardians and rate-payers the justice to say, now that they have the assistance and encouragement of an Inspector, that they seem inclined to put their shoulders to the wheel, and to do their work. I had an interview with the agent to the Ventry trust property this day, who gave me to understand that he will give every facility towards putting us in possession of the site referred to in my letter of the 3rd instant; and I shall be glad to be informed if you wish me to mark it off on the map received from Captain Hotham, and transmit to Dublin.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 9, 1848.*

IN regard to the site of the proposed workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners will be glad to receive any information or suggestions from you on the subject, which they will refer to their architect for his report. The Commissioners presume that the map you allude to, when requesting to be informed if you shall mark off the site recommended by you, and then transmit to the Commissioners, is the sheet of the Ordnance Survey, which was forwarded to Captain Hotham with a view to certain inquiries in regard to the commons at Dingle. If such is the case, you will probably require the map for that purpose.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 11, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, addressed to Captain Hotham, at Tralee, and accompanied by an ordnance sheet (herewith returned), and directing that the same be compared with the unenclosed portions of "Ballenaboulha" and "Dingle Commons," I beg to inform you, that having made minute inquiries of some of the oldest and most intelligent of the inhabitants of Dingle, who having heard that the property in question was in a short time to be vested in the Dingle Guardians, and by which they hope the burden

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of taxation will be lightened, are nothing loth to do all in their power to enhance and add thereto, even although it should affect their relatives and friends; but which they were unwilling to do at the inquiry held in 1833, referred to in your communication above alluded to. It appears from those sources that "Ballenaboulha" never was a distinct commonage, but the tenantry of the townland so designated, and lying about west of Dingle Commons, having enclosed part of the Dingle Commons, it acquired the name which it bears upon the map, and now yields a certain rent to Lord Ventry; so that not only that part which lies to the west and north-west, and upon which I have placed asterisks, was part and parcel of Dingle Commons, but also farms called Cul-lenagh and Ballenahassig lying to the east, and part of Farrenflaherty at the base of the mountain to the south, all of which have now their several landlords and tenants.

I understand that, with the exception of Killehelane, the greater part of these lands were enclosed upwards of 30 years ago, and part of the latter within the last five years. It is not perhaps necessary farther to pursue these details, as there is so soon a likelihood of its becoming more immediately the duty of the Dingle Board of Guardians to make itself thoroughly acquainted with them, and therefore I will only observe that the unenclosed parts of Dingle and Milltown Commons correspond in every particular with those laid down in the ordnance sheet, with the exception of five or six acres enclosed about five years back, and added to Killehelan.

I now beg respectfully to draw your attention to the three sites I have marked off on the sheet for the proposed new workhouse, and although it should properly form the subject of another letter, I feel that I cannot have a more fitting opportunity of offering a few remarks on each separately; and first, with respect to the site on the Commons, I will be brief in dismissing that, by stating that it is altogether unsuited as a site for any house; as, independently of its exposed situation, want of water, &c., part of the road leading to it is so steep (one foot in four), the carriage of material would be altogether impracticable. The second site marked, and situate on the east skirt of Farrenflaherty, presents many advantages; and but for the distance from the Commons, which of course will hereafter be made available, and the want of water for generally two, and sometimes three months in the year, would render it equally eligible with the third site marked in the centre of a plot of ground on the west skirt of Farrenflaherty, and containing about 12 statute acres, having an abundant supply of good water nearly all the year round, and which I propose should be conveyed into the workhouse yard by means of a covered or open sewer. I have drawn a line through the sketch, to show the direction of the present water-course, which discharges itself into the road, and supplies a great portion of the upper part of the main street of the town. The ground possesses also the advantage of being contiguous to some of the best part of the Commons, which, by picking off the surface stones, and spade labour, might be made available to a considerable extent. It is part of the Ventry trust property, and the agent told me we could have it at a very moderate rate, something under 2*l.* the plantation acre; the present tenants pay 5*l.*, one of whom, who holds the centre field, being willing to give immediate possession. Slates of a very good description can be had from Valencia. Stones and sand within one and a half miles, but no lime nearer than Tralee, a distance of nearly 30 English miles. I need hardly say, therefore, that on the foregoing grounds, it is the most eligible within a reasonable distance of the town.

And now, with respect to fitting up a temporary workhouse in Dingle, I have, as I have already reported, hired an excellent house and large store attached, at 100*l.* per annum; but as it will not contain more than 300 paupers, it follows that a second, and even a third must be hired. The others that are suited in other respects require extensive repairs, and as the Tralee Board are to provide the funds, I purpose bringing it under their consideration whether it would not be advisable (if the law would permit such a course), to fit up only one house at Dingle, and to retain part of the paupers at Tralee; the expense for rent, proportion of staff, &c., to be paid by the Dingle Board until the new work was fit for their reception. If such an arrangement can be entered into between both Boards it would be the means of saving a considerable sum of money in fitting up houses which may not be occupied two years. I have to apologise for having trespassed so much upon your valuable time.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 19, 1848.*

Tralee Union.

As regards the corporate property at Dingle, I am to state that this property now vested on trust in the Guardians of Tralee Union, under 3 and 4 Vict., c. 108, will devolve to the Guardians of the new Union when appointed, and have to be considered perhaps in any adjustment under the 16th section of 1 and 2 Vict., c. 56, although hitherto allowed to be unproductive of income. As, however, there is no portion of it available for a workhouse site owing to the formation of the surface, the question of the occupation and profitable use of the land may be deferred until the new Union shall have been declared. It will then be for consideration how far the Board of Guardians should interfere with the enclosures made of portions of the Commons, more especially the encroachment made within the last five years referred to by you, the property having devolved by law to the Board of Guardians on the 25th October, 1841.

With reference to the site for the new workhouse, I am to state that the architect has been directed to inspect the sites and report thereon, until after which the Commissioners will not decide on the site to be taken.

As regards your suggestion that part of the Dingle paupers be received for a time into Tralee workhouse, a proportion of the establishment expenses being paid by the Dingle Board, I am to state that when the Union is divided the paupers of Dingle should be maintained in Dingle Union. It is contrary to the Irish Poor Relief Acts for the Guardians of one Union workhouse to maintain their paupers in the workhouse of another Union; at the same time the Tralee Guardians might maintain the paupers adverted to, and in fact they would be bound to relieve them if found destitute in Tralee Union.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 11, 1848.*

So many changes are going on in the occupancy of the lands of this Union, that I must request information connected therewith.

1. Whose duty is it to report a change of occupancy to the Board of Guardians, in order that the right occupier may be entered in the next rate-book?

2. In cases where several small farms are now held by one holder, and virtually become one farm, whose duty is it to report the same?

3. If these several farms which are thus practically consolidated in one, are held under separate leases, can the occupier insist that they are entered still as separate farms; and can the Board, on the other hand, insist that they are entered as one farm?

4. When several small farms are thus consolidated, and arrears are due from one or more, how should those arrears be entered; and can the collector distrain from any part of the consolidated farm for such arrears, or must he confine himself toward such part of the farm on which such arrears may have been due?

5. It has been said that collectors should report in the column of observations changes of occupancy; I cannot find it so in their instructions.

6. But if it is the collector, should he report to the Board of Guardians as to the revisor? and should not the revisor certify that it is the case before the next rate-book is altered?

7. In the compendium I do not find instructions for the revisor.

I should be extremely obliged to the Commissioners for any instructions which they may give me on this subject. The whole of our rate-books are in the most unsatisfactory state, and very often the person named as occupier has gone to America, and perpetually, appeals of this kind are coming before me. I feel it, too, most important that the Union should have the advantage of my being here in putting this most complicated business on a proper footing.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 26, 1848.*

With reference to your two first inquiries as to whose duty it is to report to the Board of Guardians a change in the occupancy of farms, or the consolidation of several farms into one, in order that the change may be

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entered in the next rate-book; the Commissioners desire to state that the collectors should record such facts in the column for observations in their collecting books.

In reply to your third inquiry, as to the collection of arrears on farms which have thus been consolidated, I am to state, that being held under leases, they ought to be separately rated, and the distress should be made on the premises for which the rate is due.

The revisor's duty may be stated in general terms, as that of correcting all errors in the existing valuation and particulars connected therewith, which may be brought under his notice.

Sir THOMAS ROSS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 13, 1848.*

IN reference to the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, I beg respectfully to state that several cases of persons seeking to be admitted on the relief lists appeared before the Committee of Guardians, who are still in the possession of small portions of land, but who to qualify themselves for relief made a voluntary surrender of their holdings, which however would not be accepted by the landlords, on the plea that the entire farm (parts of which were the portions so offered to be surrendered) must be given up. I mention this as the cases of most frequent occurrence, but there are others. Our practice has been where clear proof of the offer of surrender has been adduced, and admitted by the landlord or agent, and that the applicant has no means of support, to consider him entitled to relief.

In the absence of employment, private or public, thousands of acres lying waste, and the truly wretched and miserable state of the entire district, the alternatives are relief or starvation; the former in similar cases will be administered until I receive instructions to the contrary, although perhaps not in strict conformity with the law.

Having reported my proceedings in my letter of the 11th instant, I have nothing to add thereto, except that I sat from noon to midnight on Friday revising lists, &c., and that I was engaged corresponding with landlords and agents on Saturday, requesting their co-operation in purging our relief lists.

Without a map of the Union I am like a ship without a chart, and shall feel obliged by one being sent, as also weekly returns.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 19, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 13th instant, relative to the administration of relief in the Dingle district of Tralee Union, and to thank you for the information contained therein.

With reference to the cases of persons who to qualify themselves for relief, made a voluntary surrender of their holdings which would not be accepted from them by their landlords, I am to enclose for your information a copy of a letter which has been written in reply to an inquiry on the subject in another Union.

With reference to your remarks respecting the map of the Union, I am to state that a map of the Union, with the boundaries of the electoral divisions marked on it, will be forwarded to you with as little delay as possible as requested.

ENCLOSURE.

SIR,

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
February 5, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th ult., relative to the refusal of relief to a widow who had offered to surrender all her land to the landlord but who refused to accept it, unless she also surrendered her house on the same land, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that the mere refusal of a landlord to accept a surrender of land does not disqualify a person who has ceased to occupy more than a quarter of an acre of land from receiving relief.

By the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, it is merely the occupation or non-occupation of a quarter of an acre of land which is made a criterion of destitution, provided that an applicant for relief may otherwise be deemed entitled to it.

Hence the Guardians, as far as that clause is concerned, are warranted in relieving anybody who is not in such occupation; and they are not bound to investigate title at all, or to ascertain whether the tenant's interest has been legally determined by surrender or otherwise.

By order of the Commissioners,

*William Foley, Esq., M.D.,
Kilrush.*

A. MOORE, for Secretary.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 24, 1848.*

Tralee and Dingle
Unions.

I WAS prevented from the pressure of business from making my report as to the proceedings of the Board of Guardians on the 22nd instant, on the usual day; and, indeed, the subjects which were discussed have in a great measure been laid in anticipation, before you.

The Board struck rates on the several electoral divisions in proportion to their probable necessities, calculated to October 1st, 1848.

A good deal of discussion arose as to the advisability of striking such heavy rates as the electoral divisions of Dunquin, Ventry, Kilquane, and Dingle required; but it appeared to me that the law left us no alternative: and although in a former communication you informed me that it was probable that you would be able to advance money for those divisions, yet as all advances must be repaid, it still was necessary to strike rates for the full amount.

I, however, informed the Board that I was in communication with you on the subject, and reminded them that the striking of a rate was not legally concluded until the rate-books were signed by the chairman; and that, should Her Majesty's Government be enabled to assist such divisions, it would be still in their power to reverse their decision, and actually strike the rates for the then required amount.

Meantime, allow me to impress upon you, that it is most expedient that we should receive an early answer as to what you may be enabled to do. Uncertainty paralyses all commercial transactions, and I am quite aware that considerable portions of the lands of these electoral divisions remain without occupiers, on account of the uncertainty of the amount of rate which may be required from them.

From the amount of the rates thus resolved upon, you will be enabled to form a very good idea as to the real amount of poverty in each electoral division. I am of opinion that the rates on the Dingle and Kilquane electoral divisions have been aggravated by mismanagement of the relief; but allowing for that, and making allowances for the balances in favour or against each electoral division on the last audit of accounts, I believe that the amounts struck fairly represent the actual destitution.

In reply to a resolution of the Board of Guardians some weeks back, requesting you to reduce the size of the electoral divisions, you stated, amongst other reasons which determined you not to yield to their request, that the amount of taxation was already very uneven, and that decreasing the area of taxation might possibly have a tendency to increase that unevenness. The rates struck seem, however, to indicate that such will not probably be the case. The western divisions are heavily rated, arising, as I have before mentioned, from the population having formerly depended upon potatoes. The eastern divisions are lightly rated, in consequence of their country being unfitted for potato culture, but a rich grazing district. The town of Tralee does not now appear to have more paupers in proportion to its wealth than the country divisions; and, weighing all these circumstances one with the other, I am of opinion that it is most desirable that the memorial of the Board should be assented to, and that the largest electoral divisions in this Union should be divided into two or three districts of taxation.

Your circular has arrived. Under the peculiar circumstances of this Union, I do not think it expedient to recommend that cooked food should be issued in the eastern districts. I am in hopes that every person who can possibly work will be turned off our relief lists early next month; but I was mentioning to Sir Thomas Ross, who came to Tralee to attend the meeting of the Board, that I earnestly wished that it should be carried out to the fullest extent in the western divisions.

At the same time, all these divisions are in debt to the Board of Guardians. The Board know that the Union will be divided, and they will not grant one farthing more money to those divisions than they are compelled by law. The law does not compel cooked food, and I shall not be able to persuade the Board to grant money to fit up the proposed soup kitchens.

The Dingle Union must eventually come to the British Association for assistance, and I earnestly hope that 100% may now be placed at the disposal of Sir Thomas Ross to commence fitting up the necessary apparatus, and then

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I am satisfied that there would be no difficulty in issuing cooked food, which I look upon as the only safeguard for those electoral divisions.

February 24, 1848, P.M.

P.S.—The post has just arrived and brought the order for dividing the Union. The order is so worded that it may be carried into effect immediately.

The Tralee Board of Guardians are not therefore bound to find any funds to relieve destitution outside of their present Union.

The Dingle Union is heavily in debt to the Tralee Union, and I do not think that the Tralee Board will find any more funds for their out-of-door relief.

In the mean time, the Dingle Board is not formed; and the poor, between being discarded by the Tralee Union and receiving no relief in their own Union, must starve.

Allow me to suggest, that the imperative necessity has arisen for the intervention of the British Association. The whole out-of-door relief for the Dingle Union must, for a while, be carried on by Sir Thomas Ross; and I would suggest that 500*l.* be immediately placed in his hands to enable him to meet the exigency, and that the out-of-door relief should be taken up in that Union by him.

Allow me to urge the necessity of an immediate reply.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 1, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have applied to Count Strzelecki to advance out of the fund at his disposal the sum of 1000*l.* for the support of the poor of Dingle Union.

With reference to your recommendation, that the memorial of the Board of Guardians to reduce the size of the electoral divisions should be assented to, I am to state that the question involved in the memorial is one of general policy in reference to all the Unions in Ireland, and is not one on which the Commissioners can act solely with reference to the Tralee Union. It appears to the Commissioners certain that any material reduction in the extent of the areas of taxation must generally increase the inequalities of rating in such areas; and, accordingly, the Commissioners do not intend at present to alter the boundaries of electoral divisions in the Irish Unions.

In the report of Sir Thomas Ross, above adverted to, he mentions, as one of the greatest difficulties likely to be experienced before the arrangements of the new Union are matured, the circumstance that the Visiting Committee of Tralee workhouse have been directed to give every encouragement to the paupers to quit it, and this after the able-bodied shall be turned out; and he requests the Commissioners to direct the Tralee Board of Guardians to retain the infirm paupers until a place is prepared for their reception. In reference to this statement, the Commissioners desire to inform you that the Dingle inmates should, in the opinion of the Commissioners, remain in the Tralee workhouse until premises have been provided at Dingle to receive them; and if the Guardians take any premature step to discharge destitute persons from their workhouse, they will be answerable for any evil consequences that may ensue.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your circular, bearing date 2nd March, 1848, in which you have stated that you deem it desirable to determine or to suspend, on the 18th of March instant, all orders under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men; and in which you require to know whether in my opinion there would be any decided objection to this course in the Union of which I am Inspector.

In reply to which I beg to inform you that I consider such a course extremely desirable, as I trust that the separation of Dingle Union from this Union will give us sufficient workhouse accommodation for all able-bodied who may really require it.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 8, 1848.*

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Unions.

THE separation of the Dingle Union from the Tralee Union, and the ability of the Guardians in both Unions to grant out-of-door relief to all classes for a limited period, enabled the Board of Guardians of the Tralee Union to offer all the inmates of their house, who came from the electoral divisions of the Dingle Union, out-of-door relief for a limited period, to assist them in returning to their homes. The Dingle Board of Guardians being bound to support them on their return to that Union, 300 paupers have taken advantage of this offer, and about 200 are yet desirous of doing so.

The Tralee Board of Guardians carried out this measure in the most considerate manner. No one was compelled to leave the workhouse; some parties who seemed very infirm were dissuaded from going; orphans were not allowed to go, unless under charge of some competent person; and paupers destitute of clothing were clothed—the British Association having given the Board the means.

At the present moment, 200 vacancies remain unfilled; but until out-of-door relief to the able-bodied has ceased some time, it will be out of my power to ascertain whether our workhouse accommodation is even yet sufficient.

In the mean time, so far as this Union is concerned, I must report most favourably on the effects of the recent division.

Instead of the Board of Guardians feeling that, with their utmost exertion, it was impossible for them to carry out an efficient system of relief, they must now feel that it is perfectly practicable. The increase of workhouse accommodation which they have obtained will, I trust, except in seasons of severe distress, be sufficient, with the assistance of the hired buildings, for the wants of the able-bodied. And to give the Commissioners a more practical idea of the advantages they have derived, I may mention that our Board-room is now not only capable of holding the Guardians (which it never was before), but also the relieving officers; so that on Mondays, when applications for relief are received, the Board can have the advantage of their assistance in each individual case.

It will remain a subject of future consideration, whether this Union should not even yet be remodelled. Immediately north and south from the workhouse it extends but $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles; east, 18 miles; and the width of the furthest extremity is double that of the centre.

I have often reported that Committees sitting under the sixth section do not work well; and the hardship, if not cruelty, of compelling paupers to go 18 miles to the workhouse is too apparent; but this is a subject of future consideration.

Having thus by the division of the Union got over our most serious difficulty, my attention will be turned more to the internal affairs of the workhouse than before.

Nothing can be more lax than the whole interior discipline of the workhouse. This has arisen from the master being incompetent, and the Poor Law Commissioners have lately dismissed him. As soon as his successor is appointed the subject will come under my most anxious consideration.

The financial state of the Union with respect to the rates and the collection thereof, is in a very bad and confused state: a special report on this subject will be forwarded by me in a few days; but I trust before summer has advanced to place this Union in a sound state in both the clerk's and the master's departments.

I am the more anxious to do this in order to show the Guardians that this Poor Law is not so formidable after all, but that with energy and honesty it may be carried out at a moderate expense to the rate-payer and a vast advantage to the poor.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 15, 1848.*

Tralee Union.

THE separation of the Dingle Union from the Tralee Union, and the number of paupers which left the Tralee workhouse in consequence, placed 300 vacancies at my disposal in the workhouse; and I therefore determined to see how far the immediate application of that test to the parties at present receiving out-of-door relief would in any degree check the demand which kept increasing constantly upon us.

Tralee Union.

During therefore the preceding week, all applicants for relief, except those mentioned in section 1 of the Act, were offered the workhouse; and as it so happened, that the period for which 2000 persons were granted out-of-door relief had expired, the test was offered to them as well.

I am sorry to say, however, that the workhouse filled immediately, showing how great the destitution is; and returning therefore late from the Board last night, I wrote to you, requesting a continuance of the partial order, under section 2.

With the number of persons whom we can discharge from the workhouse under that order, I hope still to find vacancies for the able-bodied; but in the event of our failing to do so, I beg to request to know from you whether there would be any objection to grant a further renewal or enlargement of the order under section 2, namely, *to deserted wives and their families, widows without families, and unmarried women*, by which means I should be enabled to clear the house generally of single women, and offer it entirely and exclusively to able-bodied men and their families?

The reports which daily reach me of the disinclination of the labourers to work, show the necessity for making the discipline attending the relief as strict as possible; and although I feel that nothing will justify me in allowing any labourer to starve, still I am equally sure that the safety of the country rests mainly now in making the workhouse available by every means for able-bodied men.

The resolutions of the Board of Guardians will show generally what occurred on this Board-day; and with respect to the demand that a 3s. rate should be struck for electoral divisions whose wants did not require so large a sum, in order to provide for the repayment of the advances under the Temporary Relief Act, it appeared to me that there was a considerable disinclination to comply with it.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 18, 1848.*

With reference to that part of your report of the 15th instant, in which you inquire whether there would be any objection to grant a further renewal or enlargement of the order authorizing out-door relief in Tralee Union to certain classes of paupers, not comprised within the first section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they would not object to issue such an order as you mention, if you were of opinion that it would otherwise be necessary to issue an order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men.

Further Letter from the COMMISSIONERS to Captain HOTHAM:—*March 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 15th instant, in which you state with respect to the demand, that a 3s. rate would be struck for electoral divisions of the Tralee Union whose wants did not require so large a sum, in order to provide for the repayment of the advances under the Temporary Relief Act, it appeared to you that there was a considerable disinclination to comply with it.

With reference to this observation the Commissioners desire to acquaint you, that the Guardians would not be required to strike a rate of 3s. in the pound in any electoral division wherein both the ordinary expenditure and the repayment of advances under the Temporary Relief Act could be provided for by a less rate.

By the enclosed circular it will be seen, that such a rate would only be required where the sum requisite for both the ordinary expenditure and the repayment of advances would equal or exceed that amount.

As regards the balances due by the electoral divisions of the Dingle Union, the Tralee Guardians will hold the Guardians of Dingle Union indebted to them to the amount thereof; but as funds will be required for the prospective wants of Tralee Union, irrespective of the balances which are due by the Dingle divisions, the Guardians of the Tralee Union should provide rates accordingly; and in the making of such rates, the principle observed as regards the payment of advances in other Unions, will hold good in the Tralee Union.

ENCLOSURE.

Tralee Union.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
March 9, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, desire to obtain an estimate of the probable expenditure of each electoral division of the Union, down to the close of September next, and they request that you will prepare *with all possible despatch* the required estimate in the accompanying form.

In making the estimate of the number of paupers who will require to be relieved up to the close of September, you will have regard to the average number of persons who will probably be in the workhouse and on the relief lists up to that time, taking into consideration the circumstances and prospects of each division, and availing yourself of the local knowledge of the Guardians more immediately acquainted with the several divisions.

Wherever the present rates may be found inadequate to cover the probable expenditure down to the close of September next, it will be necessary for the Guardians to take timely steps to have new rates prepared, in order to prevent the embarrassments which would result from the want of sufficient rates being in collection.

With reference to the amount of new rate which may be required for ordinary expenditure in electoral divisions, from which a debt is due to Government on account of advances under the Temporary Relief Act, the Commissioners take occasion to observe, that if the amount required for ordinary expenditure equals, or exceeds 2s. 11d. in the pound, no addition will at present be required for repayment of the advances; but, if the amount required for ordinary expenditure is less than 2s. 11d. in the pound, then repayment of the advances should be provided for, to the extent which a rate not exceeding 2s. 11d. in the pound would admit of, it not being required that the rate for both purposes should exceed this amount.

By order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To

The Clerk of each Union.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

IN my report of the 15th instant, I mentioned how immediately on the partial cessation of out-door relief to all classes not included in section 1, the workhouses became filled, and that it would be necessary that an order be issued under section 2, enabling the Guardians to grant out-of-door relief to widows with one child, orphans, and able-bodied men having severe sickness in their families.

I have since given my daily attention to the subject, and I am of opinion, in order to prevent the necessity of giving out-of-door relief to the able-bodied men, further steps must be adopted; and I would suggest that an order be issued enabling the Guardians to grant out-of-door relief to all distressed persons except able-bodied men and their families.

Such an order would include many classes not included in the order before applied for, viz.:—

1. Deserted wives and their families.
2. Widows with no children, or single women.
3. Deserted children or foundlings.
4. Children whose parents are in gaol.

Serious objections to every one of these classes may be urged, more especially to the first; but allowing that, it appears to me preferable to granting out-of-door relief to able-bodied men.

There is another point to which I would call your attention. The population of this Union may be estimated at 56,000, and that of the Tralee electoral division at 23,000, and we find one-half of our paupers come from Tralee.

If an order were issued allowing the Board to grant out-of-door allowances to the families of such able-bodied persons who chose to enter the workhouse, we could immediately make 800 vacancies in the house; and if such order were restricted to applicants whose residence was within three miles of the workhouse, it would enable husband and wife and the families to meet as often as they do now.

To the well-behaved pauper reduced to distress by the circumstances of the times, such an order would be a real blessing, as it would save his wife and family from the degradation of associating in the workhouse with females of the worst character; and by the great number of vacancies it would place at our disposal, would effectually prevent any further necessity for out-of-door relief to the able-bodied themselves.

I cannot too strongly impress upon the Commissioners that reports prevail

Tralee Union.

and increase in prevalence, that able-bodied men are reluctant to work at fair wages; whether they be true or not, they show that it is full time a check should be put to their receiving out-of-door relief; and on every ground of political economy and humanity, it is desirable that no more labourers should offer themselves for hire than can be absorbed at reasonable and fair wages.

Receiving the surplus into the workhouse appears to me to be the only mode to bring this about, and by no method can we obtain so many vacancies as by adopting the plans which I have now recommended.

The granting out-of-door relief to "able-bodied persons having severe sickness in their families," has led to such abuses, that perhaps it would be as well to exclude them from the order. But the remainder of my letter remains good. We want to have the fullest power to grant out-of-door relief to all destitute classes, except able-bodied and their families, for one month, in order to be enabled to apply the workhouse test to the able-bodied; and in the event of that proving insufficient, it will be my duty to urge that power may be granted us to give relief, out of the house, to the families of such able-bodied persons as reside within three miles of the workhouse, for such time as the head of the family may remain within.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 21, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, reporting on the necessity of renewing the order for out-door relief to certain classes of paupers in the Tralee Union; and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have given directions for the preparation of an order authorizing out-door relief, under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, to all classes of destitute persons, except able-bodied men and their families.

The Commissioners will give their consideration to your further suggestion, as to the relief of families of able-bodied men out of the workhouse, the head of the family being an inmate of it.

Captain HOTHAM to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

I HAD not sufficient time after the meeting of the Board of Guardians on the 20th instant, to give you an account of our proceedings during the past week, in the letter which I forwarded to you on that date.

I have already mentioned in my letter of the 15th, that the Board had determined to reduce the list of persons receiving out-of-door relief, in consequence of some vacancies being at their disposal in the workhouse, by reason of the Dingle paupers returning to their proper Union; this reduction has still been continued, and we have now only 8804 persons receiving out-of-door, in place of 10,426. I regret to state, however, that the increased pressure on the workhouse was shown immediately; on the 13th instant about 350 were admitted, on the 20th about 250; the crowd on that day was so great that, fearful of a disturbance, the chairman requested the presence of the military, and vast numbers went away without receiving relief, or without their cases being even heard.

These numbers must not in any degree be taken as a criterion of the destitution prevailing. I think the general health and appearance of the population a far better test; and I am happy to state, that disease does not prevail either in or out of the workhouse to any serious extent; and that even amongst parties anxious to receive admission into the workhouse, although we may meet some very distressing cases occasionally, yet the majority do not appear, as far as their health is concerned, in a worse condition than distressed persons of any other country.

The order authorizing relief under the 2nd section having expired to-day, I was compelled to explain to the relieving officers the necessity of confining themselves to parties specified under the 1st section; at the same time, I am anxiously expecting the order before requested.

It is quite out of my power to state whether it will be necessary to renew the order for out-of-door relief to the able-bodied; our workhouse accommodation is now for 2000, our population 56,000; but as you imagine, the inmates of the

house consist generally of women and children, and I am sorry to state that the crime of refusing to maintain, or deserting wives and families is on the increase; and the prison being full, we have no efficient redress.

Passing on from the subject of out-of-door relief, I come to the general administration of the law, and in all respects I may report a marked improvement.

The great reduction of Guardians, in consequence of the division of the Union, has made the Board much more capable and efficient than it was before.

That the rules of a workhouse in our condition, receiving 350 paupers in one day, and 250 in another, can be kept up as well as under ordinary circumstances, would be unreasonable in me to expect; but the Guardians have appointed a new master, who, although young, seems very desirous of doing his duty, and the general improvement of the workhouse is progressing under him.

The relieving officers are generally much improved in the knowledge of their duties, and the Guardians are enabled to place increased confidence in their reports.

The proceedings of yesterday, as recorded in the minutes, will show you that an alteration was made in the amount of rates struck on each division.

The Board at the meeting of the 14th, remonstrated against the imposition of so large a tax; and they yesterday inquired of me whether I considered it legal for them to strike the 3s. rate, giving orders to collect only half at a time. Although I had heard that this had been done in some Unions, I did not think it warranted by your instructions, and the Board therefore determined on meeting your views so far as raising every rate which was under 1s. 6d. in the pound to 1s. 6d., and striking what may be required to make it a 3s. rate again in May or June.

The rates thus arranged will thus stand,—

Name of Electoral Division.	Amount resolved upon before.	Amount now resolved upon.	Amount resolved for June.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ballincuslane . .	..	1 6	1 6
Brosna. . . .	..	1 6	1 6
Castleisland . .	0 10	1 6	1 6
Ballymacelligot .	1 8	1 8	1 4
Tralee	1 6	1 6	1 6
Castlemain. . .	1 10	1 10	1 2
Kilgarrylander .	1 0	1 6	1 6
Kilgobbin . . .	3 0	3 0	..

In order to make arrangements for a more rapid collection of rates, six collectors were appointed, and two more advertised for, making in all eight collectors to do the duty which one collector did before; and by thus throwing the collection open to competition, the Board has been enabled to reduce the collection from 2s. in the pound to about an average of 7½d.

It will remain for you to decide how far you will sanction this division of the 3s. rate required; at the same time if you do sanction it, I think it would be advisable to warn the Board that you will require the repayment of the advances to the same amount and at the same time as you would have required if they had imposed the 3s. rate; and if these repayments cause embarrassment to themselves, it will arise from their own deed and act.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, reporting on the administration of relief in the Tralee Union, and with regard to your remark that the inmates of the workhouse consist mostly of women and children, I am to inquire what classes these women and children are?

The Commissioners deem it advisable that the workhouse should be reserved almost exclusively for the relief of able-bodied men and their wives. The children should, if possible, be in a separate and distinct ward.

With reference to the arrangement proposed by the Guardians in regard to

Tralee Union.
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the rate required to be made, I am to forward for your information the enclosed copy of a letter which the Commissioners have this day addressed to the Board of Guardians on the subject.

ENCLOSURE.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—*March 25, 1848.*

THE Commissioners observe, by minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Tralee Union of the 21st instant, that the Board have resolved to raise certain proposed rates to 1s. 6d. in the pound, and to limit them to this amount.

In reference thereto, the Commissioners desire to state, that they are not authorized to sanction a less rate than 3s. in the pound in any division in which the sum required for ordinary expenditure, in addition to repaying the sum due on account of advances under the Temporary Relief Act, would equal or exceed that amount. The Commissioners request, therefore, that the Guardians will be so good as to reconsider their resolution of the 21st instant.

The Commissioners desire to add, that if the entire produce of 3s. in the pound should be required for ordinary expenditure, no repayment of the advances will be required from the next rate.

KILRUSH UNION.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain KENNEDY :—*January 29, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed letter of Colonel Vandeleur, which they have received from the Chief Secretary relative to the financial affairs of Kilrush Union; and I am to request that you will be so good as to report specially to the Commissioners on the subject, and return the letter with your report.

ENCLOSURE.

Colonel VANDELEUR to Sir R. ROUTH :—*January 22, 1848.*

I WISH to lay before you the financial state of this Union, and ask your advice as to what course we ought to adopt to save us from bankruptcy.

A rate of 3s. in the pound is now in progress of collection, amounting to 8884*l.*, of which 4948*l.* has been paid into the bank, out of which our debts, expenses, and out-door relief have been paid up to the 15th instant, leaving a balance of about 100*l.* to our credit, and 3936*l.* to be collected to meet all our liabilities to the 1st July, as I conceive it most impolitic to attempt a new rate before next June without risking great opposition to what has been hitherto well paid in this Union, by not harassing the people by frequent rates. I am most anxious to have funds in hand to meet the expenses of our workhouse and hospital, which will amount to 80*l.* per week.

The average expense of 1300 paupers, 1600*l.* to 1st July.

Establishment expenses	£300
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Salaries due 25th March, including relieving officers,	351
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	£2,251
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Deduct value of 40 tons Indian corn, at 9 <i>l.</i>	360
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	1,891 required to 1st July.
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Out-door relief, at 250 <i>l.</i> per week to 12th February,	1,000
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	£2,891
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leaving a balance of 1045*l.* for bad debts, contingencies, and to provide out-door relief for 20 weeks, which will cost at least 5000*l.* It is perfectly clear to me the Union will not be able to meet the demands upon it without the assistance of Government; and, as I have fairly stated our position, you will be the best judge when that aid, if afforded, ought to be given. The destitution is fast increasing, with a great unwillingness to enter the workhouse; and the relieving officers give a frightful account of the mortality in their districts, which it is impossible to meet. Numbers are buried without coffins, no provision having been made to provide decent burials for them on the out-door list, and no vestry rates having been, or could be collected for many years: this, I trust, the Poor Law Commissioners will have remedied shortly for the sake of society.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply :—*January 31, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th instant, enclosing copy of a letter from Colonel Vandeleur on the financial state of this Union, and requesting my report thereon.

I have had frequent conversations with Colonel Vandeleur, as chairman of the Guardians, on this pressing and important subject.

Deputy Assistant Commissary-General Dobree also called upon me about two months ago, and required my opinion on this matter. I then stated to him my belief that the funds accruing from the present collection would not carry the Union beyond the 1st March: I am still of this opinion.

Colonel Vandeleur's statement is in all essentials nearly correct.

He states the workhouse and hospital expenses at 80*l.* per week. With the great increase of sickness, I calculate a corresponding increase of expenditure under this head.

He calculates out-door relief at 250*l.* per week. It at present exceeds 300*l.*, and must be expected to increase, as none of the able-bodied class are yet relieved out of doors.

I think Colonel Vandeleur's is a very fair and moderate statement of our

Kilrush Union.

present state and prospects, and goes to confirm the opinions and statements embodied in my weekly reports.

The rates have been hitherto well paid; the Roman Catholic clergymen, who are rate-payers, generally setting a laudable example, which has influenced the poorer class.

I doubt the possibility of collecting any considerable portion of another rate (or instalment) at present; but I think a larger instalment ought to have been put in process of collection at first: 3s. per pound was manifestly insufficient where there was a population of 85,000, against a valuation of only 59,000*l.*; this error is, however, beyond present remedy.

Colonel Vandeleur does not over-rate the destitution and mortality. The real state of the Union, and the extent of destitution, must be seen to be believed. I endeavour to keep all from desponding—no easy matter.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*February 26, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the statements contained in the accompanying letter of Colonel Vandeleur, relative to the prospects of Kilrush Union, referred to the Commissioners by his Excellency for consideration; and they have the honour to acquaint his Excellency that the rate now in course of collection in Kilrush Union is an instalment of 3s. in the pound, of a rate made in August last, averaging 4s. 11*d.* in the pound.

The amount uncollected of this instalment, 3002*l.*, is not expected to defray the expenditure of the Union beyond the close of the present month; and to meet the demands of the four following months down to the close of June, a further sum of about 4500*l.* or 5000*l.* will be required.

Colonel Vandeleur appears to think it impolitic to levy a further rate before the close of June, and has submitted the financial condition of the Union to Her Majesty's Government, with a view to their forming an opinion as to when Government aid, if afforded, ought to be given.

In reference to the anticipated deficiency of the present rate in course of collection in the Kilrush Union, the Commissioners beg to state, for the information of his Excellency, that they have deemed it right to call upon the Board of Guardians to take immediate steps for putting into collection a further sum of 3s. in the pound, with a view to providing for the support of the destitute poor of the Union.

At the same time, the Commissioners beg to observe that Captain Kennedy, Temporary Inspecting Officer of the Union, has expressed his doubt of the possibility of collecting any considerable portion of another rate at present, although he considers that larger instalments ought to have been put in collection at first.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain KENNEDY:—*February 10, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a report which the Commissioners have received relative to the death of a poor man named Timothy O'Keefe, at Bresla, on the 2nd instant, and on whom a verdict of died from want of food has been returned; and I am to request that you will be so good as to report specially to the Commissioners on this case.

ENCLOSURE.

COUNTY OF CLARE.

Kilrush, February 5, 1848.

ON Wednesday, the 2nd, a poor man named Timothy O'Keefe, 60 years old, died suddenly at Bresla from starvation.

He had no land or means of support than begging since he became unable to work; he had two children, seryants in the neighbourhood: and it appears that he applied to Mr. Lillis, relieving officer of the parish, which he then obtained; but when making the application, he stated he had three in family, including his two children who were at service, and he received an allowance for three persons several times before the fraud was detected. His name was then struck off the books, and since then he received no assistance. An inquest was held.

Copy of Verdict.

"That T. O'Keefe died at Bresla, on 2nd of February, from want of food."

The Inspector-General.

WILLIAM CHANNER, *Sub-Inspector.*

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, relative to the death of Timothy O'Keefe at Bresla, in this Union, together with a copy of the police inspector's report thereon, transmitting a copy of the verdict returned by the coroner's jury.

The facts are as follow: Timothy O'Keefe had two children at service, whom he returned to the relieving officer as dependant upon him, and drew out-door relief for them for a considerable time. When discovered he was struck off the list for fraud. He then claimed admission to the workhouse, where he remained for some time. He subsequently demanded his discharge; left the house at his own request, and adopted his former calling as a strolling beggar and vagabond.

Whether the verdict of the coroner's jury be right or wrong, the administrators of the Poor Law are in no way culpable.

I myself believe the man died from natural causes. There was no *post-mortem* examination, and how the jury arrived at their verdict there is no sufficient evidence to show.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I attended the weekly meeting of the Guardians of this Union on the 9th instant, and beg to refer you to the minutes of the proceedings forwarded by the clerk.

The chairman was, I regret to say, absent; and there was, as usual, a waste of time in the discussion of many matters which might well have been spared.

The Board, after some opposition, adopted my suggestion (*vide* last weekly report) of substituting rye for Indian-meal for in-door as well as out-door relief. This measure will effect a saving of about 7000*l.* per annum on the present expenditure, and correct many evils and abuses which were fast growing out of the exclusive issue and use of Indian-meal.

I have arranged with Captain Mann, R.N., for a supply of rye-meal from the Commissariat stores. I have for some time been issuing rations of rye-bread to the school children, under the direction of the British Relief Association, with the best results.

I brought a relieving officer, Mr. Lillis, under the notice of the Board, and stated my opinion of his incapacity; he should be at once dismissed, and replaced by an efficient man. I also stated my opinion that the district of Mr. Gibson, relieving officer, was too large, and beyond the grasp of any relieving officer. His district consists of Moyarta and Kilballyowen, extending about 20 miles, and with a population of 13,000; but containing a mass of disease and destitution sufficient for a population of five times that amount. There is a concentration of misery and suffering in Moyarta almost beyond the possibility of grappling with, and daily on the increase. Some idea of this may be formed from the fact that upwards of 120 houses have been "tumbled" on one property within a few weeks, containing families to a greater number; many of whom are burrowing behind the ditches, without the means of procuring a shelter. The relieving officer is intelligent and active; but his duties cannot possibly be performed by any one individual. The Board ordered him to avail himself of the assistance of any persons on the out-door list; but I cannot believe that any irresponsible could, or ought to be entrusted with the performance of such duties. Mr. Gibson's salary might be a little reduced were his district divided, and again consolidated when circumstances would admit of it. I consider this arrangement indispensably necessary; and would suggest its being pressed upon the Board.

The number in the house on the 8th instant was 996; of these 142 were in the fever hospital, and about 300 under treatment for other diseases. The mortality in the fever hospital has decreased, being 36 during last week; that in the workhouse 5, making a total of 41 deaths.

The out-door relief list numbers 13,176, at the weekly cost of 347*l.*

I am (at the desire of the Board) making a general scrutiny of the out-door

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lists in every division, assisted by the local Guardians and rate-payers. The latter are beginning to see the necessity of exertion, and evince a lively interest in that which so vitally concerns them.

I attended at Kilmurry and Carrigaholt on Monday and Tuesday for this purpose, and saw the individuals of every family receiving out-door relief, whose state would admit of their attending; a more fearful array I never witnessed, and could not conceive. I feel confident that one-third of this number will be swept away by disease before the summer, in spite of every effort. Their constitutions are irretrievably broken by protracted privation, and the most trifling ailment will bring them to the grave. Many particulars indicative of the general suffering, poverty, and recklessness came under my observation. While scrutinizing the list, assisted by 10 or 12 rate-payers, three persons were being buried without coffins, within 50 yards of where we sat; they were not upon the relief list, or, if so, had not applied to the relieving officer for coffins. A wretched woman (Margaret Cleary), whose husband and child had died of fever, had found it impossible to get any one to assist in their burial (such is the popular dread of this disease), and had dragged them into the haggard, and there buried them herself! Sixteen deaths on the out-door relief list of this division occurred within the week previous to my visit; but of one family on the out-door relief list (that of Simon Griffon), five out of six have died since the 14th December.

There are no resident gentry, and the general condition of the people is lamentable. On one gentleman's estate (an M.P.), adjoining the village there are 51 families upon 48 acres.

The farmers complain loudly of the universal pilfering and theft by widows and their children, of which class there is an immense proportion along the coast. A haggard or garden cannot be left without a night-guard.

There has been a grant long since given for the erection of a National school-house here; but such is the poverty or neglect, that the remaining small portion cannot be obtained, and the building is not even commenced, at a time, too, when hundreds would exchange their labour for food alone.

At Carrigaholt and the division of Moyarta, misery and suffering are no less rife, and death quite as busy.

I scrutinized a list of 575 families here, *and saw each individual*; their lamentable state of filth, ignorance, destitution, and disease, must be seen to be comprehended. It is hopeless for the very few respectable residents to struggle against such an overwhelming mass. *On one estate* alone little short of 200 houses have been "tumbled" within three months, and 120 of this number, I believe, within three weeks! The wretched, houseless, helpless inmates, for the most part an amphibious race of fishermen and farmers, scattering disease, destitution, and dismay, in every direction.

From Kilkee to Loop Head, a distance of 20 miles, there is not a medical man of any kind resident; there is a dispensary at Carrigaholt, at which a medical gentleman from Kilkee attends weekly. I understand the establishment is little more than nominal. In the same district, including a population of 13,000, there is not a single public or national school. These facts are not very creditable to proprietors. Two portions of Moyarta are miserable and pauperized beyond description—Querrin and Moveen. This division would swamp a Union. On the relief list of one townland 12 have died within the week.

The boatmen and fishermen (a numerous class) are essentially destitute, and to be commiserated; they say the fish are gone, and they cannot labour. Their repugnance to enter the workhouse is remarkable. Their nets, value for 1*l.*, are sold at the pawn-office for 5*s.*; nets, lines, and spades may be purchased at these emporiums in any number at a nominal price; and a load of turf will be carted nine miles and sold for as many pence. These facts speak volumes for the wretched condition of this district.

I fear there will be serious default upon the amount of rate uncollected. I am however using every effort, and called upon the Guardians (*vide minutes*) at their last meeting to order a return of the ten highest defaulters in each district, with a view to publication; and also that immediate proceedings be taken against them. I would, however, be misleading the Commissioners if I did not state my belief that no energetic steps will be taken by the Guardians unless under some more powerful stimulus than mine. I would suggest the

Commissioners' noticing and commenting upon the return of defaulters I have already forwarded.

I visit the fever hospital on every opportunity ; the management under a new matron is very much improved, and the mortality decreased. There is enough of fever in the Union to fill three hospitals of the same size.

The general management of the workhouse is but little improved, I forbear reporting till the Guardians come to some decision about a master.

I shall be employed every day during the week in completing the scrutiny of the out-door relief list.

I am giving daily rations to about 3000 school children under the direction of the British Association. I anticipate the best results from this humane and politic measure. As may be supposed, without any staff, and but little assistance, it occupies much of my time. I don't however grudge it in such a cause.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS :—*February 21, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, for the information of the Board of Guardians of Kilrush Union, that they have received a report from their inspector, Captain Kennedy, in which he states that the district of Mr. Gibson, one of the relieving officers, is too large, and beyond the grasp of any relieving officer, and that the duties cannot possibly be performed by any one individual ; and that the Guardians propose that he should avail himself of the services of persons on the out-door relief list.

Captain Kennedy suggests that the district should be divided ; and the Commissioners desire to state that they will give their favourable consideration to any proposition of the Guardians for the division of the district, and the appointment of an additional relieving officer, as they concur with Captain Kennedy that the assistance of irresponsible persons cannot be relied on, and that the persons receiving out-door relief ought not to be entrusted with the duty of assisting to administer it.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain KENNEDY :—*February 21, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant reporting on the proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Kilrush Union at their meeting on the 9th instant ; and the Commissioners have read with the utmost concern your statement of the great distress and suffering in the Union, and they request you to direct your earnest attention to the making such arrangements as will prevent the deaths of the destitute from starvation.

However great the destitution is, it must be grappled with and relieved as far as is permitted by the law.

As regards the case of the relieving officer, Mr. Lillis, the Commissioners request you will report fully on his case, and they will then take into consideration the propriety of removing him.

The Commissioners will address the Guardians as to Mr. Gibson's district.

With regard to your apprehension as to a deficiency in the amount of rate to be collected, I am to state that the Commissioners will address the Guardians on this point.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 18, 1848.*

I CANNOT longer conscientiously refrain from stating my opinion of the inefficiency of the Kilrush Board of Guardians as a body, their last meeting has gone far to confirm it. After four months' experience I have reluctantly come to this conclusion, and I consider it my duty to state it frankly before the affairs of the Union are brought into inextricable difficulty.

I have a high respect for the character and talents of several members of the Board ; and the firmness, foresight, and business habits of the chairman are beyond my praise. In his absence, however, I consider the Board as an administrative body altogether unequal to the successful management of the Union. The private feeling and short-sightedness of some, obstruct and neu-

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tralize the public spirit and sagacity of others. That the business of such a Union can be properly or efficiently transacted at a noisy and ill-regulated meeting of a few hours once a week, is impossible to believe, especially when the limited time thus set apart for public business is generally consumed in irrelevant and unprofitable discussion. The practical business of the meeting is invariably left to be hurried over by two or three Guardians, and often by the chairman alone at a late hour. The excitement of deciding contracts, or electing officers, can alone ensure an attendance.

In not providing sufficient funds the Board has been blameable, and not enforcing the collection of the rates they have been still more culpable. They have no credit with their treasurer, while a large amount of rates is still due by immediate lessors and members of their own body. It is unreasonable to suppose that a body who permit defaulters among themselves can conscientiously or energetically coerce others. I have on several occasions brought this subject under notice of the Guardians, and they have omitted to take any fitting or energetic steps. A resolution never acted upon, and an order never enforced is the only result.

The relieving officers are never sufficiently attended to, and their books frequently slurred over and neglected.

The workhouse is ill-managed and ill-regulated; there is little or no industrial employment or training, and none whatever among the males. The male school has been grievously neglected, and an insufficient supply of clothing and necessaries for all classes; and the last act to remedy these evils is the unanimous election of a master in every way inferior to the one the Commissioners have lately dismissed for incompetency.

A reference to the minutes will show that few *ex-officio* Guardians ever attend, and several of them are rate defaulters. The general management is extravagant as well as inefficient, and many members of the Board are, I believe, impressed with this opinion.

Nothing short of a strong sense of public duty and necessity induces me to make this communication; and having the good fortune to be on the most friendly terms with every individual Guardian, causes me the more pain in doing so.

I believe the true interests of the rate-payers and the rights of the poor to be equally neglected.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*February 21, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state to the Board of Guardians of Kilrush Union, that the Commissioners have received a report from their Inspector, Captain Kennedy, in which he states that the practical business of each day's meeting is invariably left to be hurried over by two or three Guardians, and often by the Chairman alone at a late hour; that the excitement of deciding contracts or electing officers can alone ensure an attendance; that sufficient funds have not been procured by enforcing the collection of the rates; that the Guardians have no credit with their treasurer; that a large amount of rates is due by immediate lessors and by Guardians, *ex-officio* as well as elective; that the relieving officers are not sufficiently attended to; that their books are frequently slurred over and neglected; that the workhouse is ill-managed, there being little or no industrial employment for its inmates; the male school grievously neglected, and an insufficient supply of clothing and necessaries for all classes; and that the general management is extravagant as well as inefficient.

Captain Kennedy expresses his regret at being under the necessity of making this report, and states that nothing but a strong sense of public duty induces him to do so.

The Commissioners request the serious attention of the Board of Guardians to the above statement, and desire to point out the moral as well as the legal responsibility which devolves upon the Guardians; above all things of making due provision for the wants of the poor entrusted to their care, and of taking such steps for the proper administration of the law, by the energetic collection of the rates at the present crisis, which will prevent the affairs of the Union from degenerating into a state of confusion, which will be alike detrimental to the interests of the rate-payers as to those of the destitute poor.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 18, 1848.*

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I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Kilrush Board of Guardians on the 16th instant, and have the honour to refer you to the minutes of their proceedings.

The principal and most attractive part of the business was the election of a master, which being accomplished without a dissentient voice, the body of members dispersed, leaving the wretched paupers unadmitted to a late hour, and the principal business undone.

The person elected to this important office is Mr. Patt Kelly (son of the late master), a mere lad, and, in my opinion (and that of the Chairman of the Board), utterly incompetent for such a charge. His youth alone would, in my opinion, disqualify him. His whole career has been characterized by a succession of squabbles and bickerings with the other officers; and I do not hesitate to state my opinion that the duties of the house cannot possibly be carried on under such a head. The Chairman of the Board and some of the most intelligent members coincide with me in this opinion.

The assistant-master, who is immeasurably his superior, offered himself and did not receive a single vote! I have a high opinion of this officer, and believe his unpopularity arises from his independent character and honesty.

A resolution was proposed highly laudatory of Mr. Patt Kelly's efficiency and regularity, which was withdrawn on my showing that on the week ending 29th January, Mr. Patt Kelly showed by the Admission and Discharge Book that 1105 paupers remained in the house, while a reference to the Pantry Book (kept by the assistant-master) showed the issue of 992 rations only. The latter number was correct; and Mr. Patt Kelly failed to satisfy me or the Chairman how the discrepancy could be accounted for satisfactorily. I also produced the weekly Relief List and Abstract, which was *blank* from the 13th January, 1848, to the 16th February, 1848. It was deemed prudent not to press a resolution in the face of such facts, which I desired the clerk to record along with the resolution if it were passed. This election has long since been settled out of doors, and, in consequence, no competent candidate offered.

Dr. Phelan's report on the condition of the workhouse and hospital was read by the clerk. Among other remarks and suggestions was one he made personally to the Board, viz., that two senior medical men should be temporarily associated with the present workhouse medical officers. An unanimous vote of confidence in the present officers was immediately passed, being the only notice taken of Dr. Phelan's report. I need not remark on the presumption and absurdity of a body of farmers and shopkeepers (for there was no *ex-officio* Guardian present) thus coming to issue with Dr. Phelan on a question of hospital management and professional capacity.

It will be observed that on the 9th instant (*vide minutes*), the Board, on my strong representation, ordered a return of the defaulting rate-payers, in which class several of their own body are included. All save three Guardians absented themselves before these returns were produced, or the question considered. Some of the rate-collectors neglected to obey the order, and no notice was taken of this dereliction of duty. I read out such returns as had come before me—including the names of many Guardians *ex-officio* and elected—and commented in strong terms on the injustice and disgrace of distraining the poor man's cow or last horse, while *members of their own body* and immediate lessors had refused to pay their rates with *impunity*. I desired the clerk to enter the *amount* of each division list of defaulters on the minutes; but it will be observed that the Board made no order on the subject. My belief is, that they *will not* and *dare not* do so. Persons who are defaulters themselves can hardly be expected to coerce others. The rate-collectors see and know this, and act accordingly. I would suggest the strongest measures being adopted; and only wait the Commissioners' instructions to commence them. I ordered one *ex-officio* Guardian to be summoned yesterday before a bench of magistrates, some of whom are defaulters themselves!

An aggravated case of resistance and rescue occurred in Kilrush division on the 16th instant, which is not surprising when Guardians and *ex-officio* Guardians are in default themselves, and that for a 3s. rate only! I have taken steps to make the offenders amenable to law.

An attempt was made to damage the character of the rye-meal issued from the Commissariat store; it however failed.

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I was prepared for this opposition; as buying Indian meal at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. and selling it to the Union for 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. per ton was too profitable a trade to be abandoned without an effort.

The Commissioners' letter refusing to sanction the appointment of Mr. Thomas Daly (schoolmaster), was read to the Board. It was lost sight of amid a mass of irrelevant matter and discussion, and no order relative thereto made or adopted.

I have during the week, at the desire of the Guardians, scrutinized the out-door relief lists of Kilkee, Killard, Kilrush, Knock, Kilmacdoon, and Kilmihil. I received valuable assistance from the rate-payers, who I invited to attend. It was a most laborious business; I was occupied from ten o'clock, A.M., till seven or eight o'clock, P.M., each day.

I, as may be expected, discovered many persons who should never have been admitted to relief, many with means, some with land, and a large number of old people thrown on public relief by children who had ample means to support them. I saw the individuals of every family, and found that many were wrongly described as to age, &c. If the applicants themselves are to be believed, all the adults, male and female, are over 60, and all the children under 14! The lying and deception is marvellous! I anticipate the best results from this scrutiny, in preventing abuse and imposture, which must have existed to a fearful extent under the Relief Act. The number at present receiving out-door relief is, in round numbers, 14,000; under the Relief Act, 45,000! All the relieving officers whose districts I have thus inspected are active and intelligent, with the exception of one, whom I before reported, Mr. Lillis.

The destitution in the inland divisions is by no means of so aggravated or fearful a character as that of the districts by the coast. The description of Moyarta and Kilmurry, in my last report, is applicable to Killard and Kilkee, which are similarly circumstanced. The mortality has been excessive; but is now, I hope, on the decrease. I found several cases where four out of five and five out of six in a family had died in a very short period among those getting out-door relief.

I have no doubt that the excessive mortality is mainly attributable to the use of *bad adulterated, and half-cooked Indian meal*—dysentery being the prevalent malady. I have seen much of this article quite unfit for human food. Captain Mann, in charge of the Commissariat store, I think, will give a like opinion.

A most lamentable and distressing feature in the present state of this Union is the advantage taken of the necessities of the labouring class. The great majority of those who are employed receive nothing but their food for their labour; and the highest current rate where wages is given is 4d. per day.

This shameless and short-sighted policy must *perpetuate* pauperism and bring increased burthens upon the Union. The very persons adopting this culpable practice don't hesitate to clamour for still more relief from the British Association and the Government.

There were in the workhouse on the 16th instant	772
In fever hospital	118
In hired house	70
	960

Of this number there were sick in the workhouse infirmary 251. The number receiving out-door relief was 14,298.

The deaths in the fever hospital in week ending 12th instant were 15—a very great decrease; and, I am happy to say, likely to decrease weekly. There is a marked improvement in the general management, ventilation, and cleanliness of the hospital.

I regret to say that the funds in the treasurer's hands were insufficient to meet the liabilities; and I understand the treasurer (National Bank) will not advance one farthing. If Captain Mann were authorized to give us the necessary quantity of rye-meal on credit from Commissariat store, we might struggle on; if not, the supply for out-door relief *must* stop. I do not believe that the Guardians, in the absence of their Chairman (Mr. Vandeleur), will get credit for 100%. Contractors and dealers whose bills are unpaid know the exact state

of the funds. Norwithstanding these facts and prospects, the Guardians met and separated without even taking the matter into consideration. I cannot think that the funds, character, and lives of the paupers of the Union should be entrusted to such keeping.

It will be observed that the numbers in the workhouse are not increasing; the repugnance to enter it is as strong as ever. I endeavour to remove it by every means and every opportunity, as I am persuaded many are in an advanced stage of starvation before they will apply for admission. All are living in hopes of Public Works or out-door relief—their first and last thought.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 26, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report, dated the 18th instant, relative to the proceedings of the Kilrush Board of Guardians, at their weekly meeting on the 16th instant.

The Commissioners have written to the Board of Guardians, declining to give their sanction to the appointment of Mr. Patt Kelly as master of the workhouse, and requesting the Guardians to proceed to a new appointment.

The Commissioners have the Guardians' resolution on Mr. Phelan's report on the state of the workhouse and fever hospital under consideration, and they have addressed the Guardians on the subject of the collection of the rate, the appointment of a schoolmaster in place of Mr. Daly, and other matters adverted to in your report.

With regard to the supply of rye-meal, I am to state that the Commissioners believe that Captain Mann could not, consistently with the Commissariat arrangements, be authorized to supply the Guardians with rye-meal on credit.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 24, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to refer you to the minutes of the proceedings of the Kilrush Board of Guardians, the weekly meeting of which body I attended yesterday.

Your communication of the 21st instant was read to the Board, and will, I am satisfied, be productive of good results. There was no attempt made by any member to impugn anything I had stated, and many of their body admitted the propriety of the line I had adopted.

The Commissioners' communication, pointing out the necessity of collecting the second instalment of the current rate, and striking a new rate to make it up to 3s. per pound on all divisions where the second instalment did not amount to that sum, was also read, and will, I have no doubt, be complied with. Its consideration was postponed till next Board-day.

I again brought the list of rate defaulters before the Board, and pointed out the loss of character and influence which must result from such supineness; that they could hardly justify themselves from the charge of corruption and favouritism, while they distrained the poor man's horse or cow, and allowed immediate lessors and members of their own body to disobey the law with impunity.

I will insist upon these gentlemen being handed over to a solicitor forthwith. I cannot consider it other than disgraceful that immediate lessors should be in default for a 3s. rate. A very few of the Guardians, I am sorry to say, know or understand anything about the financial condition or prospects of the Union, and nothing but the striking or levying a rate brings the matter home to them.

There was but 50% in the treasurer's hands yesterday, and unpaid bills amounting to nearly 1000%. Captain Mann's bill for rye meal, for out-door relief, amounted to 120%, and he refused any further supply till paid. The Board adjourned till Friday (to-morrow) to see the Treasurer (who was absent), and solicit an advance. This, I have reason to believe, he will not make. The poor on the out-door relief list in most divisions are rationed only till Monday next, and we shall then be without food or money: 10,000 starving creatures will be without a meal, and the consequences cannot fail to be most disastrous. If Captain Mann were authorized to give the necessary credit, I would make

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the Guardians pledge themselves to pay him first from the in-coming rates. I am satisfied the Guardians (in the absence of their chairman) will not be able to obtain any credit. They do not possess the confidence of the public or bankers. This is the cheapest and only mode of assisting the Union I can suggest. I have no confidence in the energy or foresight of the Board of Guardians as a body, should serious difficulties arise.

A reference to the minutes will show that I have obtained the necessary order to complete the clothing, &c., &c., necessary for the establishment; but I can expect little assistance from the newly-elected master, a very boyish lad of 21 years of age.

The Board requested me to apply to the Education Board for a schoolmaster to replace Mr. Thomas Daly, whose appointment the Commissioners have very properly refused to sanction. I endeavoured to procure an increase of salary for this officer, but failed. The state of the workhouse, hospital, &c., was as follows on Saturday:—

Number on in-door relief	1020
(viz.) in workhouse	839
in hired house	78
in temporary hospital (fever)	113
	1020

The numbers on out-door relief vary but little from last week.

I have completed the scrutiny of the out-door relief list in all save two divisions,—Kilfiddaan and Killimer; and I have thus acquired an intimate personal knowledge of the people and localities of the Union. I cannot overrate the importance of the information thus acquired, as enabling me to estimate and provide for the real amount of destitution. I have invited and obtained the assistance of the rate-payers in each division, and thus acquired most valuable and accurate local information. This body seem generally actuated by a very proper spirit, and were highly satisfied on seeing every individual case they were called upon to relieve closely and searchingly scrutinized. I have from the commencement taken the relieving officers under my own especial protection and guidance, and I rejoice to say that I could discover no single case of abuse or relief administered to other than the absolutely and undoubtedly destitute. Had I left the relieving officers without this continuous support and guidance, the Union would have been swamped ere now,—as all who received relief last year (45,000) naturally expected its continuance, and still continue to importune and besiege the relieving officers. In the course of this scrutiny I found many aged parents abandoned by their children who could well support them. All such cases were ordered to the workhouse, that proper measures might be taken. I found widows with but one child, and women deserted by their husbands,—the majority gone to America last year, and intending to send for their families this year; together with a very few single women, with illegitimate children. I ordered all of the latter class, who were under 50 years of age, into the workhouse. The other classes I ordered separate lists to be made of, but considered it inexpedient to meddle with them till we have sufficient workhouse room; doing so would greatly embarrass the Union at present.

The repugnance to enter the workhouse is beyond credence, and I am satisfied that the out-door relief list might be reduced one-third by testing them. It would, however, be neither politic nor humane to adopt this course at present, as those on the list are beyond suspicion destitute, and there is an utter absence of any employment or mode of earning. A very few are employed at all, and the majority of that number for their food only; the current wages (where such are given) being 4d. per day! I have not failed on every occasion to impress upon the rate-payers that they are only increasing their burthens by this short-sighted policy, thereby pauperizing a greater number, and insufficiency of food bringing them under the infirm class (and, consequently, a permanent charge) in their earlier years.

The divisions I have scrutinized during the last week are Kilmihil, Kildysart, Killofin. The destitution and suffering in these divisions (though very great) is by no means of the aggravated and fearful description which characterizes the

coast line. There are more substantial farmers, and an improvement in the tillage, though wretchedly bad at best.

I cannot look forward to any amount of employment calculated to afford any sensible relief. The farmers are generally scratching their land in a miserable penny-wise manner. No green-cropping, draining, or subsoiling, which would afford employment.

When remonstrated with, they complain of want of capital and want of tenure. I am certainly become a convert to the necessity of some more equitable mode in this Union. I have seen too many instances here of the industrious man being made to pay exorbitantly for his own improvements. I could adduce many cruel instances of this.

The destitution and suffering are on the increase, but not so rapidly as I anticipated. The law is, however, administered liberally; all who can legally claim (and some who cannot) out-door relief, receive it, and admission to the workhouse is never refused. My great object is to obviate the necessity for out-door relief to able-bodied, I am so deeply impressed with its ruinous tendency upon such a population as this. The great difficulty and danger here is in relieving a people who are not disposed to help themselves, and the landlord and tenant class set them this culpable example of doing nothing. They all alike seem ignorant of the use of land-labour or capital. Those farmers who have money job in meal, instead of growing it.

There is a marked improvement in the fever hospital,—a decrease on deaths and admissions to a great extent,—12 deaths during the week. I acquired some practical information from Mr. Phelan's visit, which enables me to correct any mismanagement which I may observe on my frequent visits. The mortality out of doors is still of an alarming character. I have no doubt, however, that the substitution of rye for Indian meal in some divisions has tended to check dysentery, one of its principal causes. Fever patients out of doors, owing to the popular terror, are fearfully neglected, which accounts for the excessive mortality. As an instance of this neglect, I may mention the following case, as illustrating that of hundreds:—A young able-bodied man applied to me to desire the relieving officer to afford him relief out of doors, all his family being stricken down in fever. I doubted his story, and went to his cabin. He opened the door, but refused to enter with me. I went in and found his wife and four children lying on a wretched pallet of straw, worn and attenuated skeletons, almost beyond hope of recovery, a few turf, a small quantity of musty (uncooked) Indian meal, and a broken vessel of water, was all this house contained. I asked who attended them?—Her husband. I called the husband, who refused to enter. I went out and questioned him how he attended them? He replied, "Sure I brings thim the turf, the male, and the water to the door every mornin'!" He, nor any one else, had *seen* them for 12 days! Thus these creatures die, or are brought to hospital when all but dead. I dragged this unnatural vagabond into the house in spite of his entreaties and resistance, and sent for the relieving officer to convey them to the hospital.

The relief afforded to the schools by the British Association, now amounting to 3000 daily, is beginning to be sensibly felt. This mode of relief certainly effects the greatest amount of good with the least amount of evil or abuse that has come under my experience.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 26, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report in which you advert to the financial affairs of the Union, and state that money and credit are exhausted, I am to state that the proper mode of meeting the emergency of the present crisis is, to press forward vigorously the collection of the rates, and to make the rate-payers fully understand that the preservation of the destitute poor of the Union from starvation depends on their paying the money due from them to the collectors.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 29, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant. In reference thereto, I beg to state that I have been directed to

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apply to the Board of Education for a new schoolmaster, which I thought it expedient to defer till *after* next Board-day (to-morrow), as I have reason to suppose some opposition will be offered or informality be alleged; should neither occur, I will immediately make the necessary application through you.

I have been able to make a temporary arrangement with Captain Mann for supply of rye meal, or rather have made the Guardians do so.

It requires the utmost caution in dealing with such a body; more than one attempt has been made to remove the responsibility to my shoulders since funds have been wanting.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS.—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians.*

A verbatim Copy of Resolutions adopted unanimously by the Kilrush Board of Guardians, on the 1st March, 1848.—A. E. K.

Resolved,—That we look upon the letter of the Commissioners of the 21st instant as a general censure upon our acts as a body, and that we most emphatically deny the charges therein contained.

First. We beg to dissent from the charge, "that the business of the meeting is invariably left to be hurried over by two or three Guardians, and oftener by the Chairman alone." This allegation we deny; and we aver that the attendance on meeting days has not been thin save when the business was over, and nothing to be done save the signing of the usual documents, when the attendance of more than two Guardians were unnecessary.

Second charge, namely, "that excitement of electing can alone insure an attendance." *Resolved*,—That this charge we unequivocally deny, as several Guardians, with the Chairman, have invariably attended during the most inclement weather in the winter, until after six o'clock at night, admitting paupers and endeavouring to mitigate the destitution so universal in this Union.

Third charge, "that the Guardians have no credit with the treasurer." This charge we deem premature, as we have not required officially any credit from that officer.

Fourth charge we also repudiate, viz., "the books of the relieving officers being slurred over," as our respected Chairman, Colonel Vandeleur, has taken on himself this duty; and in justice to him, who has devoted so much of his valuable time and industry to that department, having given almost his entire time and attention to the scrutiny so essentially necessary to the checking of abuse and correcting the officers' books, that we deem it our duty in his absence to exonerate him from this charge, and pronounce our conviction that this business could not be better performed.

The next charge, "that there is no industrial employment for the inmates;" for the contradiction of this, we only beg to say that 14 acres of land is attached to the house; and from the debility of the paupers entering, we deem that sufficient employment at present.

The next charge is "the want of sufficient clothing." We meet this charge by adverting to the *promise* of Captain Kennedy, of getting a supply of clothing from the British Association when we were about supplying the house; in this he subsequently failed, and to this step may be imputed our present scanty supply.

The last charge, namely, "extravagance in the general management." To meet this charge, we only think it necessary to say, the cost of maintenance per head being 11½d. per week, being considerably under any similar establishment, that charge is fully refuted.

REMARKS of Captain KENNEDY on the accompanying RESOLUTIONS:—
March 4, 1848.

A.—This is the fact and the truth. It is notorious, and can be proved on oath by clerk and members of their own body. I have been frequently present when there were not a sufficient number of Guardians left to sign cheques and house orders; this is frequently done out of doors, and the clerk been obliged to seek out individual members to perform this duty. I have frequently seen relieving officers' books signed by the Chairman after every Guardian has left.

B.—This unequivocal denial is no proof; the truth of my allegation is a

matter of notoriety. On the very day to which my report referred, the Guardians (after electing an inefficient master unanimously) decamped, leaving three to discuss and decide important business arising out of the minutes of the former meeting; and left 100 applicants for admission and relief undecided upon, and unadmitted at half-past six o'clock P.M.; many of them having come a distance of 14 miles, and had been in attendance from 11 o'clock A.M.!

C.—The Commissioners will scarcely require proof of this. It is still the fact, and a most embarrassing one.

D.—The Commissioners are aware of how highly I appreciate Colonel Vandeleur's zealous and efficient services. He has been absent, however, for more than a month, and the resolutionists do not state who has performed those important duties in his absence.

The fact is as I have stated—the relieving officers' books have been slurred over. I have seen the Chairman of the day, a respected denizen of Kilrush, commence the initialing of the whole books of the Union at six o'clock, P.M., without the advice or assistance of a single Guardian. The relieving officers will prove this on oath.

E.—There is no industrial employment whatever in the male department, not even mending clothes, till I set the assistant-master about it a few days since. No trade, no training of any kind; that a few acres of land lately attached, and still almost untouched, can be called such, is ridiculous.

F.—The fact I have alleged is so; Mr. Phelan can confirm it. The explanation is unworthy of a public body, and involves a positive misstatement. I never did, nor could, have made the *promise* herein stated. I certainly applied through the Commissioners for a grant of clothing, and immediately communicated the reply to the Board, three months ago.

G.—That paupers were insufficiently fed at 11½*d.* per week is no refutation of the charge of extravagance in the general management. As a proof of my assertion, I only yesterday brought under notice of the Board that they were paying the baker in the house for his labour and service alone 80*l.*, and some weeks as high as at the rate of 100*l.* per annum. They are now paying 6*d.* per pound for soft sugar, which I purchase for 4*d.*, and might be had in bulk for less.

The tinman's bill for utensils is immense. I could adduce a hundred instances of want of thrift and extravagant management.

It will be observed that no notice whatever is taken of defaulting immediate lessors and Guardians, ex-officio and elective; nor yet the bad management of the house, or neglect of the male school.

I very much regret being forced into this explanation, which the accompanying resolutions render necessary.

I cannot believe that any body of men could conscientiously concur in a string of assertions so easily disproved, and so palpably evasive. Not one, however, had the moral courage to dissent from them.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*March 6, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that they intend by to-morrow's post to issue an order dissolving the Kilrush Board of Guardians, and the order will be accompanied by a letter setting forth the reasons which have induced the Commissioners to take this step.

The Commissioners, however, request that the Guardians will transact business as usual to-morrow, and will give orders for the due relief of the destitute for the ensuing week. It has appeared to the Commissioners that the Kilrush Guardians would probably wish to receive early intimation of the intention of the Commissioners concerning the Board of which the Guardians are members, and the Commissioners take this opportunity of announcing their intentions accordingly.

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*March 7, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the resolutions passed by the Kilrush Board of Guardians on the 1st instant, together with the observations of their Inspector, Captain Kennedy, on those resolutions, and

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on the manner in which the Guardians have transacted the business of the Union.

Captain Kennedy states that he has been frequently present at the Board when there was not a sufficient number of Guardians left to sign cheques and house orders; that this is frequently done out of doors, the clerk being obliged to seek out individual members to perform the duty; and that he has frequently seen relieving officers' books signed by the Chairman after every Guardian had left the room.

He further states that on the 16th ultimo, after the Board had elected unanimously a new master (whose appointment the Commissioners subsequently declined to sanction on account of his incompetency), the Guardians, with the exception of three, left the Board-room, leaving the cases of 100 applicants for admission and relief undecided upon, at half-past six o'clock in the evening, although many of the applicants had come a distance of 14 miles, and had been in attendance from eleven o'clock in the morning.

In connexion with these facts the Commissioners have had the state of the Union finances under their serious consideration. It appears that the Guardians have applied for permission to borrow 1000*l*. on the security of the rates, at the same time their debts cannot amount to less than 1500*l*., and while their weekly expenditure is about 400*l*. a-week, the Guardians during the last two months have not collected on an average more than 276*l*. a-week.

Under these circumstances, looking to the great destitution which exists in Kilrush Union, and to the steady continuous exertions which must be made in order to relieve that destitution adequately, the Commissioners are of opinion (notwithstanding the known efficiency and valuable services of individual Guardians, and especially of the Chairman, when resident in the Union, that the Board of Guardians as a corporate body have failed to discharge their duties duly and effectually according to the intentions of the Irish Poor Relief Act; the Commissioners have therefore decided to dissolve the Kilrush Board of Guardians; they transmit herewith an order for its dissolution accordingly, and they will proceed with as little delay as possible to appoint paid officers to manage the affairs of the Union.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 1, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I attended the weekly meeting of the Kilrush Board of Guardians yesterday; there was not an *ex-officio* Guardian present.

The Guardians did not meet till one o'clock. The day was wasted in profitless discussions, and finally the Board adjourned their meeting till eleven o'clock on Friday, 3rd March (to-morrow).

Mr. Joly, a gentleman owning property in the divisions of Moyarta and Kilballyoan, came before the Board and expressed his desire to provide *two-thirds* of the expense attendant upon the emigration of 150 pauper tenants on his estate. Mr. Joly's practical and reasonable proposition did not procure him a *single supporter*. There was no attempt to refute his reasoning. He showed the Guardians that these persons could not pay rent, were largely in arrear and must become paupers when evicted, that their keep (at the workhouse average) for one year would amount to 700*l*., leaving them still chargeable to the Union, whereas he asked but 250*l*. to send them out of the country.

The rate-collectors were in attendance, and produced lists of defaulters, detailed cases of rescue, and want of buyers where seizures were made, &c. &c., and I fear left the Board-room with very moderate expectations of receiving either support or information from the Guardians.

I explained the necessity of, and pressed that immediate and energetic measures should be adopted. I suggested the steps that should be taken, and those recommended by the Commissioners.

The minutes will show the measures adopted. An attempt was made and a resolution proposed which had for its object, to prevent proceedings being taken in any superior court, for the recovery of sums not exceeding 20*l*. This I resisted as being a cloak for almost all the immediate lessors in the Union, who are at present in default. This was proposed by Mr. Thomas Gibson, and subsequently withdrawn on my drawing his attention, and that of the Board, to

the Commissioners' letter of the 21st February. I feel bound to state that I have no confidence in the energy or foresight of the Board. They state that the second instalment of the current rate, together with that suggested in the Commissioners' communication, to make up 3s. per pound, *cannot be collected*, and I have no doubt that their own inefficiency will go far toward verifying their predictions. I am, however, on more intimate acquaintance with the resources of the Union, of a far different opinion. I cannot help considering this imprudent, and I believe groundless declaration in the light of being "*one* word for the ratepayers, and *two* for themselves." I believe that there is ample means to meet a 3s. rate, and that it can be readily collected if the ratepayers believe and know that the Guardians will go about it energetically and in earnest, but they have no such belief, nor have I.

The Guardians have applied for permission to borrow 1000*l.* on security of the rates; this is a wretched and puerile expedient when they *already owe* beyond that sum; are getting in about 150*l.* per week with an expenditure of 400*l.*!

I have during the week scrutinized the out-door relief list of Killimer division; I found a good many cases here properly relievable in the workhouse. The relieving officer immediately acted upon my suggestions. The state of the workhouse is as follows:—

In the workhouse	.	.	.	825
In fever hospital	.	.	.	127
In hired house	.	.	.	81
Total				1,038

It will be observed that the workhouse has been steadily filling for some time, and is now full, a sure indication (in this Union) of undoubted and increasing destitution. I propose a scrutiny of the inmates to-morrow, to ascertain what number can be legally relieved out of doors, and will bring the matter under the notice of the Guardians.

The mortality has very much decreased, and the hospital is now very creditably managed. The mortality out of doors, however, is very serious. I attribute it principally to *bad* and insufficient food among a class *above* paupers. I know that a description of Indian meal, hardly fit for human food, is retailed at an immense profit through the Union, and that the retailers have realized very large sums. I have made a suggestion to the Guardians that they should establish retail depôts in their respective neighbourhoods under their own superintendence, and give the people *sound* and *wholesome* food, which they can obtain from the Commissariat store. The poor could thus have sound rye meal for 9½*d.* per stone, where they are now paying 14*d.* and 15*d.* for damaged Indian meal. I despair of this suggestion being adopted, as too many of the Guardians are interested in the present state of things.

Though we have had a liberal grant lately from the British Association, I would earnestly ask for a grant of rye meal for out-door relief purposes. This food cannot be had elsewhere than at the Government store, and Captain Mann cannot issue without cash payment. We will thus, in the present state of our finances, be forced back upon the old Indian meal contractors, who will take advantage of the Union's necessities, charge a ruinous price, and poison the people with unsound food.

I have no doubt of the very beneficial effect of the rye meal in checking dysentery in those divisions where it has been adopted. The beneficial effects of the rye bread rations upon the school children, I cannot overrate. This charity will save the lives of thousands.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

MOST of the points adverted to in your report, are either disposed of by the subsequent dissolution of the Board, or should be brought by you under the consideration of the Vice-Guardians when appointed, which will be at the earliest possible period.

As regards your suggestion for the establishing of retail depôts for the sale of rye meal, the Commissioners deem it right to state that however desirable such depôts may be, the Commissioners do not think that the Guardians in their

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public capacity, could properly act upon your suggestion, and they mention this subject now, lest you should repeat the suggestion to the Vice-Guardians.

In reference to your request for a grant of rye meal for out-door relief purposes, the Commissioners feel it necessary to decline making application for such a grant; and they can only refer you to their letter of the 26th ultimo, in which they state that the proper mode of meeting the emergency of the present crisis, is to press forward vigorously the collection of the rates, and to make the ratepayers fully understand that the preservation of the destitute poor of the Union from starvation, depends on their paying the money due from them to the collectors.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 9, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Kilrush Board of Guardians yesterday, and have the honour to refer you to the minutes of their proceedings.

There was a very full attendance, as the elections for the offices of solicitor and relieving officers were expected to take place.

The sealed order for the dissolution of the Board, together with the Commissioners' letter stating their reasons for adopting this course, were read, and elicited but few remarks; there was indeed little to be said; the reasons assigned by the Commissioners were sufficient, and could not be controverted.

I have no doubt that some resolutions or remonstrance may be adopted out of doors, when they have received the necessary assistance. Should circumstances require it, I can readily adduce many more instances of failure and neglect, to justify the course which the Commissioners have adopted.

I have secured a supply of food for the ensuing week; and I am free from any serious or pressing embarrassment till the Commissioners have time to appoint Vice-Guardians. An immediate loan (of say 2000*l.*) on security of the rates will be necessary to establish credit, and work the Union efficiently. There are numerous and serious difficulties to be overcome and obviated, but with prudent and energetic management, I have no fears for the result. The difficulty of my own position, heretofore, has been very great, and I hope now to see matters take a very different complexion. I know that there is a strong feeling among the more intelligent and respectable ratepayers in favour of Vice-Guardians. They are generally aware that I have effected large savings in the Union expenditure, and they anticipate economical and efficient management under Vice-Guardians.

It will be observed that the resolution in favour of a new rate was rescinded. I thought it needless to oppose this course, which I saw the Board determined to carry. The second instalment of the current rate, however, was ordered to be put in collection *forthwith*, and can be proceeded with while the Vice-Guardians are preparing the new books.

The collectors are doing their duty more energetically, and only want to be stimulated and supported to perform it efficiently.

The house, under Mr. Pat Kelly's mismanagement and his father's (the late master) continued interference, is in a very unsatisfactory state as regards discipline, regularity, and economy. I will, however, have this speedily rectified. The assistant master is quite competent to take charge till the arrival of the Vice-Guardians.

The mortality has decreased nearly one-half, and the infirmary is much better managed. The fever hospital too is very much better regulated, though I regret to say the very efficient matron, Mrs. Smith, is stricken down in fever. I saw her yesterday, and much fear that she is in a precarious way. There have been some very malignant cases admitted this week. Dr. O'Donnel continues to perform the medical duties unassisted, and I think creditably, certainly most zealously.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 13, 1848.*

IN reference to the financial state of the Union, the Commissioners will await the arrival at Kilrush of the new Vice-Guardians.

The Commissioners certainly trust that Kilrush Union will be able to obtain a loan from their treasurer, in order to enable the Guardians to administer relief effectually during the interval before the new rates are collected.

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Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose a letter from the officer in charge of the Commissariat store at Kilrush.

Rye meal has been adopted for out-door relief as well as workhouse consumption, and a supply of this food cannot be had from any other quarter.

If Captain Mann were permitted to give us one fortnight's credit, till the Vice-Guardians raise funds, it would obviate a very serious embarrassment.

ENCLOSURE.

Captain MANN to Captain KENNEDY:—*March 10, 1848.*

I AM fully alive to your position in consequence of the intended dissolution of the Board of Guardians, and also that to refuse for this week the issue of sufficient provisions from the Government dépôt to cover the demands for out-door relief might produce very embarrassing if not serious results; but my instructions are so stringent as to cash payments for all issues, that in order to place the matter on a proper understanding I feel it is quite necessary that you should refer to the Poor Law Commissioners in time to make the necessary arrangements for the issue of provisions that will be required next Wednesday, the 15th instant. At this moment I hold a cheque for 197*l.* from the Guardians, which is promised to be paid on that day; and beside that there will be then a further debt of about, if not over, 200*l.*; and with every wish to assist to the utmost of my power, it is not possible for me to issue further unless arrangements are made between the Poor Law Commissioners and Commissary-General Sir R. Routh, and instructions sent to me to what effect they are; and fully impressed how important and absolutely necessary it is that such should be made, I do request you will apply at once, and in time to have, a reply by next Wednesday's post.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 14, 1848.*

ADVERTING to your letter relative to the supply of rye-meal for the use of the paupers of Kilrush Union, I am to inform you that the Commissioners have applied to Count Strzelecki for an advance of 200*l.* for the purpose.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 10, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant.

In reference to that paragraph relating to the establishment of retail dépôts for the sale of rye meal, I beg to explain that I wished the late Guardians to undertake that measure in their individual and private capacity in their respective localities, as it entailed neither re-issue or outlay.

The poor in several districts, either owing to combination or want of competition, are plundered by the meal jobbers and poisoned with damaged food. To remedy these evils I wished the Guardians to make individual exertions to save many from the workhouse or relief list. There are no resident gentry to protect the poor in a great part of the Union.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the first meeting of the Vice-Guardians for this Union was held yesterday. I had the advantage of Mr. Meagher's assistance, and was occupied in the Board-room from 11 o'clock A.M., till 8 o'clock P.M.

We admitted a considerable number of paupers, among whom were some of the most appalling cases of destitution and suffering it has ever been my lot to witness. The state of most of these wretched creatures is traceable to the numerous evictions which have lately taken place in the Union. When driven from their cabins they betake themselves to the ditches or the shelter of some bank, and there exist like animals till starvation or the inclemency of the weather drives them to the workhouse. There were three cart-loads of these

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creatures, who could not walk, brought for admission yesterday, some in fever, some suffering from dysentery, and all from want of food. They were immediately handed over to the medical officer, and provided with nourishment. I leave no effort untried to mitigate their miseries. I encourage and invite visits and inspection of the workhouse, to demonstrate the utter groundlessness of the prejudice against it.

The late Guardians have left us a very formidable task ; our only serious or pressing embarrassment, however, is want of funds.

The description of food issued for out-door relief (rye meal) can only be procured from the Government store, and Captain Mann is positively ordered not to issue without cash, and has stopped our supplies. The old contractors, even if we had recourse to them, would not give us supplies till their outstanding claims against us are paid. All those receiving out-door relief are only rationed to Monday next. The treasurer is absent, and till his return on Saturday I cannot ascertain whether he will make any temporary advance to enable us to procure the week's supply. Should he decline doing so our position will be most embarrassing.

We had the rate collectors before us yesterday, and have taken and are about to take energetic steps to enforce the immediate payment of the outstanding rate. We cannot for some weeks hope to have sufficient funds to meet our liabilities and current expenditure. I can see no escape from our immediate difficulties except by means of a loan (of say 2000*l.*), and I would beg the Commissioners' sanction to this course to enable us to start fairly.

I propose forwarding a list of immediate lessors who are in default, with the view to obtaining the Commissioners' sanction to proceed against them in the Superior Courts. Some of these gentlemen (being also late *ex officio* Guardians) are setting a most pernicious example.

Though our relief lists are not seriously increased since last week, destitution is certainly on the increase, and I anticipate a very considerable addition after the 25th March, when there will be more wholesale evictions. Whole tracts of country are about being cleared, and the tenants under notice to quit on that day.

I completed the scrutiny of the Union with Kilfiddaan division this week, and regret to say that I found numerous cases of abuse—some having land, some able-bodied, and many long since dead, still on the relief list and relief issued for them—the whole list betraying carelessness and inefficiency. The relieving officer, Mr. M'Namara, is very young, and above his business. I would recommend his immediate removal. The expenditure in his division has been very extravagant, and I have reason to believe he is a mere tool in the hands of irresponsible persons.

The appointment of a medical officer and a second relieving officer for Moyarta district was postponed till next week, having made temporary arrangement for performance of the duties.

The workhouse is within the last week very much improved in cleanliness and discipline. The assistant master, when unobstructed, has shown himself to be quite competent to the management of the house in every department. He is intelligent, systematic, and a good disciplinarian.

The fever hospital is very creditably managed, and the mortality much decreased. The matron, I am happy to say, is recovering. I give my constant attention to this part of the establishment, and make a minute inspection of it two or three times a-week.

There is little or no agricultural progress, and no employment for the labouring class. I have no doubt that a large portion of the Union will remain uncultivated, the land wasted by a succession of corn crops, and the occupiers without means or manure to put in any other.

The Commissioners' instruction relative to the striking of a new rate will be considered by Mr. Meagher and myself to-morrow, and acted upon.

Mr. Meagher thinks it unnecessary to make any report this week.

The number of destitute children (about 4000), rationed by the British Association, is a very great relief to the Union. I regret to say that the masters of schools have in many cases turned this bounty to their own personal profit, exacting weekly payments from the children. I have reported this to the secretary.

The members of the late Board of Guardians have signally failed in getting

up any demonstration. There is a strong popular belief in their inefficiency and mismanagement; and many of their own body see the necessity and propriety of the Commissioners' decision. I have no doubt whatever that many of them were concerned and interested in the various contracts. Notwithstanding the reports I have made upon them as a body, I confidently reckon upon the personal support of the great majority of them.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 20, 1848.*

WITH reference to that part of your report which relates to the financial position of the Union, the Commissioners trust that the Vice-Guardians may be enabled with the sum of 200*l.*, which has been remitted from the funds of the British Association, to provide for the immediate wants of the destitute poor.

The Commissioners observe by the last Minutes that the balance in favour of the Guardians was 167*l.*, and that a sum of 8164*l.* remained to be collected; and the Commissioners trust that by energetic measures on the part of the Vice-Guardians a sufficient amount may be collected weekly to meet the current expenditure. The Commissioners, however, will readily sanction a loan from the treasurer, as proposed; and they will endeavour to obtain authority to guarantee the payment of interest on such loan for a limited period.

With regard to your remarks respecting Mr. M'Namara, one of the relieving officers, I am to state that the Commissioners will be obliged to you if you will report the specific instances of misconduct which have led to the conclusion that the relieving officer is ignorant, and above his business, and otherwise unfit for his office. The Commissioners are unwilling to remove an officer on general grounds only.

With reference to your statement that the masters of the national schools turn the bounty of the British Association to their own profit, I am to state that the Commissioners presume that you have communicated on this subject with Count Strzelecki.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 19, 1848.*

I PROCURED the adoption of rye meal for out-door relief purposes in this Union, a considerable time ago. It has effected a saving of about 8000*l.* per annum on the present expenditure. It is popular with all save meal dealers, and has had the effect of checking dysentery to a great extent. I would approve of and recommend its being issued in *bread*, had we any able-bodied receiving out-door relief.

I issued 22,000 lbs. of this bread to school-children last week. When well made, it is a very palatable, strong, and wholesome food. The weekly ration of 7 lbs. costs 4½*d.* I bake and issue 22,000 rations weekly, with only one paid assistant at 20*s.* per week.

I give 1 lb. of bread to all children between five and fourteen years. I found that attempting to classify them induced lying, imposture, and abuse.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

THE receipt of the grant of 200*l.* did assist in relieving us from a very serious embarrassment: our weekly expenditure was, however, double that sum. The 167*l.* appearing to our credit was merely nominal, as Captain Mann held a cheque for 280*l.* We shall have a sufficient supply of Indian corn (a grant received by the Union some time ago) to meet the next week's expenditure for out-door relief.

The treasurer will not entertain the question of a loan till the Commissioners' sanction is first had. As he must transmit it to his directors in London, I would beg for this sanction as soon as possible.

With reference to that part of your letter relating to my report of Mr. M'Namara, relieving officer, I beg to state the following instances of neglect, if nothing more:—Norry Carney, No. 17 in his Application and Report Book, I

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found described as a widow with children dependent upon her. I subsequently found that she was a loose woman with illegitimate children. She was entered twice in his books, and received relief in both cases amounting to 4s. a-week for eleven weeks, though never sanctioned by or initialed by chairman or anybody else. A reference to the minutes of yesterday's sitting will show that I ordered the amount to be charged against him.

There are four or five cases of relief being continued to deceased persons which I discovered on a scrutiny, and all attended like the first mentioned, with more or less suspicion. These cases I have noted as the following numbers in his book, though two of the numbers have been explained.

No. 83, Margaret M'Mahon, got relief to 14th March, though dead a month before.

No. 85, similar.

No. 159, Jane Pinder, ditto,

No. 168, No. 176, No. 181, ditto.

His general ignorance of the state of his district, and want of personal knowledge of the people getting relief, led me to believe him to be either incapable or careless. I think he is both.

He was giving relief to a number of able-bodied, who were certainly authorized by the chairman's initials, but who should never have been proposed for out-door relief, and whose cases the chairman must have initialed on the relieving officer's representation. I cannot refer to the numbers of these cases without reference to his Application and Report Book.

I think there was fully 15 per cent. of Mr. M'Namara's cases improperly placed on out-door relief: able-bodied, widows with but one child deserted women with able-bodied husbands, aged persons whose children could well support them, &c.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners approve of the proposed loan of 2000*l.* from the treasurer; and on being informed of the period for which it is required, and the rate of interest proposed (which the Commissioners think should not exceed 5 per cent.), the Commissioners will make application for authority to guarantee the payment of interest.

As regards the instances of neglect detailed by you against Mr. M'Namara, one of the relieving officers, I am to state that the Commissioners will call upon him to resign his situation as relieving officer in Kilrush Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain KENNEDY:—*March 23, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of an extract from a constabulary report which has been referred to the Commissioners, reporting the verdict of an inquest held on the body of Mary O'Brien, who died in the Kilrush workhouse, and I am to request that you will be so good as to report on the circumstances of this case.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from Constabulary Report referred to.

County Clare.

Kilrush, March 16, 1848.

Copy of verdict of an inquest held on the body of Mary O'Brien.

That deceased died in the workhouse of Kilrush on the 13th instant, from the effects of cold and starvation.

Inspector General,
&c. &c.

WM. CHANNER, S. I.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply:—*March 26, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, enclosing copy of an extract from constabulary report, and verdict of coroner's jury, touching the death of Mary O'Brien, who died in the Kilrush workhouse on the 13th instant.

I have no doubt that the verdict is in accordance with the circumstances of the case, which are as follows:—Mary O'Brien was a single woman of about 35 years of age, having one illegitimate child; she lived with her sister (also a single woman) in Kilmurry division; they were destitute, and applied for relief about Christmas last; the relieving officer offered them admission to the workhouse, which one sister availed herself of; the deceased, however, refused.

On the 12th instant she was taken ill (and as is customary here) was immediately turned out of her wretched lodging; she remained the whole of that night under shelter (?) of an old graveyard wall. When found by the relieving officer, she was supplied with food, and conveyed to the workhouse—but too late, as she expired in fifteen minutes after being taken in. There is no blame attributable to any officer of the Union.

The inhuman conduct of the poor towards each other, when stricken by fever or dysentery, is incredible; I found a wretched woman lying in the street of Kilmurry village two days since, under circumstances similar to those of Mary O'Brien; no one would admit or even touch her, such is the popular dread of fever; I was obliged to assist the poor woman myself, and had her conveyed to the workhouse, where I fear she will die.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of 21st February, addressed to the late Board of Guardians of this Union, I have the honour to make the following observations:—

The number of changes in this Union, on and after the 25th March, will be so great, that the preparation of books for a new rate till after that period would lead to endless confusion: 6000 notices to quit were served in the Union, and a large portion of these will be enforced; *whole tracts* are being *newly divided* and re-let in larger holdings, so that a revision after the 1st of April will be much facilitated.

The appeals are so numerous that very considerable delay must occur before the books for a new rate can be prepared, and delaying the collection of the second instalment of the rate in process of collection till they were prepared, would leave the Union without funds. I would, therefore, propose urging the collection of the second instalment, while the books for the new rate are being prepared.

The present rate-books are very inaccurate, and have given rise to endless disputes and delays. If the making out fresh ones be delayed till after the 1st of April, it can be properly done.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 27, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners do not object to the preparation of the books until after the 1st April. The Commissioners do not doubt that every effort will be made, pending the preparation of the new books, to collect the outstanding rate as closely as possible, and to have the arrear carried forward into the new books, and the new rate put into collection at the earliest possible period.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 23, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians held their weekly meeting for the transaction of business and admission of paupers yesterday. I was occupied, assisted by Mr. Meagher, from 11 o'clock A.M. till 8 o'clock P.M. The irregularity and want of system which have hitherto prevailed in every branch of the Union and workhouse management, oblige us to proceed with the greatest caution and circumspection.

A considerable portion of our time was taken up in the examination and admission of paupers; many who had been before decided upon came forward in the hope of passing or imposing upon the new Guardians.

Among those who were admitted (to the number of about 90), were some of the worst cases I have seen, especially among the children; the utter carelessness and indifference of the parents are fearful. When worn down by disease and starvation, they are brought to the workhouse to die. I would beg to direct the

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Commissioners' attention to a communication from the medical officer, attached to the minutes, relative to some of these cases.

The state of the house is as follows :—

In workhouse	1067
In auxiliary house	66
In fever hospital	85
Total	<u>1218</u>

To this may be added about 90 admitted yesterday. There are, however, about the latter number in the house, of classes who may be legally relieved out of doors, and who will be discharged on out-door relief during the week. There have been 11 admissions to the fever hospital since the above return, making the present total 96. The general state of the house is much improved in order and cleanliness, though I regret to say that disease is upon the increase, especially dysentery. It is my opinion that a separate tenement or hospital should be established for this class of patients apart from the workhouse premises. Many are brought to the workhouse in the last stage of this malady, and when recovery is altogether hopeless. This disease is making fearful ravages throughout the Union. However incredible it may appear, it is very generally believed by these benighted creatures, that salt herrings are among the best remedies, and one very generally adopted !

I would beg to direct the Commissioners' attention to the medical destitution of some parts of this Union where disease is most rife. From Kilkee to Loophead, there is not a single resident medical man, a distance of 20 miles, and a population of 14,000. There is a nominal dispensary at Carigaholt, where a medical gentleman from Kilkee satisfies his conscience by attending once a week for an hour or two.

In the opposite direction from Kilkee to Miltown Malbay, a distance of 20 miles, with a wretched population of 15,000 or 16,000, there is not a medical man, and only one nominal dispensary at Doonbeg. The medical gentleman in charge of this has given up attending, as he receives no remuneration. The wretched and ignorant creatures in these localities when stricken with fever or dysentery, adopt the popular remedies of glauher salts or salt herrings, and when these have produced their natural results, the victims are brought to swell the mortality of the workhouse.

The number on the out-door relief list is 12,603. I exert myself to the utmost, and avail myself of every source of information to detect fraud or imposition, and keep this list within moderate bounds; any case admitting of a doubt is tested with the workhouse. I fear, however, that we must be prepared for a considerable increase after the 25th March, consequent upon extensive evictions.

Whole districts are being cleared and re-let in larger holdings. These measures, though productive of immediate suffering, will eventually aid the working of the law, and facilitate the collection of rates.

Many of those evicted are deserting their families, some going to America, and some in search of employment. I have every reason to anticipate a very great increase of this class within a short period. If they are all brought into the workhouse, it will soon be converted into one vast nursery; and if relieved out, it would encourage and increase the evil to an unmanageable extent. Relief, I find, was extended to this class last year under the Relief Act; and I find, from personal inquiry, that many expect it this spring.

It will be observed that the collectors are bringing in more money. I ordered them to call for both first and second instalments of the rate in process of collection from all defaulters, before they collected the second instalment from those who have paid the first.

Lists of defaulters are being made out for the purpose of being handed to a solicitor. I have made the striking of a new rate the subject of a separate communication.

I would beg the Commissioners' earnest consideration to the subject of a loan to pay off the liabilities. I cannot see any other escape from our present embarrassment; the Union creditors are most importunate, and many of them are small traders, upon whom it is a great hardship. Want of credit also prevents any

contract being entered into on favourable terms. A vast reformation is necessary in all matters of detail, and workhouse management; and the financial affairs of the Union have been managed in such a loose manner, that I am apprehensive of worse than irregularities coming to light. I have deferred entering much into this matter till Mr. Kelly's arrival. I am desirous that the Vice-Guardians should begin from the beginning. Everything requires strict scrutiny and reorganization. I can give them such assistance and information as will enable them to put the management of the Union on a creditable footing. Industry, honesty, and perseverance, will bring them through all their difficulties, as popular feeling is strong in their favour.

I have given much personal attention to the fever hospital, and I trust the general management has not suffered much from the loss of the matron's services; she is progressing towards recovery.

The general state of the Union is little changed from what I have latterly described it; disease, suffering, and mortality, are not abated. The apathy of all for the sufferings of the poor is indescribable; disease, death, and coffinless burials, are unheeded. I endeavour to mitigate the suffering to the utmost extent the law will permit. The workhouse now creditably managed, is open to all, and urgent cases admitted at any time. I see that the relieving officers do their duty fairly and creditably, but while these masses of ignorant improvident creatures are left to the care of the law alone, they must suffer and die.

Many of the proprietors, both resident and absentee, are deeply responsible and culpable.

Some little activity is observable in agricultural matters, but their efforts are painful to contemplate.

Employment or wages there is none; the heavy rains that have fallen retard everything.

I gave out 24,000 rations to school children last week, with but one assistant at 20s. per week.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 27, 1848.*

WITH reference to your remarks regarding the medical destitution existing in certain parts of the Union, I am to state, that under the peculiar circumstances mentioned by you, the Commissioners will sanction the appointment of a medical officer or medical officers for the Union, under the 5th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act. The Commissioners request that you will be so good as to report as to the precise districts for which such appointment should be made and the salary which should be offered.

As regards your observations on the general state of the Union, I am to state, that it is the wish of the Commissioners that such complete and systematic arrangements for relief should be made over the whole Union, that no person legally entitled to relief should be permitted to perish from starvation.

The machinery of the Poor Law is elastic, and the Vice-Guardians will have it in their power to appoint as many relieving officers, and establish as many relief stations as the exigencies of the Union require. The Commissioners rely on your co-operating with the Guardians to carry out arrangements in conformity with the Commissioners' views on this subject.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 27, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 25th instant, I have the honour to inform you that Doctor Thomas O'Donnell will be formally appointed as medical officer to the workhouse on the next regular meeting of the Vice-Guardians, subject to the Commissioners' approval. His untiring attention and attendance (being seldom out of the workhouse) upon the poor and suffering, has certainly won my sympathy.

With regard to the appointment of a resident apothecary, I expect to secure the services of such an officer at a salary of 30*l.* per annum and officer's rations. The office of assistant master will be abolished, and his apartments are good enough for anybody, much better than those of a subaltern in the army, and could be thus appropriated without expense or inconvenience. I do not think such an appointment would be objectionable where there are Vice-Guardians, under whose constant

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supervision and control such an officer will be. I will bring the matter formally under the Commissioners' notice at the next weekly meeting.

The changes in the dietary and out-door relief will be ordered on next day of meeting.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 28, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Kilrush workhouse contained two above the authorized number on yesterday. This rapid filling is attributable to the numerous evictions on the 25th instant, and demolition of cabins.

To meet the emergency I immediately proceeded with Mr. Meagher, Vice-Guardian, and selected 50 cases for discharge, principally widows with one child dependent, and some elderly widows without any. I anticipate a considerable pressure during the next fortnight. Cabins are being thrown down in all directions, and it is really extraordinary and to me unaccountable, where or how the evicted find shelter.

I would recommend the Vice-Guardians being authorized to relieve the following classes out of doors without delay, as even one day's closing of the workhouse would be most disastrous, viz.:—

1. Widows with one child dependent upon them.
2. Elderly widows without any.
3. Women whose husbands have left the country and deserted them prior to the passing of the Poor Relief Extension Act.
4. Orphans whose friends are willing to shelter them.

I would propose to extend out-door relief to those of class 3 who were at present in the workhouse only.

This application will be formally made by the Vice-Guardians to-morrow, and I would recommend its being complied with without delay, to enable the Vice-Guardians to test the able-bodied.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 31, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have given directions for the preparation of an order authorizing out-door relief to the following classes, not comprised within the 1st section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act:—

1. Widows with one child dependent on them.
2. Widows above 60 years of age who have no children.
3. Women whose husbands deserted them prior to the passing of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.
4. Children whose parents are both dead.

The Commissioners have not limited class 4 to those orphans whose friends are willing to shelter them; but it will be quite competent to the Guardians to determine that all such whose friends are not willing to shelter them shall be received into the workhouse.

With regard to your recommendation to extend out-door relief to those of class 3 only who are at present in the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners have given the subject their fullest consideration; and without referring to the legal difficulties in framing such an order as would enable the Vice-Guardians to act on your suggestion, the Commissioners think that on the whole it would be undesirable to adopt it, inasmuch as it would weaken materially the efficiency of the workhouse test for the future. If a precedent were once made of permitting any class of paupers to receive out-door relief because they had been a certain time in the workhouse, other paupers would feel their reluctance to enter the workhouse diminished, as they would be buoyed up by the hope that after submitting to the restraints of the workhouse for a certain time, out-relief would be extended to them as well as to those whom they succeeded as workhouse inmates.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 30, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I was present at the weekly meeting of the Vice-Guardians yesterday. We were occupied from 11 o'clock A.M. till 7 o'clock P.M. The minutes forwarded by the clerk will show the character and

amount of business transacted. A great portion of the time was consumed in the admission of paupers, which, owing to the clamour, number, and attempted imposture of the applicants, was necessarily tedious. The house being full on last Saturday, it was found necessary to make a selection of some infirm men and women, and widows (elderly) with one child to be discharged on out-door relief, with a view to making room for the average number of admissions on the following Wednesday. This measure was attributed to a change of system consequent upon the administration of Vice-Guardians; and for every pauper so discharged there were 20 applicants yesterday. This fact sufficiently demonstrates the policy and necessity for having sufficient workhouse accommodation, which certainly does not exist in proportion to the population of this Union. Out of 1317 paupers in the workhouse and premises yesterday, 509 were in the infirmary, fever hospital, and auxiliary house, which latter is appropriated for sickly children; thus leaving accommodation for only 821 sound paupers. When children are deducted from the latter number, it is obvious how little workhouse room is really available for testing the able-bodied class. I think the present state and future prospects of this Union require a permanent addition being made to the house, and a permanent female hospital being established. It will require long years to change the habits of the poor, and establish cleanliness and ventilation in their dwellings; and while these are wanting, fever and disease must prevail. The county hospital affords accommodation to forty or fifty patients only, being the only one in the Union, containing a miserable and pauperized population of 82,000.

I have in former reports stated my anticipation of a pressure upon the workhouse about this period, though the season and increased occupation would lead to an opposite opinion. The pressure, however, is coming, and will continue; and this will not surprise the Commissioners when I state my conviction that 1000 cabins have been levelled in this Union within a very few months. The occupants of many of these were induced to give them up on receipt of a small sum of money, and that once spent they must seek the workhouse or perish.

The sealed order which I have applied for authorizing out-door relief to widows with only one child, and children whose parents are dead, will relieve the present pressure on the workhouse, and enable the Vice-Guardians to see their way more clearly. I am desirous that these gentlemen should judge for themselves, and form their opinion, unbiassed by mine.

The state of the workhouse on yesterday previous to the admissions was as follows:—

Number on morning 29th March	1278
Of which were in fever hospital	152
In auxiliary house	73
Infirmary	284
	509
Total in healthy state	769
Total	1278

It will thus appear that the fever hospital is full, and the admissions filled the house. I recommend some further discharges of widows and children pending the Commissioners' authority for relieving them out of doors. A formal closing of the house under any circumstances, would swamp the Union and the Vice-Guardians together. The great danger of giving out-door relief in this Union to any but the impotent classes arises from the wretched wages given. Any number of men can be procured for 5*d.* per day without their food; so that ration on the lowest scale would be in nine cases out of ten worth more than their wages. Six days' wages at 5*d.* would be but 2*s.* 6*d.*, not an equivalent to two and a-half stones of meal, which a small family on out-door relief would be entitled to.

The workhouse is more improved in cleanliness, classification, and general regularity than I could possibly have expected in so short a time. The laxity and indiscipline which have hitherto prevailed render the change the more creditable to the masters. Much however remains to be done; and I fear the house must be registered, owing to the confused state of the books as left by the late master and acting master.

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The fever hospital is very creditably managed, clean, regular, and well ventilated, and the mortality much decreased. The matron is, I am happy to say, convalescent.

The mortality for the week ending Saturday last was 52, viz. :—

In the infirmary	32
Infirm wards	3
Nursery	6
In fever wards	11
	—
	52

While on this subject I beg to draw the Commissioners' attention to a letter from the medical officer, which I enclose. Most of the very bad cases noticed by him are persons who have been on the out door relief lists. Their friends are unwilling to forfeit the rations, and defer bringing them in till they are beyond the assistance of any save the chaplain and undertaker. The chaplain and medical officer are seldom absent from the house. In the absence of any medical charity or hospital accommodation, the workhouse must to a certain extent do the work of an infirmary, and consequently show a high mortality.

You will observe by a reference to the minutes, that Dr. O'Donnell and Mr. Macmerny were appointed respectively as medical officer and master of the workhouse. I have a high opinion of the well-directed zeal, industry, and capacity of both. I was of opinion that no advertisement or notice was necessary, as these officers were only retained in their existing capacity at a higher salary, with increased labour and responsibility. A resident apothecary has been advertised for should the Commissioners sanction the proposed arrangement, which I would strongly recommend. Doing away with a second medical man and second master will effect a serious saving ; and I think the work will be better done than under the late system of divided responsibility.

The rate collectors were instructed to demand both first and second instalment together from all defaulters before they collected the second instalment from those who have already paid the first. I will give the Vice-Guardians every assistance on this head. One collector complained that he could not find purchasers for some stock, &c., which he had under seizure for rates. I suggested a Union officer being instructed to do so.

I recommended inquests being held upon a male and female pauper who were brought to the workhouse in a dying state, and expired immediately after admission on Sunday last. I will not anticipate the decision further than to say that I can attribute no blame to any Union officer in connexion therewith.

Biddy Ellis was admitted with a child aged three years on the 27th instant ; the child was the most fearful spectacle I ever beheld alive, naked, the dirt and filth ground into its skin, a living skeleton, all but starved to death. When the medical officer ordered it some warm milk, the unnatural mother was detected in the act of drinking it, though the wretched child was most eager to get it. On being searched 15s. was found on her person !!

I trust that a very short time will suffice to put the arrangements and administration of the Union on a systematic and satisfactory footing. Hitherto my time has been so completely occupied with urgent necessities as they arose, that I have been unable to perform my duties satisfactorily. My whole energies were required to prevent matters getting worse, without having a spare hour to make any radical reform. With Vice-Guardians, who I am sure will carry out their instructions with zeal and discretion, I shall have time to observe the wants of the Union and assist in supplying them. I find the individuals of the late Board of Guardians ready at all times to afford me information and assistance.

I cannot too strongly express my obligations to the Catholic clergy of this Union. They have given me their cheerful support and assistance when I required them ; and they discriminate between the imperfections of the law and the misdeeds of those who attempt too successfully to pervert it.

The number receiving out-door relief on the 15th instant, was 4456 cases, comprising 13,427 souls, at an expenditure of 255*l.* 5*s.* weekly.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. O'DONNELL to Captain KENNEDY :—*March 29, 1848.*

HAVING in a former report stated the cause of the great mortality which appears from week to week on the record of deaths, I would deem it unnecessary to revert to it again were

it not that the deaths for the week ending the 23th inst. (as I anticipated) amounted to 52. This far exceeds the mortality of any week since I got charge.

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As I mentioned before, our number under medical treatment nearly doubles that of this time twelvemonth, whereas our deaths scarcely exceed the number at that time.

Our house then only contained about 800; it now contains over 1300; 45,000 were then getting out-door relief, and with this the Public Works were going on, when only 13,000 or 14,000 are now getting it. Thus at that time many able-bodied persons were on the relief list and Public Works, whereas now they have no resource but the workhouse; and to avoid this they drag on an existence until they and their families are so reduced by hunger and cold that many of them die on admission or immediately after. Some, through care, exist for a time, but finally sink for want of stamina, &c. To show this, I give an extract from the record of sickness and mortality, relative to last week's deaths, confining myself to a few cases:—

Name.	Age.	Observations.
James Heffernon . . .	45	Died immediately after admission.
Nance Hogan . . .	50	Admitted in a very weak state; lived a little time through care, &c.
Thomas Meade . . .	50	Ditto ditto.
Richard Griffin . . .	50	This man had been in affluent circumstances, and kept from the house until he and his family were so broken down that four of them died within a short time after admission.
John M'Grath . . .	40	Was on out-door relief, but came back, as he said, for a coffin.
Martin M'Mahon . . .	40	Brought to the house in the last stage of dysentery and general anasarca.
Darby M'Carthy . . .	20	Brought in in the last stage of consumption.
John Madden . . .	4	This child's family had a severe dysenteric fever; he only lived a day or two after admission into the infirmary.
Mary Kelly . . .	50	Was only four days in the infirmary
Mary Carrig . . .	40	Ditto.
John Cartney . . .	40	Was five days in the house.
Thady Amos . . .	2	Was four days in the house.
Ellen Morgan . . .	3½	Was only four days in the house.
Mary M'Mahon . . .	55	Was two days in the house.
James Coughlin . . .	70	Died rather suddenly; had been in the house for some time.
Michael Killeen . . .	9	Ditto.
Michael Linnane . . .	60	Died soon after admission.
Michael Keane . . .	60	Died the evening of his admission.
Norry Kanny . . .	—	Died the evening of her admission.

I am happy to say that things look a little better this week (though we had two brought in on Sunday that died immediately after), and though our number in fever, &c., have considerably increased, still if the mortality goes on in a ratio with the last three days, it won't amount to more than half of last week's deaths; still I cannot say that I see any improvement in the class of patients coming in.

As my fever wards are now full (reserving a few beds for the use of the house), I must decline admitting any from the country.

REPLY to the foregoing:—April 4, 1848.

WITH reference to your observations that the great danger of giving out-door relief in Kilrush Union to any but the impotent classes arises from the wretched wages given, the Commissioners desire to observe that should it become necessary to authorize out-door relief to the able-bodied in Kilrush Union, there will be three conditions of such relief, which if strictly observed, will diminish the abuses which in some degree perhaps are inherent in the system—first, observance of the provisions of the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act (commonly called the quarter-acre clause); secondly, the requiring work for 10 hours each day; and thirdly, the giving relief in cooked food only. On the other hand, it is to be borne in mind that one of the main objects of a poor law is the preservation of human life, and the Commissioners rely on your making such arrangements as will prevent the possibility of death from starvation in Kilrush Union.

The Commissioners will be glad to receive from you more full information in regard to the two cases in which you state that you recommended inquests to be held, the parties having been brought to the workhouse in a dying state.

The Commissioners have read with much satisfaction your statement that the Roman Catholic clergy have given you their cheerful support and assistance, and that they discriminate between the imperfections of the law and the misdeeds of those who attempt to pervert it.

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Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 30, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of circular of 28th March, with a letter from Sir R. Routh relative to the manufacture of bread from rye and barley meal, with an admixture of wheaten meal.

I have been baking 24,000 rations weekly for the school children in this Union, and have availed myself of the opportunity, with the assistance of a very clever practical baker, in experimentalising upon the different kinds of meal in various proportions.

After numerous trials, I have come to the conclusion that rye meal or barley meal, without any admixture, make the cheapest, most palatable, and wholesome bread. It is made without any yeast, water being the only addition; flat cakes baked in a common oven. Many persons, particularly children, prefer it to white bread. I can bake 3500 lbs. daily in the common ovens, for which I pay 30s. per month rent.

Several Unions have had sample loaves from my bakery; the only secret is that it requires (rye) double as much kneading as any other flour, and for want of this it frequently fails.

1 lb. of rye meal produces 20 oz. of bread.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, communicating the Commissioners' intention to issue an order authorizing out-door relief to certain classes. This will partially relieve the present pressure upon the workhouse, but will not be sufficient to meet the daily increasing exigencies of the Union. I think the Vice-Guardians should be directed to provide further workhouse accommodation without delay; anything is preferable to relieving able-bodied out of doors, and this must soon be arrived at if additional accommodation is not procured. The numbers of evicted and houseless far exceeds the numbers who will obtain employment at this season. However discouraging it may be, I look for a steady and serious increase of destitution daily. 16 houses were levelled upon one small property in Kilmurry division on Monday last; the inmates of these cabins have crowded the workhouse within two days.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 5, 1848.*

I AM directed to state that the Commissioners, in accordance with your request, will write to the Vice-Guardians respecting the providing additional accommodation. But the Commissioners are desirous that you should yourself bring the subject under their consideration, and should point out to them any buildings which may advantageously be hired by the Vice-Guardians for that purpose.

With regard to the 16 houses which are adverted to in your letter as having been levelled in the Kilmurry electoral division, I am to inform you that the Commissioners are desirous of receiving more detailed information, and in order to ensure greater accuracy in the statements, the Commissioners would suggest that you should ground such information entirely on evidence upon oath.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose two papers, marked A and B, from Mr. Joly, a landed proprietor in this Union, containing a proposal to avail himself of the provisions of the 13th section of the Relief Extension Act. The property from which he proposes to send these people is rated at 400*l.* per annum, and the population amounts to 950 souls.

The Vice-Guardians are inclined to comply with Mr. Joly's proposal, if approved of by the Commissioners, and would beg instructions as to the detail.

Mr. Joly, in consideration of the financial difficulties of the Union, is prepared to advance the whole sum requisite, on receiving security for the repayment of the portion to be defrayed by the Union within reasonable time.

A rate of 7*d.* would defray the cost to the Union.

ENCLOSURES.

Kilrush Union.

A.

To the BOARD of GUARDIANS of the KILRUSH UNION.

GENTLEMEN,

I PROPOSE sending 24 pauper families to Quebec, the head of each family being an occupier of land in Kilrush Union, electoral division of Moyarta or Kilballyowen, rated at a net annual value not exceeding 5*l.*; the whole number of males amount to 149, which, including two children under 14 years of age, or one adult, will make in all 124 passengers, viz., Kilballyowen, 37 passengers; Moyarta, 87 passengers. The passage of each adult, according to the terms of Harvey and Co., Limerick, 3*l.* 10*s.*; total, 434*l.*

Extra provisions, clothing, bedding, &c., about 196

 630

Of this sum of 630*l.*, I will pay two-thirds, 420*l.*; the remaining one-third to be borne by the above electoral division, namely, Moyarta and Kilballyowen, according to the 10th Vic., c. 31, sec. 13.

J. K. JOLY.

P.S. Mr. Harvey's vessel is to sail on the 18th of April; the terms offered by the other Limerick ship, "Demas," are not near so advantageous as those offered by Mr. Harvey.

B.

ESTIMATED EXPENSE of sending 24 pauper families to Quebec, the head of each family being an occupier of land in Kilrush Union, electoral division of Moyarta or Kilballyowen, rated at a net annual value not exceeding 5*l.*; number of males above 14 years of age, 47; ditto, under 12 years of age, 22; females above 14 years of age, 50; under 14 years of age, 28; total, 147 souls, reckoned as 122 adults:—

Passage of each adult, according to the terms of Harvey and Co., Limerick, 5*l.* 10*s.*, total, 671*l.*

Bedding, viz.—

37 quilts, at 1 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> each . . .	£3 7 10
37 pair of blankets, at 7 <i>s.</i> a-pair . . .	12 19 0
37 bed-ticks, at 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> each . . .	2 15 6

 Total . . . 19 2 4

Clothing, about 60*l.*

Total, passage	£671 0 0
Bedding	19 2 4
Clothing	60 0 0

 750 2 4

Two-thirds to be borne by the landlord, and one-third by the Poor Law Guardians, according to 10 Vic., c. 31, sec. 13.

 REPLY to the foregoing:—April 5, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., forwarding communications from Mr. Joly, a landed proprietor in Kilrush Union, in which he proposes to avail himself of the 13th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, by sending to Quebec a number of occupiers on his property, and I am to state that the Commissioners fully approve of the proposal, provided the Vice-Guardians and you are satisfied that all the requirements of the 13th section are observed.

It will be necessary for the emigrants to be approved by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, or such person as he may appoint for that purpose, and with this view a list and description of the proposed emigrants should be sent to this office without delay.

The Commissioners have been in communication with the Colonial Secretary on the subject of emigration, and have been informed that it is desirable that a list should be furnished in every such case to the Commissioners of Colonial Lands and Emigration, showing the sex and age of each intended emigrant, and further, that the Poor Law Inspector should see all such emigrants, and if they are approved of by him, grant a certificate, to be transmitted with the list, to the effect that they appear to be fit and proper persons to emigrate, and that he perceives no reason to doubt that the able-bodied persons comprised in each family ought to be able to provide by their labour for the maintenance of the whole.

The lists referred to, you will be so good as to furnish to this office for transmission to the Commissioners of Colonial Lands and Emigration, to whom will be entrusted by Earl Grey the power of approving, on behalf of the Secretary of State, the selection of Emigrants under the Act 10th Vic., c. 31.

5 M 2

Kilrush Union.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to lay the accompanying statement of the financial state of this Union before you, with a view to the Vice-Guardians being instructed what steps to take.

	£.
The weekly expenditure is about . . .	340
That for 16 weeks to 1st August . . .	5440
Add present liabilities of Union, say . . .	1600
Total . . .	<u>£7040</u>

To meet this, the probable collection of the outstanding rate, amounting to 7477*l.*, will be about 5500*l.*, leaving a probable deficit at the present expenditure of, say 1540*l.*

The present expenditure cannot, I fear, be considered the maximum; June, July, and August, must bring a serious increase of destitution, and I do not think much short of 500*l.* per week will bring the Union over that period.

It is a most difficult matter to calculate the amount of pauperism which may become chargeable to this Union, where the great mass of the population are on the very verge of it. I have not had any experience to enable me to calculate to what extent the summer occupations of "turf cutting" and "fishing" may relieve the Union. There is an immense quantity of turf on land from last year, which will take so much from the usual employment.

The annual exportation of turf from this Union by water amounts to about 30,000*l.*

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 5, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 2nd instant, containing a statement of the financial state of the Kilrush Union, which you forward with a view to the Vice-Guardians being instructed what steps to take.

In reference thereto I am directed to state that the Commissioners do not understand precisely what instructions you require on behalf of the Vice-Guardians.

The statement in your letter does not contain any reference to a new rate, but is confined to the outstanding arrear of the present rate; and the Commissioners can, therefore, only advise that the best estimate that can be formed of the probable wants of the Union be at once made out, and a new rate, founded on such estimate, put in course of preparation.

The Commissioners were led to suppose, by your previous reports, that this was being done. In your report of the 23rd ult. you stated that you proposed to urge the collection of the outstanding rate while the new books were in preparation, and suggested that the preparation of the books should be delayed until after the 1st of April. The Commissioners approved of that course; but they certainly understood that the preparation of the new books was not to be deferred longer than the 1st of April.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 6, 1848.*

I YESTERDAY assisted the Vice-Guardians at their weekly meeting from 11 o'clock A. M. till 7 o'clock P. M., at which hour they refused to admit more paupers, having decided upon and admitted about 200 cases from the most distant parts of the Union. My anticipation of the pressure and increase of destitution about this period are, I regret to say, being sadly realized.

The newly appointed Vice-Guardians were yesterday both astounded and horrified at the mass of helpless, hopeless, and revolting misery which presented itself; about 300 applicants presented themselves, and though the majority were destitute beyond doubt, there were many imposters who came dressed for the occasion, and clamouring for out-door relief; ■ knowledge that the workhouse was full, and certain classes having been discharged on out-door relief during the week induced this pressure to a great extent. The object of this movement was so transparent, that I recommended the Guardians admitting a number of healthy able-bodied paupers beyond their authorized number, well knowing from former

experience that one day's stone-breaking would thin the house; the increase of destitution is, however, so steady, and the number so difficult to calculate upon, that I would recommend the following measures being adopted without delay:—

1st. Separate accommodation being taken, if possible, for the school, which would relieve the house.

2nd. All boys and able-bodied on first admission being put to stone-breaking, and a fair day's work being stringently enforced.

3rd. A sealed order authorizing out-door relief to able bodied.

I recommend this for the following reasons: there will be a greater number of this class destitute ere long, than can possibly be accommodated in-doors, and I think the timely adoption of a strict labour test in each district would check abuse, and confine application to cases of undoubted destitution; the Guardians have been already obliged to afford temporary relief to many out of doors, who do not properly come under the first section of the Act, and every case so relieved, no matter how urgent or undoubtedly destitute, brings 20 applicants.

A timely well organized and well superintended labour test, in and out of doors, is the only hope of stemming the torrent. The destitution in degree and character are, I trust, unknown elsewhere; improvident, ignorant, thriftless parents, scarcely human in habits and intelligence, only present themselves with 9 or 10 skeleton children, when they themselves can no longer support the pangs of hunger, and their wretched offspring are beyond recovery; the state of this Union must be seen to be believed or comprehended. I sometimes feel despair when I see the trifling impression my unceasing efforts can effect in its amelioration, aided as I am by the Commissioners' support and a liberal administration of the law; the fact is, everything is left to the law alone.

There are none to assist, however many there may be to pervert or obstruct it when possible.

Hundreds of instances occur where an acre of land, worth 15s., is let for 3l., and the occupiers, in default of full payment, bound to give 140 days' labour to his lessor during spring and harvest, when the occupier himself requires them most; this would (valuing his labour at 8d. per day) amount to 4l. 13s.

The same system obtains, as to the letting of cabins, 100 or 120 days' labour, during the only period the wretched labourer would earn, is exacted for a cabin, worth perhaps 7s. 6d. a year.

The occupiers, having thus pauperized the labouring class, get their work done for nothing, and complain of rates; I think I could shew that the sum required to keep the paupers in this Union would, if expended in labour, keep the people and pay 20 per cent. Employment or wages there is none.

While hundreds are being turned out houseless and helpless daily on one small property in Killard division, no less than 23 houses, containing probably 100 souls, were tumbled in one day, 27th March. I believe the extent of land occupied with these 23 houses did not exceed 50 acres. The suffering and misery attendant upon these wholesale evictions is indescribable. The farmers and occupiers in the neighbourhood take advantage of these occurrences, get their labour done in exchange for food alone, to the member of the family he employs, till absolute starvation brings the mother and helpless children to the workhouse; this is the history of hundreds.

The number of houseless paupers in this Union is beyond my calculation; those evicted crowd neighbouring cabins' villages, and disease is necessarily generated; on its first appearance the wretched sufferer, and probably the whole family to which he or she belongs, is ruthlessly turned out by the road-side. The popular dread of fever or dysentery seems to excuse any degree of inhumanity, the workhouse and temporary hospital are crowded to the utmost extent they can possibly contain; the crowding of the fever hospital causes me serious anxiety. The relieving officer has directions to send no more in, yet notwithstanding this caution, panic-stricken and unnatural parents frequently send in a donkey load of children in fever a distance of 14 or 15 miles for admission; how to dispose of them I know not. I have requested the medical officer to furnish me with a weekly report, which I enclose, it will in some degree account for the mortality. I saw several admitted yesterday, who I am sure cannot survive many hours.

I have lately communicated with the Commissioners on the financial state and prospect of the Union. I have explained and directed the attention of the Vice-

Kilrush Union.

Guardians to these matters. I hope the next fortnight's collection will be more cheering.

Proceedings have been ordered against many defaulters, and the Vice-Guardians are taking active steps. I give this matter my best attention, though our present position and prospects are sufficiently embarrassing and discouraging. Our numbers and expenditure, it will be observed, are increasing weekly at a season when the case should be reversed.

The whole of the officers of the Union are very much overworked at present, and with a view to relieve the relieving officers who at present attend two days a week (Wednesday and Saturday), I have suggested the weekly Board day being changed to Saturday, and that they be required to attend on that day only, which arrangement will, I think, enable them to perform their duties more efficiently, and save them considerable expense and hardship.

I have assisted the Vice-Guardians almost daily during the week, and will continue to do so while they require any local information which I can give them. They have effected a very great improvement in the general state of the house, but such was the irregularity and indiscipline that much remains to be done.

The fever hospital, under Dr. O'Donnell, is very creditably managed, and the mortality not higher than I should expect from the description of cases.

The relief of the British Association to children is a very great assistance to the Union. The changed and improved appearance of the children receiving their bounty is very remarkable.

There is an increase of 435 on the numbers receiving out-door relief this week, and a still further increase may be anticipated.

The strictest scrutiny is constantly necessary, the shamelessness of all seeking relief would be amusing, if it were not melancholy. My next door neighbour, with a good house, let at a high rent in summer, having a respectable stock of sheep, lambs, pigs, poultry, and other stock, called upon me not many days since, and informed me "the times were bad," that she was a "widow woman, and hoped I would order her relief!"

I need not enter into any detail of the mortality, which the accompanying report of the medical officer satisfactorily shows.

ENCLOSURE.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER referred to.

SIR,

Workhouse, April 5, 1848.

ANNEXED is the medical report for the week ending the 1st instant, and though there appears a decrease of 41 between the number under medical treatment on that day and the week ending the 25th of March, still this is owing to the great number discharged cured from the infirmary and fever wards, as the admission for the last and up to this, of the present week, have been greater than for any previous week for the last month.

Dysentery has not abated, and I regret to say that fever has considerably increased in and out of the house. Its spread in the house is principally owing to the predisposition the inmates have for disease, and the numbers sleeping in each bed (as there is a bad supply of beds at present).

I have endeavoured to guard against the latter as well as I possibly could, by thinning each dormitory, and thus, by expanding the virus (if contagion exists), rendering it as uncontagious as possible; indeed I find some improvement to-day, which is very fortunate, as I have 148 in the fever wards, inclusive of helpers, all making 160—10 over the prescribed number—and to this we must add this day's admissions.

I hope the Guardians will make arrangements for a better supply of beds and straw.

I give an extract from last week's record of sickness and mortality. It is somewhat similar to those already given:—

— Kelly, aged 10—Brought from Carrigaholt in a state of collapse from cold, &c.; he lived some days.

John Liddam, aged 17—Died immediately after admission.

Norry Smith, aged 1½—Died next morning.

M. McGrath, aged 60—Lived three days in hospital.

Michael Sanders, aged 70—This man's son died in two or three minutes after admission, but the father struggled for some weeks, though completely broken down when admitted.

Margaret O'Dea, aged 18—Died soon after admission.

William Jenkins, aged 60—Left the house some time ago, and returned six days before his death quite helpless.

Hannah Cotter, aged 40—Admitted at two o'clock at night; she said that she was without food for some days; she lived two days.

Michael Rowen—Brought in on his father's back; he lived three days, though quite unconscious.

Biddy Brown, aged 30, and Margaret Gormen, aged 1½—Were taken in at two o'clock at night; they died next morning; the former told me that she had not tasted food for some days.

Kilrush Union.

Medical Report for the Week ending April 1, 1848.

Number in infirmary by last report	.	.	.	.	305
Admitted during the week	.	.	.	.	84
					389
Discharged	.	.	.	.	78
Sent to fever wards	.	.	.	.	10
Cured	.	.	.	.	32
					120
Number in infirmary, Saturday, April 1	.	.	.	.	269
Number in fever wards by last report	.	.	.	.	101
Admitted during the week	.	.	.	.	69
					170
Discharged	.	.	.	.	67
Died	.	.	.	.	8
					75
Number in fever wards, Saturday, April 1	.	.	.	.	95
In girls' dysentery wards	.	.	.	.	32
In girls' skin disease ward	.	.	.	.	33
In boys' skin disease ward	.	.	.	.	43
In male old and infirm ward	.	.	.	.	8
In female, ditto ditto	.	.	.	.	6
Total under medical treatment, April 1	.	.	.	.	486
Deaths during the week, 43.					

Captain Kennedy.

I have, &c.,
B. O'DONNELL.

REPLY to the foregoing :—April 10, 1848.

THE Commissioners have read with much concern your statement of the great and increasing destitution in the Union; they rely, however upon your affording every assistance in your power to the Vice-Guardians, who, the Commissioners feel assured, will use every means which the law has placed at their disposal to provide for the due and efficient relief of the destitute poor in the Union, and on this head the Commissioners desire to refer you to their letter of the 27th ultimo, in which they expressed their wish that complete systematic arrangements should be made, and pointed out that the machinery of the Poor Law, being elastic, the Vice-Guardians had ample powers to make such arrangements as the exigencies of the Union might require.

The Commissioners approve of the measures which you recommend to be adopted; they appear to be entirely in accordance with the general views of the Commissioners, and the Commissioners rely upon your co-operating with the Vice-Guardians in having them carried out. The Commissioners had, previously to the receipt of your report, given directions for the preparation of an order authorizing out-door relief, under the 2nd section, and they need scarcely state that they attach much importance to the establishment of an effective system of checking and controlling the relief administered under the authority of this order, especially in a Union where the attempts at imposition and fraud are so general as you describe them to be in Kilrush.

The Commissioners request therefore that you will, in conjunction with the Vice-Guardians, give your special attention to this point. A task of work for 10 hours each day should be rigidly enforced from each able-bodied recipient of relief; the relief should be given exclusively in cooked food; lists of persons receiving relief should be regularly posted; and the most searching examination into the case of each applicant should be made by the relieving officers and Vice-Guardians.

It is possible that some addition to the present staff of relieving officers will be required, in order to enable the Vice-Guardians fully to carry out their views, and that superintendents of labour, and a general overseer of works, will be also required; the Commissioners will readily give their sanction to any such addi-

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tional appointments as the circumstances of the case may render absolutely necessary.

The Commissioners observe, in the medical officer's report as to the sickness and mortality in the workhouse, that he attributes the spread of fever in some degree to the insufficient supply of bedding. The Commissioners trust that you have not failed to bring this matter under the notice of the Vice-Guardians, with a view to immediate steps being taken to supply the deficiency.

The Commissioners deem it right, in conclusion, to advert to your recommendation to the Vice-Guardians to admit a number of healthy able-bodied paupers beyond their authorized number. The Commissioners do not doubt that, in making this recommendation, you were actuated by the best possible motives, and they are satisfied that you were of opinion that no evil results would follow from such additional admissions.

Still, as the number is limited by a sealed order of the Commissioners, and as persons wilfully neglecting or disobeying the orders of the Commissioners are liable to penalties under the 102nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, the Commissioners deem it proper to suggest that you should refrain from recommending any such departure from their order in future.

If you are of opinion that the number fixed by the order may properly be extended, the Commissioners will readily attend to any representation you may make to them on the subject.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain KENNEDY:—April 8, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a constabulary report which the Commissioners have received from the Chief Secretary's office relating to the case of a poor man, named Michael Molony, who was found dead in a ditch in the parish of Kilfiddane, on the 26th instant, and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and especially whether the deceased made any application for relief to the Board of Guardians, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

ENCLOSURE.

Kildysart, March 28, 1848.

ON the 26th instant Michael Molony was found dead in a ditch in the parish of Kilfiddane.

Copy of Verdict of Coroner's Jury.

That deceased came to his death from destitution and exposure to the cold.

I fear many of his family will die from want, if they will not go into the workhouse.

J. BLENNERHASSET, S. I.

*Inspector-General,
&c. &c.*

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 13, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th April, accompanied by a copy of police report relative to the death of Michael Molony, who was found dead in a ditch in the parish of Kilfiddane.

I have made every inquiry, and am satisfied the circumstances of the case are as follows:—

Deceased was a native of Kilfiddane, about 22 years old. Was what is termed here "a delicate man." He was incapacitated for labour, and as such was upon the relief list. Had been so for a considerable time, and was a recipient of outdoor relief up to the time of his death. He was unmarried. Was long known to be subject to "colic," or fits. He was in the habit of gathering sea-weed, a quantity of which was found beside him. He was returning from the strand, across the fields, when it is supposed he was taken ill, lay down and died. No blame is attributable to any Union officer, nor do I believe that his death is attributable to aught but natural causes.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 8, 1848.*

Kilrush Union.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th April.

I have brought the subject of additional workhouse accommodation under the Vice-Guardians' notice; they quite coincide in my views, and I trust we shall succeed in procuring it. The requirements of the Union are more pressing.

Adverting to the 16 houses mentioned in my report of the 2nd instant, as having been levelled in the Kilmurry division, I have the honour to request that the Commissioners would be kind enough to furnish me with the heads upon which they would desire sworn information, as I fear embodying matter which might embarrass them. This evil is one of such magnitude in this Union, that any examination of it should be maturely considered, and searchingly conducted. As to the legality or the contrary of many of these evictions, I cannot speak. I am only conversant with the numbers at present; I found this information necessary to the efficient performance of my duties, not only to know, but anticipate them. The eviction of 500 or 400 souls in one day would be embarrassing to any Union.

I may mention the following facts, which I can have verified upon oath:—

Kilmurry Division.

Sir John Reid's property: 17 or 19 houses "tumbled" on or about 8th March, 1848, all on one day.

Mr. M'Donnell's property: 22 houses since 1st January. Mr. Roughan's property: 8 houses since 1st January, 1848.

14 on Mr. James O'Dwyer's property.

11 on Minor Casey's property.

Killarrel Division.

14 houses tumbled on Minor Stackpoole's property since March, on 69 acres.

24 houses on Mr. Crowe's property, on 28 acres.

I can procure names and numbers, &c. of families, &c., and all particulars which may be required.

I have a list, &c. from Moyarter division; I think exceeding 220 houses.

These evicted are all absolute and hopeless paupers; on the average six to each house! enough to swamp any Union or poor-law machinery, when simultaneously thrown upon it.

I will immediately commence the inquiry when directed. I calculate that 1000 houses have been levelled since November, and expect 500 more before July.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, in which you advert to the evictions which have taken place in the Kilmurry electoral division of Kilrush Union, and request to be furnished with the heads on which the Commissioners desire to be furnished with sworn informations.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they are desirous that all the material facts connected with the evictions should be placed on record, in order that they may be in a position to ascertain whether any burden has been cast on the poor-rates illegally.

The Commissioners do not consider it to be within their province to interfere with the legal exercise of the rights of property; but when, owing to the demolition of houses, the poor-rates of an Union become liable for the support of destitute poor persons, who have no houses to go to, it becomes competent for the Commissioners to satisfy themselves that such additions to the liabilities of the Union are not occasioned by a violation of the law.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 9, 1848.*

In reference to your letter of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I this day proceeded to inspect the emigrants named in the accompanying list, and have appended a certificate.

The Vice-Guardians and myself are quite of accord as to the expediency and policy of this measure; the whole of these persons would be chargeable to the Union before July. Some are tradesmen—carpenters, shoemakers, &c.

5 N

OCCUPIERS of LAND within the UNION of KILRUSH, rated at a Net Annual Value, not exceeding 5*l.*, who are willing to give up to their Landlord their right and title, and the actual possession of their Land, and to emigrate with their families to Canada.

Mayarta.

John Downes	44	John Crofty	40
Margaret, wife	40	Kate, wife	38
Mary, child	14	Patrick, child	17
Patrick „	13	Mary „	15
John „	12	Bridget „	13
Martin Hourigan	44	Honor „	10
Bridget, wife	40	Joe Keating	60
Michael, child	17	Margaret, wife	56
Ellen „	15	Thomas Child	26
Judy „	12	Patrick „	24
Bridget „	11	Martin „	19
Thomas „	9	Edward „	17
James Collins	53	Bridget „	14
Ellen, wife	35	Daniel Magner	30
Margaret, child	21	Michael Cahill	40
Mary „	20	Margaret, wife	38
Thomas „	17	Daniel Collins	40
Nora „	12	Mary, wife	36
Joan „	10	Joan, child	6
Patrick „	8	James „	3
James „	6	John M'Donnell	30
Simon Gorman	60	Bridget, wife	28
Ellen, wife	54	Mary, child	13
Matthew, child	26	Anne „	40
Bridget „	20	Joan „	3
Hannah „	13	Edward, child	4

Kilballyowen.

Ellen M'Mahon, widow	50	Michael Lynch	30
Michael, child	25	Margaret, wife	25
Timothy „	23	Martin, child	3
Mary „	20	Daniel „	2
Thomas „	18	Mary Lister	18
John „	14	Michael Mahony	40
Mary M'Meiny	23	Bridget, wife	30
Catherine Maher	16	Timothy Brother	20
William Connell	30	Michael, child	8
Ellen, wife	30	Mary „	6
Patrick Coady	60	Timothy Naughten	40
Nora, wife	58	Kate, wife	35
John, child	27	Nora, child	17
Thomas „	20	Mary „	14
Felix „	18	Michael „	10
Margaret „	16	Margaret	6
Ellen „	13	Timothy Carty	34
Bridget „	11	Mary, wife	50
John Keating	40	Owen Carty	30
Mary, wife	34	Ellen, Wife	32
Michael, child	6	Michael, child	12
Catherine „	2	Michael M'Mahon	40
Darby Gorman	40	Kate, wife	38
Mary, wife	38	Mary, child	13
Kate, child	15	John „	10
Bridget „	7	Joan „	7
Mary „	2	Michael „	4
Ellen, niece	17	Patrick Kean	26
Edward Magner	50	Patrick Hukey	45
Mary, wife	35	Nora, wife	34
Bridget, child	12	Bridget, child	11
Daniel „	10	Mary „	7
James „	7	Joan „	6
Patrick „	4	124 souls reckoned as 102 adults.	
Nora „	2		

I have this day examined the whole of the within-named persons; they are all of a class, coming under the 13th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act; and the Vice-

Guardians, together with myself, are of opinion that the whole of the requirements of that section of the Act have been complied with, and recommend that sanction should be given for their emigration.

The whole of the adults, without an exception, are unusually healthy and hardy, and the children very promising.

I have spent several years in North America, and I think these emigrants admirably suited for that colony.

A. E. KENNEDY, *Poor Law Inspector.*

Kilrush, April 9, 1848.

There are three carpenters and two shoemakers contained in this list.

A. E. K.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 13, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I attended the weekly meeting of the Vice-Guardians yesterday: a considerable amount of routine business was transacted, and details gone into. The time of the Vice-Guardians is much occupied with the latter, as the irregularity and want of system which has hitherto prevailed in the general management develops itself daily. Nothing else could be expected from the carelessness and inefficiency of some of the late officers, and the want of unity of action of all.

The Vice-Guardians will, no doubt, report these matters in detail. The names of many persons have been found on the register who were not in the house, and many in the house whose names were not on the register. One of the rate-collectors (fortunately an honest and conscientious man) has been acting without any legal security whatever. The Vice-Guardians are industriously rectifying these matters.

I remained at the Board till six o'clock P.M., at which hour above 250 applicants remained to be disposed of, among whom were many of the able-bodied class, far removed from want, trampling down the really destitute and helpless most ruthlessly. The general and utter disregard for the necessities and suffering of each other on these occasions is remarkable, and the opposite of the generally received opinion. The pressure and number of applications for relief are excessive, and will so continue till a well superintended labour test is organized. The Vice-Guardians are fully alive to the pressing necessity of this measure, however the trouble and inconvenience attendant upon it may be. They are taking active steps to organize and complete the machinery, in which they shall have my willing assistance.

Pending this arrangement they have ordered rations to be issued to the destitute able-bodied class daily, every able-bodied member of the family being obliged to attend and answer his name at the food depôt at two o'clock P.M.

There were but 80 vacancies in the house yesterday morning. Many urgent cases were admitted during the week, and a great many of the able-bodied class admitted yesterday week demanded their discharges on being put to break stones. Destitution, I am concerned to say, steadily increases, together with a corresponding increase of disease. The numerous evictions tend to this when (as is frequently the case) 30 or 40 cabins are levelled in a single day. The inmates crowd into neighbouring ones, till disease is generated, and they are then thrown out, without consideration or mercy. The relieving officers thus find them, and send them to the hospital when beyond medical aid. These wholesale evictions are most embarrassing to the Guardians. The wretched and half-witted occupiers are too often deluded by the specious promises of under-agents and bailiffs, and induced to throw down their own cabins for a paltry consideration of a few shillings, and an assurance of out-door relief.

I am compiling a return of the number of evictions in each electoral division since last November, with the extent of holding and amount of yearly rent. I have no doubt that a charge of extravagant expenditure will be preferred against the Vice-Guardians before autumn. Such is the increase of destitution which I anticipate; and thus information will be useful in exculpating them. I have acquired sufficient local knowledge to enable me to make up this return with general accuracy, and I will forward copies of the sheets, if required, as I complete them.

While on this subject I may state my belief that many lessors in this Union do not allow their tenants to deduct the local amount of their rates from the rent,

Kilrush Union.

and some will not allow any deduction, making the occupier pay all. This, of course, makes the poor-rate more unpopular and difficult of collection. It may be asked why the occupier submits to what is illegal? The answer is simply that the great mass are tenants at will, and dare not resist, and on many properties notice to quit is served every six months, to enable the lessor to turn out the occupiers when he pleases. This is a ruinous system and one much complained of.

I have placed my time as much as possible at the disposal of the Vice-Guardians, till they acquire the necessary local knowledge. I have assisted them almost daily during the week, and the progress they have made is sufficient evidence of their industry and judgment. They are busily occupied eight or nine hours a-day, and still much undone. This alone shows the impossibility of even an efficient Board of Guardians managing the affairs of this Union at a weekly sitting. An extensive system of relief and a large expenditure will be required in this Union till an extensive change in the management and ownership of property is effected; and I press upon the Vice-Guardians the necessity of comprehensive measures to remedy the miserable state of things which at present exists. There is little or no employment of any kind, and where it exists it is an exchange of labour for food alone: even tradesmen are starving.

I know a good carpenter employed at house work for 8*d.* per day. On the other hand, the almost incredible cases of want of foresight and thrift are hardly safe to narrate. A gentleman owning property in Moyarta and Kilballyowen is, with the assistance of the Union, sending out a number of pauper tenants from his over-crowded property to North America. I was ordered to inspect them, and found one family of tenants who were on his list, refused to go; two or three of the sons were, according to the father's account, "big and strong enough to pluck a bullock out of a bog." They were all paupers, had given up their land, and were, up to the present time, most anxious to emigrate. I inquired the cause of change, and was gravely told by the father "that he could not go this year, as he had vainly tried to sell an old cow to advantage, and for this reason forfeited a free passage for himself and family worth 50*l.*" I implicitly believe that the alleged reason was the only one, as many members of the family were anxious to go. In the western part of this Union there will be as great a breadth of potatoes planted as at any period during the last seven years, and a failure of the crop will entail most disastrous consequences. Any quantity of potatoes can be purchased in Kilrush market from 7*d.* to 8½*d.* per stone. Sea-weed is to be had in large quantities for the gathering, and is almost universally used for manure. I have had all the rate-collectors before the Vice-Guardians during the week, and made a minute examination of the list of defaulters, giving directions as to the mode of proceeding in every case. The collectors have, no doubt, in very many instances, shown great laxity. The Vice-Guardians have taken the matter in hand, and will, I am sure, enforce the collection energetically. I need not state that the house is full.

On Saturday, 8th April, there were 507 under medical treatment, 143 of which number were in the temporary fever hospital. The mortality for the week was 36. For the week ending Saturday next it will be much higher. I do not, however, attach blame to any but the wretched sufferers themselves, who linger on in their ill-ventilated cabins till they are beyond hope, and they come to the hospital to die. The medical officer uncovered about 20 children in the fever hospital a few days ago to show me the hopeless subjects he had to practice upon. They were merely animated bones; I have seldom seen anything more fearful. The indifference of the parents is beyond describing; no law or administration of it can meet the fearful indifference to human life. The evil is a social one. I visit the hospital almost daily and question the patients. I can answer for food, ventilation, cleanliness, and every comfort. The medical officer is most attentive and untiring. The great mortality is only to be accounted for in the social degradation, puerile fear, and indifference to life among the mass of people. There is a most remarkable preponderance of females over males in the number of fever patients. Our work-house baker, a good and useful man, died yesterday of fever. The Vice-Guardians have continued their sitting to-day to hear and decide upon applicants.

ENCLOSURE.

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Medical Report for the Week ending Saturday April 8, 1848.

Number in infirmary by last report	269
Admitted during the week	47
	316
Discharged	34
Sent to Fever wards.	8
Died	25
	67
Number in the infirmary April 8	249
Number in fever wards by last report	95
Admitted during the week	102
	197
Discharged	47
Died	7
	54
Men	42
Women	80
Boys	7
Girls	14
Total in fever ward April 8	143
In girls' dysentery wards (Daly's house)	28
In girls' skin disease ward ditto	32
In boys' skin disease ward (infirmary)	39
In male old and infirm ward	10
In female ditto ditto	6
Total under medical treatment	507
Total number of deaths during the week	36

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 19, 1848.*

WITH reference to your observations as to the increase of destitution and disease occasioned by the numerous evictions which are taking place, the Commissioners desire to refer you to their letter of the 15th instant, and to state that they await the receipt of your special report on this subject. The Commissioners do not think it necessary to trouble you at present, to forward copies of the sheets of the return of evictions which you are preparing, but they think that the whole return, when completed, may be advantageously annexed to your report on the evictions, and forwarded as an Appendix to it.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 16, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th April, I have the honour to state that the collection of the second instalment of the current rate was not intended to be delayed beyond the time the rate-collectors would be necessarily occupied in taking the measures ordered against defaulters. I assisted the Vice-Guardians, and gave suitable orders in every individual case; and I have no doubt the collectors will carry them out energetically.

With reference to the new rate, the Vice-Guardians request me to say they have deferred communicating with the Commissioners till they can form the most correct estimate. In the mean time, every measure has been taken to expedite the revision, without which nothing can be done. I will have all possible details completed concurrently with the revision.

I will arrange with the Guardians and name a day for the completion of the collection of the second instalment of current rate.

The number of evictions and remodelling of farms and holdings in this Union, since November last, probably exceed that of any Union in Ireland.

Kilrush Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the COLONIAL LANDS and EMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS:—
April 21, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit for your consideration the enclosed correspondence relating to a proposal made by Mr. Joly, a landed proprietor in Kilrush Union, to avail himself of the provision of the 13th section of the Act 10 Vic. cap. 31, by aiding a certain number of orphans on his property to emigrate; and I am to request your early attention to the subject, as you will perceive by the accompanying papers that the vessel in which it is proposed to send the emigrants, will sail from Limerick on the 18th instant.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain KENNEDY:—*April 17, 1848.*

ADVERTING to your communication of the 2nd instant, relative to the proposed emigration of certain occupiers on the estate of Mr. Joly, a landed proprietor in Kilrush Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have communicated on the subject with the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, and I am to forward to you a copy of their approval of the emigration of the parties in question.

ENCLOSURE referred to.

Messrs. MURDOCK and WOOD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 14, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, enclosing a list of persons whom it is proposed to assist to emigrate to North America, under the provisions of the Act 10 Vic. cap. 31; attached to this list is a correspondence on the subject of these people, and a certificate from the Poor Law Inspector of the district of Kilrush; that he has examined the proposed emigrants; that the whole of the adults, without an exception, are unusually healthy and hardy and the children very promising.

Under these circumstances, and in exercise of the authority conveyed to us for that purpose by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, we have to express to you our approval of the emigration of the persons to whom your letter refers.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 16, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians having changed their day of meeting from Wednesday to Saturday in each week, I attended yesterday for the first time. The relieving officers have hitherto been obliged to attend two days a-week, and by a recent arrangement I hope they may be able to finish their business with the clerk and Vice-Guardians on the Board-day, and thus give them more time in their districts. Many of them reside 16 miles from the workhouse, and the hardship and loss of time attendant upon two journeys each week was very great.

I have but little to communicate in addition to my report of the 13th instant; I will for the future report weekly after the Saturday's meeting.

The pressure and number of applicants for relief is still very great. There were fully 200 applicants, the greater portion of whom were very miserable and destitute. There were but 30 vacancies in the house, and the Vice-Guardians were of course obliged to give out-door relief.

In the week ending 8th April, the number of "cases" receiving out-door relief numbered 4594, making a total of 14,292 souls, at a cost of 296*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* for the week.

There has been considerable increase in the week ending the 15th instant; I do not anticipate the numbers will stop short of 18,000 before August. This will be understood from what I have hitherto stated of the utter absence of employment, and the large number evicted and houseless.

Disease, I regret to say, keeps pace with destitution; overcrowded cabins, the result of the numerous evictions, generates disease rapidly. I am unceasingly occupied in relieving and endeavouring to remedy this evil.

The thriftless improvidence, imprudence, and low social condition of the people are my greatest obstacles; numbers come to the workhouse of a Board-day suffering from the pangs of hunger, and their miserable children starved beyond

recovery, who have never before applied for relief and seem astonished when they get it.

There are no residents who can give the most trifling assistance either in food, money, advice, or example. A reverend gentleman, who has in the most praiseworthy and persevering manner established seven schools in his parish, could obtain but 10% private subscription in a district containing 36,000 acres.

I enclose a report from the medical officer of the workhouse and coincide in his views generally, and can bear witness to the truth of his statements. I may observe that he does not intend to convey the idea that the workhouse is unduly or overcrowded. I myself visit the sick with and without him, both in the infirmary and fever hospital. I go at all times and at all hours, and I believe more cannot be done for the wretched sufferers. That they have ample food, every necessary, comfort, cleanliness, and ventilation, I myself see, and the medical officer is seldom an hour absent from the house and hospital.

Many are brought in merely with the view of procuring coffins.

I think the appointment of medical officer for Moyarta, Killard, and Kilmurry division, which the Commissioners have under consideration, will remedy the evil to some extent, as from those localities we receive the greatest number and worst cases; the mortality, I am concerned to say, amounted to 65 for the week ending the 15th instant.

Two of the relieving officers are in fever, and the workhouse chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Kenny, is, I grieve, stricken down in fever, contracted in the execution of his arduous duties.

Though he is in a most precarious state, I hope for the best, as his death at this period would be a public calamity.

His untiring and successful efforts in the cause of suffering humanity cannot be overrated and are beyond all praise.

One of our best rate-collectors is about to resign his office; alleged ill-health is the reason. Two more of them have been seriously ill and able to do but little.

The Vice-Guardians are taking active measures against defaulters and preparing for a new rate. Having made his letter the subject of a separate communication, renders further detail unnecessary.

The Vice-Guardians are losing no time in organizing an efficient labour test throughout the Union. As a general rule, I have recommended bread (barley or rye) rations to the able-bodied class. It can be baked at Kilrush and delivered at little cost in the various localities. I think the Vice-Guardians entirely coincide with me in details which will be laid before the Commissioners. The system pursued at Ballina will be our principal guide with some alterations; the duties of the Vice-Guardians are very arduous. Good potatoes were sold yesterday from 6d. to 7d. a stone.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. O'DONNELL to Captain KENNEDY:—April 15, 1848.

IN a former report I expressed my fears for the effects of this and the last month on the feeble and debilitated inmates of the house, as well as on those labouring under rectoral affections.

Many of the very young and very old in the dysentery wards died within the last week. This is very easily accounted for, as they come in so broken down and emaciated, that all I can do in many instances is to prolong their existence by such nourishment as the nature of their cases require.

The extensive destitution in this district and its concomitants of filth and despondency of mind, predisposes its victim to disease, and renders them an easier prey to its effect, and as this cannot be altogether remedied we must still expect to have our wards crowded with bad cases of dysentery and fever. The spread of the latter through the house for the last fortnight has, as I have already explained, been attributable to a predisposition of the inmates for disease and the crowded state of the house.

Almost all of those coming in are suffering from dysentery; many in its chronic stage, which usually, even under better circumstances, in the end is fatal.

It is a common belief that continued fever, &c., may be generated by the effluvia constantly proceeding from the human body, even when healthy, if this effluvia be accumulated and condensed. It will be more likely to do so when some of them are labouring under diarrhoea, &c.; at all events a contaminated atmosphere is prejudicial to health, though it does not, I think, generate fever, still fever and dysentery spread rapidly under such circumstances.

I offer the latter remarks with the following views:—If possible to separate disease of all kinds from the house, and when that would be accomplished, not to allow one with the semblance of disease into it.

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To effect this the infirmary department should be removed elsewhere, and a house taken with such accommodation as would enable you to meet this arrangement.

Since the relieving officer discontinued to give coffins, many on out-door relief came back to the house: when ill, even portions of families had to be admitted lest they might die on the road; on yesterday many had to be refused under such circumstances.

The extent and destitution of this Union, without a single useful medical institution, except the Kilrush Fever Hospital, (and that, from its limited accommodation, state of its funds, and the class of patients generally applying there, can be of very little use,) will convert the work-house into an hospital, until some means are taken for the better establishment of medical charities.

I need not add that the epidemic diseases of this country are a frightful source of pauperism.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your report dated the 16th instant relative to Kilrush Union.

The Commissioners have read with much concern your statement of the increase of destitution and disease in the Union, and they rely upon the continuance of your co-operation with the Vice-Guardians in providing for the relief of destitution in the fullest extent that the necessity of the case requires, for which purpose the Vice-Guardians are by law invested with ample powers.

The suggestions of the medical officer for removal of all the sick from the work-house to a separate building appear to be deserving the serious attention of the Vice-Guardians, and the Commissioners request you will bring the subject specially under their notice. The very large and increasing rate of mortality, although fully accounted for by the medical officer's report, demands that no means should be left untried for checking the spread of disease.

Captain KENNEDY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 7, 1848.*

I ATTENDED the weekly meeting of the Vice-Guardians yesterday, and though the amount of routine and miscellaneous business to be got through, was very considerable, the pressure from without was by no means as great as it has been on admission days lately. I attribute this decrease in the demand for out-door relief, to the test which all coming under the 2nd section of the Act have been subjected to. One example will suffice:—On the 24th of April 171 men were put to stone-breaking in Kilrush division, on the 3rd May, there remained but 97, on the same day (24th April) 36 were put to break stones in Killima Division, on the 3rd May but 21 remained. I may remark that the amount of labour required of them was very reasonable, and in some cases, for want of a sufficient supply of implements, merely nominal.

There is now ample employment on the workhouse land, cropping it, affording regular daily labour, and the certainty of its continuing for some time; with this prospect in view, 50 persons discharged themselves from the workhouse on the 2nd May, principally single persons of the able-bodied class. With these facts in view, I will not fail to press upon the Vice-Guardians, the expediency of adopting this test to able-bodied, in every practicable instance. I expect the sale of the broken stone will more than cover the cost of superintendence, as offers for their purchase have been made by road contractors, and in some instances for drainage purposes. The staff to superintend this out-door labour is of course only temporary, and there is very great difficulty in finding trustworthy persons to carry it out, and disburse the relief. The low standard of morals among this class, is very lamentable, those who are considered strictly honest in their private dealings, are too frequently unscrupulous, and untrustworthy, where public labour or funds; are placed under their control. Even the higher class of ratepayers are indisposed or afraid to expose abuse and fraud, which the most unremitting attention of public officers can hardly detect without their assistance. The simple fact is, that the great mass do not consider it any crime or shame to obtain relief by fraudulent means, and their betters are afraid to expose them. Though the relief list (in and out-of doors) now comprises nearly a fourth of the population, still the destitution is great in amount, and fearful in character. The latter cannot be remedied by law, the

evils and causes are social; some of these sufferers have no idea or instinct, beyond planting potatoes and digging them up when they are hungry. The following cases which occurred this week, may give some idea of their lamentable want of providence:—John M'Donnell, aged 35, able-bodied; Nance M'Donnell (wife), 36; Pat (born in the workhouse), three weeks, left the workhouse of their own accord, they remained out about 14 days; they were sent in again by the relieving officer, on Saturday 29th April, and all three were dead by the following Monday, 1st May, and I have no doubt died of starvation.

Michael O'Neill, aged 13, was sent in by the relieving officer, his parents had died while in receipt of out-door relief; he came in on the 4th May, and died the following day. Such a mass of filth I never beheld; he was so thickly studded with vermin, that he had the appearance of having been peppered.

As a contrast to the improvidence of these I have mentioned, I may notice the case of an old woman 80 years of age, Ellen Flaherty, who came in a day or two since (conveyed in a donkey cart), evidently in the very last stage of mortality, and dying. In reply to my questions she stated that she was in receipt of out-door relief, but "feeling she was near her last," and knowing that her friends had no means to bury her, she had come into the workhouse for a coffin.

I am in daily expectation of the appointment of two medical officers by the Board of Health.

These gentlemen will have the charge of the two worst districts in the Union, and will, I hope be the means of decreasing the number of hopeless cases which we receive into the infirmary and fever hospital at present. I enclose an abstract from the medical officer's report, by which it will appear that there are 542 under medical treatment. This embarrassing and objectionable state of things must continue till there are more efficient medical charities, and adequate hospital accommodation provided in the district. In the whole of the district bounded by Ennismore to the north, Killofin to the south, Ennis to the east, and Loop Head to the west, there is but one hospital for 40 patients, viz., the county hospital at Kilrush.

This establishment should be put on a better footing, and accommodation provided for 200 patients at least. The whole habits and the dwellings of the poor in this district, must be radically changed, before the eradication of fever can be looked for. Motives of self preservation would rectify this, were there any resident gentry, but there is a sad scarcity of them. It will be observed that the number of deaths this week have decreased to 34. I never miss an opportunity of visiting the hospital and inquiring of the patients. They are supplied with every requisite. The hospital is kept scrupulously clean and well ventilated; and the medical officer is unremitting in attention.

I hope for a decrease in the numbers receiving out-relief, when turf-cutting (an important branch of trade and export) commences. I watch every opportunity of revising and curtailing the lists of those receiving out-door relief, as I think it a matter of the last importance to prevent them acquiring any idea of its permanency. The Vice-Guardians are very industrious, and have effected a marked improvement in every branch of the Union management, when they have leisure from more pressing business.

I am desirous they should turn their serious attention to some industrial training for the children, without which they will be a permanent charge to the country in some shape; and the number of orphans in this district is daily increasing. I have been considering the feasibility of a joint school, between Ennistymon and Kilrush Unions, being established at Miltown Malbay, where I think suitable premises could be had.

The collection last week amounted to 164*l.*, a number of decrees were obtained at the quarter sessions this week against defaulters, which I have no doubt will have a good effect, as it is the first time that mode of enforcing payment has been resorted to in this Union, except in an individual case. The Vice-Guardians are stimulating the collectors, and have decided upon proceeding against the most dilatory.

I have handed over 500*l.*, a grant from the British Relief Association, which, added to an advance I expect ere many days from the treasurer, will relieve the Guardians from various embarrassments.

The number of the out-door relief, for week ending 29th April, was 6021

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cases, having 1593 dependent upon them, making a total of 17,614 souls, at a weekly cost of 418*l*.

The number in the house on yesterday was 1288, of this number 139 were in the fever wards.

I need only add, that my inclination as well as my duty lead me to adopt means to carry out the Commissioners' instructions to relieve suffering and save life.

ENCLOSURE.

Medical Report for the week ending Saturday May 6, 1848.

Number in infirmary by last report	254
Admitted during the week	68
	322
Discharged	22
Sent to fever wards	12
Died	22
	56
	266
Number in infirmary this day	167
Number in fever hospital by last report	63
Admitted during the week	63
	230
Discharged cured	79
Died	12
	91
Men	44
Women	76
Boys	13
Girls	6
Total in fever wards this day	139
In girls' dysentery ward (Daly's house)	38
In girls' skin disease ward ditto	31
In boys' skin disease ward (infirmary)	54
In male old and infirm ward	6
In female ditto ditto	8
Total under medical treatment this day	542
Total number of deaths during the week	34

Infirmary, May 6, 1848.

THOS. B. O'DONNELL.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*May 12, 1848.*

In reference to your observations as to the difficulty of obtaining trustworthy persons to superintend the out-door labour, in consequence of the low standard of morals among the class from which the superintendents are obtained, and the indisposition among the ratepayers to expose abuse and fraud, the Commissioners desire to state, that however much this state of things is to be regretted, they can only recommend you and the Vice-Guardians to endeavour to counteract it by the establishment of efficient checks, and by exercising as close and rigorous a control, as the circumstances of the case, and your time will admit. It appears to be of the utmost importance that you should lose no opportunity of exposing, and if possible punishing any cases of abuse and fraud that may come to your knowledge. The Commissioners would be glad to receive from you the particulars of any specific cases of the kind which may come before you. The destitution of the Union in a medical point of view, has, as you are aware, been already brought under the notice of the Commissioners, and they have communicated with the Central Board of Health on the subject, and the result is that two medical officers are about to be sent down by that Board for the purpose of affording dispensary relief in two of the most distressed districts of the Union.

Your suggestion that the county fever hospital should be put on a better footing, and accommodation provided for at least 200 patients, is not one that falls within the province of the Commissioners, but the Vice-Guardians have

ample powers for providing medical relief, independently of the county fever hospital.

A fever hospital might be procured under a requisition from the Board of Health, or the Board of Guardians, ought under the authority of the 16th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act, to hire a house or houses, in any part of the Union for the reception and medical treatment of poor persons affected with fever or other contagious disease.

If further out-door medical aid is required, a further representation should be made to the Commissioners and a specific recommendation made to them. They would then be prepared to direct the appointment of a medical officer, or medical officers, under the 5th section of the Irish Relief Extension Act, or to take such other steps as might appear to be required. Meantime, however, the Commissioners cannot but regard the large number of sick (542) under the charge of one medical officer, unaided by an apothecary, as highly unsatisfactory. The Commissioners do not doubt that Dr. O'Donnell uses every exertion to discharge the heavy duties which devolves upon him in a satisfactory manner, but with so large a number of sick in the workhouse, it appears to be of the very highest importance that the appointment of a competent resident apothecary, which has already been agreed to should be made at the earliest practicable period.

The Commissioners highly approve of your suggestion, that some industrial training should be established for the children in the workhouse, but in regard to the proposed joint school for the Unions of Kilrush and Ennistymon, the Commissioners believe that in the present state of the law, the establishment of such a school would not be practicable, but it is possible that a proposition for the alteration of the law on this point may be submitted to Parliament during the present session.

THURLES UNION.

Mr. LABARTE, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, to the COMMISSIONERS :—
February 5, 1848.

I BEG to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that, pursuant to directions, I arrived here on the 3rd instant, and having learned that a meeting of the Board of Guardians would be held upon the following day, I thought it my duty (although I have not yet received the official instrument of my appointment as Temporary Inspector) to attend at the poorhouse. The business transacted was confined to the election of a temporary relieving officer for the Thurles district, to act until a fit person should be elected, as directed by the general order of the Commissioners. The Board also examined the relieving officers' weekly receipt and expenditure books, for which purpose the Guardians now meet upon Friday in each week, the ordinary meeting of the Board being on Tuesdays. From the inquiries I have been enabled to make, I regret to say, that the number of able-bodied poor receiving out-door relief under the sealed order of the Commissioners, is increasing every week; and that in no instance has any test of destitution (in the shape of labour in return for relief) been as yet applied. I mean to bring the subject before the Board at the next meeting on Tuesday, and will communicate the result in my next report to the Commissioners.

Mr. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 9, 1848.*

I BEG to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that on Monday the 7th instant I carefully inspected every portion of the Union workhouse; and considering the number of the inmates, and the unfavourable state of the day upon which I examined it, I found it as well managed in respect to internal order and cleanliness as I could possibly expect. Originally intended to contain 700 paupers, the number at present on the books receiving in-door relief amounts to about 960; still I am inclined to think that by proper arrangements on the part of the Board of Guardians, the workhouse in its present state could be made to contain a still larger number without inconvenient or dangerous consequences to its present inmates. I am aware, however, that in this opinion the medical officer does not coincide. At present the house is very healthy and free from contagious fever; and although so many as 80 cases are now under medical superintendence, most of them are caused by the prevailing influenza, and none of them can be considered as dangerous to life. The Board of Guardians having recently contracted to rent as an auxiliary workhouse, a building (the property of one of the Board) at some little distance from the present house, it is now being put into a state of repair, and added to, and when finished will accommodate about 300 paupers. In the present unfavourable weather, the workmen are unable to carry on their labours; and I fear it will be some time before the entire building can be made applicable to the purposes for which it is intended. This arrangement having been concluded before I entered on my duties here, it is perhaps out of my province to advert to it, particularly as I presume it has received the sanction of the Commissioners; still I cannot help stating, that in my opinion the arrangement was a very improvident one on the part of the Board, acting on behalf of the ratepayers as trustees of the public money.

At present the original portion of this auxiliary workhouse is occupied at night by about 100 of the boys under 15 years of age, who are removed there every evening and return again in the morning. It appears to me that when this building shall be in a fit state to receive the entire number for which it is intended, it would be very advisable to remove the schools from the present house altogether; and arrange that the pauper children of both sexes should, under proper control, occupy the auxiliary house for all purposes (excepting meals, as it is sufficiently near the present house to do so without much inconvenience to the workhouse officers. This arrangement would afford a considerable increase of room for able-bodied paupers, as the dormitories now occupied by the children (as also the schoolrooms) could be then applied to that purpose;

but it will of course depend upon the time at which the new building shall be in a fit state to receive all the children, who are now obliged to attend the schools. With respect to the three classes of paupers contemplated by the 1st section of 10th Vic., cap. 31, the Board of Guardians in this Union has abandoned the system (at first adopted) of giving out-door relief in money; and there are very many paupers now in the house belonging to one or other of those classes. The removal of these parties, or at least such of them as are not utterly disabled by old age or sickness, would also considerably increase the space which would be then applicable for the use of the able-bodied poor.

Having thus stated my opinion as to the present state of the house, and the means of providing increased accommodation for able-bodied paupers, I now proceed to detail the result of my attendance at the ordinary meeting of the Guardians held yesterday, at which I took an early opportunity of bringing under the notice of the Board the great amount (now weekly increasing) of out-door relief, given without check or control to more than 16,000 destitute poor (being equal to two-thirds of the numbers relieved under the Temporary Relief Act, at the worst period of the last year), and the absolute necessity that existed of endeavouring to stay the evil, by the immediate adoption of the test directed by the Commissioners; as being in fact the condition upon which the sealed order was issued, enabling the Guardians to grant relief under the 2nd section of the Act of Parliament. Various objections were urged by different members of the Board; and most of the Guardians then present, while they admitted the extent of the evil, and the absolute necessity of having some test by which to distinguish real from assumed or apparent destitution, were still very much opposed to the adoption of the test of stone-breaking, as directed by the Commissioners; and all of them advocated the application of pauper labour, in some shape or other, to the cultivation of the land. Amongst other views put forward at the Board, Mr. Lanigan, the chairman, read a statement and calculations prepared by himself, pointing out the disadvantages which, in his opinion, must follow from the adoption of the test of stone-breaking; but as the Guardians had been previously in correspondence with the Commissioners on this subject, and had not succeeded in inducing the latter to sanction any other plan or test as the condition upon which such relief should be given, I felt it my duty to impress upon the Guardians the obvious impolicy of further delay; and that it would only be a waste of time to argue the matter at greater length without the least prospect of success upon their parts; and with that view I read such portions of the circular addressed to their clerk, as detail the objections entertained by the Commissioners to any other than the proposed test; and also the suggestions offered by the Commissioners for carrying their own views into effect with the least possible delay. I also urged upon the Board, that as the sealed order would expire in a month, it might possibly be a question, if the Commissioners would consent to renew the order, unless the Board evinced a corresponding inclination to meet their views, and carry out their directions to the fullest extent. After a considerable discussion, I am happy to inform you, that a resolution (although containing a protest against the test) passed the Board without any amendment being moved; and the Guardians are now pledged to adopt the test without further delay; and with that view they have appointed next Tuesday for the selection of a sufficient number of superintendents in all the electoral divisions, and for adopting other measures towards carrying out the views of the Commissioners to the fullest extent required by them.

I am happy to say the finances of the Union are improving, and the majority of the collectors appear to be using every practicable exertion in order to collect the rates; still there is a very large sum due for arrears, and many of the Guardians are themselves in arrear. But I mean to urge on the collectors, by every means, to a performance of their duties; and trust that the next few weeks will exhibit a still further improvement in this department. I am sorry to observe that there is at present no employment for labour, though this may in some measure be ascribed to the unfavourable state of the weather for field cultivation.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LABARTE:—*February 17, 1848.*

I AM to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners with the result of your exertions to induce the Guardians to adopt the labour test.

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The Commissioners feel confident that if fairly carried out, it will be attended with success, and will economize the expenditure.

I am at the same time to request that you will be so good as to send an estimate of the implements required by the Guardians, and which can be furnished from the depôts of the Board of Works.

The Commissioners concur entirely in your views, regarding the means of making further room in the workhouse for the able-bodied; and for this purpose they think that allowances, partly at least in money, might be made with advantage to parties relievable out of the workhouse under section 1.

MR. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 16, 1848.*

SINCE the date of my report of the 9th instant, I have again partially inspected the interior of the workhouse; and my visit being unexpected, I am sorry to say I did not find the house managed in quite so satisfactory a manner, or so much in conformity with the general orders of the Commissioners, as upon my previous inspection I conceived it to be. The great defects in the management of the house appear to be, a general want of system on the part of the master, and a want of efficient control on the part of the Guardians. It is true there is a Visiting Committee, but it is a Committee only in name; for I cannot find (upon inquiry) that the members ever inspect the house, or exercise any real restraint upon the conduct of the officers. The natural consequences have followed; and the workhouse officers feeling themselves in some measure released from the fear of being held responsible for any deviations from the general orders, conceived themselves justified in acting upon their own judgments, or in accordance with their own inclinations, and thus a want of systematical arrangement in the management of the house has been permitted to take place. This must not be allowed to continue; and my constant care and attention will be devoted to the introduction of a better system in strict conformity with the general orders of the Commissioners. I yesterday brought this matter very fully before the Board. The Guardians appear to be quite aware of the necessity of exercising a strict control over all their officers; and if they will only give me an effectual support, and the assistance of an active House Committee, I hope in a very short time to be able to report more favourably as to the management of the interior of the house.

The number of paupers in the house continues to increase, and now amounts to upwards of 1000 souls; nevertheless the house continues in a very healthy state, and the report of the medical officer is exceedingly favourable; only one case of death occurred during last week. The number of patients in the infirmary is less than during the preceding week, and the house is quite free from fever or epidemical disease of any sort.

With respect to out-door relief to the able-bodied, I regret to find that the relieving officers' weekly returns continue to exhibit an increasing number of applications; and this I fear will continue to be the case until the labour test, as adopted by the Board of Guardians, shall be equally and stringently applied throughout the Union. The number now receiving out-door relief amounts (in round numbers) to about 17,500. This subject was again fully discussed by the Guardians at the meeting of the Board held upon yesterday; but from the evident disinclination of some of the members, and from the number of difficulties that really surround the subject, I fear it will be some time before the labour test can be brought into complete operation in every part of the Union; still some progress has been made, superintendents were selected upon the recommendation of the local Guardians, in some of the electoral divisions, in proportion to the number of able-bodied male paupers now receiving relief; and the parties so selected, were directed to be in attendance at the Board-room upon Friday next to receive their instructions. I expect that in those electoral divisions the system will be in operation in the course of the next week; and I have no doubt that its advantages as a test of real destitution will be then fully admitted, even by those who are now opposed to its adoption.

The finances of the Union continue to receive my particular attention, and although the amount of rates which remains uncollected is still very great (about 12,000*l.*), the receipts during the past week, are on the whole satisfactory; the amount lodged with the treasurer is about 660*l.*; and the balance in

his hands is now about 1100*l*. One-third of the entire rate and arrears has been paid in to the credit of the Union; and I have impressed upon the collectors the necessity of increased exertions upon their parts. The Union (as I am informed) is quite free from debts of any sort.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 21, 1848.*

I AM to express to you the satisfaction of the Commissioners with your report of the healthy state of the workhouse, and a hope that your exertions to improve the interior management of the house will be attended with success. I am at the same time to forward to you the accompanying return, furnished to the Commissioners by the clerk of the Thurles Union, of the names of the four highest ratepayers in each electoral division, and the amount of poor-rate due by each, from which it appears that the total sum of 1354*l*., is due by persons coming within that denomination, amongst whom are to be found no fewer than 13 members of the Board of Guardians. The last rate was made on the 19th and 26th of October last, and amounting in the whole, to 19,014*l*.; of this sum 1035*l*. was collected in the month of November, 1672*l*. in December, and 2510*l*. in January, making a total of 5217*l*. collected to the end of the last-mentioned month, and leaving the sum of 13,797*l*., or nearly three-fourths of the entire amount, then outstanding. This backward state of the collection in the Thurles Union, after the lapse of three months, and those months comprising as they did, the season of the year best suited for the purpose of collecting rate, must be in a great measure attributed to the example of default set to the ratepayers by so large a number of the members of the Board of Guardians, who were strongly but ineffectually urged by the Commissioners, in their letter of the 10th ultimo, to discharge their liabilities to the Union.

The Commissioners request that you will bestow your particular attention upon the state of the collection in this Union, and that you will endeavour by all means in your power to secure the payment of rate by every party who is really able to pay, without permitting any unnecessary delay to take place.

Mr. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

IN that part of my report of the 16th instant, which had reference to the discipline and management of the workhouse, I stated that many of the evils of which I complained, were mainly owing to the want of an efficient Visiting Committee; and the more frequently I have since visited the house, the more I am convinced, that without the assistance and active superintendence of such a Committee, it will be useless to attempt, and impossible to effect, such changes as appear to be both desirable and necessary, in order to render its discipline in some degree conformable to the regulations of the Commissioners.

In its present state the house is in my opinion, both in respect to its outward appearance, and its interior arrangements, in a very defective condition. The former may possibly have arisen from the want of the necessary funds to put the house into a more complete state, for at present it has a very unfinished appearance; the boundary walls have never been completed, and consequently access to this town is much too easily attainable: and even in some parts, where the walls of the yards have been raised to their full height, they are in my opinion still too low; and in fact (as I am informed), the paupers frequently scale them. In the interior the classification appears to be very defective; but whether this arises from the want of sufficient accommodation to provide for the great increase in the number of the inmates over the amount for which the house was originally intended (*viz.*, 700), or from neglect on the part of the officers, I cannot determine. Some of the wards appear to me insufficiently provided with bedding for the number of persons they contain, while in others it is exactly the reverse. The hours of breakfast and dinner have been uncertain, and too often made to depend upon the regularity of the contractors, or the convenience of the master; but this latter subject of complaint I have already in some manner, though not altogether, rectified; and the blameable parties appear now to be fully alive to the necessity of a more strict and regular performance of their several duties. Still very much remains to be effected

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both as to the minor details and general management of the house. I therefore felt it my duty to bring the subject again before the Guardians at their ordinary meeting yesterday, and a Committee (of seven members) was then appointed to inspect the house at least once in each week, and to assist me in carrying out such improvements as, upon consideration, shall appear to be necessary; how far I may be enabled, through the instrumentality of the Committee, to effect any permanent changes for the better, or how far the members now nominated will really devote their time to the duties they have undertaken, remains to be seen; but it shall not be my fault if this Committee does not effect some reformatations in the management of the house. The house continues in a very healthy state; although now containing 1048 paupers on the roll, it is still free from fever or other contagious disease.

With respect to out-door relief, I regret to observe that the relieving officers' books continue to exhibit an increase, though not a very large one, in the number of applications. There are now about 17,700 names upon their lists; and the cost of relief for the past week appears to have been about 390*l*. The test has not yet been brought into operation for want of the necessary implements for the men, and also because some of the minor arrangement required to be completed, such as printing labour lists, forms, &c. With respect to the tools, I hope to forward by this day's post a schedule of such implements as appear to the Board of Guardians, sufficient for the number of labourers likely to be employed; and when these shall have been supplied, the test will be put into operation without further delay. For the purpose of checking the labour lists, and preventing imposition on the part of either relieving officers, overseers, or labourers, the Guardians have adopted (with some trifling alterations) such of the forms used by the Ballina Board of Vice-Guardians, as appeared to be applicable to the object in view.

In regard to the collection of rates, I took occasion yesterday to impress upon the Guardians the necessity of compelling the collectors to perform their duties more impartially and effectively; and I called their attention to the fact, that so many of the Guardians were themselves defaulters to a large amount. I cannot say that my observations were particularly well received; and the reading of the list of the four highest defaulters in each electoral division, was not permitted to take place without a division finally, however, a resolution was passed confirming a previous one, that the collectors should be required to furnish such a list to the Board every week; and should also collect within the same period not less than 10 per cent. of the amount contained in their several warrants. I have again urged upon the collectors the necessity of making increased and strenuous exertions to collect as much as possible of the outstanding rates; and I shall continue to give my particular attention to this part of my duty. The amount already collected and lodged with the treasurer, is something over 7300*l*., or nearly two-fifths of the entire rate; and the balance now in his hands amounts to over 1700*l*. The weekly expenditure for relief (in-door and out-door) amounted to considerably less than 500*l*.

Mr. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 1, 1848.*

SINCE the date of my last report of the 23rd ultimo, I have been prevented by severe indisposition (which I felt it my duty to apprise you of by letter of the 27th ultimo) from making my usual inspection of the workhouse; neither was I able to attend at the meeting of the Guardians yesterday, as I fully intended to do. The Visiting Committee recently appointed to assist me in carrying out the general orders of the Commissioners met by appointment upon Friday last; but as I was not then in attendance, the members (for what reason I am unable to conjecture) did not conceive it necessary to examine the house in my absence. However, as the Committee will meet again on Friday next, and as I am sufficiently recovered to resume my duties, I hope to be in attendance at the workhouse on that day.

I have now to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that the general health of the inmates of the house continues to be very satisfactory, although the number of admissions during the past week exhibits a small increase over the previous one.

According to the master's report there are now 1053 paupers in the house, being fully one-third more than it was originally intended to contain. The expenses of the house amounted to 88*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, or 1*s.* 7½*d.* per head. The number now in hospital amounts to 68, and the deaths during the week have been seven. There is no fever in the house.

In respect to the numbers receiving out-door relief, I find, from the Application and Report Books of the several relieving officers, they still continue to exhibit a gradual increase, and there are now 17,800 souls relieved at a cost of 391*l.* 4*s.*, or 5*d.* per head.

That there has been no decrease in the number of paupers receiving out-door relief is to be ascribed to the fact that no test of actual destitution has been yet applied, as I fully expected would have been the case. This omission has arisen solely from the want of the necessary implements for labour, a schedule of which (specifying the quantity and descriptions required) I transmitted to Dublin on the 23rd ultimo, as directed by your letter of the 19th ultimo; but no order, as far as I am informed, has yet been sent to the party having the charge of the implements, to hand them over to the Board of Guardians for the use of the Union. This delay is of serious moment, for until the labour test be fairly applied, it will be impossible for the relieving officers, however willing they may be, from the extent of their districts and from the number of the applicants for relief, properly to investigate each separate case as it happens to come before them; and I have no doubt but that hundreds (I might almost say thousands), particularly in and about this town, are now in the receipt of out-door relief who have some available means of support, and ought not to be fed at the expense of the Union.

The amount of the poor-rates lodged by the collectors to the credit of the Union during the past week exhibits a trifling decrease as compared with the previous week, and is not as satisfactory as I anticipated in my last report that it would be.

The collectors have many obstacles to contend with, apart from the general unwillingness of the small farmers to pay their rates. Many of the Guardians are themselves in arrear for small sums; and although exceedingly sensitive when their names are read out at the Board as defaulters, yet they seldom hesitate, even when complaining of the severity of the tax, to increase the burdens of the Union, and vote away its funds for any purpose whatever, and will sometimes excuse a collector for remissness of duty when it happens to occur in their own immediate neighbourhoods. The amount lodged during the week was 627*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, leaving 11,064*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* of the rate still uncollected. The balance in the treasurer's hands is 1063*l.*

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March* 10, 1848.

WITH reference to your observations with respect to the obstacles which you state that the collectors of poor-rate in the Union have to contend with in the discharge of their duty, I am to state that they should be urged to distrain under their own warrants, or to take proceedings by way of six days' notice, or summons. The former course the Commissioners have reason to think the most effectual.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners have written to the Board of Works, calling their attention to the Commissioners' letters of the 29th ultimo and 3rd instant, and requesting the transmission of an order to you, with as little delay as possible, for the implements required for the employment out of doors of the able-bodied poor in the Thurles Union.

MR. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March* 6, 1848.

ADVERTING to circular of the 2nd of March, and the proposed determination or suspension on the 18th of this month of all orders under the 2nd section of the Poor Law Extension Act authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men, I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that in the present condition of the labouring poor in this Union I do not think it would be safe or advisable to bring the existing system of relief to so abrupt a termination.

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My objections resolve themselves into three heads:—

- 1st. The amount of destitution that really exists :
- 2ndly. The general want of employment throughout the entire Union : and,
- 3rdly. The non-application as yet of any labour-test by which to discriminate between real and assumed destitution.

That there are many and obvious evils attending the present system of out-door relief is true, and that considerable exaggeration now prevails as to the amount of destitution is also true ; nevertheless, making every allowance for abuses and exaggerated statements, the poverty really existing in almost every part of this Union, and more especially in and about the different towns and villages, is unquestionably great, and but too apparent ; and in my opinion neither increased admissions to the workhouse, nor the relief authorized under the 1st section of the Act of Parliament, are in themselves sufficient to afford efficient remedies for such a state of things. I, therefore, think the cessation of relief under the 2nd section should be very cautiously and gradually effected.

At present there is scarcely any employment for agricultural purposes in this part of the country. The very unfavourable state of the weather during the months of January and February, and the disinclination or inability of the farmers, partly caused by the pressure of the landlords and the unusual amount of the poor-rate now in course of collection, and partly from the uncertainty that exists as to their future prospects, have all contributed to produce these effects ; for certain it is, the farmers scarcely employ a single labourer that can possibly be spared, but depend almost entirely upon the members of their own families for the preparation of the ground ; consequently that preparation is still in many places in a very backward state, and in all probability the next harvest must necessarily be a late one. Employment to a small extent certainly exists, and I have even heard that it has become a practice among the farmers to remunerate their labourers in food alone ; but it is quite inadequate to provide for the destitution that prevails among the labouring poor. Some employment is also afforded on the works of the Great Southern and Western Railway, which passes through the Union ; and (when given) the wages are very remunerative, and the work is consequently eagerly sought after by the labourers ; but the employment is altogether casual and dependent upon the state of the weather, even in a far greater degree than the cultivation of the land usually is. The works are often suspended for a week at a time, and the men discharged ; and it is, therefore, hardly to be relied upon as a source of employment for the poor.

The labour-test has not been as yet fairly applied in this Union ; and as the out-door relief, sanctioned by the Board of Guardians, has been hitherto given with very little discrimination, it appears to me that it would be very advisable to apply the test before the out-door relief be entirely withdrawn from the able-bodied poor. Nominally the relief lists are revised by the Board of Guardians, but practically the power of giving relief rests with the relieving officers. The cases are not, as they should be, separately considered ; and the proper precautions against imposition, such as visiting the dwellings of the applicants, are, I fear, very seldom taken by the officers : this is more particularly the case in the populous districts of the Union. The relieving officers allege that the districts are too large, and that it is impossible for them to perform the duties required of them by their instructions in a regular and effective manner. Some allowance must also be made for want of experience in carrying out the details of a novel system of relief ; but the real difficulty is the non-application of some efficient test of destitution to enable the relieving officers to discriminate properly between cases of actual and assumed poverty.

On the whole I think it would be advisable to extend for a short time longer the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men until the labour-test shall have been fairly tried, which I confidently expect will have the effect of removing from the relief lists every person who is in employment, or who can procure it : and also such persons as have any other means of supporting themselves and their families, such as petty tradesmen and artizans, in the towns ; and that then, as the spring advances and the market for labour gradually expands, the able-bodied males (and most of the able-bodied females also) may be expected to drop off from the lists, and the system of out-door relief be brought to a safe and satisfactory termination.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 11, 1848.*

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THE Commissioners will adopt your views as to the continuance of the order now in force under the 2nd section.

The Commissioners have your subsequent report under serious consideration, in reference to the propriety of dissolving the Board of Guardians, and they think it probable that steps will be taken before the next meeting.

The Commissioners have awaited the return of papers from Mr. Lloyd before they sanctioned the appointment of relieving officers for Thurles district.

They now sanction the appointment so as to avoid further delay.

Mr. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 8, 1848.*

SINCE I last reported on the state of this Union, I attended at the workhouse on the morning of the 4th instant, for the purpose of meeting the members of the Visiting Committee, and making an accurate inspection of the entire establishment. None of the members, however, were then in attendance, nor until a later period of the day, when the ordinary business of the Board, in connexion with out-door relief was brought forward. I hope to have a better attendance on Friday next, and have given notice of my intention to attend on that day for a similar purpose.

On Monday the 6th instant I inspected the house, and devoted some hours to a careful examination of every part of it, and I think I can perceive a gradual change for the better since my first inspection. There is an obvious improvement in the neatness and general appearance of the interior of the house, much less hurry and confusion in the arrangements for the different meals, and far more attention to order and discipline on the part of both the master and matron. The latter in particular seems sensibly alive to the necessity of performing her duties carefully and regularly. Of the master, I am as yet rather unwilling to pronounce a decided opinion; nor have I had any serious grounds of complaint to make against him; but I have seen quite enough to satisfy me that he is deficient in energy, and by no means intelligent, and will require to be taught system and regularity in the discharge of his duties.

With a view to the cessation of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor at no remote period, it appears to me that the interior of the workhouse can be made to accommodate a considerably greater number of paupers than it now contains; and I would therefore propose, with the concurrence of the medical officer, and subject to the sanction of the Commissioners, making the wards originally intended for idiots and lunatics, applicable for the reception of able-bodied male paupers. This would afford additional room for a very considerable number; and as there is not at present a single lunatic, and but one harmless idiot in the house, I do not anticipate any valid objection to the plan proposed. It will be necessary, however, to make some trifling alterations in the building, such as widening the present narrow windows, and otherwise increasing the ventilation, which is now very defective. I also propose altogether to remove the boys' school, and their dormitories, to the auxiliary workhouse in the neighbourhood, which is now in a forward state of preparation. About one-half of the boys now in the house sleep there at present. When all shall have been removed there, they can be brought twice, or if necessary, three times a day to receive their meals at the house, returning again in charge of the schoolmaster. By this plan additional room would be gained; and then by transferring the girls' school to what is now the boys' school-room, the large apartment now used by the former, could be applied to the use of the able-bodied females as a day-room, which is very much required; the room now used for that purpose being altogether too confined, and quite inadequate for the numbers of that class now in the house. By following out these arrangements still further, additional dormitories can be obtained, and the workhouse test be made more extensively available, and this I am satisfied may be done without over-crowding the house or endangering the health of the inmates. At present the house is in a healthy state; and there are no cases of contagious disease upon the medical officer's lists. The cases in hospital are 67, and the deaths during the last week were eight; the number of in-door paupers of all ages being 1062.

Before I close my remarks upon the state of the house, I wish to call the attention of the Commissioners to some facts in connexion with the auxiliary

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workhouse, which were the subject of discussion at the Board of Guardians yesterday, as will appear upon reference to the minutes of proceedings transmitted by the clerk. From an examination of the minute book, it would appear that in November last the Guardians entered into an agreement with Mr. P. B. Ryan, the vice-chairman of the Board, to rent from him for one year certain, a stand-house on the race course, near the workhouse, for the sum of 100*l.*, as an auxiliary workhouse.

As it then stood, the building was in an unfinished state; and with the exception of proximity to the poorhouse, affording, in my opinion, no accommodation at all commensurate with the price to be paid for it. Of the rent of 100*l.*, 50*l.* was actually paid in advance; and at a subsequent period, by a resolution of the Board of Guardians, 40*l.* was voted to Mr. Ryan to complete the buildings, and make the accommodation more extensive. This agreement (at best) was in my judgment injudicious and improvident. This gentlemen has thus received from the representatives of the ratepayers, the sum of 90*l.*, for the permanent improvement of a building, hired by the Guardians for one year only, and which is not yet entirely applicable to the purposes for which it was taken. One-half of the term agreed upon has nearly expired, and some time must elapse before the Union can get the benefit of the arrangement, such as it is. This being the state of facts, a majority of the elected Guardians, at the meeting of the Board held yesterday, did not hesitate at Mr. Ryan's request, to pass another resolution by which the remaining balance of the rent (50*l.*), which will not be due until the expiration of the term in November next, was directed to be paid to him, on the avowed ground of enabling him to pay his poor rate, which has been hitherto in arrear; and also to enable him to qualify, if possible, as a candidate at the ensuing election of Guardians for this Union. By a rule of the Board, a particular day is set apart for the consideration of all matters of finance, on which there is usually a full attendance of members. The rule was broken through on this occasion, no notice of the intended resolution having been given; and the matter was never submitted to the Committee of Finance. When the resolution was brought forward, I felt it my duty to protest against the adoption of a principle, which, if carried out, would enable any ratepayer having an unsettled account with the Board of Guardians, to make his claim a set-off as against the payment of his rates; and although the *ex-officio* Guardians then present, as also a few of the elected Guardians protested strongly and afterwards voted against this payment of rent in advance, a majority of the Board passed the resolution. Considering the entire transaction, the taking of the house from one of their own body at an exorbitant rent, the advance of one-half of that rent at the time, and the subsequent advance of a sum of money for permanent additions to a building hired for a year only, and now the payment of the remainder of the rent before the expiration of the term, I cannot designate it as being otherwise than a disgraceful and profligate job. Feeling thus strongly, I deem it my duty to call the attention of the Commissioners to the matter; and as by the regulations, the check upon the treasurer cannot be signed by the chairman until the meeting of the Board on the 14th instant, it is still possible for the Commissioners to interfere; and if they think I have taken the proper view of the transaction, they can communicate with the Board of Guardians in reference thereto.

In reference to the out-door relief, I have little to add to my previous reports. There has been a small increase during the week to the very large number of paupers receiving relief, now about 17,940 souls. And I must again repeat, that until some test of real destitution shall have been stringently applied, any diminution in the numbers is scarcely to be hoped for. That the test has not been put into operation, is solely from the want of the necessary implements, for which I have frequently asked, and which I fully expected to get an order for long since. The Guardians, however, passed a resolution yesterday to apply the test without further delay, in whatever way it can best be done under the circumstances. The very great numbers appearing on the out-door relief list for the electoral division of Thurles, must be in part ascribed to the want of a regularly appointed relieving officer for that district, the Commissioners not having as yet sanctioned the recent election by the Guardians. Upon this subject, and the inconvenience attending the want of a responsible relieving officer, I very lately addressed a communication to the Commissioners. To that letter, and also to my answer of the 6th instant to circular No. 219 (of

the 2nd March), I beg to refer as to the present state of out-door relief in this Union.

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The collection of the poor rate during the last week, exhibits a small increase over the amount lodged during the previous week; still it is not by any means as satisfactory as I could wish it to be, and I felt it my duty to express my dissatisfaction, not only to the collectors themselves, but also at the meeting of the Board of Guardians; and a resolution was passed in reference to three of the collectors, which I hope will have a salutary effect in urging them on to a better discharge of their duties.

The amount lodged in the treasurer's hands since the date of my last report is 650*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*; the entire amount of rate and arrears collected, is 8600*l.*; the amount still to be collected is 10,414*l.*; and the balance in the hands of the treasurer is 1266*l.* This statement is not a very flattering one, and the difficulties in the way of collecting, are more likely to increase than diminish at this period of the year; still as compared with some other Unions in the south of Ireland, the contrast is not unfavourable to Thurles.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LABARTE;—*March 20, 1848.*

I AM to forward herewith for your information, a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have addressed to the Board of Guardians of the Thurles Union, on the subject of the resolutions passed by the Board on the 7th instant and 14th instant, respectively, relative to the sum of 50*l.* proposed to be given by the Board to Mr. P. B. Ryan, for the rent up to the 1st November, 1848, of the additional building which they have taken from him.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—
March 20, 1848.

THE Commissioners have observed on the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Thurles Union, on the 7th instant, the resolution directing that a check be given to Mr. P. B. Ryan, for 50*l.* for the rent up to the 1st November, 1848, of the additional building which the Guardians have taken from him, for the purpose of affording increased workhouse accommodation, and in reference thereto, I am directed to state that the Commissioners are informed by Mr. Labarte, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, that the second payment of 50*l.* was asked for by Mr. Ryan, and granted by the Board in advance, for the avowed purpose of enabling Mr. Ryan to pay his poor-rates.

The Commissioners have also received from Mr. George Ryan a copy of a protest, signed by himself and ten other *ex officio* Guardians, against the proposed payment at this time, of the sum referred to, in the terms of which protest the Commissioners have to express their entire concurrence.

Passing over the improvident and injudicious arrangement made by the Board with Mr. Ryan, in taking from him at the large rent of 100*l.* for a period of twelve months only, a building on which it has become necessary for the Board to expend 40*l.* in permanent improvements, and which, at the expiration of nearly half the time, is not yet available for the use of the Union, it is quite manifest that the second 50*l.* of the rent will not be due to Mr. Ryan until the expiration of the term; and the Commissioners regard the transaction as one of gross and disgraceful partiality on the part of the Board towards its deputy vice-chairman.

Had this payment actually been made, and the check been given to Mr. Ryan in pursuance of the resolution, the Commissioners would have deemed it right to dissolve the Board of Guardians, which would have wholly forfeited all claims to the confidence of the rate-payers; but as the payment is not yet actually made, and there is time for the Board of Guardians to retrieve their error, the Commissioners now request the Guardians, in pursuance of the provisions of the 13th article of the General Regulations, to re-consider the resolutions referred to, and hereby call on them to rescind those resolutions.

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Mr. GEORGE RYAN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to the Poor Law Commissioners copy of a protest which the *ex officio* Guardians of the Thurles Union have signed expressive of their opinion on a vote of 50*l.* to Mr. P. B. Ryan, on the 7th instant, and which protest was refused to be entered on the minutes by the casting vote of the chairman on the 14th instant.

ENCLOSURE.

WE the undersigned *ex officio* Guardians of the Thurles Union, hereby protest against the payment of a sum of *fifty pounds* voted by a majority of the Guardians assembled on the 7th instant, to Mr. P. B. Ryan, for rent which will not fall due till next November, and we request of the Poor Law Commissioners to direct the especial attention of the accountant to this (as we conceive) gross misapplication and illegal disbursement of the funds of the Union.

We trust it is only necessary to lay before the Commissioners the danger of such a precedent; the obvious hardship of compelling the rate-payers to pre-pay (and to one of the Guardians) a rent that will not fall due for eight months; the utter impossibility of carrying on the affairs of the Union if such a wilful waste of its funds be permitted or sanctioned; the fact that Mr. P. B. Ryan, who has obtained this vote is a defaulter of over 60*l.* for poor-rates; the tendency of such an act to force many who are most interested in the welfare of the Union, to retire in disgust; to draw from the Poor Law Commissioners such disapprobation as will for the future effectually put a stop to a similar proceeding.

March 8, 1848.

George Ryan, J.P., D.L.

John Lloyd, J.P.

William Butler, J.P.

James Lenigan, J.P.

John Trant J.P.

Francis O'Brien, J.P.

We the undersigned elected Guardians, concur in the above.

Martin Quinlan.

Joseph Hanly.

R. M. Carden, J.P.

John Craven Carden, Bart., J.P.

D. J. Webb, J.P.

A. Hartford, J.P.

Solomon L. Cambie, J.P.

W. Armstrong, J.P.

Patrick Fogarty.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, forwarding a copy of a protest signed by the *ex officio* Guardians of the Thurles Union, expressive of their opinion with regard to the granting by the Board of Guardians of a check for 50*l.* to Mr. P. B. Ryan, being the balance of rent which will not become due to him until November next; and I am to convey to you the thanks of the Commissioners for your communication.

I am at the same time to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter which the Commissioners addressed to the Board of Guardians on the 20th instant, upon this subject.

Mr. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 15, 1848.*

SINCE the date of my last report, the Board of Guardians met on Friday, the 10th, and again upon the 14th instant. On the former occasion I accompanied the members of the Visiting Committee in making an inspection of the workhouse; and I am happy to be able to report a still further improvement in the appearance and management of the establishment. There is still, however, the same want of methodical arrangement and discipline on the part of the master, of which I complained in my former reports. The only matter that came under the cognizance of the Committee, and appeared to the members necessary to be submitted to the consideration of the full Board, was the obvious inferiority of the bread, when furnished to the house, as compared with the samples sent to the Board, previous to the contract being accepted. I frequently examined the bread, but I never found it so inferior in quality as it appeared upon that day. A similar complaint has been frequently made of the contractors for out-door relief; but by a recent order of the Guardians, the

relieving officers have been directed, whenever the case occurs, to stop the distribution of inferior or damaged food, and procure a better description upon their own responsibility. The Visiting Committee approved of my suggestions for making the workhouse more extensively available for able-bodied paupers; and as soon as the auxiliary house shall be entirely applicable to the purpose for which it was taken, I will carry the proposed alterations into immediate effect.

The report of the medical officer is very satisfactory as to the health of the house. The deaths during the week were only eight, and the cases in hospital were 70 when his return was made. There are 1084 paupers of all ages now in the house, at a cost of 1s. 6d. per head, or 84l. 19s. 3d. for the week. The number of able-bodied paupers receiving out-door relief under the 2nd section of the Act of Parliament exhibits a small increase during the past week over the preceding one. There are now 17,996 names returned on the relieving officers' lists. The cost of out-door relief for the week was 398l. 11s., or something over 5d. per head. This is doubtless a bad state of things, and indicative of very great abuses in the distribution of relief, or of great destitution in the Union. Both circumstances must be taken into account as having produced this result; but henceforward I expect that the weekly returns will exhibit a considerable diminution in the numbers receiving relief, as the test will be in full operation throughout the Union before the end of this week.

The order of the Board of Works, directing the storekeeper at Templemore to furnish the implements required by the Guardians, was this day transmitted by the clerk, and they will be distributed to-morrow to the electoral divisions.

The collection of the poor-rate during the last week (I regret to observe) has decreased in amount as compared with the previous week, although no exertions have been spared upon my part in urging the collectors to perform their duties with zeal and assiduity. I have made it my business to examine the lists of the ratepayers in the several electoral divisions; and wherever I find the name of a party considered to be solvent, and appearing as a defaulter, I impress upon the collector the necessity of making an immediate application for the rate, and, if unsuccessful, of proceeding without further delay, either by distress or summons. By a recent order of the Guardians, the collectors have been allowed another week to enable them to make fresh efforts, and obviate the necessity of having their names submitted to the Commissioners for dismissal.

The sums lodged to the credit of the Union during the week, amounted to 586l. 15s. 2d.; the balance in the treasurer's hands is 1272l. 2s. 1d.

Adverting to the resolution of the Board of Guardians of the 7th instant for payment of the sum of 50l. to Mr. P. B. Ryan, for rent to be due in November next for the auxiliary workhouse; and to my report of the 8th instant, detailing the proceedings connected with that most improper application of the funds of the Union, and which report, from your letter of the 11th instant, I find has been under the serious consideration of the Commissioners, I have now to state that, at the meeting of the Board yesterday, Mr. Ryan, of Inch (one of the ex-officio Guardians), whose regular attendance at the Board, and whose familiarity with, and attention to, the business of the Union entitle his opinions to deference and respect, submitted a protest, signed by 11 of the ex-officio Guardians (and also by some few of the elected Guardians), drawn up in strong terms, but which, in my opinion, the circumstances of the case fully justified, and moved its insertion on the minutes. This was opposed, and, after a discussion of a very angry character, the protest was rejected upon a division by the casting vote of the Chairman. I have been since informed by Mr. Ryan that it is his intention to forward a copy of the protest to the Commissioners for their consideration, who, I have little doubt, will be of opinion that my last report in reference to this unfortunate transaction rather understated than exaggerated the case. It is right, however, to observe that no attempt was made to give effect to the resolution by signing the check for the money voted to Mr. B. P. Ryan.

In consequence of the contemplated meetings to be held on the 17th instant, there will not be a meeting of the Guardians on that day, and the Board stands adjourned until the 21st instant.

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REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 16th instant relating to the affairs of the Thurles Union; and I am to express to you their satisfaction at the improved condition of the work-house.

The Commissioners regard with much anxiety the continuance of the large amount of out-door relief, and the great number of recipients, especially of the classes relieved under the 2nd section of the Act, and they rely on your exertions to have the labour-test carried out as efficiently as possible; they also request your continued exertions in urging the collectors to perform their duty, in duly enforcing payment of the rates.

It appears that the Vice-Chairman, Mr. P. B. Ryan, is a considerable defaulter, and the Commissioners think no delay should occur in requiring him to pay his rates, as the example must be injurious to the general progress of the collection.

You will perceive, by the letter addressed to the Guardians at their last meeting, that the Commissioners have entirely adopted your views, and those of the 11 Guardians who signed the protest, as to the great impropriety of the transaction regarding the building let to the Board by Mr. P. B. Ryan.

Mr. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 22, 1848.*

THE 17th instant being kept as a holiday, neither the Board of Guardians nor the Visiting Committee attended at the poorhouse. I have however frequently visited the house during the last week, and although the details of management are not as fully and regularly attended to, and the discipline as perfect as I could wish, still the improvement is obvious, and I can perceive a much greater inclination on the part of both master and matron to attend to my suggestions, and to regulate their conduct by the orders of the Commissioners.

The house, considering its crowded state, is in a very healthy condition. The in-door paupers of all ages at the close of the past week amounted to 1091. The number of the patients appearing on the medical officer's return at the same period was 67. The deaths were only 5. The cost of in-door relief amounted to 86*l* 14*s*. 4*d*., being at the average rate of 1*s*. 6*d*. per head for the healthy, and 2*s*. 9*d*. for the sick paupers. The latter charge appears to be too much, and was remarked upon by Mr. Lloyd.

The returns for out-door relief are always a week behind, as compared with those for in-door relief. The Guardians meet every Friday to transact business appertaining to the former *only*, and consequently the accounts are only made up to the previous Saturday. The numbers relieved during the week ending the 11th instant, were 17,886 souls, being a trifling decrease as compared with the previous week; but I expect that the next returns of the relieving officers, which will be made up to Saturday the 18th instant, will exhibit a very considerable diminution in the numbers relieved. The test is now more or less in operation throughout the Union, though I cannot say it has proved as efficacious as I expected it to be. The Board of Guardians refused to appoint superintendents (as I requested them to do) for the purpose of overseeing the stewards and measuring the quantity of work performed. I pointed out to the Board the consequences of refusing to make these necessary appointments, but the Guardians undertook to perform these duties themselves in their several districts, which promises, I need scarcely observe, they have very generally failed to perform. The stewards consequently have been left in a great measure free from control, and their returns can hardly be depended on by the relieving officers; while my visits to the different working parties have been necessarily few and partial, such as I have been enabled to make in the intervals of more important avocations. The sealed order of the Commissioners authorizing the continuance of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor to the 1st of April *only*, was submitted to the Board of Guardians yesterday. As all my objections to the discontinuance of relief on the 18th of March appear to my mind to apply equally to the proposed cessation on the 1st of April; and as the Circular of the 2nd of March, addressed to Temporary Inspectors, only contemplated the discontinuance of relief to able-bodied *men*, while the sealed order would seem to include all persons coming under the second section of the Poor Law Extension Act, I would respectfully solicit definite instructions on this point; and I would at the

same time suggest to the Commissioners, that if they would sanction a gradual cessation of out-door relief, by striking off in the first instance only such male paupers as have *no* dependents, and afterwards those who have *small* families, and so on, it would tend to lessen the danger and discontent but too likely to follow from suddenly depriving of food so large a number of persons as are now receiving relief in this Union.

The cost of out-door relief during the week ending the 11th instant, amounted to 389*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, or about 5½*d.* per head.

The collection of the rates during the last week has fallen far below what I think it ought to have produced had due diligence been exercised by the collectors in the performance of their duties. I had fully intended to have brought one of them before the Board of Guardians yesterday, but the excuse of having been sick, which I have some reason to believe was really the case, induced me to pass him over for another week. The amount of rate and arrears which has been collected under the present warrants is 9739*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*, leaving 9275*l.* 1*s.* 3½*d.*, or nearly one-half of the entire to be still collected. Of this sum I fear a considerable part will never be recovered, but no effort on my part shall be wanting in urging the collectors to realize as large a proportion of the outstanding rate as can possibly be collected. The amount lodged to the credit of the Union during the past week was 552*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* only.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LABARTE:—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to inform you that the Commissioners' order, authorizing the Board of Guardians of the Thurles Union to afford out-door relief to certain classes under the 2nd section of the Extension Act specified therein, will expire on the 1st proximo, and I am to request that you will be so good as to report to the Commissioners your opinion as to the expediency of its renewal.

Mr. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS in reply:—*March 27, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, informing me that the Commissioners' order, authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied paupers, under 10th Vic. chap. 31, sec. 2, will expire on the 1st proximo, and requesting me to report to the Commissioners my opinion as to the expediency of its renewal. In reply, I beg leave to refer to my former report of the 6th instant, wherein I stated in detail the objections I then felt to any immediate suspension of out-door relief to able-bodied males, and for the following reasons:—1st. The absence of any demand for agricultural labour; 2nd. The amount of real destitution existing in all parts of the Union, consequent upon such want of employment; and lastly, the then imperfect application of the labour test, as a means of distinguishing real from pretended destitution.

The circumstances under which that report was written, and the general condition of the Union, have not perceptibly changed since the date of it; and my objections to any abrupt or extensive alteration in the present system of out-door relief continue to exist to a very great, though not perhaps to an equal extent, as they then did.

The Commissioners will observe, that at the last meeting of the Board of Guardians, on the 24th instant, a resolution, soliciting a renewal of the order was then passed, and to that request I would now respectfully ask the Commissioners to accede, granting the order for a short period, and requiring the Guardians in the meantime to take effectual steps to withdraw the relief by degrees, and if possible, by classes.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 31, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 27th instant, relative to the expediency of renewing the order authorizing the Board of Guardians of the Thurles Union to afford relief to destitute persons in Thurles Union, under the 2nd section of the Act 10 Vict. chap. 31, and in reference thereto I am to state that the Commissioners have

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issued an order authorizing such relief for one month, a copy whereof is transmitted herewith.

I am at the same time to request that you will be so good as to furnish the Commissioners with a detailed account of the arrangements provided for stone-breaking, and in particular, whether a supervising overseer is appointed to superintend the overseers in charge of working parties, according to the plan adopted in Ballina Union, and transmitted by the Commissioners to Inspectors for their guidance.

MR. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that the Board of Guardians met yesterday for the first time since the recent elections, and having chosen the Chairman and the Vice and Deputy Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year, and selected members to serve on the Finance and Visiting Committees, then proceeded to transact the ordinary business of the Union. As occasion offered, I brought several matters of importance under the consideration of the Board. The first, and probably the most important, was the present unsatisfactory state of the collection of the poor-rates, and the inutility of every effort upon my part to induce the collectors to perform their duties with greater zeal and efficiency. I stated that if the collectors were now permitted to relax in their efforts the greater proportion of the uncollected rate would, in all probability, be entirely lost. The Guardians appeared to think that it was at length necessary to adopt decisive measures with their collectors, and passed a resolution requiring them to appear before the Board on Tuesday next, and account for the very backward state of the collection, with a view to taking further proceedings should the required explanations prove unsatisfactory.

The present state of the collection is as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
The amount of rates struck for the entire Union,			
October and November, 1847	16,660	10	7
Arrears of former rates	2,353	11	11½
Total in collectors' warrants	19,014	2	6½
Collected to March 27, 1848	10,169	19	3
Uncollected	£8,844	3	3½

This does not exhibit the finances of the Union after a lapse of nearly five months as being in a very satisfactory state; and if to this be added, that the expenditure for out-door relief for the last week exceeded the amount lodged by the collectors during the same period, it is obvious that if this state of things be suffered to continue the balance of 1556*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* now in the hands of the Treasurer to the credit of the Union, will be shortly dissipated, and the Guardians will be compelled by the increasing difficulties of their position to strike another and perhaps a more oppressive rate than the present.

The next matter submitted to the Board was the present state of the out-door relief to the able-bodied, under the 2nd section of the Poor Law Extension Act, and the still increasing expenditure incurred during the last week, notwithstanding the application of the labour test throughout the Union, which must be altogether ascribed to the mistaken policy of increasing the rations to men who had performed the labour required. In reference to this matter, and with a view to lighten the expenditure and lessen the numbers receiving relief under the 2nd section of the Act, a resolution was yesterday passed directing the relieving officers to withdraw relief from all male adults without dependents throughout the Union, and to confine the relief until further orders to the heads of families only, who should regularly attend at the stone-breaking and perform the amount of labour required. This is a step in the right direction, and as the weather has become favourable and some employment is now likely to be had, the persons affected by the resolution are those least likely to suffer by it.

From the neglect of one or two of the officers I am unable to state the exact numbers who received out-door relief during the week ending Saturday the 25th instant, but I have reason to believe, that as compared with the previous

week, there has been a diminution of from 300 to 400. The numbers who received relief in the week ending the 18th instant, amounted to 17,886. This was under both the 1st and 2nd sections of the Act. The cost of relief for that week was 387*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*

In my last report I stated that the Guardians had refused to appoint superintendents of labour who should have authority over the stewards and measure the work done. They are now quite alive to the necessity of nominating some such officers, and should the Commissioners think proper to give a renewal of the order for out-door relief, which will expire on the 1st proximo, they are prepared to appoint them. One for each relief district will, I think, be sufficient, if active and intelligent men be selected for the duty.

The next matter that engaged the attention of the Board was the letter of the Commissioners of the 20th instant, expressing their perfect concurrence in the terms of the protest of the ex-officio Guardians, in reference to the vote of 50*l.* to Mr. P. B. Ryan for rent in advance, and their disapprobation of the conduct of the late Board respecting that unfortunate and disreputable business. That letter having been addressed to the former Board was read (as mentioned in my letter of the 25th instant) at the last meeting of that body on the 24th instant, but Mr. George Ryan, who framed the protest, not having been then present, and several other Guardians having expressed a wish that the original resolution, the protest and the counter-protest, and the letter of the Poor Law Commissioners should be again brought under the notice of the Board, they were read by the clerk, and I then called upon the Guardians to take the necessary steps to rescind the resolution as required by the Commissioners in accordance with the 13th Article of the General Rules.

At first it was proposed to let the matter drop, as the money had not been paid to Mr. P. B. Ryan; but I insisted on having the resolution formally rescinded; and the general feeling of the Board being in accordance therewith, a resolution to that effect (and without waiting for the 14 days' notice) was then proposed and carried without any opposition whatever. Since I last reported on the 22nd instant I have frequently visited and inspected every part of the workhouse. Many alterations in the management and economy of the house suggest themselves forcibly to my mind, but unless the members of the newly appointed Visiting Committee give me more assistance, and take greater interest in attending to the duties they have imposed upon themselves than the late Committee ever did, it will be useless for me to point out changes which however desirable in themselves or even absolutely necessary for the purpose of affording increased accommodation, I cannot undertake upon my own responsibility, or without the previous concurrence of the Guardians. In one of my former reports I stated that as we had neither lunatics nor idiots, it might be advisable to make the wards built for their accommodation available for able-bodied paupers; but a recent suggestion of Mr. Lloyd, the district inspector, appears far preferable—namely, to raise those wards another story, and by that means obtain two large dormitories for paupers of that class. This could be effected at a comparatively small expense, and would enable the Guardians to make a better classification of the paupers than exists at present, and would obviate the necessity of again renting as an auxiliary workhouse at a heavy expense and at an inconvenient distance, a building which as yet has been of little advantage to the Union.

This matter, important as I conceive it to be, is even less so than the subject of surrounding the workhouse with a wall sufficiently high to keep the paupers from getting over it, as I have seen them do at all hours of the day with the existing wall, which is merely the boundary wall of the ward to which they belong. The ground belonging to the house has never been enclosed, and until that is done, it will be impossible for the master or any other officer, let him be ever so vigilant, to preserve the discipline of the house and exercise a proper control over the adult male paupers. To be a sufficient boundary fence, it ought to be at least 12 feet high, and with the present amount of available pauper labour in the house it might be completed in a very short time. I believe this is the only workhouse without a boundary wall.

I am happy to say the house continues in a healthy state, and free from fever of a contagious character. The number of deaths, however, during the past week, exceeded those in any previous week since my appointment. Of 16 I find four were persons far advanced in life, and seven were children under 10 years

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of age. The number remaining in hospital on the 25th instant, was 72, chiefly cases of pulmonary disease.

The paupers of all ages in the house on the 25th instant were 1084. The cost of their support during the week was 86*l.* 5*s.* 2½*d.*, or 1*s.* 6¾*d.*, per head. The average cost of a patient in hospital was 2*s.* 9*d.* per head.

When upon the subject of the poor-rates, I omitted to state that the amount lodged to the credit of the Union for the week ending the 27th was 430*l.* 16*s.* only, being a falling off, as compared with the previous week, of 122*l.*

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 5, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners are prepared to approve the raising of the idiot wards if the Guardians are disposed to adopt that course, it having been done in many workhouses with much advantage.

The Commissioners concur in your views regarding the necessity for a boundary wall, and they request that you will be good enough to urge the matter on the attention of the Guardians.

As regards the stone-breaking, I am to state that all experience has shown that a superintendent of the stewards is necessary, but the Commissioners think that two such officers would probably suffice for the entire Union, the salary being such as to secure the services of trustworthy persons, and enable them each to keep a horse. A stipend of from 30*s.* to 2*l.* per week has been sanctioned in other Unions.

MR. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 5, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that the Board of Guardians met on Friday, the 31st ultimo, for the transaction of business connected with out-door relief; and I regret to say that the application of the labour test has not as yet produced the beneficial results I anticipated from it. It appears from the returns of the relieving officers, that although the numbers receiving relief had decreased during the week ending the 25th ultimo, as compared with the previous week, from 17,886 to 17,014 souls, the ill-judged resolution of the Guardians, granting a double ration to each adult who had actually performed the required quantity of work, had the effect of keeping up the expenditure to the same amount as was incurred during the previous week, thereby neutralizing any benefit that would otherwise have accrued from the decrease in the number of recipients. The cost of out-door relief for the week ending March 18th, was 390*l.*, and for the week ending 25th, 399*l.*, showing an increase in expenditure, notwithstanding the decrease in the number relieved. I am unable to state the number of recipients, and the cost of relief for the week ending the 1st instant, as the relieving officers furnish their returns to the clerk every Wednesday, at too late an hour to be of use to me in preparing my weekly report. The resolution of the Board mentioned in my last report, whereby relief under the 2nd section of the Poor Law Extension Act is confined to one male adult in each family, will effect, I trust, a considerable reduction, not only in the numbers relieved, but in the expenditure also; but the benefit cannot be apparent until the returns for the present week shall be furnished by the relieving officers. A still further reduction will be made during the next week, in consequence of a still more recent resolution of the Board of Guardians, directing that one able-bodied female in each family be struck off, except where such female is the actual head of the family. Thus, by little and little, I expect to diminish the numbers so as to obviate the necessity of again making an application to the Commissioners for a renewal of the order authorizing relief.

In your letter of the 31st ultimo, I am requested to furnish the Commissioners “with a detailed account of the arrangements provided for stone-breaking, and “in particular, whether a supervising overseer has been appointed to superintend “the overseers in charge of working parties;” I have to state in reply, that I have at length induced the Guardians to appoint such officers, as will appear by referring to the minutes of the proceedings of the Board held yesterday. Eight supervising overseers have been appointed, one for each relief district in the Union, at a weekly salary of 10*s.* each; five of them have received their

instructions, and entered upon their duties, and the others have been directed to call upon me this day for the same purpose. The other arrangements (previously made), were the appointment of overseers of working parties, the hiring of the quarries, the printing of labour lists, and relieving officers' and overseers' check-books, and the procuring the necessary implements for labour. The overseers of working parties were generally nominated by the local Guardians, and although the parties selected were not always those best adapted for the business, yet I have had fewer complaints to make than I anticipated at first. The pay, in every case, is 6s. per week, paid by the relieving officers, and charged in their accounts. The punishment I inflict for every connivance at deception, or other neglect of duty, is deprivation of pay for one or more days, according to the magnitude of the offence. The number of overseers varies in each electoral division according to the size of the district, the number of the quarries, and the strength of the working parties; the entire number is about 50, but as the numbers on the labour lists decrease, the staff will be diminished in proportion, and I have directed the supervising overseers to report to me when such reductions are necessary or advisable to be made.

The quarries have been in most instances hired for six months, at from 15s. to 1*l.* per month. In some places quarries have been given for nothing, but in others it has been difficult to obtain them at all. The labour lists, check-books, and other documents necessary for carrying out the system effectually, are nearly the same as those used in the Ballina Union, and recommended by the Commissioners. The expense likely to be incurred in printing them was a subject of complaint at the Board, but was felt to be absolutely necessary. There was a very great delay in obtaining the implements from Templemore; the keys of the store at that place were in the possession of the county surveyor at Nenagh, and when the order from the Board of Works was transmitted, the assizes had commenced, and a considerable time elapsed before my application was complied with; the quantity was then found to be very short of what would be required, and many of the working parties are very imperfectly supplied. I am again in communication with the county surveyor on the subject. I have now submitted the details of the arrangements adopted in reference to stone-breaking, and trust they will meet the approbation of the Commissioners.

In respect to the workhouse, I have to state that several members of the Visiting Committee accompanied me on Friday last in making an inspection of the buildings, and the hospital and infirmary wards. There can be but one opinion as to the originally defective site of the hospital—the unfinished state in which some of the walls dividing the yards have been permitted to continue, and the still more obvious want of a proper boundary-wall round the workhouse grounds. I pointed out the advantages to be derived by purchasing or renting the field lying immediately behind the house, and between it and the railway; the Committee agreed with me, and a resolution was passed at the Board of Guardians yesterday, to negotiate with Mr. O'Brien, the proprietor, for the purchase of the field alluded to. He however is an *ex-officio* Guardian, and has some scruples, as such, of dealing with the Board. It would be satisfactory to me to obtain the instructions of the Commissioners in reference to this subject.

The house is very full, but in a healthy state, and free from contagious disease. There are 1108 paupers of all ages now within the walls. The maintenance of the house during the week cost 84*l.* 16s., or about 1s. 6*d.* per head. The number of patients in hospital is 72, at an expense of 1s. 7½*d.* per head. The deaths in the same period were only 6, of which number 4 were persons of 60 years of age and upwards. The lodgments made by the several collectors during the week, show a small increase in the total amount as compared with the week before, being to March 27th, 430*l.* 16s., and to April 3rd, 501*l.* 15s. 11*d.* The collection of the rate engages a great deal of my attention, for it is sufficiently obvious that unless strenuous exertions be now made by the collectors to get in as much as possible of the present rate, and that quickly too, the Union will become insolvent in debt, and a new rate must not only be struck, but levied before harvest. The portion of rate still uncollected amounts to 8342*l.* 9s. 4½*d.*, of which I am informed that about one-half cannot be recovered. The portion collected since the early part of November to April 3rd, amounted to 10,671*l.* 15s. 2*d.* The balance in the hands of the treasurer is 884*l.* 14s. 4*d.*

Thurles Union.

MR. LABARTE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 12, 1848.*

SINCE the date of my last report I attended at two meetings of the Board of Guardians; one upon the 7th instant, and the other upon the 11th. On the former occasion I inspected the workhouse; one member of the Visiting Committee accompanied me. I fear it will be almost impossible to procure a regular attendance of the members of that Committee. We found the workhouse clean; and the ventilation of the dormitories appears to be properly attended to. The house is still very full, but is remarkably healthy and free from contagious disease. There were some complaints made respecting the quality of the milk given to the women in the infirm ward. I brought this matter under the notice of the matron, and have been informed that the supply is often insufficient in quantity, but that no adulteration takes place within the workhouse.

Several able-bodied male paupers having refused to work when ordered to do so by the master, I directed them to be brought before the Board of Guardians on Friday last. The boys over 15 years of age were the most refractory. Five of them were pointed out by the master as the worst, and he was directed by the Board to lodge informations against them for insubordination. On leaving the Board-room they commenced breaking the windows, and were otherwise very unruly. I attended the petty sessions on the following day, when the five above mentioned, and also several others, concerned in the breaking of the windows were convicted and sentenced by the magistrates to imprisonment and hard labour for one month each, pursuant to the statute.

The number of paupers remaining in the house at the close of the last week was 1098, of all ages. The cost of support for the week was 84*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* at 1*s.* 6*d.* per head. The patients in hospital were 60 in number; average cost of each, 2*s.* 5*d.* for the week. The deaths were only eight, of which four were persons over 60 years of age.

The relieving officers' books and accounts for the week ending April the 1st were then examined. I regret to observe that the diminution in the number of persons relieved under the 2nd section of the Act of Parliament has not been what I expected, while the cost of relief still continues as great, if not greater, than it was before the application of the labour test. The total number of persons relieved in that week under both sections of the Act, amounted to 16,846 souls, at a cost of 418*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, or about 6*d.* per head. I am unable to give the return of the numbers relieved during the last week, one of the relieving officers having omitted to furnish his return yesterday though directed to do so by me.

At the meeting of the Board of Guardians yesterday I brought several matters of importance under their consideration, as will appear from the minutes of their proceedings transmitted by the clerk. The necessity of a still further reduction in the numbers receiving out-door relief was strongly pressed upon the Board; and I stated the improbability of a further renewal of the sealed order authorizing relief after the expiration of the present month. In fact, I have reason to think that a larger amount of relief is afforded in this Union than in any of the neighbouring Unions, and is given in a more indiscriminate manner. After some discussion, and impelled rather by the state of their finances than by any observations of mine, the Guardians rescinded a former resolution, by which a double ration (14 pounds of meal) was directed to be given to each adult male pauper employed at stone-breaking. That resolution was a very injudicious one; but having been acted upon for some weeks, the rescinding of it will probably now cause considerable discontent in the Union.

The state of the collection of the rates was also considered. It is still in a very backward state, and gives me considerable uneasiness. The weekly expenditure of the Union is increasing, while the amount of income collected, and the balance to the credit of the Board, both exhibit a considerable decrease. The collectors were summoned before the magistrates at petty sessions upon Saturday last, and were each fined in the mitigated penalty of 1*l.* for neglect of duty. Nevertheless, the returns laid before the Guardians yesterday are considerably under those of the former week; and I fear it will be necessary to summon the collectors again, and press for the infliction of the full penalty in each case. I have no doubt that great partiality is practised by the collectors

in favour of particular individuals; but as yet I have been unable to procure satisfactory evidence of the fact. The present districts are too extensive; and in the event of another rate being struck while I am on duty here, I would strongly advise the Guardians to add to the number of their collectors.

The rate lodged during the week ending Monday, the 10th instant, amounted to 447*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* The balance in the treasurer's hands was then only 664*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* The entire amount of the rate and arrears collected is 11,118*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, leaving 7895*l.* 5*s.* 10½*d.* still to be collected; of the latter sum not more than half can be safely calculated upon.

After the ordinary business of the day was over I brought forward the subject of the boundary wall, pursuant to the directions of the Commissioners. The Guardians are very reluctant to embark in a proceeding involving a considerable outlay in the existing state of their finances; but they passed a resolution directing the clerk to advertise for tenders for the building of the wall. The necessity for it is obvious to every one. With respect to raising the idiot wards, as suggested by Mr. Lloyd, acting upon the advice of some of the ex-officio Guardians, I have postponed the further consideration of that plan until something shall have been effected in regard to the wall. In the meantime a committee of three members was appointed to inspect and report upon the state of the building hired from Mr. P. B. Ryan as an auxiliary house, and as to the period at which it can be made available for the use of the Union. I have been privately informed that it has been so badly constructed that even if now ready for occupation it would be unsafe to remove the paupers to it at all. I therefore suggested the appointment of a committee of inspection to ascertain the fact.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April* 18, 1848.

I AM to express the Commissioners' regret that at this season the number receiving relief in the Thurles Union under the 2nd section is still so considerable.

It is manifest that increased exertion must be made by the Guardians and their collectors to secure the outstanding rate.

The Commissioners are desirous of being informed of the course which the collectors usually adopt to compel payment of the rates; and whether their general practice is to distrain by virtue of their own warrant, or to summon defaulters before justices.

The collectors have ample powers, and if they do not use those powers they will be liable for rates lost through their default, and their poundage should not be paid to them until the extent of any such loss be ascertained.

If partiality be shown by any collector, the Commissioners will be prepared to remove him from office.

ATHLONE UNION.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 12, 1848.*

WE beg to lay before you a statement of our proceedings for the past week.

The collection of the rate being the most important step, and now quite in abeyance, we advertised for the third time for the vacant districts, and secured the services of two more collectors highly recommended; one district only now remains vacant, and we will advertise this.

On this day week the magistrates at petty sessions decreed Edward H. Naughten, Esq., for 59*l.* rates, and John Sullivan for 9*l.*—both those gentlemen were members of the late Board. There were some minor cases also decreed. We find the greatest reluctance on part of the old collectors to take any proceedings at law for the recovery of the rate; but we have directed our solicitor to proceed against numbers next Court day, which, by the way, occurs but once a fortnight.

The three old collectors re-appointed have perfected their bonds, &c., and we have sent them out to collect this day; for the rest the query sheets have not yet been returned from your office.

The relieving officers have all attended, and so far we have no reason to find fault with their conduct. The majority of cases on their books were of the most destitute character: when admissible under the 1st section, we granted out-door relief in food, but generally offered the test of the house, which very few accepted, considering the number of applicants.

We have elected a relieving officer to oversee the stone-breakers; he was in the army in the rank of sergeant, and held high testimonials. We have not yet got any implements from the Board of Works to employ them.

The house continues healthy, and is vastly improved in cleanliness and ventilation. We have curtailed the consumption of fuel.

In concluding we have to add that our treasurer, the National Bank, has refused to honour our cheques beyond the amount of lodgments weekly; and we have to repeat our request of last week for an advance of 500*l.* on the faith of the rates; and we have little doubt of being able to repay the same within two months.

We have just had an interview with Mr. Bruce, agent to Captain Meecham, owner of the auxiliary workhouse, to ascertain if we could get a further tenure (if necessary), before the outlay of 30*l.* on repairs, &c. He promised to write to Captain M. to Jersey for instructions, and we defer the contracts in consequence.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have sanctioned the appointment of all the collectors of poor-rate in the Union, with respect to whom the necessary preliminary inquiries have been made and answered.

A sum of 500*l.* was remitted to Mr. Flanagan, the Inspector of the Union, for your use on the 10th instant. This money should be repaid out of the rates to be collected, at as early a period as possible.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 18, 1848.*

IN the collection of the rate we have to report the 10 appointments all made, and amongst them some very respectable parties, and they all seem competent. We await your approval of the two last elected this week; of the validity of their sureties in every instance we have fully satisfied ourselves. We hope to have all the books sent out before our next report.

The relieving officers are all appointed; eight out of ten working, and, with one exception, doing their duty zealously. We are arranging their offices, stations, and days of attendance; and this done, we will regulate the supply and distribu-

tion of meal and hours of attendance with more system than the hasty arrangements we were constrained to make admitted of heretofore.

James Kilduff, the exception referred to, was not doing his duty, having other employments. He has resigned, and we recommend the Commissioners to accept the resignation which has been forwarded to them.

The inspection of the relief officers' books has occupied our time the chief part of the last three days, and the numbers rejected very small. We confine our outdoor relief strictly to the first section of the Act; and many who have been admitted to the house remain but a few days.

We are still without any order for implements from the Board of Public Works, asked for the week before last. We only wait the receipt of these implements to put the able-bodied in-door paupers to work under the steward appointed for the purpose.

We have this week elected a master shoemaker and tailor, both of respectability; and will forthwith arrange to have the shoes and clothing of the house made and repaired in it, and the apprenticing of boys to each of those trades in the house.

The state of the house is gradually improving. We got 90 new beds in, and a large quantity of clothing, which is in course of being made. The boys' auxiliary workhouse shows a marked improvement in order and cleanliness.

We have advertised for a clerk, and a paid nurse-tender for the hospital, this latter duty being heretofore performed by an irresponsible pauper.

The clothing books have been quite a blank for the past 12 months. We have issued orders for taking stock, and keeping those books in proper form henceforward.

We have received the order for 500*l.* worth of food on the Commissariat Department here, from the British Association, at the instance of the Commissioners, for which we beg to return our best thanks. We have put ourselves in communication with the head of that department here, and purpose drawing on his stock next week.

An unhappy circumstance has occurred since our last, which, while we cannot but deplore, we nevertheless feel that we have acted only in accordance with the provision of the law we were appointed to administer; and that the deaths which we record were purely the result of accident, occasioned by the thoughtlessness of youth and the severity of the season.

The case is simply this: last week we investigated the circumstances of the inmates of the house who were receiving relief at variance with the spirit of the law, and with the intention of keeping room in the house as a test for the able-bodied seeking relief. We obtained from the master a list of those parties. Amongst the list (of about 130) we found two boys in the school, whose mother lived eight miles distant, in the electoral division of Cam, and who had two other children more, grown up, living with her on four and three-quarter acres of land. We made a general order for their discharge on the following Monday, and at the same time directed the master to give them a week's supply of meal, and get them placed on the relieving officer's books provisionally. This was done, and the two boys in question left the house at 10 o'clock on Monday, in company with the 130 before mentioned, many of whom were going to the same district; and the parting admonition of the master was, that all should travel together to their respective districts. This it appears those boys, whose ages were 11 and 12 years, did not do, but spent the day in the town, and returned at night to the workhouse, and the master took them in, they saying they would go home next morning. They were not dejected, but, as he says, "as merry as rabbits;" and he adds, the impression on his mind was that they were elated at getting free to go home. Next day (Tuesday), after breakfast of stirabout and milk, they got their dinner allowance of bread, and set out for home highly pleased. This was at 10 o'clock, and at about 12 o'clock the medical officer, Dr. O'Connell, saw them in the suburbs of the town, not half a mile from the workhouse, eating bread. At three o'clock they were met six miles from the workhouse, and about two miles from their home, by some boys coming from school. They are lost sight of from that hour till 12 o'clock at night, when one of them knocked at a farmer's door, evidently benumbed with cold. He is refused admittance to his house, but placed in his barn on some straw, and found dead in the morning, and his brother was found dead in a field a mile distant. Both were healthy, strong boys, and far from being devoid of intelligence.

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We received notice of the melancholy occurrence from the police, and sent a physician, the master of the workhouse, and two public reporters, to take notes of the inquest.

Mr. Flanagan's
Report, 14th
March.

In conclusion, we beg to add that we have made a rigid inquiry into all the circumstances of the above melancholy occurrence, and from all we can gather, believe the foregoing to be a correct statement of the facts.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 24, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 18th instant relating to the Athlone Union, and with reference to the resignation of Mr. James Kilduff, of the office of relieving officer, I am to state that you (as the Commissioners have stated in another communication) are fully empowered to accept the resignation; and the Commissioners request that you will at once proceed to the appointment of a relieving officer in room of Mr. Kilduff.

I am at the same time to state that the Board of Works have been requested to have the implements furnished which you require for the employment of the able-bodied persons receiving out-door relief in the Union.

The Commissioners have read with regret, the accounts which you have transmitted, of the death of two boys named Kelehan, whom you had discharged from the workhouse; you appear, however, to have been under the necessity of discharging them, as you had ascertained that their mother, with two more of her children, occupy four and three-quarter acres of land in Caw electoral division; and it further appears, that you took the precaution of having them provided with a week's supply of food, and had them discharged at 10 in the forenoon with several other persons, several of whom were going to the same part of the Union; notwithstanding which they again presented themselves at the workhouse in the afternoon, were received by the master, supplied with breakfast the next morning, and after their receiving the dinner allowance of bread they departed for their home. The subsequent fatality therefore is not ascribable to any want of precaution in discharging these boys, who appear to have been healthy, and of ages (12 and 11 years) which rendered them fit for being discharged in the manner adopted.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 24, 1848.*

IN consequence of the workhouse being now filled to the limit prescribed by you, and the pressure for admission being unabated, we are obliged to request you will be so kind as to issue an order under the 2nd section of the Act, for the distribution of out-door relief, and which you may rest assured we will use the utmost discretion in administering.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state that in compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 24th instant, the Commissioners have given directions for the issue of an order authorizing you to afford out-door relief to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect; and not being persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, and thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, whom they are liable by law to maintain; and not being poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, for one month after the date of the order.

Mr. WALL, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

IN consequence of the illness of my colleague, Captain Drought (who I regret to say is confined to his bed by severe cold and influenza since Sunday last), I have

been chiefly occupied during the week in revising the relieving officers' books. The applicants were very numerous and extremely destitute.

We requested the relieving officer of Cam to visit the house of the widow Kelehan, on whose two children the inquest was held referred to in our report the week before last. We annex his note.

The relieving officers generally are doing their duty well.

The rate collectors have lodged near 200*l.* this week. We hope for a considerable amount the next.

The master, M'Nulty, was confined to bed four days this week. We fear his health will not permit him to retain his office.

We got the tools, &c., from the Board of Works, and 45 men have been engaged breaking stones in the workhouse-yards during the week.

An inquest was held in the house by Mr. Keogh, the coroner, on the body of Bridget Downey, a girl of about 15 years of age, who was brought to the house on her mother's back on Tuesday, and died in a few hours afterwards. It appeared that her mother was married a second time to a man named Spellman, who refused to support the step-children, four in number. Spellman holds nine acres of land.

We have ordered 36 spinning-wheels and a quantity of wool to employ the females. The shoemaker and tailor are at work with six apprentices each weekly. We have arranged that they shall attend school the alternate weeks, and their place be supplied by another set of apprentices. A curious incident occurred in connexion with this. On Thursday last a boy, named Carty, was marked off as an apprentice to the tailor; his mother objected to his leaving the school. He had some altercation with her, and expressed himself determined to learn the trade, and his mother was equally positive he should not. He walked out deliberately to the Shannon, before the door, and threw himself in, and was very near being drowned. He was rescued; and it was some hours before the physician could resuscitate him. He was about 15 years of age.

The election of clerk and relieving officer for St. Mary's is deferred till next week. There is a relief officer acting *pro. tem.*, and quite satisfactorily, for St. Mary's.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. KING, Relieving Officer, to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 23, 1848.*

IN consequence of an occurrence which took place in my relief district, relative to the death of the two boys, Kelehans, I thought it prudent to visit the house of their mother on 22nd instant.

Her house, although small, was somewhat more comfortable than in general I see them. She had about three barrels of wheat threshed in the corner, and as I came to the door covered it with some of the straw. I also heard from a respectable man that she disposed of a load of wheat the Saturday week previous.

Her son, a strong boy about 19 years of age, showed me the extent of her land, which contained, as he pointed out and told me, about four and a half acres Irish.

She has some wheat sown, and was very well able to support her family.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 9, 1848.*

WITH reference to the case of Spellman, who has refused to support his step-children (one of whom died in a few hours after her admission to the workhouse), I am to request your attention to the 2nd section of the Vagrant Act, and to the 53rd section of the Irish Poor Relief Act as regards the liabilities of relations.

THE COMMISSIONERS to MR. FLANAGAN:—*March 8, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which they have received from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a man named Michael M'Loughlin, who is stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body to have died from hunger and want; and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances as will enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case, and

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especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Vice-Guardians of the Athlone Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

Mr. FLANAGAN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 20, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to submit the following as my report of the facts connected with the death of a man named Michael M'Loughlin, and into which I was directed to inquire by your letter of the 8th instant.

The deceased appears to have been a strolling beggar, formerly a pedlar, of about 60 years of age. That he was very poor and in great destitution is evident from the testimony of the witnesses examined, but the immediate cause of his death appears to me to have been the disease of his knee, the pain of which was so acute as to have caused him to roar from it, as described by the witness Catherine Galvin. That his death was hastened by want I think highly probable, but I do not, under the circumstances detailed in the evidence, think that hunger was, as found by the jury on the inquest, the immediate cause of his death.

I do not find that any application was ever made by him for relief to the relieving officer of the district in which he died.

ENCLOSURE.

Athlone, March 13, 1848.

Michael Galvin, sworn and examined.—Knew Michael M'Loughlin; he came to my house last Monday week, at night, and died on the Wednesday following in the morning; lives at Esker, about six miles from this; M'Loughlin told me he lived one side of Mount Talbot; * he appeared to be about 60 years of age; he complained of having a pain in his knee; he was a travelling man, and used formerly to carry a hand basket, but this last turn he had none; on Tuesday morning he was too weak to get up; he did not complain of being ill, except of the pain in his knee; his knee was very much swollen; on Tuesday he did not eat anything, but he drank a little gruel; he did not complain to me of being starved; cannot say how far he came on Monday; did not tell me that he had applied to the relieving officer of the district; he was very bad with the pain in his knee; the swelling extended down the leg and foot, which were all blistered; I think he died from need and the pain in his limbs. There was no doctor examined on the inquest.

Catherine Galvin (aged 65 years), examined, not sworn.—Recollects M'Loughlin coming to her house on the Monday night; he was crawling against the walls along the road, and tried to get into several houses, but would not be let in; he was hardly able to walk; he had a naggin full of oaten-meal with him; it was duskish; about nightfall; he did not complain of being hungry when he came in; he sat down by the fire, and his leg and knee were so much swollen and blistered, he was not able to lay his foot to the ground; the little girl (a daughter of mine) then made his bed for him, some straw in the corner of the fire, and took off his smallclothes for him, which he never afterwards put on; he appeared to suffer very much; he eat some gruel that evening after he came in; the next morning he was not able to get up; the pain in the knee was so great he was roaring from the pain; on Tuesday night he was very bad, getting worse and worse, and on Wednesday morning he died; on Tuesday he did not eat anything but two or three spoonsful of stirabout which I gave him; I had no more to give him.

Patrick Keogh, relieving officer for Taghmaconnell and Dysart, states, that he was a strolling beggar, and never applied to him for relief.†

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 11, 1848.*

WE beg to lay before you our report for the past week.

The election of officers, deferred in consequence of the illness of Captain Drought last week, has been completed; we have chosen John F. Moriarty as clerk, and M. O'Brien as relieving officer for St. Mary's electoral division. We have also made a contract for the delivery of limestone at the workhouse for use of stone-breakers at 6d. per ton, a very moderate price, delivered.

We are not quite satisfied with the state of the house; we find it very difficult to get our orders carried into effect immediately or satisfactorily. We fear our master is defective in energy, the want of organization is too evident on the male side of the house, and a change will be necessary to reduce matters to that system and order so indispensable in an establishment of this kind at all times, but particularly at present.

* This is in Ballinasloe Union.

† See also subsequently.

The cleanliness of the house is vastly improved ; in the idiot wards, which are full of infirm and decrepid cases, we removed the stoves, and opened the fireplaces (the only access to ventilation in those apartments), placed the inmates on bedsteads instead of the floor, had the entire whitewashed twice, and altogether much reformed.

A robbery of the house has taken place of a quantity of Indian meal (five sacks), under very suspicious circumstances, and which we cannot divest our minds of having occurred in consequence of the laxity of discipline, as well as with the knowledge of more than one inmate of the house.

The store from which it was taken is situate at the back of the kitchen and under the shed, the partition wall is but single brick (four inches thick) ; against this partition, to the height of six to seven feet, are large meal bins, and just over one of those the bricks were removed, and the meal said to be extracted, through so small an aperture as to create some doubt on our parts. The loss is about 5*l.* 15*s.*, and we have deemed it prudent to offer a reward of 3*l.*, to which we pray your sanction. We are of opinion many were concerned, in and out of the house, and a cart or boat used to convey it away.

We cannot avoid expressing our anxious wish that some provision should be legally made to defray the expense of coffins for out-door recipients of relief ; our relieving officers have reported several cases of burial without coffins, after long exposure of the body. The decency of burial in a coffin is almost inseparable from Christian rites, and we are sorry to see it so frequently violated.

The vestry levies were originally for many purposes, of which that for coffins was probably the least. Subsequently the chief powers of that act have been abolished, and the minor remnant, that for coffins, alone remains ; this has been in most places, to the present year, too insignificant to demand a levy, and the act has therefore become inoperative, and none other we believe now exists ; we therefore respectfully suggest to the Commissioners the necessity of some short enactment on the subject ; public health, public decency, and the rites of Christian burial require it.

The relieving officers' books continue to be very heavy, and they are performing their duty to our satisfaction. Now that we are extending relief to the able-bodied we find it necessary to give them some assistance, we did so yesterday for the St. Peter's and Drum electoral divisions, the largest and poorest of the Union. In making those appointments we contemplate their acting as store-keepers and distributors of food, and so create some saving. We will make the appointment with the consent and approval of the relieving officer, and hold him responsible for the acts of his deputy. We contemplate a salary equal to one-half of the relieving officers in each district.

We are making arrangements by advertisement, and with the aid of our relief officers, for stone-breaking depôts, and overseers of able-bodied while so engaged ; we expect to have this perfect against our next report. We have the implements necessary for this work.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 14, 1848.*

I AM to state that if you shall be satisfied, after due consideration, that the present master of the workhouse is not competent to discharge the duties of that office satisfactorily, he should be at once called upon to resign.

The Commissioners will draw the attention of the Inspector of the district to your report. With regard to the robbery which has been committed in the workhouse, they have no objection to the proposed reward for discovery of the offenders.

FURTHER LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—
March 24, 1848.

THE Commissioners have again had before them your communication of the 11th instant, and with reference to that portion of it which relates to the supply of coffins for the interment of the bodies of poor persons who die out of the workhouse, I am directed to state that the Commissioners are not prepared to make any recommendation with a view to the alteration of the present law on the subject.

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The Commissioners trust that the resources for the burial of the dead, which have heretofore been found sufficient, will still be made available; and I am at the same time to draw your attention to the 15th section of the Act 10 Vict., chap. 22, under which the estimates to be furnished by the Relief Committees continued by that Act may include the expense of providing coffins for persons who die of fever, or other epidemic disease, in such Relief Committee's electoral division.

The Commissioners are inclined to think that the master of the workhouse should be held responsible for the value of the meal stolen from the workhouse, under the circumstances mentioned in your report, as such an occurrence could not have taken place had he used ordinary diligence and care.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. FLANAGAN :—*March 6, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith the papers relating to the death of two boys named Kelehan in the Athlone Union; and I am to request that you will have the goodness to proceed to Athlone and institute an inquiry on oath into the cause of death of the children with as little delay as possible.

Mr. FLANAGAN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 14, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state that, in compliance with your letter of the 6th instant, directing me "to institute an inquiry upon oath into the cause of the death of the two boys, John and James Kelehan, in that letter referred to," I have made the inquiry as directed, and have now the honour to transmit notes of the evidence taken by me, and my report thereon as follows:—

The Vice-Guardians of this Union having, shortly after their arrival, given directions that amongst others all persons not entitled to relief should be discharged from the workhouse, lists were directed to be made out of all such persons. The assistant master (then in charge of the house) procured a list from the school-master of all boys whose parents hold land, or were not inmates of the workhouse. Amongst others on that list were the two boys, John and James Kelehan, who had been inmates of the house since the 17th of April, 1847, and, as it appears from the register, were admitted as twins, 11 years of age, orphans, and described as healthy. It appeared from their own statement that they had a mother living at Grange, in the electoral division of Cam, who held about four and a-half Irish acres of land.

In the discharge of their duties it appears to me that the Vice-Guardians were bound under the circumstances to discharge these boys. Accordingly on Monday, the 14th of February, these boys were, with a number of others, brought from the auxiliary house, of which they were inmates, to the workhouse for the purpose of being discharged. But in consequence of some difficulty, as it would appear from the assistant master's evidence, in finding their clothes, they were sent again that evening to the auxiliary house, and on the following morning, after having had their breakfast, and been provided with as much bread as would suffice for one day, they were finally discharged.

To understand the evidence clearly, it will be necessary to bear in mind the relative distances of the following places:—

Grange, the townland on which the mother lives, is distant about eight or nine miles from Athlone; about two or three miles on the Athlone side of Grange is a village of some size, called Carraghboy; within less than a quarter of a mile on the Athlone side of Carraghboy is the rabbit warren referred to in the evidence, and near which one of the boys was found dead; and about a quarter of a mile on the Grange side of Carraghboy is the house of Martin Doyle, where the other boy died. Between Carraghboy and Martin Doyle's there are three or four cabins; again, about four miles from Athlone is a place called the Quaker's Gate; and midway between it and Carraghboy the cabin of John Gaffy, one of the witnesses.

It would appear that after they had been discharged, about 10 or 11 o'clock, as sworn to by the master, in perfect health and excellent spirits, as deposed to by him and Dr. O'Connell, the boys were shortly after 12 o'clock met by Dr. O'Connell in a street called Connaught-street, which is on the way to Grange; they were then eating some bread. No further trace is had of them until about

three o'clock, when some boys coming from school met them near the Quaker's Gate, and, seeing the workhouse clothes upon them, entered into conversation with them, as detailed in their evidence. At that time it would appear that one of the boys, the taller of the two, appeared weak and tired, though hardly so much so as to call for any particular observation from the boys, who very quickly parted company with them. They are next seen by the witness Gaffy in about half an hour afterwards, half way between the Quaker's Gate and Carraghboy; after some conversation with the boys, it appears that he left them and went to his house, which they entered in about a quarter of an hour after; and having sat down by the fire for about a quarter of an hour and warmed themselves, they went away.

Gaffy describes one of the poor boys at that time as extremely weak and badly able to walk; he desired them to make haste, as they would so reach their mother's house before nightfall, and moreover keep themselves warm.

From this time no further trace is had of either of the boys until about 12 or 1 o'clock at night, when the taller and weaker of the two (as the evidence would show) was heard at Martin Doyle's door, moaning in the manner described in his servant girl's evidence.

Doyle's and his servant girl's evidence will best describe what occurred at that time, when the poor boy appears to have been half dead from cold and exhaustion. After considerable demur on the part of Doyle the boy was finally carried from the road, where he had fallen from exhaustion after being turned out of Doyle's house, to the barn, and laid upon some straw. In the morning he was found dead.

His brother was also the next morning found dead in a stubble field near a rabbit warren, adjoining the village of Carraghboy, and about a quarter of a mile from the road.

I do not see that the Vice-Guardians or other officers of the Union are in any degree blameable in the matter.

It was certainly the duty of the Vice-Guardians to discharge all such persons; and the evidence of the relieving officer shows that the mother was in comparatively good circumstances; and they appear to me to have taken every reasonable precaution against the possible occurrence of any such casualty.

In all cases, when the parties discharged were within the classes entitled to outdoor relief, they were supplied with a week's provisions; and in the case of those boys they were given as much bread as would suffice them for the day.

The boys appear to have been warmly clad and healthy, more particularly the smaller of the two, and delighted at being discharged. According to the evidence of the medical officer, boys of their age and appearance ought to have been easily able to reach their home in one day.

It is difficult to surmise where the boys could have loitered from the time of their discharge until they were met at the Quaker's Gate as described. In a period of from four to five hours they do not appear to have travelled more than four miles. And again, what became of the unfortunate boys after they quitted John Gaffy's house; and how the smaller of the two happened to leave the high road (the night being clear and bright), and wander into the stubble field, where he was found dead; and where the taller had been from that time until 12 at night, when he was found at Doyle's door; and how he could have passed through the village at Carraghboy, and not have been seen or heard of there,* it is impossible to divine. It is possible that, overcome with fatigue, they may have turned into the rabbit warren and fallen asleep, and that on awaking after some hours the taller boy may have crawled as well as he could in the direction of his mother's home, and ultimately sunk from exhaustion at Doyle's door.

However this may be, I think the evidence establishes that those boys died from cold and exhaustion, and not from starvation, and that the Vice-Guardians acted humanely and considerately when discharging them.

ENCLOSURE.

Athlone, March 13, 1848.

Thomas O'Brien sworn and examined.—I am assistant master of the workhouse; I recollect John and James Kelehan; they were inmates of the workhouse; they were admitted on the 17th of April, 1847. On the Thursday before they were discharged, I got directions from

* This I have ascertained from the police constable who summoned all the witnesses, and made diligent inquiries in the village.

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the Vice-Guardians to make out a list of all persons in the house where the heads of the families were out and some members dependent upon them in the house, and also of all persons who had land, and of all persons who had a place to go to in case out-door relief were given to them. In order to find this out I gave directions to Scally, the schoolmaster, to interrogate the boys. Scally then returned, amongst a list of other boys, the boys James and John; their mother held four acres of land; this he ascertained from the boys themselves. I then laid this list before the Vice-Guardians; there were about 135 altogether on the list; I got directions from them to discharge all those persons, and to give a week's supply to all those who would be entitled to out-door relief; such as widows with two or more children. I did not get directions to give a week's supply to those boys, because they would not have been entitled to out-door relief. On Monday morning, the 14th February, I commenced to discharge all those persons; one hundred and fourteen were discharged (on the 14th) at different hours, from ten o'clock until three in the afternoon; they all got their breakfasts before they were discharged; the boys were ordered to be discharged on Monday, but in consequence of not being able to find their clothes they were not finally discharged that day: they were discharged on the morning of Tuesday the 15th, about the hour of ten or eleven; they had had their breakfast, and I gave them some bread each before they went out; the quantity I do not exactly remember, but I know they got the regular allowance for the day; they were going to *Cam*, a distance (I believe) to their home of seven or eight miles; there were other persons from the same direction discharged on the same day—amongst others two boys, William and James Green; I gave general directions that all travelling to the same district should keep together; the day was a dry day; I do not recollect whether the day was cold or not; the boys did not object to being discharged, on the contrary I think they were glad to go; they were running about in great spirits; the boys were about eleven or twelve years of age, and healthy;* they had the Union clothes on them when discharged; the clothes were tolerably good; I think the boys were well able to walk seven or eight miles.

William Scally sworn and examined.—Is schoolmaster of workhouse; knew the boys John and James Kelehan; recollects taking a list of boys whose parents had land; I took down the names of those boys; I did so because they told me their mother who was not in the workhouse, held four acres and three roods of land; one of the boys appeared to me delicate; he had had some pain in his bowels, and had been removed to hospital; he was more than a week back in the schoolroom before his discharge, but not a fortnight; I cannot say which of the two boys this was. On Monday, the 13th, they were brought down from the auxiliary house after breakfast, under charge of a man named Cronin; there were about 30 boys brought down; all who were not discharged upon that day, returned together under Cronin's charge; they slept that night in the auxiliary house, and were brought back again on Tuesday morning after breakfast; I never saw them since; one of the boys could have travelled seven or eight miles with ease; as to the other I cannot say; the boys appeared highly pleased at getting out.

Thomas Shee sworn and examined, about 14 years of age.—Recollects overtaking on his way from school the two boys, who were afterwards found dead; cannot say what day it was; we leave school usually about three o'clock; the clock was not going that day; it was about the same time as usual; the school is at *Famore*, about four miles from this; I overtook them about 40 yards from the school; they were walking very slowly; I saw the workhouse clothes on them, and in consequence I asked them why they were leaving the house; I asked them whether they stole away, or had been sent on a message; one of them said not, but that they had been turned out because their mother held land: I walked with them about 100 yards, and then stopped at a place called *Quaker's Gate*, and they walked on; they did not appear starved; one of them was leaning on his brother's shoulder, and appeared weak enough; this I judge from his leaning upon his shoulder; they did not appear to be in good spirits, and would hardly speak; I did not see them after that until the inquest.

Patrick Mullen sworn and examined, about 15 years of age.—Was with last witness coming from school when we overtook the Kelehans; I asked them how far had they to go, and one of them told me not to be bothering him so; this is about a mile from *Carraghboy*, the place where one of the boys was found dead; it was snowing at the time we parted from them; it had not been snowing in the morning when we went to school; the day was cold; the boys did not appear very tired; one of them was leaning upon the other, and walked as if he was lame; he did not appear "*beat up*," and I think he could have walked a mile; the taller boy was the one leaning on his brother's shoulder; he appeared to be weak; his colour was bad; he did not talk at all; it was not (in my opinion) a long walk for a boy of the smaller of the two from this place to the place where they were found dead.

Thomas Gaffy sworn and examined.—Lives midway between the *Quaker's Gate* and *Carraghboy*; recollects coming out on the road about half-past three o'clock in the evening; I observed the two little fellows coming along; the evening was cold; I observed the poorhouse dress on them, and I asked them if they had stolen out themselves out of the poorhouse; the youngest one spoke to me and said not, but that they had been turned out of the house that morning, because his mother held some land. They told me they lived in *Grange*; it is about three miles from this.† The taller boy did not speak much, he appeared to be very weak in his walk and in his talk, but his complexion was good, and he denoted no hardship in his appearance; they were both badly able to walk; the younger better than the other; they appeared very cold; it was daylight at this time, and they could have reached home before nightfall; they were walking very slowly when I saw them; if they did not walk faster, they

* This is from the Register, described ■—twins of eleven years, and orphans, healthy.

† Where he met the boys.

could not have reached home before night; they would have got about half way; after I met them first, I walked with them along the road about five or six perches; they then met an acquaintance with whom they entered into conversation; I then walked on and went into my own house about 30 perches further on; and in or about 15 minutes after this they came into the same house, and they sat down by the fire to warm themselves; they remained in the house about 15 minutes; some people came in, and they stood up to go; I then told them to hurry on, as if they did they would keep themselves warm, and reach home before nightfall; the boys appeared very cold and weak; they did not ask for liberty to remain there that night. The rabbit warren, where I am told one of the boys was found dead, is only about half a mile from my house; there are four houses on the road side between it and the rabbit warren; it was a very cold evening; the clothes they had were good, only the small-clothes torn on the knees.

Catherine Glennon examined, not sworn.†—Was servant girl to Thomas Doyle; I recollect one night just as we were going to bed, (the rest of the family were all in bed,) hearing a weak cry at the door; I was just going to lock the door at the time; I told Mary Doyle of it, and she told her husband, who got up and let a boy in; this was the taller boy of the two; the boy was staggering when the door was opened, and John Doyle took hold of him by the hand; he was falling; John Doyle asked him where did he live, and he said he lived in Cahir; he did not say what particular place; it was almost impossible to understand what he was saying; he asked him was he hungry, and whether he would eat a bit of bread, and he said he would; he then gave him a bit of bread; the boy did not eat it; he asked him what was his father and mother's name; what he answered about his father's I could not understand; his mother's he said was Mary Fallon; this was the only plain word he spoke; John Doyle then told me to take him by the hand and lead him out in the road, the way that he should go home; John Doyle was afraid that he had the fever; the night was very bright, but freezing; I brought him by the hand as far as the road, and when I let his hand go he fell; his mouth was then cut; I then went in and told John Doyle; he said nothing, and he then went to bed; we got sorry then immediately after, and he told me to get up and get the lock of the barn, and I then went up and asked the boy whether he would get up and I would let him in, and he did not speak to me, but he only looked at me; I then took him up in my arms and carried him into the barn; the barn was well roofed in; I laid him on some straw that was in it; in the morning when I got up, John Doyle told me to go and see how the boy was; I then went in and found him dead.

Thomas Doyle sworn and examined.—Recollects a Tuesday night about twelve or one o'clock at night, after he and his wife had just gone to bed, the last witness, their servant girl, coming, to his wife and telling her that there was some one crying at the door. I then desired the girl to open the door and let the person in; she said she was afraid; I then got up and opened the door. When I did the boy staggered in, and would have fallen but I caught him in my arms, I then asked him where he was from, and he said from Cam; and that his mother's name was Molly Fallon. I had him very nearly a quarter of an hour in my arms, he was not able to speak; he was trying to speak, but was so weak he could not speak distinctly; I then asked him if he was hungry, and I gave him a bit of bread; he did not eat it; my wife then who is near her lying-in, told me to put him out and send him home; she was afraid he would die in the house; I then desired the little girl to take him out, and she did; when she let his hand go he fell. I then told my wife that he had fallen, and that we ought to take him in, she said not, she was afraid he would die in the house; and I then told the little girl to take the key of the barn, and let him in, which she did; the next morning he was found dead; we were afraid that he might have the fever.

Michael Dolan sworn and examined (labourer).—Recollects finding one of the boys dead on the lands of Carrick; this was near a rabbit warren; it is a good bit off the road; very nearly a quarter of a mile from the road; I found him in a stubble field about two yards from the wall; I found him early in the morning dead; the gate leading into the warren is about half a mile from John Gaffy's; I saw a bit of turnip falling out of his pocket.

Dr. O'Connell sworn and examined.—Made a *post-mortem* examination of the two boys; the first I saw was James (the taller of the two), who died in Doyle's house; there was no appearance of violence on the body, the countenance was perfectly natural. The stomach contained very little food; that appeared to be composed of either gruel or oaten bread softened by the action of the stomach. The general appearance of the body was healthy, and I do not think that he died from want of food, but solely from exposure to the intense cold of the night. The general appearance of the other boy (John) was similar to that of his brother, the stomach was nearly full of Indian meal and rice, similar to what is given to the inmates of the workhouse; the intestines were empty. I am therefore of opinion that he died in the early part of the night of Tuesday; recollects the boys when in the house, and also to have seen them going out that morning in the end of Connaught-street; they were then eating something, and appeared perfectly healthy. This was just twelve o'clock or very little after; boys of their age and appearance could have walked with perfect ease from the workhouse to Grange without danger and before nightfall.

John King sworn and examined.—Is relieving officer for Cam and Raharra; in consequence of the death of the two boys went and visited the house of their mother; their mother lives in Grange, about eight miles from the workhouse; when I went to the house, which was on the 22nd I believe, but after the inquest, I saw her son, a strong young man of about 18 or 20 years of age; there was then immediately opposite the door, inside the house, a heap of

† This child, about 10 or 11 years of age, I did not think it advisable to swear.

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wheat covered up with straw, the heap appeared to me to contain about three barrels; I then called out the son and asked him to come and show me his mother's land; he then came out and pointed out the land to me; he told me it contained about four acres and a half Irish. The land is arable land, not cut-away bog, all upland; the land in my opinion, as pointed out to me, appeared fully to contain four acres and a half; some of the land is actually cropped, now growing wheat, and some part of it near the cabin is planted with cabbage; the cabin is small but more comfortable than cabins usually are; from the appearance of the cabin and place I do not think they were in any poverty; I did not see any haggard, but a good deal of loose straw made into a small stack, there was much more straw than would have been produced by the three barrels of wheat; and I was told by a confidential man in that neighbourhood that some short time before, she had disposed of a load of wheat; the cabin was also newly thatched; I said to the mother, that it was a shame for her to have allowed her children to go to the workhouse, and she well able to support them; she then began to cry, and said it was now too late to speak of that.

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir DENIS LE MARCHANT:—*March 22, 1848.*

THE Commissioners beg to state that on the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, they directed Mr. S. Woulfe Flanagan, Poor Law Inspector, to make inquiry on oath, as desired by Secretary Sir George Grey, into the circumstances attendant on the discharge of two boys named Kelehan, from the workhouse of Athlone Union, on the 15th of February, and who on the following morning were found dead.

The Commissioners beg now to forward a copy of Mr. S. Woulfe Flanagan's report, with copies of the depositions of the several witnesses examined, by which it will be observed that the boys were discharged from the workhouse, as their mother was ascertained to be living in the Union, in occupation of a cabin and four and a half Irish acres of land (7A. 1R. 5P. English), and that they were when discharged in good health—had taken their morning meal—were provided with a day's allowance of bread, and were considered (as sworn by the medical officer) to be able, with ease, to have reached their mother's residence during the day, after the hour (about 11 o'clock, A. M.) at which they left the workhouse.

The Commissioners further beg to direct attention to the evidence as to the age of these boys, which appears to have exceeded 11 years, also to the statement of the first witness, the assistant master, which shows that they left the workhouse in company with other persons who had to go in the same direction, particularly two boys named William and James Green; and that they were enjoined to keep in company with these other boys and persons, which, however, they must have immediately neglected, as the medical officer met them at 12 o'clock in one of the streets of the town, no part of which is far from the workhouse.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

OUR rate collectors are doing their duty, the last appointed, Mr. Kelly, has not yet been confirmed by you, and the previous appointment, Mr. Jameson, only got his books on last Thursday. 631*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* has been lodged this week by five of them.

The relieving officers are actively engaged, and so far as we can judge, with great propriety. We have granted most of them assistants, subject to their approval and control, at half salary in each case. The relief lists continue to be very heavy.

With regard to the many inquests that have been, and are being holden in the Union, we beg to remark that we have not been able to trace a case in which relief has been sought for or refused, or where our relieving officers have neglected to perform their duties, and so far as we can judge from the evidences taken, the majority of cases appear to have been wandering mendicants from other Unions.

We cannot avoid calling the attention of the Commissioners to the verdicts almost universally returned; viz., "hunger and want," when frequently the evidence adduced would lead to suppose that death had ensued from disease, or other causes at variance with such a verdict. The coroner of the Roscommon portion of our Union appears to have this verdict stereotyped for the use of county juries, and sends the same to the press, before he holds his inquests.

We forwarded you by last post, the report of our relieving officers on the cases of inquests on Michael M'Loughlin and Bridget Downey; two other cases of inquests referred to us by your letter of 16th instant, are found to have occurred in the Ballinasloe Union.

The master has sworn informations against Spelman, the step-father of Bridget Downey; he has absconded.

On inquiry with reference to yours of 8th instant, the number of aged and infirm appearing in the house, we have closely examined that class, and after discharging 52 of their number we find the majority remaining are not cases we could safely turn out for out-door relief.

Regarding your letter of 14th instant, finding the master still deficient in carrying out our instructions, we spoke to him on the subject and he expressed his willingness to resign, and said he would do so on the 25th instant, and conduct the affairs of the house until we could obtain another master, for which we will immediately advertise, and give due time in hope of finding an efficient one.

We beg to enclose the code of instructions we have drawn up for the guidance of our relieving officers, overseers, &c., &c. We have had several parties stone-breaking this week, and appointed overseers, &c., in all the divisions except three.

ENCLOSURE.

ATHLONE UNION.—INSTRUCTIONS TO RELIEVING OFFICERS, GENERAL OVERSEERS, and OVERSEERS, &c.

1st. RELIEVING officers should be most careful in using their discretion as to the persons they return as able-bodied, as they must remember, that if a person is so returned a task of work suitable for an able-bodied person will be required. If the relieving officer has any doubt of a person being able to work or not, he can send him to procure a certificate from the medical officer; but this must be a rare occurrence, as in most cases a man's appearance will tell if he is able-bodied or otherwise.

2nd. In case any able-bodied person absents himself from work for two days in succession, it is the duty of the overseer to report his absence forthwith to the relieving officer, who will at once proceed to his house and ascertain if his absence is caused by illness, if so his name shall be removed from the able-bodied list to the impotent, and such change reported. When such person has recovered, he can again be returned for work.

3rd. If any man absents himself from work, and returns any other day, he may be set to work by the overseer, and receive his allowance for the day he worked; provided he accomplished the stated task.

4th. It is supposed that stone-breaking by task-work will be the best mode of employing the able-bodied. Portion to be employed in quarrying—portion in breaking—and portion in removing. It is calculated that each labourer should quarry three boxes of nine cubic feet daily—each breaker should break one. In inclement weather, when work cannot be done, roll should be called at 9, 12, 1, and 4. The hours of working should be from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

5th. The general overseer is to point out to the overseer in charge of the station at which the working party is to be employed, he is also to point out the nature of the work to be done—the manner in which it is to be performed—and the hours at which the roll is to be called. He is to visit each station once a week, for the purpose of ascertaining the total amount of work done and its value, and to certify same to the Vice-Guardians on their day of meeting. He is to pay particular attention to the conduct of the persons employed, and to report any irregularity.

6th. The quantity of food ordered in each ticket should be fully stated in writing and numbers, and no ticket which is obliterated or altered, or forwarded without signature, will be attended to; and if it occurs often the officer will be dismissed as incapable of performing his duties.

7th. Each overseer should attend and leave his signature with relieving officer.

8th. It is most important that each relieving officer's out-door register should not be suffered to fall into arrear; for this purpose he should at once ascertain the expense of each able-bodied and impotent applicant on his books. This can be done by attending on one day in each week at the clerk's office.

9th. The Weekly Books should be lodged in the office each Tuesday for inspection by the clerk, and can be taken back again at any time.

J. A. DROUGHT, }
EDWARD WALL, } *Vice-Guardians.*

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 24, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners propose to draw the attention of Government to your statement regarding the verdicts returned by the coroner of the Roscommon portion of the Union on the inquests held by him, and I am

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—

therefore to request that the Commissioners may be informed specifically of any case in which the coroner is known to have sent a verdict for publication before the inquest was held.

With reference to the instructions which you have drawn out for the guidance of the relieving officers and overseers, I am to state that as the instructions for out-door relief to able-bodied paupers do not refer to the issue of food so as to show whether the issue is made daily, the Commissioners are desirous of being informed whether a daily issue is made, and whether cooked food can be provided throughout the Union.

Mr. FLANAGAN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 22, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that in my opinion it will be advisable to renew, in the form in which it is at present in force, the order for out-door relief in this Union, which will expire on the 25th instant.

In the electoral divisions of St. Peter, and Drum, Taghmaconnell, and the other divisions in the Roscommon part of this Union, I am of opinion that the distress, so far from abating, is daily becoming greater; and I do not see any prospect of relieving it but through the medium of the order for out-door relief.

The inclemency of the weather hitherto has prevented the commencement of the ordinary spring labour of the county, which will, no doubt, in some degree alleviate the very great existing distress, but in my opinion will not give employment to one-half of those to whom relief must be afforded in some form or other.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 22, 1848.*

WE beg herewith to forward our relieving officer's explanation regarding the death of a man named Michael Gallagher, upon whose body an inquest was held by the coroner of the county Roscommon, who returned the usual verdict—*"Died of hunger and want."*

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. LANDER, Relieving Officer, to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*March 23, 1848.*

IN compliance with your orders, I lay before you a statement relating to the decease of a man named Michael Gallagher, who is stated by the jury on the inquest held on his body to have died from hunger and want in the electoral division of St. Peter's and Drum. Now, gentlemen, I beg leave to state that the deceased Michael Gallagher was on my books for out-door relief since the 7th of February, and that every week from that period he regularly received the complement of rations allowed by Vice-Guardians for support of himself and family, the quantity allowed being 19 lbs. of Indian meal per week; and that up to the day previous to his death he received rations four times, and that the Saturday before he died, the day for distributing the rations, having called the name of deceased, and his wife appearing for him, I asked where her husband was. She said he was lying in fever since that day week. Thinking she was not telling the truth, I referred her to a Mr. Kelly, who lives very near her house, for a note to that effect, telling her at the same time that it would not take her long to do so, as Mr. Kelly was in town, and that I would not leave the meal depôt for some hours after. She not returning that evening, I called her name again on Monday. No one appeared that day. On Tuesday I again called the name, when I was informed that deceased, his wife and family, were lying in fever. I asked was there any one there that would bring him the meal. A brother of deceased said he would bring it to him if I gave it. I then gave the meal. This was early on Tuesday, and the man did not die till next day. Thus far I had to do with the deceased Michael Gallagher. Having visited the house of deceased, which is a most wretched hovel, full of smoke, without any way of escape for it, or for the admission of light, or, what is more necessary than all, pure air, save by a small aperture in the shape of a door, surrounded by a filthy dung-heap, which was sufficient of itself to have created fever, I learned by inquiry from a woman named Gately (the wife and family of deceased being at this time lying very ill in fever), who lives next door to deceased, that he was labouring under a very severe attack of dysentery for a month previous to his death; that a week or so before he died it turned to fever; that he was regularly receiving rations every week; that the day previous to his death his brother received them for him early in the day; that he left them in town until evening, when he sent them to the house of deceased by a boy. The reason he states for so doing is this, that he did not wish to let his wife's apron, in which the meal was tied, into the house of his brother, on account of his having fever; that deceased did not receive the meal till late in the evening, and that even if he had, he could make no use of it, as the

neighbours would not go near his house. In the meantime deceased, in a raving state, and not conscious of what he was doing (as were he so he would not have acted thus), rambled out on the road to see if a messenger that he sent a short time previous to town for his rations was coming, although not half an hour gone. This was about 10 o'clock in the morning; that he did not go more than 200 yards from his own door when he fell in a pool of water, having become exhausted, as might be expected from any one in his state of health; that he lay there for some hours. There were two men working in a field near where he fell; they spoke to him, but would render him no assistance on account of his having fever; that the old woman, from whom I learned all this, coming up at the time, assisted him to rise. He stood upright, but, endeavouring to walk, he fell forward on his head, which, as she says, was sufficient to kill a stronger man. She threw him his hat, not wishing to stop too long near him, as she knew him to have fever. Her husband coming up at the time, assisted him to his house. They saw no more of him until next morning, when they found him dead. I was told by a respectable person who lives near deceased's house that he died more through neglect of his neighbours than the effects of the disease, as they would not bring him even a drink of water. The jury on his inquest being composed of poor labouring men, and no medical man being in attendance, I think under such circumstances, it would be impossible for even a more learned jury to find such a verdict.

I forgot to mention that the time that elapsed from his leaving his own house until he was brought back was about six hours, as he was on the road from 10 o'clock till near 4 in the afternoon. Now, gentlemen, I could ascertain with respect to Michael Gallagher nothing farther.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 25, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your report of the 22nd instant, and a letter from Mr. Lander, one of the relieving officers of the Athlone Union, in which he accounts for the death of Michael Gallagher, who is declared by a coroner's jury to have died of hunger and want.

The Commissioners consider this a very painful case, showing that the relief applicable in it was not afforded.

The officer states, that this man and family had an allowance of 19 lbs. of meal in the week, and that when the man sent his wife for the food, being himself seized with fever, she was required to obtain a note from a Mr. Kelly, to authenticate, as presumed, her statement with respect to her husband's illness. This was on Saturday; and as the poor woman did not return, the allowance of food was not issued. She was called again on Monday, and then on Tuesday, when it appeared that she and all the family were in fever. On Tuesday the food was given to the brother of the deceased man; but uncooked food to a family in fever could have been of little use. On Wednesday the deceased man, under the influence of the fever, appears to have left his house, and was on the road about six hours, during part of which time he lay in a pool of water into which he had fallen.

This appears to be a case of grievous neglect, in not applying the powers given by the Relief Extension Act; and the Commissioners request you to reconsider its very painful circumstances, and explain the course usually taken when families on the out-door relief lists are seized with fever. You are also requested to have arrangements made for issuing cooked food where practicable.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

WE have little to report this week, the most important work, the collection of the rate, goes on favourably, about 1100*l.* being lodged this week by eight collectors, two only made no returns; this places us (at last) on the right side of our treasurer's book, but there is still a large amount of old cheques outstanding against us, which must be paid off by degrees.

The relieving officers' books not so heavy as heretofore, there are about 7500 now on the out-door relief lists. Stone-breaking is in operation, and acts as a salutary test in many instances. Our lists are regularly published, and the abuses undergoing correction.

The workhouse site is being prepared for oats, as no green crop will be permitted to grow in it, from its unprotected state; a good roadway is making round the yard walls outside and to the fever hospital; the women are engaged in spinning, and the children and infirm are knitting stockings.

The master has sent in his resignation, which we have accepted, and adver-

Athlone Union.

tised for another, with an increased salary, in the hopes of procuring a really active and good man.

The Commissary meal is all gone, and we, this week, had to lay in 20 tons. We bought oatmeal at 10*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per ton, which we considered preferable to Indian meal at about the same price.

The state of the house is decidedly improved, and more order and regularity exists.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 28, 1848.*

WE are in receipt of yours of the 25th instant, on the subject of the death of Michael Gallagher, and the relieving officer's report thereon.

The dietary usually adopted by us in case of fever is bread and milk, or oatmeal for gruel, in place of Indian meal. This our physician decided was the most suitable food in such cases.

The case of Gallagher was a painful one, and the relieving officer is censurable; but on explanation we think you will see extenuating circumstances, from the difficulty of his position, the extent of his district, and our inability to place funds at his disposal for urgent cases.

St. Peter's and Drum is the largest division of the Union (in the county Roscommon), and by far the poorest. For some weeks after the relief books were issued to Mr. Lander, the pressure was so great that he could not possibly visit, except in the vicinity of the town. His district extends nine miles in one direction and eight in another. It is now under two relieving officers. We rendered him every assistance by getting the meal distributed at the workhouse; and he brought to his aid several respectable residents of the division, from whom he learned the circumstances of the applicants. The liability to imposition in a town district is so great, that we were more particular in our instructions to Mr. L. to require the attendance of the head of the family to receive the rations. He acted on this in Gallagher's case perhaps more rigidly, in consequence of three reports of fever the previous week, which on visiting he ascertained to be false.

Mr. Lander states, that after refusing the rations to the wife on Saturday, and sending her to Mr. Kelly, the miller, who had employed her husband, and who was then in the town, as she did not return, he visited the house on Sunday (see his report of the state of it). He then called on Dr. Kelly, and asked him to visit the family. He refused without a guinea fee. Mr. L. had no money, nor were we in a position to give our relieving officers any even to the present day.

On Monday, he attended two hours distributing meal at the workhouse to those who did not attend on Saturday. He appealed to those present to take this family food; but none would go near the house for fear of contagion. He then went to Clonown, nine miles, to distribute meal there, and was engaged all day. On Tuesday he again attended the workhouse to distribute further to parties who urgently required it, and again appealed to those present to convey food to Gallagher, when his brother appeared and got it for him. He would not enter the house, but left it outside the door. He got the food before 11 o'clock, A.M., on Tuesday, and it appears he did not deliver it before evening.

That Mr. Lander is censurable in not administering to his wants more promptly and suitably we must admit, and we reprimanded him severely when we heard of the case first, and gave him an assistant, which we trust will be the means of preventing such occurrences in future in our Union, and the more so as we will be this week in a position to place money in the hands of our relieving officers to meet cases of urgent necessity.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 31, 1848.*

WE are in receipt of yours of 25th instant, on the subject of the number of impotent poor remaining in the house, and the necessity for making the house exclusively available for able-bodied.

We are fully impressed with the importance of this rule, and acted upon it as far as our means and circumstances permitted to this date.

Each week we personally visited every ward and offered the only inducements we had in our power to give—ample rations of meal, (we had not the command of any money till now) and the meal was far from being good.

This week we have removed such of impotent as could be safely put out

on either money or food rations; and we will not leave one of that class in the house that it is possible to remove. At no time have we been without some room to test able-bodied or doubtful cases, and exercised it, and we find that the stone-breaking now in general operation, is a salutary test and has reduced the out-door lists.

We do not apprehend the extent of out-door relief will exceed our present numbers, or that we will require a further order under the 2nd section.

With regard to cooked food, we have ordered a set of hot plates (as in Limerick) to bake Indian meal bread in the workhouse, and which we purpose to distribute as rations. We have considered the erection of boilers in each electoral division, and on calculating the expense of doing so and the cost of staff necessary to cook and distribute stirabout, we have come to the conclusion that it is not economic, for the short space of time it is likely to be required, to incur that expense.

We are now just out of debt and have made most reasonable contracts for the ensuing six months, and we do not, as far as we can judge at present, apprehend that a further rate will be required before next September.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 6, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners are desirous that you should consider the issue of cooked rations not in reference merely to the expense of cooking and distributing, but to the effect which it may have in preventing applications for relief from persons not really destitute.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners consider that, at least in Athlone, the rations should be issued in a cooked form.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 31, 1848.*

WE are in receipt of yours of the 24th instant, on the subject of the inquests reported by the Coroner of the County Roscommon, Mr. Keogh.

The only case we can specifically prove, in which he sent in a report of the inquest before it was held, was that of John and James Kelehan, the two boys who perished of cold.

In that instance, both of the newspapers of this town received written statements, in the Coroner's hand-writing, setting forth the result of an inquest which was not held for at least four hours afterwards, and which statement did not correspond with the ultimate verdict returned of the facts elicited at the inquest.

Mr. Martin and Mr. Daly both stated that fact to us, and placed the documents in our hands; one of which is now in the possession of Mr. Flanagan, the Inspector. Mr. Martin is proprietor of the "Athlone Independent," and Mr. Daly of the "Athlone Sentinel."

Mr. Martin published the document and commented on it, and since that he has not received any more reports from the Coroner.

The verdicts returned so frequently by this Coroner of hunger and want, have been found in many instances not to correspond with the evidence adduced on the inquests; and the juries in many cases being composed of illiterate country people, this verdict was easily imposed on them, at the desire of the Coroner, who is doubtless animated by a wish to damage the Vice-Guardians in public estimation, in consequence of their refusal to appoint his son a relieving officer, or a collector of rates, as both offices he proved himself on examination unfit for, being incompetent to write a tender when asked to do so, or calculate the price of a pound of meal at 10s. 6d. per cwt.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 4, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners do not discredit the statements contained in your report, but under the peculiar circumstances of the case they deem it desirable that the facts referred to by you should be verified upon oath, and they have instructed Mr. Lloyd to make inquiry accordingly.

Athlone Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LLOYD:—*April 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a report which they have received from the Vice-Guardians of the Athlone Union, stating that the verdicts in the cases of John and James Kelehan were sent to the newspapers before the inquest had been held; and I am to request that you will be good enough to inquire and verify this report upon oath, by the evidence of Mr. Martin and Mr. Daly, the editors of the "Athlone Independent" and the "Athlone Sentinel," respectively.

Mr. LLOYD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 6, 1848.*

I BEG leave to transmit herewith the affidavits of Mr. Daly and his son, together with the paper the Coroner's son gave Mr. Daly some hours before the inquest was held. I could not procure these in time for last night's post, when I despatched the affidavits of Mr. Martin and his reporter; and indeed I apprehended Mr. Daly would decline doing as he has, as he is, I understand, nearly related to the Coroner.

ENCLOSURES.

JOHN DALY, of Athlone, proprietor of the "Athlone Sentinel," being duly sworn, deposeth that on the morning of Thursday, the 17th February last, Denis Keogh, son to Richard Keogh, Coroner for the Athlone district of County Roscommon, handed him a paper purporting to be the report of an inquest held upon two boys in the parish of Cam, supposed to be turned out or to have eloped from the workhouse. Deponent further saith that he gave the paper so received to his son Daniel upon his return from the inquest held on the same day at Cam.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 6th April, 1848, at Athlone,

JOHN DALY.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

DANIEL DALY, son of John Daly, of Athlone, proprietor of "Athlone Sentinel," being duly sworn, deposeth that he is editor and reporter for the "Athlone Sentinel," that he proceeded to Cam on Thursday the 17th February, to report an inquest about to be held, as alleged, upon two boys turned out of the workhouse on Tuesday morning the 15th. While waiting for the doctor and jurymen, was told by the Coroner that he had sent him (meaning deponent) a return of the inquest. Deponent remarked the strangeness of the proceeding, when the Coroner replied, he knew such would be the verdict; that on the return of deponent he informed his father he had taken the report of the inquest, when his father replied that he had received the report long before he (meaning deponent) could be there. Deponent asked to see the report, when his father handed him the document now produced and given to Inspector.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, at Athlone, this 6th day of April, 1848.

DANIEL DALY.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

RICHARD KEOGH, Esq., Coroner for Athlone district, held an inquest on the body of Daniel Fallon on the 14th, and also on a person unknown on the 15th, both found dead on the road in the parish of Faughmaconnell.

Also held an inquest on the body of a boy named Gough, who was found dead in the barn of Thomas Doyle, of Coolnageere, on the morning of the 17th; and also a boy unknown, in a field near Corboy, in the parish of Cam. Both had the dress of the workhouse, being either turned out or must have eloped. The verdict of the jury in the four cases, that they died by hunger and want. The Coroner had to provide coffins for the four.

Mr. LLOYD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 17, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that on the 5th instant I took the sworn depositions of Mr. James Martin, editor of the "Athlone Sentinel," wherein he states that on the morning of the 17th February last, in or about the hour of 11 o'clock, a son of Mr. Richard Keogh, Coroner for the county of Roscommon, handed him a paper, stating at the time his father desired him to give it to him. Mr. Martin observing it was a report of an inquest, laid it by for publication. In two hours afterwards Mr. Martin was informed an inquest was about to be held at Cam (about five miles distant from Athlone), upon the bodies of two boys reported to have died of hunger, after being turned out of the Athlone workhouse, when he directed his reporter

to repair thither and report proceedings, which he accordingly did; and on his return in the evening, about 8 o'clock, he handed Mr. Martin the account of the proceedings, which Mr. Martin having read, observed the similarity between them and the report handed him for publication, which report purported to be that of an inquest held at Cam, upon the bodies of two boys that had been turned out of the workhouse.

It is very probable the boys may have died of exposure to cold from their own imprudence; but it is utterly impossible that they could have died of hunger, as they did not leave the workhouse until after breakfast, and had with them bread to eat on the road home, given them by the master.

Mr. Martin published both the report sent by the Coroner and that taken by his reporter at the inquest, in the "Athlone Sentinel," on the 19th February.

Mr. Daly, the editor of the "Athlone Independent," received a similar report from Mr. Richard Keogh. I took his sworn deposition on the 6th, and forwarded it same evening to the Commissioners, with the report which he gave me, stating it was in the Coroner's hand-writing.

ENCLOSURES.

JAMES MARTIN, of Athlone, county of Westmeath, editor of the "Westmeath Independent," came before me this day, and being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, depose that on the morning of Thursday, the 17th February last, in or about the hour of 11 o'clock, a young man named Keogh, son to Richard Keogh, Coroner for the county of Roscommon, came into his office and handed him a paper, stating at the time "that his father desired him to give him that." Deponent looked over the paper, and observing it was in the hand-writing of the Coroner, and a report of an inquest, laid it aside for publication. Deponent further saith, that in or about two hours afterwards, he was informed that an inquest was about to be held at Cam—over five miles from Athlone—upon the bodies of two boys reported to have died of hunger after being turned out of the workhouse; that having ascertained the information was correct, he, deponent, directed his reporter to proceed to Cam, and report thereon; that in or about the hour of 8 o'clock in the evening his reporter returned, and shortly after handed deponent the account of the proceedings at the inquest, which deponent having read, observed a similarity between them and the report of the inquest furnished him by the Coroner that morning, and which deponent published in the "Westmeath Independent" of the 19th February, together with the proceedings of the inquest as taken by his reporter.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 5th day of April, 1848, at Athlone,

JAMES MARTIN.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

GEORGE DE WINTON HYATT, of Athlone, county of Westmeath, reporter for the "Westmeath Independent," came before me this day, and being duly sworn, depose that in or about the hour of 1 o'clock P.M., of Thursday the 17th February last, Mr. James Martin, editor of the "Westmeath Independent," directed him to proceed to Cam to report the proceedings of an inquest about to be held there upon the bodies of two boys that had been turned out of the workhouse; that he went accordingly, and reported the proceedings of the inquest, as published in the "Westmeath Independent" of Saturday the 19th February last. Deponent further saith, that the verdict was recorded in or about 5 o'clock P.M., after which deponent returned to Athlone.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 5th day of April, 1848, at Athlone,

GEORGE DE WINTON HYATT.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 8, 1848.

We are happy to be able to report our finances in a fair condition; the collection of the rate is excellent, 929/. being lodged this week. The collector's accounts are strictly kept in conformity with your orders.

The relieving officers are working very well, and keeping their books properly posted; the adoption of decimals in keeping their accounts render them comparatively simple and easy to check.

The females are engaged in spinning wool, and the children are knitting stockings—upwards of 50 pairs of all sizes were knit this week; 12 boys are engaged in shoemaking and tailoring and replaced by 12 others each alternate week.

We continue this week to remove on out-door relief, the aged and infirm, and have discharged 129; generally speaking, they evince much reluctance to leave the house, but seeing us determined to grant money rations to such only as were devoid of friends and obliged to pay for lodgings, they gradually yielded and went out on food rations.

Athlone Union.

The applications for out-door relief are sensibly diminished ; on revising the books this week we struck off numbers—all the single adults, under the 2nd section, and many families where we found part employed, or that refused to break stones.

The rate collector for the Athlone division made a distress for rates, and was deforced, at Clonown, a spot remarkable for its lawless resistance, at all times, to the payment of rates. It is bounded by the Shannon on the one side, and a bog at the other. The previous collector was obliged to take a military force there. Mr. O'Sullivan having gone through the usual forms, a military and police force were obtained, who marched there on Monday morning, but were quite unsuccessful, the stock being either removed off the premises or locked up in houses. The collector says if he had the power to break locks, or force into the houses where the cattle were locked up, he would succeed. He is very zealous and determined, knows all the parties, and says they are well able to pay.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 15, 1848.*

WE beg to report that during the past week we have been chiefly occupied revising the relieving officers' books ; the applications for relief were comparatively few, and the numbers struck off for non-attendance at stone-breaking many, thereby indicating increased employment. Potato sowing is very general, and this opens a considerable field for labour.

We have arranged for the daily distribution of cooked food, in the town districts, to the able-bodied receiving out-door relief, to commence on Monday next ; from what we see we consider this class will be very limited in numbers.

You will perceive by the minutes that we have very considerably reduced the numbers of infirm in the house, having placed all that we could induce to leave (of this class) on out-door relief under the 1st section.

The women and girls are now kept daily busily employed spinning, sewing, and knitting—102 pairs of stockings have already been finished.

The cleanliness and interior economy of the house are considerably improved ; but we would beg to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the fact of the interments on the workhouse site having been spread over the ground very injudiciously, and we would therefore recommend your Board to empower us to obtain a piece of land for a burial-ground, removed from the workhouse.

The master has not been in attendance for the past week ; he is reported to be ill. The assistant master is in charge for the present.

Having made the necessary inquiries about procuring and renting a good and convenient bog, for placing some of the able-bodied out-door recipients to cut turf on, for the use of the workhouse, we find that the hiring of boats, carts, &c., would make it much more expensive than we could procure our supplies by contract, and we will therefore, with your permission, give over all idea of doing so.

On Thursday, after dinner, the able-bodied class refused to proceed to work (sowing potatoes on workhouse site), as usual we sent the assistant master to remonstrate with them, but without effect ; we then went to the yard, where they were all drawn up in a line, on a heap of broken stones, to the number of 100 and upwards, in a very menacing attitude. We read the Poor Law Commissioners' orders, and reasoned with them for some time, but they positively refused to go to work after dinner, observing that they worked enough for the food they got. We then contrasted the usual hours of labour if engaged in farm work outside, and the inferiority of food both in quantity and quality, and if not satisfied to comply with the rules of the house they were at liberty to go out. We then turned to leave the yard, when they unanimously cried out, " let us out, let us out," and followed us in a body across the yard, and into the passage, and showed every disposition to be violent, then we turned and faced them, and ordered them back, saying they should be let out at our convenience, when their clothing was procured. We then seized on the two most prominent characters, observing, " they should go out at all events," and pushed them down the hall passage behind us, calling on the assistant master to keep them in custody, and sent for the police ; we then seized two more of the ringleaders whom we treated similarly, still facing the crowd, and ordering them back into the yard, in which we succeeded, and locked the door. The assistant master,

with the aid of the porter and one or two paupers who were in the front building, locked up the four men in the probationary ward, until the arrival of the police, when they were given in charge. We then went to the stipendiary magistrate (Mr. Rathborne) and had them committed for the night. He read them a very severe lecture, next day they showed every sign of contrition, and he, in consequence of this and their large families (three out of four being married men), urged us not to prosecute them; but being determined not to admit them again without making an example, we permitted the option of quitting the house or prosecution, which former was chosen by them. Our determination, we think, has had a most salutary effect. We attended next morning at half-past seven o'clock at the workhouse, and we found the orders carried out most cheerfully, and matters going on quite satisfactorily since.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 20, 1848.*

THE Commissioners fully approve of your taking the necessary steps for obtaining a piece of ground for a cemetery with as little delay as possible.

As regards the proposed employment of poor persons receiving out-door relief in cutting turf, the Commissioners concur with you in thinking it would be much better to obtain the turf you may require by contract in the usual manner.

The Commissioners have directed me to express their approval of the prompt steps which you took to restore order in the workhouse. The Commissioners fear, however, that the families of the four men who were discharged may suffer in consequence of their discharge, and the Commissioners recommend that the particular attention of the relieving officers should be directed to these cases.

The Commissioners are of opinion that persons in a destitute condition, who may be disorderly or refractory in a workhouse should be punished either by the means authorized in the General Regulations or under the 58th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, rather than that they should be discharged from the workhouse, whereby their families who have not misconducted themselves may be subjected to severe hardships, and if any fatal result should occur from their discharge, the Guardians would be to a certain extent responsible for them.

The Commissioners are desirous of being informed how the collection of the poor-rate proceeds in the electoral division, which was specially referred to in your report of the 8th instant.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 21, 1848.*

WE are happy to report that the interior economy of the workhouse improves, cleanliness is more apparent, and order is better maintained; industrial labour is general. The able-bodied are amenable, and show no inclination to resist authority and labour as heretofore. We will draw the attention of the relieving officers to the families of the men who chose to leave the house rather than be prosecuted for their insubordination last week.

The leases of the auxiliary workhouse have been completed.

We have received a supply of books from the National Board of Education for both schools, 10*l.* 5*s.* worth.

The collection of the rate has been rather slow for the past fortnight on the Roscommon side, doubtless inflamed by the organized opposition at Clonown, and on the Westmeath side by the illness of one of our collectors, Mr. Jameson, of Moate. Two extensive fairs are held on the 25th of this month, from which much is anticipated. We have issued a circular to our rate collectors urging increased exertion.

The collector for Athlone electoral division made another foray at Clonown, aided by the police only, and with signal success: he was on the spot at four o'clock on Tuesday morning, and had 39 head of cattle and 6 sheep safely lodged in pound before eight o'clock. The rate on those seized amounting to about 34*l.*, was paid at once with costs.

Athlone Union.

The result is of serious importance, as pending it, the collector, a very active and intelligent man, declared he could not get any rate in the division.

On the Roscommon side we find fever becoming general, and in many cases we fear it is feigned with a view to get increased relief. The want of a fever hospital or a physician to visit renders imposition of this kind difficult to check.

We have advertised for a building suitable for a fever hospital, also for a burial-ground.

On Tuesday last, six candidates appeared for the office of master, three only seemed at all eligible, and even to these some objections existed. Mr. Hancock, Inspector, recommended a person but he did not appear, so we deferred our decision till next Wednesday, and have written to him on the subject.

LOUGHREA UNION.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 28, 1848.*

IN obedience to the instructions conveyed to us in your letter of the 18th instant, we have now the honour of submitting our second report of the state and condition of the Loughrea Union; and although we are not as yet in a position (from the short period we have had the administration of its affairs, and various conflicting circumstances) to make as favourable a statement as we could desire, still we trust that you will approve generally of our proceedings, and that our next report will show a much improved state of things.

The collection of the rate claims, in importance, our first consideration, and we have been unremitting in our attention to the subject, and have had almost daily interviews with the collectors (who we find a very intelligent and efficient staff). We have urged them to increased exertions, and in several instances have pointed out to them the parties to be *first* applied to, and which they have acted on in most cases with considerable success.

We stated, in our last communication adverting to the rates, that we found the valuation and rate books of the Union in a very defective state, and much requiring revision. We found an extreme difficulty in some cases in ascertaining with accuracy the names of the immediate lessor, and where we have failed in that inquiry we have directed frequent and peremptory demands to be made on the occupier, and are happy in being able to state that we were successful in getting a large sum from that class this week from the poor district of Athenry, which if not urgently applied for would never have been recovered.

The total receipts for the week ending Saturday, the 26th instant, amounted to 1273*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*; and after paying off all our accounts furnished up to the same date (except a bill of 53*l.* which was lodged too late for payment), we have a balance to our favour amounting to the sum of 2586*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*; and the collectors inform us that they are to receive a very large amount of rate from immediate lessors, to whom we instructed them to apply during the course of the current week. We believe our directions on this head have caused no small degree of annoyance and excitement amongst the particular class to which they refer; but as our duty is to carry out our instructions, you may rely on our discharging that duty with unremitting assiduity, as well as with becoming *firmness and impartiality*.

We now have to draw your attention to a subject of perhaps equal importance, namely, the state of the hospital and sanitary condition of the house generally; and we confess we approach this part of our subject with feelings of more than ordinary anxiety, for although we are free to admit that the medical officer is constant in his attendance, and devotes perhaps more of his time to his department than the same officer of any workhouse in Ireland *is required* to do, at the same time we must observe that we are impressed with the conviction that there is something in this branch of the workhouse establishment which requires amendment, and that the fearful mortality which has occurred within the last month has not been satisfactorily accounted for. We fear that the hospital nurse is not a properly qualified person for such an important situation. She is in our opinion much too young for such a trust, and not in other respects *sufficiently steady* to have the lives of unfortunate human beings in a measure consigned to her hands.

We are also confirmed in the opinion that it would be desirable to have an apothecary appointed to compound, and, in certain cases administer, the medicines, in which case we would suggest the reduction of the medical officer's salary to 50*l.* per annum, and we feel persuaded that a vast reduction in the expense of medicine, and a still greater saving of human life, would very shortly manifest itself.

The fever sheds, originally calculated for 100 persons, were erected in a most unsuitable position at the rear of the idiot wards and *within* the workhouse walls. The roofing had been covered with felt a short time previous to our arrival, but the humid air of the interior too plainly betokened the state of wet and misery in which it must previously have been, whilst *outside* there was a

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mound of *mud* piled up to the height of two or three feet against the slender boarded partition which alone separated the wet clay from the head of the sick or dying pauper.

We are so impressed with the evils likely to accrue by continuing the practice of treating active fever cases within the walls of the workhouse, but more particularly in the present fever sheds, that we have made a proposition to the Committee of the town, through their efficient medical superintendent, Dr. Lynch, to endeavour to have the fever cases from the workhouse treated at the *town hospital*, by our paying for each case sent there a stipulated sum. The proposition was very favourably received by Dr. Lynch, who promised to communicate with the Committee on the subject, and if their answer is of a favourable nature, I trust you will not disapprove of our carrying the project into effect.

We presume your attention has been called by your Inspectors to the place appropriated by the late Board to be used as a cemetery. It is a place in every respect unsuited for the purpose; situated on an eminence in a line with, and immediately adjoining the workhouse; a substratum of hard rock, so that the graves cannot be sunk to a sufficient depth, and when we came here we found the deceased paupers deposited in shallow pits in the part of the ground most contiguous to the fever sheds, in truth the dead were lying in their graves within a few feet of the heads of the living, and with such a deficient quantity of clay to cover their miserable coffins, that unless some means are devised to act as an antidote we apprehend that when the heat of summer shall arrive disease in its most deadly and concentrated form will develop itself in the locality from the (by that time) decomposed bodies of such numbers of human beings so improperly deposited there; and we are so impressed with the awful importance of the subject, that we have advertized for a piece of ground detached from the workhouse for a cemetery, and we are in hopes in the course of a week to have the heads of an agreement ready to submit to you for your approval.

The sewers of the house are every one out of order. The original plan of forming two cesspools at either side of the house was never properly carried out, and we found two large heaps of manure and a quantity of other putrid substance were accumulated in these cesspools, of course obstructing the passage of the sewers, causing an overflow sometimes so considerable as to run over the day-rooms, laundry, and passages, and diffusing the most noxious vapours and the deadliest stench through the entire house. We have sold this manure by auction, with a view to form and complete the cesspools in accordance with the original design of your architect, and place the several sewers in a state to perform their functions.

Two of the dormitories in the main body of the house were appropriated by the late Board to the reception of "non-contagious cases," were filled with patients and under the care of the hospital nurse; but the state of filth in which these wards were kept, and the total absence of any system which prevailed amongst those to whom the management of the rooms and the patients was entrusted, was amply sufficient, in our opinion, to breed contagion amongst the other inmates of the house who had to occupy the adjoining dormitories. We have accordingly removed all these chronic cases from the workhouse altogether, and have appropriated the house in Bride-street (taken by the late Board and appropriated to the school boys, but which we did not consider at all suited for that class) for the reception of the several patients under non-contagious disease, and as a house for convalescents, provided you do not disapprove of our views.

We are anxious to have the accounts of the Union for the past year audited, and have directed the clerk to prepare the abstracts immediately. He did not appear at first to comprehend the matter, and we think it possible that some difficulty on the head of "petty cash" may arise. The late Board were in the habit of paying large sums to the clerk under the head of petty cash for the purchase of provisions and necessaries. Thus, 294*l.* appears to have been paid since December into his hands, and though the book was balanced by him it does not appear ever to have been signed by the chairman, and on our inquiring for vouchers for the last 40*l.*, paid on the 29th of January into his hands, he was not prepared with them, and we shall require this account to be balanced and closed every week. We have also to observe that the late Board

at their last meeting voted a round sum of 60*l.* to be divided amongst the relieving officers for out-door relief, without considering the persons to whom it was to be dispensed. These officers were engaged in distributing this relief when we arrived; but we have not interfered with its management, or done anything to confirm what was in our opinion an illegal resolution.

Adverting to the subject of out-door relief, you were pleased to state in a former letter that you had received a report from Mr. R. Burke, your Inspector, to the effect that he conceived it necessary to recommend the issue of an order for the administration of out-door relief to able-bodied persons, and requiring our opinion on the subject. We have now the honour to state that having had the experience of 10 days' observation, and having by unremitting attention procured accommodation for 300 persons in the auxiliary workhouse, we do not consider that we shall be forced to resort to the measure of out-door relief to the able-bodied unless a much more serious pressure is made on us than we have yet experienced. There is one class, however, that we would respectfully suggest we should be authorized to relieve out of the house, viz., the families of able-bodied labourers, *one or more of whom are in fever or recovering from disease*. We know many of these persons to be in a state of extreme destitution, and unfit to be removed to the workhouse, even if it would be deemed prudent to do so; but where the head of the family is himself healthy and an able-bodied man, we do not consider ourselves at liberty to afford relief otherwise than in the house. We do not anticipate that much fraud or imposture could be practised upon us by having the permission to dispense relief to the class to which we refer; for we are bound to say the relieving officers of this Union are, with one exception, a very intelligent and efficient class of men, and they would not, we feel persuaded, falsify their reports: at the same time we cannot avoid stating our conviction that two, *at least*, more relieving officers are required for the effectual discharge of the duty in such a large Union as Loughrea.

We are unwilling prematurely to recommend the dismissal of officers that we found in the establishment when we took charge of the Union; but we should not be faithfully performing our trust if we did not state that the schoolmistress, Miss Moran, is quite too young and inexperienced, and we fear otherwise unsuited for her situation; and we have also to suggest that a competent person *could not* be had for the salary paid Miss Moran, namely, 8*l.* per annum.

Having taken active steps to introduce industrial pursuits into the house, and determined as we are to keep the paupers usefully employed, we would suggest the necessity of appointing an assistant matron or wardswoman, as one person never could manage such an extensive concern.

We have to apologize for the length of this report.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 4, 1848.*

THE Commissioners fully rely on your discretion and firmness in giving effect to the provisions of the law for recovery of rates; and they will only observe, in reference to the course adopted, where the actual immediate lessors could not be ascertained with accuracy, that in resorting to the occupiers under the 3rd section of the Act 6 and 7 Vict., cap. 92, it would be desirable to require that the collectors in serving the notices therein directed to be given, should ascertain from such occupiers the names, &c., of the parties to whom they pay rent, and note them not only with a view to immediate proceedings, if available, but for the future rate.

The Commissioners will be prepared to give effect to such changes as you may consider necessary for improving the sanitary state of the workhouse. They recommend you to provide a proper hospital nurse; and they approve of your proposal to appoint an apothecary at a reasonable salary, making a deduction from that of the medical officer, in consideration of the diminution of his duties. They also approve of your contracting with the Committee of the town hospital for the proper care and treatment of such inmates of the workhouse as you may send to that establishment.

The Commissioners fully concur in your opinion of the importance of having another cemetery for the workhouse. They will be prepared to enter into such contract as may be necessary for securing to the Union the possession of any

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additional quantity of ground, not exceeding three statute acres, which you may be able to obtain in a convenient locality on reasonable terms; and they recommend to your consideration, the expediency of employing able-bodied paupers in carrying a sufficient quantity of heavy bottom clay, to be procured by you, to cover the graves in the present cemetery, which from the nature of the soil could not be made of proper depth.

The Commissioners observe that you consider the auxiliary house in Bride-street, Loughrea, unsuited for the workhouse school-boys, to which purpose it was appropriated by the late Board of Guardians; and there does not appear any reason for objecting to its being used for the accommodation of paupers in chronic and other non-contagious diseases, also for convalescent patients, provided due care be taken in the removal of the latter class, so as not to give any cause for alarm to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

The Commissioners have directed the attention of the auditor to be drawn to that part of your report which relates to the accounts. They presume that you have terminated the very irregular practice of issuing money to the clerk, to purchase provisions for the workhouse: and that you have required him forthwith to close the accounts, paying in at the same time any balance of expenditure beyond the amount for which he can produce vouchers. The relieving officers should also be required to account for the sum received from the late Board of Guardians.

Relying on your opinion the Commissioners will withhold their order for relief out of doors to able-bodied destitute persons generally, and have directed an order to be issued for affording such relief only to the class of able-bodied persons one or more members of whose families are in fever, as you recommend.

They approve of your requiring the schoolmistress to resign, and of your proceeding to appoint another at a suitable salary, also of your appointing an assistant-matron or wardswoman, on the grounds stated in your report.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 9, 1848.*

IN obedience with your instructions we have now the honour to submit our third weekly report of our proceedings as Vice-Guardians of the Union of Loughrea, and we are happy in being able to state, that although much requires still to be accomplished to reduce the affairs of the workhouse and the general business of the Union to a proper state of system and permanent improvement, still since the date of our last report we have made very considerable advancement in this most important matter. And we trust that when next one of your inspectors shall visit the establishment, he may have it in his power to make a favourable representation of our proceedings.

The collection of the rate proceeds as favourably as could be expected under the circumstances in which we found the Union placed. The receipts for last week amounted to 838*l.* odd, and would have exceeded 1000*l.*, but for the inclemency of the weather, and that Mr. Lynch, one of our principal collectors, was during the early part of the week indisposed, which accounts for his lodgment being only 76*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* Another collector, Mr. Lyskey, we did not consider had made an adequate lodgment, and we represented to him that unless he exerted himself to a greater extent during the remainder of the collection it would be our duty to recommend a reduction in his poundage.

The auxiliary workhouse at the brewery is rapidly approaching to completion, either of us have personally attended there for a portion of each day urging on the work, and we have now sleeping accommodation ready for over 500 persons, and on Saturday next we are to have an apartment ready for the male school, in every respect suited for the purpose; we have the furniture and fittings ready to put in, and have sleeping dormitories and two work-rooms for the trades-boys, all connected with each other, and detached from the yard and portion of the concern appropriated for the adult male paupers. We have also secured the services of an assistant master, and we expect to have this branch of the establishment conducted in an efficient manner.

We have to complain that our efforts to improve on the previous state of affairs have not been met in a cordial spirit by the leaders of the late Board. Our proposal to effect a contract with the Committee of the Town's fever hospital, although favourably received by their medical officer has been rejected

by them. And although we had selected a most advantageous piece of ground, detached from the workhouse, for a cemetery, and the tenant in occupation being willing to convey his interest in it to the Commissioners at a reasonable rate, still the agent to the property has, we are informed, refused his sanction to the agreement. We shall not, however, relax in our exertions to accomplish this most desirable object, and communicate in our next report what success attends us in reference thereto.

We regret to state that fever is making fearful ravages in the town and country districts, and the applications which have been made to us by poor persons for coffins have been very numerous. Several cases have been reported to us of bodies lying for four and even six days without interment, for want of coffins; but we have been unable to entertain such applications, not being authorized to supply coffins to persons not inmates of the workhouse. We are also sorry to observe that three out of the six relieving officers of our Union are ill of fever, and their duties have to be discharged by deputies who are not the most efficient; and to try and remedy the evils likely to result from their neglect, we have visited four districts of our Union, with the double object in view of making ourselves acquainted with the distress of the poor, and at the same time to ascertain the abilities of the ratepayers to discharge their rates.

We took the liberty in a former report to observe that we considered the districts assigned to some of the relieving officers much too large, and to suggest that two more at least ought to be appointed. Since that report we have had frequent complaints against some of these officers for inattention to their duties. Some few of these complaints we fear are well-founded; but in most cases the districts are too large and the destitution too extensive to enable them to give satisfaction in all cases.

The suggestions contained in your communication, dated 4th instant, relative to the present graveyard and other matters, shall be promptly put into execution, and in our next we shall give a detailed account of our proceedings in relation to these matters.

In reference to the clerk's accounts, we beg to observe that we at once terminated the practice of paying that officer money for the purchase of provisions; but as to the vouchers for the sums expended, he has none to produce for upwards of 200*l*. He relies on the orders given for bread and necessaries on the minutes being sufficient.

We beg to apologize for this report being a few days late, but after our duties in the workhouse have been discharged, we have been engaged in the rural districts until a late hour making the inquiries to which we have before alluded.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 9th instant, relating to the Loughrea Union, and I am to state that the Commissioners have drawn the attention of the Board of Health to that part of your report which relates to the increase of fever in the Union. As regards the interment of the bodies of poor persons in the Union, I am to state that under the 16th section of the Act 10 Vict., c. 22, the expense of providing coffins for persons who die of fever or other epidemic disease, may be defrayed out of the poor-rates.

The Commissioners are prepared to consider favourably any alteration of the relief districts of the Union which you may deem to be necessary; and it is the decided wish of the Commissioners that as many relieving officers should be appointed as are required for the due relief of the destitute in the Union.

Sir THOMAS BURKE, Bart., to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 13, 1848.*

As chairman of the late Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, I beg to forward you the enclosed statement, at the request of many of the late Board, and hope you will not fail to publish it.

STATEMENT above referred to:—*April 13, 1848.*

GENTLEMEN,

As chairman of the late Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, I am requested to call upon you to publish the following statement, in reply to those one-sided reports which you have published in the Blue Book furnished to the House of Commons. The grounds that you assigned for our uncalled-for dismissal were—1stly. That we had in the workhouse, on the

Loughrea Union. 29th of January last, 236 persons more than the house was built to contain, and that some of them had been allowed to sleep on straw.

2ndly. That the roof of the house, which had been injured in November last, had not been repaired.

3rdly. That the clothing of the women and children was insufficient, and that the schools were unprovided with the requisites of instruction.

4thly. That dung and ashes were found in the yard, and that the privies were in a dirty state.

5thly. That out-door relief had not been afforded under the 1st section of the late Act.

6thly. That relieving officers had not been appointed until the 27th of December.

With regard to the first charge, the Guardians, anticipating the pressure likely to arise, had been for some time in treaty for houses, and had with great difficulty at length obtained additional accommodation for 1200 persons, and had contracted for a large supply of bedding, clothing, and other necessities for those houses. These supplies were, previously to the dismissal of the Board, on their way from Dublin, and were detained by the freezing of the canal. The pressure for admission to the workhouse suddenly began, and the Guardians, unwilling to refuse admission to a number of wretched applicants at so severe a season, did permit a greater number than the house was calculated for, to receive a temporary refuge within its walls, and directed them to be provided with beds of clean straw, and with sheets and blankets, for the short interval the additional houses were getting ready. As to the second charge, the repairs of the roof were contracted for when the injury occurred; the contractor failed to perform his contract, and the Board were obliged to advertise for another. The damage complained of had, however, been for some time repaired.

The reply to the third charge is, that the clothing is the same as has been used in the house since its opening, and has always been sanctioned and approved of by the Commissioners and their assistants, and the blame of any delay which may have occurred in the supply of the necessities does not attach to the Guardians, who had long previously ordered a supply of those articles.

As to the fourth charge, the Guardians, perceiving from the preparations which must necessarily arise, and the vast increase of his more urgent duties, that the master could not afford sufficient time and attention to the cleanliness of the house, and other less pressing though necessary details of its management, made an application to the Commissioners to sanction the appointment of a superintendent or assistant master, whose duty it would have been to superintend the general order and cleanliness of the houses, but to this very reasonable request it was not the pleasure of the Commissioners to accede.

Fifth charge, the necessity for out-door relief did not arise until the workhouse could no longer afford accommodation for the number of applicants, when the late Board at once extended out-door relief, and were prepared to continue that course until the additional houses should be ready for the reception of paupers.

To the sixth and last charge, the answer is, that the Guardians deferred the appointment of relieving officers with a view to economise the funds of the Union until it appeared to them that the necessity arose for their services, when they were at once appointed, and that no ill effects resulted from such delay. The two paid Guardians whom you have appointed to this Union have thought it not unbecoming to inculcate in their report to you of the 20th of February last, and which you have published in the Blue Book, the conduct of the late Board, by insinuating that they, the late Board, had taken, because they belonged to a member of their Board, buildings to be used as an additional workhouse, and which were unsuited, and ought never, under any circumstances, to have been taken. The fact being, that Mr. Smyth, the member mentioned, refused to let the houses in question to the Board, and preferred to let them at a less rent to another person. Advertisements were issued for houses to be used as additional workhouses, several persons proposed, amongst others Mr. Cowen, to whom Mr. Smyth had let his houses, and it being found from the report of the architect, that more accommodation could be had from these houses than from the others, Mr. Bourke, the assistant Commissioner, inspected them, reported to you their fitness, as stated to the late Board in your letter of the 14th of January last, and they were accordingly taken with your approbation for the use of the male children. They are comfortable, well-ventilated houses, three stories high, with two large privies, and had been occupied by several most respectable families, amongst others, by the late Catholic bishop of the diocese. The rest of the report of these gentlemen consists of a description of the state they found the house in more than a week after the late Board had been deprived of all control over it, of course the late Board cannot be held accountable for this, and we shall only remark that we have from the first, constantly complained of the badness of the building and the general dampness of the whole house. These paid Guardians are totally ignorant of the parties to whom they are giving out-door relief, and the most fragrant abuses are the consequence, yet they studiously avoid seeking information from any of the respectable rate-payers, nor do they publish the names of the recipients of such relief. The workhouses are in a state of the greatest disorder, and under the paid Board there have been frequently, and I believe are at present, more paupers in the original workhouse than there were at any time under the late Board, although the large number they had admitted was the principal reason given for their dismissal. Numbers of paupers in the workhouse clothing are continually wandering about Loughrea, and some have had to be committed for drunkenness, and the general disorder and confusion could not possibly have been greater under any elected Board; while the enormous abuses which are taking place in all parts of the Union in the administration of out-door relief, would not have existed. The Brewery concerns taken by the late Board, and so much approved of in your officer's report, capable of accommodating 900 persons, is comparatively empty, yet with all this available room, out-door relief is largely

given. In requiring the publication of this statement the late Board would despair of that act of justice at your hands, had not Sir George Grey, the Home Secretary, engaged in his place in Parliament that in all such cases such publication should be accorded by you.

THOMAS J. BURKE, *late Chairman.*

Loughrea Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LLOYD:—*April 18, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith a copy of complaints against the administration of relief by the Loughrea Vice-Guardians, which the Commissioners have received in a letter, dated the 13th instant, from Sir Thomas Burke, the chairman of the Loughrea Board of Guardians, at the period of its dissolution.

The Commissioners request you to take evidence upon oath, and to report to this office, in reference to all and each of those complaints, especially as to whether the statement in Sir Thomas Burke's letter is correct; that on the 13th instant, and frequently before, under the Vice-Guardians, there were more paupers in the original workhouse than there were at any time under the late Board of Guardians.

It is desirable that you should give Sir Thomas Burke an opportunity of being present at the investigation, of being examined on oath himself if he desires it, and of suggesting witnesses for examination. You will adopt the same line of conduct towards the Vice-Guardians.

In connexion with this inquiry, the Commissioners request that you will take evidence upon oath, respecting the amount of destitution which exists, and is likely to exist in Loughrea Union during the present season, both absolutely, and in comparison with the destitution which existed during the period when the Temporary Relief Act was in operation.

The Commissioners are desirous that the investigation should be thoroughly searching and minute, in order that there may be no room for doubt concerning the precise amount of destitution in the Union, and concerning the manner in which the Vice-Guardians administer relief to the destitute poor, both in and out of the workhouse.

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir THOMAS BURKE:—*April 18, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, transmitting a statement, which you express a desire to have published concerning the dissolution of the late Loughrea Board of Guardians.

The Commissioners have no objection to the publication of the letter which you have addressed to them. The explanatory resolutions passed by the late Loughrea Board of Guardians, on the eve of their dissolution, have been already published, and as a matter of course, the letter now received from you, if it had been then forwarded to the Commissioners, would have been printed and published at the same time, and the Commissioners would have been sincerely gratified in regard to facilities of reference and comparison, if your letter had been published in the same volume with the reports of Mr. Phelan, and of Mr. Bourke, and with the letter of the 12th February, in which the Commissioners made a consecutive statement of the reasons which had led them to the conclusion that the Loughrea Board of Guardians had failed to discharge their duties duly and effectually, according to the intention of the Legislature.

Mr. LLOYD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 19, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I inspected the Loughrea Union workhouse this day, accompanied by the Vice-Guardians, and that I spent a considerable time in the Board-room, examining accounts.

I have addressed a letter to the chairman of the late Board of Guardians, requesting he would be kind enough to name an hour, either to-morrow or next day, to assist in inquiring whether abuses exist at present in any way connected with the administration of relief as conducted by the Vice-Guardians, and I have apprised the Vice-Guardians of the instructions I have received from the Commissioners.

The Vice-Guardians appear to me to be intelligent and very attentive to their duties.

Loughrea Union.

Mr. LLOYD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 28, 1848.*

I BEG leave to forward herewith a letter I have received from Sir Thomas Burke, with a view to be informed whether, under the circumstances, it is necessary to proceed with the investigation as regards the administration of out-door relief. I have had two relieving officers' books under examination, and in no instance has any proof been given of neglect on the part of the Vice-Guardians. The relieving officers have, in some cases, been very negligent, and their books are imperfect. Cases have occurred where persons not entitled to relief received such. It will take three or four days to go through the other books, perhaps longer. The books examined were those in which the fewest abuses are known to have existed.

I write from the Board-room, and in a great hurry to save post.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir THOMAS BURKE to Mr. LLOYD.

MY DEAR SIR,

Workhouse, April 28, 1848.

As there seems to be some doubt in your mind as to the meaning of the paragraph in my letter to the Commissioners relating to the abuses in the out-door relief I beg to say, that I did not intend to convey that the Vice-Guardians knowingly allowed the abuses I complained of, but that I was of opinion that flagrant abuses did exist, chiefly through the Vice-Guardians being imposed upon from their want of local knowledge, but I did not mean to apply the word flagrant to the acts of the Vice-Guardians.

Yours truly,
T. BURKE.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 29, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, transmitting a copy of a communication from Sir Thomas Burke, with reference to the inquiry being held by you with respect to the administration of relief in the Loughrea Union, and in reference thereto I am directed to state, that Sir Thomas Burke explains his charge of abuse of out-door relief by stating that the abuse arose from want of local knowledge in the Vice-Guardians. It will be useful to them and to the Union that the inquiry should be prosecuted, and in the course of it, the statements of irregularities on the part of relieving officers should be accompanied by evidence to show whether they were appointed by the present Vice-Guardians, and if so, on what recommendations and testimonials; and where they distributed relief to persons not entitled to it, whether they were cognizant of the true condition of the recipients; stating in every such case all particulars relative to the recipients which can be ascertained.

The good working of the Irish Poor Law in a distressed Union depends in such a great degree on the efficiency of the staff of relieving officers, that your inquiry will have been very useful to Loughrea Union, if it enables the Vice-Guardians and the Commissioners to ascertain whether any of the present relieving officers are unfit for their situation, and whether it is desirable to supersede them by the appointment of others in their stead.

Mr. LLOYD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 1, 1848.*

I BEG leave to transmit herewith a letter which Sir Thomas Burke has handed me, for the information of the Commissioners, with a view to obtain instructions thereon. I hope for an early reply.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir THOMAS BURKE to Mr. LLOYD:—*May 1, 1848.*

I HAVE read the reply of the Commissioners to your communication upon the subject of the issue of out-door relief in the Loughrea Union. The printed lists of the recipients of out-door relief have not been yet all printed, and therefore the rate-payers have not had the opportunity of examining them in the several electoral divisions, and if this inquiry is to be continued under this head, an adjournment is necessary, and I beg to call for one until Friday next. Both the Vice-Guardians and myself agree that there are numerous cases of abuses in the administration of out-door relief from misrepresentations made to the Vice-Guardians, and this evil is likely to be corrected and avoided in future without the expense and delay of a protracted investigation, as the resident gentry and rate-payers will co-operate with the Vice-

Guardians to attain this end. You also, from what has appeared, can have no doubt of these abuses on the part of relieving officers. Loughrea Union.

Under all these circumstances I would again suggest the necessity of closing this part of your inquiry, and enabling the Vice-Guardians and the relieving officers to attend to the relief of the destitute poor, which it is impossible they can do if this protracted inquiry is to be continued.

If, however, you insist upon it, I shall be prepared on Friday to go on with this detailed inquiry, which will occupy some weeks, without any possible advantage to this Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LLOYD:—*May 3, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, with one addressed to you by Sir Thomas Burke, proposing that the inquiry which you are now making in respect to the administration of out-door relief by the Vice-Guardians of Loughrea Union should not be carried on further as the abuses on the part of the relieving officers are likely to be avoided in future, and your closing this part of the inquiry will enable the Vice-Guardians and relieving officers to attend to the relief of the destitute poor, which in his opinion would be impossible, if this protracted inquiry were to be continued, as he appears to consider that it would occupy some weeks.

The Commissioners desire to observe that when they directed you to inquire into the abuses which members of the late Board of Guardians considered to have been committed, they did not suppose that such an inquiry could have required so much time as had been occupied by it. But looking to the nature of the complaint made of the management of the Vice-Guardians they are not prepared to authorize you to discontinue the inquiry until you are enabled to make a report in pursuance of your instructions.

Mr. LLOYD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 9, 1848.*

I BEG leave to send herewith a letter I received from Sir Thomas Burke on Saturday morning. The reasons assigned for desiring an adjournment was, that all the gentlemen concerned in the investigation would of necessity be at Ballinasloe Fair on Monday, and, consequently, could not meet me: this reason is not stated in the letter, it was given to me verbally by Sir Thomas Burke and Mr. Smith. The want of the printed lists was supplied in the course of Saturday, and would not have been an obstacle to proceeding with the inquiry. I, however, consented that the ex-Guardians might have every facility to establish their charge if possible.

I attended at the Board-room for three hours to-day; some of the gentlemen were present: I, therefore consider my inquiry at an end, and shall draw up my report to-morrow. I hope to transmit all papers on Thursday that I have had for some time previous to and since my arrival here: you will receive all I hope by Friday morning. I shall have time to hear from you again.

ENCLOSURE.

Sir T. BURKE to Mr. LLOYD:—*May 6, 1848.*

I HAVE repeatedly called for the printed lists of the recipients of out-door relief in the electoral divisions of the Loughrea Union. I have not yet been able to obtain more than those for Loughrea, Athenry, and Ballinakill: I am, therefore, obliged to call upon you to postpone this inquiry till I am furnished with those lists. Numerous abuses have been already proved; and if you continue to desire a continuance of the inquiry this required postponement becomes unavoidably necessary, the more so as those lists have been unavoidably delayed.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 15, 1848.*

THE protracted inquiry which has been conducted by Mr. Owen Lloyd, Poor Law Inspector, into the administration of the law in this Union by the Vice-Guardians, having been brought to a close, and as we presume that gentleman has ere this submitted his report, we trust it may not be deemed presumptuous or out of place in our offering a few remarks to the consideration of the Commissioners in reference to that investigation, and in any observations which we shall take the liberty to make, we shall confine ourselves to simple facts, and offer no comment on the manner in which these charges were preferred, or as to the decorum which was observed in the prosecution of them.

Doughrea Union.

In reference to the numbers which have been sworn to by Patrick O'Brien, the dismissed master, as having on many occasions since we took charge, been more than those suffered to be accommodated in the workhouse by the late Board of Guardians, we beg distinctly to state that O'Brien has throughout his entire examination sworn what is not the fact, for there was *not an officer* in the entire establishment who *could* tell the numbers occupying any one particular house on each or *any* night. The diary which O'Brien at *first* admitted he kept since the Vice-Guardians took charge, but subsequently, at the *dictation* of one of the Ex-Guardians, swore he kept it from the period the houses were divided, could not point out the accurate numbers or afford any information at all about them; he swore he kept this diary in order to enable him to know what *quantity of provisions* to send to each house, whereas, during a considerable portion of the time to which he referred, there was no food cooked at the Brewery auxiliary workhouse at all, and the entire body of paupers sleeping *there* were regularly brought back to the workhouse every day for breakfast, and *ever* since the cooking *has* commenced at the Brewery, from 80 to 100 of the able-bodied paupers who *sleep* there are sent every day to the workhouse to be *fed*. Therefore, this provision check, on which the promoters of the inquiry placed so much reliance, could not by possibility furnish any evidence of the numbers sleeping in the *workhouse* or any of the auxiliary houses.

The Commissioners will observe that O'Brien also swore that he kept this diary for no particular purpose, except to know the quantity of food to send to each house. That he never expected to be asked any questions about it, and that he had never supplied a statement of the numbers to any person, yet Mr. Patrick Skerrett swore, that for some time after our arrival here he was in the constant habit of frequenting the master's office. That he obtained a statement of the numbers from O'Brien on a slip of paper, which he said he gave to Mr. Smith, who gave it to Lord Dunsandle.

We also beg respectfully to state in reference to this diary, which O'Brien swore he kept regularly, that there is no account of the days from the 5th of February to the 12th of February, nor from the 12th to the 19th of February, nor again from the 19th to the 26th of February, from which date he has sworn to certain numbers on each consecutive day. Though he previously swore it was a correct diary, and that he knew the meaning of the word. He subsequently swore the diary he produced was a correct copy of some other paper, and he ultimately refused to give his diary up to the inspector, stating that he had lost or destroyed it.

Mr. Patrick Skerrett, in his evidence, stated on his oath, that he took the numbers from the books of the house, and that the way he ascertained the amount which slept in the workhouse, was by deducting the numbers sleeping in the auxiliary houses from the gross number on the books; but he could not tell, when asked the question, what books he deducted the numbers in the auxiliary houses from, or whether there was any one book or document in the entire establishment from which he could derive the information he had just sworn he had obtained. And, in fact, there was no book or other account, nor is there yet (except our own private memorandums) which could have supplied the return to him.

The Commissioners will, we trust, have learned from Mr. Lloyd, that a difference of 158 between the numbers appearing on the workhouse books (and for which provisions were daily charged by O'Brien), and the numbers actually in the house has been discovered and satisfactorily proved by us, and that a corresponding reduction in the daily issue of food has been made, and we respectfully submit that these 158 persons should be deducted from the numbers sworn to by O'Brien, as being on any occasion since we took charge, accommodated by us in the workhouse.

We also beg to state, for the Commissioners' information, and we trust they have previously been apprised of the fact from their inspector, Mr. Lloyd, that never since the first ten days of our administration of the affairs of this Union have we suffered ourselves to be borne down by the pressure from without, nor had we ever occasion to contravene the orders of the Commissioners by allowing an excess of numbers to be lodged in the workhouse, for we have always taken special care to have two spare dormitories at the Brewery ready for any sudden emergency that might arise, and there are moreover two small dormitories in the original workhouse which have not been occupied since the first week of our coming here.

In reference to the charge of the most flagrant abuses existing in the admini-

stration of the out-door relief we shall be very brief, and we trust our proceedings in respect to this important part of our duty have not been viewed in an unfavourable light by the Commissioners, when they consider that out of a Union of this extent, and where such an outcry was raised against us, only about 17 cases of fraud and imposition were brought forward, many of these cases unsupported by credible evidence, and that no more than perhaps five of them, which deduct, constitutionally came within the law. We shall make a reference to but three cases out of the entire number investigated, by which the Commissioners will form an opinion as to the class of persons objected to, and the description of evidence produced in support of the objections.

The first is the case of a person named Fahy, objected to by Sir Thomas Burke, Baronet, as being an able-bodied man. John Hevend, bailiff to Lord Clanricarde, swore he was able-bodied and had not been in fever during the time he received relief. But it was most satisfactorily proved by two others, one most respectable gentleman, and by Doctor Claron, that the wretched man had been in fever for several months and was unable to work; and we produced the man before Mr. Lloyd, who, no doubt, has made an impartial report on the case.

Another case, that of Martin Cohillon, sworn to by John Neven, as being in possession of half an acre of ground; but on our having the man's garden surveyed, we found he is only in possession of seven perches, and even if he still held his original plots, the entire only amounted to 29 perches.

The third is a case of a widow Cunningham, objected to by Lord Dunsandle, as having an acre of land; but his Lordship's bailiff, when produced to sustain the case, admitted he did not know the woman.

The several printed lists of out-door relief for the entire Union, with the exception of one electoral division, are out and posted, and the rate-payers have thereby means of ascertaining the persons to whom relief has been afforded.

It is impossible but that (in a Union of the extent of Loughrea) some cases of imposition must at first exist; but we respectfully submit that there is not a Union in Ireland of the same extent, and where such a mass of disease and destitution exists, where so little fraud or imposition is to be found, even under the best regulated elected Board as the Loughrea Union now presents; and many of the cases objected to were cases in which provisional relief was afforded by the relieving officer which was disallowed by us.

We shall say nothing of the charge of disorder in the workhouses, as we feel those charges have recoiled with something of discredit on the promoters of the inquiry, and trust to be excused for the length of this communication.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*May 16, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, on the evidence adduced in the late inquiry into the charges made against you by the late Board of Guardians of Loughrea Union; and the Commissioners beg to observe that they defer the consideration of your statement until they shall have the whole evidence before them, on arrival of the report of Mr. Lloyd, who, they regret to state, appears to have been detained at Athlone by illness.

Mr. LLOYD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 20, 1848.*

IN reference to your letter of the 18th ultimo, transmitting a copy of complaints against the administration of relief by the Loughrea Vice-Guardians, which the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have received from Sir Thomas Burke, Chairman of the Loughrea Board of Guardians at the period of its dissolution; and requesting me to take evidence upon oath, and to report in reference to all and each of those complaints, and especially as to whether the statement in Sir Thomas Burke's letter is correct, that on the 13th instant, and frequently before, under the Vice-Guardians, there were more paupers in the original workhouse than there were at any time under the late Board of Guardians; and that it would be desirable that I should give Sir Thomas Burke an opportunity of being present at the investigation, of being examined on oath himself, if he desire it, and of suggesting witnesses for examination, and that I should adopt the same line of conduct towards the Vice-

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Guardians; and in connexion with this inquiry that I should take evidence upon oath respecting the amount of destitution which exists and is likely to exist in Loughrea Union, during the present season, both absolutely and in comparison with the destitution which existed during the period when the Temporary Relief Act was in operation; and also informing me the Commissioners are desirous that the investigation should be thoroughly searching and minute, in order that there be no room for doubt concerning the precise amount of destitution and concerning the manner in which the Vice-Guardians administered relief to the destitute poor both in and out of the workhouse.

In reply I have to state that with a view to carry out my instructions I proceeded at once to Loughrea, where I arrived on the morning of the 19th. I soon after visited the workhouse, where I found the Vice-Guardians engaged in the ordinary business of the Union. To these gentlemen I communicated the object of my visit, and received in return the assurance of a ready co-operation on their part to aid me, as far as in their power lay, to carry out the instructions I had received. I informed them I should address a letter to Sir Thomas Burke, communicating the same information I had given them, and request an early interview. I wrote to this effect to Sir Thomas Burke, who responded to my letter in person, and soon after being joined by Lord Dunsandle, Mr. Burke, Mr. Perse, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Skerret, all members of the late Board of Guardians; I communicated my instructions to these gentlemen, all of whom evinced the like desire of the Vice-Guardians to aid me in carrying out the investigation required by the Commissioners.

I was informed by the gentlemen present that as Sir Thomas Burke and Lord Dunsandle had engagements in Dublin, it would be desirable that no time should be lost in proceeding with the duty I had to discharge, and having been requested to name 4 o'clock as the hour, I consented, provided the Vice-Guardians made no objection. I then proceeded to the Board-room, where I met the Vice-Guardians, who at once expressed their concurrence, and the investigation commenced soon after the appointed hour.

Sir Thomas Burke produced Mr. Patrick O'Brien, late master of the workhouse, as a witness; his sworn evidence (A) is appended. The examination of this witness continued to a late hour, when it was proposed to postpone his further examination to Saturday (Good-Friday intervening). On Saturday morning the examination of Mr. O'Brien was resumed, and having terminated, was followed by that of Mr. Richards, Vice-Guardian; his sworn evidence (B) is also appended. The examination of Mr. Richards continuing to a late hour, it was proposed to adjourn his further examination to Wednesday, to enable Sir Thomas Burke and Lord Dunsandle to be present: to this adjournment I consented, believing it to be the wish of the Commissioners that the ex-Guardians should have every facility afforded them that might tend to place matters in their true light. On Wednesday, the 26th, the examination of Mr. Richards was resumed, and when concluded, was followed by that of Mr. John M'Carthy, the master that succeeded Mr. O'Brien. Mr. M'Carthy's sworn evidence (C) is appended; also that of the medical officer, Dr. Cloran (D), that of Mr. P. Skerrett (E), and that of John Murphy (F).

I have now the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that from the evidence referred to it does not appear to me that on the 13th April, and frequently before, under the Vice-Guardians, there were more paupers in the original workhouse than there were at any time under the late Board of Guardians, and I beg leave to state how I arrive at this conclusion.

The complaint embraces a definite period, the 13th April, and an indefinite period or periods back to the day the Vice-Guardians took charge of the Union.

On the 13th April the number of inmates in workhouse, apart from hospital and sheds, was 576. In hospital and sheds 367, making together 943; this is but 43 over the number the house, hospital, and sheds, are calculated to contain; but it is 193 less than the number in the house on the 5th February.

From the time the Vice-Guardians took charge, the greatest number in the house at any time it was counted was 1062, that is 696 in the house apart from hospital and sheds, and 366 in hospital and sheds, making together 1062, or 74 less than the number in the house on the 5th February.

It is to be observed that the overnumbers are in the hospital and sheds, over which the Vice-Guardians have no control; the excess in this department varies and has varied from the 21st February to 21st April from 211 to 220; while the

Vice-Guardians have accommodation in the auxiliary houses, I see no object they could have in overcrowding the workhouse; nor can I learn that in any instance a greater number of inmates occupied the main building of the workhouse than 696, which is by 54 less than that portion of the building is calculated to accommodate.

Upon the complaint "the workhouses are in a state of the greatest disorder" being read, Mr. Patrick O'Brien was again brought forward as a witness; his sworn evidence (G) is appended, as is also that of Dr. Phelan, Poor Law Inspector (H); that of Ferdinand Coffee, clerk of Union (I); that of Dr. Cloram, medical officer of the workhouse (J); that of Rev. Joseph O'Loughlin, acting chaplain to workhouse (K); that of Mrs. Anne Murphy, matron (L); that of Mr. Thomas Macklin, merchant (M); and that of Dr. Brodie, Vice-Guardian (N).

I cannot learn upon what grounds this complaint had been made. It is not sanctioned by evidence, while the converse of the complaint is proved by all the witnesses examined.

As regards the complaint, "Numbers of paupers in the workhouse clothing are continually wandering about Loughrea, and some had to be committed for drunkenness."

There are two auxiliary houses (the Bishop's House and the Brewery) in connexion with the workhouse, and necessarily there must be a constant intercourse between the three establishments. The able-bodied are daily marched to the workhouse to labour upon the ground attached to the house, and boys, when admitted and clothed, are sent to the Brewery. The Bishop's House is set apart for the sick, and the convalescent are passed from thence either to the Brewery or workhouse, as the doctor directs.

The boys found drunk appear to have been sent of errands to the town. One, named Thomas Hopkins, stated he was sent to a shop for some articles contracted for, and that he there got a glass of whiskey. None of the other boys would acknowledge where they had got what made them drunk. The Vice-Guardians, upon hearing the boys Michael Kelly and John Fury were drunk, sent to the police-barrack for two constables to take the boys before the magistrates. The police did so, and the boys were committed to bridewell for 48 hours.

The deposition of Kelly and Morley, who saw the boys drunk, and the affidavit of the head constable as to his being sent to take the boys in charge, with the affidavit of the magistrate that committed the boys to bridewell, are appended (O).

This complaint is sustained; but I do not see that blame can be attached to any officer of the workhouse. Report of the offence was at once made to the Vice-Guardians, who took all the steps in their power to prevent its recurrence, independent of the punishment before the magistrate. One boy was taken from the trade he had been set to, and the others prohibited going of errands.

Upon reading the complaints "The paid Guardians are totally ignorant of the parties to whom they are giving out-door relief, and the most flagrant abuses are the consequence, yet they studiously avoid seeking information from any of the respectable rate-payers, nor do they publish the names of the recipients of such relief."

William Proctor, relieving officer for the Athenry district, comprising the electoral divisions of Athenry, Cranghnell, and Kilconaron, was duly sworn: his evidence (P) is appended. Eight objections were made to this relieving officer's list for Athenry.

No.	Name.			Remarks.
		Age.	lbs.	
1	Winny Boyns . .	40, able-bodied . . .	7	
2	Margaret Cahillon.	— and 4 children . .	28	Deserted by husband, information sworn.
3	Michael Cannon .	36, wife and 4 children, In.	28	
4	Robin Newman .	50, and wife, In. . .	14	
5	Margaret Lawless.	60, In.	7	Has a son able to maintain her.
6	Brid. Gleeson . .	35, and 3 children . .	11	Deserted, information sworn.
7	Winny Cunningham	80	7	Has more than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land.
8	Mary Mulkeeran .	50, and 2 children . .	21	Has $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land.

Of the above list, two objections, namely 7 and 8, can be sustained, and it was not until lately the relieving officer learned that either of the women had land. The relieving officer, William Proctor, has submitted his books for examination

Loughrea Union. to the rate-payers. Out of a list of 430 recipients of relief, four only have been found disentitled to such.

Thomas Connor, relieving officer for Kiltulla district, comprising the electoral divisions of Kiltulla and Killymer Daly, was duly sworn: his evidence (Q) is appended. Fifteen objections were made to this relieving officer's list.

No.	Name.	Age.	lbs.	Remarks.
1	Nelly Cummins .	60, and 2 children over 15.	14	Children not represented in book as illegitimate.
2	Mary Denane .	40, and 3 children and husband.	24	Husband disabled, has been in workhouse and put on out-door relief.
3	Bridget Connolly .	45, and 3 illegitimate children.	28	
4	Patrick Connolly .	45, wife and 3 children.	30	Provisionally for 2 weeks.
5	Will Walsh .	38 . . .	..	Provisionally disallowed; married, not returned as single or married in Application and Report Book.
6	Mary Hurley .	30, and 5 children . .	30	Husband alive.
7	Mary Cunnane .	70, widow	12	Has from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 acre of land.
8	Darby McGrath .	60, wife and 4 children.	42	
9	Honor Dunn .	26, and 2 children . .	16	Husband in America.
10	Pat Healy .	40, single	7	Sickly.
11	Mary Kelly .	44, single	..	Relieved, provisionally discontinued.
12	Will Cunnane .	50, able-bodied	..	Has from 32 to 40 perches of land.
13	James Meyreck .	60, and 2 children . .	14	Has land.
14	John Haunefee .	57, wife and 6 children .	28	Has 5 acres land, tendered it to his landlord, refused.
15	Paul Flannery .	70	7	Has 5 acres of land.

Of the foregoing, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 14, are entitled to relief either in or out of the workhouse. Nos. 4, 5, and 11, had provisional relief discontinued or disallowed. Nos. 7, 12, 13, and 15, having land, are not entitled to relief either in or out of the house. No. 3 had been in workhouse, with three illegitimate children, and was put on out-door relief list by Guardians.

It appears, therefore, that four only were on the list disentitled to relief, and of the four it is doubtful whether three are actual occupiers. Should they not, it will appear that No. 12 is the only one not entitled to receive relief.

James Kelly, relieving officer for the Loughrea district, was duly sworn. His evidence (R) is appended.

No.	Name.	Age.	lbs.	Remarks.
1	Pat Bermingham .	— wife and 1 child . .	21	For 3 weeks, had fever.
2	Thomas Tahy .	—	..	For 8 weeks, had fever.
3	Pat Madden .	— wife and 5 children .	36	For 1 week, found to have land.
4	Bart Boyle .	—	..	For 4 weeks, 2s. 6d. per ferce.
5	Mart Cohalan .	60, wife and 2 children .	19	For 9 weeks, 2s. to 25th March.
6	Pat Dogherty .	— wife and child . . .	..	For 4 weeks, 1s., had Guardian.
7	Owen Dogherty .	—	..	For 4 weeks, 2s., wife ill, then himself struck off.
8	Pat Monaghan .	65, wife blind, 2 children .	..	For 2 weeks, 2s., found to have land, struck off, restored.
9	Tim Moran .	40, wife and 2 children .	24	For 4 weeks, had land, struck off.
10	Mary Porter .	45, widow with 2 children .	16	For weeks to 25th March, 2s.

Of the foregoing list, Nos. 3, 8, 9, having land, were not entitled to relief. No. 3 had received relief but for one week. No. 8, a hump-backed man, with a wife blind, and two children, had been struck off and restored, having given up his land.

Out of 33 objections taken to the three lists, two on that of William Proctors, were sanctioned, No. 7 and 8; one on that of Thomas Connor, No. 12; and three doubtful, Nos. 7, 13, 15. Two on that of James Kelly.

There is some difficulty in meeting the complaint, which led to the examination of the three relieving officers. It is of a gross character, involving the integrity of the Vice-Guardians and relieving officers in the administration of relief, and should not have been made without the clearest evidence to sustain it.

The ex-Guardians should have come prepared with the names of the individuals in receipt of out-door relief, whom they considered not entitled to receive such,

and not have required such postponements from day to day, until the lists were printed, to enable them, after the complaint was preferred, to prove that the paid Guardians were totally ignorant of the parties to whom they were giving relief, and that most flagrant abuses were the consequences.

In making this remark, I cannot be considered to write in an unkind spirit, when my conviction is that the ex-Guardians desire that the distress that exists and is likely to exist may be met to the full extent the law authorizes.

I do not think that matters have been misrepresented to them, and that they have acted upon the judgment of others and not upon their own. It appears from the minutes of the 17th March, that the Vice-Guardians passed a resolution that the clerk should be allowed 20s. per week to procure an assistant to enable him to make lists of the in and out-door relief recipients, and that to a want of active co-operation on the part of the clerk is to be attributed the delay in having the required lists printed.

The Vice-Guardians attend from time to time at the offices of the relieving officers to revise the lists. They seek for information on all occasions, and therefore cannot be considered as studiously avoiding it.

Except when visiting the districts, the Vice-Guardians are to be found at the workhouse from morning until night endeavouring to carry forward the arduous duties they have undertaken.

On Friday, the 5th instant, the investigation into the administration of out-door relief was resumed, the Commissioners not authorizing its discontinuance, as recommended by Sir Thomas Burke, in his letter of the 1st; and 10 cases only had been adjudicated upon. On Saturday morning Sir Thomas Burke requested an adjournment to Tuesday, the 9th, to which I consented. On Tuesday I remained in the Board-room for several hours, when none of the ex-Guardians, or any person for them, appeared. I therefore closed the proceedings.

As regards the destitution that exists and is likely to exist in Loughrea Union during the present season, both absolutely and in comparison with the destitution which existed during the period when the Temporary Relief Act was in operation, I beg leave to state that I have taken evidence upon oath from persons likely to take a correct view of the important subject. From Mr. Garret Bucke, rate-collector for the electoral divisions of Ballinakill, Dooncry, Portumna, and Teena, and under-agent to Sir Thomas Burke. His evidence (S) is appended, together with that of Robert Darcy, Esq., agent to the Marquis of Clanricarde (T); that of Mr. Thomas Macklin, contractor and general merchant (U); that of the Rev. Thomas Burke, P. P. of Portumna and Kilgname (V); that of Mr. James Martin Lynch, rate-collector for the electoral divisions of Loughrea, Kilchreest, and Killnadeema (W); that of William Proctor, relieving officer for Athenry, Cranghwell, and Kilconaron, and that of the Rev. Pennefather Graham, rector of Kilconaron, together with a letter from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clonfert, another from the Hon. and Rev. William O'Grady, and a third from Mr. J. Stanley, all of which I transmit for the information of the Commissioners.

I apprehend distress this year will be more intense than it was last, but less extensive, the population being so much reduced. Destitution last year was defined by each Relief Committee, some admitting to relief, occupiers of five acres of land, as was the case in Loughrea Union, while others limited the quantity of land to two acres.

Destitution this year is defined by law, and is of necessity so stringent that people are obliged to make every exertion to relieve themselves.

Last year many added to their capital to enable them to leave the country; this year, from the highest to the lowest, rate-payers' capital is daily diminishing. Last year, though provisions were considerably dearer than they are this year, they were more easily procured; labour was carried on extensively, money was in circulation. This year there is neither labour nor money. The poor are by degrees parting with all they have, to procure food, rather than part with their land; they are eking out a miserable existence in the expectation that some mode of employing them may be devised; but I fear that many will find they have delayed too long to avail themselves of that relief which the law has provided for the destitute.

Before I conclude this report, I must not omit to state that the morning I reached Loughrea I inspected the workhouse minutely. I found the walls of the dormitories well whitewashed, the boards thoroughly clean, the bedding perfect, and ventilation well attended to. I found the women employed in spinning, knitting, working at different articles of clothing for the use of the house. The men's day-room was

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rather damp under foot, owing to its being below the level of the yard ; but this is soon to be corrected.

I have frequently visited the workhouses during the time I remained at Loughrea, and from the attention the Vice-Guardians pay to these duties, and the lively interest they take in the welfare of the Union, I shall indeed be greatly disappointed if Loughrea workhouse be not, ere long, both for economy, order, education, and industry, one of the best regulated in the country.

ENCLOSURES.

(A.)

PROCEEDINGS of an INVESTIGATION conducted by OWEN LLOYD, Esq., Poor Law Inspector, pursuant to Instructions from the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, at the Union workhouse, Loughrea, on Thursday the 20th April, and following days.

Extract from Sir Thomas Burke's Letter to the Commissioners, dated 13th April.

"The workhouses are in a state of the greatest disorder, and under the paid Board there have been frequently, and we believe *are at present*, more paupers in the original workhouse than there were at any time under the late Board."

Mr. Patrick O'Brien, being duly sworn, saith—I was master of the workhouse from the 2nd May, 1846, to the 29th March, 1848. I was in the habit of keeping the registry of the inmates. On the morning of the 5th February there were in the house 1136 persons; on the 12th February, 1034; on the 19th February, 950; on the 26th February, 1294; on the 27th February, 1279; on the 28th February, 1273; on the 29th February, 1191; on the 1st March, 1278; on the 2nd March, 1300; on the 3rd March, 1291; on the 4th March, 1338; on the 5th March, 1329; on the 6th March, 1308; on the 7th March, 1093; on the 8th March, 1211; on the 9th March, 1150; on the 10th March, 1155; on the 11th March, 1170; on the 12th March, 1132; on the 13th March, 1114; on the 14th March, 1065; on the 15th March, 1152, on the 16th March, 1190; on the 17th March, 1145; on the 18th March, 1148; on the 19th March, 1129; on the 20th March, 1116; on the 21st March, 1144; on the 22nd March, 1154; on the 23rd March, 1208; on the 24th March, 1121; and on the 25th March, 1135. The workhouse is calculated to contain 800 paupers, and the sheds adjoining 100. On the night of the 25th March, the Vice-Guardians went through the dormitories, and on the following Monday informed me that there were upon the books 150 persons more than were in the house. I did not accompany the Guardians through the house.

On the Monday after, Mr. Richards informed me that 150 persons more than were in the house were on the books. I counted the house, and found that there were 37 less than were registered; that from the 5th February to the 25th March, rations were ordered for the full number of persons appearing on the books. The paupers in the house go to bed each night at 8 o'clock. To the best of my belief, it was between 8 and 9 o'clock when the Vice-Guardians counted the house, and several of the paupers were not in bed at the time. The Vice-Guardians did not ask me the cause of the discrepancy until Monday the 27th. I sent in my registration to the Vice-Guardians on or about the 1st March. I continued as master, after I tendered my resignation, until the 29th March, when a new master was appointed. I have since been employed in the house instructing the new master to keep the books, for which I am to be paid 2l. per week. The master told me that Dr. Brodie recommended him to give me 1l. per week in addition to the 1l. the Vice-Guardians were to give. The late Board of Guardians was dissolved on the 13th February, when the number in the workhouse amounted to 1024.

Cross-examination by Mr. Richards.—I do not recollect having given at any time, under my hand, a different number to that stated to have been in the house on the 19th February. I might have given a return to satisfy Mr. Richards, if he asked me; if I gave a return from the books, it would be the same as I have given.

I gave the return of the people in the house from a diary which I kept from the time the houses were divided; previous to that period, the provision-book was the diary.

When the houses were divided, a separate provision check was not kept for each establishment, nor is yet.

The provision check for the house answered for the three establishments. I kept a diary, because if I had not, I would not have known what provisions to have sent to the auxiliary houses. I kept the return now produced as a diary; it is a copy from a book I kept in the office. I took the copy about three weeks since; it is a correct transcript from the book. I did not expect to be asked any questions about the copy; had no motive for taking the copy, but just to have it. I swear the return for the 26th February was correct; the number 1135, on the 25th March, is correct, as taken from the books. I instructed the present master of the workhouse. I could not do so in one week; I do not think I could teach him in two weeks, or in three. I gave up instructing him in consequence of seeing a letter the master received from Mr. Richards, threatening to suspend him if he saw me again in the office, in consequence of the disclosures of the last week.

PAT. O'BRIEN.

Saturday, 22nd April.

Cross-examination continued.—*Mr. Patrick O'Brien* sworn—I gave provisions for the exact number each day as returned, and according to the quantity that each person was entitled to. I made no change in the quantity of food issued daily, after Mr. Richards had informed me

there were 150 persons less in the house than were returned as in the workhouse books. I made no alteration in the quantity of food issued after I found, upon counting the house, that there were 37 persons less than were on the registry, as I supposed the persons were out; they were constantly in the habit of going to the auxiliary houses; they were allowed to go there. I did not, for I could not prevent them; nor did I take much trouble about it. I left the house in consequence of a new master being appointed. On the 12th February 122 boys went to Bride-street to sleep, and remained there until the 26th February, when they, making allowance for sick, with others, were brought back by order of the Vice-Guardians. On the 28th February, to the best of my recollection, 87 chronic cases were removed out of the workhouse to Bride-street by direction of either the clerk or Vice-Guardians; that on the same day Rev. Mr. O'Loughlin stated that several of these persons had fever, and recommended their return. Several were brought back, but I cannot state how many. In or about three weeks before I left the house, on one occasion a great number of persons were admitted by order of the Vice-Guardians, and by tickets from relieving officers; that I proposed to Mr. Richards the people could sleep in the schoolroom, if he had no objection, and that I would get straw and blankets for them, to which Mr. Richards consented. I provided the straw and blankets for the people in the schoolrooms, where they remained until morning, and slept there again the following night.

Loughrea Union.

PAT. O'BRIEN.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, at the Loughrea Union workhouse, being first duly read, 22nd April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(B.)

THE evidence of *Mr. George Rawson Richards*, one of the Vice-Guardians of the Loughrea Union, who being duly sworn, saith—I never gave the late master, Mr. O'Brien, an order to bring a number of persons from Bride-street into this workhouse, without an order to take corresponding number out. I also directed Mr. O'Brien to take a portion of bedding to the Brewery, so as to send a draft of the able-bodied paupers there, with a view to reduce the number in the workhouse. The master stated he would do so, and I concluded he had, until the following morning, when I learned that no men had been sent to the Brewery. I gave the order the same day the entry was made upon the minutes. I asked Mr. O'Brien why the change was not made, when he replied, the house was not prepared, and it was late when he got a portion of the bedding down. I was aware the Brewery was in order, as the contractor, who had his tools and timber about the place, gave me permission to send beds down. I recollect one night that Mr. O'Brien stated to me that a great number of persons had been sent into the house on tickets from relieving officers, in addition to those admitted, and more than he had accommodation for in the probationary wards, and that if I had no objection, he would accommodate them in the two schoolrooms for the night, as he had bedding sufficient. I stated I had an objection, as I feared the paupers would commit nuisance in the rooms, and render them unfit for the reception of the children in the morning. Mr. O'Brien said he did not think they would do so for the time they would be there; that he would have plenty of buckets for them, and caution them, and have it cleaned out at an early hour in the morning. I stated that under the circumstances I did not know how to act with them at that hour of the night, but that they could not continue to remain there. I visited the schoolrooms the following morning, and found they had been cleaned out, and no unpleasant effects from their having been slept in. I saw some beds in the upper corner of the schoolroom, not straw. I remember the night of the 25th March, when Dr. Brodie and I counted the house. I found a number of persons in the probationary wards that had been admitted and not reported to the Vice-Guardians, although they had sat in the Board-room until a quarter to 7 o'clock. Of this number some were sleeping on beds, some on straw. Dr. Brodie and I expressed our surprise at the numbers in the rooms, and on mentioning the matter to Mr. O'Brien on the following day, he stated that the relieving officers had sent in a great number of them upon provisional tickets. Observing the position in which we stood, we directed the relieving officers to discontinue the issues of provisional tickets, as we could not place confidence in the principal officers of the house, and as the only means left us to prevent the over-crowding of the house was directing all cases to come before us for adjudication. I did not, upon any occasion after the first week of office, know of a greater number sleeping in the house than was authorized, except in the hospital, where the Vice-Guardians, upon their arrival, found them sick and incapable of being removed, until the morning of the 25th, when I asked Mr. O'Brien for the return of persons sleeping upon the last and preceding nights, when Mr. O'Brien handed me a return, stating that 1111 persons slept in the house. I did not credit the statement, and determined to count the house that night. I did so, and found the numbers to amount to 652 persons in the house, apart from the infirmary. I did not, until the 29th, when the new master was elected, make any change in the issue of rations. I took the master on that day through the house to give him instruction what to do, and told him there were upwards of 100 more on the books than were actually in the house, and to make a reduction in the issue of food accordingly. I counted the house on the night of the 25th or morning of the 26th, and on the following Monday, the 27th, called the attention of the master to the discrepancy, by letter; he replied by letter, as appears upon the minutes. —(A copy of letter and reply is appended. See No. 1.)

Loughrea Union.

No. 1.

Mr. O'BRIEN,

Workhouse, March 28, 1848.

You will please to bring up the Provision Check Account, balanced up to Saturday, the 25th March instant, showing the numbers for which rations are charged on that day, and you will please to account (in writing) for the difference in the numbers returned in the Commissioners' Copy of Minutes, and the number actually in the house on that night.

Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) GEO. R. RICHARDS.

MASTER'S REPLY.

SIR,

Workhouse, March 29, 1848.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, directing me to bring up the "Provision Check Account," balanced to the 25th March instant, showing the number for which rations were charged on that day, and also to account in writing for the difference in the numbers for which rations were charged on that night, and the numbers returned in the Commissioners' Copy of the Minutes; and in reply have to state, that I was not aware of any discrepancy between the numbers relieved in the workhouse and those on the books, until I was informed by you.

I further state, that some of the inmates might have gone out without my knowledge, the front building having been densely crowded by day, and a great number of them having their own clothes on. The porter may not know them from the applicants, and having no porter at all for some time.

Also, the paupers are sent daily to and from the town-houses without any officer of the house to accompany them.

F. Coffey, Clerk of Loughrea Union.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PATRICK O'BRIEN.

COPY of a LETTER to Mr. WILLIAM BANER,
Assistant Master from the Vice-Guardians.

*Loughrea Union,
March 29, 1848.*

Mr. WILLIAM BANER,

Mr. O'BRIEN, late master, in reply to a letter of mine, states that some of the paupers may have left the concern without his knowledge, and that amongst other things, that the paupers are sent daily from the town-houses without any officer of the house to accompany them.

In reference to this you will state on the opposite side, whether you have been guilty of such neglect as to suffer the paupers under your care to proceed between the several work-houses in the Union, without you or a responsible wardman to accompany them.

GEO. R. RICHARDS.

COPY of Mr. BANER'S LETTER in reply to the opposite.

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG leave to state that I have been hitherto unacquainted with the duties of my situation unless to obey any orders given me by the gentlemen Guardians, and Mr. O'Brien, the master.

Respecting the paupers of the town-houses, it is impossible that I can account for them whilst I am employed in the workhouse. A number of them comes here every morning to breakfast, and any directions I get in future I shall feel a pleasure in attending to them.

I remain, &c.
WILLIAM BANER,
Assistant Master.

COPY of a LETTER to Mr. WHITE, Porter, in reference to Mr. O'Brien's statement.

Workhouse, March 29, 1848.

Mr. WHITE,

In a letter received from Mr. O'Brien, the late master, in reply to one of mine, dated the 29th instant, calling on him to account for the discrepancy between the numbers actually in the house, and the numbers returned on the minutes, as being there on Saturday, the 25th instant; he states, that some of the inmates might have gone out without his knowledge, the front building being densely crowded every day, and numbers of them having their own clothes on. The porter may not know them from the applicants.

In reference to this statement of Mr. O'Brien, you will please explain in writing whether you permit the inmates of the house to mingle in the hall with the applicants for relief, and whether any paupers have been permitted by you to leave the house through your entrance without being regularly discharged.

I am, &c.,
GEO. R. RICHARDS.

Mr. WHITE'S (the Porter) LETTER in reply.

SIR, *Workhouse, March 29, 1848.*

IN reply to yours of this date, I have not permitted the inmates of the house to mix with the applicants looking for relief, I am at present in the greatest need of a pass key, the smith having mine, and no matter what lock was to be repaired, my key the smith would be told to get.

The locks are off the doors at present, and I am doing the best I can to prevent the inmates from mixing with the applicants. The master to-day sent me persons without discharges, which I have, and the matron, discharged with their own dress (young girls) but persons can readily and easily pass through the side gates, both in and out, which might have caused confusion.

I am, &c.
PETER WHITE,
Porter.

Mr. Richards, Vice-Guardian.

No. 2.

February 24, 1848.

Loughrea Union.

THE medical officer was sent for and consulted as to the propriety of removing the several non-contagious and chronic cases at present treated in the body of the house, to the house taken in town, when the school-boys were sent by the late Board, but which the Vice-Guardians considered unsuited for them.

Dr. Cloran approved of the suggestions, and the Board gave directions to have the several patients removed there without delay. The bedding which was in the premises to be removed to the Brewery for the reception of the able-bodied male paupers to-night.

Ordered, That all the men and boys now in the workhouse be sent to the Brewery with the exception of all those confined to beds. The entry, the removal of bedding and boys upon the minutes was the 24th February; repeatedly during the month of March, the early part, I gave directions to have the entire of the male school removed out of the house, which directions the master disobeyed, the directions do not appear upon the minutes. I was informed by Dr. Brodie, his directions upon the same subject were also disobeyed, and that we could not calculate upon any order that we gave being carried out; that Dr. Brodie had to superintend the removal of the boys to the Brewery, his directions to that effect not being carried out. I had a conversation with Mr. O'Brien some time previous to the 25th March, respecting the arrangements of the house, and I asked him whether any of the male paupers were lodged in this establishment since the school-boys were sent away. He stated not, except what might be in the probationaries; and he also stated, that all the boys had been removed to the Brewery upon the night of the 25th. After Mr. O'Brien had told me all the boys had been removed out of the house, I found either 15 or 18 boys in it, contrary to my directions and Mr. O'Brien's assertions. I was the same night obliged to send about the hour of 10 o'clock those boys to the Brewery.

I do not remember whether the letter I addressed to Mr. O'Brien was dated the 27th, to the best of my recollection it was, though it appeared upon the minutes to be the 28th. I frequently correspond with the Commissioners, and report upon the conduct of the officers generally. I cannot say that I reported Mr. O'Brien's disobedience specially to the Commissioners. The Provision Check Account has not been kept since the 8th April, up to which time it was kept by Mr. O'Brien.

GEORGE R. RICHARDS, *Vice-Guardian.*

Sworn and acknowledged before me this 26th day of April, at Loughrea Union workhouse.

OWEN L. LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(C.)

THE evidence of *John McCarthy*, who being duly sworn saith—I was appointed master of the Loughrea Union workhouse on the 29th March, on which day Mr. Richards informed me that there were upon the registry about 100 more than were actually in the house, that for the three days of the week food was cooked for the full number appearing upon the book, that on Friday there were 24 rations cooked more than was required, and on Saturday 30. Cannot say the exact number in each house; cannot tell the number of paupers chargeable upon each electoral division, has not kept the relief list; cannot tell average cost of each pauper, as he has not had the daily returns regularly from hospital, would know how to make the average cost if he had the return. The paupers have occasionally complained there were not sufficient number of rations issued.

JOHN M'CARTHY.

Sworn and acknowledged before me at the Loughrea Union workhouse, being first duly read, 26th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(D.)

THE evidence of *Henry Cloran*, medical officer to the Loughrea Union workhouse, being duly sworn, saith—I am the person who admits patients into the hospitals; the hospital is calculated to contain 50 patients, and the sheds 100.

The number in the hospital and sheds on Saturday, the 22nd April, amounted to 401; I was desired by the Inspector to put every fever and dysenteric cases into the hospital and sheds out of the house; I receive into hospital from Bride-street when they can be removed all fever and dysenteric cases. When the late Guardians ceased to conduct the affairs of the Union, there were in hospital 267 patients including sheds. The medical return is the book to guide the master in the issue of rations, the return given by the apothecary is not correct, though it is upon that return the provision for the hospital has been estimated: the return for Saturday, the 22nd, as made out by me is correct, the number being 517. I do not believe the return sent in by the apothecary as 571 is accurate.

HENRY CLORAN, M.D.

Sworn and acknowledged before me this 26th day of April, 1848, at Loughrea Union workhouse.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

Loughrea Union.

(E.)

Patrick Skerrett, Esq., member of the late Board of Guardians of Loughrea Union, being duly sworn, saith—That I have visited the workhouse frequently since the dissolution of the late Board, one week daily; on one occasion I met Dr. Brodie, and mentioned to him that I was informed there was a greater number in the house then, than upon the occasion of the dissolution of the Board. Dr. Brodie replied, "I am sure you are misinformed." I came into the house immediately after, and asked the master to show me the books, I looked over them, and found the number correspond with that I had told Dr. Brodie, and which number was greater than what we were dismissed for, I do not recollect the number now, but I gave it on a slip of paper to Mr. Smith. I recollect having gone from the front house through the passage and garden by the master's office to the dining-hall, and observed a great number of paupers at dinner, both male and female, in their own clothes; I think from 100 to 150. On two or three occasions, during that week I visited the probationary wards, they appeared to be more crowded than ever I had seen them before; during that week also, I very often saw men in the women's yard; the house did not appear to me to be more orderly than before we were dismissed. I was in the Board-room upon one occasion, and did not consider there was any appearance of improvement there. Books and papers about the table and floor. I have seen the paupers repeatedly about the streets seemingly not on business, I heard the Vice-Guardians had provided passes for the paupers going out; I have frequently met paupers since; I demanded their passes, and never got but one. I recollect the late Board did all in its power to provide additional accommodation and clothing for the paupers, and threatened to sue one of the contractors for failing to make good his contract regarding clothes. I know there is a great abuse in the out-door relief; I knew one man, a tenant of my own, who is able-bodied, has two acres of land, and up to Monday last received 40lbs. of meal weekly. I also know several able-bodied men in employment who are in receipt of out-door relief.

Examined by Mr. Richards.—It was the latter end of February or beginning of March that I was in the habit of daily visiting during a week; does not recollect the day the Vice-Guardians commenced their duties; was in the habit of visiting the workhouse while acting as Guardian very frequently until fever broke out; never visited the house since the Vice-Guardians were appointed but that week, and on one occasion more when I came about letting land for a cemetery, and I think that was about the 10th March; is not in a position to say what the state of the house is in now, not having visited it, but hears there was a great deal of trouble taken with it the last week; I saw some men in the female yards the week I was in the habit of coming here; I cannot swear the men were sent upon business to the female yard, I saw them doing nothing but talking; I did not represent these irregularities to the Vice-Guardians. I was examining the books and taking extracts, but did not scatter them about the room as I was not in it; cannot say whether the books that were about the floor were the books of the Union or those of the Relief Committees. I will not take upon myself to say that the entire number I saw upon the books slept in the house, but I believe they did, because the numbers that slept in the two houses in town were deducted; I could not tell the numbers that were deducted now; I took the numbers from the books; I cannot say from my own knowledge the numbers that slept in the houses in town having got them from the master (O'Brien.)

PATRICK SKERRETT.

Sworn and acknowledged before me at the Loughrea Union workhouse, 29th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(F.)

John Murphy, writing clerk, being duly sworn saith—I had been in the habit of assisting in making up the master's books; I am partially acquainted with the books kept in the office; I do not know of any such book being kept as would show the numbers that slept in any particular house; I saw no memorandum that would show the amount of provision expended in any house; many of the persons that slept in the Brewery were brought back to breakfast; cannot say whether all the paupers that slept in the brewery were brought back to breakfast.

Cross-examined by Sir Thomas Burke, Bart.—Does not know how the master could tell what quantity of provisions to send to the Brewery, perhaps he had the numbers, but I did not see them.

J. MURPHY.

Sworn and acknowledged before me at Loughrea Union workhouse this 1st May, 1848, being first duly read.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(G.)

Upon the complaint that "The workhouses are in a state of the greatest disorder," being read by Inspector, Patrick O'Brien, master of the workhouse, up to 29th March was produced as a witness.

Patrick O'Brien being duly sworn, saith—I have read that part of the letter that conveyed the dissolution of the late Board of Guardians, namely, the paupers wearing their own clothes; probationary yards in a filthy state, also the privies. Saw an improvement in the house from

the time the Vice-Guardians came, also the probationary yards, the probationary yards were in a better way by being dug up and having cabbage plants planted in one of them; the yard that Dr. Phelan complained of was cleaned also, the floor of the privies in the probationary yards. Such of the paupers as had not room in the probationary wards were removed into the body of the house to sleep, they wore their own clothes, the practice continued as long as I remained. Since the appointment of the Vice-Guardians, classification was not better observed than during the time the late Guardians were in office. The Vice-Guardians complained to me seeing men and women in the kitchen together. The paupers slept on straw in the probationary wards frequently since the Vice-Guardians were appointed. School requisites were supplied by the Vice-Guardians in about three weeks after their arrival. The female probationary ward has been often overcrowded. The paupers have sometimes remained in their own clothes for three weeks after their admission.

Cross-examined by Mr. Richards.—On more than one or two occasions paupers have remained in their own clothes for three weeks; I do not recollect receiving instructions from the Vice-Guardians about the clothes for the paupers; they may have given directions, but I don't recollect them, there were no clothes for them. The matron told me that Mr. Richards told her if she did not get the women to make the linen that he should get it done himself. It was to the female wards the women were removed from the probationary wards to sleep. Dr. Brodie brought me from the dining hall to the privy in the adult female yard, which was in a very dirty state, not very long after the Vice-Guardians came, it might be about a week; cannot recollect what directions Dr. Brodie gave me about the privy; he called my attention to it, and I told the matron to have it cleaned out; cannot swear that Dr. Brodie told me that the state of the privies was one of the reasons why the late Board was dissolved, and that if the Inspector came down, I would lose my situation; cannot swear that my attention was drawn to the state of the privies upon a previous occasion; I cannot swear that I followed out all the instructions I received from the Vice-Guardians; I recollect bringing the punishment-book before the Vice-Guardians with the names of some persons punished for misconduct; the Vice-Guardians said they could not approve of the punishment, because the place was not clean, or words to that effect. I do not recollect my attention to have been drawn by the Vice-Guardians to a nuisance in the refractory cell or on passage leading from the porter's hall to the body of the house; if I saw a nuisance either in the refractory cell or on the passage leading from the porter's hall to the body of the house, I would have it removed without an order. Is not aware that Dr. Brodie was in the habit of visiting the privies almost every day, on coming to the house; is not aware that Dr. Brodie stood by one day to have the privy cleaned; does not recollect any improvement, except the chimney in the nursery being prevented smoking, and the pumps repaired, and a great quantity of clothing provided, and shoes, and desks, and forms, and a ventilator over the doors of the schoolrooms, and a tailor, and a shoemaker employed to instruct the boys, wheels, flax, wool, and cards provided for the women; the clothing for the paupers was at all times since I came made in the house, with the exception of the frieze jackets.

PAT. O'BRIEN.

Sworn and acknowledged before me at the Loughrea Union workhouse the 28th April, 1848, being first duly read.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(H.)

Denis Phelan, Esq., Poor Law Inspector, being duly sworn, saith—The house is vastly improved, and all the workhouse premises, since the period I made my last report, bearing date the 9th February. The dormitories are now very clean, and ventilation, though not fully carried out, considerably improved. The bedding is also improved; I cannot make use of a stronger expression than that the whole is vastly improved. The hospitals are improved though not in as satisfactory a state as could be wished. The reason they are not in such a satisfactory state as could be wished, is, that there are more patients necessarily put into them than there is hospital accommodation for; for instance, in the fever sheds there are two patients in each bed, always an unsatisfactory arrangement if it can be avoided, and 145 patients in two sheds intended only for 100. I am not aware that the Vice-Guardians have the means of sending the excess of these fever patients to any other place. In the same manner, the infirmary, although kept in excellent order, is partly overcrowded with chronic and dysenteric patients, although not so much overcrowded as when I made my report. I do consider Dr. Cloran perfectly fit for his situation, being, as I understand, a medical graduate of one of the first colleges in Europe. I do consider Dr. Cloran a fit medical officer for the Union, and beg to add, that upon several occasions, I have accompanied him through the sick wards, and have heard him describe the cases of several patients in such a manner as to satisfy me that he fully understood them. I have reason to believe that he has devoted six, eight, and ten hours a day to the treatment of his patients, whom he has frequently visited twice a day.

To a question put by Sir Thomas Burke, namely:—"With all the wonderful improvements you speak of, as to the cleanliness of the house, and its general improvement, how do you account for the great mortality that occurs weekly?" Answer.—"That at a period when a large proportion of the population is in a state of destitution, and when a considerable number of those destitute are admitted into the workhouse, many of those so admitted are found to be in broken health, or affected with serious contagious diseases, and that amongst them, under such circumstances, a large mortality may be always expected." I beg to add, that I have not said wonderful improvement; vastly improved were the words I used. I visited the house

Loughrea Union.

once since the 5th February, and this day it was on the 12th April. I visited it, I found the house improved from what it had been, but by no means as much as it is now I cannot say whether the house was improved between the 5th when I made my report, and the dissolution of the Board, not having visited it. I do know the Board was exerting itself to provide additional accommodation. I saw Mr. Smith's house in progress of fitting up and approved of it for a dormitory. The possession of additional houses enabled the Vice-Guardians to make the described improvements, being a portion of the means which enable them to do so.

DENIS PHELAN.

Sworn and acknowledged before me at the Loughrea Union workhouse, 28th April, 1840.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(I.)

Ferdinand Coffey, clerk to the late Board of Guardians and now clerk to the Vice-Guardians, being duly sworn, saith—That the balance to the credit of the Guardians at the time of his appointment on the 11th December in the hands of the treasurer was 4*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, that a rate of 3*s.* in the pound was put in collection early in January, that up to the period the late Board was dissolved 391*l.* was collected, and 211*l.* paid for outstanding debts, and a balance remaining to credit of Guardians 179*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, that there were fewer persons in the house at the period the Board was dissolved than when Dr. Phelan made his report, that in wet weather the Board-room was damp and the floor covered with water, particularly when the wind was from the west, when the rain beats through the soffit of the windows, and the joints of the walls, that I have seen men and women in the town in the workhouse clothes late at night, going, I think, for water.

Cross-examined by Mr. Richards.—There is no other place to procure water for Bride-street than where I saw the people; I know the Vice-Guardians to have endeavoured to prevent the paupers going into the town by having pass cards provided for the messengers. I have seen the paupers more than once in the streets, but cannot say whether they were on business.

FERDINAND COFFEY.

Sworn and acknowledged before me at Loughrea Union workhouse, 29th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(J.)

Henry Cloran, M.D., being duly sworn, saith—I was medical officer to the Loughrea Union workhouse previous to the dissolution of the late Board; the yards of the workhouse are clear; the privies of the house were kept clean; the house is not as orderly as it ought to be; classification is not strictly observed; I cannot say the number in the probationary wards at night; I recollect reckoning the men one night as they were going from the probationary day ward to the probationary sleeping ward. I have seen paupers frequently in their own clothes. The sleeping rooms are very clean since the Vice-Guardians came. I remarked at times on passing the male day ward that it was filthy; the women's day-room very clean. I saw the paupers sleeping on straw in the boys' school-room; I sent a message to Mr. O'Brien to have blankets provided, and they were that night. I found a sick woman in the probationary ward lying on straw; there were a great number in the probationary ward at the time; I consider they were too many; I have never seen any of the paupers drunk; I have seen them in the streets and reprimanded them for it. During the last week the house has been very much cleaned. During the time I have been here I have always observed great cleaning was carried forward when any person was expected to visit the house; and if the matron made the same exertion at all times as is essentially necessary, and as she did lately, it would tend more to the benefit and health of the people, and to the credit of both sets of Guardians.

The hospital requisites are very much improved. I know of one individual getting relief that ought not to get it, and many that I recommended, had not their names put upon the list.

Examined by Mr. Richards.—I have visited the privies of the men and women's yard and the probationary yard privies; they are in a much more satisfactory state than in the time of the ex-Guardians. It was the hospital privies I swore were not in a satisfactory state, they have not been in a satisfactory state for the last four or five weeks, although I requested of both masters to have them cleaned; I told both the Vice-Guardians the state the privies were in, and they made every exertion to have them cleaned. I am aware that Dr. Phelan visited the workhouse since the dissolution of the late Board, it was about the 12th April that Dr. Phelan visited the workhouse; the day that Dr. Phelan, accompanied by Mr. Richards and myself, visited the house the men were in the act of taking up human excrement by mixing it with turf mould from the floor of the privy, it was necessary to add turf mould to enable the men to move the excrement. I cannot say if the men took anything out of the pit of the privy, but I saw half a foot of human excrement on the seat; the men took something away in barrows, which I believe was human excrement, the privies are now in a most creditable state.

Considering there were too many in the probationary ward, I walked up to the Board-room to Dr. Brodie, and told him the numbers that were there, and that I thought it would be advisable to have some of them removed to the day-room underneath. Is not in the habit of daily visiting the probationary ward, but finding so many there and so many sick, I considered it necessary to visit them and have the sick immediately removed; I cannot say the number of sick I selected from the healthy; I am not in the habit of examining each pauper upon his admission, as my time can be more beneficially employed amongst the sick paupers, and my attention is directed to every person apparently sick in the probationary wards. I cannot recollect the time I saw the woman lying in the probationary wards; I recollect the time I saw the people in their own clothes in the house, was the time the men slept in the boys' schoolroom. I have seen the women in the Bishop's House in their own clothes frequently. It was I sent the paupers from the workhouse to the Bishop's House. I have never made a representation to the Vice-Guardians that did not receive immediate consideration and attention, except one. I have never known the Vice-Guardians make more than ordinary exertion upon hearing an inspection was to take place, but such was made; I allude to the hospital department, when I observe the matron's vigilance increased, when she became afraid. I have not upon all occasions received the requisites applied for. I was told the matron was the person who refused; I was never refused by any parties but the matron; I frequently applied to the late Guardians and was refused; I applied to the present Guardians, and though they ordered them, they were not supplied. I have drawn a comparison between the anxiety evinced by the present and the late Guardians to provide necessaries for the hospital; the result was in favour of the Vice-Guardians. I am of opinion that the Vice-Guardians generally evinced the greatest anxiety to remedy any abuse they found existing.

HENRY CLORAN, *M.D.*

Sworn and acknowledged before me at Loughrea Union workhouse, this 29th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(K.)

Rev. Joseph O'Loughlin being duly sworn, saith—I am and have been acting chaplain to the Loughrea Union workhouse since August last; I am in the habit of frequently attending at the workhouse, always when sent for to see a sick person. I consider the workhouse apart from the infirmary in its present state as contrasted with what it was last winter, much improved, the paupers are more comfortably clothed; the dormitories were filthy last winter, and the people dying in numbers; they were unattended by nurses, and had not room in the hospital; I consider the constant visits of the Vice-Guardians has tended to this improvement, in addition to the increased house accommodation afforded by the auxiliary houses. The people are more generally employed. The females are engaged in spinning, sewing, carding; the female school is much improved, desks and books are supplied, and the few children I have examined have answered fairly; owing to the illness of the master, I cannot speak so favourably of the boys' school. As regards the infirmary, I state that as contrasted with last winter it is much improved; it is, however, under the same superintendence. I know nothing of the yards and privies. In the house, generally, classification is better observed, and the moral training better attended to, arising from increased house accommodation and the vigilance of the Vice-Guardians.

JOSEPH O'LOUGHLIN, *C. C.*

Sworn and acknowledged before me, being first read at the Loughrea Union workhouse, 22nd April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(L.)

Ann Murphy, matron of the Loughrea Union workhouse, being duly sworn, saith—That I am matron of the workhouse for two years; I have never refused to supply necessaries that were in my charge to the hospital, and when I had not what was required, I procured such as soon as possible, and gave them upon receiving a proper order. I have refused shrouding for the dead, because I did not receive the proper order. Dr. Cloran, told me yesterday, that he would shortly see why the shrouding was not put into the hands of the proper person, meaning, as I believe, the hospital nurse. I remember receiving an order for shrouding upon one occasion lately, for a person who was not dead. I gave the shrouding, as I supposed the person was dead. I reported the matter to the Vice-Guardians, and was directed not to give any more without a written order from the hospital, which would answer for my receipt. I would not afterwards give the shrouding on any account without an order. Dr. Cloran said to me that the shrouding should be given, and that he would not allow the nurse to give an order, other than the ticket, which should be returned to him again. The ticket mentions the name of the pauper, the age, and time of admission into hospital, not the death. I would, if I heard the Commissioner was in town, go round and have the place in order. Lately we had no occasion to be so particular about the visits of the Commissioners as we were better prepared for them now than we used to be; we have better means now to be prepared for them. I receive more assistance now than formerly, by the constant visits of the Vice-Guardians, who pointed out to me the way by having wards-women in each dormitory, who are particular in carrying out their instructions. I often heard there was a Visiting Committee

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appointed, but they seldom went through the house. There is a material improvement in the industrial employment of the females; the improvement consists in knitting, spinning, and sewing. I have now under charge a considerable quantity of linen and woollen yarn manufactured by the females, so as to enable us to employ a weaver soon. All school requisites are provided.

Cross-examined by Mr. Smith.—I found the late Guardians ready to co-operate with me, but they had not the means, the present Guardians have. I recollect that since the Vice-Guardians came, the paupers slept on straw, both in the school-rooms and probationary dormitories, and in their own clothes; I do not recollect they slept so in the body of the house. It was I provided the straw out of the ticken for the paupers to sleep on, as by so doing they would be more comfortable and have more room. I do not think the Guardians knew the paupers slept on straw. I brought paupers out of the probationary wards, by direction of the master, into the school rooms, as they were too crowded; they slept in their own clothes for one night, but they were provided with blankets and rugs. The men when drawing turf and water to the kitchen mixed with the women; it was impossible to prevent their meeting upon other occasions, as the lock of the door was out of order. The paupers have been for a fortnight in their own clothes, while the house clothes were being made. The privies have been in an orderly state since the arrival of the Vice-Guardians, with the exception of one week, that the person in charge was ill. I do not mean to say the instruction of the children is better now than when I was mistress, during the time of the Ex-Guardians; it is two years since I was school-mistress, I think the instruction was better then. The present school-mistress was appointed by the Ex-Guardians.

ANNE MURPHY.

Sworn and acknowledged before me this 1st May, 1848, being first duly read, at Loughrea Union workhouse.

OWEN LLOYD.

(M.)

Mr. *Thomas Macklin*, contractor and general merchant, being duly sworn, saith—I was formerly an elected Guardian of the Loughrea Union, during which time I had frequent opportunities of visiting the workhouse, I had opportunities of seeing the house after I ceased to be a Guardian; I recollect the state of the house from its opening. I ceased to be a Guardian in 1844; when I visited the house about the 9th of February, I found the rain had come in through the windows upon the floors; I observed the floor of one of the dormitories discoloured from wet, not proceeding from rain. I have been upon two occasions through the house; lately there is a vast difference in the entire improvement of the house, it has been progressive. I observe the windows do not let in the rain, as they are now properly cased. I see through the house the ventilation is improved. I find the dormitories cleanly, and great regularity in making up the beds. I have put questions to the paupers, who have replied they are more comfortable, as to clothing and fuel, and that they got their food better dressed. I have been in the schoolroom, and find the children classified, and they are now provided with slates and copy-books, which I never saw before with them, as well as other requisites necessary for children of their age. I think there is an improvement in the industrial training of the paupers. I have gone through the boys' apartment, and found they had been put to shoe-making and tailoring. I examined the shoemakers' work, and found very good shoes finished after them. I also examined the work done by the tailors, and would not desire to see better. I have gone through the women's department, and found they were employed in spinning linen and woollen yarn, several carding and opening wool, others knitting, and more sewing; if industry progresses as it has since the arrival of the Vice-Guardians, the clothes for the house will all be manufactured by the paupers; from observations I have heard made by the officers of the house, I do not consider they are disposed to co-operate with the Vice-Guardians.

Cross-examined by Mr. Smith.—The casing of the windows has been going on for a fortnight. I have been just appointed valuator of the Union by the Vice-Guardians, at 100*l.*, and prior to any knowledge of this investigation being made; my appointment took place the day Mr. Lloyd arrived.

THOMAS MACKLIN.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, at Loughrea Union workhouse, being first duly read, the 1st May, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(N.)

Ference Brodie, M.D., one of the Vice-Guardians of the Loughrea Union, being duly sworn, saith—That on the day after my arrival in Loughrea, being the 18th February, I visited the workhouse, and was particularly struck with the filthy state of the yards, privies, and some of the dormitories, the two former being covered in many places with human excrement, and the boards of the floors saturated with urine; I determined to turn my attention to have those abuses remedied; and several occasions during the first week after we entered on office, my colleague and myself gave particular directions to the master, and the other officers of the house, to have the nuisances removed; our orders were not obeyed; about the 2nd or 3rd of March, I examined the state of the privies, and found that on the female side of the house covered with human excrement; I mentioned the matter to my colleague and told him that it was quite use-

less for us to give any directions to the master, as he appeared determined to disobey our orders, and that his object evidently was to get us into a scrape with the Commissioners. Mr. Richards agreed, and said, that as he had so frequently reprimanded O'Brien, he would now recommend me to try what I could do with him. I called him (O'Brien) into the yard, and brought him to the door of the privy, and said to him, was it not a shame to have it in such a disgraceful state, that he must be very well aware that the state of the privies was one of the reasons assigned by the Commissioners for dissolving the late Board, and that if Dr. Phelan, or any other inspector, visited the house, and found the privy in the state it then was, that he and every officer of the house would be dismissed; and not alone the officers of the house, but the Vice-Guardians that were sent down to correct the abuses that existed, would also be dismissed. The master very coolly replied, "And justly, Sir." I then cautioned him to have the place cleaned, or we should report him to the Commissioners. On the next or second morning, I again examined the privy and found it in a similar state; I also examined the refractory cell, and found it partially covered with excrement; a similar nuisance presented itself outside the door. I brought O'Brien into the cell and directed his attention to its filthy state; I also pointed out to him the nuisance in the passage, and desired him to have it removed. At 5 o'clock on the same day, I again examined the refractory cell and the passage, and found the nuisance had not been removed. I found two persons confined in the cell, and sent directions to the master to have them immediately liberated. I then made an entry, bearing date 4th March,* in the Visiting Committee Book; on several occasions between the 4th and 11th, we gave similar directions to the master, and our orders were disobeyed, and on more than one day during that week, I had myself to get the paupers to clean the privies, and stand by while they were doing so. On Saturday 11th March, I made the entry bearing date 11th March;† my colleague and myself deemed it advisable to forward a copy of the entry to the Commissioners, to show the difficulties we had to contend with, from the officers of the house not obeying our orders, and received from them the reply hereto appended.‡ I visited the hospital department, and found the patients did not get their breakfast until a very late hour in the day, frequently until 12 o'clock; I enquired the cause, and was informed the hospital patients could not be served until the paupers in the hall were served; I sent to the master, desiring him to send tin vessels immediately to the hospital, the messenger returned, and said the master desired him to tell me the tinker was making them, that he had not any. On my way to the hospital, on that morning, I saw a large supply of tins in the store rooms. On another occasion we gave directions to the master to remove all the men and boys to the Brewery, and on visiting the dining hall at dinner, a few days after, I found several men and boys. I enquired of the assistant master if they had slept at the Brewery, he said not, I told him I would not leave the place until I saw them all marched off to the Brewery, as our orders would not be obeyed, and did wait until all were sent off. On another occasion, after serving an order on the master to have all the men and boys in the house, with the exception of those in the hospital, sent to the Brewery, our orders were not obeyed. On another occasion we selected a number of women, being widows, and gave them tickets of discharge to the relieving officer for out-door relief, and ordered them to be sent out on that very day, and our order was not obeyed. We frequently gave directions to have the female paupers employed in making the house clothing, our orders were not obeyed to the required extent, until the 18th March, when we served the notice now appearing on the minutes§ and appended hereunto.

Cross-examined by Sir Thomas Burke, Bart.—There was but one master of the workhouse from the 4th until the 29th March. The persons discharged, were directed to present their tickets to the master, I cannot tell whether they did so, I gave directions to the matron to set the women to work, I reported her on the minutes for neglect. The appointment of the new master took place the 29th March. The provision check book has not been kept since the 8th April; this has arisen from two causes, one the irregularity of the hospital books, the other the incompetency of the successor of O'Brien, whom we appointed.

FERENCE BRODIE.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, at Loughrea Union workhouse, being first read, 1st May, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

No. 3.

Saturday, March 4, 1848.

On visiting the workhouse at 11 o'clock, A.M., I found the privies at the female side of the house in the same disgracefully filthy state so often complained of. The floor of the refractory cell was in a similar state, being covered with human excrement, the same was observable on the passage leading from the porter's lodge to the body of the house, and although the master's attention was directed to it the nuisance remains at 5 o'clock. I now found two boys confined in the refractory cell, and being of opinion that their lives are endangered from the filthy state, I have sent to the master to liberate them.

J. BRODIE, *V. G.*

J. COFFEY, *Clerk of the Loughrea Union.*

No. 4.

Saturday, March 11, 1848.

On visiting the workhouse at 11 o'clock, A.M., we found the privies at the male and female side in the same abominable state of filth complained of by the Inspector, Doctor Phelan,

* See No. 3.

† See No. 4.

‡ See No. 5.

§ See No. 6.

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and to which we had such frequent occasions to call the attention of the master, and other officers of the house, since we entered on our duties as Vice-Guardians. The yard at the female side of the house, quite close to the infirmary, was covered with human excrement; a similar nuisance presented itself on the passage leading from the infirmary to the fever sheds, evidently showing gross neglect on the part of every officer of the house.

J. COFFEY, Clerk of the Loughrea Union.

G. R. RICHARDS, V. G.
J. BRODIE, V. G.

No. 5.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
March 13, 1848.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have had under their consideration your report of the 11th instant, enclosing a copy of the report which you entered in the Visiting Committee Book on that day, relating to the state of the workhouse of the Loughrea Union, and under the circumstances which you represent, the Commissioners deem it expedient to issue an order for the dismissal of the master of the workhouse, both to mark their sense of the impropriety of his conduct, and to disqualify him for office under any Board of Guardians in any Union in Ireland.

To the Vice-Guardians of the
Loughrea Union, Loughrea.I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. STANLEY, Secretary.

No. 6.

Saturday, March 18, 1848.

Ordered that the matron be requested to furnish the names of such of the female inmates as she considers are able to work, and if any should refuse to report their names, &c., the Vice-Guardians would take immediate steps to punish them for disobedience of orders, as they were determined that the making of the house clothing should be expedited as much as possible, which they regret to find had been neglected during the past week.

The matron furnished the names of about 40 women, and instructions were given to set them to work immediately.

J. COFFEY, Clerk of the Loughrea Union.

(O.)

Robert D'Arcy, Esq., J. P., being duly sworn, saith—That on or about the 7th April two boys, pauper inmates of the Loughrea Union workhouse, were brought before me charged with being drunk; they were in custody of the police, and were reported to have been brought before me for punishment by order of the Vice-Guardians. Upon proof of the charge of drunkenness, I committed the two boys (whose names were John Fury and Michael Kelly) to Bridewell for 48 hours.

ROBERT D'ARCY.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, at Loughrea Union workhouse, this 28th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, Poor Law Inspector.

Henry Trimble, 1st head constable of constabulary stationed at Loughrea, being sworn, saith—I was on the morning of the 7th April at the police barrack, when a messenger arrived with a request from Mr. Richards, the Vice-Guardian, that a couple of the men might be sent up to the workhouse to take charge of two boys who were drunk, and to bring them before the magistrates. I immediately sent up two men, who, accompanied by Mr. Richards, returned with two boys, John Fury and Michael Kelly, both dressed in the Union clothes and quite drunk. I detained them in barrack until Mr. D'Arcy, the magistrate, came into town, when I brought the boys before him upon a charge of drunkenness; Mr. D'Arcy received the complaint and committed them to Bridewell for 48 hours, at the expiration of which, I sent them in charge of two men to deliver the boys to the master of the workhouse.

H. TRIMBLE, 1st H. C.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, at Loughrea, this 11th May, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, Poor Law Inspector.

John Morley, a pauper inmate of the Loughrea Union workhouse, being duly sworn, saith—I saw John Fury, aged about 16, and Michael Kelly, aged about 15, and both pauper inmates of the house, drunk about three weeks since. I also saw Bartley Lally and Thomas Coy drunk about the same time, they are paupers in the house. I also saw Thomas Hopkins and Michael Fahy both drunk, and both are paupers in the workhouse. I do not know where they got the whiskey. I never told any person about the house that any of the boys were drunk, and no person ever spoke to me on the subject. I never saw a person belonging to the house drunk before or since.

JOHN MORLEY.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, being first duly read, at the Loughrea Union workhouse, 28th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, Poor Law Inspector.

Michael Kelly, a pauper inmate of the Loughrea workhouse, aged about 13 years, being duly sworn, saith—That about three weeks since, I saw Michael Walsh and Thomas Hopkins, both pauper inmates, drunk in the men's yard about 2 o'clock in the day. I cannot say that any of the officers knew they were drunk, if they did, they would punish them. I saw Bartley Lally and Thomas Coy, both pauper inmates, drunk, in or about three weeks since, Coy was in the probationary ward, and Lally in the men's yard. I saw John Fury,* another pauper inmate, drunk, in the men's yard, about a fortnight ago. I also saw Michael Fahy, a pauper inmate, drunk, at the master's office, about a fortnight since; about the same time I also saw Michael Kelly* drunk in the old men's ward, he was taken out by the police. I have heard that John Fury was punished by confinement to the Brewery. I heard also he was dismissed from the shoemaking trade for the offence. I did not tell any of the officers that I saw the boys drunk. I did tell Dr. Cloran, and also Mr. James Smith.

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MICHAEL KELLY.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 28th day of April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(P.)

Complaint.—The paid Guardians are totally ignorant of the parties to whom they are giving out-door relief, and the most flagrant abuses are the consequence; yet they studiously avoid seeking information from any of the respectable rate-payers, nor do they publish the names of the recipients of such relief.

William Proctor, relieving officer for the Athenry district, comprising the electoral divisions of Athenry, Cranghwell and Kilconaron, being duly sworn, saith—that 1. Winny Rogers, aged 40 years, able-bodied, receives 7 lbs. Indian meal weekly. 2. Margaret Cahillon, deserted by her husband, 28 lbs. for self and four children, has sworn informations against her husband. 3. Michael Cannon, aged 36, wife and four children, receives 28 lbs.: I brought this man and family to the workhouse, because the family were sick and the man infirm. 4. Robin Newman, aged 50, and wife, receive 14 lbs. weekly, refused to come into the workhouse and was rejected, when he was allowed out-door relief; Vice-Guardians considered him infirm, and from his appearance I think him infirm; I would not feed him for his work. 5. Margaret Lawless, aged 60, receives 7 lbs. meal weekly; refused a ticket for the workhouse until she came before the Guardians, when she was placed upon out-door relief; has a son enabled to maintain her. 6. Bridget Gleeson, aged 35, deserted by her husband, an able-bodied man, engaged by a man, named Healy, at 1s. per week and his diet; receives 18 lbs. of meal weekly for self and three children; Vice-Guardians directed me to give her provisional relief, and get her to lodge informations against her husband, which she did. 7. Winny Cunningham, aged 80 years, receives 7 lbs. meal weekly, has more than a quarter acre of land; I did not know she had land until Good-Friday. 8. Mary Mulkeeran, aged 50, infirm, receives for self and two children 21 lbs. meal weekly; was lately lessened; she holds half an acre of land.

The Vice-Guardians have gone to Athenry to adjudicate upon the cases I submitted to them. The Vice-Guardians have taken means to ascertain the proper cases to be relieved; not being satisfied with my representations they have inquired from rate-payers and others in Athenry, but not in the other electoral divisions in my district to my knowledge; they could have made inquiries without my knowledge. I do not know of women with illegitimate children receiving out-door relief, with the exception of one instance, the person being sick. I have submitted my books to rate-payers in my district, in order to ascertain whether there were any persons receiving out-door relief not entitled to it; after I submitted my books to the rate-payers of Athenry for examination, one of them, in the presence of the others, I think Mr. Loughnane, expressed his approval of them, and added that there was not a sufficient number of persons upon his list. Has received recommendations from several rate-payers to give out-door relief to persons who, upon inquiry, I found not entitled to it.

WM. PROCTOR.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, at the Loughrea Union workhouse, being first duly read, 28th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(Q.)

Thomas Connor, relieving officer for Kiltulla district, comprising the electoral divisions of Kiltulla and Killimer Daly, being duly sworn, saith,—that 1. Nelly Commins returned as a widow, aged 60 years, in the Application and Report Book of Edward Rochford, former relieving officer of the district, receives weekly for herself and two reputed illegitimate children 14 lbs. of meal. The children are not returned as illegitimate in the Application and Report Book; both children over 15 years of age. 2. Mary Dunne, aged 40 years, receives for self and three children 24 lbs. of meal; her husband alive but disabled. 3. Bridget Connelly, aged 45, receives for self and three illegitimate children 28 lbs. of meal weekly; had been in the workhouse and was put on out-door relief. 4. Pat. Connelly, aged 45 years, received 30 lbs. of meal for a fortnight weekly, some of his children being represented to me as sick, and which I reported to the Vice-Guardians. I went to the house, saw two or three children

* Fury and Kelly were brought before the magistrates, and confined in Bridewell for 48 hours.

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in bed; it was about mid-day; the mother said the children were ill; that they had eaten nothing but nettles and water-cresses for some time. I did not ask the disease, but the mother said they were sick from hunger and starvation. 5. William Walsh, aged 38, received provisional relief from me, disallowed by Vice-Guardians. I gave provisional relief in consequence of the illness of the children and their destitute state. 6. Mary Henley, aged 30 years, receives for herself and five children 30 lbs. of meal weekly. She is returned upon the Application and Report Book neither single nor married, her husband is alive; did not report to the Vice-Guardians that Mary Henley was married. 7. Mary Cunnane, aged 70 years, receives 12 lbs. of meal weekly; she and her sons live together. Has heard she has land; did not report to the Vice-Guardians when he heard she had land. I have made no entry in Report Book as to land. 8. Darby M'Grath, aged 60 years, receives 42 lbs. of meal for himself, wife, and four children, two of whom are over 15; is an able-bodied man; is ill-looking; is not able to do a day's work with a spade. 9. Honor Dunn, aged 26 years, receives 16 lbs. of meal weekly for herself and two children; refused the workhouse; her husband is in America. 10. Patrick Keeley, aged 40 years, receives 7 lbs. of meal weekly; is sickly. 11. Mary Kelly, aged 44 years, received out-door relief for two weeks; was discontinued when the Vice-Guardians visited Kiltulla to revise the lists. 12. William Cuncue, aged, as stated in Report Book, 60 years; I believe him to be about 50; I think him well able to work; has from 32 to 40 perches of land; is partly sown with potatoes; relieved him provisionally, was discontinued by Vice-Guardians. 13. James Meyrick, aged 60 years, received 14 lbs. of meal weekly for self and two children; entered in the Application and Report Book as had land which he gave up to his son. I was present when the father gave up the land to his son. 14. John Haniffée, aged 57 years, receives 28 lbs. of meal for self, wife, and six children; holds about four or five acres of land; told me he offered to give up his land; it would not be taken without the house.* The family were sick at the time in fever. 15. Paul Flannery, aged 70 years, receives 7 lbs. of meal weekly. I knew he had land and inquired what he did with it; he stated he sold it to Martin Cahillow. I did not enter this in the Application and Report Book, or mention it to the Vice-Guardians.

THOMAS CONNOR, *Relieving Officer*.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, at the Loughrea Union workhouse, being first duly read, 28th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector*.

John Birmingham, bailiff to Lord Dunsandle, being duly sworn, saith—that I do not know Mary Cannane. I do not know that she has any land, but I have heard she has.

William Connaghton,† rate-payer, being duly sworn, saith—that he knows Mary Cunnane; that she has from three roods to an acre of land; does not know whether the land belongs to Mary Cunnane or to her son.

Thomas Lally, bailiff to James Barrett of Athenry, being duly sworn, saith—that James Meyrick‡ did not give up his land, nor offered to give it up to him.

John Birmingham, bailiff to Lord Dunsandle, being sworn, saith—that John Haniffée§ offered to give up his land; that he refused to take up the land without the house. Haniffée holds his land by lease.

John Birmingham, bailiff to Lord Dunsandle, being sworn, saith—that Paul Flannery|| of Greyford has about five acres of land in his possession which he holds by lease; that he never tendered the possession to him.

(R.)

James Kelly, being duly sworn, saith—That I reside in the town of Loughrea, and have been acting relieving officer since the 21st February. That William Shaduck was appointed my assistant, and that he entered the name of Pat. Birmingham upon the Application and Report Book. That I did not visit the house of Pat. Birmingham, and I represented him to the Vice-Guardians as a destitute person after fever, upon the statement of Birmingham's wife. I was appointed relieving officer by the Vice-Guardians, having acted as such for Mr. Coughlin previous to and during his illness. Pat. Birmingham, his wife, and one child, received for three weeks 21 lbs. of meal weekly. I saw Pat. Birmingham some time after the application was entered, and he appeared to be after fever. He was struck off the list by order of Mr. Richards, who directed me to strike off all who were relieved in consequence of sickness after two, three, or four weeks.

John Nefin, being duly sworn, saith—I know Pat. Birmingham of Athenry-road, he is an able-bodied man, and I have seen him at work for wages during part of the time he was in receipt of out-door relief. Cannot say whether any of his family were in fever during the month of April.

Thomas Horan, being duly sworn, saith—I know that Pat. Birmingham's son died of fever, but cannot state the time; I saw him about three weeks since, and I heard him say he was not strong enough to work, and if he was he had not the price of a spade.

James Tierney, being duly sworn, saith—That Pat. Birmingham was employed sowing potatoes within the last month for his master, and for more than two days he had seen him before the sowing of potatoes, and he was looking ill.

2. *Thomas Fahy*—I visited the house of Thomas Fahy, I did not go in; I saw no sign of

* John Birmingham, bailiff, sworn, refused to take up Haniffée's land without house, as he holds by lease.

† See Thomas Connor's list, No. 7.

§ Ibid., No. 14.

‡ Ibid., No. 13.

|| Ibid., No. 15.

illness. I have seen him often since he has received out-door relief, and he appeared to me unable to work. He was in fever, as appears on the Application and Report Book. He received relief from 21st February to 10th April, and continued subsequently for a fortnight.

John Nefin swears—I have seen Thomas Fahy about a month since, and I consider him able to work, and saw him at work at his trade; he is a nailor; does not know he or any of his family had fever.

Thomas Macklin sworn, saith—I know Thomas Fahy; he is a nailor; had fever during the month of March or beginning of April, as I have heard from his wife. I saw Thomas Fahy subsequently; he had the appearance of fever.

Henry Cloran sworn—Is medical officer to the workhouse. Considers Thomas Fahy an infirm man, having attended him in fever and dysentery. Considers he can make a nail, though not able to put in a day's work.

3. *Patrick Madden*.—I recollect that Mr. Coffey the clerk entered Pat. Madden's name upon the Application and Report Book; he is represented as after fever, and received 36 lbs. of meal for self and wife with five children for one week, was struck off the list on its being ascertained he possessed more than a quarter acre of land.

John Nefin sworn, saith—That Pat. Madden has a cow, and two roods of land. The man might have been at work the 13th March.

Ferdinand Coffee, being duly sworn, saith—I heard and believe that Pat. Madden and his family were ill in fever, and sent them relief myself. I heard from Madden's wife and Rev. Mr. O'Loughlin that Madden was ill of a fever, but I don't know it myself.

Edmond White being sworn, saith—That Pat. Madden lay sick for three weeks previous to last fortnight; knows he has a cow and half an acre of land.

4. *Bartley Boyle*.—I swear I transferred the name of Bartley Boyle from a list prepared by the Rev. Mr. Macklin and Rev. Mr. Brunskill, from the applicants in Mr. Coughlin's office, and during the time Mr. Coughlin, the relieving officer, was first taken ill, and he is represented upon the Application and Report Book as having children ill of fever. I did not visit the house, but I believed they were ill, as stated by others; he received 2s. 6d. per week for one month, and was then struck off the list.

David Whyte, being sworn, saith—That he saw Bartley Boyle frequently working between the 5th March and 5th April. Does not know his children were ill; they might have been without his knowledge.*

5. *Martin Cahalan*.—I entered Martin Cahalan upon the Application and Report Book by desire of Mr. Coughlin, late relieving officer; he is represented aged 60 years, and infirm, was allowed 2s. per week for himself and two children, from the 28th February to the 25th March, and from thence to the present 19 lbs. of Indian meal weekly. I do not consider him able to labour.

John Nefin sworn—Knew Martin Cahalan to be a tenant to the Marquis Clanricarde, from whom he has two leases; one direct from his Lordship, the other purchased from a man named Lenahan; also another tenement at will; altogether containing about half an acre, upon which there are five houses. There are four or five years' rent due the landlord.

6. *Pat. Dogherty*.—I entered Pat. Dogherty on the 3rd March, and produced him to Vice-Guardians on the 6th; did not visit him. I saw him, and he had jaundice; he produced a certificate from Dr. Cloran to that effect; he was ordered 1s. per week from 6th March for one month; struck him off by desire of Vice-Guardians.

David Whyte sworn—Saith that he frequently saw Pat. Dogherty, between the 6th March and 6th April, an odd day working; that he will not swear he was fit to work during all that time; considers him an able-bodied man; heard he had jaundice.

7. *Owen Dogherty*.—I entered his name upon the Application and Report Book. I visited his house, and found his wife in bed; she appeared sick. He received 2s. weekly from 6th March to 1st April, when the wife being able to come for the meal, I struck him off. I entered him on the 1st April, having heard he was ill; I visited him, and found him in bed, spitting blood, and much oppressed; he was ordered relief for two weeks, when he was struck off.

David Whyte sworn, saith—That he has seen Owen Dogherty almost daily the last month, does not appear sick, and is able-bodied.

8. *Pat. Monaghan*.—I entered his name upon the Application and Report Book, by order of Mr. Coughlin, late relieving officer, aged 65, hump-backed, is a fiddler; was not reported as having land; received for himself, his wife, who is represented blind, and two children, 2s. weekly, which he received for two weeks; was struck off the list when it was ascertained he had land; was restored, having, as I believed, tendered his land to the landlord.

John Nefin sworn—I demanded the land, and told Monaghan he might keep the house; he would not surrender it, but would sow it.

Mathew Rush sworn—Is clerk to Robert Davy, Esq., agent to Marquis Clanricarde; Pat. Monaghan came to him, and said he had received the relief for two weeks, and that if I would give him a certificate, the relieving officer would continue to give it to him. I told him I would, provided he would give up the acre of land; he replied that he would keep it as long as he could. I told him also he might keep the house.

9. *Timothy Moran*.—I entered his name upon the Application and Report Book as aged 40 years, after fever; received for four weeks 24 lbs. of meal for self, wife, and two children weekly. It is not stated he had land; I did not know he had any. Was struck off the list at the end of the month, having been relieved during sickness.

David Whyte—I am receiver upon the land that Timothy Moran lives on; and he is in possession of upwards of three acres of land.

* See survey of land, page 902.

Loughrea Union.

10. Mary Porter.—I entered Mary Porter upon the Application and Report Book from a list prepared in Mr. Coughlin's office by Rev. Messrs. Macklin and Brunskill; she is reported widow, aged 45, with two children, no land; received weekly 2s. up to the 25th March, and from that up to the last week 16 lbs. of meal weekly.

John Nefin sworn, saith—That Mary Porter has near half an acre of a town plot, and that he received rent from her last harvest, for the Marquis of Clanricarde, and that the plot is now sown with potatoes and oats.

Sworn before me at Loughrea the 5th May, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

Expecting the examination of James Kelly would be resumed on Saturday, and until his list was gone through, I did not require him to sign his evidence. When I was leaving Loughrea he was absent.

May 20, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD.

I have surveyed, by order of G. Richards, Esq., the following divisions of land in the town of Loughrea (as shown me), viz. :—

No. 5, on James Kelly's List.

	Irish.			Statute.		
	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
No. 1, Plot—Being to the rere of the dwelling-house and offices of Martin Cahalan in Bride-street.	0	0	7	0	0	11½
No. 2, Plot—Being attached to three houses on the rock	0	0	11½	0	0	19*
No. 3, Plot—Being attached to two houses at the Brewery	0	0	10½	0	0	16½
Total	0	0	29	0	0	46½

Surveyed, May 8, 1848.

MARTIN HAIRE.

(S.)

Garrett Burke, late collector, and under agent to Sir Thomas Burke, Bart., being duly sworn, saith—I am well acquainted with the electoral divisions of Ballinakill, Dooniry, Portumna, and Teena, that I have been in almost every house in these divisions, and that destitution, to a very great extent, prevails in the four divisions upon which I collect the rates; there are, at least, 300 families holding from 4 to 12 acres, on whose land there is neither stock or corn, nor provision within their houses; that they are unable to pay their rates, and I do not expect to get any from them before harvest, unless I find grazing cattle during the summer. Holders of land from 12 to 20 acres to the number of 50, are nearly as destitute, and of the two classes very few attend chapel for want of decent clothes. The corn sown last year was greater in proportion than that sown this year, but potatoes are being planted extensively. I think the deaths during the last year amounted to one-eighth of the population. I kept an account of the persons that went to America as well as I could learn, and out of the four divisions, 300 able-bodied persons went thither. I was for five years manager of a loan fund, which amounted to 2000*l.*; when the potato crop failed, I called in the money and collected about 1400*l.*, the remaining 600*l.* is still unpaid, yet, for three years, before the potato crop failed there were not 10 defaulters, nor was a summons ever served to enforce payment.

There are about 20 gentlemen residing in the divisions, six of whom give employment to the poor.

The destitution of the district will amount to 5000 at the lowest calculation, at the present the number relieved amounts to 2144, upon the out-door relief lists, as appeared upon the book of relieving officers.

GARRETT BURKE.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, being first read, at Loughrea Union Work-house, 27th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(T.)

Robert Darcy, of Woodville, near Loughrea, Esq., J.P., being duly sworn, saith—I am and have been agent to the Marquis of Clanricarde for upwards of 20 years, that I am well acquainted with the Loughrea Union, that I am of opinion that destitution is on the increase, that though provisions are little more than one-third of what they were last year, the suffering of the poor is greater as they have not the means to procure it; he knows men holding 10 acres of land in as great destitution as the persons receiving out-door relief, yet they retain their land and disentitle themselves to relief rather than part with it. The farmers are generally

* The two latter plots are partly bounded by narrow roads, no part of which is included in the above measurement—M. H.

speaking, making very great exertion to get their crops down, and potatoes are extensively planted. Loughrea Union.

Rents are not paid as well this year as they were last, though the rate at which the land is let is under the ordnance survey. There is not amongst the holders of land of from 10 to 20 acres, the quantity of stock they possessed in former years. The greatest possible exertions are being made by the able-bodied labourers and mechanics to emigrate, and very many would accompany those going could they procure the means.

ROBERT DARCY.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, at Loughrea Union workhouse, this 28th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(U.)

Mr. *Thomas Macklin*, contractor and general merchant, being duly sworn, saith—I live in the town of Loughrea and have a general knowledge of the Union, and am well acquainted with the people of every grade. I was a member of the Loughrea Relief Committee under the Temporary Relief Act last year, when about 4000 persons were daily supplied with food, and I think all who required relief had it; already in the same district, recipients of out-door relief number 1441, and I state that before the 1st June, the recipients will be double the number, unless labour be extensively supplied. There are two extensive lines of drainage in the Union which have passed the Board of Works, these, if opened, absorb a portion of the labour. There is not as much oats sown this year as last by one quarter; there is a good deal more wheat; and potatoes are planted to a considerable extent. I am agent to an emigration company, and the numbers applying for information, as to expense of passage, is very great, but most are deterred from proceeding there for want of means. I have known many persons, who, a few years since, were in comfortable circumstances are now without decent clothing, having parted with all they had to procure food. I find a great number of occupiers of small holdings have not seed to plant the ground, and if some means are not taken to supply them the destitution will not terminate this year, let the potato crop turn out ever so well.

THOMAS MACKLIN.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, at the Loughrea Union workhouse, this 29th April, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

(V.)

Rev. *Thomas Burke*, Parish Priest, of Licmolassy and Kilmanalogue, in the electoral divisions of Portumna and Kilguare, the former of which is in the Union of Loughrea, being duly sworn, saith—That I have been parish priest of Portumna for the last year and a half, and have, during that time, resided in Portumna. I am intimately acquainted with the circumstances of my parishioners, and can truly state, that destitution in my parish is more intense this year than it was last, but less extensive; that this time last year, and up to the middle of the month, employment was extensive, and though provisions were three times dearer than at present, they were easier procured, as there was a good deal of money in circulation; the people endured less privation, and that in the event of the people being unemployed during the summer, the destitution will be such as that no Poor Law can meet. In the town of Portumna, Mr. Ryan, the resident magistrate, and I, have succeeded in getting up a woollen factory, where 110 females, having 475 individuals in their families, were employed up to the 28th ultimo; that in consequence of the want of demand for the articles manufactured, namely, flannel, tweed, and woollen stockings, the numbers have been considerably reduced, and the persons hitherto employed by us are thrown upon the rates; that had we an outlet for our manufactured goods, we could employ a much larger number, and thus encourage a spirit of industry and self-reliance in the people. I observe a very great desire, upon the part of the occupiers of land generally to return to the cultivation of the potato, to the exclusion of other green crops, and the potato is just now being extensively planted. There is not one quarter the usual quantity of pigs in the Union. Sheep and black cattle are not much diminished in number, there never having been many of either in this part of the Union, which is chiefly agricultural. Indian and rye meal are coming very much into use, until lately, there was a great prejudice against both. Since the failure of the potato crop, wheaten meal was the general diet of the people; the food of the poor was chiefly turnip with a little meal shaken thereon, as long as the supply lasted. It is now principally rye meal. I was Chairman of the Portumna Relief Committee for some months last year, during which time several occupiers of as much as two acres of land, were in the daily receipt of rations; as long as rations were confined to cooked food, the numbers on the relief lists were considerably less than when meal came to be distributed. I consider, as regards the clothing of the people, that they are in a very destitute condition, generally speaking, and to such an extent as to confine them to their homes.

THOMAS BURKE, *P.P.*

Sworn and acknowledged before me at Loughrea this 3rd day of May, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

James Martin Lynch, of Loughrea, late rate-collector, for No. 1 District, comprising the electoral divisions of Loughrea, Kilchreest and Killinedeerna, being duly sworn, saith—I was elected master of the Loughrea Union workhouse, on the 3rd June, 1843, and continued as such until the 2nd May, 1846, when I resigned, in consequence of the matron having died of fever. I was engaged with my brother in the leather trade, until the months of August last, when I found I could not serve his trade and collect the rates which I had undertaken to do from the 31st of May preceding. The reason I had to believe I could not serve my brother, and be a rate-collector, was, that owing rates, and wanting leather, persons would not come to the shop. I am well acquainted with the three electoral divisions I have named, and I truly swear that the destitution this year is three-fourths greater than it was last year; something more in Loughrea than in the other two divisions. I consider the destitution arises from want of employment for the people; from several heads of families having died last year, and the beginning of this, leaving their widows and orphans without any support, from the failure of the potato crop, and from the inability of numbers last year to sow a crop of any kind, though in possession of land, seed oats rating as high in the markets as 28s. per barrel of 14 stone, and at one market in Loughrea as high as 32s. and potatoes at 1s. 6d. per stone, or 10s. 6d. per cwt. In the three divisions there is more corn sown than was last year; by corn I mean wheat, oats, and barley; and potatoes are planted by every person that can procure seed upon any terms; and so great was the demand for seed, that on last market-day potatoes rose in price from 8½d. per stone in the morning, to 11½d. per stone in the evening. On Thursday, the 20th April, there were 134 carts of potatoes in the Loughrea market, averaging at the least 10 cwt. per cart. With the exception of a tan-yard in Loughrea, there is not another manufactory in the three divisions, and this employs but four or five hands. Up to Christmas there had been a brewery, which is now converted into an auxiliary workhouse. The arable land varies in value throughout the district from 25s. to 30s. per acre, and when properly cultivated produces on an average one ton wheat to the acre—15 barrels oats, 16 barrels barley, and 10 tons potatoes. The clothing of the people, who possess land from five acres downwards, is as bad as can be, with few exceptions; and on this account very many are prevented attending worship on Sabbath days. I have seen but one weaver at work; wheels, reels, cards, are all idle for want of means to purchase materials to manufacture linen, frieze, and blankets for the use of the people themselves, and they are literally naked for want of such.

JAMES MARTIN LYNCH.

Sworn and acknowledged before me at Loughrea, the 31st May, 1848, being first duly read.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector*,

(X.)

William Proctor being duly sworn, saith—I am relieving officer for No. 2 District, comprising the electoral divisions of Athenry, Cranghwell, and Kilconiron, in the Union of Loughrea. I live in the centre of the district as nearly as possible. I have visited the house of every person who had a permanent residence, and the lodging of others who are in receipt of outdoor relief, and I swear that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there is not one in receipt of such relief that is not entitled thereto, and there are very many in a destitute state, so far as not having provisions, who must very soon part with their land to be entitled to relief. In the Athenry electoral division, 430 are at present receiving out-door relief, and this number must increase to 1000 before long, unless some employment be provided for them. In the Cranghwell electoral division 70 persons are relieved, and this number, unless as stated before, will increase to 200 at the least; and in Kilconiron electoral division there are 68 on the list, that must increase to 200, unless the people are employed: there is a probability of work being carried on in this division. There is an average crop of wheat, but not much oats. Potatoes are very extensively planted. In none of the three divisions have the small holders of land the quantity of cattle they used to have, nor are they in the same condition, as they could not purchase hay to feed them last winter. I was clerk and storekeeper to the Kilconiron Relief Committee last year, and over 400 persons were daily fed, many of whom were in possession of both cattle and land. Occupiers of not more than five acres of land were permitted by the Committee to receive relief, and those who had a cow or sheep had a reduction made from their rations. I have discovered persons receiving relief last year, who had more than five acres of land, more than one cow, a horse and cart, and in employment. There will be less imposition this year if relieving officers are honest, though many of the small landholders will give up their land to get relief, if they do not get employment. There are also many who will struggle at the risk of their lives to hold what they have, rather than part with it to go into the workhouse.

WM. PROCTOR, *Relieving Officer*.

Sworn and acknowledged before me at Loughrea, this 9th of May, 1848.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector*.

Robert Pennefather Graham, being duly sworn, saith—I am Protestant rector of Kilconiron parish, in the electoral division of Kilconiron, and Union of Loughrea. I am acquainted with the district, in which I reside. I consider that destitution prevails to a great extent, though I conceive not so great as in some of the neighbouring districts; yet in the course of a few weeks I apprehend it will increase considerably, unless employment in a more extended manner be given. Up to about a month since I was enabled, from funds placed at my dis-

posals, to give considerable relief to the poor in the neighbourhood; these resources are now nearly exhausted, and I consider many who have been relieved by me and by others in this district, must now avail themselves of the relief afforded by law to the destitute. I consider, if the food was cooked, it would conduce more to the health of the people, than by giving meal, as the means of cooking it properly is not within their reach, generally speaking; and the portion of the people who are by law entitled to relief being more circumscribed, the administration of relief will be less subject to imposition.

ROBERT P. GRAHAM.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 10th May, 1848, at Loughrea.

OWEN LLOYD, *Poor Law Inspector.*

Loughrea Union.

SIR,

Stonelage Cranghwell, April 27, 1848.

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your note dated 22nd instant, relating to the distress, absolute and comparative, within Loughrea Union, and expressing your wish that I should give to you such information as I am acquainted with.

I do not reside in Loughrea Union; I live in Gort Union; and except as to townlands skirting my neighbourhood, I regret that I cannot forward your views.

I believe that you will find destitution is progressing; that the blanks left by death are filled up from the farming class gradually sinking to pauperism. In illustration of this, I refer to townland of Polnabanny, parish of Killora (Loughrea Union): there are there two farmers, James Burke and Patrick Kennedy, holding from six to ten acres (Irish) each. They were comfortable, but now destitute, and with grounds unsown, wholly, I believe. They were working lately with me as day-labourers; they often got meal from me, as I was aware they and their families had no food. I could name another case, but the man is somewhat above the class of small farmers, and I frequently have given his family food at evening, when I knew they were fasting the entire day: the person to whom I refer, was last year quite beyond anything of want of food, &c.

You are aware, no doubt, that there is a deep margin of misery beyond the circle of poor-law aid, and that among the small landholders the most intense penury exists. I have encouraged all I could act on by advice, &c., to sow as much corn and other crops as possible—"Come what may, sow the ground; you will not be let perish." Even this morning's experience presents a case: a man named Tierney had sown all he could; he has "down" two acres of wheat and two of oats, and some potatoes; he had nothing for his family's breakfast, except a stone of potatoes he wanted for seed. I know he eat them, and went to sell or pawn some little matter to buy food and make good his potato seed.

Believe me, that from this up to harvest, there will be terrible suffering in this parish of Kilconiron, particularly among the small farmers. The man who has sown his ground has performed a public as well as a private duty, and I am pretty sure it will be conceded that he should get help.

I have suggested that, now the turnip season is at hand, that premiums in the shape of rations should be given to those in want of food, who satisfy that they prepare and duly plant turnip seed.

Turnips may float us over three or four months; every precaution seems required to guard against a potato failure; if that occurs this year, woe to all institutions.

I am, Sir, your very humble Servant,

J. STANLEY.

To Owen Lloyd, Esq.,
Poor Law Inspector.

Memorandum for Owen Lloyd, Esq.

There is difficulty in comparing 1847 and 1848. Last year we had famine and plenty of money, this year a comparative abundance, and no means to procure food. The taxes press so heavily upon land, that both proprietors and farmers are economised in labour. Sickness, particularly fever, which generally goes through a whole family, has added considerably to destitution. The operation of the Poor Law, and clearing off of small holders, has reduced many active labourers of 1847 to the greatest distress, and in consequence of the great mortality in the poor-house, many prefer perishing outside to getting relief in-doors. There are persons who obtain precarious work, and would sooner look to such uncertain means of support than go upon the Union. It would be a boon indeed, if Government extended the offer of free passage to Australia to single young women of good character, who now refuse to go into the poor-house, and get a very uncertain livelihood. I know some who would be most valuable emigrants, and who would be most anxious and willing to go, but are too poor, and have no relatives to help them. I send you a list of interments in this immediate district (parishes of Kilchreest and Killinane) taken by me since the 7th February. Last year we had no means of ascertaining the number of deaths; they were more than this present list, and contained a vast number of the aged, whose years were unable to withstand privation. A more regular system in distributing out-door rations would be of advantage; I have seen people here waiting from day to day at times, and for hours and hours after the appointed distribution hour.

Loughrea Union.

No.	Date.	Name.	Age.	Disease.
1848.				
1	February 7	Michael Bohan	16	Fever.
2	" 8	Richard Connington	80	Age.
3	" 8	Fardy Hynes	50	Destitution.
4	" 12	Patrick Oughagan	40	Destitution.
5	" 12	Julia Marmion	2	Fever.
6	" 14	James Haverly	19	Destitution.
7	" 15	Lawrence Smith	80	Age.
8	" 17	Martin Ford	60	Decline.
9	" 18	Kate Fallon	23	Fever.
10	" 18	Mary Shaughnessy	18	Dysentery.
11	" 21	Mary Baskerville	27	Fever after Confinement.
12	" 24	Mary Deely	20	Fever.
13	" 26	William Marmion	48	Fever.
14	" 26	Anne Tully	85	Age.
15	March 7	Mary Madden	50	Dysentery.
16	" 8	Unknown boy	15	Destitution. Found dead in Cloughan.
17	" 12	John Deeley	50	Dysentery.
18	" 18	John Kerwick	45	Fever.
19	" 28	Catherine Broderick	60	Age.
20	" 28	John Ford	26	Fever, out of the same house.
21	" 28	Peggy Ford	16	Fever, out of the same house.
22	April 4	James Ruane	23	Fever.
23	" 12	Anne Sheehan	70	Age.
24	" 12	Martin Shaughnessy	40	Destitution.
25	" 15	Winney Daley	45	Fever.
26	" 15	Widow Higgirton	60	Age.
27	" 18	John Gloster	21	Rupture of blood vessel.
28	" 19	James Corrican	10	Gravel.
29	" 20	Mary Leary	13	Decline.
30	" 21	Margaret Kilboy	65	Age.
31	" 24	Anne Bohan	22	Fever, same house as No. 1.
32	" 24	John Fahy	21	Destitution.
33	" 26	John Smith	40	Fever.
34	" 27	John Persse	35	Decline.
35	" 28	Mary Dooley	50	Decline.
36	" 28	Ellen Bohan	52	Fever, same house as No. 1 and 31.
37	" 29	Mary Ford	30	Destitution.
38	" 30	John Misgill	60	Fever.
39	" 30	Mary Sheehan	70	Age.
40	" 30	Patrick Ruane	14	Destitution.

The Union is so extensive, comprising four other parishes, I could not obtain any accurate return of interments except in those two which I may vouch for.

Yours, &c.,

WILLIAM O'GRADY.

Rector of Killinane Union,
County of Galway.

Ballymacward, Castleblakeney,
April 28, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE by this morning's post received your letter of yesterday's date, and have in reply to express my regret that it will not be in my power to attend at the Board-room, Loughrea, as you request, either on this day or to-morrow. I would gladly assist you in the important inquiry which you have been directed to make into the amount of destitution existing, and likely to exist, during the present season in the Loughrea Union, but the late notice I have had of your desire to obtain information personally from me, and previous important engagements, will account for my non-attendance on the days you mention, it may perhaps answer equally well that I communicate my opinions in this letter.

I am bound in the outset to inform you, that until last September I had very little personal knowledge of the general state of Loughrea Union. I was well acquainted with the condition of one electoral division in the Union, Clonkeen, of a very considerable portion of which up to that time I was parish priest. Residing still in the immediate neighbourhood of that electoral division, I am cognizant of the destitution that prevails there, and I have no hesitation in testifying to its great extent and progressive increase. A most extraordinary effort has been made there, indeed, to plant potatoes and otherwise, by timely sowings to provide food at the earliest part of the approaching harvest. But to accomplish this, the landholders have been obliged to part with what food they had in their possession, and in several instances to sell at the present ruinously low prices their remnant of cattle, and even to pawn their scanty clothing in order to buy seed. Heretofore in the summer season, when the food raised by a family the preceding year was exhausted, a supply was procured on credit, perhaps at a usuriously high price, from some local meal dealer. This year there is no chance whatever of such an accom-

modation. Hence the privations of the poor landholders during the next summer must be much greater than they have ever been before; much more than they were even last summer, as they then participated to some extent in the relief afforded under the Temporary Relief Act; the quarter acre clause in the present Poor Relief Act entirely deprives this class of destitute landholders of any benefit from the taxes to which many and most of them have contributed. There is nothing indeed in that Act to prevent the relief of their adult children, but such relief can ordinarily be obtained only in the workhouse; and I need not remind you, sir, with what jealous severity the extension of even workhouse-relief to the adult children of landholders would be watched by the more influential rate-payers, and with what conclusive evidence such applicants for workhouse imprisonment should establish that they were guilty of destitution. There are besides other influential causes which under the Poor Relief Act are almost, if not entirely, unavailable in favour of the destitute adult members of landholding families. A deep anxiety on the part of parents to preserve their children—their female children especially—from the probable contamination of bad companionship in a workhouse, has caused many a child to be kept at home in nakedness and hunger until its health and strength have been utterly destroyed. I have myself often hesitated as to the choice which a starving female should make between the consequences of starvation at home, and the proximate danger of moral corruption in a workhouse. In a proportional degree the same objection applies to the separation of adult boys from their parents, and their entrance into a workhouse. It need scarcely be observed that, in regard to both male and female children, such an early severance of the family ties, and the substitution of workhouse discipline, such as it may be, for domestic and parental control, cannot conduce to the interests of morality. But besides this important consideration, the alarming mortality in the workhouses, by which the inefficiency or the mal-administration of the Poor Law has been so disastrously proved, must deter any parent from tendering his child for admission to their infected and fatal precincts.

Thus the small landholder, holding above the legal maximum, who has deserved so well of society by his effort to sow a crop, who has for that purpose deprived himself and his family of present food, who, it may be, has pawned his own, his wife's or his children's clothes, in order to raise the price of seed, this poor landholder is, with all his children, excluded from that legal relief which is relied on as sufficient. This large and meritorious class is therefore this summer in a worse condition than it was during the operation of the Temporary Relief Act; and until the new food shall become available, it is my opinion that its suffering members will be daily increasing, unless the increase be counterbalanced by the deaths of others belonging to it, and that its privations will be each day more painfully severe.

As to the other classes of destitute persons, for whose benefit it is alleged that the present Poor Law is more immediately intended—the helpless, the old, the able-bodied destitute (all it is supposed landless), there can be no question, that unless to the extent that death has effected a diminution, their numbers are at least as great as they were last year. My own impression is that they are greater. There is no employment to furnish a livelihood to the able-bodied, and to enable them to support their old or helpless relatives; I have no doubt, indeed, that the scanty food which alone these classes could procure during the last winter, their bad clothing, and the unjust delay on the part of the Poor Law executive to make suitable arrangements for their relief, I have no doubt that these causes have resulted in the deaths of many, who if duly and in proper time relieved would be now alive to claim a continuance of relief; but the diminution that may have occurred in that way, is more than balanced by the accession to the classes of which I now treat, of those who in past years held land, and who have this year been either evicted by their landlords, or forced by the operation of the quarter acre clause to surrender their holdings. The electoral division of Loughrea is, I apprehend, an illustration of this remark. In few places has there been a greater mortality, yet the deaths of its destitute inhabitants (in and out of the workhouse) do not appear to have reduced the gross number of persons justly claiming relief; nay, I am under the impression that more are now deemed entitled thereto than, with the tests and conditions now enforced, could have been allowed under the Temporary Relief Act. If my impression be correct, it follows that more are now destitute than then were, and that their destitution too is more painfully severe.

That such is the case also throughout the Union at large I fully believe. In travelling through some of the electoral divisions I have seen unmistakeable evidence of increased destitution, in the roofless houses from which the inmates have been cast forth to beg and to die; I decline referring to particular localities, but the notoriety of the facts supersedes the necessity of a more specific reference. I have on other and solemn occasions, recorded my opinion of the present system of Poor Laws, of its inaptitude, its inefficiency, and its mischief; I regard it as at variance with sound policy, with justice, and with morality.

I think it unjust and impolitic in its mode of providing for the assessment and disbursement of the relief funds. Ordinarily, both these vital parts of the system are committed to a Board of Guardians, so constituted, that its members have, or are presumed by themselves and others to have, a direct and immediate pecuniary interest in keeping the poor-rate at the lowest possible figure; not by affording ample employment, and thus rendering recourse to legal relief as little necessary as may be, but by withholding due and timely relief from the unemployed and the helpless, delaying to provide for the relief of distress until destitution accumulates to such an extent, that the crude and imperfect measures hastily taken to meet it are utterly inadequate. I do not make these remarks in order to apply them to the late Loughrea Board of Guardians. On that Board there were some gentlemen whom I have the honour of knowing, and on whose humanity, efficiency, and zeal in the service of the poor I would freely rely; but I feel also bound to add, that whatever may have been the cause, or on whatever members of that Board the blame must rest, timely arrangements were not made for the relief

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of the poor of the Union; however, my remarks are intended to apply generally to the constitution of Boards of Guardians. There can be no confidence reposed in bodies, of which some of the most leading and influential members *ex officio*, are the most notorious and heartless depopulators of the country. Again, I think that the Poor Law is unjust in its exemption of various kinds of property from poor-rate taxation, and particularly unjust in its equally taxing property that gives, and property that does not give employment. I would respectfully and earnestly through you, Sir, call the attention of those to whose department in the Government this question belongs, to the fact that the same poundage rate is paid for the cultivated farms (on which great employment necessarily has been afforded), and for the vast grass farms and large demesnes on which only a few herdsmen, gate-keepers, or woodrangers, are employed. This I think very unjust, and I submit whether lands of the latter class should not be justly subjected to a much higher poundage rate than those of the former. I abstain from suggesting the ratio in which the increase should take place, but it appears to me that such an adjustment of the rate would be much preferable to the project of altering the area of taxation into either a townland or Union area; that it would be not only equitable to the rate-payers, but stimulate employment and cause a vastly increased production of food, of its practicability there can be no doubt. At a certain fixed time in each year a revisor of the valuation could easily visit all the rated lands of a district, and could as easily apportion in the prescribed ratio, whatever that might be, the taxes between the lands in course of tillage, and those devoted to pasture or meadow, as he now discriminates between 4*l*. holdings, and those of higher value.

But there is one part of the present system of Poor Laws, of which I confess my entire abhorrence—the workhouse principle. A labour test for the able-bodied applicants for relief is most just—just to the rate-payers and just to the relieved. Hospitals are necessary for the destitute sick, and perhaps in some localities houses of refuge for the helpless young or old, whom Providence has bereft of relatives; but a house wherein to immure the able-bodied and the young of both sexes generally, in which the moral relations of husband and wife are disturbed, and in which it is idle to talk of sustained industrial occupation, appears to me an establishment eminently destructive of the spirit of self respect in its inmates, and most injurious to morality. If to these inherent dangers be superadded those that accidentally but yet frequently surround such an establishment, there arise still graver causes of alarm. It may happen, and it has happened, that the Guardians are not the best conservators of workhouse morality. Some prominent members of Boards of Guardians are notorious profligates, whose lives are an unintermitted outrage upon the decencies of life. It has happened too that the arts of seduction have been opportunely employed in workhouses, and that the very officers of these establishments have corrupted the inmates. I know also that the moral dangers of these establishments may be diminished by a well regulated and strictly enforced classification, as well as by the close superintendence of honourable Guardians; but I cannot conceal from myself that even some of these disciplinary measures cannot be carried out in the present state of these establishments; and that, even conjointly with the ministrations of religion, they will not be an adequate antidote to the temptations incident to a workhouse.

I have profited by the occasion of answering your letter, to place these views before you as a Government officer. I have now, in conclusion, to request that you humanely consider the claims of the children in this Union to share in the bounty of the British Association. By some fatality the Loughrea Union has been regarded as too well circumstanced to require aid from that benevolent Association. You are ere this, I presume, in a condition to know that its circumstances are quite the reverse. As the children of the landholders in distress have no other chance of relief than what the British Association may extend to them, as the children of the unrelieved able-bodied are also in the most deplorable and helpless destitution, and as the want of food has caused the schools throughout the Union to be generally deserted, or only frequented where relief is given as in the town of Loughrea, at the Nunnery Schools; and as you, Sir, have a humane regard for the lives, the health, the education of these poor children, may I commend them to your advocacy. I was in communication with the late Captain Hellard, of Galway, on this subject, there being no Inspector in the Loughrea Union, and immediately before his death that kind gentleman forwarded my application, but I have never been favoured with an answer from the officers of the Association.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

† JOHN DERRY,

Bishop of Clonfert.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—June 1, 1848.

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the evidence taken by their Inspector, Mr. Lloyd, at the late investigation into certain charges against the Vice-Guardians of Loughrea Union, contained in a memorial dated the 13th ultimo, which is signed by Sir Thomas Burke, the chairman of the late Board of Guardians of Loughrea Union, at the time of its dissolution. The Commissioners have likewise had under consideration the report of Mr. Lloyd, and a letter of the Vice-Guardians on the same subject.

The Commissioners will proceed to state, in order, the charges against the Vice-Guardians, and the opinion which they have formed on each of them.

That on the 13th April, and frequently before under the Vice-Guardians, there were more inmates in the original workhouse than at any time under the

late Board of Guardians, although, as it is alleged, the large number admitted by the late Board was the principal reason given for the dissolution.

This charge is, in the opinion of the Commissioners, disproved; and the only colour for it appears traceable, in the first instance, to the statements of Mr. O'Brien, the dismissed master of the workhouse, who seems to have kept the returns of the numbers in the workhouse improperly, and to be otherwise unworthy of credit; moreover the Commissioners see no reason to believe that the Vice-Guardians have ever admitted into the original workhouse a greater number than it was built to accommodate.

Still it seems to the Commissioners that an excessive number of patients have been admitted into the hospital and fever sheds, under the management of the late Board of Guardians and of the present Vice-Guardians; and although Mr. Lloyd is under the impression that the Vice-Guardians have no control over this department, the Commissioners do not take the same view of the authority of the Guardians in this respect. The Commissioners think that the Vice-Guardians should not permit a greater number of patients to be admitted into the hospital and fever sheds than is consistent with the health of the inmates; and if the accommodation is insufficient, they should exercise their power for providing additional accommodation under the 16th section of the Irish Poor Law Amendment Act.

2nd. That the workhouses under the management of the Vice-Guardians are in a state of the greatest disorder.

The direct contrary of this charge appears to the Commissioners to be distinctly proved by the majority of the witnesses examined, and by statements of Mr. Lloyd the Inspector.

3rd. That numbers of paupers in the workhouse clothing are continually wandering about Loughrea, and some have had to be committed for drunkenness.

The facts alleged in this charge are correct in reference to the committals for drunkenness, as it is proved that two workhouse boys who had been sent on errands were found drunk in Loughrea, were taken before the police magistrates, and were committed to Bridewell for 48 hours. No blame, however, on this account attaches to the Vice-Guardians, who were in fact instrumental in causing the boys to be punished by the magistrates, and who have taken steps to prevent the recurrence of similar misconduct in future.

In reference to the rest of the statements, it is explained that there are two auxiliary workhouses in Loughrea Union, called "The Bishop's House," and "The Brewery;" that able-bodied men are daily brought from the Brewery through the town to the main building, on the site of which they are employed, and that boys when admitted and clothed are sent from the workhouse to the Brewery; it is explained further, that the Bishop's House is set apart for the sick, and that the convalescents are passed from thence either to the Brewery or to the workhouse, as the medical officer directs. Thus there is constant communication between the three workhouses, and consequently, paupers in their workhouse clothing must of necessity be frequently seen in the town of Loughrea.

Although it is not proved that any paupers have been seen wandering in the town of Loughrea, except in passing to and fro between the workhouses, the Commissioners deem it by no means improbable that instances of the kind may have occurred, and they deem it desirable that the Vice-Guardians should be very particular in sending some respectable and trustworthy person to accompany paupers when they go through the town; in order not only to prevent their straggling and otherwise misconducting themselves, but likewise to hinder the introduction into the workhouses of spirituous liquors and other improper articles. The Commissioners are afraid that it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to avoid all abuses of this kind as long as the paupers are not restricted to the workhouse premises, but still, much may be done by vigilant superintendence on the part of the workhouse officers; and at any rate no efforts should be spared by them to prevent the possibility of drunkenness amongst the adult paupers.

4th Charge. That the paid Guardians are totally ignorant of the parties to whom they are giving out-door relief, and the most flagrant abuses are the consequence. Yet they studiously avoid seeking information of the respectable rate-payers, nor do they publish the names of the recipients of relief.

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On this head it appears that the lists of three relieving officers were closely scrutinized at the inquiry, that 33 objections were made, that only 5 of these objections were sustained, and that 3 remain doubtful.

It further appears that on the 17th of March the Vice-Guardians passed a resolution that the clerk should be allowed 20s. a-week to procure an assistant to enable him to make lists of the parties receiving relief in and out of the workhouse; but that owing to want of active co-operation on the part of the clerk (whom the Commissioners have called upon to resign his office) the lists were not made out and printed in accordance with the directions of the Vice-Guardians.

It further appears that the Vice-Guardians attend from time to time at the office of the relieving officers, to revise the lists and to obtain information; and that when not so employed, they are in the workhouse from morning to night, ready to attend to any communication made to them.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire to state that the result of the investigation into the charges contained in the memorial of the 13th ultimo, has been to impress them with a high opinion of the zeal, industry, and efficiency of the Vice-Guardians of Loughrea Union. It is evident that the Vice-Guardians, on their arrival in Loughrea, had to contend with no common difficulties, and they were thwarted by some of their own officers, one of whom appears to have communicated untrue information to members of the dissolved Board of Guardians. Still it is certain that the condition of the workhouse has been improved under their management; and in administering out-door relief through the agency of relieving officers selected by their predecessors, they appear to have guarded against abuses as effectually as could be expected in the introduction of a new system.

From the great destitution which exists in some parts of Loughrea Union, the Commissioners have reason to apprehend that the claims on the Vice-Guardians for relief will materially increase during the next two months. The Commissioners feel confident that the Vice-Guardians, in dealing with those claims, will act fairly and impartially towards the rate-payers of Loughrea Union on the one hand, and the applicants for relief on the other. The rate-payers may fairly expect that the relieving officers will be required to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances of those who seek to derive subsistence from the poor-rates, and that the Vice-Guardians acting on the information thus obtained, or which may be communicated to them by other parties, will be careful to prevent imposition and waste. But the claims of applicants for relief are equally deserving of consideration; and if any individual in the Union is proved to be "destitute" within the meaning of the Irish Poor Relief Acts, the Vice-Guardians will not hesitate to give him that assistance to which he is entitled by law.

LOWTHERSTOWN UNION.

Mr. ARCHDALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*January 14, 1848.*

I WISH to call the attention of the Poor Law Commissioners to the following circumstances connected with the Lowtherstown Union:—

I object to the scale of out-door relief adopted by the Vice-Guardians; as, for instance, John Muldoon, a mason (who broke his leg some time ago, but is now able to work), in the Kesh division, receives 4s. 4d. a-week out-door relief for himself and his family, the highest rate of wages at this season of the year for a labourer being 8d. or 9d. a-day.

I object to the internal management of the house, as the porter informed me on Saturday last that it was very often nine or ten o'clock before all the paupers had had their suppers, thereby, in addition to the irregularity, causing a great waste of both fuel and candles.

The clerk could neither tell me the average weekly expense of each pauper nor the number on each electoral division for the last six weeks, the master not having made up the books.

I object to the Vice-Guardians having raised the pay of the rate collectors without advertising for others, when on account of the increased rate their pay should have been reduced. The collector this year has received 17s. 6d. for collecting my rates, for which last year he received but 2s. 11d. There is a general feeling throughout the Union that the Vice-Guardians do not sufficiently study economy, which is very likely to cause opposition to the payment of the rate. Last week Mr. Edward Atthill, J.P. (who accompanied me to your office yesterday), was obliged to go out with a body of police to assist the collector.

It is unjust that the Union should be burdened with the additional expense of 500*l.* a-year for Vice-Guardians, when the late Guardians were willing and anxious to do their duty, as the record of their attendance proves, and Mr. Otway, late Assistant-Commissioner for that district, can testify, he having assured me that he always considered the Lowtherstown poorhouse to be extremely well managed, and when the Commissioners now allow that the Board was dismissed for attending to the verbal statement of Mr. Barron, which statement was made under the following circumstances:—On the 8th of September, 1847, Mr. Barton proposed that the rate should be immediately struck; but on Mr. D'Arcy's moving that the rate should be raised by instalments, and Mr. Barron saying that the Commissioners would be happy to receive any suggestions from the Board, Mr. Barton withdrew his proposal, and Mr. H. D'Arcy's motion was carried. I had lately an interview with Mr. Morton, who appeared a most zealous and active officer, but from all I can observe, not only has no improvement resulted from the appointment of paid officers, but the expense to the rate-payers for the maintenance of the paupers has also been much increased.

See return of correspondence on this point, printed by order of the House of Commons of 27th March, 1847, No. 207.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*January 18, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith, for your information, an extract from a communication which the Commissioners have received from Mr. William Archdall, relating to the present management of the Lowtherstown Union, and the Commissioners request your observations on the statements therein contained.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply:—*January 26, 1848.*

YOUR letter of the 18th instant, in which you desire our observations on the statements in an extract with which you favour us from a communication of Mr. William Archdall's, reached us in due course of post. A very unusual pressure of matters here requiring our unremitting vigilance and directions from moment to moment, has occasioned the delay of our reply, so as to have incurred even the appearance of forgetfulness or neglect. We now beg to transmit them as you desire.

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Union.

And first, as respects our scale of out-door relief. In our minutes of the 12th of January is the following resolution:—

“Resolved,—That it is desirable the allowance by way of out-door relief to any single family should in no instance exceed the wages of an able-bodied labourer in constant employ, and that the present rule be therefore modified by allowing at half rate only for every additional member of a family above five in number.”

The allowance to John Muldoon is thus reduced from 4s. 4d., the sum objected to by Mr. Archdall, to 3s. 8d., the particulars of this man's family, and of the allowance as computed previous to the resolution of the 12th instant, and again according to the modified rule adopted by that resolution being as below:—

Previous to the resolution of the 12th—		s.	d.
Allowed for the two parents (adults)	.	1	6
„ for four children above five years	.	2	0
„ for two ditto, under five years	.	0	10
		4	4

Again, according to the modified rule—		s.	d.
Allowed for the two parents, as before.	.	1	6
„ for three children above five years	.	1	6
„ for another above five years (half)	.	0	3
„ for two under five years (half)	.	0	5
		3	8

It is suggested further by Mr. Archdall, that Muldoon, though lame from a fracture of the leg some time ago, is able to work. The attention of the district relieving officer has been called to this, and if reported by the latter as able to earn full or any wages, the allowance will be either struck off or reduced accordingly.

Secondly, as respects the supper hour, and the clerk's inability to state the average expense of each pauper, or number on each electoral division; this inability is a fact we have unhappily had to record upon the minutes of every Board meeting since Mr. Somerville's appointment as master. He has now ceased to act, and the occasion for this very serious complaint will forthwith be at an end. The irregularity of the supper hour, partly arising from the like cause (Mr. Somerville's proving unequal to the duties he had taken upon him), has, we regret to say, frequently been even greater than Mr. Archdall mentions, and independently of the master's share in it, what with the necessity of sending for water to a distance from the workhouse (our single pump not only failing of the required supply, but proving at times of no service, and giving no water whatever), and the serving apart of the vast number of newly-admitted inmates in the probationary wards, where the want we are still labouring under of a sufficient stock of clothing keeps them for many days together, it was hardly possible that the several meals should under such circumstances be served at the fixed hours. Every effort will we are convinced be made by Mr. Irvine, now acting as master *ad interim*, to correct this irregularity; but until another pump is fixed on the workhouse premises (a matter we purpose bringing under the notice of your architect at his visit, now daily expected), and until the stock of clothing can be brought up to the wants of the workhouse, now at all times full or nearly so, we cannot hope for that punctuality in the meal hours which we are at the same time most anxious to insist upon.

Lastly, as respects the poundage of the rate collectors, Mr. Archdall's statement is no more than we find to be the case. We can only presume that our predecessors in office, whose experience and opportunities of forming a correct judgment were unquestionable, had regard in such increase of the poundage (from 4½d. to 8d. in the district of the one collector, and from 5d. to 7d. in that of the other), to the difficulty which was to be apprehended, and which the collectors have in fact had everywhere to contend with far beyond any former experience at the present crisis.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*February 4, 1848.*

ADVERTING to minutes of the Vice-Guardians of Lowtherstown Union, of 12th to 15th ultimo, and their communication of 25th, relating to the sewers and drainage of the workhouse premises, I am directed by the Commissioners to state that they have communicated with their architect on the subject, and I am to transmit herewith, for the information of the Vice-Guardians, a copy of his observations thereon.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. WILKINSON'S OBSERVATIONS.

I BEG to recommend that the Guardians' attention be called to the explanation given on the plans adopted for the drains and cesspools, which is contained in the Appendix to the last annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners. It is assumed also that the Guardians have a plan of the drains framed and hung up in the poorhouse, such plan having been originally furnished for this purpose, and attention has frequently been requested to its preservation; the Guardians will therefore by this plan be able to understand the arrangement laid down.

The last annual Report moreover, enters so fully into the explanation of the plan adopted for the cesspools and the drains, that the Guardians will at once be in possession of the reasons given for their construction; and I would therefore advise that they be requested to furnish the Commissioners with a statement of any other plan that offers to them to be practicable and preferable on the whole, and that careful consideration will be given to it.

I think it more than probable that the sole cause of the complaint may be the neglect to properly clean the cesspools, from the expectation that they are to become clean by a self-acting system.

February 2, 1848.

G. W.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*February 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith, for the information and guidance of the Vice-Guardians of Lowtherstown Union, a copy of a communication which they have received from Mr. Wilkinson, relating to the fever hospital of Lowtherstown Union; and I am to request that the Vice-Guardians will take all necessary steps for occupying the fever hospital with as little delay as possible.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. WILKINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 2, 1848.*

A SURVEY has been made of the new fever hospital erected at Lowtherstown poorhouse. The following are matters reported as unfinished:—Lines and pulleys for all the windows and ventilators; eaves gutters and down pipes to convey away dropping water from eaves of roofs; hand-rail not securely fixed; bolts and nuts to locks of outer doors instead of common nails now used; plug and washer to trough; damper to boiler; excavation of ground to yards now left higher than floors. There are also some matters before reported on which are executed different to the contract requirement which cannot now be remedied, but for which value should be allowed. The locks and latches are stated to be very carelessly put on, and several matters essential to the ventilation and efficiency of the building are omitted from the plans and specifications sent, which appear to have been erased from the plans and specifications by the Board of Guardians; but these latter cannot now be required of the contractor like those above enumerated.

I recommend a copy of this being sent to the Board of Guardians.

P.S.—On the Guardians being satisfied with the completion of the above unfinished portions of the contract, I assume that there is nothing to prevent the occupation of the building; should they be neglected by the contractor, the occupation of the building will not I conceive the least prejudice the contractor's liability, and some one else should be employed to do the work if he refuses, after being requested to do so by the Guardians; but I am of opinion that Mr. Moore will forthwith do what is required by his contract.

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Mr. ARCHDALL to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 15, 1848.*

I WROTE some time since concerning the manner in which the Lowtherstown poorhouse is conducted, and the total disregard of economy shown in every department. The answer I received was, that my letter would be referred to the Vice-Guardians. I most humbly request that a disinterested person may be sent to Lowtherstown to inquire into the management of the house. Several farmers complained to me that they cannot get labourers, and of wishing to get people out of the poorhouse. I wrote on Wednesday last for seven able-bodied men with their families, and offered constant employment. Only two had worked one day each. Since that time there is the greatest imposition practised, and the greatest waste of our money. The out-door relief administered is in every case more than sufficient to support the recipients; and men are put on with more than a quarter of an acre, and also families whom the relieving officer rejects. All I require is a fair investigation. All the farmers and ratepayers in the country are enraged, and, perceiving the total disregard of economy practised at the poorhouse, are prevented from trying to give employment, or otherwise keep down the rates. I beg you will lay this letter before the Commissioners.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 17, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, relating to the management of Lowtherstown Union, and in reply I am to inform you that the Commissioners had resolved, before the receipt of your letter, upon reviving a Board of Guardians in Lowtherstown Union, and had given directions for the issue of an order for the election of Guardians accordingly, in the ordinary manner, by the 25th March next.

In regard to your statements respecting the administration of relief by the Vice-Guardians of Lowtherstown Union, the Commissioners will not fail to cause inquiry to be made on the subject.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. OTWAY:—*February 17, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter which the Commissioners have received from Mr. William Archdall, chairman of the late Board of Guardians of Lowtherstown Union, relating to the present management of that Union, in reference to which the Commissioners request that you will proceed to Lowtherstown to make inquiry respecting the subject of the statements contained in the letter, and that you will report to the Commissioners thereon.

The Commissioners are aware that the Lowtherstown Union is not in your district, but they request that you will be good enough to proceed thither for this purpose at your earliest convenience.

Mr. OTWAY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 17th ultimo, I attended at the Board-room of the Lowtherstown workhouse on Monday, the 28th ultimo (having previously inspected the workhouse on the 26th ultimo), to make inquiries respecting the subject of the statements contained in the letter of Mr. William Archdall, chairman of the late Board of Guardians, of the 15th ultimo, a copy of which was forwarded to me, and I have the honour to report as follows. The charges of Mr. Archdall, as well as I can judge from his letter, are—

1. That the out-door relief administered is in every case more than sufficient to support the recipients.

2. That men are put on with more than a quarter of an acre; also families whom the relieving officer rejects.

3. That owing to the relief afforded the farmers complain that they cannot get labourers. That, wishing to get people out of the poor-house, he sent for seven able-bodied men with their families, and offered constant employment; and that only two had worked one day each since that time.

4. That there is the greatest imposition practised, and the greatest waste of the funds of the Union.

In reference to the charge No. 1, that the out-door relief administered is in every case more than sufficient to support the recipients.

On the first granting of out-door relief by the Vice-Guardians, such relief was given in money as follows:—

To persons aged above fifteen years, 9*d.* a-week.

To persons aged from five years to fifteen years, 6*d.* a-week.

To those under five years of age, 5*d.* a-week.

The Vice-Guardians finding that in some instances the amount of money given to persons with large families amounted to somewhat more than 4*s.* a-week, and their attention having been directed to this circumstance by Mr. Archdall, they adopted the following resolution on the 12th of January (see Minutes):—

Resolved,—That it is desirable that the allowance, by way of out-door relief, to any single family should in no instance exceed the wages of an able-bodied labourer in constant employ; that the present scale be, therefore, modified by allowing at half-rate only for every member of a family above five in number.

The Vice-Guardians, on the 16th of February, changed the out-door relief from money to meal, and adopted the following scale:—

To adults, one pound of meal per day—half Indian and half oaten meal.

To persons aged from fifteen years to nine years, three-quarters of a pound of meal per day—half Indian and half oaten meal.

Children under nine years of age, half a pound of meal per day—half Indian and half oaten meal.

The highest amount of money given by the Guardians on the first scale adopted I find was given to John Muldoon, and amounted to 4*s.* 4*d.* a-week; number in Registry, 469; in Application and Report Book, 177. His family consisted of eight in number, viz., himself and his wife and six children, aged thirteen, eleven, nine, six, and four years, and an infant aged six months. He was ordered out-door relief on the 29th of December, which, according to the scale first adopted by the Board of Guardians, amounted to 4*s.* 4*d.* a-week.

In the column for bodily defect in the Application and Report Book he is marked "lamed." The man and family were, I am informed, brought before the Board; and that he stated he had broke his leg, and was otherwise hurt by an accident, and that he was wholly unable to work. He was by trade a mason, and, as I am informed, a respectable man and a good tradesman. Muldoon still gets relief; but he only got relief on the first scale for a short time, and until after the resolution of the Guardians of the 12th of January was passed: he then got 3*s.* 8*d.* a-week for himself and family. Mr. Archdall told me that he was not aware that Muldoon got any work since he got out-door relief; that he could not work, from the accident, as a mason at full wages; and that he had been lately ill and confined to bed.

Now it does not appear to me that 3*s.* 8*d.* or even 4*s.* 4*d.* a-week can be considered as more than sufficient for the support of a destitute and disabled tradesman, with a wife and six children to support; and I have no hesitation in stating, not only that the relief administered by the Vice-Guardians is not in every case more than sufficient to support the recipients, but that even in the case of the highest amount given (Muldoon's) that it is not, or was not, more than sufficient.

In reference to the charge No. 2, that men are put on with more than a quarter of an acre, also families whom the relieving officer rejects, Mr. Archdall informed me that it was upon the information of Campbell, one of the relieving officers, that he was led to believe that persons with more than one quarter of an acre of land were getting relief; that Campbell had mentioned a case to him, but that he did not recollect it. Campbell was unable to attend from illness, but sent two letters—one to the clerk of the Union, and the other to Mr. Morton, one of the Vice-Guardians, marked A and B, which I enclose.

In the Application and Report Book of the Kesh electoral division, No. 481, Arthur Kirk, aged 82, in the column for, "If in occupation of land, how much?" it is stated, "A rood Irish, part sowed in bere;" and in the column for "Observations" it is stated, "Part of the ground waste;" and the Vice-Guardians mentioned to me that the evidence at the time went to show that part of the rood was waste from its being incapable of cultivation, and that they considered under the circumstances that the applicant was a fit object for, and entitled to, relief. A man named Leonard was turned out of the workhouse, when on subsequent

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information he was found to have more than a quarter of an acre of land. This occurred in the relieving officer's (Campbell's) district; and Campbell gave the Guardians the information.

In other cases it appears from the Application and Report Book that the Vice-Guardians made the holding of a quarter of an acre, or the reverse, a point for careful inquiry. In the Application and Report Book of the Kesh electoral division it appears, in the case of John Meighan, No. 503, that he was 60 years of age, married, and infirm, and his wife Mary 55 years of age. In the observation column the relieving officer states, "Samuel Keys states that applicant has 'two little gardens more than a rood.'" The Vice-Guardians mark on the book, "Irwine Armstrong certifies not so;" and the Vice-Guardians informed me that having inquired into the case, and Armstrong, a respectable person, who lived in the neighbourhood, having informed them that Meighan had not more than a quarter of an acre, they considered themselves justified in giving him relief.

In a Weekly Report Book kept by the Vice-Guardians for personal observations and information, there are notes in reference to the re-consideration of cases getting relief, viz.,—

"James M'Court to be discontinued; able to work; can get employment.

"February 23."

"Sarah Gallagher to be discontinued, the mother being well able to support her, and is bound to do so.

"February 23."

"Nicholas M'Mahon—relieving officer informs Guardians that he had discovered that he holds four acres of land. To be discontinued; holds four acres.

"February 23."

From these circumstances, and from the evidence of the relieving officers, Anderson, Aiken, and Carson (see evidence marked C, D, E), and the letters of Campbell, it appears to me that there are not grounds to justify the charge against the Vice-Guardians, "that men are put on with more than a quarter of an acre, 'also families whom the relieving officer rejects,'" although the Vice-Guardians distinctly stated that they considered not only that they had the power, but that it would have been their duty, if they had reason to doubt the correctness of the relieving officer's advice, to act on their own judgment.

With reference to the third charge, that owing to the relief afforded the farmers complain that they cannot get labourers; that wishing to get people out of the workhouse he sent for seven able-bodied men with their families, and offered constant employment, and that only two had worked one day each since that time; I have to state that, after the receipt of Mr. Archdall's application, the Board of Guardians, on the 9th of February, passed the resolution herewith sent, marked F. That one of the persons mentioned to be discharged on Mr. Archdall's list returned to the workhouse in a few days after, viz., John Wilson, stating that Mr. Archdall, on seeing him with his large family, had expressed regret that he had sent for him out of the workhouse, inasmuch as that, owing to the severe weather, he would not be able to put in sufficient days' work in the week to enable him to support himself and family. Wilson was then told by the Guardians that on bringing a writing to the effect of what he stated from Mr. Archdall, that he and his would be re-admitted to the workhouse. Wilson was subsequently admitted, Mr. Archdall having given a line to Campbell, the relieving officer, stating that he had no objection to his (Wilson's) being re-admitted to the workhouse, and Campbell having given an order for provisional admission, the Guardians confirmed it.

As to the complaints of the farmers that they could not get labourers, the Guardians were, I believe, most willing to have attended to the application of any farmer in the same manner as they did to Mr. Archdall's; but no application but Mr. Archdall's was ever made to them, and they never heard of the complaints alluded to; and I have only to add, that the demand for labour in the Union of Lowtherstown must be much greater than it has been for the last eight years if the comparatively small number of able-bodied men in the workhouse could have so affected the demand for labour as to afford just cause for such complaints; and the able-bodied men of the Union must have a much greater inclination for work-

house relief than is the case in other Unions if they preferred it, when they could get work from farmers at reasonable wages.

With reference to the general charge, that there is the greatest imposition practised, and the greatest waste of the funds of the Union, I have only to state that I was unable to discover any grounds for such a charge. The average weekly cost of a pauper has been greater than it was before the dissolution of the late Board, as the Commissioners will have perceived from the minutes; but this can be accounted for by the change in the dietary which was made by the Guardians. See copies of dietary herewith sent, marked G. H. and I.

There is always more or less imposition and consequent waste attendant on the administration of out-door relief, and it is almost impossible to prevent occasional imposition by improper parties receiving relief; but no waste or imposition can, I believe, be attributed to the conduct or mode of management of the Vice-Guardians; and I have no doubt on my mind but that they endeavoured by every means to prevent it. And I feel it my duty to express the high sense I entertain of the manner in which Messrs. Morton and M'Manus performed their duties under very adverse circumstances.

I enclose a paper showing the state of the finances of the Union on the 31st of January last, marked K, by which it will be seen that there was a balance in the hands of the treasurer of 532*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, while the liabilities of the Union, as shown, amounted to 506*l.* 4*s.* 1½*d.*, leaving a net balance, after paying the debts, to the credit of the Union of 25*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.*; whereas on the 29th of last September there was 550*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* due to the treasurer, and 413*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* due other parties (exclusive of 100*l.* due the Poor Law Commissioners), leaving a balance against the Union of 964*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*

PAPERS annexed to Mr. OTWAY'S REPORT.

(A.)

DEAR SIR,

Drumard, February 28, 1848.

I AM sorry I am not able to go to the Board to-day. I took suddenly ill on Saturday evening, after giving out meal to the Lack people. I have not been able to leave the bed since. I hope I will be able to rise to-morrow. I think it is cold I have got. I cannot almost move my head with a pain across my temples. I trust the Guardians will not be angry with me for not attending. I send you the destitution list for Mr. Morton, also the out-relief list. As to the out-door cases on my district, I am confident that none have above a quarter acre, statute measure.

Excuse this scrawl.

I remain, &c.

THOS. CAMPBELL.

To Mr. John Irvine,
Clerk of the Union.

(B.)

HONOURED SIR,

February 28, 1848.

I AM very sorry I am not able to attend the Board to-day. I wrote to Mr. Irvine to that effect this morning. After giving out the meal to the Lack people on Saturday I took suddenly ill; however, I hope by to-morrow to be able to resume my duties. If I were in any degree able to go to the Board I would let no consideration prevent me. I hope, under such circumstances, your honour will pardon me. As to the out-door cases on my district, I am confident that none are on my list who are not legally entitled; and I believe none of them have any land, except a few, not exceeding a quarter of an acre, statute measure, in any case. Knowing the vast importance of not attending the Board to-day, I endeavoured to rise; but really, I assure your honour, I could scarce stand on my feet. I have got into a great perspiration, which I hope will be a means of restoring me. I have been ever ready to attend all orders of the Board, but at the present, were I to receive my year's salary for attending, I could not go, from my weak state.

I remain, &c.

THOS. CAMPBELL.

P. Morton, Esq.,
Vice-Guardian, Lowtherstown.

(C.)

John Aiken, sworn.—I am relieving officer for the Trillick district; I am not aware of the Vice-Guardians ever having given relief in any cases that I advised against; last week I made inquiry after the lists were posted, and sent for some of the rate-payers of the townlands to afford me information on the cases which I considered doubtful, or not entitled to get relief, and when I laid the objections before the Vice-Guardians, they acted on the information and advice I afforded them in every case; I know of no case where persons holding more than a quarter of an acre got relief.

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(D.)

William Anderson, sworn.—I am relieving officer for the Lowtherstown district; no case has occurred in my district in which the Vice-Guardians ordered relief where I had advised rejection, or without my consent; I said to Mr. H. D'Arcy that there might be parties receiving relief, owing to the pressure of business that I had, that might not be entitled to it, but the Vice-Guardians never put on persons I objected to, and I never said so; it would be my duty to advise the Guardians if I knew of any improper cases receiving relief, but I am certainly not aware of the Guardians acting against my advice either as to the placing persons on out-door relief, or not reducing or discontinuing relief in cases that I advised should be reduced or discontinued.

(E.)

Edicard Carson, sworn.—I am relieving officer for Clonelly district; I am not aware of any case in which the Vice-Guardians have given relief that I advised against; the Guardians have always paid attention to the information or advice I gave them as to placing persons on out-door relief, or altering or discontinuing it after; I am not aware of any persons getting relief holding more than a quarter of an acre of land.

(F.)

EXTRACT from the MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of the VICE-GUARDIANS of the LOWTHERSTOWN UNION, on 9th February, 1848.

The clerk laid before the Board a list from Mr. William Archdall of able-bodied paupers now inmates of the workhouse, namely, James M'Manus, John Wilson, Miles M'Manus, Edward Wilson, James Maguire, and John Cassidy, which he, Mr. Archdall, was ready to employ at 8*d.* per day wages; and further, that John M'Caffrey, whose wife, Anne, and three children, inmates of the workhouse, would also have employment from him.

Order made for the discharge of the above-named paupers accordingly, Anne M'Caffrey and her children excepted, two of her children being in small-pox, and the third in fever, herself attending them, and that the clerk do inform Mr. Archdall of the same.

(Signed) B. M'MANUS.

(G.)

EXTRACT from MINUTES of 29th September, 1847.

Dietary.

Resolved—That the following change be made in the workhouse dietary:—

That 1 oz. additional of mixed meal (Indian and oat) be given for adults' breakfast, and half a pint of sweet milk in the day, in addition to the present allowance of a pint of buttermilk.

(Signed) W. H. HOPPER.
W. H. LUCAS.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of 24th November, 1847.

Dietary.

Resolved—That the following scale of dietary for the inmates of the workhouse be approved, viz., adults, men and women:—

Breakfast—7 ozs. mixed meal and 3 naggins of buttermilk.
Dinner—7 ozs. mixed meal and 3 naggins of buttermilk.
Supper—4 ozs. mixed meal and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of buttermilk.

Children from Nine to Fifteen Years.

Breakfast—4 ozs. mixed meal and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of buttermilk.
Dinner—4 ozs. mixed meal and $1\frac{1}{2}$ naggins of buttermilk.
Supper—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. mixed meal and 1 pint of buttermilk.

Aged and Infirm.

Breakfast—5 ozs. mixed meal and 3 naggins of buttermilk.
Dinner—6 ozs. mixed meal and 3 naggins of buttermilk.
Supper—3 ozs. mixed meal and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of buttermilk.

Infants above One and under Two Years.

Breakfast—2 ozs. of meal and 1 naggin of new milk.
Dinner—4 ozs. of bread and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of new milk.

Infants under One Year and Unweaned.

4 ozs. of bread and half pint of new milk per day.

(Signed)

B. M'MANUS.
P. MORTON.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of 15th December, 1847.

Lowtherstown
Union.

Resolved—That soup be substituted for porridge for dinner to the paupers in the establishment three days in the week, viz., Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and according to the following scale of proportions to each class, viz.:—

Classes.	Soup.	Bread.
1. Adults . . .	1 quart . . .	6 ozs.
2. From 15 to 9 . .	1½ pints . . .	4 ozs.
3. From 9 to 5 . .	1 pint . . .	4 ozs.
4. From 5 to 2 . .	3 naggins . . .	3 ozs.

To commence on Sunday, the 19th instant. Such soup to be made after the receipt approved by us this date, and a copy of which under our hands is in the possession of the clerk.

Resolved—That the porridge hitherto consisting of oatmeal and Indian meal, in the proportion of one part of Indian and three parts of oat, be made henceforth of oatmeal and Indian meal, in equal proportions; such change having the recommendation of the medical officer.

(Signed) B. M'MANUS.

(H.)

Workhouse Dietary.—September 30, 1846, p. 83.

		Breakfast.			Dinner.			Remarks.
		Meal in stirabout.	Sweet milk.	Butter-milk.	Meal in stirabout.	Sweet milk.	Butter-milk.	
1	Adults, both sexes .	7 ozs.	..	½ pint	8 ozs.	..	½ pint.	No supper. The meal is part Indian and part oat.
2	Aged and infirm, do.	5 „	..	½ „	6 „	..	½ „	Do. do.
3	Children from 9 to 15	4 „	..	½ „	5 „	..	½ „	Do. do.
4	Children from 2 to 9	3½ „	½ nag.	1 nag.	3½ „	½ nag.	1 nag.	Do. do.
5	Children under 2 weaned, ½ lb. of bread and 1 pint of new milk daily; not weaned, ½ lb. of bread and ½ pint of new milk.							

Sick Dietary.

Tea diet, above 15 years	½ lb. of bread and 1 pint of tea.	½ lb. of bread and 1 pint of new milk.	The sick diets are changed daily by the medical officer, according to circumstances.
Do. from 9 to 15 .	½ lb. of bread and 1 pint of tea.	½ lb. of bread and 1 pint of new milk.	
Do. from 5 to 9 .	½ lb. of bread and 1 pint of tea.	½ lb. of bread and 1 pint of new milk.	
Do. under 5 . .	½ lb. of bread and ½ pint of tea.	½ lb. of bread and ½ pint of new milk.	

Bread diets, to all classes *same as tea diet*, except new milk to breakfast instead of tea. “*The bread the same.*”

Fever diets, to all classes, milk whey (the doctor directs the quantity according to circumstances) or gruel.

Rice diets, to dysentery patients (the doctor directs the quantity according to circumstances).

Officers' Rations.

The master's, matron's, and schoolmistress's not fixed.

The schoolmaster, 2 lbs. of oatmeal, 1 pint new milk, 1 pint buttermilk, and ½ lb. of bread per day; and 2 lbs. of meat per week.

The porter, 2 lbs. of oatmeal, 1 pint new milk, 1 pint buttermilk, and ½ lb. of bread per day; and 1 lb. of meat per week.

(I.)

Workhouse Dietary.

	Breakfast.			Dinner.			Supper	
	Mixed meal.	Sweet milk.	Butter-milk.	Mixed meal.	Sweet milk.	Butter-milk.	Bread.	Sweet milk.
	Ozs.	Qts.	Qts.	Ozs.	Qts.	Qts.	Ozs.	Qts.
Men and women . . .	8	½	¼	8	½	¼	..	..
Children from 9 to 15.	4	½	..	5	½	..	6	½
Children from 2 to 9 .	3	½	..	4	½	..	4	½
Aged and infirm . .	6	½	¼	6	½	¼	..	..
Infants under 2 . .	½ lb. of bread, and 1 pint of new milk per day.							

Lowtherstown
Union.*Sick Dietary.*

	Bread.	Tea.	Sweet milk.	Bread.	Tea.	Sweet milk.	Remarks.
	Lb.	Pint.		Lb.		Pint.	
Tea diet, adults . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	1	No supper.
„ from 9 to 15 . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	1	„
„ from 2 to 9 . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	„
Bread diet	Same as tea diet, except that new milk is given to breakfast, and no tea.						
Fever diets	Milk whey, gruel, &c., as ordered daily by medical officer.						
Half diet	Do.		do.			do.	
Low diet	Do.		do.			do.	

Officers' Rations in the week each.

Officers.	Bread.	Meat.	Outmeal.	Sweet milk.	Butter-milk.	Tea.	Sugar.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Qts.	Qts.	Ozs.	Lb.
Master	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	2	1
Matron	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	2	1
Schoolmaster	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	2	1
Schoolmistress	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	2	1
Porter	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	..

October 1, 1847.

J. IRVINE, Clerk of Union.

(K.)

Liabilities of Guardians on 31st January, 1848.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount due to treasurer on 31st January			
Amount due to contractors, &c.	374	18	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Amount of salaries unpaid	109	3	2
Amount due to all other parties	22	2	11
Total liabilities	506	4	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deduct in hands of treasurer	532	1	5
Net amount of liabilities (if any) on 31st January, 1848, after deducting the amount in the treasurer's hands			..
Net amount which would remain in the hands of the treasurer on 31st January, 1848, supposing all debts to be paid	25	17	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
9. Liabilities on 31st December	664	9	4	13.			
10. Current expenses	601	13	5	14. Rate lodged.	1292	0	0
11. Net balance in favour of Union on 31st January, as in No. 8	25	17	3	15.			
	£1292	0	0	16.			
					£1292	0	0

JOHN IRVINE, Clerk of Union.

Number of Paupers on Out-relief on Saturday, 26th February, 1848.

District No.	No. of Cases.	Total relieved.	Cost per week.	£.	s.	d.
1,	766	1124		35	16	2
„ No. 2,	250	565		17	0	11
„ No. 3,	268	530		16	13	5
In Union, Total	1284	2219		69	10	6

J. IRVINE.

State of the Workhouse, 19th February, 1848.

Castle Archdall electoral division	113	Moorfield electoral division	116
Clonelly do.	59	Trillick do.	29
Dromore do.	48	Tubbrid do.	114
Kesh do.	55	Union at large	106
Lack do.	19		
Lowtherstown do.	137	Total	796

Weekly average cost, 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

In on 19th February, 1848, total 796

Admitted since 78

Born 1

— 79

Total 875

Discharged	95	
Died	4	
	<u> </u>	99

**Lowtherstown
Union.**

Remaining on 26th February	776	
In workhouse		637
Number in auxiliary workhouse in town, 41 women and 13 children		54
Number in detachment, boys, Montgomery's		45
Number in detachment, girls, Graham's		60
Total	796	

*To the Board of Vice-Guardians,
Louthertown Union.*

JOHN IRVINE, *Clerk of Union.*

Paupers classified.

Aged and infirm males	.	.	.	.	.	4
females	.	.	.	.	.	9
Able-bodied males	.	.	.	.	.	99
females	.	.	.	.	.	270
Boys	.	.	.	.	.	187
Girls	.	.	.	.	.	181
Infants under 2	.	.	.	.	.	26
Total	.	.	.	.	.	776

In workhouse on 26th February, 1848. i

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. ARCHDALL:—*March 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received Mr. Otway's report of the inquiry which the Commissioners directed him to make into the administration of relief by the Vice-Guardians of Lowtherstown Union, in pursuance of the request for such an inquiry contained in your letter of the 15th February last.

The following are the complaints made by you, and inquired into and reported on by Mr. Otway :—

1. That the out-door relief administered is in every case more than sufficient to support the recipients.
2. That men are put on with more than a quarter of an acre, also families whom the relieving officer rejects.
3. That owing to the relief afforded, the farmers complain that they cannot get labourers; that wishing to get people out of the poor-house, you sent for seven able-bodied men with their families, and offered constant employment, and that only two had worked one day each since that time.
4. That there is the greatest imposition practised, and the greatest waste of the funds of the Union.

The Commissioners have perused Mr. Otway's report, and the accompanying evidence, and they have the satisfaction of being enabled to state, that in their opinion no grounds exist for censuring the conduct of the Vice-Guardians in reference to any one of those complaints.

Mr. H. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—February 29, 1848.

HAVING attended yesterday an investigation held by Mr. Otway, Union Inspector, in the Board-room of Lowtherstown workhouse, my name was casually mentioned with reference to a conversation which I had held on a former occasion with Mr. Morton and Mr. M'Manus, in which I had stated that having remarked to Mr. Anderson, a relieving officer, that a number of persons were receiving relief in his district not entitled to it; that Mr. Anderson had stated to me that it was not his fault, as he was controlled by the Vice-Guardians, that he received all applications, and that Mr. Morton decided on them; and that he (Mr. Anderson,) was aware of persons not entitled to relief receiving it, some of whom he mentioned to me: Mr. Otway swore Mr. Anderson to this statement, the entire of which he denied, swearing he never knew of a person receiving relief not entitled to it. After the investigation, and after I had left the workhouse, I met a person who was present at the conversation referred to, held between me and Mr. Anderson, and returned with him to the workhouse, and requested

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Union.

of Mr. Otway to examine him; Mr. Otway proceeded to do so, and when the witness was stating that Anderson had mentioned cases to me of persons receiving relief who he (Mr. Anderson) knew were not entitled to it, Mr. Morton interrupted the witness with some remark, when I immediately said, "I beg your pardon Mr. Morton, do not interrupt the witness, you will allow me to have some fair play, which Mr. Archdall had not." Mr. Otway got up and left the room, saying he would hear nothing further. Mr. Otway may say that I intended to express an opinion that he had not acted fairly during the investigation; such was not my intention, nor can I hardly suppose, from previous remarks made, that Mr. Otway could reasonably imagine such was my intention. The circumstances that my remarks referred to were, that an investigation being ordered by the Poor Law Commissioners into charges made by Mr. Archdall against the Vice-Guardians; that Mr. Otway, proceeding to hold their investigation arrived in Lowtherstown on Saturday the 26th, went over the house in company with the Vice-Guardians, returned on Monday, and entered into the investigation without having given any notice to Mr. Archdall that he was about to do so, Mr. Archdall, by mere accident, hearing that it was going on. I take leave to state that I make the above communication, not desiring the opinion of the Poor Law Commissioners on the subject, nor seeking for any redress, but merely for the purpose of preventing a one-sided statement appearing perhaps hereafter in a blue book or report.

Further Letter from Mr. H. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 1, 1848.*

ON reading over a communication of mine to you yesterday, I find the following passage—"Mr. Morton interrupted the witness with some remark." It would be more correct if I had written, "Mr. Morton interrupted the examination of the witness by asking Mr. Otway a question relative to the witness's statement, while Mr. Otway was taking it down."

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of 29th February and 1st instant, respectively, relating to the inquiry which Mr. Otway has been instructed to make in Lowtherstown Union, and I am to state that the Commissioners have not yet received Mr. Otway's report thereon.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. OTWAY.

I COULD not possibly have mistaken what Mr. H. D'Arcy said. After the inquiry was over, and my papers removed, he came back and asked me to examine a witness to disprove what Anderson the relieving officer had sworn, and to support what he said Anderson had told him; and at great inconvenience I agreed and went back to the Board-room to do so; but on asking the person he produced as a witness, who appeared to me to have no real evidence to give on the matter, from the answers he gave, Mr. D'Arcy began in a very dictatorial manner to question him and interrupt me, and on Mr. Morton making some remark, which I do not recollect, he (Mr. D'Arcy) said in a very warm and unpleasant tone, "Mr. Archdall may have submitted to an unfair inquiry, but I will not," or words to this effect, (he had previously said that he would take care and watch the Commissioners when the new Guardians were elected, that they required it, but that he would be up to them). I then got up and told him I would not allow him or any man to state that an inquiry I held was unfair, that he knew it was not, and that I had treated him with great courtesy and forbearance; and endeavoured as far as possible to inquire into every point he brought before me, and that no gentleman ought to have made such a statement as he had done; I then left the room with Messrs. Morton and M'Manus. I am glad Mr. D'Arcy now states that he had no intention of stating that I had acted unfairly during the inquiry, but I could not possibly have mistaken the plain meaning of his words.

March 19, 1848.

C. G. O.

Mr. H. D'ARCY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 2, 1848.*

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I HAVE been informed that Mr. Otway made some reply to me when leaving the Board-room of Lowtherstown workhouse on the 28th of February. Being a little deaf and not having heard what Mr. Otway said, I hope I will not be considered unreasonable in requesting that, as Mr. Otway may have the advantage of seeing my statement, that a copy of Mr. Otway's report may be furnished me.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, requesting that a copy of Mr. Otway's report of his inquiry in Lowtherstown Union may be furnished to you, and in reply I am to state that the Commissioners are in communication with Mr. Otway, but it is not their general official practice to communicate to third parties the reports which they receive from their inspectors.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 1, 1848.*

IN our report of the 19th ultimo, on the state and management of the workhouse and of the Union generally, we took occasion toward the end to mention the lodgments made by our two collectors for the week ending the 12th ultimo. These lodgments were, on the part of Thomas Robinson, 296*l.*, and on the part of Alexander Robinson, 200*l.*; being short of our order to each by the respective defects of 4*l.* and 300*l.*

Fifth Series, p. 122.

We mentioned also the plea of illness put forward by Alexander Robinson, and that we had, in consequence, deferred any intimation of the course we should take with reference to the above very serious default on his part until the next lodgment, which, in due course, was to have been made on the 21st or 22nd ultimo, should be ascertained.

We have now to state that, to our extreme disappointment, *no lodgment* was made by either collector for the week ending the 19th ultimo, and the lodgment for the week ending the 26th, made yesterday, amounts to 473*l.* only—the fruits of the *fortnight's* collection. Of this, 300*l.* was lodged by Alexander Robinson, and 173*l.* by Thomas Robinson. We had already at our late Board meeting directed the clerk to proceed against each collector for the fine incurred by his default for the week ending the 19th ultimo, and he will have our further order to the like effect for the week ending the 26th ultimo.

We have directed both collectors to appear before us at to-morrow's Board meeting, and shall then announce to them our distinct and unalterable determination to proceed against each for the future with the utmost rigour, and particularly to enforce the full penalty of their bonds after the 13th instant, when the term of the five months stipulated for the collection will expire.

We cannot disguise from ourselves that the remissness indicated by the past fortnight's collection is, in a large measure, to be ascribed to the announcement, that on the 25th instant the powers and duties of the Vice-Guardians will expire, to be superseded by an elected Board.

There is a difference, we may observe, very marked and otherwise unaccountable in the deportment of the collector, Alexander Robinson—the only one of the two we have seen for the past week. In contrast with what he had uniformly shown on former occasions, his air, upon our demanding, Was that the collection for the fortnight? was one of indifference; but the fact of the collection, after manifesting a very considerable improvement, falling away at the present so critical period of it, and in defiance of an express order of the Board, places the disposition of the men beyond surmise.

And we are bound to state our apprehensions that whatever be the issue of our proceedings against them from week to week under the 100th section of the Act, this indifference and remissness, arising from the cause we have mentioned, will very seriously affect the getting in of the large balance of 2647*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.* still remaining to be collected. Under such circumstances, with undiminished anxiety on our parts to render our appointment as paid officers of the fullest avail, while it continues for the benefit of the Union, we have to request your further instructions with reference to this most vital particular. It is needless, we hope, to

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report the assurance that no effort of ours shall be wanting to carry them into the fullest effect.

We have at length secured the services of, we trust, an efficient master and matron. They arrived here and entered on their respective duties on the 23rd ultimo, and so far are giving us every satisfaction. Already a marked improvement is visible, contrasting with the hitherto disorganized and uncleanly appearance of the house.

We have been seriously inconvenienced of late by a very insufficient supply of water on the workhouse premises, as well as by the deplorable state of the sewers, cess-pools, and drains—the latter contributing materially to the increase of fever in the house. We have more than once in our reports and minutes adverted to both defects, and took occasion also to draw the special attention of your architect to the subject.

Your letter of the 4th ultimo, transmitting for our information a copy of Mr. Wilkinson's observations, has had our anxious attention, and we have duly considered the papers and plans referred to by Mr. Wilkinson, which, however, from the circumstance of the workhouse being situated on the rapid slope of a small hill, we find to be in great part inapplicable, or requiring very considerable modification. In accordance with his desire "to be furnished by us with a plan that might appear practicable and preferable to the present system," we now forward a plan which we have every reason to think will effectually remove both nuisances. This plan has been prepared according to our instructions, after repeated anxious consultation with Mr. Moore, who superintended the building of the house, sewers, cess-pools, &c., and Mr. Tickell, a plumber, of Enniskillen, who has been employed with the like object in other workhouses. It is considered by both as the most readily practicable and effectual, and *that it can be fully executed within three weeks*. Not excepting even the collection of the rates, we regard it as the most important work and the most necessary to be immediately taken in hand.

Mr. Moore engages that his system of sewerage, as shown in the plan, dispensing with the collection of the soil in cess-pools to be cleaned out by hand (a work of extreme hazard and often fatal to those employed), aided by the flow of water which will be thrown into them as often as necessary, will carry away all the underground nuisances at present detained in the sewers and occasioning a general malaria, to which the malignant fever heretofore so prevalent among the inmates is largely attributable.

Mr. Tickell engages that the forcing pump and cisterns now proposed to be erected shall keep the entire establishment, including the fever hospital, infirmaries, workhouse, and probationary wards, constantly supplied with pure water, at all seasons, for the necessary uses of the house, and sufficient also to clean out the entire of the proposed sewers and cess-pools whenever it may be found necessary. After having bestowed upon this subject our most anxious attention, we have come to the opinion that the plans proposed will effectually meet both evils, and the expense of Mr. Tickell's portion of them does not appear to us to be excessive; but we desire to submit both to the experienced judgment of your architect before taking further steps in the matter, at the same time, observing, that it is important upon all accounts, and not the least, perhaps, as our own tenure of office will determine on the 25th instant, to have the necessary arrangements completed as quickly as possible.

Accompanying are the plan and specification we have mentioned, to which we would beg that the immediate attention of your architect should be directed.

The earth-works connected with the new sewers, drains, &c., will, of course, be executed by the able-bodied inmates under the superintendence of the contractors.

We take the opportunity to notice the arrival, in due course, of your sealed orders of the 21st ultimo, severally addressed to us, and by which we are continued in office to the 25th instant.

We have to acknowledge also your letter of the 23rd ultimo, in reference to our report of the 19th ultimo. The requisite steps for ensuring a sufficient supply of clothing shall be at once taken as you desire.

The amount of the two loans will be remitted as you direct.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 2, 1848.*

THE Commissioners request that you will report the result of the proceedings taken by you against the collectors. I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners have called on them for an explanation.

With regard to the appointment of a master and matron of the workhouse, the Commissioners request to be furnished with replies to the queries transmitted relating to them.

The Commissioners have referred to their architect respecting that part of your report which relates to the supply of water and sewerage of the workhouse, together with the plan received from you.

ARCHITECT'S OBSERVATIONS ON VICE-GUARDIANS' REPORT of March 1:—*March 6, 1848.*

I HAVE remarked on these matters. The report resolves itself as regards cesspools chiefly into the question of covered cesspools, or drains, instead thereof. The latter will, I fear, be found difficult to put into operation, and the former, when properly managed, will yet be found the best I think; but I have offered opinions on the matter, and would advise it being left to the Guardians.

EXTRACT FROM GUARDIANS' MINUTES of February 23, 1848.

"Mr. TICKELL submitted a plan of supplying the establishment with a proper supply of water, and of effectually draining the premises and cesspools, prepared agreeably to the instructions given to him at the previous consultation of the Board, and also an estimate of the expense of carrying out so much of said plan as fell within his trade as a plumber, being the erection of a double action forcing pump, and of two cisterns connected with same by pipes, as in said plan and specification described; the amount of said estimate, 155*l.* 15*s.*, which was approved by Board subject to the opinion of the architect, Mr. Wilkinson, and the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners, and that the clerk be directed to forward same accordingly."

ARCHITECT'S OBSERVATIONS ON VICE-GUARDIANS' MINUTES of February 23, 1848.

I THINK the place selected for the pump is a good one. Instead of forcing the water from the pump house, I would recommend a turret of rubble masonry being carried up to contain a cistern directly over the pump. This will save the great friction of forcing the water from the pump, and save much future cost from repairs that will be more frequently required under the proposed plan. A small pipe will then be sufficient to lead from the cistern in turret, and if supplied with a ball-cock at the cistern which it discharges into, it will be found effectual.

I send herewith a sketch for a turret which it would be good economy to erect. The same kind of building has been run up elsewhere for such purpose.

I fear that the plan of doing away with the cesspools will not be found satisfactory. I am of opinion it will not be possible to keep the drains free from obstruction. I should advise the trial being partially made for a month or two, if the cesspools are abandoned. I think that with proper attention to them they will be found the least evil. The large manure pit, if open in such a position, will be found objectionable, I fear, if all the privies discharge into it.

March 6, 1848.

G. W.

THE COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 16, 1848.*

ADVERTING to recent communications relating to the supply of water and state of the sewers and cesspools of the workhouse of the Lowtherstown Union, I am directed to state that the Commissioners have communicated with their architect on the subject, and to enclose for your information and guidance, copies of observations received from him in reference to the plan and estimate adverted to in your minutes of 23rd February, together with the plan of a water turret proposed by him, and referred to in his observations, which has been received from him this day.

The plan and specification received from you are also returned herewith.

THE VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 17, 1848.*

THE several subjects of the collection of the rates, of the backwardness in the returns for two of our relief districts, and of the proposed plan for a better supply of water and a new system of sewerage, have had our earnest attention; and we proceed shortly to mention the course we propose adopting relative to each.

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With respect to the first we have decided upon the expediency as well as the fairness (on the grounds mentioned in our report of the 10th instant), of a further month being allowed to each collector. On the part of Alexander Robinson, there is besides the serious plea of illness, which Dr. Betty, his medical attendant, assures us is not overstated in the collector's letter to you of the 15th instant, with a copy of which you have forwarded us. On the part again of the other collector, Thomas Robinson, there is the more difficult character of the district to be taken into account, having required for the second time the protection of an escort (when Mr. Atthill was again the attending magistrate), about a fortnight since; nor have we the same reason to impute remissness to this collector, whose lodgments have been uniformly near the required amount.

At the same time we have considered it only prudent to postpone any declaration of our purpose till next meeting, by which time the magistrates will have pronounced their decision on the defaults which we have referred to them.

The lodgment for the week ended the 11th instant made only yesterday, was 404*l.*, Alexander Robinson contributing to it 304*l.*, and Thomas Robinson 100*l.* This leaves the balances uncollected in the two districts at 1,257*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*, and 678*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* respectively—total uncollected 1,936*l.* 5*s.* 9½*d.*

The return of the particulars of these arrears, distinguishing where in consequence of house locked, or premises deserted, or no seizable property found, was to have been this day before us, but we understand cannot be furnished until to-morrow.

The penalties of the bonds will be at once declared forfeited, and the securities have notice to that effect, and of the suspension of proceedings upon them until the expiration of another calendar month.

We should hope that the effect will be to arouse the vigilance of those parties, and that they will urge as their own safety will demand, the completion of the task within the further period.

With respect to the backwardness of Mr. Anderson's returns for the Lowtherstown Relief District, of which our clerk makes mention in the extract from his letter of the 7th instant, we regret to state that after repeated remonstrances having up to the present time failed in procuring a satisfactory reply from this officer (otherwise without fault as respects the administration of relief in his district), we fear there will be but one course open to us, and he has notice from us accordingly, that should his books be in arrear for three days longer, his resignation will be insisted upon.

Mr. Campbell, the relieving officer for Kesh district, is we are most happy to state so far recovered as to have this day reported himself able to attend to the making up of his books, and that he hopes to be present at the next meeting of the Board.

With respect lastly to the proposed plan of sewerage and for a better supply of water, we have not as yet since the arrival of your letter of yesterday's date, conveying to us Mr. Wilkinson's observations upon that subject, been able to consult with Mr. Tickell. We may observe only that the slope of the site of the work-house, is we fear too rapid to admit of the water tower suggested by Mr. Wilkinson, being raised so as to command the parts to be supplied, unless at an immoderate height. But of this and other necessary particulars we shall be better able to form a judgment after conferring with Mr. Tickell, whose attendance we have requested.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 23, 1848.*

THE Commissioners considering that your functions as Vice-Guardians of Lowtherstown Union will cease on the 25th instant, desire to receive from you a report on the financial state of the Union, comprising the following particulars:—

1. Amount of money in the treasurer's hands.
2. Amount of debts.
3. Estimated period during which the current rate would suffice to defray the ordinary expenditure of the Union, deducting the amount included in the rate for the purpose of repaying the advances made under the Temporary Relief Act.
4. Estimated amount of additional rate which would be required to cover the prospective expenditure down to the 29th September next.

The Commissioners are desirous of receiving this information by return of post, and they request that you will have the goodness to furnish the same accordingly; and in case any difficulty should be felt which would be likely to cause delay, you will nevertheless have the goodness to send up as close an estimate as possible by return of post.

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The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

WE are just in receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, but bearing the Dublin post-mark of the 24th, in which you desire from us a report of the financial state of this Union previous to our duties determining. The very limited time at our disposal upon this the last day of our concluding Board meeting, will compel us to confine ourselves to the bare statement of the particulars desired.

The amount of money in the treasurer's hands on the 18th instant was 622*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* The amount of uncollected rate (making due allowance for the irrecoverable part of it, according to the collectors' returns this day placed in our hands) may be stated at 1500*l.* On the other side of the account the amount of debts, including all liabilities at this date (the temporary relief loan and instalments of building loan excepted), is 750*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, leaving available towards the expenditure of the half year ending 29th September next, the sum of 1371*l.* 17*s.*

With a view to the desired estimate of that expenditure we think, as respects maintenance, that the return made to you by our clerk, a copy of which is before us, for the four weeks ending 5th February last, may in this Union be taken as a sufficiently safe guide. This will give for the half year's maintenance £2443 17 10

For ordinary establishment expenses	300	0	0
For new sewers in progress, and general repairs	100	0	0
Amount Mr. Tickell's contract to supply water	155	15	0
Amount Mr. Moore's contract for pump-house	28	0	0

Total £3027 12 10

Amount of instalments on building loan, due 14th proximo	1066	0	0
Amount temporary relief loan	3138	4	9

We have made no mention of the proposed extension of the workhouse building.

As it will be apparent from the above account that the remaining available amount of the rate struck in October last, viz., 1371*l.* 17*s.*, is short of the amount included in that rate for repayment of advances under the Temporary Relief Act, there is no occasion to advert to the third particular mentioned in your letter.

As a part of the business remaining to us this day to execute, we purpose furnishing you with our usual general report, which being our final report, we should be anxious to make as full and complete as possible.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

WE have the honour of presenting you with a final report ere vacating our office of Vice-Guardians. Considering the very ample detail which will be found in the minutes upon almost every subject, all (including the financial statement already briefly made to you in reply to your letter received by this morning's post) having in one shape or another come before us since Wednesday last, there is perhaps the less need for troubling you at any great length. Should it fail of being as complete as might be desired on such an occasion, we feel persuaded that you will make every allowance for the mass of business unavoidably pressing upon our attention at the close of this our last Board meeting.

As regards the arrears of the rate and the liabilities of our two collectors, suspended for consideration at the present meeting, we have gladly availed ourselves of whatever circumstances could be considered as fairly entitling them to indulgence. In addition to such of these as you are already apprized of (on the part of the one collector—his serious indisposition, with the waylaying and warnings of personal danger, which prevented his continuing his appointments with the rate-payers; on the part of the other—the more impracticable character of the district he had to deal with, at the same time that, of the two, his lodgments were uniformly the more satisfactory; the weight of the duty which should, in

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our opinion, have been committed to more than two collectors, on the part of both), there was a statement made at the present meeting, and confirmed to us by our clerk, which we felt to be decisive, and such as to leave us scarcely the option of acting towards them otherwise than leniently. It appeared that on the occasion of their bonds being executed, when urging the necessity of six months rather than five being allowed them, they were given to understand that an arrangement would be made for leaving their lodgments in Lowtherstown, instead of which, in default of such arrangement, a day of each week has been lost by their having to make them, as on former occasions, with the treasurer in Enniskillen.

The copy forwarded in your letter of the 23rd instant, of Dr. Betty's certificate, was in time for its due weight with us. The returns made by each collector of the arrears outstanding on the 18th instant, were also before us; it resulted from them that the entire of these arrears (1266*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, and 405*l.* 16*s.* 6½*d.*, in the two districts respectively), with the exception of 178*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* in the one district, and 147*l.* 1*s.* 3½*d.* in the other, the greater part however of which sums will also be made good, leaving eventually little more than 100*l.* for the uncollectable part of the two rates last struck, await only the time and opportunity of the collectors to get them in. This uncollectable part will belong, as we have said, to the two rates; an arrear of 272*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, due 6th October last, upon the rate of 1443*l.* still at that time in course of collection, having been thrown into the new rate then struck of 6189*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, and making the total amount to be collected, 6461*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*

After Dr. Betty's certificate there remained no ground for following up our proceedings as against Alexander Robinson; and looking at the later efforts of Thomas Robinson, with the comparatively small amount of arrears remaining over in his district, there was room to question whether or not the disobedience upon his part had been of a wilful character. We directed accordingly that the proceedings against either on this account, which were to have gone forward yesterday before the Lowtherstown bench, should be withdrawn. The hearty acknowledgments expressed by both for this immediate grace, led us to consult freely with them as to the shortest time within which the arrears could be reasonably collected. We were not, on the whole, dissatisfied to learn that till the 1st May would, in their opinion, be sufficient: and upon reflection, we thought it best to allow them up to that date.

With men such as we still take them for, the course we have been in a manner thus compelled to adopt, will, we are persuaded, under existing circumstances, best secure the satisfactory completion of this important work; and we are happy, in closing our reports upon a subject which has so anxiously occupied us, to express our confidence, based upon a four months' intercourse, and confirmed by their becoming deportment and assurances when their better feelings were thus appealed to, that the entire rate, subject to the above small deficit, will be collected before the expiration of the further time now limited—longer indeed by a fortnight and upwards than we had contemplated before being apprised of the circumstances last brought forward on their behalf; but should this confidence be still disappointed, it will be of importance that they are left without plea or excuse.

An important subject in the present condition of the finances of the Union, and otherwise suggested to our consideration by your circular to the clerk, of the 9th instant, was that of the probable expenditure of the Union for the coming half-year, our estimate of which, in reply to your letter received by this morning's post, we have just conveyed to you in a separate dispatch. In the opinion of our relieving officers, the numbers requiring relief will no otherwise decrease than by the recovery, from severe sickness, of the heads of families now receiving it upon that ground. Your sealed order authorizing relief for two months to destitute poor persons, being widows with one child, and orphans whose parents are both dead, will expire on the 28th instant. We have instructed the relieving officers to report the number of such cases at present relieved under this order at the next meeting of the Board. Whatever this may prove to be, it is we fear too certain that by far the greater portion will have no other resource but admission into the workhouse; already, at the moment of our writing, containing within 20 of its full complement, we should not feel warranted to speak upon mere surmise of the measures in possible contemplation with the newly-elected Board. We may mention, however, that it is confidently and very generally expected, that the present out-accommodation for an additional number of in-door paupers at the three

buildings of Graham's, Montgomery's and Anderson's will be immediately dispensed with; and there is reason to apprehend that a majority will be found in favour of that measure. In such an event, the limits of in-door relief being restricted to 500 inmates, there can be no hope of its being extended to parties not at present within the walls. We cannot suppress our anxiety at the prospect of those now obtaining relief under the order we have referred to being thrown upon the slender resource of such employment as they may be able to procure, even at the present favourable season. It is sufficient to have brought this under your notice. In any estimate of the probable numbers that may continue to require relief, they will assuredly have to be taken into account.

Upon the whole, it is our decided opinion that the average for the next six months will not be found very far short of that shown by the return for the four weeks ended 5th February last. Having already, in our letter of this morning, taking that return as the basis of an estimate for the half-year's expenditure, we need only refer you upon this point to the result therein given. It is perhaps unimportant to observe that the amount of debt should have been stated at 750*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, instead of 750*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*—an error since discovered in the baker's account occasioning the difference.

In connexion with the same subject, and affording additional ground for the apprehension that such estimate will not be much in excess, is the absence, so far as we can learn, of any proposed employment of the able-bodied labourer, by farmer or proprietor, to meet the immensely increased destitution, beyond the ordinary unimproved routine of the spring husbandry. No exertion appears to be making by any party to stem the increasing evil, while, with few exceptions, all exclaim at the ruinous certainty before them of a continually increasing poor-rate; let the party be well inclined to relief, or the reverse, the cry is heard upon all sides that the poor-rate will ruin the country, and yet nothing can be more notorious than the indifferent state of their agriculture—the large farms showing no attempt to drain; nothing more undeniable than that there is ample room for every labourer that can be had, to be constantly and profitably employed on the improved culture of the soil.

The prospect is indeed a gloomy one for all classes. We advert to it, however, to show merely the necessity of an ample provision being made as well upon this account.

We shall place on the minutes our unhesitating opinion that an adequate rate ought to be struck with the least possible delay; and as the first step towards it, our instructions to the clerk to prepare and lay before the Board, at the earliest opportunity, a statement of the proportions out of the unexpended amount now standing to the credit of the Union, inclusive of the uncollected rate, which, after payment of the present amount of 750*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* debt, may be found to the credit of the several electoral divisions and the Union at large, together with an estimate grounded on the return already mentioned of the half-year's probable expenditure on the part of each electoral division, and of the Union at large, for maintenance establishment and incidental expenses.

We shall now rapidly advert to a number of particulars, which would find a place here commensurate with their importance, were it not for the very full detail which, as we have observed, we shall consider it expedient at the present juncture to give to each upon the minutes.

The house has at length been brought to a state of discipline, which gives room to hope that it may ere long bear a comparison with the best regulated. It will be seen by the minutes of the present meeting, that we have, notwithstanding, deemed it our duty to leave on record our strict injunctions in this respect to the new master. It certainly exhibits, in every particular, a very gratifying contrast to the condition in which it was found by the Vice-Guardians.

The inmates present the appearance of health and animation, and of cleanliness in person as well as clothing. In place of the sickly listlessness of barely 300 wretched objects, whom it was so long our painful part to witness gathered in tattered house-clothing, or (as was the case with many) in their own still more unwholesome rags, on the floors of the wards, none are now to be so found; and out of 720 inmates, filling the house and detached buildings at this date, few at all without their useful employment in the several parts of the establishment.

At the moment of our writing, and for several weeks past, this institution, so fatally devastated by fever in the spring of last year, might challenge comparison in point of health with any in Ireland.

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The clothing and bedding, almost exclusively made up by the inmates, is at length brought to the desired sufficiency; and the same is to be said of all necessary furniture, the defect of which was no less glaring. The schools, too, offer a happy contrast to their aspect a few months since—the children clean, healthy, and fully clad, and supplied with every requisite for instruction. The hitherto imperfect sewerage, which, combined with the proximity of an over-crowded grave-yard (the corruption to be seen oozing on the surface up to the very walls of the house) was a chief source of the prevailing infectious disorders; we have happily, after anxious consultation with parties of authority in such matters, on the eve of our tenure of office, taken steps at once and effectually to remedy. All connexion with the grave-yard is now cut off by a deep flagged sewer, carrying away the corrupted matter altogether from the house. We avail ourselves of this latest opportunity to bring again under your notice the urgent necessity for a new grave-yard at some remoter distance. The greater part of the hitherto open and very offensive drains have been replaced by covered flagged sewers, with gratings. There is still, however, much important work remaining to be done of this description, which should on no account be longer postponed. The thorough drainage of the yards, heretofore delayed by the unfavourable weather, is in active progress; this, too, should be diligently prosecuted to completion.

In deference to Mr. Wilkinson's views as respects the proposed supply of water, it becomes us to state shortly at this part of our report why we have concluded it best, after carefully considering his suggestions and plan of a water tower, to adhere in preference to that we submitted to you. The tower, if adopted, would require to be of a much more considerable height, to meet the rapid rise in the ground than is assumed in the drawing sent by Mr. Wilkinson, 60 feet at the least; while the same pipes would in every respect have to be laid down, and the same cisterns erected, independently of the tower and its cistern. We may add that the trial of our plan for a while, and partially as suggested by Mr. Wilkinson, would we fear be within a trifle as costly as its perfect execution. We have every reason to be satisfied with the prospect of Mr. Tickell's work (which has been tried with success elsewhere) being found effectual for its object. It is already, we are happy to say, far advanced, and the well so far as completed promises an ample supply of water.

There is yet a subject upon which we are anxious, ere we conclude, from its serious importance as respects the able-bodied pauper (nor is it of light import as respects the work upon which he is being employed), to offer an observation. It is the increased allowance, by a $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. bread daily, which we have recently found ourselves under the necessity of introducing into the dietary. As soon as the advance of more favourable weather admitted of continued work out of doors for some days together, the necessity for this increase became manifest. The strength of the men was unequal to it, and visiting the work frequently ourselves, that we might be satisfied of its due progress, there was no room for mistaking it. The average weekly cost of the in-door pauper in this Union, recently 1s. 2d., is still, we believe, among the lowest in Ireland. We have reason to believe, notwithstanding, that a change, with a view to greater economy, will be proposed in this particular of the dietary, at the same time that the work expected will be obviously the same, or at least (as we think in such an institution it ought to be) to the extent of whatever can be expected.

We consequently feel bound to state to you our conviction, proceeding upon the grounds we have mentioned, that should the present dietary of the working pauper be reduced, the result will be (not to speak in the same sentence of the work sacrificed) to fill the hospitals and add to the victims of the grave-yard.

It would be ungrateful in us, at the close of our labours, did we neglect to bear testimony to the ability and worth of a most valuable public servant, Mr. John Irvine, the clerk of this Union. To dwell upon the arduous and important character of the duties of the office is needless, but in no Union could the temper, zeal, and acquirements of the officer be more severely tested than in Lowtherstown. To ourselves Mr. Irvine has at all times, and to the frequent sacrifice of the hours of relaxation and of rest with his family, afforded, during our trying period of office, the most ready co-operation, and the value of which we have ever most highly appreciated. It would have been our duty to make it as a particular request of you to sanction the increase we lately recommended of his salary. As we are concluding our report, we find, by the arrival of your letter upon that

subject, that we have the still more gratifying duty of thanking you for having already done so.

Lowtherstown
Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. M'MANUS and Mr. MORTON, Vice-Guardians respectively :—April 4, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your final report of the 25th ult., and I am to express the Commissioners' thanks for the zeal and assiduity with which they are satisfied you have attended to the interests of the Union.

Further Correspondence respecting the management of the Union by the Vice-Guardians will be printed in another Series. It is not yet completed, or it would have been printed in this Series.]

TULLAMORE UNION.

Dr. LAMPREY, Temporary Medical Officer of the Union, to the COMMISSIONERS:—
January 31, 1848.

I BEG leave to present you with the following report in reference to the sanitary condition of the Tullamore workhouse, which I have carefully inspected by the advice of Mr. Flanagan.

On first entering the house I was struck with the dirty appearance of the walls and floors, the former not having been whitewashed for some time.

The master's and matron's rooms were in a very disorderly and dirty condition.

The dormitories were next inspected, the walls of which have been for some time in an unwashed state; the floors exhaled a very urinous odour; numerous bundles of clothes, cooking utensils, crocks, &c., used by the paupers in their own homes previous to their admission into the workhouse, were allowed to be stored up behind their beds in the dormitories, which no doubt assisted in creating disease.

Several paupers were also found lying in their beds who pretended illness.

I was informed by the matron that the adult women were obliged to sleep in the children's beds on account of the insufficient accommodation for the classes. The stairs leading from the dormitories were extremely dirty as also the walls and railings.

I next entered the day-room; the scene presented there would baffle all description: the rooms were filled with a dense smoke, and crowded with various groups of women and children, making the greatest disorder and confusion by scolding and abusing each other; small turf fires were seen in every direction on the floor surrounded with groups of people warming themselves, some were comfortably seated near a small fire preparing tea in tea-pots, however they procured it; most of them were dressed in their own private clothes, which were of the dirtiest description. What added the greatest disgust to this scene was, the "waking" of a child which had died in the day-room the day previous, and was permitted to remain exposed to the gaze of all the by-standers. Two children were pointed out to me as being ill, who on examination proved to be cases of small-pox: six cases of that disease have occurred in the establishment within a short period of each other.

On examining the men's day-room the scene in it was nearly as bad as that last described; but my attention was drawn to one bed in which I was much surprised to see the occupant (a cripple) warming himself with a lighted fire he constructed on his bed over his feet.

The hospital partook of the general disorder and confusion; it was overcrowded with patients, mostly ill with dysentery; there was a great want of care and cleanliness, and the nurse had just been attacked with fever.

I next visited the fever hospital attached to the workhouse, which was also overcrowded, and exhibited great neglect in regard to cleanliness, beds and bedding very dirty, and too close to each other; I had observed four persons lying in a bed, many beds contained two.

I had observed the paupers in the store-rooms and other parts of the building where they had no right to be; and on making inquiry from the master and matron why this was permitted, I was informed that "each pauper did as he pleased." All order and system in regard to the internal management of the establishment appear to be entirely neglected.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the GUARDIANS—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians:—February 3, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received from Dr. Lamprey, the gentleman named to the Guardians of Tullamore Union by their medical officer, Dr. Moorhead, as his substitute to take the medical charge of the workhouse in the necessary absence of Dr. Moorhead from Tullamore, a report of the sanitary condition of the workhouse on its first inspection by Dr. Lamprey.

The Commissioners have read this report with much concern, detailing as it does a state of neglect and disorganization which is deeply discreditable to the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor in Tullamore Union. A copy

of the report is transmitted herewith, and the Commissioners draw the especial attention of the Guardians to the description given by Dr. Lamprey of disorder, overcrowding, want of classification, and uncleanness, which he found in almost every department of the workhouse, &c., as well as in the fever hospital attached to it.

The Commissioners are aware that individual members of the Board of Guardians have devoted much attention to the business of the Union; but they cannot, on the representation now made to them, consider that the duties of the Board of Guardians, as a collective body, have been effectually discharged according to the intention of the Acts in force for the relief of destitution in Ireland; and they hold the Board of Guardians especially responsible for the present state of the workhouse, from their appointment, on the 17th ult., of a person to be master of the workhouse who had previously been dismissed from the same office in the same Union for incompetency, in consequence of which the house remains to this day without a competent and duly authorized person to take charge of it.

The Commissioners regret also to observe that the financial prospects of the Tullamore Union are by no means in such a state as to inspire confidence in the effectual administration of relief to the destitute poor during the present season of difficulty, the debts of the Guardians amounting by the last returns to the large sum of 1539*l*.

Considering this state of facts, and looking to the increased difficulty which must arise in executing the duties of the Board of Guardians under the order recently issued by the Commissioners under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, authorizing relief to the able-bodied and other classes of poor, the Commissioners have arrived at the conclusion that it is their duty to dissolve the Board of Guardians, and to appoint paid officers in their stead, to carry into execution the Acts for the relief of the destitute poor in Tullamore Union.

Sealed orders carrying this decision into effect are in preparation, and will be issued by to-morrow's post.

The CLERK to the GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 5, 1848.*

I HEREWITH forward minutes of proceedings which took place at a meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union on Friday the 4th instant. I also forward a copy of a report I made to the Guardians on same day.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS:—*February 4, 1848.*

The Clerk's Report on the execution of orders previously made by the Board was read to the following effect:—

GENTLEMEN,

February 4, 1848.

MY attention having been latterly directed to the management of the workhouse I observed many abuses requiring reform. In order to call your attention to some of the most glaring of these abuses which have crept into the government of the establishment I annex them in detail.

In consequence of the overcrowding of the house and the almost total want of clothing, the persons admitted remain for a length of time in their filthy disgusting rags. Probably many of them have so exhibited themselves in this filthy condition on seeking relief, under the impression that their doing so would move the commiseration of the Board in giving them admission; or that, by bringing with them such rags as described, the Guardians would not, or could not, discharge them from the house in a state of nudity. In order to prevent the recurrence of the foregoing evil, and to guard against fraud, I suggest that the Board would refuse admission to all applicants appearing in such clothing as they would refuse to dress themselves in on their discharge; the remedy is to accustom applicants to appear with their clothing cleanly, no matter how poor.

On inquiring of the master, and on examination of the workhouse books, I found the numbers to be 1569, to which special attention of the Guardians was called on Friday, the 21st January; in consequence of which, at an adjourned meeting of the Board on Saturday, directions were given to me that I should assist in carrying out the views of the Guardians in order to lessen the number supposed to be in the workhouse, and the stopping of relief in food to persons not remaining in the house. In order to carry out these views I remained in the hall on Monday, the 24th January; and from the prompt measures pursued, by insisting on whole families remaining in the house, and by putting a complete stop to the giving of food to any person but such as would then remain in the house, I consider the number was reduced by 400; but from the sudden admission of such great numbers, and the despatch of discharges, Mr. Farrel has not been since able to set the books to rights. In order to form an idea of the number remaining I caused the number in each of the dormitories to be taken on Wednesday, the 26th January, when all the inmates were in bed, and the number so counted amounted to 1180.

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As I anticipated there would be an outcry by disorderly individuals who had been much disappointed in not being permitted to go away after their meals or taking home food with them, such of that class of persons as had remained on Monday night showed symptoms of great disorder; in fact, many of them would not have accepted the offer of *in-door* relief but with the expectation of the house not being sufficient to contain the numbers that presented themselves. To disappoint this view I immediately caused all the healthy men (exclusive of those on Tullamore division) to be removed to the distillery concerns, that no excuse would be given to those remaining. I conducted them all to their dormitories on Wednesday night—placed them opposite to beds two by two, with much difficulty, and finally accommodated all this description of persons alluded to, leaving the inoffensive to manage in the best way they could for that night. By so acting many of the worst characters quitted the house the next day—some from distaste of confinement, and others from hearing the rules of the house read to them, which I declared to them should be carried into effect to the letter.

In following up this determination I prepared for it instantly by directing the matron to cause clothing for children to be made forthwith for their removal from the most shocking den of filth and nuisance I have ever witnessed. That task I took in hands on Monday, and succeeded in accomplishing with much difficulty, not without curses and execrations, with threats of violence from the mothers of the children; but being determined on accomplishing my object I marked out a few of the most ferocious women. I questioned them if they would submit to the rules read to them in preference to quitting the house, and after discharging a few of the recusants I fully succeeded in displacing the remainder.

To classify the children I had all the infant male children under seven years of age removed to the girls' school under the care of the schoolmistress, who felt very much annoyed at my arrangements generally. In order to coerce her to assist in the reformation of the house, so far as regarded her portion of its management, I gave directions to her on the clothing, cleaning, and caring them, and told her not to permit one of them out of their apartments. I also told her that I would report to the Board what I had done, and that if she permitted the children to return to their mothers I would be punctual in reporting the circumstance.

I have to request the inspection of the female schools, as the arrangement made by me of the infant male children has been objected to on the score of morality by the Rev. Mr. Keegan.

I inspected the dormitories and consulted the officers regarding sleeping accommodation, &c.; it is considered there is now sufficient room for all persons remaining in the house, if the arrangements made for that purpose meet the approbation of the Board.

I have also to report many other circumstances which lead to disorder in the management of the house, but not wishing to trespass on your time I merely note the heads which I will explain if called on, viz:—

1. The frequent disuse of the pump.
2. The outward gates remaining unfinished.
3. The want of infirm dormitories.
4. The necessity of a medical person inspecting the whole house daily.
5. The too frequent giving of passes.
6. The want of select messengers.
7. Full clothing for all inmates; none to be permitted to be given to persons discharged, unless the Guardians, from their view of the persons on admission, note particularly the probability of such being requisite, as laxity in this respect has defrauded the Union of quantities of clothing.

8. Appointing of persons by the master to enforce cleanliness, order, and discipline, with a small premium for their services, and punishment of the parties if their orders are not adhered to.

9. The supply of water from the canal.

10. The completion of the distillery concerns.

11. The completion of fever sheds in the magazine.

In consequence of the classing of the paupers being still incomplete the new dietary has not yet been established.

THOMAS RYAN, *Clerk of the Union.*

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 7, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th instant, forwarding minutes of proceedings of the late Board of Guardians of Tullamore Union on the 4th instant, together with a copy of a report made by you to them on the same day.

The Guardians appear not to have given any directions upon the subjects adverted to in your report in reference to the state of the workhouse; and I am to request that you will submit a copy of the report to the Vice-Guardians on their arrival at Tullamore.

Mr. LANGRISHE, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have directed the several relieving officers in this Union to continue the distribution of relief during the

ensuing week the same as last, excepting to those persons who they may think do not require the same; and as many able-bodied as there may be room for to get provisional admission into the workhouse by their tickets until next Board-day, this day-week, as it cannot be considered there was a meeting of the Board to-day, but one Vice-Guardian being present. The treasurer consented to honour the cheques, bearing my signature only, which I have issued to the several relieving officers to meet the demands upon them during the coming week. Mr. Flanagan was good enough to call on me yesterday, when we inspected the workhouse and other premises belonging thereto, which I am happy to inform you are not in as bad a state as I expected to find them from the tenor of Mr. Lamprey's report. I shall trouble you with a few remarks upon what struck me most, all of which defects I trust will be easily remedied when Mr. Butcher arrives.

The distillery which is at present occupied by about 140 men and 90 boys, will require immediate attention, inasmuch as there is not a proper master in charge of its inmates; consequently it is difficult to enforce regularity, and oblige the men and boys to return direct after their meals at the workhouse. They take advantage of this deficiency, and loiter about the town. It would be easy to erect a wooden partition in the distillery yard, and thereby afford accommodation for the male and female children; at present the yard is open to parties who occupy part of the premises not required by the workhouse. A convalescent fever-ward is also within the premises, and consequently open to the able-bodied inmates. This evil might be rectified by erecting a convalescent ward within the walls of the magazine hospital. A considerable supply of clothes will be required at once, as the greater number of the inmates are wearing their own dirty rags; a further supply of beds and bed-clothes will also be required for the fever hospital. The fever sheds are undergoing considerable repairs; the inside is being lined with brick, a brick floor laid, and a light covering of slates are being placed over the wooden roof, something similar to the patent slating, which will, I consider, make the building a durable as well as comfortable hospital, and that in a very short space of time.

At the last meeting of the late Board of Guardians a new master was elected. Should his appointment be approved of, I hope he may be at once sent down, as his services are much required. The late master might be placed in charge of the distillery.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 16, 1848.*

THE Commissioners approve the course which you have taken in the several particulars reported; and with regard to the want of clothing for the inmates, the Commissioners request that all necessary steps may be taken to supply the defect; the state of the inmates, in this respect, appears to have been quite contrary to the regulations of the Commissioners, and they further specially directed the attention of the late Board of Guardians to the subject in the circular of 11th October last.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 19, 1848.*

WE have the honour of laying the following report before your Board:—

It is a matter of considerable surprise to us, that the outstanding liabilities of this Union do not amount to a much larger sum, when we find no provision check accounts or abstracts have been kept, the late Guardians having allowed the master to order what he pleased, without ever requiring him to account for the consumption of the same; in fact, most of the master's books are perfectly useless in their present state, nor has it been the habit to send requisitions from the hospital. We were greatly struck with the enormous consumption of wine, which amounted to over three dozen per week.

Upon our inquiring from the master the actual number of inmates, he informed us he was not prepared to say, as he missed several from day to day, nor could he form any idea how long those missed were absent. We therefore resolved not to admit any paupers until the state of the house is ascertained.

It will be quite impossible to get the house into any kind of order until a new master is in charge of it, when the first step to be taken will be to classify its inmates, which has heretofore been a matter quite neglected.

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We consider it would be very desirable to appoint, say three wardmasters, at about 4s. per week and rations, also three wardmistresses at about 3s. per week and rations, as the paupers cannot be depended upon, and are in the habit of allowing the inmates to pass from one ward to another.

The are, at present, 53 women and 261 children receiving out-door relief, whose husbands and fathers respectively are inmates of the workhouse, such having been the system agreed upon by the late Board.

We have advertised for stewards to superintend the stone-breaking; also for contracts for clothing the inmates, besides other matters which are duly entered on the minutes.

The pump being out of order the supply of water has been very limited, the only means of procuring it being by raising it with buckets.

The ground attached to the workhouse has not been kept in any kind of order, but has been lying entirely waste.

A supply of implements will be required to rectify this defect, and to oblige the able-bodied to give some return for the relief afforded them in the workhouse.

It is our intention to remove the children to the distillery premises, as soon as the partition, &c., is erected, as well as a boiler for cooking.

We have placed the under-master in charge of these premises, until the able-bodied are removed.

We shall be obliged for an extension of the sealed order, bearing date 14th December, 1847, it having expired on the 14th instant; we have, notwithstanding, thought it expedient to continue out-door relief to this class, as an application for its extension could not have been made previous to this.

We have also found it necessary to extend out-door relief to the able-bodied, the sealed order having arrived a fortnight ago, all of which men will be put to work as soon as the stewards can be appointed.

We purpose placing the magazine hospital for the use of the workhouse patients, which will enable us to place the infirmary at the disposal of the females, who are at present crowded to excess; the women have been in the habit of keeping their children over two years of age in their wards, and preventing them going into the school-room; this, however, had our immediate attention.

We have requested Dr. Lamprey to form a dietary from Dr. Phelan's and another which we have procured, there having been no regular dietary in this workhouse.

But a small amount of rates having been collected during the week, and only three collectors having attended the Board-room during the week, we have considered it necessary to summons an attendance of all the collectors on Monday next, when it shall be our business to insist upon their using every means within their power, to collect the outstanding rates.

A new rate will be required to be struck at once.

The Tullamore electoral division being considerably in debt, a rate of 10s. in the pound would be required to raise a sufficient sum to pay the present debt to the house, the Relief Commissioners' loan (2300*l.*), and to meet its demands to September next. We are of opinion that it would be desirable to strike, say only half the poundage required at first, as it would be quite impossible to collect so large a poundage as 10s.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 23, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 19th instant, relating to Tullamore Union; and with reference to the consumption of wine in the hospital the Commissioners have requested the medical officer, Dr. Moorhead, to furnish them with his observations on the statement in your report.

With respect to the appointment of wardmasters and wardmistresses, I am to state that the Commissioners sanction the appointment of those officers on the terms proposed.

As regards the administration of out-door relief to women and children, whose husbands and fathers respectively are inmates of the workhouse, I am to request you will inform the Commissioners of your intentions in reference to this practice, the propriety of which the Commissioners think somewhat questionable.

With regard to the implements required for the employment of the able-

bodied receiving relief in the workhouse, I am to state that, on your furnishing an estimate of the number of each kind required, the Commissioners will request the Board of Works to furnish such implements.

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In reference to your request for a renewal of the order for out-door relief of 14th December last, I am to state, that under the more extended order, issued on the 1st February, out-door relief may be administered to the classes specified in the previous order of the 14th December last, as well as to any other class, without a fresh order, until the 1st April next, when that of the 1st February will expire, unless renewed.

As regards the dietary, I am to request you will furnish the Commissioners with a copy of that which you propose to obtain.

The Commissioners approve of measures being taken for enforcing the collection of the rates vigorously; and with regard to the striking of a new rate, I am to state, that the Commissioners will issue an order to modify the form of rate; and that the form of collector's warrant and bonds, adapted to the present crisis of the Union, can be had of the printer, Mr. Thom.

The Commissioners concur in the inexpediency of laying on so large a rate as 10s. in the pound in Tullamore electoral division.

Mr. J. H. WALSH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 1, 1848.*

As I had not the slightest intention of troubling the Poor Law Commissioners with any remonstrance on the subject of their dissolution of the Tullamore Board of Guardians, I did not, until Saturday last, even seek to know the specific grounds upon which they professed to rest its propriety, because the particular juncture selected for affixing such a stigma upon it rendered the measure so peculiarly unjustifiable, as to indicate the total abandonment by the Commissioners to the furtherance of some unworthy intrigue, of those attributes of deliberative impartiality and justice necessary to impart weight and importance to their opinions.

It is therefore only in deference to the wishes of members of the Board who will not silently submit to an unmerited stigma, that I now claim the re-consideration of your charges.

The dissolution of the Board professes to be grounded, first, on the report of the medical *locum tenens*; secondly, on the inconveniences occasioned by the delay in the appointment of a competent master by the Board's election, on the 17th of December, of a person who had formerly held that situation in the same Union, and from which he had been dismissed; thirdly, on the financial mismanagement of the Board.

In reference to the first and the main ground of their proceeding, I have to observe, that the report was apparently volunteered by a provisional officer; that it certainly manifests an excess of inculpatory zeal—for the medical reporter extends his critical reprehension beyond the limits of his sanitary province; and, upon a report emanating from such a source, and characterized by such a spirit, unquestioned and untested, the Poor Law Commissioners mainly rest the precipitate infliction of an aggravated burden upon an overtaxed people, and of the deepest insult upon individuals in their power to inflict. This, apart from the fact that I am assured it can be established—that the gravest charge conveyed in the report admits of an explanation creditable to the administrative sagacity of the Board—that the second in importance was founded in error and misconception—that others were chiefly referable to the extensive prevalence of disease—and the rest either exaggerated, trivial, or unfounded.

In the delinquency involved in the inconveniences resulting from the election of a discarded master, the Poor Law Commissioners and their medical inspector largely participate. His nomination was referred by one of his supporters to the opinion expressed by your medical inspector, and justly expressed by him, that the objections to his re-election were not insuperable; and when his election was reported to the Commissioners, so far from the immediate refusal of their sanction to his appointment, they invited further communication, and, consequently, further delay, by stating that the rule in such cases could not be departed from unless on special cause shown.

The charge of financial mismanagement is indeed a strange one. In September the debts of the Board were 3157*l.* On the 31st of January they had been reduced to 1056*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, and this effected with a weekly expenditure gradually and steadily increasing from 78*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* to 260*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, and the number of

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paupers receiving relief from 679, in September, to 5066, in January, 1466 within and 3600 without the workhouse; and the weekly collections from 87*l.* 10*s.* to 405*l.* 18*s.* Are these the evidences of the inability of the Board to provide, or the disinclination to extend protection to the poor? If not, does their financial mismanagement rest on the fact of their dismissal of four collectors—on the measures in progress to bring the statutable penalties to bear upon others, and on their conspicuous exhibition in their Board-room of the names of the principal defaulters?

But even were all the Commissioners' charges fully sustained, and had the Board previously exhibited great administrative neglect, the time selected for their abrupt dismissal rendered the measure perfectly inexcusable. Their warrant of dismissal reached the Board when assembled at an adjourned meeting on the 5th of February—their seventh meeting within 16 days, most of them prolonged to 7 o'clock at night, one of them embracing 12 successive hours. Much of the confusion occasioned by the pressure on the house in mid-winter had already yielded to those persevering exertions; and the foundations had been laid for the restoration of order, the correction of abuses, and the protection of the poor, by providing extended accommodation, by subjecting speculative applications to an efficient test, without imposing upon the families of distressed labourers the miseries of houseless destitution. While thus engaged in the anxious and unremitting discharge of their most painful and laborious duties, strenuously exerting themselves to apply the most effectual corrective to every existing abuse and irregularity, comes the insulting warrant of the Commissioners for their contumacious discharge. I claim at your hands the retraction of unfounded charges, as the only atonement now in your power for the wide-spread defamation to which your act has subjected the Tullamore Guardians. The second and third charges are perfectly unsustainable, and the first remains to be subjected to the test of a proper investigation.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have received your letter of the 1st inst., expressing your disapproval of the course taken by them in dissolving the Board of Guardians of Tullamore Union, of which you were the chairman.

The Commissioners do not expect, in the discharge of the duty devolving on them under the 18th section of the Temporary Poor Relief Extension Act, always to meet with approval and satisfaction from the parties whose administrative default has been the occasion of the Commissioners being constrained to exercise their powers under that section, nor do they consider themselves bound to enter into explanation with individuals as to the manner in which they have exercised those powers.

In deference, however, to your late position as chairman of the dissolved Board, the Commissioners direct me to reply, that if any justification were wanting of the step they took, it would be found in a report received by them from the Vice-Guardians of the Union shortly after assuming the discharge of their duties.

In this report the Vice-Guardians state:—

"It is a matter of considerable surprise to us that the outstanding liabilities of the Union do not amount to a much larger sum, when we find no provision check accounts or abstracts have been kept, the late Guardians having allowed the master to order what he pleased, without ever requiring him to account for the consumption of the same.

"Upon our inquiring from the master the actual number of inmates, he was not prepared to say, as he missed several from day to day, nor could he form any idea how long those he missed were absent."

The Commissioners observe also that on the minutes of the Guardians of the 4th February, the day on which the order of dissolution was received by the Guardians, a long report appears from the clerk of the Union, stating that various abuses had crept into the management of the workhouse, and detailing the steps which he himself had taken at the desire of the Guardians for the purpose of endeavouring to restore order in the workhouse. The clerk in this report states:—

"My attention having been latterly directed to the management of the workhouse, I observed many abuses requiring reform. In order to call your attention to some of the most glaring of these abuses which have crept into the government of the establishment, I annex them in detail.

"In consequence of the over-crowding of the house and the almost total want of clothing, the persons admitted remain for a length of time in their filthy disgusting rags." Tullamore Union.

The clerk then proceeds to detail the measures which he took for the purpose of carrying out the views of the Guardians in order to lessen the number of inmates "supposed to be in the workhouse," (1569 according to the master's books), "and the stopping of relief in food to persons not remaining in the house."

By the prompt measures which he took in "insisting on whole families remaining in the house, and by putting a complete stop to the giving of food to any person not remaining in the house," the clerk considers that he reduced the number by 400; and on taking an account of the number in each dormitory at bed-time he ascertained there were actually only 1180 in the house.

He continues:—

"As I anticipated there would be a great outcry by disorderly individuals who had been much disappointed in not being permitted to go away after their meals or taking home food with them, such of that class of persons as had remained on Monday showed symptoms of great disorder."

Further he states:—

"I conducted all to their dormitories on Wednesday night, placed them opposite to beds two by two with much difficulty, and finally accommodated all this description of persons alluded to, leaving the inoffensive to manage the best way they could for that night. By so acting many of the worst characters quitted the house next day; some from distaste of confinement, and others from having the rules of the house read to them, which I declared to them should be carried into effect to the letter.

"In following up this determination I prepared for it instantly, by directing the matron to cause clothing for the children to be made forthwith for their removal from the most shocking den of filth and nuisance I have ever witnessed. That task I took in hand on Monday, and proceeded in accomplishing with much difficulty, not without curses and execrations, and threats of violence from the mothers of the children; but being determined on accomplishing my object, I marked out a few of the most ferocious women; I questioned them if they would submit to the rules read to them in preference to quitting the house, and after discharging a few of the recusants, I succeeded in displacing the remainder."

The scenes thus reported by the clerk on the 4th February appear by his report to have occurred from the Monday to the Wednesday inclusive of the previous week, at the close of which Dr. Lamprey's visit to the workhouse took place, when he found it in the condition described in his letter to the Commissioners of the 31st January.

With such a description recorded on the minutes of the Guardians in a report from their own officer, the Commissioners regard with surprise your endeavour as chairman of the Guardians to represent Dr. Lamprey's report as overcharged, and as characterized by a wrong spirit. You state that "the gravest charge conveyed in that report admits of an explanation creditable to the administrative sagacity of the Board; the second in importance was error and misconception; that others were chiefly referable to the extensive prevalence of disease, and the rest either exaggerated, trivial, or unfounded."

That the disorders described by the clerk had been remedied by the exertions of that officer to some extent before Dr. Lamprey's visit, the Commissioners see no reason to doubt, but on the other hand it is not within the range of probability that the utter confusion prevailing in that establishment on the 21st January could, without the presence of a responsible and competent master, have been brought in a few days into such a state of order and regularity as would justify your comments on Dr. Lamprey's report; and as you do not particularize the statements in that report to which your several observations apply, the Commissioners have no means of considering what weight is due to them. They feel, however, well satisfied that abuses like those which undoubtedly prevailed in Tullamore workhouse could not have arisen otherwise than through default of the Board of Guardians; and although they have not called in question either the activity or administrative sagacity of individual Guardians, they could not, on the information before them, accord that praise to the Board collectively, or doubt for a moment that the time had arrived for exercising their power under the 18th section of the Extension Act.

Tullamore Union.

You say the Commissioners participate in having caused the inconveniences resulting from the election by the Guardians of a master previously dismissed from the same office in the same Union. The appointment of that person was, as the Guardians must have been aware when they made it, invalid, without the previous consent of the Commissioners under the 33rd section of 1 and 2 Vict., cap. 56. The Commissioners on being informed of this untoward proceeding at once pointed out to the Guardians their error; the Guardians persisted in asking the consent of the Commissioners, which they at once peremptorily declined to give. You say that the intermediate letter of the Commissioners invited further communication, and consequently caused further delay.

The letter of the Commissioners (dated 30th December) was in the following terms, addressed to yourself as chairman:—

“ Mr. Prescott having been dismissed from that office by an order of the Poor Law Commissioners, under seal, could not legally under section 33 of the Irish Poor Relief Act (1 and 2 Vict., cap. 56) be again appointed to any Union office without the consent of the Commissioners, which has not yet been given and must be withheld unless some very special grounds to justify them in giving their assent be shown. The expectation that he would correct his defects, as expressed in your communication, is not sufficient to warrant his being placed in so important an office, and especially where improvement is so much required in the Union officers, as in Tullamore Union. The Commissioners must therefore request the Guardians to proceed to the appointment of some other person as master of the workhouse.”

It was not possible for the Commissioners to go further in repudiating this appointment, unless they could anticipate that the Guardians had no special reasons to offer for so remarkable a proceeding. It resulted, in fact, that the Guardians had no sufficient reasons, but to have absolutely precluded all further communication on the subject would have been an act of official discourtesy of which the Commissioners feel assured that you, as their chairman, would not have failed to complain.

You think that the Commissioners have done injustice to the late Board of Guardians by imputing to them financial mismanagement.

The Commissioners have therefore reviewed their expressions on this head, and the circumstances existing at the time when they dissolved the Board, and they are of opinion that their observations were by no means unjust to the Guardians.

You state that the debts of the Board were 3157*l.* in September last, and were reduced to 1056*l.* on the 31st January.

These several amounts, however, are irrespective of 7623*l.* due to the Relief Commissioners for advances made under the Temporary Relief Act.

With these liabilities before them, and with the prospect of being called on to administer out-door relief in a season of severe distress, the Guardians in August, September, and October last, placed warrants in the hands of their collectors to levy rates to the amount of 9991*l.*, which they had made in the month of June. Of this rate 3528*l.* remained uncollected on the 31st January last, and though the large debts to contractors (the occasion usually of disadvantageous contracts most injurious to the ratepayers) were reduced to 1056*l.* by means of the first proceeds of the rates on the 31st January, the financial position of the Union at that date must be regarded as most disastrous, with an expenditure (as you state) of 260*l.* weekly, to be provided for for some months to come, besides the large debt unliquidated, the best season for collecting rates having been allowed to pass by; and this quite irrespective of the sums due to Government, for which no provision at all had been made.

It is clear therefore that on the 31st January last the financial state of the Union required an exertion to be made which the past proceedings of the Guardians did not justify the Commissioners in anticipating from them.

The Commissioners have now reviewed at your desire the several grounds on which they based the order dissolving the Board of Guardians of Tullamore Union, and the appointment of paid officers. They are unable, however, to comply with your demand of a retraction of any charges they have put forward against the late Board. Notwithstanding the apprehension you express regarding the increased burthens falling on the ratepayers by the appointment of paid officers, the Commissioners do not doubt that a step calculated to restore confidence to contractors, order to the workhouse, and due accountability in regard to the expenses of that

establishment, will prove to be a measure of the utmost prudence and economy, and conducive to the best interests of the ratepayers; and their sincere hope is, that the Vice-Guardians, after the expiration of the term of office prescribed by the statute, will render back their trust into the hands of an elective Board, in a manner creditable to themselves and to the Commissioners; and that at such a juncture the workhouse will be found in an orderly state, under the government of responsible officers competent to keep it in that state, and the funds of the Union free from the pressure of incumbrance and embarrassment, and applicable wholly and exclusively to the prospective relief of the destitute poor.

Tullamore Union.

Mr. J. H. WALSH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 18, 1848.*

YOUR letter of the 11th claims from me some observations which I should have immediately forwarded had not my attention been since engaged by matters of paramount interest.

Having charged the Poor Law Commissioners with participating in causing the inconveniences resulting from the appointment of a dismissed master, I beg to state that the concluding paragraphs of their letter of the 30th of December completely exonerate them from that imputation. Not having received or read that letter, the recorded grounds of the prolonged negotiations respecting the appointments which made no reference to these paragraphs were alone before me when I made that charge; I have therefore to regret having been thus led to advance it.

I should have been justified in much harsher comments on the report of the medical *locum tenens*, by the explanations and averments which were made to me respecting it; and if I did not particularize the statements to which my observations applied, it was for the obvious reason that the Poor Law Commissioners had not any authenticated facts before them to enable them to estimate the weight due to my observations, which could only be ascertained by applying to them the test of the investigation which I invited.

I think the Poor Law Commissioners would have exercised a sounder discretion in resisting the temptation of propping up their sentence of condemnation by a reference to statements, however graphic and piquant, with which at the time of the exercise of their judicial functions they were totally unacquainted. If constitutional writers hold in abhorrence the doctrine of constructive treason, how would they shudder at the practice of speculative sentences of condemnation. Nor does the posthumous discovery justify their sentence of dissolution. The clerk did but carry out the emphatic injunctions of the Board for the restoration of order; and to the master's admitted incompetency and recognized integrity the circumstances to which the Vice-Guardians advert are referable; he was as incapable of performing his various duties as he was of doing an act of dishonesty.

What, however, but the admitted existence of confusion and the fixed determination of terminating it, could have induced the extraordinary exertions of the Board; following up seven hours' labour on the 21st by twelve hours of harassing exertions on the 22nd; meeting again on the 25th; engaged upwards of seven hours on the 28th, and thus continuing prolonged sittings at short intervals until the 5th of February, when the Poor Law Commissioners' courteous appreciation of their extraordinary exertions reached them in the shape of a contumelious discharge.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your further communication of the 18th instant, relating to the dissolution of the late Board of Guardians of Tullamore Union, and am to state in reply that the Commissioners referred to the clerk's report upon the minutes of the 4th February, in reference only to the reflections cast by you on the accuracy of Dr. Lamprey's description of the state of the workhouse at the time of his visit.

The Commissioners again acknowledge the exertions made by individual members of the Board of Guardians to restore order in the workhouse, and to establish a proper administration of relief; their confidence, however, in the ability of the Board to contend with the present difficulties of their position, was not such as to justify the Commissioners in not exercising their power under the 18th section of the Temporary Poor Relief Extension Act.

Tullamore Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 26, 1848.*

YOU will see by the minutes of this week that we have taken the necessary steps for immediately procuring a master for this workhouse.

We have deferred appointing the wardmasters and mistresses until the new master is in charge.

In consequence of Dr. Lamprey's being unsuccessful in an operation performed by him upon a child on Thursday last, and a general feeling of ill-will towards him on account of his having struck off a large number from bread diet, the whole house was in an uproar on Friday; the women succeeded in breaking open the gates, and would have torn him to pieces had he not escaped into the fever hospital. Dr. Lamprey has in consequence resigned, and Dr. Moorhead has resumed his duties. An inquest was held on the body to-day, which interrupted our business, and prevented our examining all the candidates for superintending the stone-breaking.

As there are immense quantities of broken stones throughout the Union, we think it would be advisable to provide for the able-bodied heads of families in the workhouse, and allow their wives and children to receive out-door relief. We shall be obliged for your opinion on this subject.

We propose authorizing relieving officers (should such be sanctioned by your Board) to issue orders signed by them for the amount of rations allowed to those able-bodied receiving out-door relief. The retailers will give the value of the orders, upon the security of the relieving officers, in meal, to those paupers whose names are on the orders, upon their presenting the same; if the pauper is not satisfied with the quality of meal offered by one retailer, he can go to the next, so there will be a competition among them. This system, if adopted, will prevent the loss on weighing small quantities, as well as the necessary expense of storage, &c.

Should such meet your approbation, we would suggest the propriety of calling a meeting of the rate-payers in each electoral division, on some one day in each fortnight, to examine the relieving officers' list, and forward to us (if any) a list of those persons receiving relief who they consider are not entitled to the same.

The collectors have by no means satisfied us with their collections during the past week; but we trust that a much more considerable sum will be paid into the hands of the treasurer before next Board-day.

The late Board of Guardians authorized the collector for the Cappincur electoral division to collect only half the poundage, which will account for the large amount uncollected in that division. We have, however, directed the collector to call in the outstanding half at once, as such a system cannot be recognized.

We understand that the Relief Committee intend again taking upon them the management of the Magazine Fever Hospital, under the Temporary Fever Act, which they gave up to the care of the late Guardians, when no funds could be procured to support it from that Board.

At a meeting of the late Guardians, held the 4th instant (the day of their dissolution), it was agreed that Mr. Quirk, apothecary to the workhouse, should be paid at the rate of 5s. a-day, amounting to 7*l.*, as a fair remuneration for his services during the time intervening between Dr. Moorhead's accident and Dr. Lamprey's appointment.

The copy of the matron's report transmitted to us has had our attention.

For particulars as to the new dietary we beg to refer you to the minutes of this week.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 2, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 26th ultimo, relating to Tullamore Union; and in reference to the inquest held on the body of a child who died in the workhouse, I am to request that you will inform the Commissioners of the proceedings at the inquest, and will furnish them with a copy of the verdict.

As regards the providing for able-bodied heads of families in the workhouse, while their families receive out-door relief, I am to state that it is a course which with your present powers you can legally take, and the question is one of expediency.

The Commissioners have no objection to leaving the matter in your hands to

try the experiment, if you feel satisfied that in present circumstances it would be attended with good results: great care, however, must be taken to give due relief to the families not admitted into the workhouse, while the able-bodied men are relieved in that establishment, inasmuch as if they should be exposed to unnecessary privations, the Vice-Guardians will incur much blame.

As regards the issue of orders by the relieving officers to retail traders, for rations to persons receiving out-door relief, the Commissioners fear that the course proposed is liable to great abuses, and would cause great dissatisfaction. The Commissioners would prefer that the expense should be incurred of storage and of persons to assist the relieving officers in dispensing the meal; one such assistant might serve for more relieving officers than one.

With respect to the proposed meetings of rate-payers, it should be distinctly understood that the course proposed, if entered upon, must not interfere with the duties of the relieving officers, or the functions of the Vice-Guardians, whose duty it is to determine in each case whether and what relief shall be given; and the rate-payers should only furnish the Vice-Guardians with information for the purpose of assisting them in the discharge of their duty.

The Commissioners sanction the rate of remuneration proposed to be paid to Mr. Quirk, the temporary apothecary of the workhouse.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

AN unpleasant business has again occurred to-day at the workhouse; the able-bodied (with but very few exceptions) refused to work, making as an excuse that they had not received clothes; upon being a second time called upon, when they were told if they persisted their milk should be stopped at dinner to-day, as well as breakfast to-morrow, they still held out, and would not work. We therefore ordered the punishment to be put in force. When called to dinner they insisted upon getting their milk, rushed out of the hall to make an attack upon us. We were obliged to make our escape, and called upon Major Snow, the resident magistrate, who advised us to give the milk to-day; but should they persist on Monday in refusing to work, he would give us the assistance of the police and military if necessary.

The revising valuator has not yet made a return of his revision of any of the divisions, although called upon at different times to do so.

There remains at present 2,442*l.* of rates uncollected, of which only 1600*l.*, as far as we can learn, will be available, and that with much difficulty, the greater part of it being in small sums. The balance in bank, after paying 189*l.* this day, is only 147*l.* We were unable to pay more than 50*l.* to-day, besides 139*l.* for out-door relief for the coming week.

We greatly fear, that in consequence of our not having received the returns from the revising valuator, before the new rate can be in course of collection we shall be out of funds, the present liabilities of the Union amounting to 1620*l.*, and this not including officers' salaries.

The Board of Works' storekeeper could not supply us with any spades or shovels; the other articles required are in our possession.

With respect to the inquest on the child, we are unable to furnish you with a copy of the verdict, as we have not yet been able to obtain it; however, we can, from our own recollection, give you the necessary particulars. All the witnesses proved that every attention was paid to the child by Dr. Lamprey, which was confirmed by Dr. Moorhead's post mortem examination. Verdict, "Died from natural causes."

In October, 1846, a letter was received from your Board, allowing the school-master's wife to live in the house, where she has been ever since, without giving any assistance in any of the departments.

REPLY to the foregoing;—*March 10, 1848.*

WITH regard to the refusal of the able-bodied paupers to work when called upon, I am directed by the Commissioners to point out that refusal to work is a gross act of misbehaviour in an inmate of a workhouse, and punishable as such, under the 58th section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, and the Commissioners

Tullamore Union. recommend immediate proceedings against several of the most refractory of the inmates in question.

As regards the schoolmaster's wife living in the workhouse, I am to state that you can, if you see fit, supersede the arrangement made in accordance with the wish of the late Board of Guardians on a former occasion.

In reference to your statement respecting the revising valuator, the Commissioners have called upon him for an explanation.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 14, 1848.*

ADVERTING to recent communications relative to the consumption of wine in the hospitals of the Tullamore Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which they have received on the subject from Dr. Moorhead, the medical officer of the workhouse of Tullamore Union, together with a copy of observations of their Inspector, Dr. Phelan, thereon, and I am to state that the Commissioners concur in Dr. Phelan's views on this subject.

ENCLOSURE.

Dr. MOORHEAD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 25, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your communication of the 23rd instant, which has been forwarded to me here. I contracted a cough while in Steevens' hospital, and by the advice of medical friends moved to the country for change of air.

In reference to the statement contained in the report of the Vice-Guardians, to the effect that the consumption of wine in the Union hospital amounted, before the dissolution of the late Board, to more than three dozen in the week, I apprehend an oversight has occurred. The weekly consumption of wine has not been restricted to the Union hospital, by which I mean Union fever hospital; but has taken place in it, the workhouse infirmary, and temporary fever hospital established here under the Central Board of Health. Thus three institutions, and not one, have contributed to the item referred to.

During the weeks immediately preceding the dissolution of the late Board I had been unavoidably absent; I cannot, therefore, speak from personal knowledge of what may have occurred, but I have consulted the master's Provision Check Account book, and according to it the consumption of wine does not appear to have "exceeded three dozen weekly."

There appears to have been 37 bottles used in the week ending February the 12th, which is rather above the consumption of any week in January.

The temporary hospital has required generally about one-half the whole quantity used. I have formed a small table, which I take leave to enclose, showing this, and the number of patients in that institution, weekly, from December 4th, to Saturday last, February 19th, both weeks inclusive. A reference to it will also show that the total quantity consumed has been absolutely greater in the three weeks of February than in the preceding ones, while that used in the temporary hospital, as compared with the number of patients, affords a higher average still.

Enclosure referred to.

TABLE showing the TOTAL QUANTITY of WINE consumed Weekly, the Portion required by Temporary Hospital, and the Number of Patients under Treatment in that Institution, in each Week, from Saturday, December 4, 1847, to Saturday, February 19, 1848, both weeks inclusive.

Week ending	Total Consumption of Wine—Bottles.	Of which used in Temporary Hospital.	Number of Patients treated weekly.
December 4 .	15	7	111
„ 11 .	17	10	122
„ 18 .	41	15	115
„ 25 .	4	14	121
January 1 .	14	6	108
„ 8 .	16	4	103
„ 15 .	25	9 & 20 oz.	102
„ 22 .	35	18 & 4 oz.	89
„ 29 .	36	18	97
February 5 .	35	16	78
„ 12 .	37	18	66
„ 19 .	30	12	61

M. J. MOORHEAD.

W. Stanley, Esq., Secretary,
Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin.

OBSERVATIONS of Dr. PHELAN, Inspector.

Tullamore Union.

I HAVE examined these papers, and although I feel that it is impossible to give a satisfactory opinion on the point without devoting some time to an examination of the cases under treatment, I would observe that the consumption of wine does appear considerable, and is particularly so when compared with that in many other workhouse infirmaries and fever hospitals, in which the mortality is not higher, in some not so high, as at Tullamore. Taking the five weeks ended the 19th of February, 82 bottles, or 2050 oz. of wine were consumed in the temporary fever hospital; the number of patients under treatment being 391, but of course all not under treatment daily during three weeks; as those that are admitted and discharged, and that die in each week, are included. Assuming that one-tenth of that number, or 40, required wine daily, 51 oz. would be given to each per week, more than 7 oz. per day; a high average.

In many fever hospitals, particularly of late since the epidemic has declined, wine is not ordered for one-tenth of the fever patients; in several there is scarcely any wine given, but whiskey as punch, or mixed with milk, as in the Belfast Hospital, or with the addition of good porter, as suggested by the Central Board of Health; and I find that under this treatment the mortality is as low as where wine is more freely used. The medical officer should not be restricted as to the giving of wine, but I am of opinion that in many cases whiskey and porter answer as well; and perhaps it may not be amiss to intimate to the medical officer that in such cases, as the cheaper article may be deemed sufficient, the dearer article should not be used.

D. PHELAN.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

THERE has been no regular dietary used in the house to any class excepting the adults, consequently we have had no opportunity of testing that approved of by Dr. Phelan, with the exception of that for the first class. We have now adopted a dietary formed from Dr. Phelan's letter, and that suggested by him to the late Board.

There has been a very considerable reduction in the consumption of wine since our report of the 19th February, when it exceeded three dozen per week; the quantity required for the ensuing week is only six bottles, besides a reduction in that of porter from about 40 bottles to 4. The use of brandy has been almost entirely given up, whiskey being the substitute.

There still remains uncollected out of the last warrants 2200*l.*; the amount collected during the past week is 233*l.*, out of which 152*l.* was paid for out-door relief for next week, and 55*l.* 3*s.* sundry disbursements, leaving in bank about 100*l.* We are very apprehensive of being run short of money before any of the new rate can be collected; the demand for out-door relief being greatly on the increase. The only bank in this town is a branch of the Bank of Ireland, which bank will not advance in case of our being run short.

The collectors of the Tullamore, Durrow, and Rathfeston divisions, dismissed by the late Board, have not yet closed their warrants for a former rate.

We have selected the stewards to superintend the stone-breaking which will commence forthwith.

We propose relieving the heads of families whose dependents exceed four in number in the house, and those under, to break stones. This system we consider will keep down the number of applicants, when they find they must work eight hours a day for the rations of five and under.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 25, 1848.*

WE have at length received all the rate-books from Mr. Fitzpatrick, his revision of the Union being completed. All the rate-books are copied except Tullamore division, which is in hands.

There being considerable balances still uncollected in some divisions, we have thought it expedient to give the collectors until Thursday week to close their warrants.

The collector of the Durrow division having resigned from ill health, and a considerable sum being still uncollected, we shall be glad to know whether we should appoint another, or carry the balance on as arrears.

The clerk will have his statement of the liabilities and probable sums required by each division completed on Tuesday next, when we shall examine the same and strike the new rates accordingly.

Tullamore Union.

There remains about 200*l.* in bank after paying the different accounts as recorded on our minutes of this week.

We have entered into a contract for supplies of American manufactured Indian meal for out-door relief for one month, at a reasonable rate, 16*s.* 2*d.* per barrel of 14 stone, delivered.

With regard to Dr. Ridley's account, we quoted the resolution of the late Board in error in our report of the 11th instant; the date was the 15th October, and not September, and to which we beg to refer you. We are informed by Dr. Ridley that there was a certificate issued by the Board of Health in respect to Tullamore dispensary. The late Board held themselves responsible for Dr. Ridley's remuneration.

We put the law in full force against some of the refractory male inmates of this workhouse, which has had the desired effect of subduing those remaining in the house.

The classifying of the house will require great attention, as the females are very troublesome, and will not allow their children to be removed without we fear extreme measures being adopted. The male portion of the schools we have removed to the distillery premises, where we have erected a boiler, &c., which will keep it quite separate from the house; the female portion of the children shall be removed early next week.

The stone-breaking is in operation; the lists will thereby be greatly reduced. The sealed order authorizing the extension of out-door relief to the able-bodied will expire on the 1st April; a continuance of the same will be required, as but little employment offers.

BANTRY UNION.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain GORDON :—*January 29, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from the Under Secretary's Office, relating to the decease of a girl (named Bridget Downing), who it is stated died from destitution and cold; and I am to request that you will make such inquiry into the circumstances, as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. MORGAN, Sub-Inspector, to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL :—*January 24, 1848.*

A GIRL named Bridget Downing, of Kilcotherin, parish of Kilcotherin, barony of Bear, eight years of age, died from destitution and cold, on the 20th instant. I hear that the family were receiving rations from relieving officer, till it was ascertained that the father was in employment.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, in answer to your communication of the 29th January, respecting the decease of Bridget Downing, of Kilcathereen, that I had previously made inquiry into the circumstances of the case, and it appeared that the father was employed at the mines.

I now enclose the answers of the relieving officer, to the queries proposed by me.

ENCLOSURE.

QUERIES to be answered by the Relieving Officer of Kilcathereen, and this paper transmitted without delay to Captain Gordon.

ANSWERS.

Did Bridget Downing, who is reported to have died of destitution and cold on the 20th, or any of her family, apply to you for relief?

What was the date of application, and how did you dispose of the case?

It is stated you gave relief to the child until you ascertained that the father was employed, under what class did you return her, and was she sickly?

Do you know what wages the father was earning?

The mother of the girl did apply for relief, and represented herself as a widow.

Application was made on the 3rd January. I gave provisional relief for three weeks until I ascertained that the mother had imposed herself as a widow, and that the father was employed at the mines.

Under the class of children belonging to widows, in column 13, section 1. It is believed she was sickly.

Did not know until two days since, when I was informed that he had received but 7s. for a month, his contract as a miner having turned out badly.

I know of no others.

State any further particulars.

Bantry, January 31, 1848.

(Signed) H. W. GORDON,
Captain 59th Regiment.

(Signed) ANTHONY NICHOLSON,
Relieving Officer.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 2, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that everything is going on favourably, and plenty of accommodation available; our numbers on Saturday amounting only to 850, and even most part of these can be turned out for employment close to Bantry, but the necessity for doing so does not at present exist.

Agreeably to the resolutions of the 25th, the master has performed the duty therein called upon to do, and discharged over 100 from his books whom he could not find, or who, I should say, did not answer their names.

I was at Castletown Berehaven on Thursday, Friday, and a part of Saturday, and found many attempts made in the northern parish to find cases of starvation, but without success, except in a case where a party held land, and a child whose father was employed at the mines, and about which I shall further report.

Bantry Union.

I found also that the parties who were discharged for work, refused to undertake it, considering the task too hard, and Mr. Payne was unable to procure labourers. The men could not give the work a fair trial, coming late to their work, and returning long before the day was over. The money allowed is $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ a perch for the opening of the drains from 2 feet 6 inches to 2 feet 10 inches deep; and I am assured they can even at this time of the year earn as high as $10d.$ or $11d.$ a-day.

The whole of the labouring classes are now running to and fro, trying to obtain medical certificates, stating their inability to work, in order to obtain provisional relief; and unless great firmness is shown by the relieving officers the able-bodied will all go to bed in order to obtain gratuitous relief.

I have arranged with Mr. Payne that each man is to have a task set to himself, and he may bring his wife and children to assist him in the work; and I am in hopes they will consider their present destitute condition, and go to work.

I am happy to say that applications are in for money under the Land Improvement Act, viz., from Timothy O'Donovan, Esq., J.P., from Richard O'Donovan, Esq., J.P., and Rev. Alleyn Evanson, J.P., in Kilcrohane, and from Richard Evanson, Esq., from West Durrus; and if these works could be reported upon, all would go on well, since there is at present no work in those divisions, and the principal part of our present workhouse inmates came from that part of the Union. If the Board of Works would authorize Mr. Hussey, the Drainage Inspector for this barony, to report upon these works, I would feel myself greatly obliged, although I am aware the two divisions in question belong to the barony of West Division, West Carbery, but in this Union.

A great deal of dysentery, small-pox, and fever, at present prevail. However, the vaccination contracts having been made, I am in hopes one scourge will soon be stopped.

Another relieving officer has been named by the Guardians for Kilmacomogue, and has received orders forthwith to take over the district from Mr. Eccles. An additional relieving officer has been added to this district (Bantry), and who divides it with Mr. Power, whose salary will be reduced, and the whole sum not exceed $70l.$ per annum.

I recommended the increased salary to the relieving officers of the Castletown district, since they are put to heavy travelling expenses; and I do not think their services could be secured unless an advance is made.

Mr. O'Sullivan, rate collector, has been again cautioned relative to the acknowledgment of sufficient moneys, and also the necessity of his lodging as fast as he collects, and I trust he will attend to the instructions given him.

I trust you will not consider that in the resolution with respect to the breaking of stones by female paupers, that the Vice-Guardians are actuated by any feelings of harshness; but I can assure the Commissioners that there is no other work to put the females to, and they must consequently be idle, except the numbers washing the house, since they neither sew, card, nor spin, and it could not be practicable to attempt anything of the kind.

The stone-breaking they have been accustomed to, and will continue to be employed on the drainage works in a similar manner; and indeed the out-door relief lists could not be effectually cleared of widows, except work can be found for them, as it is now in one division, Kilaskin.

P.S.—If the four applications before alluded to were sanctioned, every pauper might be discharged from the workhouse, and the three first classes again offered tickets, or at any rate those who have never yet been in the house might be made to enter.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*February 12, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have addressed the Vice-Guardians on the subject of the proposed increase of the salaries of the relieving officers of the Castletown district, and the employment of the female inmates of the workhouse in stone-breaking.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners cannot approve of the employment of females in a workhouse in breaking stones.

The Commissioners have communicated with the Board of Works with regard to the applications for loans under the Land Improvement Act, from proprietors in the Kilcrohane and West Durrus electoral divisions.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 8, 1848.*

Bantry Union.

I HAVE the honour to report that the disinclination on the part of the labouring classes still continues; they maintain, without giving it a trial, that they cannot earn sufficient wages, in fact it had arrived so far that all the labourers struck work (although in extreme destitution), and the Board this day inquired minutely into the case, Mr. Payne, J. P., being present.

One relieving officer reported that the men in his district could not earn 4*d.* a-day, but he acknowledged that they came late to work, and went away early, and even when at the drains were very idle. It also appeared from what he said, and which was corroborated by others, that some labourers only opened a few yards of a drain, 2 feet 6 inches deep, and in consequence only earned 1*d.* and 2*d.* a-day.

In answer to this Mr. Payne, J.P., said that he had procured strangers from Dunmanway, and yesterday at half-past nine these men commenced the work which the others had declined, and that these parties earned 1*s.* each before night.

The Vice-Guardians and myself are placed in a very serious position, since I really believe that sooner than work, these parties will let their families starve, and starve themselves.

To-morrow four paupers are to be put to the same kind of work, and it will be seen what they can earn, and if it is proved they can earn at this time of the year from 9*d.* to 1*s.* a-day, I consider that the parties should be allowed to suffer if they do not work.

A request was made in the minutes of the 25th January, for permission to take legal proceedings against Robert White, Esq., for the non-payment of his rate, as reported to the Vice-Guardians by Arthur Hutchinson, Esq., rate collector; he has again reported this circumstance, and although Mr. White says he has not possession of the lands in question, yet the tenants say he has.

I am also very anxious to know if the Commissioners approve of the Vice-Guardians paying an instalment of 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound, in order to meet the wishes of their creditors, many of whom are almost bankrupts in consequence.

I would propose to the Guardians the borrowing a sum of 3500*l.* to pay off all debts, if I had the sanction of the Commissioners, and I cannot too strongly recommend this course, since we might with our present rate, get on well for some time, and I do not think it would be advisable just at this present time to strike another rate upon any division.

If the Commissioners sanction this arrangement, I think there will be no difficulty in procuring the loan at 5 per cent.

The attempts to prove deaths by famine continue; but I can detect no case where the party has applied for relief, I am aware a report has been made by the Sub-Inspector here relative to the deaths of two children of Cornelius Lynch, of Shandrum. I enclose queries I put to the relieving officer, and his reply, and cannot say that I think they died of famine, but of small-pox.

The out-door relief in this electoral division has reached as high as 59*l.* a-week. However, the school lists are being revised; and I hope, as in the Skibbereen and Kenmare Unions, that we may make them assist the rates.

ENCLOSURE.

Bantry, February 6, 1848.

QUERIES FOR RELIEVING OFFICER.

Did Cornelius Lynch, of Shandrum, or any of his family apply to you for relief?

If so, state date of application and how you disposed of the case?

It is reported that two of his children died of starvation, state what you know of this matter?

Cornelius Lynch never applied to me for relief of any kind; and the clerk who I have employed tells me he never saw him at my place at any time I may have had occasion to be absent.

His children, who are said to have died of starvation, had a very severe attack of small-pox for some time before they died, which may have caused their deaths.

(Signed) H. W. GORDON,
Captain 59th Regiment.

(Signed) E. POWER, *Relieving Officer.*
February 7, 1848.

A true copy.

February 8, 1848.

H. W. GORDON, *Captain 59th Regiment.*

Bantry Union.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*February 9, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of my report of yesterday's date, further to inform you that I left Bantry this morning at an early hour, and, with the relieving officer for Kilcaskin (to whom I made allusion yesterday), I visited the Earl of Bantry's drainage works in progress. At the first work I came to I found but few men actually at work, the others having gone a short distance for meal on credit of their work.

However, on the others coming up, I assembled them, and explained fully their conduct towards their families, who were now almost starving in consequence: that they would get nothing but work, and work they must.

They promised me they would come early, work like men, and go home late. I found some men had earned yesterday (a bad day) working leisurely, 6*d.* a man, and am sure they could earn a shilling (and more where their families assist them).

I next visited the work at Dromlloo (the most difficult ground), and although I found but few men, yet one had opened yesterday $3\frac{1}{2}$ perches of a drain $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, and earned 10*d.* On fine days more will be earned, since the weather is much against the labourers.

In Kilcathreen, where they held out so long, they are again at work, and some men have earned over 10*d.* a-day, and will earn more, now they see they can obtain a hire, and which they would not believe before. To-morrow they will go to work here (in this parish).

Bantry in fact I think will hold out a little longer, and then go to work; and if we had the applications sanctioned in Kilcrohane and West Durrus, we might discharge every pauper (if we so wished it) from the house, and make it again available for the three classes under the first section of the Act.

On my arrival here I was waited upon by the three parish priests of Kilcathreen, Killaconenagh, and Kilnamanagh, and they demanded what was to be done for the able-bodied who were starving?

I answered *work* and nothing else; since I was quite satisfied they could earn a good hire, and that if they suffered, the crime was theirs.

REPLY to the above:—*February 12, 1848.*

WITH reference to the disinclination to work evinced by the labourers to whom employment has been offered by Mr. Payne, J.P., I am to state that the Vice-Guardians are undoubtedly not bound to give relief to able-bodied persons who refuse work at reasonable wages; at the same time, the wives and families of such able-bodied men must not be allowed to starve, and the proper course would be to afford the wives and families relief in the work-house (if it is necessary), and to proceed against the able-bodied men under the 2nd section of the Irish Vagrant Act, for wilfully neglecting to maintain their wives and children.

The Commissioners approve of the proposal of the Vice-Guardians to pay at present an instalment of 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound to the Union creditors; but in reference to the proposal to borrow 3500*l.* at 5*l.* per cent. in anticipation of rates, they desire to observe that the payment of interest on such a loan would not be a legal expenditure; however, if the loan be indispensable, and can be obtained, they will be prepared again to consider the question as to the interest, when the Vice-Guardians may report definitely the terms on which the loan will be made.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 4, 1846.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Mr. Marshall has taken over the Bantry Union from me until my return, which I hope will not be delayed beyond the end of this month.*

* Mr. Marshall, the Inspector for the Skibbereen Union, with the assistance of Mr. Clarke, one of the Vice-Guardians of the Bantry Union, managed Capt. Gordon's duties until his recovery. He resumed his duties in April.

I beg particularly to refer to the financial state of the Union, which, on a perusal of the minutes of the 28th March, may appear much worse than it really is. The rate struck on the 12th November, 1847, and arrears of rate due on the 29th September, 1847, amount to 6079*l.* 5*s.* 2½*d.*; of this sum upwards of 4300*l.* has now been collected, and I think in another fortnight or three weeks 700*l.* more will be lodged. The entire amounts would have been collected without difficulty if the rate books had been carefully made out: this is not the only drawback, since the clerk did not post the notice of the rate in the regular manner, and the consequence is that no distress can be made, or legal proceedings taken against defaulters, as all that have been tried have failed. Many rescues have taken place, and the assistant barrister at the sessions has been obliged to dismiss the cases in consequence of this negligence on the part of the clerk. Under the circumstances the Vice-Guardians propose to strike another rate upon each division, according to its relative position, on the 25th March, bringing in the arrears; and in order to render the recovery of such arrears legal, Mr. Crawford and myself agreed it would be better to post the notices of the old rate (12th November) at once, and I have communicated with the Vice-Guardians to that effect. The new rate books are now in course of being made out, as far as inserting the names of the townlands valuation fee; and the revisor will, with the assistance of the rate collectors, be enabled to insert the proper names of the occupiers; and all parties have been called upon to state their objections to the last rate. On the rate being struck, I would propose at once to appoint collectors, and to collect first from those who had not paid their last rates; but I do not think it would be advisable to put the entire rate in immediate course of collection, as I am greatly afraid it would stop all employment and impede the vast preparations the farmers are making to crop their lands. If employment was to cease, out-door relief to the able-bodied would ensue, and on its cessation, after a vast amount of expenditure (derived from other sources than the rates), the Union would be in as bad a position as it was in August last, without any available local resources to restore it. I would call the serious attention of the Commissioners to this fact; and, in order to avoid all these evils, a loan to the Union upon the security of the rate must in some way be effected to the amount of from 4000*l.* to 5000*l.* The security I consider very good; and if the Commissioners would give the Vice-Guardians their advice how to act at this trying period, I am quite sure all would proceed in a satisfactory manner.

I enclose an estimate made out to the 29th September next, based upon the expenditure of the half-year ending the 25th March. I have consulted with the Vice-Guardians upon it, and they agree with me, except they perhaps consider the out-door relief too much curtailed. Now, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Crawford, and myself think it might be even still more reduced; since, when the workhouse is emptied of the able-bodied, tickets of admission will be given to the three classes under the 1st section; and this course has proved successful in detecting every abuse, since very few avail themselves of entering the house, and are consequently struck off the lists. By a reference to the minutes, it will be seen how many have been struck off the foregoing lists since the 1st February, mostly owing to the schools; and with respect to in-door relief, Mr. Payne, J.P. (on the part of Lord Bantry and Lord Berehaven), has offered to employ every able-bodied man or woman the Guardians discharge or recommend. By a reference to the enclosed return it will be seen that a 3*s.* rate would have covered the expenditure of the last six months; and a less rate will meet it to the 29th September, even although the relief to the schools might cease previously. The debts on the 29th September, 1847, are a serious evil; and the creditors very justly complain of the conduct of the late Board of Guardians in not striking the rate before.

I consider that the estimate may be depended upon as accurate. It will be seen that the rate falls far heavier upon some divisions than others, and in one (Kilcrohane) it will amount to 10*s.* in the pound; a large part of this, however, will be arrears, since the Commissioners may recollect that the previous collector (Donovan) of the 10*d.* rate never went into that division.

I left with Mr. Marshall a list of those who had not paid their rates, and upon which he will report.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing.

ESTIMATE of EXPENDITURE for each Electoral Division of the Union, from 29th September, 1847, down to the close of September, 1848.

Dr.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Name of each Electoral Division.	Balance against Electoral Division on 29th September, 1847.	Actual Expenditure on Account of In-Maintenance and Out-door Relief, from 29th September, 1847, to the 25th March, 1848.	Estimated Expenditure on Account of In-Maintenance and Out-door Relief for 26 weeks, from 5th March, to the close of September, 1848.	Expenditure, Actual and Estimated, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of September, 1848, on Account of Temporary Fever Hospitals, chargeable to the Union at large.	Establishment and all other Expenses, actual and Estimated, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of September, 1848, including all Debts due on these Accounts to Contractors or other Parties, not charged in the Account of previous Half-year.	Total of Columns 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Bantry	961 17 8	1,207 19 4	1,083 6 8	. . .	493 7 7	3,746 11 3
Kilmocorneyge. . .	598 11 2	523 18 7½	408 8 4	. . .	173 10 4	1,706 8 5½
Durrus, East . . .	139 16 7	122 14 5½	135 8 4	. . .	89 4 3	487 3 7½
Durrus, West . . .	281 3 10	274 8 9½	371 11 8	. . .	141 13 5	1,068 17 8½
Kilcrohane	706 14 1	446 10 1½	533 0 0	. . .	225 7 8	1,912 0 10½
Kilcaskare	299 11 4	516 4 5½	270 16 8	. . .	153 17 8	1,240 10 1½
Kilcatherineen . .	50 8 3	373 3 2	379 12 0	. . .	485 5 7	1,291 9 11
Killaconenagh . .	132 17 8½	434 5 5½	435 10 0	. . .	158 2 0	1,160 15 2
Kilnamanagh . . .	51 12 4	436 12 2	312 13 0	. . .	217 10 10	1,018 8 4
Union	. . .	. . .	110 10 0	. . .	. . .	110 10 0
Total Union . . .	3,222 12 11½	4,340 5 6½	4,040 16 8	. . .	2,138 19 4	13,742 14 6½

Cr.							
Column 1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Name of each Electoral Division.	Balance in favour of Electoral Division on 29th September, 1847.	Amount of Rate uncollected on 29th September, 1847.	Amount of any New Rate made since 29th September, 1847.	Total of Columns 8, 9, and 10.	Excess of Amount (if any) of Column 7 over the Amount of Column 11, being the Amount of additional Rate which would be required to supply the deficiency of the present Rate to the close of September, 1848.	Amount per Pound of such additional Rate on the Valuation.	Excess (if any) of Amount of Column 11 over the Amount of Column 7, being the Amount of Balance which the present Rate would leave to the Credit of the Division, over and above the Expenditure to the close of September, 1848.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.
Bantry	. . .	117 4 0	1,523 7 6	1,640 11 6	2,105 19 9	4 2	. . .
Kilmocorneyge. . .	. . .	63 5 1½	543 2 6	606 7 7½	1,100 0 10	6 5½	. . .
Durrus, East . . .	. . .	27 9 11	356 17 1	384 7 0	102 15 7½	1 0½	. . .
Durrus, West . . .	. . .	34 3 5½	396 17 8	431 1 1½	637 16 6½	3 6½	. . .
Kilcrohane	. . .	116 11 8½	416 18 4	533 10 0½	1,378 10 10	10 0	. . .
Kilcaskare	. . .	35 5 9	345 8 10	380 14 7	859 15 6½	7 6	. . .
Kilcatherineen . .	. . .	24 1 5½	435 2 4	459 3 9½	832 5 2½	5 10	. . .
Killaconenagh . .	. . .	101 15 10	655 18 1	757 13 11	403 1 3	2 1	. . .
Kilnamanagh . . .	. . .	23 16 0½	861 19 7	885 15 7½	132 12 8½	0 7½	. . .
Union	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	110 10 0	0 1½	. . .
Total Union . . .	. . .	543 13 3½	5,535 11 11	6,079 5 2½	7,663 9 4	4 2	. . .

Numbers to be Relieved, and Cost of Relief on which the foregoing Estimate of Expenditure for Relief is based.												
Column 1	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Name of each Electoral Division.	Actual Number of Paupers chargeable to the Division at the close of the first Week of February, 1848.		Estimated Number of Paupers who will be relieved Weekly on the average of the 34 Weeks, from the close of the first Week of February, to the close of September, 1848.		Actual Cost of Relief during the first Week of February, 1848.		Estimated Weekly Cost of Relief on the average of the 34 Weeks, down to the close of September, 1848.		Actual average Cost of Relief per head, during first Week of February, 1848.		Estimated average Cost of Relief per head Weekly, during 34 Weeks, down to the close of September, 1848.	
	In Work-house.	On Out-door Relief Lists.	In Work-house.	On Out-door Relief Lists.	In Work-house.	In Out-door Relief.	In Work-house.	In Out-door Relief.	In Work-house.	In Out-door Relief.	In Work-house.	In Out-door Relief.
					£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bantry	277	2,266	206	1,200	22 1 4	59 12 2½	14 3 4	27 10 0	1 7	0 6½	1 5	0 5½
Kilmocorneyge. . .	75	1,160	60	500	4 15 9	29 8 10½	4 5 0	11 9 2	1 7	0 6	1 5	0 5½
Durrus, East . . .	37	339	25	150	2 16 0	6 2 6	1 15 5	3 8 9	1 7	0 4½	1 5	0 5½
Durrus, West . . .	191	308	150	160	14 13 8	6 8 2½	10 12 6	3 13 4	1 7	0 5½	1 5	0 5½
Kilcrohane	190	598	160	400	14 17 2	11 1 3½	11 6 8	9 3 4	1 7	0 4½	1 5	0 5½
Kilcaskare	40	630	50	300	4 5 0	17 5 3½	3 10 10	6 17 6	1 7	0 6½	1 5	0 5½
Kilcatherineen . .	12	978	12	600	1 16 2	24 16 3	0 17 0	13 15 0	1 7	0 6	1 5	0 5½
Killaconenagh . .	10	1,141	10	700	1 16 2	28 1 1½	0 14 2	16 10 0	1 7	0 6	1 5	0 5½
Kilnamanagh . . .	8	957	8	500	1 15 5	27 1 4	0 11 4	11 9 2	1 7	0 6½	1 5	0 5½
Union	67	..	60	..	4 15 9	..	4 5 0	..	1 7	..	1 5	..
Total Union . . .	906	8,377	735	4,510	73 12 5	209 17 1½	52 1 3	103 7 1	..	..	..	..

Note.—The expenditure on account of paupers chargeable to the Union at large is to be included in the several columns, duly apportioned on the several electoral divisions.

Estimate of Expenditure for each Electoral Division of the Union, &c.—*continued*.

Bantry Union.

BALANCE.*

Dr.								Cr.			
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Total Col. 2	3,222	12	11½				Total Col. 8				
" Col. 3	4,340	5	6½				" Col. 9	543	13	3½	
" Col. 4	4,040	16	8				" Col. 10	5,535	11	11	
" Col. 5							" Col. 11				6,079 5 2½
" Col. 6	2,138	19	4				" Col. 12				7,663 9 4
" Col. 7				13,742	14	6½					
" Col. 14											
				£13,742	14	6½					£13,742 14 6½

April 4, 1848.

H. N. GORDON.

* The clerk is requested to balance the several Columns in the above Form.

REPLY to the foregoing:—April 19, 1848.

I AM to state that your suggestions with regard to the making and collection of a new rate shall receive the Commissioners' attention.

I am at the same time to state, that a loan of 1000*l.* has been recently advanced to the Vice-Guardians.

Captain GORDON to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 4, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to enclose for your information two extracts from the *Cork Examiner* of the 27th March, relative to the decease of two children in the electoral division of Kilcathereen.

Mr. Clarke visited the district on the 31st March, and has further informed me that the father, Michael Downing, is an able-bodied man, and well able to work; that one of the children had an evil in the jaw, upon which an operation was performed a short time ago; that Downing has land, hay, &c. He was offered work at the drainage, which he only availed himself of for half a-day, and his children got rations every day in the schools. Downing is now employed by Dr. Lefebure on his farm.

I also enclose the answers of the relieving officer and superintendents of schools to certain queries put to them by me; and it may be seen that Michael Downing allowed his two children to starve before his face sooner than work for his daily hire.

I have thought fit to forward this statement, since the extract in the *Examiner* might have attracted the attention of the Commissioners.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

Destitution in Bearhaven.

ELSEWHERE will be found a communication describing the case of a man whose children died of starvation in the above part of the country. The records of distress contain nothing more affecting than the case of this poor family, endeavouring to struggle against their fate, and obliged to subsist upon the bread which the children received at school, until the younger and weaker members sank at length under the sacrifices of filial affection. We have been compelled to suppress part of the testimony given by the unhappy wife, which is too humbling to human nature to excite any other feeling than disgust. Unfortunately, the case of Michael Downing is the case of hundreds in the same district, who were once farmers like him, and have been reduced to experience the same disappointments under the Poor Law and the system of "reproductive employment," as carried out there. It reflects credit upon the authors of the communication referred to, that the daily encounter of such awful misery as prevails around them, has not disheartened them from exposing it to the notice and sympathy of the public.

II.

*How the Poor Law is administered.*To the Editor of the "*Cork Examiner*:"—March 13, 1848.

I BEG leave to transmit for insertion in your highly-prized journal, the accompanying communication just now handed me by Dr. Lefebure, the humane dispensary physician for Kilcathereen parish, regarding a post-mortem examination of a few cases, out of many deaths

Bantry Union.

from destitution, which have this time back occurred, and are still occurring amongst my starving parishioners. Had I more timely notice of the communication, I would have added a long catalogue of the most heart-rending deaths which have taken place for the last two months in this wretched parish, in consequence of the most awful poverty which exists this year, with as little mitigation as it did last year.

I have, &c.

DANIEL HEALY, P.P.

Michael Downing's evidence.—I am the father of those children now dead—Catherine Downing, aged eight years, and Johanna Downing, aged six years; gave up possession of his land to Mr. James Downing, of Castletown, who gave him 6d. for taking care of the land and house two years; made no use of the land since.

What was the matter with those children; had they any sickness?—No.

What did they die of?—Starvation.

Did you apply for relief, and to whom did you apply?—I did, to the relieving officer, Mr. Anthony Nicholson.

What answer did you get?—To go to work.

Did you get work?—No; I got a ticket from Dan Glaney.

How long since you applied for relief?—After being with you in Castletown.

What did you ask for the second time you applied?—For some provisions for my children.

What answer did you get?—I got a ticket to go to work.

Did you go to work?—I did.

Did you get the work?—I worked part of the day, and was obliged to leave with others, who had been at work before me, and left it because they could not support themselves.

When did you again apply?—The day after you were up here.

What answer did you get on that day?—I could get nothing until you gave better accounts with some other sickness than starvation.

Did you go again?—I did, indeed, until I got tired of it.

How long were you going?—Three weeks.

Did your wife go?—She did.

Did any other person from you go?—No, I had no one else.

Did the relieving officer, Mr. Nicholson, ever visit your house?—No, he did not.

Did you ask him?—I did.

What answer did he give when you asked him to go to your house?—That he was in a hurry; it was too far off; he was going to Ardgroom to the school-house.

Were those children going to the school?—They were, Sir.

Did they get rations every day?—Sometimes they did, Sir.

How many children of yours went to the school?—Four, Sir.

Did the four get rations every day?—No, Sir.

Did they at any time?—They did get it part of the week.

How long were they in school when they got the four rations the part of the week?—I could not say truly at what time when the oldest was turned out.

What do you mean by being turned out; is it that she was sent out of the school?—No, Sir, but not to get rations.

Are the others getting rations now?—No, Sir.

When did they get them last?—They got one brick yesterday.

When were they last at school?—They were not at school this month; they could not go.

Why could not they go there?—Being weak; and they could not go through starvation in the want of provisions.

How many bricks used they to get each day?—Some days I used to get three; some days two, and some days nothing.

How can you say the children died of want or starvation, when they were getting rations at the school?—For there was six of us trusting to that bread at school; because I could not get rations; I did not use one stone of meal since, and was only but gathering sea-weeds and little crehanes out of the tillage.

Did you dig potatoes out of stubbles?—No, Sir.

Did you where oats were sown?—Yes, Sir.

Was it the year before this that potatoes were in that field?—No, Sir; two years ago, and I was often digging for mauchins (machins).

What are mauchins?—I could not English it; some kind of roots in the form of carrots.

What colour are they?—White colour, Sir.

When did these poor children eat anything?—I do not know, Sir; I had to go to work for my diet for another man.

What made you leave the work at the drains?—Because I could not support myself; I got but one pint of meal for the two days I was working.

Do you mean to say that you got but one pint of meal for two days?—Yes, Sir.

MICHAEL DOWNING.

Norry Downing's evidence interpreted by Mr. E. O'Sullivan.

Are you the mother of those children?—Yes, sir.

Were either of your children sick?—Yes, one since that time.

What time?—Five weeks ago.

What ailed the children then?—Hunger and distress; no sickness, only distress.

[The woman proceeded to give a shocking account of the way in which they were affected from eating sea-weed.]

Were any of them sick before this?—No, except when they had fever last year.

Had not one of them evil in her jaw?—Oh, yes, two years last August.

Was she ever sick with it since?—No, never, indeed.

How can you say they died of want, when they were at school getting rations?—Two used sometimes to get it, and then the father, myself, and four children depended on it.

Used they get the rations regularly?—They used not to get it only sometimes; one week three times, twice some weeks.

How many children of yours went to school?—There were four; one was scratched out after the first week.

Did the others get it regularly?—Weeks they used to get it but twice; weeks three times; the day they would get three, next day but two; and next never a one. She used to be sometimes on her way to make a complaint that she was not getting her right; that they would follow her, and tell her to come back; that when the master would come, she should get rations, though the night before she was told there was no bread for her.

Who called you back?—The man of the house.

Who told you there was no bread for your children?—The master.

Were you ever going but the once?—She was never going but the once.

HONORA DOWNING.

Witnessed by Eugene O'Sullivan and Mark O'Sullivan.

I certify that I made a *post-mortem* examination of the body of Johanna Downing, of Kilcathreen, aged six years; from the appearance of the viscera, and finding no traces of previous disease, I am fully of opinion her death was caused by extreme destitution.

M. M. LEFEBURE, M.R.C.S.L.

March 7, 1848.

Copy of Dan Glaney's ticket, when Michael Downing applied for work the first time.

I consider the bearers objects.

Copy of the Relieving Officer's ticket to get him work.

Please, Mr. Sullivan, employ bearer on Lord Bantry's property; he applied for a ticket to the workhouse.

A. NICHOLSON, *Relieving Officer.*

Doctor Lefebure's certificate handed to the Relieving Officer, in order to obtain relief.

I certify that Michael Downing's wife and two children are sinking fast from want and starvation.

M. B. LEFEBURE, M.R.C.S.L.

January 23, 1848.

III.

Queries for Anthony Nicholson, Relieving Officer, Kilcathreen.

In the *Cork Examiner* of the 27th March appears a statement from the Rev. D. Healy, P.P., and followed by an examination of Michael and Norry Downing (or Downey), whose children, Catherine and Johanna, aged eight years and six years respectively, are said to have died of famine.

Mr. Nicholson will be good enough to state, in detail, any further particulars; and also to say whether Michael Downing is an able-bodied labourer; since, if he was, Mr. Nicholson has acted quite correctly in offering him work.

Mr. Nicholson will also endeavour to detail further respecting the sixpence given Downing to take care of the house and land for two years; also who the immediate landlord is; and who ordered the sixpence to be given.

Answers.

For Captain Gordon's information, I beg to state that Catherine Downing, aged eight years, and Johanna Downing, six years, stated to have died of famine on the 6th of March, were for the last two months receiving their portion of the British Association relief.

On the 28th of January last, Michael Downing, an able-bodied man of 40 years, applied for out-door relief, which I refused; but gave a ticket to the overseer of the drainage, to give him work at Ardgroom, on Lord Bantry's estate.

Mary Downing, daughter to Michael, an intelligent girl about 15 years, stated to me that it was her opinion her father never gave up the possession of the land, and she never heard him say he got any money for taking care of the same; and from what Downing has stated to myself, I am sure he is still in possession of the land; on the 29th instant he sold to Doctor Lefebure a cock of hay, part of last year's crop, and acknowledges to have a share in a boat and seine.

Bantry Union.

Had Michael Downing given up his land?

Michael Downing held the land from Samuel Hutchins, Esq., of Ardnagashal.

ANTHONY NICHOLSON,
Relieving Officer, Kilcathereen.

Captain Gordon requires this paper, with answers on the opposite margin, to be returned as soon as possible; it must, in fact, reach him on Sunday at latest, since Captain Gordon is going to Cork.

H. W. GORDON,
Captain, 59th Regiment.

Bantry, March 29, 1848.

IV.

*Queries for Parish Superintendent of
Kilcathereen schools.*

Answers.

A report appears in the *Cork Examiner* of the 27th March, stating that Catherine and Johanna Downing (or Downey), aged eight and six years respectively, had died of famine. The superintendent will state whether they were on the school roll; and if so, why they did not get bread daily. He will further state, if they were not receiving rations, why they were not on the list. In fact, he will state all particulars.

H. W. GORDON,
Captain, 59th Regiment.

Bantry, March 29, 1848.

This must be returned, so as to reach Captain Gordon on Sunday, since he goes away on Monday.

In visiting West Kilcathereen Roman Catholic school, I had been informed by John M'Carthy, teacher, that four of Michael Downing's children were receiving the bounty of the British Relief Association in his school daily, until its rules disqualified the elder, Mary Downing, age 16 years; the other three got their bread daily, in health and sickness, with the exception of one day that none of Downing's family called for it until late in the day, though they lived very convenient to the school; all the bread was issued out by the time that the member of Downing's family came for it; this had been the only excepted day that Downing's family were left without bread, which the above teacher is willing to prove. The above John M'Carthy went with me to Downing's house, where we met the said Mary Downing, who corroborated John M'Carthy's statement. She said that the whole family were six in number, and lived on what they got in school; and that her two sisters who died were only after recovering from the small-pox.

I certify that the above information is correct.

DANIEL SULLIVAN, *Superintendent.*

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 7, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 4th instant, with respect to the inquest on the bodies of two children, named Catherine and Johanna Downing, who are stated to have died of starvation.

The Commissioners observe by the statements of the relieving officer and the superintendent of the school at which these children attended, that they and another child of Michael Downing's received rations, whether attending or at home sick, daily, except for one day upon which the rations were not sent for until all the bread had been distributed; also that these children died after small-pox; that their father was provided with work on Lord Bantry's estate, but refused to continue at the employment; that he is known to have occupied land, and is believed still to retain possession of it; also that he has a share in a fishing boat and seine net; notwithstanding which, and his possessing hay, sold on the 29th ultimo, he and his family appear to have used the school rations issued for the children.

The Commissioners recommend, with a view to the punishment of such men as Michael Downing, that the attention of the relieving officers be drawn in a particular manner to the 2nd section of the Act 10 and 11 Vic., c. 84, under which any man who wilfully neglects to maintain his wife or child may be sentenced by the magistrates to imprisonment and hard labour for a term not exceeding three months.

TUAM UNION.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain LABALMONDIERE:—*March 2, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration the subject of the duration of the out-door relief at present afforded to able-bodied poor persons in Unions in Ireland; more especially in reference to the labour wanted at this season of the year for the cultivation of the land, and the employment provided under the Land Improvement Act, 6 and 7 Vic., cap. 32; also the assistance afforded to the labouring classes in 24 Unions, which comprise the most distressed parts of Ireland, by the rations given, from funds supplied by the British Association, to all children attending the public schools.

The Commissioners deem it desirable to determine or to suspend, on the 18th of March instant, all orders under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men; and the Commissioners wish to know whether, in your opinion, there would be any decided objection to this course in the Union of which you are Inspector.

You will be good enough to report to the Commissioners on this subject, at your earliest convenience.

Captain LABALMONDIERE to the COMMISSIONERS in reply:—*March 6, 1848.*

REFERRING to your circular dated March 2nd, I have to state that in my opinion, the suspension of the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men in this Union, if carried into effect as proposed on the 18th instant, will be attended with most disastrous consequences; the in-door accommodation for paupers being wholly insufficient for the amount of destitution which exists.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain LABALMONDIERE:—*March 10, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 6th instant, stating your opinion with reference to a suspension of the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men in the Tuam Union; and I am to convey to you the thanks of the Commissioners for your communication.

I am at the same time to state that, the Commissioners will not withdraw the order for out-door relief in the Tuam Union on the 18th instant, on the grounds stated in your report, that from the large amount of destitution existing in that Union, owing to the want of employment, such a course could not be pursued with safety.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 4, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th February, relative to the death of a man, named John Hynes, at Dunmore, in the Tuam Union, and in reference thereto we have to inform you that from inquiries we have made on the subject, we are led to believe that John Hynes died from exposure and want. It further appears that the deceased applied to the relieving officer on the 11th February, and received a ticket for admission to the workhouse on that day; but it does not appear that he ever applied for admission. The deceased was a strolling beggar and a dealer in rags. He had been in the workhouse in December last, and left it of his own accord immediately after his admission.

It does not appear that blame is attributable to the relieving officer in the matter, but that deceased died from his own neglect in not accepting workhouse relief.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*March 9, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a report which they have received from the Vice-Guardians of the Tuam Union, relative to the death of a man, named John Hynes, at Dunmore, in that Union.

Tuam Union.

Captain LABALMONDIERE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 9, 1848.*

MANY of the observations upon the state of this Union which I find should have formed a part of this report, were inserted by me in mistake in the diary which I forwarded on Saturday last. I have since visited two other of the electoral divisions, viz., Cloonbern and Lisgeevy. In the former, though many of the applicants appeared extremely miserable, they nearly in every instance refused to go to the workhouse when that test was offered them. In the latter, though apparently less distressed, many accepted the offer of admission, but as in a late instance only two families out of about 80 who accepted it appeared at the workhouse, it may reasonably be presumed that a very small portion of those to whom tickets were given had really any idea of acting upon them. Throughout the Union, I am convinced that when the Vice-Guardians shall have been able to revise the lists of those admitted to the out-door relief by the late Board of Guardians, many will be found to be in the receipt of it whose circumstances do not entitle them to it.

I beg to direct your attention to the circumstance that, from the refusal of the storekeeper in charge of the implements belonging to the Board of Public Works to deliver them up until his claims for arrears of salary are satisfied, stone-breaking has not yet begun. It is most requisite that steps should be taken to prevent its further postponement.

The Vice-Guardians have again applied to the Commissioners of Public Works on this subject. They propose to adopt the forms for work performed in each week, which are in use in the Kanturk Union, and which appear well calculated to check idleness and fraud.

The issue of relief in this Union appears to have been so procrastinated by the late Board of Guardians, that the time of the Vice-Guardians has been hitherto almost fully occupied in actually preventing the people from dying, and they have hardly had leisure to devote their attention to the internal affairs of the workhouse, in which a lamentable want of system appears to have prevailed. Improvement is however visible, and I have no doubt that a very short time under the able management of Mr. Lucas, will bring about a very different state of things.

The boys are still in the workhouse, but application has been made to the proprietor of a large building at Headford, with a view to its conversion into an auxiliary workhouse for them.

The girls' school in the town of Tuam appears well kept and in good order.

An extraordinary hysterical affection is prevalent in the workhouse among the younger of the female paupers. There are 17 or 18 of them subject to these attacks, which the medical officer has been unable to overcome, and which appears to be catching, as the officers report that when the paupers are assembled together, if one girl is seized a number of the others are immediately similarly affected, and drop without any premonitory symptom. One who was giving evidence yesterday had two of these attacks consecutively in the Board-room. The medical officer attributes them to a want of sufficient exercise.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 11, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have forwarded to the Board of Works a copy of that part of your report which relates to the supply of implements, required for the employment of able-bodied poor persons receiving out-door relief.

The Commissioners have also forwarded to the Central Board of Health an extract relative to the prevalence of hysteria among the young female paupers in the workhouse.

Mr. LUCAS, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 11, 1848.*

WITH reference to the enclosed application from the agent of Wm. Burke, Esq., for aid in the emigration of certain parties named therein, under the provisions of the 13th section of the 10th Vic., cap. 31, I have to request the Commissioners' directions in the matter.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. BROWNE to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 11, 1848.*

As agent to Wm. Burke, Esq., I have just arranged for the emigration of two families on his estate of Kilcreevanty, in the electoral division of Killannon, viz.:—

Wm. Mongan, wife, and three children, rated under 5*l*.; contribution of landlord, 12*l*.

Wm. Clarke, wife, and six children, rated under 5*l*.; contribution of landlord, 12*l*.

The landlord besides gives a receipt for a heavy arrear of rent. Their passage can now be settled in Galway for America if you be pleased to give the assistance afforded by the Poor Law Act.

Tuam Union.

Ages of the Families.

William Mongan		40 years.
Wife		30 "
Girl		9 "
Ditto		5 "
Boy		2 "
William Clarke		40 "
Wife		30 "
Girl		17 "
Boy		15 "
Girl		13 "
Ditto		4 "
Ditto		3 "
Ditto		1½ "

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS, in reply :—*March 15, 1848.*

WITH reference to Mr. Lucas's letter of the 11th instant, enclosing an application for assistance to enable certain parties to emigrate under the provisions of the 13th section of the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31, and requesting the Commissioners' instructions relative thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to request that you will be so good as to satisfy yourselves by personal examination of the parties as to their willingness to emigrate on the conditions specified in the statute, and also ascertain to what part of America it is intended they should go; and further, whether the sum contributed by the landlord, together with the sum limited by the statute as payable from the poor rates, will be sufficient to provide for the emigration of the families.

I am at the same time to inform you that the Commissioners are in communication with Earl Grey on the subject of the approval required by the 13th section of the Act referred to.

The COMMISSIONERS to the Right Hon. Earl GREY :—*March 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a communication which they have received from Mr. Lucas, Vice-Guardian of the Tuam Union, enclosing an application (a copy of which is also transmitted) for assistance to enable certain parties to emigrate, under the provisions of the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31.

I am at the same time to state, for your Lordship's information, that these are the first cases which have arisen under that section.

The Commissioners request that they may be informed of your Lordship's views as to the course which should be taken to ascertain whether the occupiers named by Mr. Browne be fit and proper persons to be admitted as emigrants.

The Commissioners have directed the Vice-Guardians to satisfy themselves, by personal examination of the parties, as to their willingness to emigrate on the conditions specified in the statute, and also to ascertain to what part of America they should go; and whether the sum contributed by the landlord, together with the sum limited by the statute as payable from the poor rates, will be sufficient to provide for the emigration of the families.

Captain LABALMONDIERE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 18, 1848.*

SINCE the date of my last report, I have received from the agent of the British Association, authority to extend their relief to the children attending the free-schools in the Union, and a remittance and provision order for the furtherance of this object. I have, in conjunction with the Vice-Guardians, hired a large bakery, in which we propose to bake not only for the schools but for the work-house consumption, until an oven is erected there, and by which we may anticipate,

Tuam Union.

I think, a considerable saving. The issue of food from the Association funds will naturally be a great assistance to the rates, but I have not been able yet to form any estimate to what extent it will operate as an aid.

Considerable pressure for relief still exists, but it is perceptibly diminishing; and I have hopes that when, from the subsidence of the floods, the drainage works can be recommenced, and when the stone-breaking test is in full operation, the lists of the able-bodied on the out-door relief will be very greatly reduced, even if they cannot with safety be altogether discontinued.

This would be more easy of accomplishment could a suitable house be obtained for the pauper boys, which I think we may shortly effect, though the Vice-Guardians' efforts to procure one for them have hitherto failed.

I cannot say much for the improvement of the interior of the workhouse in the last week—I see none.

I beg to call your particular attention to the circumstances as detailed in yesterday's "minutes of proceedings" in connexion with the master's report, by which it appears that for the present, at least, the Vice-Guardians are deprived of the power of punishing refractory paupers, by procuring their committal by the bench of magistrates, they having declined to convict in consequence of there being no room in Galway gaol. The inevitable result of this powerlessness to punish must be insubordination among the inmates of the workhouse.

A revisor for the Union was yesterday approved of by the Vice-Guardians; and it being understood that he is to furnish his valuation of each electoral division as completed, by striking the rates for each separately, they may place themselves in funds for carrying on the affairs of the Union at an earlier period than if they delayed striking a rate for the whole Union, until the entire valuation is finished.

It will not, however, be in their power to carry on even until the first instalments of the new collection are lodged, without a further advance on the credit of the rate about to be made.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

WITH reference to your statement, that in consequence of the crowded state of the gaol of Galway the magistrates refuse to punish refractory paupers by committal to prison, I am to call your attention to the regulations of the Commissioners for the punishment of such paupers, as set forth in their General Order of the 5th of June, 1844.

With reference to your statement that it will not be in the power of the Vice-Guardians to provide relief for the destitute, until such time as a portion of the rate about to be made by them shall be lodged with the treasurer, without receiving a further advance of money on the credit of the rates, I am to state that the Commissioners will be prepared to entertain any further representation from yourself or the Vice-Guardians on the subject.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*March 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you the enclosed copy of a circular letter which they have addressed to the Temporary Inspectors of Unions, relative to the suspension, on the 18th instant, of all orders authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act.

I am at the same time to state that, the Commissioners are desirous of being informed of your opinion with regard to the substitution in the Tuam Union, for the order above referred to, of a limited order authorizing the dispensation of out-door relief to destitute poor persons, being children, whose parents are both dead; or being widows with one child dependent on them, respectively; or being able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families, dependent on them for support, are affected by severe sickness or serious accident.

ENCLOSURE.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
March 2, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration the subject of the duration of the out-door relief, at present afforded to able-bodied poor persons in Unions in Ireland;

more especially in reference to the labour wanted at this season of the year for the cultivation of the land, and the employment provided under the Land Improvement Act, 6 and 7 Vict. c. 32; also the assistance afforded to the labouring classes in 24 Unions, which comprise the most distressed parts of Ireland, by the rations given from funds supplied by the British Association, to all children attending the public schools.

The Commissioners deem it desirable to determine or suspend, on the 18th of March instant, all orders under the 2nd section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men; and the Commissioners wish to know whether, in your opinion, there would be any decided objection to this course in the Union of which you are Inspector.

You will be good enough to report to the Commissioners on this subject at your earliest convenience.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To

*Temporary Poor Law Inspector
of the Union.*

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS in reply :—*March 18, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15th instant, relative to the suspension of the order authorizing out-door relief to able-bodied men in Tuam Union, and the substitution of a limited order. In reference thereto we have to state, that owing to the great destitution existing in the Union, and the want of general employment, we fear that disastrous consequences would result from the order issued under section 2 of the 10 Vict., c. 31, being suspended on the 18th instant.

We consider the proposed modified order authorizing the dispensation of out-door relief to able-bodied men, one or more members of whose families, dependent on them for support, are affected by severe sickness or serious accident, open to grave objections. The impositions that would be attempted to be practised would moreover, entail the necessity of appointing medical officers, under the 5th section of the 10th Vict. cap. 31.

Our arrangements for carrying out the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied will be in partial operation in the coming week, and we beg to assure the Commissioners that we have every reason to believe, that the system we have adopted will hold out no inducement to the people to forsake the legitimate labour of the country.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners will not interfere with the operation of the existing order, and they rely on your carrying out that order judiciously and with effect, both in the relief of destitution, and the protection of the rates from unnecessary expenditure.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 18, 1848.*

WITH reference to your communication of the 15th instant, relative to the emigration of certain parties under the provisions of the 13th section of the Act 10 Vic., cap. 31, we have to inform you that we have satisfied ourselves by personal examination of the parties as to their willingness to emigrate on the conditions specified in the statute. Toronto, in Canada, is the place of their destination.

A second application for aid is herewith annexed, and we are desirous of complying with its request.

From inquiry, we are led to believe that the sum contributed by the landlord, together with the sum limited by the statute, will be sufficient to provide for the emigration of the families.

A list of the names and ages of the emigrants is herewith enclosed, together with the cost of the emigration of each family.

It is proposed that the persons should embark at Galway, and it is desirable that no delay should arise, as the vessel sails on the 1st April.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. BROWNE to Mr. LUCAS, Vice-Guardian :—*March 19, 1848.*

In addition to the two families I proposed to send to America from the electoral

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Tuam Union.

Tuam Union.

division of Kilbannon, Mr. Burke, the landlord, contributing two-thirds of the cost, I have to add five other families, viz. :—

Pat Nicholson, wife and eight children.
 John Glyn, wife and one child.
 Michael Hughes, wife and three children.
 John Connelly, wife and eight children.
 Thady Boyle, and three children.

Name.	Age.	Cost of each Person.			Total.	Name.	Age.	Cost of each Person.			Total.
		£.	s.	d.	£. s. d.			£.	s.	d.	£. s. d.
William Mogan .	34	4	10	0	15 15 0	John Glyn . .	36	4	10	0	11 5 0
Wife . .	32	4	10	0		Wife . .	30	4	10	0	
Kitty . .	8	2	5	0		Mary . .	1	2	5	0	
Mary . .	4	2	5	0		William Clarke .	44	4	10	0	24 15 0
John . .	2	2	5	0		Wife . .	36	4	10	0	
Pat Nicholson .	45	4	10	0	40 10 0	Peggy . .	14	4	10	0	
Wife . .	40	4	10	0		Martin . .	12	4	10	0	
John . .	21	4	10	0		James . .	4	2	5	0	
Andy . .	18	4	10	0		Mary . .	2	2	5	0	
Patsy . .	15	4	10	0		Baby . .	1	2	5	0	
Mary . .	13	4	10	0		Thady Boyle .	40	4	10	0	15 15 0
Stephen . .	12	4	10	0		Thomas . .	13	4	10	0	
Peter . .	10	4	10	0		Edmund . .	11	4	10	0	
Mary . .	7	2	5	0		Michael . .	7	2	5	0	
Peggy . .	3	2	5	0		Total cost . .	..	..	..	..	166 10 0
Michael Hughes	44	4	10	0	24 15 0						£. s. d.
Wife . .	42	4	10	0		Landlord's share					111 0 0
Bridget . .	17	4	10	0		Electoral Division Poor Rate .					55 10 0
Pat . .	14	4	10	0		Total					166 10 0
Thomas . .	10	4	10	0							
Mick . .	4	2	5	0	33 15 0						
John Connelly .	40	4	10	0							
Wife . .	40	4	10	0							
Thade . .	18	4	10	0							
Mick . .	17	4	10	0							
Mary . .	13	4	10	0							
Kate . .	11	4	10	0							
Thomas . .	7	2	5	0							
Pat . .	4	2	5	0							
William . .	2	2	5	0							

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM to inform you that the Commissioners are in communication with Earl Grey upon the subject, and upon hearing from his Lordship, they will again address you.

Further LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—
March 29, 1848.

REFERRING to your letter of the 18th, and to Mr. Lucas's letter of the 11th instant, forwarding lists of persons desirous of emigrating from the Tuam Union to British North America, and to the letters of the Commissioners in reply, bearing date respectively the 15th and 22nd instant, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have not yet received any reply from Earl Grey, but that rather than disappoint the parties who, it appears, expected to sail from the port of Galway on the 1st proximo, and defeat the arrangements which have been made, they take on themselves the responsibility of saying, that if you deem it right to conclude the transaction at once, they will make a favourable representation on the subject to Earl Grey.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 16, 1848.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 1st instant, we beg leave to submit to your consideration the following observations

relative to the general state of the Tuam Union, when the administration of its affairs first devolved on us, and also on the state of the Union at the present time.

It may be more convenient that we should first advert to the financial affairs of the Union, as these were necessarily our first care.

It appeared that the total amount of rate and arrears of rate put in collection in the months of August and September last, was 6,748*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*; whilst the liabilities of the Union to the 31st August last, exclusive of the debt for temporary relief purposes and workhouse loans, amounted to 6,692*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, leaving only a balance of 55*l.* 7*s.* 3½*d.* available for carrying on the expenses of the Union, supposing the whole amount of rate and arrears of rate to be collected. Great neglect is here exhibited in not having made the poundage rates sufficiently high even to meet the ordinary expenses of the Union. The providing funds for the due administration of relief under the amended Irish Poor Relief Acts, seems altogether to have been lost sight of. The result of this neglect has been, that a debt of upwards of 5,000*l.* had accumulated. The Union had long since ceased to possess any credit with its treasurer. All the contracts for provisions and other supplies were enormously high, the parties tendering considering the chances of payment when preparing their estimates: for instance, the contract for Indian meal had been taken for 11*l.* 10*s.* per ton; whole meal 14*l.* per ton, and oaten meal 15*l.* per ton.

The necessary efforts had not been made even to collect this very insufficient rate, the Guardians themselves being in many instances defaulters, also persons of rank and station in the Union, and even the Chairman had refused to pay his rates, and it was only on being threatened with legal proceedings, that he paid the amount.

There remained the large arrear of 2,083*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* uncollected on the 19th February. The following legal proceedings have at various times been instituted against the Board of Guardians since the opening of the workhouse:—On the 17th February, 1845, the Poor Law Commissioners procured a writ of mandamus to be served on the Guardians to compel them to issue to the rate collectors the warrants for the collection of the rate struck on the 24th October, 1842, and amounting to 1,796*l.* 10*s.*, but which were not issued until the 20th of October, 1845.

In January, 1844, Thomas Brennan, contractor for clothing to the Union, sued the Board for the sum of 113*l.*, including law costs, and obtained a sheriff's sale on the property in the workhouse, which realized only 103*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* A part of the property was subsequently repurchased by the Board; the whole transaction producing a loss to the Union of 163*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*

A. Thom, printer, also served a writ upon the Board for 26*l.*, in January, 1844, but did not take any further proceedings.

Several other writs have been served on the Guardians, to which they have entered pleas of confession.

The financial prospects of the Union are further embarrassed by the defective state of the present valuation. On the 27th November last the Commissioners pressed on the Guardians the necessity of appointing a revisor without delay; this recommendation appears to have been totally disregarded at the time; and although the Guardians declared at their meeting on the 8th November, their opinion that a new rate could not be made on the present valuation, yet they took no steps in the matter until the 29th January.

As to the management of the workhouse, we beg to state that great neglect was visible in every department: the paupers squalid, listless, and idle; the yards and appurtenances neglected and dirty; the hospital was the only exception to the general inefficiency of the establishment. The bedding and clothing were shamefully neglected, more particularly the former, which was infested with vermin.

We found that a system of giving extra rations (meat) to paupers had existed to an extravagant extent, the plea being, that they were required to perform services of trust, although the usual number of paid officers for the workhouse had been appointed. The weekly cost of the officers' rations, including the extra allowances adverted to, amounted to the large sum of 8*l.*

With regard to the books required by your order to be kept by the master of the workhouse, it was found that neither the clothing account-books, the weekly relief lists and abstract, nor the inventory-book, had been kept; and the register

Tuam Union.

of paupers was incorrect. The result of all this irregularity has been, that a great quantity of the stores and clothing have disappeared. The present master had only been appointed three weeks; and as no inventory appears to have been taken when he entered on his duties, it is difficult to say how far he is blameable in the matter.

We may here remark that neither the clerk, master, nor matron, had ever been called on to give security for the performance of their several duties.

The site of the workhouse, possessing many advantages from its position, had remained without cultivation (with the exception of a small portion which was cultivated by the officers on their own account) for five years, and had not even been enclosed on its boundary, notwithstanding that during the winter and summer of 1847 there were many able-bodied men in the house.

The relief afforded by the late Board of Guardians has undoubtedly been very inadequate to the distress; and deaths from destitution, if not from absolute want, have occurred. It would however appear, on examination of the relieving officers' books, that relief had been given to persons who ought to have subsisted on their own resources; for instance, in the relieving officer's Application and Report Book for the Lisgreavy Division, fictitious names appeared of persons receiving relief, and on inquiry of that officer as to the circumstances, we received for answer that the persons whose real names were omitted were highly and respectably connected, and that they were too proud to allow their names to appear as paupers; and that it was by direction of some of the Guardians that he had falsified the names. It further appeared that the real recipients were relations of several members of the late Board.

The line of action pursued by the Guardians in the administration of out-door relief, seems to have been at direct variance with the recommendations contained in the Commissioners' Circular letter of the 26th August last on the subject.

The number of persons receiving out-door relief when we took charge amounted to 4,193, with a weekly cost of 131*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* Such was the state of the Tuam Union when we first examined into its affairs.

Our first care was, to use all our best energies to the pressing forward of the collection of the outstanding arrears, but owing to the avowed resistance to the payment of the rates, the example of default set to the rate-payers by persons of rank and station in the Union, only a sum of 296*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* has been collected and lodged for the fortnight ended on the 4th instant. The collectors have moreover been assaulted and rescued, and otherwise ill treated. They have at our request obtained the assistance of the military and police in the collection of the rates; and we do not anticipate any insuperable difficulty in the collection of the remaining balance of outstanding arrears.

The present valuation of the Union is so very imperfect that we propose to have a revision of it previous to striking a new rate; some delay must therefore necessarily occur in getting the new rate in collection; in the mean time we propose to make application to the Commissioners to obtain from the British Association such funds as will enable us, with the assistance of the balance of the uncollected rates, to meet the demands arising from the present destitution in the Union. Our first care will be on procuring funds from the new rate, to repay the British Association such advances as we may have obtained from them.

With regard to the management of the workhouse, we have to state that a manifest improvement is visible in every department; the able-bodied have been employed to the utmost extent possible under the circumstances, and the clothing of the inmates and that in store has been put in order.

The matron (Mrs. Davis), whom we found to be physically incompetent, we required to resign her situation, and we have appointed the wife of the master to the office on trial for one month.

We have enforced a rigid fulfilment of all your rules and regulations relating to the management of the workhouse.

The expenditure of the workhouse has been considerably decreased, as we have discontinued the extra rations hitherto given to upwards of 20 paupers, with the exception of the pauper nurses who are required to sit up at night. We have also obtained the consent of the Commissioners to the annulling the exorbitant contracts in force for workhouse supplies. We have moreover hired, in conjunction with our Inspector, a bakery and store, at which we intend to

bake all the bread for the workhouse, as well as that required for the children attending the free schools in the Union; this will effect a considerable saving, as the present contract price for bread is one penny eleven-sixteenths per pound. The arrangement to be in force until an oven is erected at the workhouse, which we have in contemplation.

We propose to grind all our corn by pauper labour, and have ordered a mill with hand gearing from Birmingham capable of employing gangs of 40 men at a time.

We are endeavouring to procure a piece of ground to be used as a burial-ground for the workhouse, as the present system of interring the dead close to the fever hospital is open to serious objections.

We have taken contracts for the supply of a sufficient stock of clothing and bedding, and we propose to make up every article required in the workhouse.

An accountant has been employed to prepare and balance the late master's accounts, the expense we propose deducting from the amount of salary due to him.

With respect to the out-door relief, we have to observe, that owing to the great distress in the Union, we were compelled to increase the relief considerably. We have made the workhouse available as far as possible as a test of the destitution of the able-bodied; and we may state, as a proof of the effectiveness of the test, that hundreds have refused this description of relief.

Our arrangements for carrying out your order for out-door relief to the able-bodied are in a forward state, and we hope to have the system, we have adopted, in partial operation in the coming week.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*March 23, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 16th instant, relating to the affairs of the Tuam Union, and to report to you their thanks.

The Commissioners approve of your proceedings as reported, and the course which you express yourselves as intending to take with the view of remedying the great abuses heretofore existing in the administration of relief in the Tuam Union.

Those officers who have not yet given security should do so without delay.

The Commissioners will be prepared to attend to such representations as you may make of a further necessity for the supply of funds to administer relief until rates can be levied.

With reference to the statement contained in your report to the effect, that on your examination of the relieving officer's books, you discovered that fictitious names had been entered for persons receiving relief, those persons, who are highly and respectably connected, being too proud to allow their names to appear as paupers; and that the false entries had been made by direction of some members of the late Board of Guardians, many of whom had relations thus receiving relief; I am to request that you will furnish the Commissioners with further particulars of the cases adverted to, not omitting the names of the parties relieved, and the names of the Guardians who took part in these transactions.

I am also to inquire what course you propose to adopt as to the relieving officer of the Lisgreavy division, who was involved in those highly culpable proceedings.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*March 22, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward you, to be laid before His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying copy of a letter which the Commissioners have received from Mr. Lucas, one of the Vice-Guardians of Tuam Union, relative to the riotous conduct of some people towards him at Tuam on the 21st instant; and I am to request a favourable consideration of the course proposed.

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LETTER referred to.

Mr. LUCAS, Vice-Guardian, to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 21, 1848.*

I HAVE to report to you that, in consequence of the dissatisfaction among the people of this electoral division at the enforcement of the labour test by means of stone-breaking, which has just been established by us, a mob of people assembled this morning in front of our residence, and has remained there until now, using violent and threatening language; and upon my attempting to leave the house about an hour ago, I was surrounded and seized hold of, and struck in the back with a stone.

In consequence of the assizes in Galway there is no magistrate in the town; and the police force remaining is so small, that the officer is not disposed to risk a collision with the people without the aid of the military, who, however, cannot act without the requisition of a magistrate.

I would beg leave, therefore, to suggest that the commission of the peace be conferred upon Captain Douglas Labalmondiere, Poor Law Inspector, who is always on the spot, as these riotous assemblages may be repeated.

Captain LABALMONDIERE to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 25, 1848.*

DURING the past week, stone-breaking for the able-bodied in receipt of out-door relief has been commenced in about half of this Union, but it can hardly be said yet to be fairly established.

The indisposition to submit to the labour imposed, was in Tuam so great, that on Tuesday last the stone-breakers in the neighbourhood of the town all left their work and assembled in large numbers round the residence of the Vice-Guardians in a very excited state; and one of these gentlemen was, on going out, mobbed and struck with a stone, and narrowly escaped severer treatment at their hands. I went out with this gentleman to the country and procured the attendance of a magistrate (the stipendiary magistrate and nearly all the police force being absent at the Galway assizes), and one of the ringleaders having been arrested was bound over to keep the peace, and in the absence of sureties was committed. The people have returned to their work, and I have no apprehension of any renewal of the disturbance, which I have little doubt was promoted by persons who did not appear in the matter, in whose hands the paupers were mere tools. About one-sixth of those detailed for stone-breaking in Tuam have not made their appearance at the work.

Fresh contracts have been made for Indian and other meal—both for in-door and out-door consumption—the former at a reduction of 2*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

The collection of the rates does not progress more rapidly than heretofore, opposition being generally offered, and rescues made of stock seized. Proceedings have been instituted against the parties rescuing; and the Vice-Guardians have also instructed their solicitor, with the assent of the Commissioners, to proceed immediately against the defaulting “immediate lessors.”

Our attempts to procure an auxiliary workhouse for the boys have again failed; and as destitution continues to increase rather than to abate, while hardly any field employment is to be obtained, I see no immediate prospect of the possibility of suspending out-door relief to the able-bodied.

I do not think that there are many inmates of the workhouse eligible for emigration to Australia; but for such as are, the Vice-Guardians would be most desirous of embracing the terms proposed in the letter of the “Commissioners of Colonial Land and Emigration,” to the under Secretary to the Colonial Department.

Would not the present be a favourable opportunity for promoting emigration from Ireland of paupers and their families to the West Indies, where labour is so much required; and would not those colonies gladly repay any advances made by Government in furtherance of such emigration, and which their present impoverished state would oblige them to look for? The transfer of a number of pauper labourers from this country would relieve it greatly, and possibly avert the ruin which threatens those colonies.

Referring to your letter, dated 23rd March, I beg now to represent that it is very desirable that an application for a further advance of 500*l.* on the credit of the rate about to be levied should be now made, to enable the Vice-Guardians to keep faith with their present contractors for supplies, and continue the relief now afforded to the destitute.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 25th instant, relating to the Tuam Union; and I am to express to you the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the restoration of tranquillity among the able-bodied paupers in receipt of out-door relief in that Union.

The Commissioners desire at the same time, to express their satisfaction that new and more advantageous contracts have been entered into by the Vice-Guardians for the supply of Indian and other meal.

I am further to inform you, that the Commissioners have made application to Count Strzelecki, the Secretary to the British Relief Association, for a further advance of 500*l.* for the use of the Tuam Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 25, 1848.*

WE have to report that the collectors have lodged the sum of 197*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* of the out-standing arrears for the fortnight ended the 18th instant. The police and military were employed assisting the collectors, avowed and tacit resistance to the payment of rates being general.

We have instructed our solicitor, with the Commissioners' consent, to commence immediate proceedings in the Superior Courts of Record in Dublin against the several defaulters. The valuator appointed by us has undertaken to complete the revision of the entire Union on or before the 31st of May next. The electoral division of Tuam to be the first completed, to enable the rate on that division to be put in collection forthwith.

The contract for supplying the workhouse with meal has been annulled with the Commissioners' consent, and fresh contracts have been taken at a great saving to the Union; the new contract for Indian meal effecting a saving of 2*l.* 10*s.* per ton—whole meal, 3*l.* 10*s.*—oatmeal, 4*l.*

Our arrangements for baking bread for the workhouse are completed, and we anticipate a great reduction in the cost of that article, the present contract price being 6½*d.* per four pound loaf.

Destitution in the Union is still on the increase, and little or no employment is afforded by the landed proprietors and farmers.

Our general arrangements for carrying out the out-door labour test are completed, and are as follows :—

Stone-breaking has been adopted as the employment, in accordance with the Commissioners' suggestion.

With the view of making the work ultimately available for the benefit of the Union, we have selected the quarries where practicable, near unfinished roads. Superintendents at 10*s.* per week salary have been appointed over each quarry, and an Inspector at a salary of 2*l.* per week, including travelling expenses.

To the able-bodied who apply for out-door relief, and who we have reason to believe are not actually destitute, we offer the workhouse as a test; the result has been that numbers have refused this description of relief, which tends to prove that those who are not really destitute will not accept relief in a well regulated workhouse.

The value of work obtained not to bear any direct proportion to the relief afforded.

Children of sufficient strength, section one and two, and hardy old men, section one, to perform a certain portion of work of a light description.

Every person must attend, and no substitute allowed.

Task-work as a general rule to be observed where practicable.

We enclose the forms directed to be used in carrying out our instructions to the Superintendents and Inspector.

Form No. I. The column, persons to be employed, to be filled by the relieving officer from the application and report book, entering those in section one in red ink. The application and report book to state the maximum amount of relief (meal) to be given. Under "day's work" is to be stated the amount of work to be done; say a child or hardy old man, half a day's work, a man not very strong, three-quarters of a day.

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The particulars required in the heading of Form I., "a day's work," are to be filled by the Inspector, as quarries varying in hardness of stone, difficulty of quarrying, and removal of stones from quarry; the form to be signed by the relieving officer, and sent to the superintendent in charge of working party on the Saturday previous to the work commencing, and when filled by that officer under work performed and signed, to be returned to relieving officer on Monday after the week's work has been performed. By the total days, the relieving officer will know whether he is to give the relief allowed by the Guardians in the application and report book, or a lesser quantity, in proportion to the work done, placing under observations the quantity given, which must agree with the entry in the relief lists.

Very wet days, and days absent on account of sickness, and a very few old established holidays, not deducted.

Single persons allowed half a stone of meal for six days' work.

The cost of relief to the largest families to be less than the wages of the independent labourer; and every male member of a family more than 14 years of age, in addition to the head of the family, to be required to work.

Form No. II. The Inspector's weekly report.—The Inspector to visit the quarries weekly, measure the work, and see if it agree with the return of the Superintendents. The Vice-Guardians also to inspect the works.

The arrangements we have adopted will, we are inclined to think, prove as stringent a test as even that of the workhouse.

We have to represent the necessity of the Commissioners obtaining from the British Association, a further supply of funds to administer relief until rates can be levied, a sum of 500*l.* being required to pay the balance of contractors' claims for meal supplied for out-door relief and workhouse during the period we have had charge of the Union.

ENCLOSURES in foregoing.

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FORM I.

<i>Electoral Division.</i> } Quarry. Superintendent. Stones broken this week, cubic yards. Ditto from last account, do. Total, _____			A day's work is 8 hours, or cubic feet broken stones. cubic yards quarried stones. cubic yards of stones barrowed. yards.			<i>Letters to describe Work.</i> S.B. Stone-breaking. Q. Quarrying. B. Barrowing. C. Clearing. P. Piling. S. Sundries.				
Persons Employed for Week commencing Monday, day of , 1848.			Work Performed for the Week ending Saturday, day of , 1848.							
No. Report Book.	Day's Work.	Name.	M.	T.	W.	Th.	F.	S.	Total Days.	Observations.

By order of the Board,

*Relieving Officer.*_____
Superintendent.

FORM II.

INSPECTOR OF SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT of Work done in Week ending day of , 1848.

No.	Electoral Division.	Quarry.	Superintendent.	Section 1.		Section 2.		Description of Work.						Total.	Stones Broken.		Value of Stones.	Value of Relief.	Relief more than Work by	Work more than Relief by
				Men.	Under 15.	Men.	Under 15.	S.B.	Q.	D.	C.	P.	S.		Cubic Yards.	Value per Yard.				
																	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 30, 1848.*

I AM to express the Commissioners' approval of the steps taken for enforcement of the rates, and for the appointment of a revising valuator.

The Commissioners are much gratified by the improved terms of the existing contracts as compared with the preceding ones, not only as economizing the expenditure, but as showing a restoration of confidence in the solvency of the Union.

I am further to state, that the Commissioners approve of the arrangements made for baking the bread used for consumption in the workhouse, and also those for establishing a labour test similar to that adopted previously in the Kanturk Union.

Application has been already made to the British Association to advance the sum mentioned in your report, for the relief of the destitute in the Tuam Union.

Captain LABALMONDIERE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 31, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of your order authorizing the administration of out-door relief to the able-bodied in this Union, which expires on the 5th April next, and requesting my observations on the expediency of its renewal.

The number of able-bodied persons and their families in receipt of out-door relief, in the week ending March 25th, was 6761, being an increase as compared with the preceding week of 989. Allowing a proportionate increase for this week, it may be assumed, that the number of that class at present receiving out-door relief, is 7750.

In the workhouse and auxiliary workhouse, adapted for 1150 persons, there are now 1151 inmates, who are, as far as possible, able-bodied. Keeping in view that it is most essential to retain the means of offering the workhouse to applicants for relief, and actually receiving them into it on the presentation of their tickets, and no suitable building being procurable for the extension of this accommodation, it is evident that the indoor accommodation is insufficient to meet the amount even of able-bodied destitution, and that the immediate discontinuance of out-door relief to this class would, without fail, entail the deaths of many. The Vice-Guardians are most particular in granting out-door relief; they investigate each case personally and closely; and I should say that the abuses in the Union are comparatively few, and these would materially decrease were they enabled by an additional supply of tools (for which application has been made) to carry out their system of stone-breaking.

I have therefore to recommend a renewal of your order, and will not fail to represent to you as soon as the time arrives, when, by the resumption of the spring labour and drainage operations, it may, with safety, be suspended.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*April 6, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 31st ultimo, relative to the expediency of renewing the Commissioners' order, authorizing the Vice-Guardians of the Tuam Union to

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afford relief out of the workhouse to the able-bodied paupers in that Union, and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have issued an order continuing out-door relief in the Tuam Union for one month, under the 2nd section of the 10th Vic. cap. 31.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*April 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a report which they have received from the Vice-Guardians of the Tuam Union, together with a copy of a report which the Commissioners have received from Captain Labalmondiere, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, relative to the deaths of Michael Walsh and John Lee, in that Union.

ENCLOSURES.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd instant, relative to the deaths of Michael Walsh and John Lee, in the Tuam Union, and in reference thereto, we have to observe, that Michael Walsh, (a beggar,) was admitted to the workhouse on the 4th January last, and left it immediately afterwards. He was again admitted on the 27th of the same month and left on the 3rd February. He made a third application to the relieving officer in a few days, who gave him another provisional ticket of admission to the workhouse, but was not admitted in consequence of the workhouse being crowded. The master endorsed the fact of his refusing him admission on the back of the ticket; the relieving officer then gave him some provisional relief, but he died before the next day of distribution, and before his case was reported to us. The relieving officer appears to have acted properly in the matter.

John Lee, who died on the 3rd instant, was travelling from the county Mayo to Moycullen, in the Galway Union, to which place he belonged. He does not appear to have applied to the relieving officer. He was buried by our directions, and his wife refused to remain in the workhouse.

Captain LABALMONDIERE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

I HAVE made inquiries into the circumstances attending the deaths of two men named Michael Walsh and John Lee, referred to in your letter, dated March 22, which enclosed two reports from the Sub-Inspector of Police upon the subject, and subjoin the information which I have collected.

Michael Walsh was a beggar from the electoral division of Donaghpatrick, in this Union. He was admitted to the workhouse on a provisional ticket from the relieving officer, on the 4th of January, but left it almost immediately. He was again admitted on the 27th January, and again left it on the 3rd of February. A few days afterwards, the relieving officer gave him another provisional ticket of admission, but he was not taken in, the master having marked upon it that the house was full. The officer gave him some meal, but he died before the next day of distribution.

The officer appears to have acted properly and not to be deserving of blame.

John Lee was a native of Moycullen, six miles on the other side of Galway, to which place he was travelling accompanied by his wife, from some part of the county Mayo; he does not appear ever to have made application to the relieving officer here; he was buried by the Vice-Guardians' directions, and his wife refused to remain in the house, and went on to Galway.

Captain LABALMONDIERE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 6, 1848.*

THE Rev. Mr. Ryan having acquainted me that he waived his objections to making the deposition on oath required by you, in the hopes that by his doing so further proceedings in the matter of the arrears of poor-rate of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam may be rendered unnecessary, I appointed to day at 12 o'clock for taking such deposition, and I have the honour to annex the answers returned by him to the questions asked, which queries I had prepared before hand, as suggested in your letter of the — April.

Should you be satisfied with this statement on oath, Mr. Ryan would be glad to hear from you himself to that effect.

You will observe that in the accounts between the Archbishop and Mr. Ryan, he states that the item of the arrears does not appear, and I inquired particularly as to the nature of their accounts. He explained that that they consist of certain dues, a portion of which belongs to the Archbishop, and the remainder to himself and others. The portion belonging to the former he pays over to him, returning

any sum which he may have advanced for the Archbishop, who then writes "settled" in the book.

Thus no regular debtor and creditor account appears to exist between them in which this item would properly be found.

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ENCLOSURE.

Tuam, May 6, 1848.

Question.

1. Did you, as administrator of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, ever pay to the late Rate Collector Lally a sum of 3*l.*, or thereabouts, being the amount due by the said Archbishop for poor-rates, for the rate levied in this Union in the year 1842?

2. On what day did you make this payment?

3. In what manner did you make it?

4. When did you make it?

5. Was any other person present on the occasion besides yourself and Lally?

6. The rate appears to have amounted to 2*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*; did the collector return you any change?

7. If not, why not?

8. Did he give you any acknowledgment for this sum paid by you?

9. Did you ask him for any?

10. Is there any record in the accounts between the Archbishop and yourself of any such payment having been made by you and charged to him?

Does the item appear in any book of accounts between the Archbishop and yourself which you keep?

11. What was the account so allowed you, and the date of entry?

12. Will you produce the account in which this item appears charged?

13. Are you aware of any business transactions having taken place between Mr. Mangen and the late Mr. Lally?

14. Had you any business transactions with Mr. Mangen?

15. Were the accounts between yourself and Mr. Mangen, and between Mr. Mangen and the late Mr. Lally, squared the one against the other in any manner?

16. Had you any private business transactions with the late Mr. Lally?

Answer.

1. I did.

2. I do not recollect the exact date, but a very short time before Lally's decease.

3. In notes.

4. In my own room, he having called upon me.

5. None.

6 and 7. He did not; he stated to me at the time that he knew it was either a few shillings over or under the 3*l.*, and if it were more he would advance the few shillings himself, and if less that he would return me the difference.

8. No.

9. I have no distinct recollection that I did, but my firm conviction is that I must have done so, because I asked him subsequently if the sum appeared on his books as paid, and I do distinctly remember that he replied that it did.

10. The Archbishop himself took a note of the sum advanced by me for the rate in question at the settlement of the accounts between himself and me, which settlement took place before the question was at all mooted at the meeting at which it appeared from the collecting books that he was a defaulter, and at that settlement I received credit from him for this payment.

Not that I keep; but the fact of his taking a note of it would imply that he has probably registered it himself.

11. Three pounds. The settlement was a few days before Christmas, and I could tell it by referring to my books.

12. (Cancelled)

D. L.

13. I have no knowledge of such except by hearsay; I never was present at any such transactions.

14. Any transactions I have had with him have been of a private nature, and have nothing whatever to do with the rate.

15. Never. In any transactions I have had with Mr. Mangen the rate in question has been connected in no way whatever, either directly or indirectly.

16. I had never any transaction with him except the payment of the rate in question.

The Rev. Mr. Ryan wishes further to add that he paid Lally with the consent and knowledge of the Archbishop, and that he got credit in his pecuniary accounts with him for the same.

LUKE RYAN, R. C. C.,

Tuam.

Sworn before me, this 6th day of May, 1848,

D. LABALMONDIERE,

Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

Tuam Union.The COMMISSIONERS to the Rev. LUKE RYAN :—*May 9, 1848.*

THE Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have received from their Inspector, Captain Labalmondiere, a report accompanying the depositions made by you on the 6th instant, relative to the arrears of poor-rates charged to his Grace the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam.

I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they will take such steps as are in their power to give the same publicity to your depositions, as was given to their previous correspondence with you on this subject.

The Commissioners are informed by their Inspector that previously to your consenting to make the depositions referred to, the Vice-Guardians had caused the arrears to be brought into the rate made by them on the Tuam electoral division on the 2nd instant. This circumstance will enable the Archbishop to appeal against the rate newly assessed on him, should he deem it right to do so, on the ground that the arrear has been paid, and to avail himself of your evidence on this point before the Court of Appeal.

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Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 9, 1848.*

I BEG leave to report that yesterday for the first time since my arrival in this Union, as temporary Poor Law Inspector, I met the Board of Guardians, and from all that came under my observation regret to say I cannot state anything favourable to their proceedings.

The relieving officers have been permitted, except in two instances, to dispense relief to the able-bodied paupers without any test in the way of stone-breaking as prescribed; and in the case of the populous district of Mullingar money instead of food has been given. I directed the attention of Mr. Inspector Flanagan to this circumstance, who pronounced the proceeding highly improper and illegal.

Stone-breaking is very unpopular with most of the Guardians; and Mr. Tuite of Sonna, by far the most influential gentleman in Westmeath, stated that no one would permit materials to be taken from a quarry or elsewhere, and that the Commissioners were not decided in enforcing such employment, at least so I understood him. An elected Guardian, Mr. Thomas Glennon said, were I to attend a divisional meeting and insist on stone-breaking, I should take care of myself travelling late at night, or words to that effect. Want of implements is an excuse with some for not employing the able-bodied as required; and others say that the scanty allowance of food provided is insufficient to enable a man to work; but that is entirely owing to the arrangement of the Guardians, who curtail it within what was permitted under the Temporary Relief Act. I should be provided with a special instruction to remove any doubts in the mind of Mr. Tuite as to the Commissioners' determination as to stone-breaking or cleaning roads, and how tools are to be provided from the several depôts belonging to the Board of Works.

I found yesterday that the collectors were behind in their collection better than 800%, from negligence or dishonesty; and that about 200% was in jeopardy from one cause or another, but principally from insufficiency in their sureties. This class of persons and the relieving officers I must overhaul with the utmost precision as fast as I can.

The Board of Guardians assembled yesterday about 11 or half-past 11 o'clock, and although, as far as I could collect, the Union would still be in debt about 800%, even if the whole of the last rate were available, a rate only was struck throughout the Union for sums varying from 2s. 4d. to 8d. in the pound, being one-third of the estimate provided by the clerk, which included 14,675%, amount of rates struck for expenses under the Temporary Relief Act, and 3000% for additional workhouse accommodation. As the out-door relief was estimated at 300%, and the in-door, with expense of establishment, at 150% per week, the inadequacy of the amount decided on by the Guardians is very manifest, and calls for the interference of the Commissioners. Perhaps the sum in the clerk's estimate, varying from 7s. to 2s., might be hard to get in, but less than half their amount would be absurd to think of.

From the embarrassed condition of the Union from debt accumulating, and the refusal of the Treasurer to make any further advances unless some decided step be taken, matters must come to a stand still.

The attendance of the Guardians only once a week, and the short time that is given to transact business, render what is done imperfect, I much fear, especially as regards the system of out-door relief, which I have not had time or sufficient experience to fully investigate, but which I shall attend to with the utmost vigilance, commencing to-morrow to go through the several divisions, and attend the meetings of the local committees.

All idea of additional workhouse accommodation has been abandoned for the present, either for permanent or temporary purposes, the impression being that the potato will soon be restored as the food of the people; or that some other means than poor's rate shall be adopted by the Legislature for the maintenance of them.

As regards the striking of a sufficient rate, the employment of the able-

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The interior economy of the Union house, which I carefully inspected, appears very good indeed.

This my first report is necessarily imperfect, from the short time I have been here; but any instructions I may get shall be duly attended to as to those to be rendered for the future.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*February 14, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request that you will furnish them with an estimate of the numbers required of the several implements necessary for the employment of able-bodied paupers in the Mullingar Union, when such estimate will be sent to the Board of Works with an application for them.

The Commissioners expect the Guardians will use every exertion to carry out the condition in the sealed order requiring every able-bodied man who receives relief to give his time and labour in return for it; and the Commissioners will on no consideration permit such labour to be applied to the cultivation of the land.

Relief given in money to persons relieved under the second section is illegal, and it will be the duty of the auditor to disallow it in the Union accounts. The auditor's attention has been called to the illegal expense which has taken place in this respect.

If the Guardians are unable or reluctant to carry into execution the existing laws in accordance with the intention of the statutes, and with the regulations of the Commissioners, the Commissioners will be under the necessity of considering their responsibility under the 18th section of the Extension Act, and they wish you so to inform the Guardians.

As regards the new rate the Commissioners have addressed the Guardians.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that during the last three days of the week ended the 12th instant, I visited the offices of the relieving officers of the electoral divisions of Piercetown, Ballynacarrigy, and Multyfarnham.

In the first named, I found the relieving officer had only the assistance of one Guardian—that a very scanty allowance of food without any labour-test was administered to great numbers of the able-bodied, and said Guardian inserted the amount of relief and initialed the Application and Report Book for that and the adjoining electoral division of Rathconrath. I pointed out the illegality of such proceeding, and a promise of amendment was made.

At Ballynacarrigy a more liberal system was pursued to a very heavy list of persons under the superintendence of Mr. Tuite, of Sonna, a very large proprietor, and *ex-officio* Guardian, assisted by rate-payers. He resists most strenuously the test of breaking stones, and declared his determination not to permit what had been attended under the Labour Rate Act with so demoralizing a tendency, as the congregation of large numbers of persons at useless work; and that no materials should be supplied from off any of his estates for such a purpose; that it was far better to give a short supply of food, and leave the recipients at home. I stated that out-door relief to the able-bodied without employment was illegal, and that the whole amount so expended might be disallowed when an audit of the accounts of the Union should be made.

At Multyfarnham I found a far different state of things; the whole of the district of Leny, of which it forms a part, through the attention and vigilance of one of the Guardians especially, having few able-bodied on their lists, from insisting on employment as a test from the onset; and my visit was for the purpose of discountenancing the efforts made to resist it, and to induce the large rate-payers to take a few additional hands into their employment in preference to paying a heavy rate without any return or benefit.

On the 14th instant I attended at the workhouse to inspect the relieving officers' books, and see how far the clerk was complying with Article 8 in Nos.

1 and 2 of the General Order of the 25th October, 1847. With the exception of those of Rathconnell, Collinstown, and Leny districts I found the books very badly kept, which I must attribute in a great measure to the want of proper supervision on the part of the Guardians, who assemble but once a week, and after much discussion have little time for actual business, so much so that the first day I attended their meeting there was nothing whatever done regarding them. No. 1 of Article 8 in one district had never been complied with, and others only partially; but No. 2 regularly attended to by the clerk. So had a beginning has been made that much time will be requisite I fear to establish a better system.

Yesterday, the 15th instant, I met the Board of Guardians, who assembled numerously, and after, as usual, much loss of time in discussing and moving resolutions, the main point was come to, the making provision by the way of rate, when a Committee at the suggestion of the Marquess of Westmeath was named to meet on Thursday (to-morrow) to prepare an amended estimate of the amount required for the next six months, omitting any sum for additional workhouse accommodation, or the repayment of advances under the Temporary Relief Act, to be submitted for final decision the ensuing Board-day. The relieving officers' books were very partially gone through, and I could not succeed in having a second day named for the despatch of business, one only in the week being quite insufficient.

The Union is now better than 1200*l.* in debt, and only about 700*l.* to be collected of last rate, of which 200*l.* is thought to be difficult of realising. The delay of finally deciding on a rate for current expenses must be attended with embarrassment, as by the time a new rate can now be in the course of collection the haggards of the small rate-payers will have been emptied of their contents.

I told the Guardians that I was prepared to forward an estimate of tools, and requested to be supplied with returns of what each relief district required, and warned them of the danger of persisting in applying no labour-test in relieving the able-bodied out of doors, and I trust with some effect.

In a large Union like this without continuous exertion on the part of Guardians I do not see how business is to be carried on with any degree of system or economy, to say nothing of the demoralization the want of it must entail.

I have had all the collectors summoned to attend this day, and shall carefully go through their books.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*February 23, 1848.*

I BEG leave to state, that in the course of last week I investigated the accounts of six collectors of districts, and the result has been that three of them were able to show they had performed their duty as far as practicable, and very nearly completed their collections, and two have subsequently come in and made a final settlement of their accounts. The Newtown collector, Hugh Cary, said, if he were permitted he would satisfactorily clear up the sum given him to get in, but being recommended for dismissal it precluded his making further progress. He showed by returns that 166*l.* had not yet come into his hands. Three collectors who were summoned by the clerk to come in have not done so, and therefore steps shall be taken to enforce their appearance.

I do not think sufficient care has been taken to appoint efficient collectors, and in consequence of the instructions contained in circular of 26th October, 1847, being only partially acted on, I could not detect whether any of the men who came before me had been retaining money in their hands longer than they should.

On Thursday the 17th I attended a Committee of Guardians appointed to frame an estimate for a six months' rate, to be submitted for adoption next Board-day. My doing so was at the request of the Marquess of Westmeath. The Committee was most painstaking in the performance of their undertaking, and took into account the repayment of the advances under the Temporary Relief Act, the amount of which I was enabled to give them from my former connexion with the Union. The Committee had reason to be dissatisfied with

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their clerk, Mr. Coffey, from his apparent reluctance to give the information required of him, and much of what he imparted having been found erroneous; I was obliged to interpose and express my disapprobation of a paid officer exhibiting caprice or apathy with those placed in authority over him. He is an intelligent man, and understands, I am convinced, the duties he has to perform; and why he should have forgotten himself I cannot tell except that he has been left too much to his own arrangements, and the consequence attending it, the creation of self-importance.

I have been attending to the workhouse, and shall lose no time in carrying out the instructions contained in circulars of the 12th instant, and of 12th December, 1847.

On Monday the 21st the Board assembled, instead of their usual day, Tuesday, owing to assize business interfering. After the routine business had been disposed of, the report of the Committee appointed to frame an estimate of expenses of rate for six months was submitted, and a rate was accordingly struck varying from 4s. 3d. to 2d. in the pound, making better than 20,000%. Your letter to me in reply to my report of the 9th instant had a very beneficial influence in hastening this necessary step, although the progressive embarrassments of the Union ought to be a sufficient stimulus.

I attended an adjourned meeting of the Board yesterday, consisting of three members only, for the purpose of carrying out the duties prescribed in articles 8 and 9 of the General Order for out-door relief; and with the exception of the books of three relieving officers saw nothing I could approve of. The relieving officers' Application and Report Book for Killare district was so imperfect, that out of upwards of 1000 persons getting relief, only two cases came under the 1st section of the Act, and all the rest under the 2nd, from the want of sufficient information in each instance. There was hardly any date of admission to relief, and the initialing was done by a Guardian of the district, without any one registry having been made. Instead of the clerk registering himself, as required by No. 1 of Article 8, that part of his office is left to two pauper boys and the relieving officers, and, consequently, no accuracy can be expected. In the Application and Report Book referred to there was an extraordinary entry, being the name of a man as a pauper who had a claim for car-hire, which was paid by direction of a Guardian (Mr. Kelly) as provisional relief. In fact the whole of the books of six districts would require the most careful revision if the Guardians could be got to do so. I was in dismay on seeing how little attention was paid to the specimen folio of the Application and Relief Books, the accuracy of which I now perceive is so requisite for the adoption of the relieving officers and Guardians.

Of the nine relief districts there is no labour-test in six; and all I can say and do, has up to this, effected no amendment.

No. 2 of Article 8 is the only one perfectly attended to. As to entering into the particulars of the defects I perceived, they are far too numerous to detail, and without a careful revision of all the defective books, they are calculated to lead to the greatest abuses.

The districts more than six miles from the workhouse have never had Committees nominated to perform the duties required under section 6, and the Guardians of them take upon themselves the management, even in some instances to the initialing of the Application and Relief Books.

I have been at the Guardians to arrange so that meetings from day to day should take place until everything was put in proper working order, otherwise nothing short of a dissolution of their body might be expected. This has caused an anxiety on their part to alter their course, and to-morrow I am invited to attend a meeting, when arrangements that ought to have been made long ago are to be entered into to establish a uniform system of relief and labour-test throughout the Union, hasten the filling of the rate-books, and to attend in every respect strictly to law and orders providing for out-door relief.

I think the Guardians are now serious, otherwise the sooner some change be made the better, or the worst consequences may be expected. I was called on yesterday at the workhouse by Mr. Middleton Berry, one of the largest proprietors in the Union, and high sheriff of the county, who having been for some time away requested to know how the system of out-door relief was being carried on. I told him as yet nothing could be worse, and that I greatly

feared a change should be made that would not be agreeable to the Board, as the law should be carried out by some means or other, and as yet I met with no support in the execution of the office I was appointed to. He told me he was favourable to a paid Board, conceiving that the Guardians would never give the time and attention required of them, and that I might, in communicating with the Commissioners, make use of his name; his agent was with him, a very intelligent man of business, and he perfectly concurred in opinion with him. I must say if to-morrow's intended meeting at the Court-house be not productive of good, anything I can do, circumstanced as at present, can avail nothing.

The out-door relief came last week to 315 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., and this to a great extent owing to want of a labour-test. As far as the workhouse can accommodate the test has proved most beneficial, for out of 40 persons offered admission on Wednesday the 16th instant, only 18 availed themselves of it.

If I find there is not a hearty disposition on the part of the Guardians to act legally for the future, I shall lose no time in making a communication to that effect.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 1, 1848.*

I AM to state that the Commissioners have received from the clerk an explanation of his conduct towards the Committee of Guardians appointed to frame the estimate for a new rate, which the Commissioners have under their consideration.

The Commissioners await your further report as to the exertions of the Guardians, and their disposition to act in conformity with the order issued by the Commissioners for their guidance and control.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 2, 1848.*

I BEG leave to report, that during the last four days of the week ended the 26th ultimo, besides directing my attention a good deal to the interior management of the workhouse, I had several interviews with some of the principal Guardians, almost all of whom were in attendance at the Court-house here, as magistrates or jurors during the assizes, for the purpose of stimulating them to attend to the instructions for carrying out the law in the administration of out-door relief under the Extension Act, and especially to what related to having a labour-test for the able-bodied; as out of twenty-six electoral divisions there were only six of them in which any attempt was made in the shape of employment as required, and consequently the expenditure far exceeded what otherwise should be. The apprehension that a dissolution of their body would take place, unless what I pointed out should be attended to, appeared to influence them a good deal; and a promise of amendment was given that, I regret to say, has not been followed up, and in fact I now see a radical change in the whole system of transacting business in the Union is quite indispensable.

Every Monday the relieving officers are in attendance on the clerk, who appears to have observed strictly enough the further duties required of him, so far as numbers 2 and 4 of Article 8, in the general order for out-door relief, go, but has left altogether the performance of number 1 to the relieving officers, and one or two pauper boys, who write for him; and last Board-day I discovered that the fresh cases of application for relief, in some instances were entered by anticipation in the out-door register, without his appearing to be aware of it, before the decision of the Guardians could be obtained and confirmed by the initials of the chairman. Number 3 is generally disposed of by the Committees in the districts more than six miles off, and in one case by the Guardian of a division within that distance, and initialed by him without stating the nature and duration of relief, or the date of order. I pointed out this to Mr. Flanagan, who highly disapproved of it, also, that the chairman of the Board had sometimes deputed Guardians to affix his initials for him, which Mr. Flanagan equally disapproved of.

In the further proceedings of the Guardians, under Article 9 of said general order, no examination of the books required by number 2 takes place, consequently the relieving officers have no check placed on them as to the amount

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charged in the relief lists, and it is too much to expect that some advantage has not been taken of it.

The Guardians are not assembled for business until half-past 11 or 12 o'clock on Tuesdays, and then there is so much clatter and discussion that when the books of the relieving officers are produced the day is far spent, and those who have 8, 10, and 12 miles to return home are anxious to be off before night sets in; and the result is, that some of the books are partially disposed of, and the persons to whom they belong are obliged to attend the following day at some place for the distribution of food, without being duly authorized in every case. I find the columns for provisional relief are used for ordinary cases of affording aid, instead of extraordinary ones, and the books altogether so filled up as to render a due classification of paupers in the statistical portion of the out-door relief list quite out of the question. Without new books altogether, I do not see what can be done to remedy those at present in use. The books were not placed in the hands of the relieving officers in time, and when the pressure came all was hurry and confusion, and the headings of the columns quite unattended to.

I have over and over stated that the auditor would disallow all sums illegally disbursed, and that the parties signing the checks would be held accountable.

As a specimen of the slovenly mode in which business is transacted, on my reaching the workhouse on Saturday last, I found eight pauper boys occupying the clerk's office, the Board-room, and the relieving officer's apartment, copying rate-books without the superintendence of the revising valuator or the clerk; and had to direct the porter to keep the Board-room free of such intruders, as it was for the special use of the Guardians, and should not be in the littered filthy state I found it in.

Mr. Lyons, one of the Guardians, a most excellent man of business, undertook to place matters on a sound footing by attendance from day to day, in overhauling the books, and fixing the places in each division for the employment of the able-bodied, and last Board-day did so as to the latter, as far as he could obtain information from those present; but from the apathy displayed by some, I suppose he felt he could not proceed satisfactorily, from his disappearance early in the day, and my not having seen or heard of him since.

A muster of the paupers of these divisions of the Union was made by a Committee on Tuesday last, in consequence, I believe, of its having been stated that prior to the present master coming into office the register was neglected, inasmuch as upwards of a hundred persons who appeared on it, and were no longer inmates of the house, had no entry in the last column after their names, as to the date of death, or leaving the workhouse, recorded. Some names were found on the relief lists which could not be accounted for, two of whom the master admitted were not in the house. I followed up the inquiry yesterday, assisted by a few Guardians, and shall report the result when I have fully investigated the matter. It appears the master has not been in the habit of calling the roll as required by No. 5, of Article 62, prescribing his duties.

The collectors have not been looked after in the mode pointed out in the last order regarding them, and consequently the wholesome check provided by it has not been exercised.

To show the little interest that is taken by some of the Guardians as to what is passing in a matter that should so immediately interest them, there are six Guardians—three ex-officio and three elective—in the Mullingar division, four of whom I have never met at any meetings of the Board since I came here, one only twice, and but one who gives regular attendance.

I forwarded a requisition for implements on the 17th ultimo, as required by your letter to me in reply to my first report, and have had no reply, owing, I suppose, to the Board of Works not having authorized the supply; and not being able to meet the demands for them, a pretext is furnished in some places that the labour-test cannot be put, not having the means of providing them, the Union being involved in debt.

It will be some time before a rate can be in the course of collection, and in consequence of provision in that way not having been made early in the year, the difficulty of getting it in must be greatly increased. There is now due to the treasurer 351*l.*, and he will not advance beyond that amount. The Hibernian bank here has cheques for 264*l.*, and the National 156*l.*, for which there is

no provision. The debts to contractors and officers of the establishment must amount to a good round sum. I asked the clerk for a statement of the liabilities of the Union up to this, but he said it would take him some time to make it out. In fact, his own business as shopkeeper absorbs too much of the time he should devote to his office.

I can effect but little good except to give my attention as much as possible to the workhouse as to its interior economy, and detect and report any abuses I may discover in the absence of co-operation on the part of Guardians.

The Guardians are highly respectable as a body; but unless they are willing and able to give the time required for the increased duties the Extension Act imposes on them, there can be no regularity or strict administration of the law. Two large proprietors and ex-officio Guardians expressed to me their viewing favourably having the business of the Union conducted by paid Guardians, and I cannot see myself how it can otherwise be effected; and in so large a one, experienced and efficient men would be needed.

My decided opinion is, that matters can no longer go on here without the greatest embarrassment resulting, if paid Guardians be not appointed forthwith; as neither sufficient time nor attention can be expected from the present Board, from my experience since my arrival here.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 8, 1848.*

I BEG leave to report that during the last three days, in week ended the 4th instant, I was engaged in the muster of the paupers of the workhouse, and in comparing the relief list with the register, to ascertain to what extent the whole of the latter had been neglected by the former master and his successor, and on Monday last I was enabled to complete this most necessary step. I found the names of 13 persons on the relief list who were not forthcoming—three of whom it was generally admitted had not been in the house for upwards of a year; and that there were 220 cases on the register which had not been marked off as having died or left the workhouse, being no longer inmates. Some of the 13 persons on the relief list the master mentioned yesterday he would be able to account for, but did not do so. I found there has been great neglect as to keeping the register by the present master, observing several columns under the head of Religious Denomination without any entry, and in every case the townland omitted, the electoral division only being named.

From the difficulty of getting the paupers arranged by the divisions they belonged to, and to answer their names, with the great want of personal knowledge on the part of the master and his assistants, whether parties were in hospital or otherwise, it struck me that the roll call must be quite in disuse; and on making inquiry, I found that Article 14, No. 5 of Article 62, and No. 4 of Article 63, workhouse rules, had never been in the slightest degree attended to by the master and matron since their appointment to the establishment; hence the want of familiarity with names and the tediousness of bringing the inmates together by divisions, and to get them to answer when called.

This matter I submitted to the Board of Guardians yesterday, who said that calling the roll was so essential a part of the duties to be performed that they never for a moment could consider that it would be neglected, and consequently no inquiry had been made regarding it. On reference to the Visiting Committee's Report Book, I found that since the 26th January, 1847, the house has only been visited twice, and the queries then only partially answered; indeed from the short time devoted to business, and the confusion occasioned by each Guardian endeavouring to have what immediately interests himself brought forward, this important duty has been overlooked.

Your instructions contained in Circular No. 123, Miscellaneous, of February 12, 1848, to Temporary Inspectors, is very explicit; and in going over the workhouse rules in my inspections, the calling of the roll was part of them I never for a moment could suppose was neglected, until by the muster I made, assisted one day only by a few members of the Board, made it manifest there was gross neglect in that respect. The master and matron appear to have gone on as they learned their predecessors had done, instead of looking to the rules.

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I feel I am to blame myself in not looking to this before, but coming here without any previous knowledge of the management of a workhouse, all appeared to be going on well until I directed my attention to details.

In endeavouring to get the Guardians in the first instance to carry out the instructions contained in the General Order for out-door relief, together with Circulars, my attention was principally absorbed in that way. They commenced badly from suffering the pressure to come on them without due preparation, and, I may say, nothing has been righted yet. Places have been named in the several divisions for breaking stones, but no organized system of carrying it into effect adopted, such as the procuring materials and conveyance thereof, determining the amount of labour of the different classes of adult males, and a scale of rations throughout the Union in proportion to the number of dependents of each able-bodied pauper. There is a disinclination to appoint a more respectable class of persons as overseers of labour, at 10s. a-week—5s. and 6s., being generally the amount of remuneration, does not insure an efficient supervision. The excuse of want of implements no longer exists, as I obtained an order from the Board of Works on the 3rd instant, in compliance with my requisition of the 17th ultimo. I have only been called on yet for them by one division, but have named to-morrow specially, for all requiring them to come for what they want.

I must now particularly call your attention to the embarrassments this Union is fast getting into from a rate not having been struck in time, and that recently made not being in the course of collection yet. Bills to the amount of 1968*l.* 15*s.* were sent in yesterday, which, with 327*l.* due to the treasurer, and cheques for 156*l.* in his hands, and a further sum in cheques of 264*l.* on the Hibernian Branch Bank, together with salaries of officers amounting to 360*l.*, on the eve of becoming due, will leave in all, with current expenses of this week, a debt of nearly, or, I should say, better than 3500*l.*

Of rates still uncollected or unaccounted for there is 1000*l.*, but of this sum there are arrears of several rates, and the defalcations of two collectors who died, which must cause a considerable deduction in the amount that may immediately be realized. I have been obliged to issue summonses myself for the attendance of four collectors in the Board-room, on Saturday next, with their accounts—the clerk having disappointed me in getting in some of them before this, stating the assizes interfering on one occasion, and another having forgotten it or not deeming it necessary, the late General Order relating to collectors being unattended to.

The laxity of Guardians has naturally extended to all their officers, and the consequence is, business is not conducted with any degree of system, and how the evil can be remedied otherwise than by a paid Board I cannot imagine; and now that the Extension Act is in operation, the increased duties imposed by the General Order for out-door relief are very imperfectly attended to.

The number of persons getting out-door relief last week was 12,208, and the expense 315*l.* 14*s.* 9½*d.*

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March* 12, 1848.

IN reply to your circular of the 2nd instant, I beg leave to state that I have purposely delayed giving my opinion whether there would be any decided objection in determining or suspending out-door relief to the able-bodied in this Union on the 18th instant, waiting to see a termination of the very inclement weather which prevailed of late, which completely stopped farm operations, and also by my personal observations and inquiries as to the disposition of small landholders to give employment as heretofore. With this view I visited on Friday last one of the most destitute districts, and learned that farmers of late were so dispirited that they were endeavouring to do their business with the least possible outlay in the employment of labourers; and found the cultivation of land never so backward from the continued rains, the ground everywhere completely saturated.

As the weather up to this is unsettled, I think it might be very hazardous, in a variety of ways, to discontinue relief sooner than the 25th instant; but in the meantime the lists may be reduced, as the able-bodied can find employment.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 13, 1848.*

I AM directed to state that the Commissioners will not, in opposition to your views, withdraw or revoke the existing order.

The Commissioners have your recent reports on the state of the Union under their serious consideration, and it is probable that by the next post an order dissolving the Board of Guardians will be issued.

The Commissioners deem it right to prepare you for this decision, in the event of their taking this step: but you must not consider it so definitely settled as to enable you to communicate it to the Board of Guardians, or to any other party.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain TELFORD :—*March 14, 1848.*

ADVERTING to their letter of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that they have determined not to dissolve the Board of Guardians of the Mullingar Union at present, but purpose to address them at their next meeting.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 15, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report that since the 8th instant, I have been pressing the necessity of having the rate-books completed, for the insertion of the rate resolved upon by the Board of Guardians on the 21st ultimo. They are now ready for the clerk, when he receives instructions from the Board, who yesterday altered the amount of rate resolved upon, in consequence of your letter of the 9th instant, where the rating exceeded 2s. 11d. in the pound, in accordance with the last paragraph of said letter, by which in the aggregate about 1800*l.* was curtailed of the original amount.

I drew your attention in my last report to the circumstance, that the Union was in debt to the amount more than 3500*l.*; that of the last rate, old arrears, and defalcations of two collectors who died, there was 1000*l.* uncollected or unaccounted for—a large portion of which could not be realized for some time, if at all.

I was obliged to summon four collectors, for the examination of their accounts in the Board-room, on Saturday, the 11th instant. Mr. Hugh Carey, the Newtown collector, recommended for dismissal, and who had sent in his accounts, such as they were, as required by your letter to him, appeared. He is 192*l.* back, of which he received 22*l.*, which has not been lodged. He had not been obliged to keep his accounts agreeably to the last General Order, and had no receipt check-book for the division of Streamstown, having, he said, sent it in to the clerk, or given it to a pauper boy who assists in the office of the latter; however, it was nowhere to be found. This man should never have been appointed, from his incapacity to keep accounts.

Mr. James Brien, the Killare collector, appeared. He is 271*l.* back, and has been permitted to defer making his collection, which should have been completed last harvest, when he admitted he could have been paid without trouble. Several persons with whom he could have had no difficulty in getting payment, had not been applied to by him. The clerk had undertaken to have this man brought in on two occasions, and failed in doing so, in consequence of which I had to summon him myself. His accounts were in such a state that I gave him a week to prepare them for further examination, and in the mean time to collect what he could, or I should recommend him for dismissal. This man, in personal appearance and intelligence, is no better than an ordinary peasant; and his sureties are, I believe, persons of his own class—small farmers.

Mr. Peter Keeffe, the Rathconrath collector, appeared, who succeeded a man of the name of Hanlon, who died. He is 216*l.* back, of which he stated having seen receipts for 87*l.*, given by his predecessor for rates, returned to him as uncollected. His accounts were also such a jumble that I gave him a week to come properly prepared, and to get in as much as he could in the mean while.

Mr. John Ward, collector of the Leny district, did not appear, a certificate of a medical man having been produced to the effect that he was in typhus fever. He also succeeded Hanlon, who died, and is 200*l.* back, of which a large proportion, he stated to a Guardian, had been paid to his predecessor and not accounted for, Hanlon's receipts having been produced to him.

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The late Mr. Hanlon had the collection of six electoral divisions; and when he died they were formed into two districts; and until Mr. Ward is sufficiently recovered, it cannot be ascertained to what amount the sureties of deceased can be sued for; and then as to the recovery of it, there appears not the slightest chance, from their admitted insolvency—one of whom is relieving officer of the Mullingar district, and the other a farmer holding 12 acres of land.

The office of clerk has been very badly performed as regards the collectors; and his excuse is, the inferior class of persons appointed by the Guardians to collect, and when summoned to petty sessions for disobedience of orders, the small amount of fine inflicted being insufficient to prevent a repetition of the offence.

The disinclination on the part of the Board of Guardians to remunerate sufficiently to ensure the services of persons of integrity and intelligence, has been a great drawback to the welfare of the Union, now plunged into debt.

At the meeting of the Board yesterday, after the minutes of last day's proceedings were read over, and the letters and documents which had reached the clerk since then, applications for relief were proceeded with; but about five o'clock, before the relieving officers were half disposed of, the members were reduced to four; and soon after an adjournment took place to Monday next, the cases of refractory or disorderly paupers remaining over for future consideration, where prompt adjudication is so necessary in a crowded house to secure discipline. The Board resolved to assemble for the future on Monday as well as Tuesday.

This mode of doing business has had the most injurious tendency on all their officers; and that the workhouse should be in as good order as it is is quite surprising.

By the election of Guardians for the ensuing year, two of the most efficient members will cease to belong to the Board; and the changes on the eve of taking place in it are not calculated to insure improvement.

From the growing debt of the Union—no new rate in course of collection—rate-books not even signed, and the indisposition of persons, as I heard yesterday, to continue to supply the several articles of food by contract, with a distant prospect of payment, and apparent insecurity even then, I feel quite alarmed at the state of our affairs.

I believe there is not a more respectable body of men to be found than the Board here is generally composed of; but the want of business habits, and time to attend to the increased duties which have devolved upon them, have left the same difficulties to encounter as where a very different class of persons has existed.

I have issued implements to 16 electoral divisions for the employment of the able-bodied; but in consequence of the small amount of relief in some places assigned to them, being less than permitted by the Relief Commissioners, I do not see how the labour test can be enforced. I wanted a uniform scale to be adopted in the amount of food, according to dependents; but nothing like uniformity or system has been practised.

The books of the relieving officers are generally very badly kept, and in one case where, from the want of classification, the paupers of three divisions form a district, temporary and serious inconvenience must, when out-door relief to the able-bodied ceases, occur to cases which should have appeared under section 1.

When employed under the Relief Commission, a temporary measure was carried out in this Union, as to the books of Relief Committees, in a very superior manner to what the Extension Act, a permanent one, has been. They were placed in the hands of the clerks in time, and sent back from time to time, until the headings of the columns were properly attended to. I pointed out irregularities yesterday, but was told the books were so imperfect they could not be remedied. From the slovenly mode of doing business, the relieving officers are compelled to give provisional relief to a great extent on their own responsibility, and thus abuses to a frightful extent may be perpetrated.

I am in receipt of your letters of the 13th and 14th instant, and trust your intended communication to the Guardians may have a salutary effect, as bankruptcy is staring them in the face, out of which nothing short of a Union rate, of which many of them are naturally much afraid, is calculated to restore a solvent state of things, if matters be permitted to get worse.

The rate resolved upon as it stands at present, varies from 2s. 11d. to 2d. in the pound.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*March 23, 1848.*

Mullingar Union.

I AM to convey to you the thanks of the Commissioners.

I am at the same time to state that, the Commissioners propose to address the Guardians on the general state of the Union at the first meeting after the new Board.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 23, 1848.*

THE accounts of collector James Brien, found so imperfect on the 11th instant, and who had been given until the 17th to complete returns of defaulting rate-payers, came in according to appointment, but of 271*l.* he had to account for, his lists only amounted to 166*l.*, and, under pretence of having forgotten some of his papers, he left the Board-room, and has not shown himself since. The impression is, that he has been paid generally, and converted the money to his own use. I have summoned him to appear on Saturday next.

Collector Peter Keefe was to have been in also with lists of defaulting rate-payers, on the 17th instant, but never appeared. He has to show how much of 212*l.* remains uncollected, or for which receipts have been produced to him for payments made to his predecessor, Hanlon, deceased. This man I have also summoned to appear on Saturday next.

Collector John Ward has not sufficiently recovered from the effects of typhus fever, to show how much of 200*l.* is uncollected, or for which receipts have been produced, given by his predecessor, Hanlon, deceased.

Of 1000*l.* of last rate, &c., owing to the want of proper persons to perform the office of collectors, and the absence of due precaution in selecting solvent sureties, very little of it can be calculated on as available within a reasonable time, if ever.

One good which has resulted from this is, that the Guardians see the necessity of pursuing a different course in the selection of their officers, as opportunities occur, and of rigidly scrutinizing the circumstances of the parties offered as sureties.

At the request of the Board of Guardians, I have prepared, by way of question and answer, the duties of the clerk, master, matron, schoolmaster, schoolmistress, and porter, with a view of having them printed, and receiving from each of the respective officers above named, on every Board-day, written replies signed by them, how the several duties required by them have been performed and discharged.

I have also done the same for relieving officers, and have only the collectors to dispose of, who shall have the queries applicable to their office to answer as well as others.

I thought this was very unnecessary at first, but I am quite convinced now that good will result from it, the duties required of each being so frequently within view ; good looking after, however, is quite indispensable.

In consequence of the Board having carried their resolution into effect, of meeting on Monday as well as Tuesday, for the first time since I came to Mullingar, the business was properly done this week, nothing left in arrear, although the examination of tenders for the supplies by contract for the ensuing year occupied a considerable time the second day. There is a disposition to keep the management of their affairs in their own hands, and, although I regret exceedingly the resignation of one of the elective Guardians, or rather his declining to be one any more, I trust there will be an infusion of vigour into the proceedings of the Board, by the changes about taking place notwithstanding, at first, I was rather dubious about it.

I hope the rate-books and collecting books will be all ready for the new rate against Tuesday next ; and with that view I had a resolution passed on Monday last, that the clerk and revising valuator should be in attendance at the work-house every day, from 10 o'clock until 4, or longer if necessary, till everything in the shape of arrear should be brought up. I see myself that this is strictly adhered to.

The Union is now fully 4000*l.* in debt, but a good deal can be got in within a short period from persons holding large tracts of land ; but, from the delay occasioned in making a new rate, the smaller holders have disposed of almost

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everything they had for market, and, of course, now, the next harvest is what must be principally looked to for payment of their rates.

I am in hopes when the Board next meets for the despatch of business, commencing a new year, that everything regarding labour test, the formation of district Committees of their own body, will be duly carried out, and whatever else is requisite.

I hope, most sincerely, the weather may take up, as otherwise the stoppage of out-door relief to the able-bodied must be greatly felt, from the indisposition of almost every class of farmers to give employment, except where it is quite unavoidable. Yesterday's rain is calculated to retard farm operations a good deal, and the weather appears still quite unsettled.

I have supplied 16 electoral divisions with implements for the employment of the able-bodied, but 10 still hold back, one of which only can be considered in a very destitute state.

I am looking forward to a new era, as to the transaction of business in this Union, and therefore, for once, I make no complaints. The Board was strongly impressed with a belief that the Commissioners were bent on their dissolution, but I assured them there was no such thing contemplated, unless they persisted in setting the law and instructions at naught.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 24, 1848.*

I AM requested by Colonel Caulfield, an ex-officio Guardian, to put the following query, and obtain an answer :—

Where the head of a family has more than a quarter of an acre of land, are the children of 15 years or upwards entitled to out-door relief?

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain TELFORD in reply :—*March 28, 1848.*

I AM directed to state that inasmuch as children above 15 years of age are relievable on their own account, and not on the account of their parents, the former are not, in the opinion of the Commissioners, disentitled to relief by the latter holding land to the extent of more than a quarter of an acre, statute measure.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain TELFORD :—*March 24, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to inform you, that the order issued by the Commissioners on the 18th instant, authorizing the Board of Guardians of the Mullingar Union to afford relief out of the workhouse in food to the able-bodied will expire on the 27th instant, and I am to request that you will be so good as to report to the Commissioners your opinion as to the necessity for its renewal.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*March 25, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 24th instant, with reference to the order for out-door relief to the able-bodied expiring on the 27th instant, and wishing to know my opinion as to the necessity of renewing it, I beg leave to state, that I think there is the greatest necessity for so doing, as I am convinced from inquiries made on the subject of the employment that must be given when the weather permits, that there are nine or ten electoral divisions in this Union in which, from the cultivation of the potato being likely to be on a limited scale, from the expense of seed and the indisposition of farmers of all classes taking in more hands than can be dispensed with, that large numbers of mere labourers, able and willing to work, will not obtain employment.

ENCLOSURE.

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MULLINGAR UNION.

(Out-door Relief.)

To the Guardians of the Poor of the Mullingar Union; to the Clerk and other Officers of the said Union; and to all other persons whom it may concern:

WHEREAS it has been shown to our satisfaction, that, by reason of the want of room in the workhouse of the said Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded therein to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled, or destitute poor persons disabled by sickness or accident, or destitute poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them; and it is expedient to authorize and empower the Guardians of the said Union to administer relief out of the workhouse to such destitute poor persons, for a limited time as hereinafter mentioned.

Now, therefore, we, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the said Guardians to administer relief out of the workhouse, in food, to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect, and not being persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, and thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, whom they are liable by law to maintain, and not being poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, for the period from the date of this order to the 28th day of May next, inclusive.

And we do hereby make the following rules and regulations as to the granting, ordering, and giving of relief to all persons who shall be relieved by the said Guardians, under the authority of this order, that is to say:—

1. Every person relieved under the authority of this order shall be relieved in food only, and such food shall, as far as is practicable, be cooked food.
2. Every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of this order shall, so far as is practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives such relief.
3. No able-bodied person who shall be in employment, nor any part of his or her family, shall receive relief as a destitute person under the authority of this order.

And for the more effectual administration of relief under this order, we do hereby authorize and direct the said Guardians to appoint so many relieving officers as shall be found sufficient from time to time, to superintend the labour of such persons as shall be set to work, in pursuance of the regulations in this order contained, and otherwise to assist in the administration of relief under this order, as the said Guardians, subject to our approval, shall direct.

Sealed with our seal, this twenty-eighth day of March,
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and forty-eight.

(Seal,)

(Signed)

E. T. B. TWISLETON.

(Countersigned,)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 29, 1848.*

I BEG leave to report that on Monday last, notwithstanding that the Guardians had determined to devote every Monday as well as Tuesday to the business of the Union, only one member appeared in the Board-room; however this was not of much consequence, as the clerk is fully occupied on that day in each week in examining the out-door relief lists, and Weekly Receipt and Expenditure Books of the relieving officers, and I intended proposing Wednesday instead, as being more convenient.

Yesterday the Board met and did nothing until 12 o'clock, and the attendance of members was very limited. A chairman, vice-chairman, and deputy vice-chairman, were elected for the current year; this the Guardians were disposed to postpone till a fuller meeting could be obtained, but I pointed out the necessity of complying with Article 3 of the General Regulations, by which it could not be deferred. Having disposed of routine business, the Rate and Collecting Books were produced for approval and signature, and although found to be very defective, they were signed—the Guardians thinking, that from the pecuniary difficulties of the Union, further time should not be lost in putting the new rate in course of collection. The revising valuator, Mr. David Harton, was severely admonished for neglect of duty in producing such slovenly documents, and directed to make good forthwith anything imperfect in them. The cases of fresh applicants for relief were then gone into and disposed of, and the Board was adjourned to this day, verbally, by the chairman, only one member promising to attend.

I attended in the Board-room at 11 o'clock to-day, and found but one

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member present, and examined the Mullingar electoral division rate-book, and found it very defective—the names of occupiers being omitted in some places—want of numbers against tenements generally—and totalling of valuation of townlands and rating neglected. Mr. Harton was absent from his post, though directed to be at the workhouse from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M., or longer if necessary, every day, until the business of his office was fully accomplished. I caused the clerk to write to him expressive of my disapprobation of his conduct, and telling him how much worse I found the rate-books than supposed by the Guardians yesterday. I thought they were excessively wrong in signing what they deemed faulty, and could only attribute it to want of business-habits, and impatience to get through their work.

I entertained strong hopes when last I reported, that from a disposition evinced by the Guardians to retain the management of their own affairs, that the time was at hand when steps would be taken, by following up their proposition of giving two days in the week to the business of the Union, and adopting every means of carrying out the instructions as to a rigid labour-test, which is so indispensable—appointing Committees of their own body in divisions more than six miles off, to examine and report on cases taken down in the Application and Report Books of relieving officers—the appointment of efficient and trustworthy persons, at a fair remuneration for their services, as assistant relieving officers, &c.; but for the present all hope has vanished, and I look with dismay at the difficulties arising at the commencement of a new half-year, with a debt of fully 5000*l.*, without any new rate in the course of collection, and little or nothing of the balance of 1000*l.* of last rate coming in, and a large portion of it irrecoverable—the collectors, with very few exceptions, miserable clerks, and not of a class who may be expected to act firmly, and comply with their instructions—besides, the time of the year for getting money from the small landholders has been suffered to pass away, and rates can only now be had generally from those possessing large holdings.

The hurried and imperfect manner in which business is conducted has been taken advantage of by all the officers of the Union, no serious apprehension as to responsibility arising amongst most of them. The books of the majority of relieving officers will present to the auditor anything but strict compliance with instructions, especially what was entered in them at the commencement of giving out-door relief.

Matters have arrived at such a crisis, unless an entirely new system be adopted, the greatest disorganization must prevail in this Union. Guardians coming but once a-week at a late hour for business have no time to scrutinize anything, hence in 13 or 14 months the Visiting Committee have only four times made an inspection of the house—the registers are merely signed, never examined or corrected—and the check provision account is only placed on the table in the Board-room as a matter of course.

I issued implements for the electoral divisions of Piercetown and Rathconrath, but they have never been used; and the Ballynacarrigy division has had none, no application having been made for them, nor any intention exists, I believe, on the part of the Guardians belonging to it, to adopt a labour-test, although their attention has been drawn to it over and over. Had the Board made arrangements that no relief should be given unless stone-breaking or something of the kind were adopted, requiring a certain portion of work to be performed, and appointed proper persons sufficiently paid to superintend, a great saving in expenditure must have resulted, without the demoralizing tendency of getting gratuitous relief.

In Leny, Multyfarnham, and Taghmon, owing to a system of employment from the beginning having been adopted at the suggestion of an intelligent Guardian, the amount of expenditure was greatly curtailed; and since then he induced rate-payers of a certain class to increase the number of their workmen by taking some of the able-bodied who were getting relief into their employment.

Last week the number of cases and persons in the Union getting out-door relief was 10,696, being a decrease on the preceding week of 304 cases and persons.

I am anxiously looking out for your intended communication to the Guardians on the state of the Union, as something decisive is absolutely necessary.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 3, 1848.*

Mullingar Union.

THE Commissioners have to acknowledge your report of the 29th ultimo, representing the present unpromising state of the Mullingar Union, and the apathy and indifference which has been shown by the Board of Guardians in many respects to the regular and effective conduct of the business of the Union.

The Commissioners concur in the apprehension which you express that unless an entirely new system be adopted the greatest disorganization must prevail; inasmuch as the extensive details now involved in the administration of relief in the Union require the earnest and most assiduous attention on the part of the Board of Guardians and their officers; and the Commissioners are persuaded that if the former do not evince a determination to enter upon a more active course of proceeding in the discharge of their duties, laxity and inattention must inevitably gain ground among the officers; and these results occurring at a time when more than ordinary exertion is required cannot but be followed by disastrous consequences to the interests of the rate-payers.

The Commissioners enclose herewith your reports respectively dated the 8th and 29th ultimo, and they request that you will urge with all your personal influence upon the Board of Guardians the necessity of their meeting more frequently and of entering more fully than they appear to do at present into the details of the administrative business of the Board. You will at the same time state to the Guardians that if the several defects in their proceedings detailed in the above reports continue without remedy, and if in the course of a short time you are not enabled to report more satisfactorily of the progress of the Union, the Commissioners must necessarily consider their own responsibility under the 18th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, and avail themselves of the power intrusted to them for the purpose of ensuring a more efficient management of the affairs of the Union, by the appointment of paid officers.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*March 31, 1848.*

OWING to the defectiveness of the rate-books signed by the Guardians on the 28th instant, which I mentioned in my report of the 29th, I have been all day yesterday and to-day in the Board-room for the purpose of having them speedily perfected.

In comparing the valuation in the present books with those previously in use, I find a variation in the value made by Mr. Harton, the valuator, which, it appears, he has been in the practice of closing without consulting the Guardians, or their being at all cognizant of it, which strikes me to be a most irregular mode of doing business, the 69th section of the 1 and 2 Vic. cap. 56, not having been complied with, nor the 7th section of the 6 and 7 Vic. cap. 92, the first requiring a notice of 21 days to be given after a revision, before a rate can be struck; and the last requiring that every valuation made and revised should be signed and sealed by the Commissioners and not departed from by the Guardians.

This practice of Mr. Harton has been carried on since his appointment, which is leaving too much to the discretion of any officer, to say nothing of the illegality of the proceeding.

My attention was directed to this matter by an elective Guardian, and whether advantage can be taken of it in enforcing the payment of rates I should like to know; but whether or not, I deem it my duty to report the circumstance.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 31st ultimo relative to the defective state of the rate-books in the Mullingar Union, and I am to inform you that the provision requiring a notice of 21 days to be given after a revision of the valuation of a Union previous to a rate being struck, has been repealed by the 9th section of the Act 6 and 7 Vic. cap. 92, which directs that all persons who may be affected by any rate shall have access to the rate-books on each day (Sundays excepted), between the

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hours of 10 and 4 o'clock, and that when a revision only of a valuation is made by a person appointed by the Guardians, it is not the practice of the Commissioners to sign and seal the valuation, that step not being considered essential to the validity of the rates which may be made thereon.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 5, 1848.*

THE three last days of the week ended the 1st instant, I was constant in my attendance in the Board-room, principally for the purpose of expediting the completion of the rate-books and collecting books, found so imperfect when signed by the Guardians on the 28th ultimo, and up to this they are not in a condition to be brought into operation, nor will they until the 11th, the next Board-day. This duty has always been performed by Mr. Harton, the revising valuator, ever since his appointment, with the assistance of pauper boys in the workhouse, who do all the copying, the clerk not having been required to contribute any aid; indeed, with his increased duties under the Extension Act, his time is fully occupied otherwise; and whether the Guardians, to whom he applied for an assistant yesterday, will acquiesce in his demand remains to be seen. Mr. Harton is an efficient officer, when forced to work; but it has been by watching and bringing him before the Board that anything can be effected with him; and yesterday he tendered his resignation, which was not accepted, as the duties of his office were not fulfilled. I suggested that he should not get the cheque which had been signed for his half-year's salary until everything was accomplished by him, preparatory to the collectors entering upon their duties in levying the new rate, which was acceded to.

The result of the investigation into the accounts of Mr. Brien, collector, I forwarded by last night's post, which took a Guardian and myself two days to complete, so perfectly incapable was he to give any assistance, and being evidently apprehensive that it must affect his character for integrity.

Two men who were appointed collectors for Streamstown and Newtown divisions have been prevented giving the necessary security from threats having been held out to the persons they named as sureties; and the man who was appointed for Castletown resigned from not being able to get sufficiently solvent persons as sureties in the amount required. These three men were appointed in succession to the late collector Carey, who was removed, and had the district of Newtown, of which the three divisions above named consisted. The friends of Carey appear determined, by illegal combination, to prevent, as far as in them lies, any person of their own class succeeding him as collector; and until a far superior description of persons to those who are now in office, at a fair remuneration for their services, be appointed, I see no chance of the pecuniary condition of this Union being remedied. A late Guardian, who was a most efficient member of the Board, told me he declined continuing in office, foreseeing the difficulties that must arise from bad collectors, and the Guardians deferring striking a new rate until the collection of last rate should be perfected.

I attended the Board yesterday; and whilst witnessing their proceedings, I received your letter of the 3rd instant, and very unguardedly read it to them instead of conveying the substance and the particular points in my reports which accompanied it, which raised such a storm that I became quite disconcerted, and was unable to touch distinctly on the various matters in which they are wanting in the performance of their duties, which, if persevered in, must involve them in dissolution. I felt an awkwardness in reading my own correspondence, which was required at first, but not insisted on, and the matter terminated in an adjourned meeting to revise the books, and adopt a proper labour-test in the districts of Piercetown and Dysart, on Saturday the 8th instant.

A resolution was passed calling for the suspension of the order for out-door relief on the 15th instant, one or two of the Guardians having stated that in their districts it was impossible to get men to work; but that I told them arose from not adopting a proper labour-test, and whenever the able-bodied could get work they should be struck off the lists, the sealed order being meant for the divisions where employment could not be procured for all hands and want of room in the workhouse.

There are two relieving officers, Mr. Patrick Gavagan and Mr. John Higgins, whom I must report as inefficient, neither of them at the close of the half-year and the commencement of another, having their books in proper order. The latter says he would not retain his appointment for 100*l.* a-year, from being so much interfered with by the Guardians of his district, even to the taking his Application and Report Books and making entries in them. Ballynacarrigy is in this man's district, where every resistance has been offered to a proper labour test, and where I found, on the assistant relieving officer presenting himself for payment of his salary, that the able-bodied paupers were employed in trenching land for farm purposes.

The debt of this Union is of course on the increase from 300*l.* to 400*l.* weekly; and the difficulty of getting in money from this until harvest also on the increase, which, when coupled with, generally speaking, indifferent collectors, must tend greatly to the disadvantage of its future prospects.

My health being impaired just now, from having got into a low nervous temperament from great anxiety, that I feel myself unfitted for the appointment you were pleased to confer on me, which I gladly accepted, and should like much to retain if I feel I could give satisfaction. My indiscretion in reading your letter to the Board yesterday weighs heavily on me; and should you deem it necessary to name a successor to me, I shall render him every assistance in my power, relinquishing all claim to payment for the past.

I can form no opinion yet as to what amendment may take place in the exertions of the Board; but 5000*l.* debt, and current expenses accumulating, and nothing as yet coming in, is an alarming state of things.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 7, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 5th instant, relating to the Mullingar Union, for which I am to return you their thanks.

The Commissioners regret to hear of your indisposition, which they trust is only temporary; and they cannot think of accepting the resignation of an officer whose entire conduct they have had the greatest reason to approve, tendered to them under circumstances such as those referred to in your report.

The Commissioners authorize you to require the resignation of each of the two relieving officers whom you describe as inefficient; and they will, if you deem it necessary, issue an order prohibiting the employment of persons receiving relief in the cultivation of private farms, as they have already done in Thurles Union.

The Commissioners trust that you will continue to report to them, without reserve, your opinion of the manner in which the Guardians of the Union and their officers perform their duties in the administration of relief.

At the same time, the Commissioners desire to call your special attention to the number of aged and infirm persons who are still receiving relief in the workhouse; and on this head they deem it right to refer you to their instructions of the 26th of last October, and to their circular of the 26th of last August.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 12, 1848.*

1. I BEG leave to report that I was principally engaged from the 5th to the 8th instant in looking after Mr. Harton, the revising valuator, for the purpose of getting him to complete the rate and collecting books, having had grounds to suspect he was actuated by some sinister motive, from all the delay that has occurred in getting them ready; and having a fortnight back obtained the necessary signatures of the Guardians to them, when so imperfect that they could not be acted on. They are now nearly completed, at least they will be ready as fast as the clerk can arrange with the collectors to put them in operation. Mr. Harton having tendered his resignation and shown a disposition to encourage appeals against the valuation, by saying he concurred in the views of those threatening to do so—as land was not now worth as much as when the general valuation was made, and he would be compelled to give evidence in

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their favour—led me and others to suspect his integrity, which will be soon tested when relieved of his appointment, which he expects will shortly take place. Mr. Harton has been left too much to himself, consequently the names of persons long since deceased, or having quitted the country, remain on the books, so as to render great difficulty to a collector who may not have local knowledge; and as the supervision of this class of officer in a great measure rested with him, as set forth in the sealed order conferring his appointment, he should have had all the changes in occupation made as they took place from the sources of information he had at his disposal.

2. There will be great difficulty in ascertaining precisely how the accounts of the late Mr. Hanlon stand, who was collector of six electoral divisions, from receipts having been produced for sums returned uncollected to a large amount, some genuine, and others evidently fictitious.

3. Mr. Brien, late collector, returned persons in arrear, although the blocks of his receipt cheque books showed to the contrary; and it is evident he must have possessed himself of a receipt cheque book some way otherwise than through the clerk, from a large proprietor having a receipt for sums for which his blocks had no reference.

4. Mr. Cary, late collector, had no block to produce for Streamstown division, having, he said, left it with the clerk, who denies it; and the general belief is, that when all these matters can be investigated by Mr. Harton, whose duty it is, that payment has been made to a large amount where sums uncollected have been returned.

5. The indisposition of the Guardians to exceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for collecting rates has prevented intelligent and respectable persons offering themselves as collectors, and the result has been the present state of embarrassment of the Union, too much delay having arisen in striking a new rate, waiting for the last to be fully got in by persons no way qualified to effect it, and especially when not looked after in time.

6. With a debt affecting the Union of between 5000 and 6000*l.*, and a new rate only on the eve of being collected at a most unfavourable time of the year, by frieze-coated collectors, I feel the chances of a speedy liquidation is not to be sanguinely entertained.

7. I had an interview with the Marquess of Westmeath on the 6th instant, and on acquainting him with the description of persons generally on whom the collection was about to be intrusted to restore a solvent state of affairs, he said, if paid Guardians were to be resorted to the sooner the better, before the books should get into such hands. I have said all I could to get a better class of persons for the office of collector, but in vain; $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. being the maximum allowed.

8. I attended an adjourned meeting of the Board assembled on the 8th instant, for the purpose of revising the Application and Report Books of two relieving officers—Messrs. Gavagan and Higgins, one of whom only appeared; and establishing a labour test for the Piercetown district; but after about three hours and a-half in partially going through one book, the chairman said he should be off, having workmen to pay; seeing plainly a paid Board only could perform the duties required by the Commissioners.

9. I attended the ordinary meeting of the Guardians yesterday, when, in consequence of the indiscretion I had been guilty of in reading your letter of the 3rd instant, on the 4th a draft of a letter addressed to you was submitted, calling on you to state in what they were deemed apathetic and indifferent, with a view of being made acquainted with the duties they had to perform. I referred the gentlemen who prepared and read the letter to the General Regulations and the General Order for out-door relief, when it was pretty generally admitted they had not done everything required of them, and the letter was accordingly withdrawn.

10. I directed the attention of the Board to the number of aged infirm persons still receiving relief in the workhouse, as brought to my notice in the last paragraph of your letter of the 7th instant; but this they said there was no help for, having no funds to make a suitable provision for them, and until money was available they could not be removed.

11. The clerk applied for an assistant to enable him to carry out the additional duties which have devolved upon him with accuracy and punctuality; and although I thought he could not get on without some aid, he was refused.

12. The master applied for an increase of salary, having only 40*l.* a-year, which was at first rejected; but on my representing the consequences of losing him and the matron, who were both good officers, and the difficulties that might ensue therefrom, on a reconsideration of the application, 20*l.* more was agreed to.

13. The assistant master was discharged yesterday, being a mere boy at 9*l.* a-year, and good for nothing; and although it is of the utmost consequence to have a steady and respectable man in that capacity, who would have influence in maintaining discipline, all the Guardians would give to a successor is 15*l.*

14. Towards the close of the day's proceedings the relieving officers were called in and the new cases for relief were gone into and decided upon. The workhouse as a test for the able-bodied works most beneficially, and when a little money comes in so that provision can be made for aged infirm persons, a great deal of room will be available. No examination of the books was made to see whether they were duly authenticated by the clerk, and the chairman was left quite alone at five o'clock.

15. I have called on relieving officers Gavagan and Higgins for their resignation, which I suppose will be forthcoming by next Monday; this I have done agreeably with your instructions; but should I find the defects remedied in their books against then, I shall report the result. They have both been sadly interfered with by the Guardians of their respective districts, and I have been impressing on them that they are no way to be influenced by any one in carrying out their instructions legally.

16. I had occasion to find fault with Mr. Pierce, relieving officer of Newtown district, for having placed a man's name on the Application and Report Book whom he had not seen for a month, or who, in fact, was not in the country, by his wife's admission, as having applied on the 7th instant; also for having commenced with fresh numbers instead of carrying them on consecutively. I told him I should report him for acting so improperly, and shall await your decision in the matter.

17. Mr. Godfrey Ryan, a broken-down shopkeeper, relieving officer of Mullingar district, has been deputing the performance of his duties to others, and keeps most slovenly books. Business is carried on in his mother's name; but on asking an assistant relieving officer how he was paid, as there was no money for any one, he said he was provided with articles out of Mr. Ryan's shop. This man I conceive is utterly unfit for his appointment, and therefore I recommend he should be removed forthwith. He will not attend to orders of any kind, and is too much mixed up with the town to perform his office with any degree of impartiality. My suspicion of his not being all right arose from the extraordinary number of cases placed under section 1 in his relief list, and the cause of infirmity being put down "old age," at 44 in one instance.

18. I spoke to Mr. Tuite, one of the Committee of Guardians of Ballynacarrigy division, about having the able-bodied getting out-door relief employed for agricultural purposes; he said they had been employed digging land that had been left waste, but that the work has been accomplished. He has a great objection to the lower classes being brought together in any great numbers, from the spirit that has been evinced latterly amongst them; and unless it be made imperative that stone-breaking should be carried on to entitle them to relief, they may have the advantage of occasional employment and relief at the same time. It is very hard to deal with an influential man like Mr. Tuite, who is so accustomed to have his own way.

19. I have to acknowledge my gratitude for the kind expressions used towards me in the second paragraph of your letter of the 7th instant; and shall be most happy to continue in my present position under you if my health will permit. I have been far from well; and on the day I displayed such utter want of judgment I felt mortified in the extreme, especially in having done anything that might bring discredit on those under whom I have been acting. I shall get on the best way I can, although I look for no amendment in the exertions of the Board of Guardians.

20. One great source of the evil affecting this Union is the tendency of the Guardians to pay every one connected with their establishment badly, and consequently have no one of efficiency that can avoid it belonging to it.

April 13.—Owing to indisposition this report was late for last night's post.

21. I had another interview with the Marquess of Westmeath to-day, who is

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quite alive to the difficulties that must inevitably result from placing collecting books in the hands of the miserable 2½ per cent. functionaries generally selected by the Board of Guardians to get the rates in; indeed my apprehensions are so strong on that point that I can entertain nothing but the most gloomy forebodings.

22. You must have perceived by the state of the workhouse that there are only 24 able-bodied male paupers in it, and crowded in every other respect; and notwithstanding that 100 additional able-bodied males could be accommodated, advantage has not been taken of it. That anything more than a few hours once a week of hurried and imperfectly transacted business can be expected from the present Board of Guardians, I am most thoroughly convinced.

23. Until I hear from you I shall be slow in letting the collecting books into the hands of collectors I am more than doubtful of.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 17, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners with reference to your report of the 12th instant relating to Mullingar Union, to inform you that they are desirous of obtaining from you a special report on the qualification of each of the collectors of poor-rate in that Union for the due discharge of the duties of their office.

The Commissioners will reply to other parts of your report by a further letter.

THE COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the GUARDIANS:—*April 17, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request that the Board of Guardians of the Mullingar Union will suspend the giving of warrants to the collectors of poor rate in that Union until the Commissioners have had the opportunity of receiving a report from Captain Telford on the qualification of each of them.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 19, 1848.*

IN reply to your letter of the 17th instant, I beg leave to submit the following observations respecting the collectors of this Union.

1. Michael Scally: electoral divisions of Mullingar and Rathconnell.—This man is a very indifferent clerk; but being heretofore a successful collector he has obtained his warrants for the new rate.

2. Vacant: Killare and Piercetown.—Patrick Philips was appointed by the Guardians for Killare only, but failing in getting the necessary sureties in the first instance, and coming forward a second time with an amended proposal, requiring a shilling in the pound instead of sixpence, he was rejected. I did not think this man was of the class who should be appointed to a difficult district to collect in, as the person required should be of quite a different stamp, and not to be had for 6*d.* in the pound, the maximum allowed by the Guardians.

Piercetown has had no one to come forward under 1*s.* in the pound.

3. Peter Keeffe: Rathconrath, Ballynacarrigy, and Templeoran.—This man is most slovenly and irregular as to his accounts, and is an old road contractor; the amount to be collected is too much to jeopardize in the hands of an inefficient collector, as I deem him.

4. John Ward: Leny, Multyfarnham, and Taghmon.—This man has been incapacitated by fever to take an active part for some time, but being restored to health I think he will answer.

5. William Woods: Collinstown, Castletowndelvin, and Killulagh.—This man completed last collection well, and may do, as he has not a heavy rate to collect.

6. Andrew Percell: Kinnegad and Heathstown.—This man I found more intelligent than I thought at first, and has had the warrants given him, as some persons were anxious to pay their rates before settling with their landlords.

7. John Roberts: Raheny and Killucan.—A most respectable efficient man, in whose hands an extensive collection would be most safe.

8. Richard Sheeran: Lynn, Enniscoffey, Castlelost, and Clenfad.—This man has been most successful as a collector, heretofore; and although an indifferent clerk, has had the warrants given him for new rate.

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9. Vacant: Newtown.—Richard Gray was approved of, but prevented getting security owing to intimidation. A smarter man of a class above him would be required for this division, but not to be had for 6*d.* in the pound.

10. Vacant: Castletown.—Michael Banon was approved of for this division, but declined the office afterwards, not being able to provide the necessary sureties; and the persons offering for it since were of too low a grade to be accepted of; and without a very determined efficient person, no good can be expected in getting the rate; 6*d.* in the pound will not secure the services of such a person.

11. Vacant: Streamstown.—John Grey was approved of for this division, but could not find security. I thought him very unfit for the office, and no one has come forward since, the inducement being small and there being some personal risk, owing to the friends of Hugh Carey, late collector, having held out threats that personal injury would be inflicted on any one who should be appointed his successor.

The Guardian of the last-named division, Mr. Mark Kelly, told me that until the Board of Guardians feel disposed to pay their collectors better the rates must remain unpaid, as no respectable men will undertake the arduous office when difficulties will have to be encountered for 6*d.* in the pound.

The collectors who have got their warrants, except Mr. Purcell, have an excellent local knowledge of their respective districts, which is very necessary from the defective state of the rate-books, the changes in occupancy not having been made as they occurred by the revising valuator, Mr. Harton, so that names appear that should have been changed long since.

Without quite a different class of persons to those usually appointed as collectors for

Killare,
Piercetown,
Rathconrath,
Ballynacarrigy,
Templeoran,
Newtown,
Castletown, and
Streamstown,

where the rates are high, except in Templeoran, and land much subdivided, it will be absurd to expect that large sums, now so much required to get the Union out of debt, can be realised. The Guardians appear determined to adhere to 2½ per cent. for all collectors.

My fears related principally to those places in my last report, and I am not singular in entertaining them; as without a fair remuneration good and trustworthy persons will not come forward who really mean to do their duty.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*April 24, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 19th instant, relating to the collectors of poor-rate in the Mullingar Union, and I am to convey to you the thanks of the Commissioners for the information afforded.

I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners will address the Board of Guardians on the necessity of appointing a better class of collectors in the divisions of Killare, Piercetown, Rathconrath, Ballynacarrigy, Templeoran, Newtown, Castletown, and Streamstown, than the persons who heretofore have held that office, and pointing out to the Guardians the advantage of allowing a liberal rate of poundage to these officers.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the GUARDIANS:—*April 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners having received a report from Captain Telford, relative to the fitness of the several poor-rate collectors of the Mullingar Union for the discharge of the duties of their respective offices, I am directed to

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suggest to the Board of Guardians the necessity which exists for the appointment of a better class of officers to collect the rates in the electoral divisions of Killare, Piercetown, Rathcourath, Ballynacarrigy, Templeoran, Newtown, Castletown, and Streamstown, than the persons on whom that duty has heretofore devolved, as it appears from Captain Telford's observations on the subject, that those officers are but ill calculated for its due discharge.

I am at the same time to point out to the Guardians the advantage of allowing a more liberal rate of poundage to the collectors of poor-rate, as the Commissioners conceive that it would have the effect of inducing a more efficient class of persons to offer themselves for that office.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 19, 1848.*

I BEG leave to report, that during the latter part of the week ended the 15th instant, I exerted myself principally in getting Mr. Harton, the revising valuator, to complete the Rate and Collecting Books, so essential to steps being taken to restore the Union to something like a state of solvency, and they are now, without having undergone the changes that time must effect by death and removal of occupiers and immediate lessors, as perfect as they can be made. Five collectors only have obtained their warrants, one of whom, almost immediately after, lodged better than 70% with the treasurer.

Were it not for delaying too long in striking a rate on the part of the Guardians, and the indisposition evinced by them to appoint men of respectability and business habits as collectors, such as a fair remuneration would be sure to secure, this Union might long since be as much in credit as in debt, and even now, were there not so many vacancies to be filled up of that important office, the pecuniary resources would be speedily recruited, there are so many large proprietors occupying large tracts of their own estates; but unfortunately where destitution most prevails, and the rates consequently heavy, from non-residence of persons of good means, and the minute sub-division of land, the difficulty principally exists at a season of the year, what between the payment of rent and sowing the land, the small farmer has little, if anything, to dispose of. I trust, nevertheless, even with an imperfect machinery to put to work, that much may be accomplished in a short time.

I found yesterday morning that Mr. Lloyd, the Inspector, had arrived in town, and waited on him, in the hope that he would attend the Board, when I should point out to him whatever I might deem requisite he should take notice of as being defective; but unfortunately he received a peremptory order to proceed forthwith to Loughrea, whither he started almost immediately after.

There was a very full Board yesterday, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, and a large assemblage of persons were brought in to have the work-house test applied, many of whom indignantly rejected admission, and of 130 who agreed to come into the house, only 25 remained. A larger number of Guardians remained throughout the day's proceedings than I have witnessed heretofore, there being sufficient to constitute a Board up to 7 o'clock. Were a second day in the week given to business, all that could be required would be readily accomplished.

There is an assistant master much wanted; a steady man, such as a discharged constable of police, or a respectable old non-commissioned officer, at a salary of 20% or 25% a-year; but the Board having determined not to exceed 15%, no person eligible for the appointment is likely to look for it.

The porter having again been brought under the notice of the Board for misconduct, he was at first reprimanded and fined 1%, but another charge having been brought against him for losing, by neglect, the clothing belonging to a pauper on admission, which was not forthcoming when required again, and on my representing that this man's improper conduct had so recently drawn the attention of the authorities to the insubordination of the officers of the establishment, and that nothing short of dismissal could be expected, he was called on for his resignation.

The clerk again applied for an assistant to enable him to conduct the increased business which the Extension Act required of him, but no hope was held out that any help would be afforded him. He has a good deal to do, requiring great care and accuracy, and therefore I thought his demand was reasonable.

I produced a memorandum of Mr. Lloyd's, recommending all communication between the relieving officers and recipients of relief to be cut off, except ordering the contractor to give the quantity of meal to each as directed, and that the contract should be for supply, delivery, and weighing-out, and except to the infirm classes, that half a pint of water should be added to each pound of meal, and the issue to take place twice a-week instead of once; but the Guardians laughed at it as being perfectly absurd and impracticable, adding expense to expense, although preventing much of the relieving officers' time being taken up superintending the issue of meal once a-week, at each of the relief offices.

I called on Messrs. Higgins and Gavagan to resign, as authorized by your letter in reply to my report of the 5th instant, but the former declined doing so—the other at once expressing his readiness to do whatever might be required of him.

The districts of these relieving officers are too large to enable them to perform their duties accurately. Ballynacarrigy, in that of Mr. Higgins, and Killare, in Mr. Gavagan's, would almost require distinct relieving officers for each, owing to their extent and great destitution. These men have to be at the workhouse twice a week, one coming upwards of 12 miles, and the other nearly as far.

The district of Newtown is rather large for one relieving officer, but how to dispose of any one of the three electoral divisions which compose it afterwards, I cannot at present point out; that is, if one were taken off, to make the other two manageable.

I should like to know how far I could act independently of the Guardians in establishing anything like the system pursued by the Ballina Vice-Guardians and Mr. Hamilton: as, if it be necessary to have their concurrence, I should be only laughed at for folly, although were they to see the benefit which must arise from it, they might change their minds. The greatest difficulty is to get them to give sufficient salary to competent overseers; as yet 6s. a-week is all they allow, and that will only procure the services of a mere labourer who can take down names, but exercise no kind of wholesome influence.

The Guardians during the few hours they devote to business never have time to examine books of any kind, the applications for relief being merely gone through for each district. Latterly the workhouse test has been so well applied, that most of the cases of applicants for relief stand rejected.

The Ballynacarrigy, Castletown, Streamstown, and Newtown divisions have heavy lists getting out-door relief; but whenever the weather takes up, so that river-drainage can be carried on, they must be greatly diminished.

The Ballynacarrigy division has at length been supplied with implements on requisition for the able-bodied to break stones, having ceased to give further opposition to it as being useless and demoralizing; but the Guardians will not make any move towards organizing a proper system, and I cannot force them I believe to appoint the class of persons requisite to insure a sufficient quantity of work to be done by each pauper.

The objection of the Guardians to taking temporary buildings for the purpose of making room in the workhouse by the removal of the school children, is the necessity of increasing their staff consequent thereon; and the want of funds prevents the making due provision for aged and infirm persons out of the establishment, which I think they are disposed to do whenever means are at their disposal.

The ground belonging to the workhouse is appropriated for a potato crop this year, but from the few able-bodied men at present inmates, I have had the men taken from stone-breaking in the town and cleaning the streets, to assist in the cultivation of it; in fact, the Board passed a resolution to that effect.

I shall be most particular in seeing the general order relating to collectors rigidly carried out, as the accounts of the collectors heretofore have been shamefully neglected, and a large sum in consequence placed in the utmost jeopardy.

April 20.

Having been detained so long yesterday in the workhouse, trying to get the accounts of a collector in proper order, who succeeded another, at his death, who was a defaulter to a great extent before the collection was half effected, my report was late for yesterday's post, which shall not occur again, if possible.

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Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS :—*April 26, 1848.*

1. I BEG leave to state that during the latter part of the week ended the 22nd instant, I was principally engaged in getting the accounts of six electoral divisions, namely, Rathconrath, Ballynacarrigy, Templeoran, Leny, Multyfarnham, and Taghmon, so arranged as to ascertain precisely how they stood as affecting the sureties of the late Mr. Hanlon, collector, who died last summer, a defaulter, and his successors, Messrs. Keeffe and Ward, between whom the above-named divisions were formed into districts, and what appeared to remain uncollected, given to get in.
2. Mr. Keeffe having made his entries in the collecting books of his predecessor and been left to himself afterwards, it was impossible to ascertain how his accounts stood without completely sundering them, which took a good deal of time, all attempts otherwise having proved ineffectual. He alleges having seen receipts of Hanlon's to the amount of 75*l.*, for which no entries had been made, but had only four of them to produce. It is proposed returning the sums producing this amount, excepting the amount of the receipts forthcoming in arrear in the present rate books, and then sending a person specially to take the receipts up, by giving others in their place, if Keeffe's statement be found correct.
3. Mr. Ward, who had been a long time recovering from the effects of fever, came in on Saturday last, when his accounts had to undergo the same operation as Keeffe's, but are now satisfactorily arranged. He has taken up or seen receipts of Hanlon's for sums returned to him uncollected, for 30*l.* Altogether Hanlon died in debt to the Union, if all receipts be forthcoming as alleged, 208*l.*, which I greatly fear will be lost from the present circumstances of his sureties.
4. Until it can be ascertained whether the persons returned by Messrs. Carey and Brien, late collectors, as defaulting ratepayers have paid or not, no steps by the terms of their respective bonds can be taken in suing their sureties. These men were permitted to resign, having been reported for neglect of duty, and as yet, have not had successors appointed with your concurrence.
5. There was a good attendance of Guardians yesterday, notwithstanding the cattle show in Dublin, a fair in the neighbourhood, and the attractions of an exhibition of flowers in Mullingar. Your letter was read on the subject of collectors, recommending a better class of persons to be appointed than heretofore, at a more liberal rate of poundage, for the divisions of Killare, Piercetown, Rathconrath, Ballynacarrigy, Templeoran, Newtown, Castletown, and Streamstown, but without making the slightest impression; the Guardians deeming sixpence in the pound sufficient. Mr. Patrick Philips having found other sureties than those originally named, they were approved of for Killare collection. Mr. Richard Gray having obtained a second surety in which he had been deficient, was approved of as collector for Newtown; and Mr. William Manny and sureties were approved of for Piercetown collection. A candidate for Castletown collection was rejected from writing very badly and being incapable of keeping intelligible accounts. A Mr. Glenville offered himself for the collection of Castletown and Streamstown at one shilling in the pound, naming solvent sureties, but his proposal was not entertained for a moment.
6. The clerk's notice of motion for an assistant was withdrawn; first, on account of the probability of a thin attendance of Guardians, and ultimately, from finding he had no chance of succeeding. I stated from the pressure of business that had been upon him, the impossibility of his performing himself all the duties required under the Extension Act, and consequently the out-door register had been left to pauper boys, and sometimes to relieving officers, and the result was, although a most important document, it was in many instances very erroneous; cases that were rejected or admitted to the workhouse having been registered, and from the mode adopted by the Board at first of putting down a separate amount of relief for dependents they were registered as cases also; altogether from the clerk not being permitted or enabled to perform all the further duties required of him under article 8 of the General Order for out-door relief, the greatest inaccuracies have occurred, and difficulties must arise in auditing the accounts.
7. There was a good deal of discussion as to whether an assistant master should be appointed, or a wardman and wardmaid; when it was decided that

the latter should take place, as the preference was given to such arrangement by the master, with which he is to rest satisfied. Mullingar Union.

8. After a notice of motion for the re-consideration of the chargeability of a pauper that could not be decided, a host of people were brought forward who had been getting out-door relief, to have the workhouse test applied to them, which soon wearied out the patience of the Guardians; most of whom disappeared about five o'clock, leaving the remainder of the business to be transacted by three elected Guardians, who with difficulty were persuaded to stop till poor people who had been brought in 10 and 12 Irish miles were finally disposed of, at a quarter past eight o'clock. The accounts of collectors who had closed their accounts could not then be gone into from want of a Board, one Guardian having withdrawn; consequently an adjournment to Thursday was determined on for that purpose, but whether a sufficient number of Guardians can be got together is problematical: 225 persons were admitted to the workhouse, but of that number perhaps a fourth will not remain.

9. The porter, who had been called on for his resignation last Board-day, presented a memorial, praying to be continued in office, which was acceded to, though twice before the Guardians for neglect of duty within a very short period. He is better, however, than perhaps a successor might be at so small a salary as 10*l.* a-year.

10. The business of this Union ever since I came to it has been conducted in so hurried and imperfect a manner as regards the Extension Act; one day only in the week being all the Guardians can devote to it; and the manifest disinclination to adhere to the instructions for carrying out the law, together with liabilities affecting it, now little short of 6000*l.*, and no disposition to provide such a class of collectors on whom confidence might be reposed in the due discharge of their duty, places me in a very embarrassing position; as I feel no confidence in any quarter, and look upon it that without a paid Board, the financial condition of an extensive and comparatively rich Union will be as bad in a little time as when the most unfavourable circumstances prevailed.

11. As to the employment of the able-bodied without an efficient machinery and regular system based thereon, it can answer no purpose; and whilst 6*s.* a-week is all that will be allowed an overseer, the services of a mere labourer are all that can be reckoned on. In Piercetown, Rathconrath, and Ballynacarrigy, although supplied with implements, no effort has been made to put the paupers to work.

12. Mr. Lloyd's memorandum, which he gave me on the 18th instant, has been made quite a subject of ridicule, as being preposterous in the extreme. It recommended cutting off all communication between relieving officers and recipients of relief, except ordering the contractor to give the quantity of meal to each as decided, and that the contract should be made for supply, delivery, and weighing, &c. He also suggested that the issue of food should be made twice instead of once a week, and with half a pint of water to one pound of meal.

13. The arrangement in this Union which the Guardians are determined to adhere to is the personal attendance of the relieving officer, who obtains an order for a week's supply of food at a time, in issuing it at his office, thereby occupying three entire days in some districts; a storekeeper, or the appointment of a person in that capacity not being permitted; consequently the time a relieving officer should be otherwise engaged is thus occupied.

14. The fact is that it is not merely that the Union will be plunged into great pecuniary difficulty by the system at present pursued, but the law and instructions for carrying it out are looked on as so complex, that it amounts to an impossibility; and an opinion expressed to that effect in the presence of the clerk and relieving officers, is not calculated to impress them with a belief that a rigid adherence to their several duties is indispensable.

15. The Application and Report Books rarely specify the duration of relief, and until latterly, the amount in meal was never inserted, merely the money value, which must undergo change with each alteration in price as fresh contracts are entered into.

16. The strong objection to paying anything like a staff necessary to carry out the mode of out-door relief as prescribed, is so strong, and any suggestion on the subject met with so much impatience, that I am quite in despair at effecting any good; besides, two whole days in the week, with competent

Mullingar Union.

officers in every capacity, would be the very least in which the business of so large a Union as this, containing 26 electoral divisions, could be transacted.

17. I have already had occasion to bring to your notice the inefficiency of relieving officers Higgins, Gavagan, and Ryan, the two former of whom I called on to resign, with your authority, but they have not as yet complied. As to Mr. Ryan he is utterly unfit for his appointment; he is a miserable clerk, and so circumstanced from his connexion with his mother's shop, that he has not the inclination, nor is he in a position, to perform his duty as he should. It took me a whole day to compare his Application and Report Book with his relief list, when I found the greatest inaccuracies tending to make his integrity doubtful.

18. Five collectors are in operation with the new books; but as yet only 324*l.* 7*s.* has been paid to the treasurer. Every Saturday I mean to have them in to account: and were the other divisions provided with proper collectors a good deal might be effected in a short time.

19. My feelings are so strong as to the necessity of having a paid Board here, as the business can never be properly transacted by the present one, having neither the inclination to devote more time to it, nor to appoint competent officers, their rate of remuneration being too low to secure the services of such as might be depended on; and feeling under existing circumstances how little I can effect, I should most gladly vacate my present position, refunding to the uttermost farthing all sums remitted me on account of salary or otherwise; and should you deem it expedient to appoint Vice-Guardians, they should be men of experience to remedy the evils ensuing from debt and the unfavourable period of the year suffered to arrive before any step could be taken to collect a new rate, to say nothing of the total disregard to all instructions issued for the due administration of the Extension Act.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS—*Dissolution of the Board of Guardians:—May 1, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their serious consideration the present state of the Mullingar Union, and the correspondence which has recently taken place regarding the conduct of the business of the Union by the Board of Guardians.

It appears that on the 15th April last, the workhouse, which is estimated to contain 1016 inmates, contained 974, a number little short of the full complement; and that there were 7947 persons on the out-door relief lists, including 3466 persons relieved under the 2nd section of the Extension Act; and that at least equal numbers were chargeable on the poor-rates for several weeks previously to that date, at a cost, averaging from the commencement of the month of March, of 250*l.* weekly. The nature and extent of the relief now prevailing in the Union are both such as to demand from the Board of Guardians the most assiduous attention to the discharge of their duties, especially the examination of the cases of the recipients of out-door relief; and the Commissioners deeply regret to find from the reports of their Inspector, Captain Telford, that the Guardians have not collectively shown a disposition to give the necessary attention to the business of the Board.

The Commissioners consider that the greatest allowance is to be made for gentlemen who have other avocations to attend to, and many of whom in an extensive Union like that of Mullingar reside at a considerable distance from the place of meeting; but under the present circumstances of difficulty, and with details of so much magnitude as those involved in the present system of relief, it is a matter of paramount importance that greater pains should be bestowed on the business of the Union and the control and superintendence of its paid officers, than can possibly be bestowed by gentlemen who meet only once in the week for the discharge of their onerous duties.

Captain Telford reports most unfavourably of the efficiency of several of the relieving officers in the Union, especially Messrs. Higgins, Gavagan, and Ryan; and the Commissioners greatly fear that proper control is not exercised over those officers by the Board, inasmuch as there is no record on the minutes of the Guardians of their views regarding the efficiency of any of these officers.

It appears that several of the collectors of the last made rates have failed as

yet to close their accounts of the collection satisfactorily; and that the Guardians have nevertheless deemed it right to entrust to a similar class of persons, at a low rate of poundage, the collection of the rate which has recently been made, the recent remonstrance of the Commissioners having failed to produce any change in the course pursued by the Guardians on this important point.

The present financial position of the Union is such as, in connexion with the circumstance last adverted to, is calculated to create considerable alarm, the expenditure of the 12 months having so largely exceeded the collection during the same period that the liabilities of the Guardians approach to nearly 6000*l*. In a Union containing so much rateable property in proportion to its poverty as that of Mullingar, it was no difficult task for the Guardians to have avoided debt and embarrassment, than which nothing can be more prejudicial to the interests of the rate-payers. It appears, however, that at the close of March, 1847, a rate was made, amounting to 8502*l*., a sum equal to 10½*d*. in the pound, on the entire valuation; of which there was collected in the first six months, 5156*l*., or 6½*d*. in the pound on the valuation, leaving 3346*l*. uncollected, and 901*l*. in the treasurer's hands, a sum exceeding the then liabilities of the Union by 427*l*.

In the ensuing six months there was collected only 2374*l*., or 3*d*. in the pound on the valuation, a sum little exceeding in amount the expenses of the single month of February, and falling short of the total expenses of the six months by 5167*l*.

The rate recently made appeared to the Commissioners satisfactory in amount, but they consider that due exertion failed to be made by the Guardians in their not causing the collection of the rate made in March, 1847, to be sooner brought to a close, and a new rate brought into collection at a more favourable period of the year to meet the difficulties of the present emergency.

The Commissioners consider, therefore, that the Guardians of Mullingar Union have made great default in the discharge of this important portion of their duties as a Board; and their unwillingness or inability to give sufficient attention to the conduct of the affairs of the Union has been brought so frequently, and in so marked a manner, under the notice of the Commissioners, that they cannot do otherwise than exercise their powers under the 18th section of the Extension Act, by dissolving the Board of Guardians, and appointing paid officers to execute their duties. An order to that effect is therefore enclosed herewith, and will be followed shortly by the appointment of paid officers.

Captain TELFORD to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 2, 1848.*

I BEG leave to report that this day I received a copy of your sealed order for the dissolution of the Board of Guardians of this Union.

This being the ordinary day of meeting, the deputy chairman presiding,—after the minutes of last day's proceedings were read and signed, your letter of the 1st inst., together with the sealed order which accompanied it, were read by the clerk, and immediately the Guardians, six in number, retired very much dissatisfied, one of whom since his election having only attended twice or thrice, hoping the Commissioners would not send fools to conduct their business, and blaming me as the cause of their being dissolved.

In consequence of there being several letters for Mr. Flanagan at the post-office this morning, I remained in the Board-room until past 5 o'clock, hoping he might arrive and give instructions how I was to proceed until the paid Board should come into operation, having no powers that I can conceive invested in me to act the part of one.

The relieving officers who had 90 cases to dispose of, but not thinking them of a very urgent nature, sent the parties away at my suggestion, until I or others should be empowered to decide with regard to them.

The contractors having agreed to supply the offices of the relieving officers as usual on their provisional orders, and there being nothing to do that I had authority to proceed with, I left the workhouse.

I shall look forward with anxiety to the arrival of Mr. Flanagan, or instructions under the peculiar circumstances I am placed in, as I do not feel myself in a position to perform the functions of the late Board.

Mullingar Union.REPLY to the foregoing:—*May 3, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 2nd instant, relating to the dissolution of the Board of Guardians of the Mullingar Union, and in reply I am to inform you that Vice-Guardians have been selected and will be appointed immediately, and that on their acceptance of the office they will be directed to proceed at once to Mullingar, where the Commissioners trust they will arrive before the next weekly meeting.

In the meantime I am to request that you will take care that the provisional powers of the relieving officers to afford relief in cases of sudden and urgent necessity are exercised in any cases of that nature which may occur.

For better security, and in the event of both the Vice-Guardians not arriving, the Commissioners have directed you to be appointed a Vice-Guardian, *pro tempore*, at a nominal salary,—with no intention, however, of superseding your functions as Inspector of the Union.

FINANCIAL RETURNS:—

[In continuation of Similar Series in Fifth Series of Poor Law Correspondence of the present Session.]

STATEMENTS (pp. 1001–1005) showing—

- I. The Progress of the Collection of the Poor Rate in the several Unions in Ireland during the Month of February, 1848; also the Amount disbursed by the Treasurers during the Month; together with the Amount remaining uncollected, and the state of the Balances at the close of the Month.
 - II. The Total Amount of Poor Rate collected during the five Months from 1st October, 1847, to 29th February, 1848.
 - III. The Amount of the Liabilities of the several Unions to Contractors and others on 29th February, 1848, exclusive of any sum due to Her Majesty's Government for the Principal and Interest of the Workhouse Loan, or any Sum due on account of any other Loan obtained from other Parties simply for Building Purposes.
 - IV. Summary showing the Amount of Rate collected in each Month; also the Amount remaining uncollected, and the state of the Balances at the foot of the Treasurer's Accounts, at the close of each Month.
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STATEMENT (pp. 1006–1014), showing for each Poor Law Union in Ireland—

- I. The Average Numbers of Destitute Persons relieved in the Workhouse and out of the Workhouse during March, 1848.
- II. The Expenses of the Month, distinguishing the Cost of In-Maintenance, of Out-Relief, and of all other Expenses.
- III. The Progress of the Collection of Poor Rate during the Month, compared with the Expenses of the Month.
- IV. The Financial Condition at the close of the Month, the state of the Balance on the Treasurer's Account, and the Amount of Liabilities to Contractors or others, *exclusive* of any Sum due to Her Majesty's Government, on Account of Building Loans, or other Advances.
- V. A Comparative Summary of the Collection and Expenses of the Six Months, from 29th September, 1847, to 31st March, 1848.

FINANCIAL RETURN, FEBRUARY, 1848.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.														
Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of February.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected from 1st October, 1847, to 29th Feb., 1848.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 29th Feb., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 29th Feb., deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of February.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Co. Antrim.		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Antrim . . .	1,050	88	88	628	..	6,300	2,541	..	..	1,985	509	421	..	100,611
Ballycastle . .	340	258	258	241	2,538	716	165	..	144	..	*250	..	8	39,160
Ballymena . . .	1,140	107	107	598	46	3,429	41	..	769	..	820	713	..	97,492
Ballymoney . . .	752	703	754	336	3,211	3,773	823	..	..	581	*350	..	404	73,086
Belfast . . .	2,222	3,232	3,159	2,184	10,316	9,874	1,560	..	1,680	..	1,526	..	1,633	271,915
Larne . . .	652	15	15	162	1,151	2,411	904	..	..	445	471	456	..	72,437
Lisburn . . .	1,500	1,183	1,213	695	690	3,650	216	..	434	..	699	..	514	136,397
Co. Armagh.														
Armagh . . .	1,300	1,777	1,763	1,678	17,866	5,528	191	..	709	..	845	..	918	174,572
Lurgan . . .	1,312	943	943	475	3,021	8,976	1,649	..	..	430	869	..	74	92,682
Co. Cavan.														
Bailieborough .	1,114	1,743	1,871	2,036	5,065	5,723	262	..	1,330	..	973	..	898	52,156
Cavan . . .	1,420	3,578	3,568	2,620	2,574	15,408	6,892	..	..	3,065	2,694	..	874	127,282
Cootehill ^b . . .	840	1,116	1,175	857	5,834	3,142	320	..	2,623	..	906	..	269	73,490
Co. Donegal.														
Ballyshannon .	800	1,843	1,839	896	2,442	5,174	2,299	..	..	1,681	670	..	1,169	51,435
Donegal . . .	550	150	69	271	4,394	1,621	170	..	471	..	261	192	..	31,639
Dunfanaghy . .	350	7	29	162	1,127	274	225	..	..	71	150	121	..	10,543
Glenties . . .	500	584	731	761	1,287	2,146	23	..	1,554	..	906	175	..	16,330
Inishowen . . .	600	362	329	210	4,587	806	105	..	493	..	293	..	36	36,607
Letterkenny . .	570	535	583	742	1,392	1,229	148	..	447	..	419	..	164	31,835
Millford . . .	490	1,353	1,364	1,009	1,236	1,970	598	..	12	..	409	..	955	31,377
Stranorlar . . .	400	698	774	454	2,017	1,312	402	..	..	147	240	..	534	29,402
Co. Down.														
Banbridge . . .	1,168	1,099	1,112	1,045	2,765	4,936	350	..	318	..	657	..	455	123,970
Downpatrick . .	1,060	1,536	1,676	455	1,012	3,531	3,050	..	..	2,949	370	..	1,306	167,393
Kilkeel . . .	390	82	93	110	52	1,305	378	..	..	107	119	26	..	36,932
Newry . . .	1,000	671	672	819	2,826	3,537	1,342	..	..	277	845	173	..	129,651
Newtownards . .	1,165	78	78	393	263	3,191	..	302	1,026	..	464	386	..	116,469
Co. Fermanagh.														
Enniskillen ^c . .	1,100	1,823	1,868	1,823	6,798	6,032	528	..	2,677	..	812	..	1,056	96,108
Lisnakea . . .	784	1,693	1,169	176	4,421	3,653	1,061	..	..	377	506	..	663	46,919
Lowtherstown ^d .	500	1,407	1,362	735	2,583	3,935	1,159	..	..	325	863	..	499	45,944
Co. Londonderry.														
Coleraine . . .	960	248	188	559	2,780	2,455	536	..	..	59	370	182	..	76,410
Londonderry . .	960	1,473	1,576	768	1,990	3,248	992	..	120	..	906	..	670	111,859
Magherafelt . .	1,240	453	412	291	3,477	4,766	1,622	..	..	916	410	..	2	75,339
Newtownlimavady	640	394	394	210	4,453	1,647	149	..	324	..	238	..	156	65,630
Co. Monaghan.														
Carrickmacross .	550	600	544	802	1,243	4,263	1,223	..	..	889	585	41	..	46,325
Castleblaney . .	860	962	947	376	2,470	6,548	741	..	841	..	855	..	92	65,473
Clones . . .	900	1,175	1,177	890	5,397	2,234	541	..	55	..	478	..	699	55,055
Monaghan . . .	976	1,528	1,581	614	3,055	7,965	4,537	..	..	3,777	497	..	1,084	94,431
Co. Tyrone.														
Castlederg . . .	281	112	70	127	395	1,194	290	..	67	..	239	169	..	21,790
Clogher . . .	632	768	858	661	955	3,418	691	..	..	112	468	..	370	42,275
Cookstown . . .	600	317	321	306	1,030	1,773	390	..	136	..	287	..	34	56,550
Dungannon . . .	1,050	1,069	1,137	1,151	3,088	3,243	204	..	780	..	717	..	420	90,330
Gortin . . .	400	..	..	..	855	700	..	4	670	..	106	106	..	15,751
Omagh . . .	1,000	2,256	2,296	684	7,940	3,579	1,094	..	499	..	959	..	1,337	75,354
Strabane . . .	900	728	810	583	1,685	7,445	5,069	..	..	4,377	683	..	127	81,529
Total of Ulster	36,918	40,747	40,973	30,593	132,327	168,055	45,501	612	18,179	22,770	26,714	3,160	17,420	3,320,133

^a Cavan.—Vice-Guardians appointed 8th December, 1847. ^c Enniskillen.—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March, 1848.
^b Cootehill.—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February, 1843. ^d Lowtherstown.—Vice-Guardians appointed 18th September, 1847.
* Estimated.

Financial Return, February, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of February.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected from 1st October 1847, to 29th Feb., 1848.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 29th Feb., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 29th Feb., deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of February.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Co. Clare.		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Ennis . . .	808	3,385	3,386	3,027	4,666	11,582	3,908	..	..	1,932	3,572	186	..	101,222
Ennistymon ^a . .	650	915	915	1,112	8,652	6,047	72	..	880	..	1,270	355	..	67,456
Kilrush ^b . . .	1,050	1,025	1,025	1,169	8,730	6,439	5	..	2,170	..	1,995	970	..	59,449
Scariff ^c . . .	1,040	4,477	4,465	5,259	9,088	8,604	136	..	3,980	..	3,347	..	1,118	44,609
Co. Cork.														
Bandon . . .	1,075	2,264	2,150	970	3,579	6,099	5,863	..	..	4,059	1,917	..	233	136,166
Bantry ^d . . .	736	952	1,425	1,843	3,352	3,627	497	..	4,208	..	1,741	316	..	41,829
Cork . . .	4,200	5,753	5,753	2,919	26,423	14,144	5,602	..	..	5,279	3,018	..	2,735	365,623
Dunmanway . .	615	1,039	1,039	563	1,901	4,907	3,050	..	..	2,742	578	..	461	44,084
Fermoy . . .	1,160	3,892	3,844	2,198	6,304	17,993	4,705	..	..	2,249	2,716	..	1,168	153,452
Kanturk ^e . . .	1,940	3,679	3,680	4,471	1,544	17,377	4,329	..	..	313	2,391	..	1,298	106,114
Kinsale . . .	800	551	551	499	1,711	4,225	2,231	..	..	1,900	676	125	..	73,948
Macroom . . .	840	481	481	834	1,413	4,821	1,391	..	..	1,000	919	433	..	93,875
Mallow . . .	860	1,098	1,098	900	2,469	12,352	6,989	..	..	6,669	908	..	190	122,708
Middleton . .	1,286	3,871	3,870	1,870	6,045	20,843	12,166	..	..	11,164	1,767	..	2,103	163,070
Skibbereen . .	1,520	3,354	3,354	1,556	7,647	9,297	3,073	..	..	2,139	2,172	..	1,182	98,255
Co. Kerry.														
Cahiriveen ^f . .	400	738	663	557	1,663	2,164	808	..	577	..	*292	..	371	24,366
Kenmare ^g . . .	540	812	629	535	1,251	3,342	532	..	1,809	..	681	352	..	21,659
Killarney . . .	1,650	1,789	1,883	1,639	3,208	10,458	424	..	1,575	..	2,183	300	..	85,828
Listowel . . .	896	3,339	3,869	3,958	4,674	10,025	1,980	..	1,149	..	3,686	..	183	97,553
Tralee . . .	1,910	2,235	2,256	3,007	2,478	14,625	2,595	..	..	1,419	3,033	777	..	113,854
Co. Limerick.														
Kilmallock . .	1,050	1,688	1,804	2,884	5,441	14,141	25	..	1,419	..	3,032	1,248	..	177,880
Limerick . . .	3,100	5,998	5,714	1,843	18,402	23,093	7,176	..	..	4,976	3,968	..	2,746	206,861
Newcastle ^h . .	710	1,332	1,614	1,543	5,074	12,819	221	..	7,326	..	3,954	2,340	..	109,499
Rathkeale . . .	974	3,767	3,044	2,752	3,038	13,408	4,723	..	..	2,273	2,862	..	182	138,337
Co. Tipperary.														
Carrick-on-Suir .	960	991	992	584	2,212	7,628	1,390	..	436	..	1,029	37	..	89,871
Castel . . .	819	2,634	1,913	1,628	7,757	10,884	1,836	..	445	..	2,093	180	..	130,293
Clogheen . . .	600	556	556	972	2,109	6,078	1,984	..	..	1,365	1,031	475	..	62,760
Clounmel . . .	1,600	582	582	1,199	2,961	7,259	3,586	..	..	2,036	1,024	442	..	91,108
Neenagh . . .	1,250	1,437	1,437	2,469	11,704	12,113	770	..	251	..	2,647	1,210	..	119,902
Roscrea . . .	1,060	1,753	1,757	1,471	7,519	8,280	1,465	..	..	334	928	..	829	102,171
Thurles . . .	960	2,721	2,722	2,407	11,063	8,816	1,063	..	..	116	2,286	..	436	108,931
Tipperary . . .	1,100	2,033	2,034	1,672	7,816	11,198	4,452	..	..	2,221	2,274	240	..	148,326
Co. Waterford.														
Dungarvon . . .	960	1,012	964	818	2,332	11,799	7,036	..	..	6,350	914	..	50	91,591
Lismore . . .	70	930	915	446	1,199	6,528	3,836	..	..	3,170	*742	..	173	64,583
Waterford ⁱ . .	1,670	956	956	1,995	3,782	7,412	445	..	777	..	1,389	433	..	193,771
Total of Munster	41,219	74,609	73,389	63,569	199,212	350,424	99,934	..	27,001	63,705	68,255	10,324	15,458	3,777,103

^a Ennistymon.—Vice-Guardians appointed 29th February, 1848.^b Kilrush.—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March, 1848.^c Scariff.—Vice-Guardians appointed 28th October, 1847.^d Bantry.—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th October, 1847.^e Kanturk.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th November, 1847.^f Cahirciveen.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th Dec., 1847.^g Kenmare.—Vice-Guardians appointed 20th January, 1848.^h Newcastle.—Vice-Guardians appointed 4th March, 1848.ⁱ Waterford.—Vice-Guardians appointed 25th March, 1848.

* Estimated.

Financial Return, February, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of February.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected from 1st October, 1847, to 29th February, 1848.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 29th Feb. deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 29th Feb. deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of February.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Co. Carlow.</i>		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Carlow . . .	1,400	1,177	1,177	2,170	4,752	10,479	2,789	..	..	461	2,025	848	..	179,037
<i>Co. Dublin.</i>														
Balrothery . .	584	295	333	494	569	2,866	246	..	184	..	524	191	..	94,521
Dublin, North .	3,600	5,454	5,941	4,996	26,901	19,785	2,510	..	..	324	3,632	..	2,309	369,745
Dublin, South .	2,300	1,363	1,491	1,155	9,374	10,667	2,655	..	1,027	..	2,694	1,203	..	569,940
Rathdown . .	646	326	409	832	2,171	4,250	453	..	906	..	881	472	..	152,314
<i>Co. Kildare.</i>														
Athy . . .	970	895	1,264	1,512	6,179	5,367	341	..	582	..	1,045	..	219	102,881
Cellanage . .	519	919	919	381	4,441	2,533	892	..	..	406	193	..	726	130,776
Naas . . .	650	1,033	1,033	1,031	2,049	10,832	5,916	..	..	4,694	980	..	53	135,232
<i>Co. Kilkenny.</i>														
Callan . . .	390	1,060	1,030	889	4,734	6,458	1,702	..	..	314	1,460	430	..	84,103
Kilkenny ^a . .	1,750	6,235	6,240	4,900	15,887	14,212	801	..	3,050	..	2,706	..	3,534	241,775
<i>King's County.</i>														
Edenderry . .	612	503	503	400	1,099	3,819	2,045	..	..	1,465	491	..	12	98,634
Parsonstown .	800	2,265	2,265	642	6,762	8,485	3,282	..	..	1,167	644	..	1,621	109,286
Tullamore ^b . .	1,220	1,082	1,034	1,048	2,443	6,902	373	..	1,164	..	1,231	197	..	86,516
<i>Co. Longford.</i>														
Granard ^c . .	700	1,881	1,881	583	11,122	3,995	1,518	..	982	..	774	..	1,107	87,209
Longford ^d . .	1,094	502	502	524	4,250	5,149	..	967	4,606	..	1,655	1,153	..	124,496
<i>Co. Louth.</i>														
Ardee . . .	970	1,210	1,210	1,174	3,059	7,631	1,157	..	..	722	1,273	63	..	93,047
Drogheda . .	940	1,106	1,124	1,210	2,212	7,442	2,317	..	827	..	1,829	705	..	136,604
Dundalk . .	948	644	512	664	2,086	2,384	..	93	871	..	519	7	..	106,680
<i>Co. Meath.</i>														
Dunshaughlin .	566	103	103	347	4,675	3,531	8	..	656	..	689	586	..	118,486
Keils . . .	980	848	848	831	2,491	6,153	243	..	1,964	..	1,237	389	..	123,339
Navan . . .	570	1,503	1,539	1,312	5,611	4,403	..	36	1,853	..	1,290	..	249	101,527
Oldcastle . .	644	513	574	1,271	1,246	7,944	1,720	..	336	..	1,722	1,148	..	79,721
Trim ^e . . .	520	79	115	863	156	2,946	1,701	..	..	677	874	759	..	100,634
<i>Queen's County.</i>														
Abbeyleix . .	700	1,374	1,551	1,483	2,418	5,888	68	..	1,351	..	1,340	..	211	66,759
Mountmellick .	1,644	1,080	1,080	1,456	5,031	7,262	..	352	1,005	..	1,661	581	..	89,914
<i>Co. Westmeath.</i>														
Athlone ^f . . .	1,048	279	279	495	16,364	1,677	..	1,304	4,695	..	740	461	..	103,078
Mullingar . .	1,016	455	508	572	1,029	2,315	..	312	2,943	..	2,283	1,775	..	190,944
<i>Co. Wexford.</i>														
Enniscorthy . .	1,039	2,307	2,267	1,491	6,834	10,267	2,233	..	..	1,427	1,499	..	768	126,921
Gorey . . .	660	687	637	411	8,472	2,318	259	..	1,002	..	684	47	..	94,001
New Ross ^g . .	1,500	1,660	1,660	1,590	7,976	10,170	878	..	506	..	1,625	..	35	109,748
Wexford . . .	870	1,739	1,468	1,101	7,150	7,749	3,880	..	..	3,296	1,101	..	367	113,714
<i>Co. Wicklow.</i>														
Baltinglass . .	600	625	782	731	1,323	3,494	807	..	..	175	706	..	76	90,888
Rathdrum . .	722	232	232	787	1,563	2,519	580	..	174	..	1,058	826	..	153,246
Shillelagh . .	487	328	328	466	1,379	3,092	550	..	392	..	467	139	..	64,485
Total of Leinster	34,159	41,772	42,839	39,817	183,808	215,014	41,919	3,054	31,376	15,122	43,532	11,980	11,287	4,624,542

^a Kilkenny.—Vice-Guardians appointed 26th February, 1848.^b Tullamore.—Vice-Guardians appointed 9th February, 1848.^c Granard.—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th February, 1848.^d Longford.—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March, 1848.^e Trim.—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th January, 1848.^f Athlone.—Vice-Guardians appointed 22nd January, 1848.^g New Ross.—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March, 1848.

* Estimated.

Financial Return, February, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Total No. for which workhouse accommodation is provided in each Union.	Amount of Poor Rate collected during the Month of February.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer during the Month, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer during the Month.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.	Amount of Poor Rate collected from 1st October, 1847, to 29th February, 1848.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts on 29th Feb., deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount remaining to credit of Unions on 29th Feb. deducting the Amount of Debts.	Current Expenses of the Month of February.	Excess of Expenses of the Month over Receipts during the Month.	Excess of Receipts during the Month over Expenses of the Month.	Net Annual Value of Property rated in the Union.
							In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.						
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Co. Galway.</i>		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Ballinasloe . . .	1,120	2,310	2,110	805	11,050	13,844	8,359	..	..	7,593	713	..	1,406	151,664
Clifden ^a . . .	360	641	641	913	1,393	1,881	..	62	523	..	*600	..	41	22,426
Galway ^b . . .	1,160	1,940	1,958	1,087	9,020	5,388	2,593	..	6,515	..	1,956	..	2	100,777
Gort ^c . . .	850	150	76	75	2,923	1,615	2	..	6,564	..	3,075	2,999	..	53,037
Loughrea ^d . . .	900	4,375	4,375	2,008	8,189	5,460	2,586	..	..	*1,896	*1,583	..	*2,792	91,007
Tuam ^e . . .	900	435	963	602	1,934	4,168	344	..	4,262	..	1,122	169	..	86,236
<i>Co. Leitrim.</i>														
Carrick-on-Shannon ^f . . .	860	412	246	498	8,833	2,842	347	..	4,616	..	1,503	1,257	..	61,450
Manorhamilton . . .	790	1,018	1,178	1,153	3,670	2,842	93	..	717	..	440	..	739	47,284
Mohill ^g . . .	700	1,053	956	608	5,513	1,769	621	..	2,441	..	1,118	160	..	57,778
<i>Co. Mayo.</i>														
Ballina ^h . . .	1,554	787	839	1,143	6,823	6,306	115	..	2,188	..	3,180	2,341	..	95,774
Ballinrobe ⁱ . . .	800	1,897	3,002	2,956	8,593	5,222	36	..	3,260	..	3,075	73	..	86,217
Castlebar ^j . . .	750	690	690	No Return	7,616	2,329	No Return	..	6,278	..	*1,800	1,110	..	50,981
Swineford . . .	1,000	6	13	14	9,110	1,152	1	..	1,744	..	493	480	..	46,016
Westport ^k . . .	750	658	1,867	1,975	3,684	2,752	28	..	4,716	..	2,592	725	..	38,876
<i>Co. Roscommon.</i>														
Boyle . . .	744	2,330	2,330	1,200	11,596	4,008	474	..	1,793	..	490	..	1,840	81,408
Castlereau ^l . . .	1,050	1,576	1,576	1,222	9,826	7,495	56	..	2,263	..	473	..	1,103	14,349
Roscommon ^m . . .	1,040	7,107	7,162	1,999	6,187	7,557	5,449	..	*1,327	..	1,360	..	5,802	88,873
<i>Co. Sligo.</i>														
Sligo . . .	1,800	2,549	2,553	2,493	20,244	12,482	87	..	3,211	..	2,369	..	184	142,030
Total of Connaught	17,128	29,934	32,544	20,761	138,509	89,412	21,191	62	52,363	9,489	27,940	9,304	13,908	1,465,643

^a Clifden.—Vice-Guardians appointed 7th February, 1848.^b Galway.—Vice-Guardians appointed 3rd January, 1848.^c Gort.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th February, 1848.^d Loughrea.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th February, 1848.^e Tuam.—Vice-Guardians appointed 18th February, 1848.^f Carrick-on-Shannon.—Vice-Guardians appointed 26th January, 1848.^g Mohill.—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th December, 1847.^h Ballina.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December, 1847.ⁱ Ballinrobe.—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July, 1847.^j Castlebar.—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July, 1847.^k Westport.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th August, 1847.^l Castlereau.—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February, 1848.^m Roscommon.—Vice-Guardians appointed 31st December, 1847.

* Estimated.

SUMMARY OF RETURN FOR FEBRUARY, 1848.

	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
ULSTER . . .	36,918	40,747	40,973	30,593	132,327	168,055	45,301	612	18,179	22,770	26,714	3,160	17,420	3,320,133
MUNSTER . . .	41,219	74,609	73,389	63,569	199,212	350,424	99,934	..	27,001	63,705	68,255	10,324	15,458	3,777,103
LEINSTER . . .	34,159	41,772	42,839	39,817	183,808	215,014	41,919	3,054	31,376	15,122	43,532	11,959	11,287	4,624,542
CONNAUGHT . . .	17,128	29,934	32,544	20,761	138,509	89,412	21,191	62	52,363	9,489	27,940	9,304	13,908	1,465,643
Total of IRELAND	129,424	187,062	189,745	154,740	553,856	822,905	208,545	3,728	128,919	111,086	*166,441	34,768	58,073	13,197,421
Total for previous Month . . .	..	194,054	193,847	160,338	788,511	970,318	177,228	4,395	136,469	100,616	161,603	26,030	69,099	..

Amount of poor-rate collected during the month of February. £. 187,062
Amount lodged with the treasurers during the month, including other receipts than rate 189,745
Amount disbursed by the treasurers during the month 154,740
Amount of rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month 653,856
Balance at foot of the treasurer's accounts, at the close of the month, in favour of 120 Unions 208,545
Balance at foot of the treasurer's accounts, at the close of the month, against 9 Unions 3,728
One Union no balance.
Collected in five months from 1st October, 1847, to 29th February, 1848 822,905

The number of Unions in which the debts of the Guardians to contractors, treasurers, or others (exclusive of all loans obtained from Government, or from private parties, simply for building purposes), on the 29th February, exceeded the amount of money in the treasurer's hands, was 76; and the net amount of the debts of those Unions, deducting the money in their treasurers' hands, was 128,919
The number of Unions in which the debts of the Guardians to contractors, treasurers, or others (exclusive of all loans obtained from Government, or from private parties simply for building purposes), on the 31st January, exceeded the amount of money in the treasurer's hands, was 76; and the net amount of the debts of those Unions, deducting the money in their treasurer's hands, was 136,469
The number of Unions in which the money in the treasurers' hands on the 29th February exceeded the debts of the Guardians was 54; and the net amount remaining in the hands of the treasurers of those Unions, deducting the debts, was 111,086
The number of Unions in which the money in the treasurers' hands on the 31st January, exceeded the debts of the Guardians was 54; and the net amount remaining in the hands of the treasurers of those Unions, deducting the debts, was 100,616
The current expenses of the month of December were about £48,561 less than the amount of poor-rate collected during the month. 120,299
The current expenses of the month of January were about £42,451 less than the amount of poor-rate collected during the month. 151,603
The current expenses of the month of February were about £20,621 less than the amount of poor-rate collected during the month. 166,441
The current expenses of February consisted of the following items:—I. In-maintenance, £48,628; II. Out-relief, £70,634—Total for In-maintenance and Out-relief, £119,262; III. Establishment, including cost of furniture, clothing, or bedding purchased, or repairs or building done during the month, £37,067; IV. Salaries of officers for the month, £10,112; making the Total £166,441.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Workhouse accommodation is provided.	Numbers Relieved during March.				Expenses of Relief during March.					Collection during March.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Workhouse during the Month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the Month.	Total Average Number Relieved during the Month.	Proportion Relieved to each Hundred of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per Pound of the Expenses of March on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor-rate Collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other Receipts than Poor-rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected at the close of the Month.
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
							£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.
<i>Co. Antrim.</i>															
Antrim . . .	49,168	1,050	878	..	878	1.7	331	..	255	550	0 1 1/2	..	30	376	..
Ballycastle . .	26,020	340	503	..	503	1.8	151	..	133	283	0 1 1/2	271	271	126	2,266
Ballymena . .	74,023	1,150	1,002	909	1,911	2.5	334	74	237	646	0 1 1/2	931	951	741	6,304
Ballymurray . .	48,812	752	757	987	1,744	3.6	269	99	136	504	0 1 1/2	476	423	783	2,735
Belfast . . .	100,992	2,022	2,966	..	2,966	2.9	1,020	..	1,044	2,064	0 1 1/2	1,970	2,041	3,571	8,346
Larne . . .	38,758	980	583	..	583	1.5	190	..	55	245	0 0 3/4	171	177	122	980
Lisburn . . .	75,444	1,500	890	..	890	1.2	303	..	120	424	0 0 3/4	387	399	864	153
<i>Co. Armagh.</i>															
Armagh . . .	110,408	1,390	1,222	2,416	3,638	3.3	466	205	570	1,248	0 1 1/2	3,061	3,553	2,110	14,664
Lurgan . . .	71,128	1,512	1,218	..	1,218	1.6	628	..	296	924	0 2 1/2	364	365	2,014	4,391
<i>Co. Cavan.</i>															
Bailieborough .	49,385	1,114	1,040	5,010	6,050	12.0	336	634	139	1,110	0 5	2,264	1,986	1,977	2,800
Cavana . . .	97,271	1,550	1,578	8,926	10,504	10.7	454	576	1,145	2,276	0 4 1/2	710	743	4,612	1,863
Cootehill . . .	67,178	1,100	1,025	4,179	5,204	8.0	395	517	410	1,324	0 4 1/2	2,371	2,381	1,448	7,903
<i>Co. Donegal.</i>															
Ballyshannon .	43,403	870	813	948	1,761	4.0	333	134	281	749	0 3 1/2	1,174	1,072	1,128	1,263
Donegal . . .	41,371	560	541	845	1,386	3.3	167	69	181	418	0 3	931	593	155	3,462
Dunfahugh . .	18,571	300	327	..	327	1.5	109	..	46	156	0 3 1/2	..	3	157	1,127
Glenties . . .	43,571	600	501	4,644	5,145	11.8	150	540	126	817	1 0	266	246	345	1,020
Inishowen . .	43,569	600	655	380	1,035	2.3	117	40	68	225	0 1 1/2	764	674	468	3,823
Letterkenny . .	25,921	920	503	..	503	1.8	166	..	310	477	0 3 1/2	481	419	374	910
Milford . . .	38,108	430	387	1,810	2,197	5.7	130	94	72	298	0 2 1/2	585	576	369	648
Stranorlar . .	25,786	460	360	..	360	1.4	108	..	35	144	0 1 1/2	712	522	42	1,305
<i>Co. Down.</i>															
Banbridge . . .	87,323	1,350	1,271	1,764	3,035	3.4	414	153	222	769	0 1 1/2	1,127	1,131	1,281	4,411
Dowpatrick . .	74,938	1,060	874	..	874	1.1	209	..	386	595	0 0 1/2	500	593	495	1,590
Kilkeel . . .	28,638	390	312	146	458	1.6	92	12	75	180	0 1	..	12	78	52
Newry . . .	95,541	1,350	1,158	3,352	4,510	4.7	391	223	208	823	0 1 1/2	535	579	707	3,149
Newtownards .	60,165	1,165	624	..	624	1.0	278	..	330	609	0 1 1/2	104	104	446	7,904
<i>Co. Fermanagh.</i>															
Enniskillene .	81,534	1,000	1,076	3,630	4,906	6.0	452	401	186	1,040	0 2 1/2	2,052	2,122	1,708	4,735
Lisnaskea . . .	37,920	984	836	..	836	2.2	182	..	164	346	0 1 1/2	1,026	1,418	988	3,394
Loutherstown .	34,963	740	738	2,532	3,270	9.3	268	392	846	1,507	0 8 1/2	1,010	1,044	1,959	1,574
<i>Co. Londonderry.</i>															
Coleraine . . .	52,704	960	716	..	716	1.3	351	..	170	522	0 1 1/2	454	488	832	2,327
Londonderry . .	64,740	1,100	841	2,924	2,865	4.4	336	185	424	946	0 2	1,105	1,115	874	3,235
Magherafelt . .	80,816	1,240	934	746	1,700	2.1	261	40	71	373	0 1	382	436	533	3,094
Newtownlimavady	39,938	890	564	..	564	1.4	269	..	74	343	0 1 1/2	993	297	641	3,460
<i>Co. Monaghan.</i>															
Carrikmacross .	39,729	650	638	2,097	2,735	6.8	210	223	149	583	0 3	442	450	603	601
Castleblaney . .	58,945	1,320	1,025	2,361	3,386	5.7	399	320	871	1,592	0 5 1/2	461	634	544	2,009
Ciones . . .	42,320	900	811	2,094	2,905	6.8	290	217	435	943	0 4	882	582	680	4,515
Monaghan . . .	69,959	1,076	965	..	965	1.3	247	..	201	448	0 1	602	599	436	2,453
<i>Co. Tyrone.</i>															
Castlederg . .	21,368	520	410	..	410	1.9	85	..	58	146	0 1 1/2	112	113	300	233
Clogher . . .	39,800	632	650	1,905	2,585	6.4	185	125	105	416	0 2 1/2	416	810	660	540
Cookstown . .	40,455	600	584	803	1,387	2.9	212	59	56	329	0 1 1/2	268	271	350	762
Dungannon . .	70,000	990	946	1,551	2,497	3.5	330	144	187	663	0 1 1/2	1,023	899	493	2,065
Gortin . . .	18,747	423	194	..	194	1.0	72	..	26	98	0 1 1/2	300	300	293	555
Omagh . . .	69,099	1,104	1,094	3,124	4,218	6.1	421	310	310	1,041	0 3 1/2	1,680	1,752	2,107	6,259
Stranade . . .	58,853	900	866	1,378	2,244	3.8	209	152	397	759	0 2 1/2	386	429	546	1,299
Total of Ulster Province	2,362,132	41,339	36,026	60,761	96,787	4.1	12,323	6,038	11,616	30,011	0 2 1/2	33,749	33,893	39,358	126,434

Cavan.—Vice-Guardians appointed 8th December, 1847.

Cootehill.—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February, 1848.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Difference between the Collection and Expenses of March.		Financial Condition at the close of March.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the Six Months from 29th September, 1847, to the close of March, 1848.						Valuation of Rated Property.	Names of Unions and Counties.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month		Net Amount of Debts, deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount of Money in hands of the Treasurer remaining to credit of Unions after deducting the Amount of Debts.	Rate Collected in the Six Months.	Expenses of the Six Months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the Six Months.	Amount per Pound of Collection during the Six Months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per Pound of Expenses during the Six Months on the entire Valuation.		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	
<i>Co. Antrim.</i>													
..	586	2,195	..	..	1,428	6,300	3,419	2,881	..	1 3½	0 7 8½	100,611	Antrim.
285	14	417	..	..	479	987	1,865	..	878	0 11	0 11½	39,160	Ballycastle.
..	..	231	..	464	..	4,360	3,410	950	..	0 11	0 8½	97,492	Ballymena.
..	28	431	..	..	323	4,249	2,360	1,889	..	1 2	0 7½	73,086	Ballymoney.
..	94	31	..	1,703	..	11,844	13,637	..	1,793	0 10½	1 0	271,915	Belfast.
..	74	959	..	..	377	2,582	1,647	935	..	0 8½	0 5½	72,437	Larne.
..	37	..	249	453	..	4,037	3,093	944	..	1 7½	0 5½	135,397	Lisburn.
<i>Co. Armagh.</i>													
1,813	..	1,394	..	..	1,295	8,589	5,287	3,302	..	0 11½	0 7½	174,572	Armagh.
..	560	..	1	129	..	9,340	6,440	2,900	..	2 0	1 4½	92,682	Lurgan.
<i>Co. Cavan.</i>													
1,154	..	271	..	973	..	7,987	4,403	3,584	..	3 0½	1 8½	52,156	Ballyborough.
..	1,566	3,023	..	..	1,531	16,113	10,661	5,452	..	2 6½	1 8	127,282	Cavan.
1,047	..	1,253	..	1,566	..	5,513	4,887	626	..	1 6	1 3½	73,490	Cootehill.
<i>Co. Donegal.</i>													
425	..	2,244	..	..	2,004	6,348	2,573	3,775	..	2 5½	1 0	51,435	Ballyshannon.
513	..	493	..	734	..	2,552	1,196	1,356	..	1 7½	0 9	31,639	Donegal.
..	156	71	..	82	..	274	700	..	426	0 6½	1 3½	10,543	Dunfahaghy.
..	551	24	..	2,125	..	2,412	3,069	..	657	3 0	3 9	16,330	Glenties.
539	..	321	..	44	..	1,570	1,107	463	..	0 10½	0 7½	36,607	Inishowen.
4	..	193	..	503	..	1,710	2,059	..	349	1 1	1 3½	31,835	Letterkenny.
267	..	796	..	..	271	2,555	1,571	984	..	1 7½	1 0	31,377	Milford.
568	..	882	..	..	524	2,024	841	1,183	..	1 4½	0 6½	29,402	Stranorlar.
<i>Co. Down.</i>													
338	..	199	..	..	23	6,063	4,164	1,899	..	1 0	0 8	123,970	Banbridge.
..	95	3,148	..	..	2,947	4,031	2,363	1,668	..	0 5½	0 3½	107,393	Downpatrick.
..	180	313	..	60	..	1,305	962	343	..	0 8½	0 6	36,931	Kilkeel.
..	288	1,214	..	..	32	4,072	4,332	..	260	0 7½	0 8	129,651	Newry.
..	505	..	644	1,430	..	3,295	2,966	329	..	0 6½	0 6	118,469	Newtownards.
<i>Co. Fermanagh.</i>													
1,012	..	942	..	1,595	..	8,084	4,126	3,959	..	1 8½	0 7½	96,108	Enniskillen.
680	..	1,492	..	..	1,447	4,679	1,874	2,805	..	2 0	0 9½	46,919	Lisnaskea.
..	497	244	..	..	60	4,945	3,874	1,071	..	2 3	1 9	43,944	Lowtherstown.
<i>Co. Londonderry.</i>													
..	68	249	..	..	80	2,909	2,884	25	..	0 9	0 9	76,410	Coleraine.
169	..	1,218	..	..	31	4,353	4,352	101	..	0 9½	0 9	111,959	Londonderry.
9	..	1,546	..	..	1,019	5,148	2,363	2,785	..	1 4½	0 7½	75,339	Magherafelt.
650	..	502	..	..	325	2,640	2,030	610	..	0 9½	0 7½	65,630	Newtownlimavady.
<i>Co. Monaghan.</i>													
..	141	1,067	..	..	756	4,705	2,584	1,851	..	2 0½	1 2½	46,325	Carrickmacross.
..	1,131	831	..	1,853	..	7,009	5,159	1,850	..	2 0	1 6½	65,473	Castleblaney.
..	61	743	..	116	..	3,116	2,799	317	..	1 1½	1 0	55,035	Cloghan.
154	..	4,721	..	..	3,928	8,567	2,901	5,666	..	1 9½	0 7½	94,431	Monaghan.
<i>Co. Tyrone.</i>													
..	34	12	..	100	..	1,306	897	409	..	1 2½	0 9½	21,790	Castlederg.
Equal.	..	551	..	..	506	3,834	2,493	1,341	..	1 9½	1 2	42,275	Clogher.
..	61	310	..	194	..	2,041	1,749	292	..	0 8½	0 7½	56,550	Cookstown.
360	..	609	..	544	..	4,266	3,132	1,134	..	1 11½	0 8½	90,330	Gannan.
202	..	2	..	492	..	1,000	618	382	..	1 5½	0 9½	15,751	Gortin.
639	..	738	..	..	211	5,259	3,892	1,367	..	1 4½	1 0½	75,354	Omagh.
..	373	4,952	..	..	4,047	7,831	3,397	4,434	..	1 11½	0 10	81,529	Strabane.
10,838	7,100	41,092	894	15,267	23,644	201,804	140,305	65,862	4,363	1 2½	1 10	3,320,133	Total of Ulster Province.

* Enniskillen.—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March, 1848.

* Lowtherstown.—Vice Guardians appointed 18th September, 1847.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Workhouse accommodation is provided.	Numbers Relieved during March.				Expenses of Relief during March.					Collection during March.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Workhouse during the Month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the Month.	Total Average Number Relieved during the Month.	Proportion Relieved to each Hundred of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per Pound of the Expenses of March on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor-rate Collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer including other Receipts than Poor-rate.	Amount Disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected at the close of the Month.
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
							£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.
<i>Co. Clare.</i>															
Ennis . . .	77,840	808	779	19,675	20,454	26.0	354	3,086	517	3,959	0 9 1	1,679	1,746	3,707	2,961
Ennistymon ^a . .	49,935	650	660	12,300	12,960	25.0	202	1,001	67	1,270	0 4 1	610	No return.	No return.	784
Kilrush ^b . . .	82,353	1,330	1,178	13,915	15,093	18.3	392	1,245	425	2,063	0 8 1	1,253	1,253	1,338	7,477
Scariff ^c . . .	53,563	2,300	2,005	13,604	15,609	29.1	639	1,823	655	3,118	1 4 1	2,255	2,899	2,387	6,832
<i>Co. Cork.</i>															
Bandon . . .	81,772	1,875	2,093	..	2,093	2.5	790	..	951	1,741	0 3 1	898	1,772	395	2,681
Bantry ^d . . .	56,165	976	1,224	6,161	7,385	13.1	364	799	324	1,489	0 8 1	687	711	1,150	2,665
Cork . . .	156,637	4,550	3,931	..	3,931	2.5	1,133	..	1,027	2,160	0 1 1	8,013	8,187	8,720	18,410
Dunmanway . .	30,527	875	821	3,094	3,915	12.8	196	207	456	860	0 4 1	398	398	968	1,502
Fermoy . . .	92,353	1,160	1,329	15,649	16,978	18.3	396	1,406	776	2,579	0 4 1	2,352	2,371	1,324	3,952
Kanturk ^e . . .	65,561	1,940	1,758	17,216	18,974	22.1	586	1,877	224	2,688	0 6 1	722	725	3,442	22,317
Kinsale . . .	41,342	1,250	1,161	..	1,161	2.8	578	..	355	933	0 3 1	457	458	889	1,254
Macroom . . .	58,518	1,250	1,284	6,368	7,652	13.0	401	935	329	1,666	0 4 1	805	533	1,594	12,168
Mallow . . .	63,282	1,250	1,145	..	1,145	1.8	352	..	424	777	0 1 1	639	690	1,185	1,602
Midleton . . .	78,428	1,886	1,640	..	1,640	2.1	762	..	1,847	2,610	0 3 1	1,007	1,007	2,414	5,036
Skipbreen . . .	104,508	2,250	2,431	6,266	8,697	8.3	614	683	635	1,834	0 4 1	2,147	2,158	2,608	5,483
<i>Co. Kerry.</i>															
Cahiriveen ^f . .	30,088	1,200	1,003	2,919	3,922	12.6	305	423	121	849	0 8 1	332	510	698	1,331
Kenmare ^g . . .	33,656	870	823	5,115	5,938	17.6	250	612	258	1,120	0 10 1	333	647	1,039	908
Killarney . . .	53,345	1,750	1,347	14,358	15,705	29.4	430	1,493	98	2,022	0 5 1	964	964	1,232	1,244
Listowel . . .	79,756	1,296	1,084	18,749	19,833	25.0	539	2,101	302	2,943	0 7 1	1,400	1,388	2,659	3,274
Tralee . . .	91,663	1,946	1,810	8,991	10,801	11.7	595	835	761	2,191	0 4 1	..	32	2,598	2,926
<i>Co. Limerick.</i>															
Kilmallock . .	75,687	1,300	1,301	13,831	15,132	19.99	570	1,502	231	2,304	0 4 1	1,735	1,463	1,569	28,927
Limerick . . .	132,067	3,850	2,516	8,892	11,408	8.6	1,013	1,546	1,111	3,672	0 4 1	5,477	5,397	3,032	12,925
Newcastle ^h . .	60,067	775	663	21,321	21,984	36.6	313	2,009	163	2,486	0 5 1	412	284	411	20,602
Rathkeale . . .	68,174	1,574	1,194	11,662	12,856	18.1	457	1,744	785	2,987	0 5 1	1,286	2,060	2,190	20,302
<i>Co. Tipperary.</i>															
Carrick-on-Suir .	45,333	1,146	974	782	1,756	3.8	321	88	477	887	0 2 1	363	287	1,116	1,849
Cashel . . .	69,640	1,319	1,202	13,152	14,354	20.6	404	1,398	473	2,276	0 4 1	1,365	1,884	2,576	6,617
Clogheen . . .	47,033	1,200	1,115	6,201	7,316	15.6	450	655	187	1,293	0 4 1	347	362	1,336	1,762
Cloamell . . .	39,993	1,900	1,834	3,602	5,436	13.6	678	444	251	1,374	0 3 1	352	380	1,522	2,609
Neenagh . . .	89,874	1,650	1,574	11,513	13,087	14.6	519	1,708	1,113	3,342	0 6 1	1,803	1,822	1,531	9,901
Roscrea . . .	63,016	1,230	1,040	7,357	8,397	13.3	485	952	280	1,718	0 4 1	2,059	2,139	1,010	5,460
Thurles . . .	71,976	960	1,068	17,723	18,811	26.1	340	1,575	546	2,461	0 5 1	2,220	2,220	1,728	8,849
Tipperary . . .	79,516	1,100	1,092	15,849	16,941	21.3	466	2,066	258	2,791	0 4 1	1,634	1,643	1,423	6,162
<i>Co. Waterford.</i>															
Dungarvan . . .	68,642	1,550	1,232	4,100	5,332	7.7	305	406	400	1,112	0 2 1	616	629	1,037	1,718
Lismore . . .	38,617	690	841	1,870	2,711	7.0	220	246	72	538	0 2 1	485	491	879	635
Waterford ⁱ . . .	84,360	1,670	2,034	6,283	8,317	9.8	765	426	302	1,494	0 1 1	742	742	1,106	3,039
Total of Munster Province . . }	2,435,347	53,320	49,206	308,518	357,724	14.6	17,184	35,291	17,151	69,607	..	47,847	50,252	62,833	236,391

^a Ennistymon.—Vice-Guardians appointed 29th February, 1848.
^b Kilrush.—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March, 1848.
^c Scariff.—Vice-Guardians appointed 28th October, 1847.
^d Bantry.—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th October, 1847.
^e Kanturk.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th November, 1847.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Difference between the Collection and Expenses of March.		Financial Condition at the close of March.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the Six Months from 29th September, 1847, to the close of March, 1848.						Valuation of Rated Property.	Names of Unions and Counties.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month		Net Amount of Debts, deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount of Money in hands of the Treasurer remaining to credit of Unions after deducting the Amount of Debts.	Rate Collected in the Six Months.	Expenses of the Six Months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the Six Months.	Amount per Pound of Collection during the Six Months on the Valuation.	Amount per Pound of Expenses during the Six Months on the entire Valuation.		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	
<i>Co. Clare.</i>													
..	2,280	1,947	..	281	..	13,261	13,682	..	421	2 7½	2 8½	101,222	Eunis.
..	660	846	..	1,540	..	6,657	6,259	1,398	..	1 11½	1 6½	67,486	Ennistymon. ^a
..	810	..	90	2,980	..	7,692	7,330	362	..	2 7	2 5	59,449	Kilrush. ^b
..	863	650	..	4,199	..	10,859	9,290	1,569	..	4 10½	4 2	44,609	Scariff. ^c
<i>Co. Cork.</i>													
..	843	6,740	..	..	4,146	6,997	6,548	449	..	1 0½	0 11½	136,166	Bandon.
..	802	68	..	4,986	..	4,314	6,031	..	1,717	2 0½	2 10½	41,829	Bantry. ^d
5,853	..	5,069	..	..	4,640	22,157	13,472	8,685	..	1 2½	0 8½	365,623	Cork.
..	462	2,481	..	..	2,280	5,305	2,605	2,700	..	2 4½	1 2	44,084	Dunmanway.
..	227	5,752	..	..	2,041	20,345	16,703	3,642	..	2 7½	2 2	153,452	Fermoy.
..	1,966	1,932	..	2,361	..	18,099	13,858	4,241	..	3 4½	2 7½	106,114	Kanturk. ^e
..	476	1,821	..	1,775	..	4,682	2,948	1,734	..	1 3	0 9½	73,928	Kinsale.
..	861	315	..	174	..	5,626	4,486	1,140	..	1 2½	0 11½	93,875	Macroon.
..	138	6,496	..	..	6,157	12,991	3,991	9,000	..	2 1½	0 7½	122,708	Malrow.
..	1,603	10,852	..	..	9,654	21,849	8,852	12,997	..	2 8	1 1	163,070	Middleton.
313	..	2,624	..	..	2,483	11,444	8,247	3,197	..	2 3½	1 8	98,255	Skibbereen.
<i>Co. Kerry.</i>													
..	617	623	..	1,149	..	2,496	2,593	..	97	2 0½	2 1	24,366	Cahiriveen. ^f
..	787	140	..	1,982	..	3,675	3,899	..	224	2 11½	3 2	24,689	Kenmare. ^g
..	1,058	155	..	2,634	..	11,422	12,445	..	1,023	2 7½	2 10½	85,828	Killarney.
..	1,543	709	..	2,733	..	11,425	13,617	..	2,192	2 4	2 9½	97,558	Listowel.
..	2,191	28	..	1,650	..	14,625	13,279	1,346	..	2 6½	2 3½	113,854	Tralee.
<i>Co. Limerick.</i>													
..	569	..	80	2,260	..	15,876	11,447	4,429	..	1 9½	1 3½	177,880	Kilmallock.
1,805	..	9,521	..	..	6,701	28,570	15,314	13,256	..	2 9	1 5½	206,861	Limerick.
..	2,074	95	..	9,528	..	13,231	19,401	..	6,170	2 5	3 7	109,499	Newcastle. ^h
..	1,701	4,593	..	..	1,309	14,691	13,174	1,520	..	2 1½	1 11	138,337	Rathkeale.
<i>Co. Tipperary.</i>													
..	524	569	..	1,037	..	7,991	4,625	3,466	..	1 9½	1 0	89,871	Carrick-on-Suir.
..	911	1,145	..	837	..	12,249	9,240	3,009	..	1 10½	1 5	130,293	Cashel.
..	946	1,009	..	..	434	6,425	5,536	889	..	2 0½	1 9	62,760	Clogheen.
..	1,022	2,445	..	..	1,042	7,611	6,396	1,215	..	1 8½	1 4½	91,108	Cloombel.
..	1,539	1,112	..	1,771	..	13,916	11,586	2,330	..	2 6½	1 11	119,802	Nenagh.
341	..	2,986	..	..	946	10,339	6,308	4,031	..	2 0½	1 3	102,171	Roscrea.
..	241	1,556	..	125	..	11,036	9,923	1,113	..	2 0½	1 9½	108,931	Thurles.
..	1,157	4,672	..	..	1,072	12,832	12,925	..	93	1 8½	1 9	148,326	Tipperary.
<i>Co. Waterford.</i>													
..	496	6,628	..	..	5,886	12,415	5,566	6,849	..	2 7½	1 2	94,591	Dungarvan.
..	53	3,497	..	..	3,189	7,013	2,760	4,233	..	2 2½	0 10½	64,583	Lismore.
..	752	81	..	1,755	..	8,154	6,758	1,396	..	0 9½	0 8½	193,771	Waterford. ⁱ
8,312	30,072	89,147	170	40,467	47,709	398,273	310,014	100,196	11,937	2 1½	1 7½	3,777,103	Total of Munster Province.

^f Cahiriveen.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December, 1847.^g Kenmare.—Vice-Guardians appointed 20th January, 1848.^h Newcastle.—Vice-Guardians appointed 4th March, 1848.ⁱ Waterford.—Vice-Guardians appointed 25th March, 1848.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

Name of Union and Counties.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Workhouse accommodation is provided.	Numbers Relieved during March.				Expenses of Relief during March.					Collection during March.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Workhouse during the Month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the Month.	Total Average Number Relieved during the Month.	Proportion Relieved to each Hundred of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per Pound of the Expenses of March on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor-rate Collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other Receipts than Poor-rate.	Amount Disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected at the close of the Month.
Column 1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<i>Co. Carlow.</i>							£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Carlow . . .	73,086	2,100	1,890	4,818	6,708	8.6	903	502	277	1,682	0 2½	756	876	3,181	3,906
<i>Co. Dublin.</i>															
Balrothery . . .	28,116	544	551	837	1,388	4.9	202	83	101	385	0 1	86	102	337	494
Dublin, North . .	123,128	4,100	3,405	3,526	6,831	5.63	1,441	523	2,725	4,689	0 3	5,338	5,338	2,369	21,563
Dublin, South . .	178,745	2,300	2,472	5,813	8,285	4.66	964	864	672	2,501	0 1	636	636	3,467	8,738
Rathdown . . .	44,214	726	710	1,389	2,299	5.2	456	243	437	1,139	0 1½	636	647	741	1,536
<i>Co. Kildare.</i>															
Athy . . .	47,912	1,120	1,100	2,425	3,533	7.4	502	322	243	1,066	0 2½	1,273	1,259	1,033	4,905
Celbridge . . .	25,242	519	331	..	381	1.5	139	..	145	284	0 0½	884	884	613	3,556
Nuas . . .	52,228	1,110	1,072	2,694	3,766	7.2	381	423	475	1,279	0 2½	348	353	968	1,701
<i>Co. Kilkenny.</i>															
Callan . . .	38,524	1,130	782	8,337	9,119	2.38	250	816	137	1,203	0 3½	848	932	1,994	3,895
Kilkenny* . . .	120,082	2,000	1,783	10,313	12,096	10.1	913	1,293	929	3,136	0 3	4,920	4,944	3,664	10,956
<i>Co. King's.</i>															
Edenderry . . .	34,679	840	599	814	1,413	4.5	204	102	94	400	0 1	420	420	754	679
Parsonstown . .	76,528	1,400	1,114	..	1,114	1.46	411	..	296	706	0 1½	1,170	1,170	2,180	5,592
Tullamore† . . .	53,905	1,220	1,249	5,027	6,276	11.6	587	777	316	1,680	0 3½	642	652	646	1,735
<i>Co. Longford.</i>															
Granard‡ . . .	55,130	700	732	8,926	9,658	17.5	244	902	285	1,432	0 3½	3,287	3,224	1,573	7,895
Longford§ . . .	87,757	1,290	1,404	8,499	9,903	11.3	456	1,068	131	1,655	0 3½	1,072	1,094	509	18,934
<i>Co. Louth.</i>															
Ardee . . .	43,348	770	813	2,862	3,705	8.6	312	324	387	1,023	0 2½	872	683	1,350	2,186
Drogheda . . .	52,251	940	838	3,676	4,514	8.6	327	288	132	748	0 1½	595	595	1,292	1,617
Dundalk . . .	65,509	948	755	2,341	3,096	4.7	279	180	58	518	0 1½	376	513	628	1,709
<i>Co. Meath.</i>															
Dunsinghlin . .	20,935	566	438	2,763	3,201	15.	204	393	237	635	0 1½	770	721	605	3,905
Kells . . .	45,282	1,040	1,084	3,367	4,451	10.	363	391	380	1,133	0 2½	1,141	1,141	1,189	1,349
Navan . . .	35,831	900	757	3,332	4,089	11.4	360	498	236	1,094	0 2½	1,033	1,146	2,341	4,576
Oldcastle . . .	48,373	446	846	6,399	7,245	15	276	789	176	1,242	0 3½	233	233	1,495	6,471
Trim . . .	34,411	806	521	2,027	2,548	7.4	249	286	335	870	0 2	64	117	666	92
<i>Co. Queen's.</i>															
Abbeylisle . . .	41,330	900	899	3,362	4,251	10.3	367	464	296	1,128	0 3½	881	881	957	1,537
Mountmellick . .	67,874	1,644	1,634	4,471	6,105	8.99	1,093	676	395	2,164	0 5½	960	960	1,913	4,071
<i>Co. Westmeath.</i>															
Athlone¶ . . .	72,168	1,169	1,057	6,127	7,184	9.95	473	..	105	578	0 1½	1,330	1,415	569	15,051
Mullingar . . .	73,272	1,016	1,035	7,283	8,318	11.85	363	1,169	209	1,741	0 2½	51	51	62	972
<i>Co. Wexford.</i>															
Enniscorthy . .	61,816	1,030	1,040	7,477	8,517	14.	429	937	748	2,114	0 4	1,288	1,323	2,015	5,531
Gorey . . .	39,054	850	878	2,104	2,932	7.6	326	295	141	760	0 1½	909	1,123	1,305	7,562
New Ross . . .	74,923	1,900	1,585	7,558	9,153	12.2	630	645	350	1,626	0 3½	1,171	1,171	1,702	6,805
Wexford . . .	53,401	1,000	949	..	749	1.8	342	..	529	871	0 1½	933	1,067	871	6,217
<i>Co. Wicklow.</i>															
Ballinglass . .	40,687	730	736	1,733	2,409	6.06	222	195	191	609	0 1½	602	1,116	496	720
Rathdrum . . .	58,709	722	841	2,238	3,129	5.5	300	182	366	849	0 1½	718	718	666	6,265
Shillelagh . . .	34,800	627	634	561	1,195	3.43	142	84	131	357	0 1½	306	364	852	1,072
Total of Leinster Province . . .	2,066,036	39,310	36,622	133,349	169,971	8.6	15,112	15,714	12,666	43,496	0 2½	36,549	36,889	45,062	179,912

* Kilkenny.—Vice-Guardians appointed 26th February, 1848.

† Tullamore.—Vice-Guardians appointed 9th February, 1848.

‡ Granard.—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th February, 1848.

§ Longford.—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March, 1848.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

Difference between the Collection and Expenses of March.		Financial Condition at the close of March.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the Six Months from 29th September, 1847, to the close of March, 1848.						Valuation of Rated Property.	Names of Unions and Counties.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month		Net Amount of Debts, deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount of Money in hands of the Treasurer remaining to credit of Unions after deducting the Amount of Debts.	Rate Collected in the Six Months.	Expenses of the Six Months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the Six Months.	Amount per Pound of Collection during the Six Months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per Pound of Expenses during the Six Months on the entire Valuation.		
17	18	10	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	Co. Carlow.
..	926	483	..	345	..	11,235	9,834	1,401	..	1 3	1 1½	179,037	Carlow.
..	299	..	9	467	..	2,952	2,800	150	..	0 7½	0 7	94,521	Co. Dublin.
649	..	1,232	..	..	973	25,123	23,645	1,478	..	1 4½	1 3½	369,745	Balrothery.
..	1,865	..	165	3,263	..	11,303	20,235	..	8,932	0 4½	0 8½	569,940	Dublin, North.
..	502	358	..	1,303	..	4,916	4,691	225	..	0 7½	0 7½	152,314	Dublin, South.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Rathdown.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Co. Kildare.
207	..	566	..	390	..	6,640	5,366	1,274	..	1 3½	2 0½	102,881	Athy.
600	..	1,164	..	..	1,006	3,417	1,676	1,741	..	0 6½	0 3	130,776	Celbridge.
..	931	5,301	..	..	3,769	11,180	5,891	5,289	..	1 7½	0 10½	135,232	Nass.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Co. Kilkenny.
..	355	649	..	..	43	7,306	6,352	954	..	1 8½	1 6	84,103	Callan.
1,784	..	2,081	..	1,242	..	19,132	11,450	7,682	..	1 6½	0 11½	241,775	Kilkenny.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Co. King's.
20	..	1,711	..	..	1,484	4,239	2,231	2,008	..	0 10½	0 5½	98,634	Edenderry.
464	..	2,272	..	..	1,630	9,655	3,427	6,228	..	1 9½	0 7½	109,286	Parsonstown.
..	1,038	379	..	2,054	..	7,544	6,343	1,201	..	1 8½	1 5½	86,516	Tullamore.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Co. Longford.
1,355	..	3,169	..	..	799	7,282	4,442	2,840	..	1 8	1 0	87,209	Granard.
..	583	..	372	5,679	..	6,221	8,731	..	2,510	0 11½	1 4½	124,496	Longford.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Co. Louth.
..	151	690	..	..	583	8,503	6,024	2,479	..	1 9½	1 3½	93,047	Ardee.
..	153	1,620	..	980	..	8,037	6,927	1,110	..	1 2	1 0	136,604	Drughda.
..	142	..	288	1,052	..	2,760	3,299	..	539	0 6½	0 7½	106,680	Dundalk.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Co. Meath.
..	63	124	..	770	..	4,301	4,111	190	..	0 8½	0 8½	118,486	Dunshaughlin.
8	..	195	..	1,956	..	7,294	7,532	..	238	1 2½	1 2½	123,339	Kells.
..	61	..	1,270	1,875	..	5,436	5,850	..	514	1 0½	1 2	101,527	Navan.
..	1,009	433	..	1,849	..	8,177	8,171	6	..	2 0½	2 0½	79,721	Oldcastle.
..	806	1,152	..	76	..	3,010	3,795	..	785	0 7	0 9	100,634	Trim.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Co. Queen's.
..	247	..	8	1,599	..	6,769	5,370	1,399	..	2 0½	1 7½	66,759	Abbeyleix.
..	1,204	..	1,306	2,210	..	8,222	9,450	..	1,228	1 9½	2 1	89,914	Mountmellick.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Co. Westmeath.
752	..	..	456	3,858	..	3,007	3,269	..	262	0 7	0 7½	103,078	Athlone.
..	1,600	..	323	4,634	..	9,366	7,541	..	5,175	0 3	0 9½	190,944	Mullingar.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Co. Wexford.
..	826	1,541	..	..	803	11,555	8,292	3,263	..	1 9½	1 3½	126,921	Finnisecorthy.
149	..	77	..	639	..	3,227	4,022	..	795	0 8½	0 10½	94,001	Gorey.
..	454	342	..	1,260	..	11,341	9,430	1,911	..	2 0½	1 8½	109,748	New Ross.
62	..	4,075	..	..	3,492	8,682	4,787	3,895	..	1 6½	0 10½	113,714	Wexford.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Co. Wicklow.
..	7	1,427	..	..	682	4,096	3,783	313	..	0 10½	0 10	90,888	Baltinglass.
..	131	545	..	305	..	3,237	4,358	..	1,121	0 5	0 7	153,246	Rathdrum.
..	51	52	..	385	..	3,398	2,228	1,170	..	1 0½	0 8½	64,485	Shillelagh.
6,550	13,496	31,659	4,197	37,691	15,263	251,663	225,453	48,207	22,099	1 1	0 11½	4,624,542	Total of Leinster Province.

* Trim.—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th January, 1848.

* Athlone.—Vice-Guardians appointed 22nd January, 1848.

* New Ross.—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March, 1848.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.															
Names of Unions and Counties.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Workhouse accommodation is provided.	Numbers Relieved during March.				Expenses of Relief during March.					Collection during March.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Workhouse during the Month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the Month.	Total Average Number Relieved during the Month.	Proportion Relieved to each Hundred of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per Pound of the Expenses of March on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor-rate Collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other Receipts than Poor-rate.	Amount Disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected at the close of the Month.
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
							£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.
<i>Co. Galway.</i>															
Ballinasloe . . .	99,026	1,370	1,360	1,789	3,149	3·2	562	295	157	1,004	0 13	1,672	2,024	1,423	9,378
Clifden ^a . . .	33,465	470	290	8,000	8,290	23·8	120*	930*	50*	1,100*	0 11½	330	..	..	1,063
Galway ^b . . .	88,973	1,210	1,170	19,540	20,710	23·2	370	2,946	772	4,088	0 9½	965	960	3,284	8,055
Gort ^c . . .	43,543	1,050	1,126	9,728	10,853	24·84	547	1,489	178	2,213	0 10	695	690	..	7,818
Loughrea ^d . . .	71,774	1,900	1,568	4,868	6,456	9·	562	545	204	1,311	0 3½	2,428	2,429	1,762	5,761
Tuam ^e . . .	74,974	1,150	1,116	8,024	9,140	12·2	348	955	331	1,633	0 4½	495	531	740	1,463
<i>Co. Leitrim.</i>															
Carrick-on-Shannon ^f . . .	67,677	860	779	12,151	12,930	19·27	320	1,188	415	1,924	0 7½	1,398	1,492	1,362	7,435
Maunorhamilton . . .	45,990	790	812	1,813	2,625	5·7	224	138	174	536	0 2½	916	916	309	2,764
Mohill ^g . . .	68,839	790	878	7,055	7,933	11·5	286	840	326	1,452	0 6	1,580	1,453	1,100	5,242
<i>Co. Mayo.</i>															
Ballina ^h . . .	120,787	1,454	1,121	35,692	36,813	30·47	432*	3,140*	165*	3,740*	0 9½	1,043	2,925	1,913	5,779
Ballinrobe ⁱ . . .	85,031	800	849	28,907	29,856	35·1	252	3,396	146	3,795	0 10½	528	528	526	8,371
Castlebar ^j . . .	61,063	900	716	16,901	17,617	28·85	326*	2,067*	132*	2,526*	0 11½	154	724	680	7,463
Swineford . . .	73,529	900	1,000	6,782	7,782	10·6	188	983	128	1,299	0 6½	913	860	848	8,177
Westport ^k . . .	77,952	1,000	975	23,128	24,103	30·9	296	2,229	358	2,883	1 5½	790	1,294	1,315	4,894
<i>Co. Roscommon.</i>															
Boyle . . .	71,355	744	618	3,877	4,495	6·3	223	168	281	671	0 2	2,183	1,976	1,583	9,414
Castlereagh ^l . . .	92,864	1,050	1,045	2,946	3,991	4·3	420	529	133	1,081	0 2½	1,592	1,613	1,480	8,233
Roscommon ^m . . .	83,437	1,290	1,533	10,404	11,937	14·3	560	1,652	176	2,388	0 6½	1,066	1,084	5,462	5,121
<i>Co. Sligo.</i>															
Sligo . . .	111,054	2,002	1,707	7,529	9,236	8·31	832	816	744	2,392	0 4	1,536	1,536	1,570	18,697
Total of Connaught Province	1,370,753	19,670	18,682	201,134	219,816	16·03	6,868	24,296	4,870	36,037	0 5½	20,304	23,035	25,367	125,118
^a Clifden.—Vice-Guardians appointed 7th February, 1848. ^b Galway.—Vice-Guardians appointed 3rd January, 1848. ^c Gort.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th February, 1848. ^d Loughrea.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th February, 1848. ^e Tuam.—Vice-Guardians appointed 18th February, 1848. ^f Carrick-on-Shannon.—Vice-Guardians appointed 26th January, 1848. ^g Mohill.—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th December, 1847.															

SUMMARY OF RETURN FOR MARCH, 1848.															
ULSTER . . .	2,362,132	41,339	36,026	60,761	96,787	4·1	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.
							12,323	6,038	11,616	30,011	0 2½	33,749	33,893	39,358	126,434
MUNSTER . . .	2,435,347	53,320	49,206	308,518	337,724	14·68	17,164	35,291	17,151	69,607	0 4½	47,847	50,252	62,833	236,291
LEINSTER . . .	2,006,036	39,310	36,622	133,349	189,971	8·46	15,112	15,714	12,666	43,496	0 2½	36,549	36,889	45,062	173,912
CONNADGHT . . .	1,370,753	19,670	18,682	201,134	219,816	16·03	6,868	24,296	4,870	36,037	0 5½	20,304	23,035	25,367	125,118
Total of IRELAND	8,174,268	153,639	140,536	703,762	844,298	10·32	51,487	81,339	46,303	179,151	1 3½	138,449	144,069	172,610	661,855
Total for previous Month . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	48,628	72,039	47,179	167,846	..	187,062	189,745	164,740	653,856
Increase . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,859	9,300	..	11,305	..	..	..	..	..
Decrease . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	876	..	..	..	..	..	..

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Difference between the Collection and Expenses of March.		Financial Condition at the close of March.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the Six Months from 29th September, 1847, to the close of March, 1848.						Valuation of Rated Property.	Names of Unions and Counties.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account at the close of the Month.		Net Amount of Debts, deducting the Balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net Amount of Money in hands of the Treasurer remaining to Credit of Unions after deducting the Amount of Debts.	Rate Collected in the Six Months.	Expenses of the Six Months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the Six Months.	Amount per Pound of Collection during the Six Months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per Pound of Expenses during the Six Months on the entire Valuation.		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	
668	..	8,960	..	..	8,622	15,516	4,141	11,375	..	2 0	0 6½	151,664	Co. Galway.
..	770	94	..	1,293	..	2,211	1,759	452	..	1 11	1 6½	22,426	Ballinasloe.
..	3,123	269	..	9,644*	..	6,353	9,406	..	3,053	1 3	1 10½	100,777	Clifden. ^a
..	1,518	692	..	1,892	..	2,310	7,230	..	4,920	0 10½	2 8½	53,017	Galway. ^b
1,117	..	3,253	..	..	2,324	7,888	4,490	3,398	..	1 8½	1 0	91,007	Gort. ^c
..	1,138	134	..	6,119	..	4,663	4,523	140	..	1 1	1 0½	86,236	Loughrea. ^d
													Tuam. ^e
													Co. Leitrim.
..	528	274	..	5,165	..	4,240	4,879	..	639	1 4½	1 7	61,450	{ Carrick-on-Shan-
380	..	699	..	246	..	3,758	2,174	1,584	..	1 7	0 11½	47,284	non. ^f
128	..	976	..	2,440	..	3,349	3,964	..	615	1 2	1 9½	57,778	Manorhamilton.
													Mehill. ^g
													Co. Mayo.
..	2,697	943	..	2,443*	..	7,349	11,082	..	3,733	1 6½	2 3	95,774	Ballina. ^h
..	3,267	1	..	3,027	..	5,750	11,142	..	5,392	1 4½	2 7½	85,217	Ballinrobe. ⁱ
..	2,372	..	..	7,354*	..	2,433	7,364	..	4,881	0 11½	2 10½	50,981	Castlebar. ^j
..	366	13	..	2,185	..	2,085	2,581	..	496	0 11	1 1½	46,016	Swineford.
..	2,093	8	..	6,305	..	3,552	7,929	..	4,387	1 10	4 1	38,876	Westport. ^k
													Co. Roscommon.
1,512	..	867	..	433	..	6,191	3,175	4,016	..	1 6	0 6	81,408	Boyle.
511	..	183	..	1,865	..	9,037	3,846	5,241	..	1 7½	0 8½	114,349	Castlereagh. ^l
..	1,322	1,072	..	2,631	..	8,923	6,308	2,415	..	2 1	1 5½	85,873	Roscommon. ^m
													Co. Sligo.
..	856	68	..	3,914	..	14,018	10,433	3,585	..	1 11½	1 6	142,030	Sligo.
4,316	20,048	18,511	..	56,956	10,946	109,716	105,426	32,406	28,116	1 6	1 5	1,465,643	{ Total of Con-

^b Ballina.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December, 1847.ⁱ Ballinrobe.—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July, 1847.^j Castlebar.—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July, 1847.^k Westport.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th August, 1847.^l Castlereagh.—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February, 1847.^m Roscommon.—Vice-Guardians appointed 31st December, 1847.

* Estimated.

SUMMARY OF RETURN FOR MARCH, 1848.

£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	
10,838	7,100	41,092	894	15,267	23,644	201,804	140,305	65,862	4,363	1 2½	0 10	3,320,139	ULSTER.
8,312	30,072	89,147	170	40,467	47,709	393,273	310,014	100,196	11,937	2 1½	1 7½	3,777,103	MUNSTER.
6,550	18,496	31,659	4,197	37,691	16,263	251,563	225,453	48,207	22,099	1 1	0 11½	4,624,542	LEINSTER.
4,316	20,048	18,511	..	56,956	10,946	109,716	105,426	32,406	28,116	1 6	1 5½	1,465,643	CONNAUGHT.
30,016	70,716	180,409	5,261	150,380	97,562	981,354	781,198	246,673	66,515	1 5½	1 2½	13,187,421	Total of IRELAND.
For 41 Unions.	For 89 Unions.												
..	..	208,645	3,728	128,919	111,086	..	..	Net excess of Collec-	..	..	..	..	Total for previous
Net excess of expenses		..	..	..	..	..	..	tion over Expenses	..	..	..	..	Month.
on 130 Unions.		..	..	..	..	..	..	on the 130 Unions.	..	..	..	..	Increase.
£40,700		..	..	..	..	..	..	£180,158	..	..	..	..	Decrease.

1014 PAPERS RELATING TO THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS,

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of COLLECTION and EXPENSES for the Six Months, from October 1, 1847, to March 31, 1848, inclusive.

	Expenses.	Collection.	Excess of Collection.	Excess of Expenses.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
1847—October .	70,808	121,255	50,447	..
„ November .	88,432	151,684	63,252	..
„ December .	123,697	168,850	45,153	..
1848—January .	151,264	194,054	42,790	..
„ February .	167,846	187,064	19,218	..
„ March .	179,151	138,449	..	40,702
Total . .	781,198	961,356	220,860	40,702
			or 180,158 net excess of collection over expenses.	

COMPARISON of LIABILITIES of the UNIONS on September 29, 1847, and March 31, 1848.

Mar. 31, 1848. — I. The total debts of the 130 Unions to contractors, treasurers, or others (exclusive of all loans obtained from Government, or from private parties, simply for building purposes), amounted on March 31, to 233,228*l.*, from which amount, deducting the money in the treasurer's hands, viz., 180,409*l.*, the net amount of debts over and above the money in hands would be, 52,819*l.*

Sept. 29, 1847. — II. The total debts of the 130 Unions to contractors, treasurers, or others, (exclusive of all loans obtained from Government, or from private parties, simply for building purposes,) amounted on September 29, 1847, to 272,943*l.*, from which amount, deducting the money in the treasurer's hands, viz., 39,966*l.*, the net amount of debts over and above the money in hands would be, 232,977*l.*

Mar. 31, 1848. — III. The number of Unions in which the debts on March 31, 1848, exceeded the amount of the money in the treasurer's hands, was, 77*l.*; the debts of those Unions amounted to 185,540*l.*, and the money in their treasurer's hands amounted to 35,159*l.*, deducting which amount, the net amount of debts over and above the money in hands would be, 150,381*l.*

Sept. 29, 1847. — IV. The number of Unions in which the debts on September 29 exceeded the amount of money in the treasurer's hands, was 117*l.*; the debts of those Unions amounted to 266,963*l.*, and the money in the treasurer's hands amounted to 14,236*l.*, deducting which amount, the net amount of debts over and above the money in hands would be, 252,727*l.*

Mar. 31, 1848. — V. The number of Unions in which the money in the treasurer's hands on March 31, 1848, exceeded the debts, was 53*l.*; the money in the hands of the treasurer of those Unions amounted to 145,250*l.*, and the debts amounted to 47,688*l.*, deducting which, there would remain a net balance to their credit amounting to 97,562*l.*

Sept. 29, 1847. — VI. The number of Unions in which the money in the treasurer's hands on September 29, 1847, exceeded the debts, was 13*l.*; the money in the hands of the treasurer of those Unions amounted to 25,730*l.*, and the debts amounted to 5,980*l.*, deducting which, there would remain a net balance to their credit, amounting to 19,750*l.*

SUMMARY of FINANCIAL RETURNS :—Showing the Amount of Poor Rate Collected in 1846 and 1847, respectively; and specifying the Amount Collected, the Amount remaining Uncollected, and the state of the Balances at foot of the Treasurers' Accounts, at the close of each Month in 1846, 1847, and 1848.

Month.	Amount of Rate collected during the Month.			Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at close of the Month.			Amount in hands of Treasurers of certain Unions at close of the Month.			Amount due to the Treasurers of the remaining Unions at close of the Month.		
	1846	1847	1848	1846	1847	1848	1846	1847	1848	1846	1847	1848
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
January . .	36,229	52,439	194,054	219,052	250,953	788,511	41,362	33,274	177,228	7,358	23,565	4,395
February . .	41,885	47,264	187,064	206,664	279,140	653,856	54,314	30,383	208,545	5,294	28,312	3,728
March . . .	38,909	52,561	138,449	174,734	265,149	661,855	57,129	26,493	180,409	5,014	31,112	5,261
April . . .	38,436	63,110	..	173,956	349,773	..	55,986	21,611	..	6,580	32,278	..
May	31,230	64,865	..	163,508	406,223	..	57,655	15,424	..	6,152	30,526	..
June	30,630	59,436	..	150,201	463,730	..	56,425	14,404	..	6,649	31,897	..
July	24,185	62,097	..	129,125	594,120	..	47,801	18,726	..	7,368	34,860	..
August . . .	17,173	53,389	..	135,233	690,103	..	44,350	25,210	..	8,165	35,507	..
September .	21,510	73,858	..	155,718	816,452	..	39,913	39,966	..	8,071	29,841	..
October . . .	26,805	121,255	..	225,815	864,049	..	32,114	64,444	..	11,089	28,782	..
November . .	36,639	151,684	..	244,050	859,718	..	34,393	105,893	..	14,746	16,879	..
December . .	46,440	168,850	..	243,384	890,639	..	35,358	145,706	..	19,452	8,788	..
Total Amount Collected .	In 1846, £390,071	In 1847, £970,308	In 1848, £381,116									

PAUPERS IN WORKHOUSES.

[In continuation of Returns in Fifth Series of Poor Law Correspondence of the present Session.]

SUMMARIES of Weekly Returns of the Numbers of Paupers in the Workhouses in the several Provinces in Ireland, and Fever Hospitals connected therewith, in the Months of February, March, and April, 1848, and in the corresponding Weeks in the previous Years 1847, 1846, respectively; showing the Amount of Workhouse Accommodation, Numbers of the several Classes of Paupers in each Workhouse, the Increase or Decrease thereof in each Week as compared with the previous Week of the Year, and also with the corresponding Weeks of the previous Years, the Numbers of Fever Patients, and of Deaths . . . pp. 1016–1023

RETURN of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, and of the Expenditure thereon for a period of Ten Weeks, ending April 8, 1848 . . . pp. 1024–1037

STATEMENT of the Collection of Poor Rate and of the Expenses in each Union in Ireland during the Six Months from Michaelmas to Lady-day last . . . pp. 1038–1041

RETURNS.

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

Workhouses in each Province.			Total Number in Workhouses.	Total Number in Workhouses in last preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in present Week compared with the preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Number of Paupers in Workhouses in present Year.		Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Head (exclusive of Clothing.)	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals unconnected with Workhouses.			Number of Fever Patients.			Deaths.		
All other Classes.						As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.		No. in the Week in present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Week of 1848.		No. in the Week in present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease	No. in the Week of present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.								As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.						
1,681	2,436	4,167	30,529	29,951	578	5,144	20,243	s. d.	42	21	35	1,951	2,047	D. 96	265	232	33
1,753	2,569	4,321	25,385	..	..	..	..	1 10	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,028	1,271	2,299	9,406	..	..	..	..	1 7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,856	3,467	6,323	47,013	45,712	1,301	9,077	31,617	1 6	249	55	231	1,132	1,003	129	480	431	49
2,702	4,345	7,047	37,936	..	..	..	..	2 0	194	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,790	2,150	3,940	15,396	..	..	..	..	1 8	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,810	3,399	6,209	36,793	36,138	655	7,062	20,560	1 9	299	278	289	2,464	2,139	325	417	368	49
2,626	3,346	5,972	29,731	..	..	..	..	2 2	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,022	2,352	4,374	16,233	..	..	..	..	1 9	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
679	1,021	1,700	14,418	13,902	516	4,954	8,618	1 7	37	37	37	1,015	984	31	256	256	..
424	520	944	9,222	..	..	..	..	2 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
139	137	276	2,587	..	..	..	..	1 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8,026	10,373	18,399	128,753	125,703*	3,050	26,237	81,038	1 7	627	391	592	6,562	6,173	389	1,418	1,297	131
7,504	10,780	18,284	102,274	..	..	..	..	2 0	236	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,979	5,910	10,889	44,122	..	..	..	..	1 8	35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1847 and 1846.

1,631	2,528	4,179	33,647	33,624	23	4,775	22,300	1 5	35	4	33	2,239	2,207	32	256	287	D. 31
1,887	2,871	4,758	28,872	..	..	..	..	1 10	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,120	1,446	2,566	10,748	..	..	..	..	1 7	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,701	3,318	6,019	40,658	40,447	211	8,706	29,923	1 6	312	149	252	892	1,109	D. 217	428	451	D. 33
2,605	4,314	6,919	37,952	..	..	..	..	2 0	163	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,724	2,122	3,846	16,484	..	..	..	..	1 7	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,717	3,386	6,133	36,753	36,635	68	7,301	20,499	1 9	210	17	195	2,289	2,417	D. 128	352	410	D. 67
2,631	3,339	5,970	29,452	..	..	..	..	2 2	193	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,025	2,325	4,350	16,254	..	..	..	..	1 9	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
585	1,278	2,163	18,409	18,379	30	5,944	11,470	1 9	46	44	43	1,153	1,203	D. 48	278	305	D. 27
650	963	1,613	12,214	..	..	..	..	2 3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
242	240	482	3,538	..	..	..	..	1 9	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,984	10,510	18,494	135,467	135,135†	332	26,726	84,192	1 7	603	214	522	6,575	6,936	D. 361	1,314	1,472	D. 158
7,753	11,487	19,240	108,490	..	..	..	..	2 1	359	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5,111	6,133	11,244	46,024	..	..	..	..	1 8	81	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,619	2,418	4,067	33,901	32,935	D. 34	4,521	21,440	1 5	40	29	40	2,071	2,183	D. 112	281	255	26
1,742	2,732	4,474	28,360	..	..	..	..	1 10	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,030	1,357	2,387	10,511	..	..	..	..	1 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,548	3,154	5,702	43,277	42,638	439	5,778	26,072	1 5	335	203	282	902	892	10	389	381	8
2,279	4,526	6,805	31,149	..	..	..	..	2 0	132	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,561	2,120	3,681	13,725	..	..	..	..	1 8	53	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,616	3,226	5,842	30,536	30,753	D. 217	6,419	20,367	1 9	232	189	209	2,254	2,289	D. 35	354	352	2
2,452	3,665	6,117	30,117	..	..	..	..	2 2	43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,993	2,182	4,085	16,169	..	..	..	..	1 9	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
843	1,238	2,101	17,306	17,509	D. 203	4,504	9,780	1 7	69	4	60	986	1,125	D. 139	270	278	D. 8
496	854	1,350	10,442	..	..	..	..	2 3	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
183	130	303	3,240	..	..	..	..	1 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,666	10,036	17,752	130,020	130,033†	D. 15	21,222	77,639	1 7	667	423	591	6,213	6,489	D. 276	1,294	1,266	28
6,969	11,777	18,746	104,128	..	..	..	..	2 1	242	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,677	5,839	10,516	43,643	..	..	..	..	1 8	76	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,670	2,408	4,078	33,657	33,414	243	5,153	21,910	1 5	24	D. 8	20	2,147	2,124	23	276	282	D. 6
1,852	2,819	4,671	28,504	..	..	..	..	1 11	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,092	1,438	2,530	10,778	..	..	..	..	1 8	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,615	3,271	5,886	43,251	43,277	D. 26	6,551	28,019	1 5	357	203	313	884	902	D. 18	403	389	14
2,249	4,016	6,265	36,700	..	..	..	..	2 0	149	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,477	1,815	3,292	14,209	..	..	..	..	1 8	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,490	3,155	5,645	35,717	35,883	D. 166	6,095	19,738	1 10	234	34	212	2,205	2,186	19	310	345	D. 33
2,609	3,383	5,992	29,622	..	..	..	..	2 3	200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,016	2,263	4,279	15,979	..	..	..	..	2 3	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
761	1,213	1,974	15,305	15,301	4	4,394	9,331	1 7	35	35	35	767	751	16	253	224	29
492	779	1,271	10,636	..	..	..	..	2 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
216	215	431	2,816	..	..	..	..	1 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,536	10,047	17,583	127,930	127,875‡	55	22,195	78,998	1 7	650	969	550	6,093	5,963	40	1,242	1,240	2
7,202	10,997	18,199	105,462	..	..	..	..	2 1	381	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,801	5,731	10,532	43,822	..	..	..	..	1 10	70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

† The numbers for Ballinrobe, Ballycastle, Cavan, Clones, Enniscorthy, Enniskillen, Lismore, Nenagh, Tralee, and Waterford, are not included in the foregoing.

‡ The numbers for Castlebar, Cavan, Clones, Enniscorthy, Enniskillen, Galway, Gort, Lismore, Nenagh, Shillelagh, Tralee, and Waterford, are not included in the foregoing.

Week ended Saturday, March 4, 1848,

NAMES OF PROVINCES.	Population according to Census of 1841.	No. of Unions the Workhouse of which is situated in the Province.	Workhouse Accommodation.				Number of Paupers in the						
			No. of Paupers the Work-houses were originally calculated to contain.	No. the Fever Hospitals are calculated to contain.	No. for which additional Accommodation has been provided.	Total No. for which Accommodation is provided in each Province.	Able-bodied			Children under 15 Years of Age.	Sick in the Workhouse Hospitals.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.		Fever Patients.	Other Cases.	Total.
ULSTER . . Sat. 4 Mar. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	2,977	10,022	41,199	1,846	5,379	7,225	15,764	2,141	3,105	5,246
" 5 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,076	3,929	5,005	13,676	1,291	3,118	4,409
" 6 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	380	1,320	1,700	5,045	100	1,352	1,452
MUNSTER . . " 4 Mar. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	2,733	22,637	51,580	4,539	8,793	13,332	18,676	945	5,655	6,600
" 5 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,644	4,902	6,546	14,454	2,852	5,623	8,475
" 6 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	835	1,745	2,580	5,561	314	2,291	2,605
LEINSTER . . " 4 Mar. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,397	10,856	39,103	2,573	5,929	8,502	11,859	1,889	5,033	6,942
" 5 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	987	3,896	4,883	11,641	1,639	3,876	5,515
" 6 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	633	1,086	2,319	6,269	190	2,160	2,350
CONNAUGHT . " 4 Mar. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,560	3,610	19,770	1,603	3,035	4,638	6,252	830	2,350	3,180
" 5 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	515	1,455	1,970	4,079	984	2,258	3,222
" 6 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	228	425	653	1,496	79	457	536
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 4 Mar. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	10,667	47,125	151,652	10,561	23,135	33,697	50,551	5,805	16,163	21,968
" 5 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,222	14,182	18,404	43,850	6,746	14,875	21,621
" 6 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,076	5,176	7,252	18,371	683	6,260	6,943

Week ended Saturday, March 11, 1848,

ULSTER . . Sat. 11 Mar. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,129	9,870	41,199	1,792	5,160	6,952	15,318	1,999	3,050	5,049
" 12 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	997	3,781	4,778	13,280	1,287	3,050	4,337
" 13 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	383	1,288	1,671	4,899	110	1,308	1,418
MUNSTER . . " 11 Mar. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	2,723	23,287	52,220	4,011	8,311	12,322	15,635	844	5,214	6,058
" 12 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,418	4,372	5,790	13,454	3,195	5,177	8,372
" 13 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	690	1,515	2,205	5,231	344	2,044	2,388
LEINSTER . . " 11 Mar. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,378	10,881	39,309	2,584	6,004	8,588	11,739	1,855	5,199	7,054
" 12 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,099	3,845	4,944	11,775	1,656	4,164	5,820
" 13 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	602	1,750	2,352	6,483	172	2,183	2,355
CONNAUGHT . " 11 Mar. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,510	3,560	19,670	1,875	3,317	5,192	6,242	1,093	2,323	3,416
" 12 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	546	1,486	2,032	4,039	1,281	1,968	3,249
" 13 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	242	459	701	1,396	96	476	572
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 11 Mar. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	10,940	47,598	152,398	10,262	22,792	33,054	48,934	5,791	15,786	21,577
" 12 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,060	13,484	17,544	42,548	7,419	14,359	21,778
" 13 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,917	4,012	5,929	18,009	722	6,011	6,733

Week ended Saturday, March 18, 1848,

ULSTER . . Sat. 18 Mar. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,248	9,890	41,339	2,207	6,181	8,388	17,353	2,558	3,556	6,114
" 19 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,191	4,342	5,533	14,978	2,190	3,759	5,949
" 20 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	467	1,569	2,036	5,860	130	1,525	1,655
MUNSTER . . " 18 Mar. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	2,733	24,377	53,320	4,261	8,792	13,053	16,099	1,022	6,230	7,252
" 19 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,569	5,262	6,831	14,333	3,606	5,356	8,962
" 20 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	832	1,803	2,635	6,031	318	2,384	2,702
LEINSTER . . " 18 Mar. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,688	10,772	39,310	3,081	6,599	9,680	13,101	2,097	5,164	7,261
" 19 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,096	4,196	5,292	12,908	2,045	4,254	6,299
" 20 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	651	1,884	2,535	7,160	206	2,407	2,613
CONNAUGHT . " 18 Mar. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,668	3,500	19,768	1,735	3,154	4,889	5,671	1,025	2,187	3,212
" 19 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	497	1,379	1,876	3,917	1,004	1,991	2,995
" 20 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	233	439	672	1,393	86	497	583
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 18 Mar. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	11,338	48,539	153,737	11,284	24,725	36,010	52,224	6,702	17,137	23,839
" 19 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,353	15,179	19,532	46,136	8,815	15,360	24,205
" 20 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,183	5,695	7,878	20,444	740	6,813	7,553

Week ended Saturday, March 25, 1848,

ULSTER . . Sat. 25 Mar. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,579	10,070	41,849	2,131	5,959	8,090	16,401	2,522	3,515	6,037
" 26 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,274	4,051	5,325	14,211	2,284	3,608	5,892
" 27 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	451	1,566	2,017	5,717	145	1,503	1,648
MUNSTER . . " 25 Mar. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	2,733	24,477	53,420	4,404	8,996	13,400	16,798	1,105	5,964	7,069
" 26 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,634	4,937	6,571	13,885	3,639	5,765	9,404
" 27 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	884	1,674	2,558	6,207	299	2,423	2,722
LEINSTER . . " 25 Mar. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,534	10,928	39,312	2,486	5,954	8,440	12,420	1,725	4,860	6,585
" 26 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	823	3,780	4,603	12,121	1,256	4,006	5,262
" 27 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	558	1,756	2,314	6,968	173	2,256	2,429
CONNAUGHT . " 25 Mar. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,668	3,500	19,768	2,034	3,359	5,393	6,054	994	2,312	3,306
" 26 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	561	1,629	2,190	4,347	1,107	1,941	3,048
" 27 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	275	488	763	1,496	91	556	647
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 25 Mar. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	11,514	48,975	154,349	11,055	24,268	35,323	51,673	6,346	16,851	23,197
" 26 Mar. 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,292	14,397	18,689	44,564	8,286	15,320	23,606
" 27 Mar. 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,168	5,684	7,852	20,388	707	6,738	7,445

* The numbers for Castlebar, Cavan, Clones, Ennis, Enniscorthy, Enniskillen, Gort, Granard, Lismore, Lowtherstown, Nenagh, Rathdown, Shillelagh, Tralee, Tullamore, Waterford, and Westport, are not included in the above.

† The numbers for Ballinrobe, Ballycastle, Boyle, Cashel, Castlebar, Cavan, Clones, Ennis, Enniscorthy, Enniskillen, Granard, Lismore, Londonderry, Macroom, Nenagh, Shillelagh, Tralee, Tullamore, and Waterford, are not included in the above.

Returns—continued.

and corresponding Periods in 1847 and 1846.

Workhouses in each Province.				Total Number in Workhouses in last preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in present Week, compared with the preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Number of Paupers in Workhouses in present Year,		Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Head (exclusive of Clothing.)	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals unconnected with Workhouses.		Number of Fever Patients.			Deaths.			
All other Classes.			Total Number in Workhouses.			As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.		No. in the Week in present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Week of 1846,		No. in the Week in present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.	No. in the Week of present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.								As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.						
1,659	2,353	4,012	32,247	32,881	D. 634	4,557	20,607	1 54	38	12	35	2,141	2,139	2	283	272	11
1,830	2,770	4,600	27,690	..	..	..	..	1 101	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,093	1,432	2,525	10,722	..	..	..	..	1 8	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,602	3,294	5,896	42,504	42,453	51	7,043	27,534	1 54	328	196	273	945	879	66	436	402	34
2,193	3,793	5,986	35,461	..	..	..	..	2 1	132	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,425	1,810	3,235	13,981	..	..	..	..	1 84	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,301	2,954	5,255	32,558	31,483	D. 520	5,149	17,662	1 94	250	160	246	1,839	1,934	D. 45	297	287	10
2,279	3,091	5,370	27,409	..	..	..	..	2 3	90	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,843	2,115	3,958	14,896	..	..	..	..	1 94	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
699	1,204	1,903	15,973	15,408	565	4,327	8,596	1 34	30	D. 30	29	830	806	24	252	274	D. 22
533	726	1,259	10,530	..	..	..	..	2 3	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
198	184	382	3,067	..	..	..	..	1 8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,261	9,605	17,066	123,232	122,225*	D. 533	21,076	74,399	1 74	646	368	583	5,605	5,758	47	1,268	1,235	33
6,835	10,350	17,215	101,090	..	..	..	..	2 14	308	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,559	5,541	10,100	42,666	..	..	..	..	1 84	63	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1847 and 1846.

1,571	2,256	3,827	31,146	31,644	D. 498	4,661	19,902	1 54	72	29	71	1,999	1,965	34	263	265	D. 2
1,549	2,541	4,090	26,485	..	..	..	..	1 114	43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,038	1,342	2,380	10,368	..	..	..	..	1 8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,404	3,286	5,780	39,795	40,067	D. 272	6,549	25,676	1 54	377	209	336	844	845	D. 1	422	411	11
1,992	2,638	5,630	33,246	..	..	..	..	1 54	168	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,442	1,851	3,293	13,117	..	..	..	..	1 84	41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,408	3,100	5,508	32,889	33,271	D. 382	4,930	17,581	1 94	222	198	213	1,855	1,941	D. 86	283	306	D. 23
2,341	3,079	5,420	27,959	..	..	..	..	2 34	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,946	2,172	4,118	15,308	..	..	..	..	1 94	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
690	1,041	1,731	16,551	16,354	227	5,961	10,074	1 74	59	D. 1	59	1,093	1,035	58	222	230	D. 8
648	752	1,300	10,620	..	..	..	..	2 34	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
175	175	350	3,019	..	..	..	..	1 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,163	9,683	16,846	120,411	121,336†	D. 925	22,101	73,233	1 84	730	435	679	5,791	5,786	5	1,190	1,212	22
6,430	10,010	16,440	98,310	..	..	..	..	2 14	295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,601	5,540	10,141	41,812	..	..	..	..	1 54	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1847 and 1846.

1,681	2,396	4,077	35,932	35,890	42	5,249	22,826	1 54	56	D. 3	48	2,558	2,574	D. 16	324	340	D. 16
1,655	2,568	4,223	30,653	..	..	..	..	1 114	59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,155	1,490	2,654	12,205	..	..	..	..	1 8	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,620	3,351	5,971	42,375	42,375	D. 85	6,513	26,508	1 6	316	159	270	1,022	892	130	527	443	79
2,189	3,567	5,736	35,862	..	..	..	..	2 04	157	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,536	1,960	3,496	14,864	..	..	..	..	1 94	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,633	3,385	6,018	36,080	35,880	160	5,762	19,323	1 6	192	147	178	2,097	2,023	74	283	302	D. 19
2,560	3,239	5,799	30,298	..	..	..	..	2 34	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,068	2,361	4,429	16,737	..	..	..	..	1 94	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
616	1,075	1,691	15,463	15,539	D. 76	5,337	9,956	1 84	103	43	103	1,025	1,072	D. 47	262	246	16
574	764	1,339	10,126	..	..	..	..	2 34	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
196	206	402	3,050	..	..	..	..	1 74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,550	10,207	17,757	129,830	129,769†	61	22,861	78,613	1 64	667	346	599	5,702	5,561	141	1,336	1,336	60
6,978	10,118	17,096	108,969	..	..	..	..	2 14	321	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,955	6,026	10,981	46,856	..	..	..	..	1 84	68	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1847 and 1846.

1,584	2,212	3,796	34,324	34,753	D. 429	4,841	21,527	1 54	40	31	40	2,522	2,558	D. 36	306	301	5
1,565	2,484	4,049	29,483	..	..	..	..	1 114	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,113	1,437	2,550	11,932	..	..	..	..	1 74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,579	3,477	6,056	43,323	43,665	D. 342	7,550	27,081	1 6	309	141	275	1,105	1,081	24	630	540	90
2,213	3,700	5,913	33,773	..	..	..	..	2 14	168	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,569	1,981	3,550	15,237	..	..	..	..	1 84	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,469	3,207	5,676	33,121	33,294	D. 173	5,418	17,185	1 9	226	198	221	1,725	1,789	D. 64	298	250	48
2,497	3,225	5,722	27,708	..	..	..	..	2 3	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,919	2,277	4,226	15,996	..	..	..	..	1 94	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
553	971	1,524	16,477	16,248	229	5,784	10,687	1 64	72	4	69	994	1,029	D. 35	253	262	D. 4
439	669	1,108	10,693	..	..	..	..	2 3	68	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
200	206	406	3,312	..	..	..	..	2 04	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,185	9,867	17,052	127,245	127,960‡	D. 715	23,588	76,480	1 64	647	374	605	6,346	6,437	D. 111	1,492	1,353	139
6,714	10,078	16,792	103,657	..	..	..	..	2 14	273	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,831	5,901	10,732	46,417	..	..	..	..	1 94	42	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

† The numbers for Ballina, Ballinrobe, Boyle, Castlebar, Ennis, Lismore, Macroom, Shillelagh, Tralee, and Waterford, are not included in the above.

‡ The numbers for Boyle, Castlebar, Downpatrick, Dunfanaghy, Ennis, Kilkenny, Lismore, New Ross, Swineford, Tralee, and Waterford, are not included in the above.

Week ended Saturday, April 1, 1848,

NAMES OF PROVINCES.		Population according to Census of 1841.	No. of Unions the Workhouses of which is situate in the Province.	Workhouse Accommodation.				Number of Paupers in the						
				No. of Paupers the Workhouses were originally calculated to contain.	No. the Fever Hospitals are calculated to contain.	No. for which additional Accommodation has been provided.	Total No. for which Accommodation is provided in each Province.	Able-bodied.			Children under 15 Years of Age.	Sick in the Workhouse Hospitals.		
								Males.	Females.	Total.		Fever Patients.	Other Cases.	Total.
ULSTER	Sat. 1 Apr. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,139	10,240	41,579	1,914	5,692	7,606	15,812	2,226	3,225	5,451
	" 2 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,125	3,837	4,962	13,244	2,226	3,194	5,420
	" 3 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	418	1,475	1,893	5,623	134	1,480	1,614
MUNSTER	" 1 Apr. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	2,783	24,434	53,427	4,400	9,284	13,684	16,681	994	5,554	6,548
	" 2 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,452	4,659	6,111	13,021	3,661	5,149	8,810
	" 3 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	922	2,012	2,934	6,476	313	2,331	2,644
LEINSTER.	" 1 Apr. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,356	11,791	39,997	2,531	6,007	8,538	12,071	1,658	4,439	6,137
	" 2 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	997	3,315	4,312	12,019	1,284	3,659	4,943
	" 3 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,642	1,790	2,432	6,756	165	2,009	2,174
CONNAUGHT	" 1 Apr. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,668	3,580	19,848	1,670	3,038	4,708	6,658	826	2,197	3,023
	" 2 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	467	1,257	1,724	3,059	991	2,170	3,161
	" 3 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	227	393	620	1,270	86	420	506
Total of IRELAND.	Sat. 1 Apr. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	10,946	50,015	154,851	10,515	24,021	34,536	50,225	5,744	15,415	21,159
	" 2 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	4,041	13,568	17,609	41,343	8,162	14,172	22,334
	" 3 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	2,209	5,670	7,879	20,125	698	6,240	6,938

Week ended Saturday, April 8, 1848,

ULSTER	Sat. 8 Apr. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,139	10,240	41,579	1,898	5,680	7,578	15,827	2,135	3,123	5,258
	" 9 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,106	3,833	4,939	13,324	2,688	3,009	5,697
	" 10 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	438	1,467	1,905	5,732	183	1,506	1,689
MUNSTER	" 8 Apr. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	3,188	24,849	54,247	4,420	9,168	13,588	16,414	1,032	5,722	6,754
	" 9 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,425	4,603	6,028	12,842	3,803	5,096	8,899
	" 10 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	864	1,924	2,788	6,371	279	2,292	2,571
LEINSTER	" 8 Apr. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,556	11,831	40,237	2,506	6,020	8,526	12,026	1,464	4,381	5,845
	" 9 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	948	3,748	4,696	11,768	1,396	3,570	4,966
	" 10 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	624	1,790	2,414	6,655	148	2,020	2,168
CONNAUGHT	" 8 Apr. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,768	3,580	19,948	1,878	3,289	5,167	6,110	836	2,619	3,455
	" 9 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	472	1,204	1,676	2,961	847	1,842	2,679
	" 10 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	240	330	620	1,301	79	446	525
Total of IRELAND.	Sat. 8 Apr. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	11,651	50,500	156,011	10,702	24,157	34,859	50,377	5,467	15,846	21,312
	" 9 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	3,951	13,388	17,339	40,895	8,724	13,517	22,241
	" 10 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	2,166	5,561	7,727	20,059	659	6,264	6,923

Week ended Saturday, April 15, 1848,

ULSTER	Sat. 15 Apr. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	3,079	10,320	41,599	1,852	5,807	7,759	16,097	2,213	3,325	5,538
	" 16 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,131	3,786	4,917	13,517	3,040	3,287	6,327
	" 17 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	446	1,482	1,928	5,814	130	1,541	1,671
MUNSTER	" 15 Apr. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	3,188	25,499	54,897	4,921	9,964	14,885	17,865	1,199	5,882	7,081
	" 16 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,561	4,863	6,424	13,541	3,808	5,319	9,127
	" 17 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	980	2,017	2,997	6,859	278	2,377	2,656
LEINSTER	" 15 Apr. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,501	12,389	40,740	2,442	5,884	8,326	11,515	1,348	4,109	5,457
	" 16 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,003	3,699	4,702	11,175	1,450	3,628	5,078
	" 17 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	606	1,777	2,383	6,526	152	1,991	2,143
CONNAUGHT	" 15 Apr. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,668	3,875	20,143	1,857	3,457	5,314	5,929	964	2,545	3,509
	" 16 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	449	1,165	1,614	2,844	693	1,743	2,436
	" 17 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	251	454	706	1,589	63	455	518
Total of IRELAND.	Sat. 15 Apr. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	11,436	52,083	157,879	11,172	25,112	36,284	51,406	5,724	15,861	21,585
	" 16 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	4,144	13,513	17,657	41,077	9,191	13,977	23,168
	" 17 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	2,283	5,731	8,014	20,788	644	6,364	7,008

Week ended Saturday, April 22, 1848,

ULSTER	Sat. 22 Apr. 1848	2,362,132	43	28,200	2,979	10,538	41,717	1,934	5,736	7,670	16,077	2,023	3,219	5,242
	" 24 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,209	3,830	5,039	13,397	3,181	3,575	6,756
	" 25 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	478	1,458	1,936	5,789	256	1,406	1,662
MUNSTER	" 22 Apr. 1848	2,435,347	35	26,210	4,538	24,365	55,113	5,264	9,831	15,095	18,294	1,144	5,891	7,035
	" 24 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,531	4,599	6,130	12,415	3,841	4,951	8,792
	" 25 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	973	2,144	3,117	7,167	253	2,497	2,750
LEINSTER	" 22 Apr. 1848	2,006,036	34	24,850	3,481	12,612	40,943	2,713	6,426	9,139	13,064	1,502	4,326	5,828
	" 24 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,011	3,855	4,866	11,511	1,830	4,170	6,000
	" 25 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	695	1,888	2,493	7,196	183	2,405	2,588
CONNAUGHT	" 22 Apr. 1848	1,370,753	18	14,600	1,684	3,835	20,119	1,918	3,558	5,338	6,117	891	2,718	3,609
	" 24 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	467	1,151	1,608	2,873	815	1,841	2,656
	" 25 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	219	363	582	1,219	52	344	396
Total of IRELAND.	Sat. 22 Apr. 1848	8,174,268	130	93,860	12,682	51,350	157,892	11,891	25,551	37,442	53,552	5,560	16,154	21,714
	" 24 Apr. 1847	"	"	"	"	"	"	4,208	13,435	17,643	40,196	9,667	14,337	24,204
	" 25 Apr. 1846	"	"	"	"	"	"	2,275	5,853	8,128	24,371	744	8,652	7,396

* The numbers for Ballinrobe, Boyle, Castlebar, Coleraine, Dunfanaghy, Rancorthy, Enniskillen, Kilrush, Lismore, Longford, New Ross, Stranorlar, Swineford, Tralee, Waterford, and Westport, are not included in the above.

† The numbers for Castlebar, Enniscorthy, Enniskillen, Ennistymon, Letterkenny, Lismore, Longford, New Ross, Swineford, Tralee, Waterford, and Westport, are not included in the above.

Returns—continued.

and corresponding Periods in 1847 and 1846.

Workhouses in each Province.				Total Number in Workhouses in last preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in present Week, compared with the preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Number of Paupers in Workhouses in present Year.		Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Head (exclusive of Clothing).	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals unconnected with Workhouses.			Number of Fever Patients.			Deaths.		
All other Classes.			Total Number in Workhouses.			As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.		No. in the Week in present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Week of 1847.		No. in the Week in present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.	No. in the Week of present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.								As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.						
1,595	2,117	3,712	32,581	33,034	D. 453	5,254	20,176	s. d. 1 5½	32	4	29	2,226	2,384	D. 158	274	293	D. 19
1,435	2,266	3,701	27,327	..	..	..	..	1 11½	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,445	1,410	2,855	11,585	..	..	..	..	1 7½	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,726	3,526	6,252	43,165	42,898	267	8,404	26,412	1 5½	295	76	218	994	993	1	508	583	D. 75
2,129	3,640	5,769	33,711	..	..	..	..	2 1½	209	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,583	2,061	3,649	15,703	..	..	..	..	1 8½	67	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,365	3,066	5,431	32,180	32,348	D. 168	4,805	16,664	1 9	185	149	155	1,698	1,724	D. 26	227	293	D. 66
2,511	3,090	5,601	27,375	..	..	..	..	2 5½	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,890	2,264	4,154	15,516	..	..	..	..	1 10½	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
489	801	1,290	14,679	14,718	D. 39	5,113	8,570	1 6½	34	D. 21	33	826	929	D. 103	194	242	D. 48
293	444	737	8,681	..	..	..	..	2 3½	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
170	182	352	2,748	..	..	..	..	1 8½	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,175	9,510	16,685	122,605	122,998*	D. 393	23,576	71,822	1 6½	536	208	435	5,744	6,030	D. 286	1,203	1,411	D. 208
6,368	9,440	15,808	97,094	..	..	..	..	2 2½	328	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,693	5,917	10,610	45,552	..	..	..	..	1 9	101	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1847 and 1846.

1,663	2,287	3,950	32,613	33,462	D. 849	4,756	20,006	1 4½	48	12	43	2,135	2,243	D. 108	256	280	D. 24
1,541	2,356	3,897	27,857	..	..	..	..	1 11½	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,062	1,419	2,481	11,807	..	..	..	..	1 8	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,720	3,626	6,346	43,102	43,637	D. 555	9,626	26,581	1 5½	339	177	288	1,032	1,067	D. 35	486	547	D. 61
2,276	3,431	5,707	33,476	..	..	..	..	2 2	162	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,660	2,102	3,762	15,492	..	..	..	..	1 8½	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,240	2,895	5,137	31,534	32,180	D. 646	4,669	16,110	1 9	169	102	105	1,464	1,698	D. 234	214	227	D. 13
2,429	3,006	5,435	26,865	..	..	..	..	2 4½	67	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,915	2,272	4,187	15,424	..	..	..	..	2 0½	64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
509	833	1,342	16,074	16,200	D. 126	4,509	7,566	1 6½	81	63	81	836	841	D. 5	235	189	46
403	600	1,003	8,319	..	..	..	..	2 2	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
153	170	323	2,769	..	..	..	..	1 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,134	9,641	16,775	123,323	125,499†	D. 2176	23,660	70,263	1 6½	637	354	517	5,467	5,849	D. 382	1,191	1,243	D. 52
6,649	9,393	16,042	96,517	..	..	..	..	2 2	283	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,790	5,963	10,753	45,492	..	..	..	..	1 9½	120	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1847 and 1846.

1,674	2,194	3,868	37,262	33,695	D. 433	4,522	20,392	1 5	42	42	27	2,213	2,216	D. 3	277	270	7
1,558	2,421	3,979	28,740	..	..	..	..	2 0½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,138	1,491	2,629	12,062	..	..	..	..	1 8½	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,847	3,742	6,589	46,420	46,040	380	10,879	28,649	1 6	334	67	268	1,199	1,046	153	556	503	51
2,618	3,431	6,449	35,541	..	..	..	..	2 1½	267	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,839	2,373	4,212	16,724	..	..	..	..	1 10½	66	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,231	2,854	5,095	30,393	30,907	D. 514	4,094	15,262	1 9	150	101	124	1,348	1,413	D. 65	221	206	15
2,455	2,889	5,344	26,299	..	..	..	..	2 4½	49	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,848	2,231	4,079	15,131	..	..	..	..	1 11½	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
488	736	1,224	15,976	16,174	D. 198	4,496	7,918	1 6½	48	5	48	964	896	128	241	235	6
450	613	1,072	8,166	..	..	..	..	2 3½	43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
180	187	367	3,180	..	..	..	..	1 8½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,240	9,536	16,776	126,051	126,816†	D. 763	23,991	72,221	1 6½	574	215	467	5,724	5,511	213	1,295	1,216	79
7,090	9,754	16,844	98,746	..	..	..	..	2 2½	359	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5,005	6,282	11,287	47,097	..	..	..	..	1 10	107	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

and corresponding periods in 1847 and 1846.

1,606	2,225	3,831	32,820	33,349	D. 525	3,777	20,365	1 8	80	34	73	2,023	2,191	D. 168	260	275	D. 15
1,523	2,328	3,851	29,043	..	..	..	..	1 11½	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,121	1,480	2,602	11,989	..	..	..	..	1 8½	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,896	4,204	7,100	47,524	48,126	D. 602	12,825	27,874	1 5	448	323	416	1,144	1,199	D. 55	476	554	D. 108
2,399	3,671	6,070	33,407	..	..	..	..	2 1½	125	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,897	2,360	4,247	17,281	..	..	..	..	1 8½	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,360	3,089	5,449	33,480	33,642	162	5,394	16,940	1 5	160	55	145	1,502	1,521	D. 19	196	252	D. 56
2,581	3,128	5,709	28,086	..	..	..	..	1 11½	105	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,902	2,361	4,263	16,540	..	..	..	..	1 8½	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
474	715	1,189	16,453	16,389	64	4,619	7,705	1 7	43	38	37	891	978	D. 87	225	247	D. 22
449	627	1,076	8,213	..	..	..	..	2 4½	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
181	189	370	2,567	..	..	..	..	1 9	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,336	10,233	17,569	130,277	131,506§	D. 1229	26,615	72,884	1 5	731	450	671	5,560	5,889	D. 329	1,157	1,358	D. 201
6,932	9,754	16,706	98,749	..	..	..	..	2 1½	281	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5,032	6,390	11,482	48,377	..	..	..	..	1 8½	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

† The numbers for Castlebar, Enniscorthy, Ennistymon, Letterkenny, Longford, New Ross, Shilleagh, Swineford, Tralee, and Westport, are not included in the above.

§ The numbers for Castlebar, Ennistymon, Milford, New Ross, and Westport, are not included in the above

Week ended Saturday, April 29, 1848,

NAMES OF PROVINCES.	Population according to Census of 1841.	No. of Unions the Workhouse of which is situate in the Province.	Workhouse Accommodation.				Number of Paupers in the						
			No. of Paupers the Work-houses were origi-nally calcu-lated to contain.	No. the Fever Hospitals are cal-culated to contain.	No. for which addi-tional Accom-moda-tion has been provided.	Total No. for which Accom-moda-tion is pro-vided in each Province.	Able-bodied.			Children under 15 Years of Age.	Sick in the Workhouse Hospitals.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.		Fever Patients.	Other Cases.	Total.
ULSTER . . Sat. 29 Apr. 1848	2,362,132	..	28,200	2,979	10,538	41,717	2,026	5,781	7,807	16,201	1,982	3,216	5,198
.. 1 May, 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,280	3,928	5,208	13,637	3,191	3,573	6,764
.. 2 May, 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	477	1,464	1,941	5,907	178	1,521	1,699
MUNSTER . . 29 Apr. 1848	2,435,347	..	26,210	4,680	24,223	55,113	5,084	10,176	15,260	18,320	1,050	5,802	6,852
.. 1 May, 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,367	4,206	5,573	11,997	3,502	4,739	8,241
.. 2 May, 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	902	1,963	2,865	6,855	231	2,336	2,567
LEINSTER . . 29 Apr. 1848	2,006,036	..	24,850	3,531	12,663	41,044	2,787	6,363	9,150	13,324	1,452	4,376	5,828
.. 1 May, 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,054	3,757	4,811	11,460	1,955	4,133	6,088
.. 2 May, 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	679	1,828	2,407	6,910	189	2,488	2,677
CONNAUGHT . 29 Apr. 1848	1,370,753	..	14,660	1,798	3,705	20,103	1,864	3,168	5,032	5,386	820	2,589	3,409
.. 1 May, 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	408	912	1,320	2,383	607	1,031	1,638
.. 2 May, 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	286	460	746	1,532	42	385	427
Total of IRELAND. { Sat. 29 Apr. 1848	8,174,268	..	93,860	12,958	51,129	157,977	11,761	25,488	37,249	53,231	5,304	15,983	21,287
.. 1 May, 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,109	12,083	16,912	39,477	9,255	13,481	22,736
.. 2 May, 1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,244	5,715	7,959	21,204	640	6,750	7,390

NOTE.—The Numbers for Cashel, Castlebar, Castleroa, Mohill,

Returns—continued.

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

Workhouses in each Province.				Total Number in Workhouses.	Total Number in last preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in present Week, compared with the preceding Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease in Number of Paupers in Workhouses in present Year.		Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Head (exclusive of Clothing).	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals unconnected with Workhouses.		Number of Fever Patients.			Deaths.		
All other Classes.			As compared with 1847.				As compared with 1846.	No. in the Week in present Year.		Increase or Decrease in Week of 1849.		No. in the Week in present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.	No. in the Week of present Year.	No. in the previous Week of present Year.	Increase or Decrease.
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.								As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.						
1,718	2,354	4,072	33,278	33,108	170	3,547	20,381	s. d.	42	D. 3	41	1,982	2,045	D. 63	257	269	D. 12
1,670	2,452	4,122	29,731	..	..	..	..	1 3	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,123	1,440	2,563	12,115	..	..	..	..	1 11½	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,914	3,787	6,701	47,133	46,936	197	13,199	27,409	1 7½	444	393	425	1,050	1,033	D. 3	445	473	D. 33
2,354	3,533	5,967	31,778	..	..	..	..	1 5	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,801	2,397	4,198	16,505	..	..	..	..	2 1½	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,424	3,030	5,454	33,756	33,480	276	5,823	17,706	1 8½	121	143	143	1,452	1,502	D. 50	226	196	30
2,532	3,037	5,569	27,933	..	..	..	..	1 5	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1,829	2,227	4,056	16,050	..	..	..	..	2 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
202	468	760	14,587	14,432	155	4,163	8,580	1 10	40	34	40	820	825	D. 5	206	217	D. 11
309	397	706	6,047	..	..	..	..	1 6½	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
171	190	361	3,066	..	..	..	..	2 3½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7,348	9,639	16,987	128,754	127,956	798	26,732	74,076	1 9½	669	545	649	5,304	5,425	D. 121	1,134	1,180	D. 26
6,895	9,496	16,364	95,489	..	..	..	..	1 4½	124	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4,029	6,254	11,183	47,736	..	..	..	..	2 2½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
								1 9	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

New Ross, and Westport, are not included in the above.

RETURN of PERSONS receiving OUT-DOOR RELIEF, and of the Expenditure thereon, for a period of Ten Weeks, ending April 8, 1848.

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
ARDEE . . .	5 Feb.	1,245	2,333	241	425	1,486	3,258	4 11 0	99 10 1	104 1 1	No out-relief.
	12 Feb.	1,154	2,706	231	396	1,385	3,102	2 14 9	97 13 6	100 8 3	
	19 Feb.	1,161	2,719	240	414	1,401	3,133	3 6 7	99 3 1	102 9 8	
	26 Feb.	1,170	2,055	184	320	1,354	3,375	1 19 10	100 5 5	102 5 5	
	4 March	1,212	3,120	173	285	1,385	3,405	4 8 7	98 17 0	103 5 7	
	11 March	1,202	2,973	155	253	1,357	3,226	13 16 2	95 12 3	109 8 5	
	18 March	1,296	3,285	102	194	1,398	3,479	12 2 6	97 18 4	110 0 10	
	25 March	1,298	2,977	95	178	1,393	3,155	13 17 11	93 17 1	107 5 0	
	1 April	1,243	2,884	93	157	1,336	3,041	11 12 11	93 17 3	105 10 2	
	8 April	1,201	2,839	81	113	1,282	2,952	9 6 4½	89 1 0½	98 7 5	
ANTRIM . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief.
ARDEE . . .	5 Feb.	1,105	2,895	..	..	1,105	2,895	80 16 3	..	80 16 3	
	12 Feb.	1,050	2,883	..	..	1,050	2,883	88 13 0	..	88 13 0	
	19 Feb.	1,040	2,777	..	..	1,040	2,777	82 14 0	..	82 14 0	
	26 Feb.	1,070	2,745	..	..	1,070	2,745	84 19 4	..	84 19 4	
	4 March	1,085	2,886	..	..	1,085	2,886	83 17 8	..	83 17 8	
	11 March	992	2,880	..	..	992	2,880	80 4 10	..	80 4 10	
	18 March	1,053	2,845	..	..	1,053	2,845	80 3 5	..	80 3 5	
	25 March	1,071	2,904	..	..	1,071	2,904	79 8 7	..	79 8 7	
	1 April	797	1,599	..	..	797	1,599	43 13 11	..	43 13 11	
	8 April	879	1,619	..	..	879	1,619	50 4 9	..	50 4 9	
ARMACH . . .	5 Feb.	1,301	2,426	..	..	1,301	2,426	..	43 6 5½	43 6 5½	No out-relief as yet given.
	12 Feb.	1,295	2,517	..	..	1,295	2,517	..	43 19 5	43 19 5	
	19 Feb.	1,335	2,592	..	..	1,335	2,592	..	44 0 9½	44 0 9½	
	26 Feb.	1,334	2,537	..	..	1,334	2,537	..	45 0 11	45 0 11	
	4 March	1,329	2,542	..	..	1,329	2,542	..	45 13 6½	45 13 6½	
	11 March	1,286	2,491	..	..	1,286	2,491	..	44 0 11½	44 0 11½	
	18 March	1,239	2,362	..	..	1,239	2,362	..	41 17 7½	41 17 7½	
	25 March	1,208	2,276	..	..	1,208	2,276	..	38 15 7	38 15 7	
	1 April	1,105	1,951	..	..	1,105	1,951	..	34 15 2	34 15 2	
	8 April	1,032	1,836	..	..	1,032	1,836	..	30 5 0½	30 5 0½	
ATHLONE . . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief as yet given.
	12 Feb.	140	291	..	..	140	291	..	5 12 0½	5 12 0½	
	19 Feb.	379	896	..	..	379	896	..	22 1 2	22 1 2	
	26 Feb.	779	2,092	..	..	779	2,092	..	38 8 7½	38 8 7½	
	4 March	1,173	2,718	284	1,025	1,437	3,743	..	79 11 2½	79 11 2½	
	11 March	2,064	4,116	492	1,876	2,556	5,992	..	136 0 0½	136 0 0½	
	18 March	1,705	3,746	652	2,516	2,357	6,262	..	134 19 3½	134 19 3½	
	25 March	2,014	4,722	1,014	3,209	3,028	7,931	..	201 10 2½	201 10 2½	
	1 April	2,308	5,353	891	3,365	3,199	8,718	..	216 17 3½	216 17 3½	
	8 April	2,546	5,863	959	3,541	3,505	9,404	..	210 17 11½	210 17 11½	
ATHY . . .	5 Feb.	735	1,552	..	..	735	1,552	39 13 2	5 13 10	45 7 0	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	886	1,816	..	..	886	1,816	50 4 7	5 0 4	55 4 11	
	19 Feb.	985	2,111	..	..	985	2,111	57 6 4	6 0 6	63 6 10	
	26 Feb.	1,069	2,303	..	..	1,069	2,303	62 11 2	6 1 8	68 12 10	
	4 March	1,095	2,329	..	..	1,095	2,329	64 13 8	6 0 10	70 14 6	
	11 March	1,119	2,390	..	..	1,119	2,390	70 0 7	8 8 4	78 8 11	
	18 March	1,180	2,460	..	..	1,180	2,460	76 3 2	8 16 9	84 19 11	
	25 March	1,204	2,371	..	..	1,204	2,371	78 12 6	8 16 7	87 8 1	
	1 April	1,166	2,163	..	..	1,166	2,163	90 0 6	..	90 0 6	
	8 April	1,225	2,261	..	..	1,225	2,261	93 2 0	..	93 2 0	
BAILIEBOROUGH . . .	5 Feb.	1,823	4,104	68	85	1,886	4,189	..	124 11 6	124 11 6	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	1,680	3,399	93	112	1,673	3,511	..	126 6 10½	126 6 10½	
	19 Feb.	1,842	4,123	117	142	1,959	4,265	..	127 10 11½	127 10 11½	
	26 Feb.	1,851	3,818	142	137	1,993	3,955	..	128 18 10½	128 18 10½	
	4 March	1,869	4,810	155	227	2,024	5,037	..	130 10 5½	130 10 5½	
	11 March	1,864	4,740	166	244	2,030	4,984	..	129 14 7½	129 14 7½	
	18 March	1,861	4,772	167	264	2,028	5,036	..	128 11 3	128 11 3	
	25 March	1,608	4,048	104	175	1,712	4,223	..	126 5 11½	126 5 11½	
	1 April	1,464	3,688	18	41	1,482	3,721	..	119 11 5½	119 11 5½	
	8 April	1,559	4,002	..	..	1,559	4,002	..	117 16 9½	117 6 9½	
BALLINA . . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	3,515	9,341	11,129	26,351	14,644	35,692	..	1,132 4 4	1,132 4 4	
	11 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	18 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	25 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	1 April	4,641	11,083	12,792	27,687	17,433	38,770	..	..	..	
	8 April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
BALLINASLOE . . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	141	323	..	..	141	323	..	3 13 4½	3 13 4½	
	19 Feb.	307	703	..	..	307	703	..	11 16 7	11 16 7	
	26 Feb.	439	1,087	..	..	439	1,087	0 0 2	24 11 4½	24 11 6½	
	4 March	447	1,090	..	..	447	1,090	..	28 11 7½	28 11 7½	
	11 March	573	1,507	..	..	573	1,507	0 2 6	41 16 7½	41 19 1½	
	18 March	754	2,071	..	..	754	2,071	0 5 6	55 14 4½	55 19 10½	
	25 March	891	2,332	29	97	920	2,429	0 9 2	67 14 3	68 3 5	
	1 April	1,109	2,771	183	572	1,292	3,343	2 0 8	88 2 0½	90 2 8½	
	8 April	2,054	4,589	304	795	2,358	5,384	13 7 6	123 2 5½	136 9 11½	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
BALLINGBOE .	5 Feb.	206	563	336	1,273	542	1,835	..	..	..	Cost not stated. Particulars not given
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	2,365	6,742	4,229	12,895	6,594	19,637	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	2,549	7,460	5,988	18,006	8,537	25,466	..	..	..	
	4 March	2,512	7,871	6,304	17,137	8,816	25,008	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	11 March	2,773	8,847	7,735	20,560	10,508	28,907	..	..	..	
	18 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	25 March	2,916	8,744	8,004	21,431	10,920	30,175	..	..	..	
	1 April	2,991	8,907	8,276	22,139	11,267	31,046	..	..	..	No out-relief given.
	8 April	3,075	9,135	8,420	22,690	11,495	31,825	..	..	..	
BALLYCASTLE .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
BALLYMENNA .	5 Feb.	87	170	7	17	79	187	..	1 14 6½	1 14 6½	
	12 Feb.	157	322	7	21	163	343	..	5 7 6	5 7 6	
	19 Feb.	204	384	5	8	209	392	..	6 19 6	6 19 6	
	26 Feb.	301	595	4	6	305	601	..	9 8 9	9 8 9	
	4 March	373	729	3	4	376	733	..	11 12 10	11 12 10	
	11 March	438	841	3	3	441	844	..	14 6 8½	14 6 8½	
	18 March	493	972	3	3	496	975	..	16 13 7½	16 13 7½	
	25 March	518	1,016	1	2	519	1,018	..	17 15 8½	17 15 8½	
	1 April	565	1,102	..	..	565	1,102	..	19 1 9½	19 1 9½	
	8 April	592	1,176	..	..	592	1,176	..	19 10 3½	19 10 3½	
BALLYMONEY .	5 Feb.	489	898	..	..	489	898	18 0 9	..	18 0 9	
	12 Feb.	556	1,008	..	..	556	1,008	19 11 6	..	19 11 6	
	19 Feb.	571	1,017	..	..	571	1,017	19 17 3	..	19 17 3	
	26 Feb.	578	1,037	..	..	578	1,037	20 4 6	..	20 4 6	
	4 March	585	1,035	..	..	585	1,035	20 0 3	..	20 0 3	
	11 March	589	986	..	..	589	986	19 13 0	..	19 13 0	
	18 March	570	989	..	..	570	989	19 14 6	..	19 14 6	
	25 March	600	1,033	..	..	600	1,033	20 5 0	..	20 5 0	
	1 April	568	934	..	..	568	934	19 6 6	..	19 6 6	
	8 April	576	977	..	..	576	977	19 14 7	..	19 14 7	
BALLYSHANNON .	5 Feb.	321	596	..	..	321	596	16 13 11	..	16 13 11	
	12 Feb.	352	679	..	..	352	679	16 17 10	..	16 17 10	
	19 Feb.	425	797	..	..	425	797	18 16 11	..	18 16 11	
	26 Feb.	489	874	..	..	489	874	24 4 0	..	24 4 0	
	4 March	499	884	..	..	499	884	24 12 4	..	24 12 4	
	11 March	578	976	..	..	578	976	26 3 7	..	26 3 7	
	18 March	541	920	..	..	541	920	28 15 7	..	28 15 7	
	25 March	692	968	..	..	692	968	32 2 8	..	32 2 8	
	1 April	747	1,227	..	..	747	1,227	32 12 10	..	32 12 10	
	8 April	776	1,311	..	..	776	1,311	34 2 6	..	34 2 6	
BALROBERTY .	5 Feb.	..	..	441	790	441	790	..	21 17 11½	21 17 11½	
	12 Feb.	..	..	448	798	448	798	..	19 18 8	19 18 8	
	19 Feb.	..	..	421	803	421	803	..	19 14 2½	19 14 2½	
	26 Feb.	..	..	465	805	465	805	..	20 10 8½	20 10 8½	
	4 March	..	..	478	838	478	838	..	20 8 9½	20 8 9½	
	11 March	..	..	477	837	477	837	..	20 13 7½	20 13 7½	
	18 March	..	..	476	838	476	838	..	20 4 10	20 4 10	
	25 March	..	..	481	854	481	854	0 2 6	20 14 7½	20 17 1½	
	1 April	503	872	..	..	503	872	..	20 5 7	20 5 7	
	8 April	506	868	..	..	506	868	0 2 0	20 8 3½	20 10 3½	
BALTINGLASS .	5 Feb.	753	1,638	..	..	753	1,638	43 13 2	..	43 13 2	
	12 Feb.	789	1,662	..	..	789	1,662	45 11 6	..	45 11 6	
	19 Feb.	785	1,717	..	..	785	1,717	48 4 6	..	48 4 6	
	26 Feb.	796	1,728	..	..	796	1,728	48 2 3	..	48 2 3	
	4 March	807	1,729	..	..	807	1,729	48 7 1	..	48 7 1	
	11 March	801	1,733	..	..	801	1,733	48 9 2	..	48 9 2	
	18 March	814	1,733	..	..	814	1,733	48 15 2	..	48 15 2	
	25 March	824	1,762	..	..	824	1,762	49 7 6	..	49 7 6	
	1 April	787	1,620	..	..	787	1,620	16 12 10	29 9 2½	46 8 0½	
	8 April	810	1,691	..	..	810	1,691	4 10 5	41 18 7½	46 9 0½	
BANBRIDGE .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief. Particulars not given
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	637	1,351	1	6	638	1,357	..	25 18 9½	25 18 9½	
	26 Feb.	775	1,556	..	..	775	1,556	..	29 17 7½	29 17 7½	
	4 March	858	1,731	..	..	858	1,731	..	33 7 1½	33 7 1½	
	11 March	889	1,739	..	..	889	1,739	..	34 14 9½	34 14 9½	
	18 March	921	1,790	..	..	921	1,790	..	36 5 6½	36 5 6½	
	25 March	914	1,781	..	..	914	1,781	..	36 16 2	36 16 2	
	1 April	930	1,793	1	1	931	1,794	..	34 14 11	34 14 11	
	8 April	940	1,837	..	..	940	1,837	..	35 8 4½	35 8 4½	
BANDON . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief.
BANTRY . . .	5 Feb.	3,471	8,632	..	3,471	8,632	..	..	210 6 2½	210 6 2½	
	12 Feb.	3,436	9,146	..	3,436	9,146	..	..	230 7 9½	230 7 9½	
	19 Feb.	3,439	8,913	..	3,439	8,913	..	..	258 8 6	258 8 6	
	26 Feb.	3,411	9,688	..	3,411	9,688	..	..	254 19 7½	254 19 7½	
	4 March	2,971	6,663	..	2,971	6,663	..	..	198 14 7½	198 14 7½	
	11 March	3,130	6,096	..	3,130	6,096	..	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	18 March	3,743	6,227	..	3,743	6,227	..	..	168 1 9	168 1 9	
	25 March	3,787	5,971	..	3,787	5,971	..	..	161 7 4	161 7 4	
	1 April	3,699	6,368	..	3,699	6,368	..	..	159 3 11	159 3 11	
	8 April	3,756	6,137	..	3,756	6,137	..	..	160 1 6½	160 1 6½	

PAPERS RELATING TO THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS,

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
BELFAST . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief.
BOYLE . . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	11 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	18 March	1,109	3,383	224	494	1,333	3,877	..	..	..	
	25 March	1,373	4,337	308	651	1,681	4,988	..	..	..	
	1 April	1,489	4,267	311	679	1,800	4,946	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	8 April	1,786	4,897	421	968	2,267	5,865	..	..	..	
CARRICKREEN . . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given
	12 Feb.	633	1,261	41	80	674	1,341	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	19 Feb.	921	1,959	54	84	975	2,043	..	..	..	Particulars not given
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	1,198	2,526	150	257	1,348	2,783	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	11 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given
	18 March	1,227	2,672	153	247	1,379	2,919	0 6 6	85 3 1½	85 9 7½	
	25 March	1,243	2,746	158	257	1,401	3,003	0 3 4	87 17 6½	88 0 10½	
	1 April	1,193	2,611	176	279	1,369	2,890	0 2 1	85 18 3½	86 0 4½	
	8 April	1,238	2,764	188	293	1,426	3,057	..	85 15 5½	85 15 5½	
CALLAN . . .	5 Feb.	1,576	3,450	1,799	4,893	3,375	8,343	51 13 4½	161 5 1½	212 18 5½	
	12 Feb.	1,607	3,525	1,853	4,987	3,460	8,512	51 12 11½	166 19 8½	218 12 7½	
	19 Feb.	1,570	3,525	1,968	5,292	3,538	8,817	39 3 11½	138 1 10½	177 5 10	
	26 Feb.	1,588	3,580	1,972	5,312	3,560	8,892	38 19 9½	137 2 9	176 2 6½	
	4 March	1,586	3,582	1,987	4,933	3,573	8,515	50 18 6½	153 17 10½	209 16 5	
	11 March	1,599	3,571	1,838	4,849	3,437	8,420	49 18 3½	162 5 3½	212 3 7	
	18 March	1,629	3,662	1,753	4,693	3,382	8,255	49 9 11½	153 2 6	202 12 5½	
	25 March	1,630	3,537	1,654	4,540	3,284	8,077	37 10 5½	159 3 9½	196 14 3	
	1 April	1,611	3,541	1,548	4,342	3,159	7,883	48 15 7½	138 7 11½	187 3 7	
	8 April	1,620	3,369	1,365	3,905	2,985	7,274	47 1 3½	118 15 11½	165 17 2½	
CARLOW . . .	5 Feb.	1,505	3,857	..	..	1,505	3,857	94 9 3	..	94 9 3	
	12 Feb.	1,576	4,007	..	..	1,576	4,007	96 8 7	0 3 0	96 11 7	
	19 Feb.	1,634	4,095	..	..	1,634	4,095	98 2 1	..	98 2 1	
	26 Feb.	1,751	4,396	..	..	1,751	4,396	99 1 4	0 2 9	99 4 1	
	4 March	1,812	4,563	..	..	1,812	4,563	104 7 8	1 3 3	105 10 11	
	11 March	1,872	4,703	..	..	1,872	4,703	107 5 8	1 6 7	108 12 3	
	18 March	1,956	4,934	..	..	1,956	4,934	111 17 6	0 15 1	112 12 7	
	25 March	2,024	5,087	..	..	2,024	5,087	116 18 9	9 8	117 8 5	
	1 April	2,116	5,307	..	..	2,116	5,307	119 5 11	0 12 1	119 18 0	
	8 April	2,178	5,490	..	..	2,178	5,490	121 13 2	0 2 2	121 15 4	
CARRICKMACROSS	5 Feb.	717	1,681	24	57	741	1,738	44 6 10	..	44 6 10	
	12 Feb.	749	1,845	30	82	779	1,927	47 9 6	..	47 9 6	
	19 Feb.	779	1,956	30	43	809	1,999	49 14 3	..	49 14 10	
	26 Feb.	794	1,998	35	68	829	2,066	49 9 11	..	49 9 0	
	4 March	803	2,017	34	63	837	2,080	51 5 6	..	51 5 6	
	11 March	809	2,032	14	57	843	2,089	51 6 2	..	51 6 2	
	18 March	822	2,022	64	103	886	2,105	57 17 6	..	51 17 6	
	25 March	786	1,984	26	39	812	2,023	48 12 10	..	48 12 10	
	1 April	808	1,874	57	100	865	1,974	50 5 0	..	50 5 0	
	8 April	818	1,943	61	112	879	2,055	51 8 10	..	51 8 10	
CARRICK-ON-SHAN- NON.	5 Feb.	887	2,063	1,197	2,459	2,084	4,462	..	99 0 7½	99 0 7½	
	12 Feb.	1,333	3,185	2,070	4,365	3,403	7,450	..	210 11 7	210 11 7	
	19 Feb.	1,675	4,048	3,352	7,159	5,027	11,207	..	718 10 3	718 10 3	
	26 Feb.	1,911	4,524	4,239	8,811	6,150	13,335	..	353 12 10½	353 12 10½	
	4 March	2,310	5,228	4,469	9,693	6,779	14,821	..	352 15 10½	352 15 10½	
	11 March	2,099	4,865	3,735	7,851	5,834	12,716	..	328 5 5	328 5 5	
	18 March	2,174	4,690	3,616	6,897	5,790	11,567	..	269 4 3½	259 4 3½	
	25 March	2,164	5,165	3,457	6,898	5,621	12,063	..	247 14 5½	247 14 5½	
	1 April	2,212	5,466	3,055	5,322	5,267	10,788	..	301 3 4½	301 3 4½	
	8 April	2,223	5,503	2,850	5,277	5,073	10,788	..	276 8 5	275 8 5	
CARRICK-ON-SUEA	5 Feb.	78	209	..	..	78	209	0 3 4	6 11 9½	6 15 1½	
	12 Feb.	172	418	..	..	172	418	0 9 9	10 16 0½	11 5 9½	
	19 Feb.	216	518	..	..	216	518	0 5 0	12 15 5½	13 0 5½	
	26 Feb.	280	656	..	..	280	656	0 12 9	15 16 11	16 9 8	
	4 March	294	717	..	..	294	717	0 9 9	16 16 3½	17 6 0½	
	11 March	307	757	..	..	307	757	0 10 6	16 15 7½	17 6 1½	
	18 March	334	807	..	..	334	807	0 5 9	17 8 6½	17 14 3½	
	25 March	344	829	..	..	344	829	0 9 0	18 6 11½	18 15 11½	
	1 April	341	799	..	..	341	799	0 7 1	17 16 3½	18 3 4½	
	8 April	350	825	..	..	350	825	0 7 1	18 10 9½	18 17 10½	
CASHEL . . .	5 Feb.	1,999	4,686	1,762	4,123	3,761	8,809	145 18 9	104 3 2½	250 1 11½	
	12 Feb.	2,039	3,854	2,419	5,989	4,458	9,843	149 5 3	176 3 10½	325 9 1½	
	19 Feb.	2,101	5,250	2,885	6,997	4,986	12,247	24 13 0	295 3 8½	319 16 8½	
	26 Feb.	1,883	3,849	3,079	6,909	4,962	10,758	20 0 0	341 6 8½	361 6 8½	
	4 March	1,866	3,993	3,256	7,233	5,122	11,226	22 7 6	362 3 4½	384 10 10½	
	11 March	2,067	4,372	3,710	8,110	5,777	12,491	23 11 0	326 12 6½	350 3 6½	
	18 March	2,228	4,683	4,062	9,131	6,310	13,814	22 7 6	316 4 11½	338 12 5½	
	25 March	2,279	4,828	4,091	9,163	6,370	13,991	20 18 0	303 16 1½	324 14 1½	
	1 April	2,133	4,331	2,745	6,415	4,878	10,746	19 12 0	272 6 6	291 18 6	
	8 April	2,189	4,585	2,654	6,376	4,843	10,961	19 12 6	265 6 0	284 17 6	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
CASTLEBAR . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	..	..	..	..	..	17,727	..	..	..	Numbers for two Districts not given. Cost not stated.
	11 March	1,212	3,414	4,107	9,527	5,319	12,941	..	..	..	
	18 March	802	1,984	3,535	8,661	4,337	10,645	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	25 March	1,799	3,825	4,211	12,088	5,610	15,913	..	..	..	
	1 April	2,235	6,365	3,464	9,661	5,699	16,026	..	..	..	
	8 April	2,336	6,583	3,196	9,492	5,532	16,076	..	..	..	
CASTLEBLAYNEY.	5 Feb.	1,155	2,233	..	..	1,155	2,236	1 3 3	78 15 8	79 18 11	No out-relief.
	12 Feb.	1,154	2,242	..	..	1,154	2,242	1 3 3	77 15 5½	78 18 8½	
	19 Feb.	1,131	2,298	..	..	1,131	2,298	1 8 2	68 13 1½	70 1 3½	
	26 Feb.	1,144	2,327	..	..	1,144	2,327	1 10 3	72 8 9½	73 19 6½	
	4 March	1,138	2,337	..	..	1,138	2,337	0 16 3	64 1 3½	64 17 6½	
	11 March	1,156	2,371	..	..	1,156	2,371	0 19 4	70 3 6½	71 2 10½	
	18 March	1,140	2,354	..	..	1,140	2,354	0 19 1	65 6 1	66 5 2	
	25 March	1,146	2,331	..	..	1,146	2,331	1 12 3	68 2 7	69 14 10	
	1 April	1,107	2,301	..	..	1,107	2,301	1 1 8	59 5 1½	60 6 9½	
	8 April	1,105	2,318	..	..	1,105	2,318	0 15 8	53 0 9½	53 16 5½	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
CASTLEBROG . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief.
CASTLEREA . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	11 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	18 March	1,341	2,946	..	..	1,341	2,946	192 16 9	..	192 16 9	
	25 March	2,035	4,037	..	..	2,035	4,037	158 16 9	..	158 16 9	
CATAN . . .	1 April	2,620	5,774	..	..	2,620	5,774	171 10 4	3 14 9	175 5 1	No out-relief.
	8 April	3,303	6,754	..	..	3,303	6,754	139 1 8	75 14 1	214 15 9	
	5 Feb.	2,383	5,559	..	..	2,383	5,559	2 12 11	227 9 2	230 2 1	
	12 Feb.	2,940	7,181	..	..	2,940	7,181	1 1 9	205 4 9	206 6 6	
	19 Feb.	3,175	7,338	162	409	3,337	7,747	0 18 4	229 6 8	230 5 0	
	26 Feb.	3,404	8,079	208	510	3,612	8,589	1 3 6	244 3 4½	245 6 10½	
	4 March	3,441	8,164	241	581	3,682	8,745	1 3 9	255 19 2½	257 2 11½	
	11 March	3,484	8,533	166	372	3,650	8,905	0 17 9	253 17 2½	254 14 11½	
CELEBRIDGE . .	18 March	3,481	8,538	179	410	3,660	8,948	0 19 10	246 4 2	247 4 0	No out-relief.
	25 March	3,495	8,539	264	444	3,759	9,083	1 0 10	244 8 1½	247 8 11½	
	1 April	3,020	6,908	167	417	3,187	7,325	0 19 1	171 12 11½	172 12 0½	
	8 April	3,018	6,807	264	507	3,282	7,314	0 15 9	161 13 10	162 9 7	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
CLIFDEN . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given
CLOGHEEN . .	5 Feb.	1,593	4,815	..	..	1,593	4,815	13 3 5	88 16 0½	101 19 5½	No out-relief.
	12 Feb.	1,655	5,052	..	..	1,655	5,052	14 4 8	91 13 6½	105 18 2½	
	19 Feb.	1,720	5,324	..	..	1,720	5,324	15 7 1½	92 7 11	107 15 0½	
	26 Feb.	1,789	5,592	..	..	1,789	5,592	16 13 11½	94 13 2½	111 7 2	
	4 March	1,867	5,891	..	..	1,867	5,891	17 14 2½	99 17 4	117 11 6½	
	11 March	1,906	6,082	..	..	1,906	6,082	15 17 5	101 1 8½	116 19 1½	
	18 March	1,980	6,320	..	..	1,980	6,320	16 0 11	108 10 10½	124 11 9½	
	25 March	2,073	6,499	8	10	2,076	6,509	0 2 6	122 15 7	122 18 1	
	1 April	2,142	6,883	19	47	2,161	6,930	0 2 6	127 15 11½	127 18 5½	
	8 April	2,276	7,300	34	94	2,310	7,394	0 3 6	132 9 11½	132 13 5½	
CLOGHER . . .	5 Feb.	853	1,599	..	..	853	1,599	..	36 1 3½	36 1 3½	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	880	1,715	..	..	880	1,715	..	41 7 9½	41 7 9½	
	19 Feb.	915	1,695	..	..	915	1,695	..	42 16 2½	42 16 2½	
	26 Feb.	959	1,852	..	..	959	1,852	..	46 2 8½	46 2 8½	
	4 March	966	1,877	..	..	966	1,877	..	45 10 5½	45 10 5½	
	11 March	961	1,860	..	..	961	1,860	..	44 12 1	44 12 1	
	18 March	1,007	1,951	..	..	1,007	1,951	..	43 13 9	43 13 9	
	25 March	958	1,851	..	..	958	1,851	..	43 10 7	43 10 7	
	1 April	948	1,798	..	..	948	1,798	..	43 0 2½	43 0 2½	
	8 April	936	1,761	..	..	936	1,761	..	42 6 2½	42 6 2½	
CLONES . . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	1,166	2,200	..	..	1,166	2,200	..	46 10 5½	46 10 5½	
	26 Feb.	1,063	2,209	..	..	1,063	2,209	..	32 5 11	32 5 11	
	4 March	1,057	2,180	..	..	1,057	2,180	..	45 14 7½	45 14 7½	
	11 March	1,039	2,065	..	..	1,039	2,065	0 2 0	48 2 0½	48 4 0½	
	18 March	1,036	2,123	..	..	1,036	2,123	..	45 1 1½	45 1 1½	
	25 March	1,027	2,131	..	..	1,027	2,131	..	46 11 7	46 11 7	
	1 April	1,017	2,092	..	..	1,017	2,092	..	43 3 11	43 3 11	
	8 April	1,027	2,127	..	..	1,027	2,127	..	43 14 4½	43 14 4½	
CLONMEL . . .	5 Feb.	270	506	33	68	303	574	12 19 2½	1 11 2½	14 10 5	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	323	618	144	297	467	915	16 14 9½	6 17 2½	23 12 2½	
	19 Feb.	437	883	362	810	799	1,693	19 11 11	22 5 11	41 16 11	
	26 Feb.	491	983	492	1,088	983	2,071	21 1 8	33 16 6½	54 18 2½	
	4 March	594	1,187	623	1,400	1,217	2,587	23 10 2	44 18 5½	68 8 7½	

PAPERS RELATING TO THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS,

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
CLONMEL . . .	11 March	700	1,407	857	1,880	1,557	3,287	25 11 8½	59 1 10½	84 13 6½	
	18 March	780	1,570	1,054	2,347	1,834	3,917	26 18 7	72 19 11	99 18 8	
	25 March	888	1,805	1,195	2,751	2,083	4,556	27 1 6	87 11 10½	114 13 4½	
	1 April	918	1,902	938	2,144	1,856	4,046	26 18 8	77 19 4½	104 18 0½	
	8 April	948	1,972	835	1,658	1,783	3,630	27 3 1½	68 19 8	96 2 9½	
COLERAINE . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief.
COOKSTOWN . . .	5 Feb.	251	562	..	..	251	562	..	10 4 6	10 4 6	
	12 Feb.	268	619	..	..	268	619	..	11 6 1½	11 6 1½	
	19 Feb.	293	714	..	..	293	714	..	12 12 5½	12 12 5½	
	26 Feb.	308	718	..	..	308	718	..	13 5 11½	13 5 11½	
	4 March	326	701	..	..	326	761	..	14 2 6½	14 2 6½	
	11 March	329	783	..	..	329	783	..	14 10 2½	14 10 2½	
	18 March	354	823	..	..	354	823	..	15 7 1½	15 7 1½	
	25 March	359	834	..	..	359	834	..	15 18 4½	15 18 4½	
	1 April	348	813	..	..	348	813	..	15 8 9½	15 8 9½	
	8 April	346	805	..	..	346	805	..	15 8 2½	15 8 2½	
COOTEHILL . . .	5 Feb.	1,737	3,662	..	..	1,737	3,662	91 9 0	..	91 9 0	
	12 Feb.	1,667	3,438	..	..	1,667	3,438	90 1 0	..	90 1 0	
	19 Feb.	1,728	3,676	..	..	1,728	3,676	95 8 7	..	95 8 7	
	26 Feb.	1,030	2,234	4	17	1,034	2,251	48 6 4	..	48 6 4	
	4 March	1,783	3,766	45	96	1,828	3,862	96 17 2	..	96 17 2	
	11 March	1,811	3,755	150	362	1,961	4,117	0 15 6	96 15 10	97 11 4	
	18 March	1,873	3,791	192	450	2,065	4,241	1 10 0	97 19 9	99 9 9	
	25 March	1,873	3,791	192	450	2,065	4,241	1 10 0	97 19 9	99 9 9	
	1 April	2,037	4,363	279	659	2,316	5,022	0 4 4	116 6 3	116 10 7	
	8 April	2,066	4,475	287	757	2,353	5,232	0 1 0	118 8 6	118 9 6	
CORK	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief.
DONEGAL . . .	5 Feb.	6	6	..	..	6	6	0 4 6	0 4 6	0 9 0	
	12 Feb.	46	86	..	..	46	86	0 18 8	0 19 11	1 18 7	
	19 Feb.	100	184	..	..	100	184	1 6 5	1 6 8½	3 3 1½	
	26 Feb.	168	304	..	..	168	304	1 14 3	4 12 4½	6 6 7½	
	4 March	313	595	..	..	313	595	1 3 7½	8 13 7½	9 17 3	
	11 March	432	827	..	..	432	827	1 14 9	14 9 3	16 4 0	
	18 March	506	963	..	..	506	963	1 13 3½	18 14 10½	20 8 2	
	25 March	540	1,036	..	..	540	1,036	1 11 6	21 5 6½	22 17 0½	
	1 April	576	1,110	..	..	576	1,110	1 8 8	22 13 10	24 2 6	
	8 April	591	1,132	..	..	591	1,132	1 8 11	23 0 4½	24 9 3½	
DOWNPATRICK . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief.
DROGHEDA . . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	1,253	3,001	129	533	1,382	3,539	3 4 8½	70 14 10	73 19 6½	
	26 Feb.	1,294	3,137	142	568	1,436	3,705	3 5 1½	73 5 5½	76 10 7	
	4 March	1,296	3,187	140	573	1,436	3,710	2 10 11½	76 11 2½	79 2 1½	
	11 March	1,293	3,131	136	559	1,429	3,690	2 13 11	73 16 4½	76 10 3½	
	18 March	1,287	3,137	131	525	1,418	3,662	3 13 10½	67 7 1	73 0 11½	
	25 March	1,293	3,144	130	521	1,423	3,665	1 19 11½	65 14 5	67 14 4½	
	1 April	1,236	2,956	145	565	1,381	3,521	2 6 10½	69 0 4½	71 7 3½	
	8 April	1,259	2,972	147	410	1,406	3,382	1 10 11½	65 3 2	66 14 1½	
DUBLIN, NORTH	5 Feb.	1,791	3,600	..	..	1,791	3,600	12 15 10	101 17 4½	114 13 2½	
	12 Feb.	1,803	3,622	..	..	1,803	3,622	12 12 0	99 17 9	112 9 9	
	19 Feb.	1,843	3,586	..	..	1,843	3,586	12 12 9	98 4 11½	110 17 8½	
	26 Feb.	1,823	3,526	..	..	1,823	3,526	12 12 9	100 2 8	112 15 5	
	4 March	1,792	3,525	..	..	1,792	3,525	12 9 8	102 1 6½	114 11 3½	
	11 March	1,815	3,559	..	..	1,815	3,559	12 8 4	99 16 7	112 4 11	
	18 March	1,778	3,493	..	..	1,778	3,493	12 2 4	98 13 9½	110 16 1½	
	25 March	1,805	3,533	..	..	1,805	3,533	11 14 4½	98 14 2½	110 8 7	
	1 April	1,819	3,370	..	..	1,819	3,370	11 7 8	93 4 2½	104 11 10½	
	8 April	1,745	3,294	..	..	1,745	3,294	11 2 9	93 0 4	104 3 1	
DUBLIN, SOUTH .	5 Feb.	2,900	5,595	..	..	2,900	5,595	13 11 7	201 7 9½	214 19 4½	
	12 Feb.	2,944	5,622	..	..	2,944	5,622	13 11 10	206 9 5½	220 1 3½	
	19 Feb.	2,999	5,785	..	..	2,999	5,785	13 4 8	211 9 7½	224 14 8½	
	26 Feb.	3,080	5,936	..	..	3,080	5,936	13 3 2	217 2 9½	230 5 11½	
	4 March	3,128	5,898	..	..	3,128	5,898	13 0 8	218 11 11½	231 12 7½	
	11 March	3,070	5,882	..	..	3,070	5,882	13 5 2	196 18 10½	210 4 0½	
	18 March	3,007	5,745	..	..	3,007	5,745	13 0 10	196 0 11½	209 1 9½	
	25 March	3,111	5,951	..	..	3,111	5,951	13 3 4	199 1 2½	212 4 6½	
	1 April	2,965	5,532	..	..	2,965	5,532	13 3 1	187 6 4½	200 9 5½	
	8 April	3,055	5,819	..	..	3,055	5,819	13 0 4	195 15 9	208 16 1	
DUNDALK . . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	810	1,799	..	..	810	1,799	..	..	..	
	4 March	896	2,089	..	..	896	2,089	..	..	..	
	11 March	988	2,316	..	..	988	2,316	..	..	..	
	18 March	1,021	2,367	..	..	1,021	2,367	..	..	..	
	25 March	..	..	1,061	2,531	1,061	2,531	..	..	..	
	1 April	1,072	2,334	..	..	1,072	2,334	..	..	..	
	8 April	1,057	2,470	..	..	1,057	2,470	65 11 3½	..	65 11 3½	
DUNFANAGHY . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-relief.

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
DUNGANNON .	5 Feb.	461	1,005	..	..	461	1,005	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
	12 Feb.	550	1,145	..	..	550	1,145	0 10 0	20 4 0½	20 14 0½	
	19 Feb.	592	1,039	..	..	592	1,032	1 3 4	24 7 3	25 10 7	
	26 Feb.	621	1,293	..	..	621	1,293	0 17 6	25 0 4	25 17 10	
	4 March	673	1,409	..	..	673	1,409	0 17 4	27 5 9½	28 3 1½	
	11 March	722	1,509	..	..	722	1,509	0 17 6	27 11 6½	28 9 0½	
	18 March	749	1,598	..	..	749	1,598	1 2 6	30 9 0½	31 11 6½	
	25 March	807	1,735	..	..	807	1,735	0 18 0	30 1 4½	31 19 4½	
	1 April	811	1,716	..	..	811	1,716	1 7 8	32 11 4	33 19 0	
	8 April	798	1,673	..	..	798	1,673	0 17 6	31 13 8½	32 11 2½	
DUNGARVAN .	5 Feb.	1,395	2,713	216	557	1,611	3,270	0 8 4	30 5 10½	30 14 2½	
	12 Feb.	1,596	3,706	..	..	1,596	3,706	24 9 1½	62 19 11½	87 9 1½	
	19 Feb.	1,689	3,899	..	..	1,689	3,899	25 2 7½	64 7 0	89 9 7½	
	26 Feb.	1,728	4,092	..	..	1,728	4,092	41 3 1	50 13 0½	91 16 1½	
	4 March	1,689	4,063	..	..	1,689	4,063	60 19 10½	84 9 6½	95 9 4½	
	11 March	1,519	3,549	..	..	1,519	3,549	70 0 6½	23 16 5½	93 17 0	
	18 March	1,701	4,002	..	..	1,701	4,002	71 6 3	23 2 3½	94 8 6½	
	25 March	1,873	4,199	..	..	1,873	4,199	70 4 10½	20 3 0½	90 7 11	
	1 April	1,951	3,888	8	24	1,959	3,862	71 4 6	20 4 11	91 9 5	
	8 April	2,106	4,098	9	34	2,115	4,132	69 6 4½	21 6 0	90 12 4½	
DUNMANWAY .	5 Feb.	211	592	14	25	225	617	70 13 0	22 13 3	93 6 3	
	12 Feb.	640	1,683	85	141	725	1,824	..	10 15 9½	10 15 9½	
	19 Feb.	727	1,898	158	230	885	2,128	..	33 11 8½	33 11 8½	
	26 Feb.	790	2,038	209	365	999	2,404	..	39 10 7½	39 10 7½	
	4 March	859	2,267	224	388	1,083	2,655	..	45 5 4½	45 5 4½	
	11 March	997	2,610	262	459	1,259	3,069	..	49 0 0½	49 0 0½	
	18 March	992	2,626	277	494	1,269	3,120	..	55 16 4½	55 16 4½	
	25 March	973	2,576	308	555	1,281	3,131	..	57 4 1½	57 4 1½	
	1 April	1,002	2,608	344	575	1,346	3,183	..	59 0 5	59 0 5	
	8 April	1,060	2,736	338	590	1,398	3,326	..	84 17 9½	84 17 9½	
DUNSHAUGHLIN .	5 Feb.	448	947	929	2,150	1,377	3,097	..	79 16 0½	79 16 0½	
	12 Feb.	449	912	952	2,086	1,401	2,998	..	113 4 5½	113 4 5½	
	19 Feb.	431	915	881	1,910	1,312	2,825	..	99 19 6½	99 19 6½	
	26 Feb.	418	808	797	1,661	1,215	2,469	..	88 5 3½	88 5 3½	
	4 March	422	1,024	779	1,737	1,201	2,761	..	79 13 8½	79 13 8½	
	11 March	432	1,024	794	1,748	1,226	2,772	..	83 2 11	83 2 11	
	18 March	434	979	798	1,775	1,232	2,754	..	81 12 3	81 12 3	
	25 March	422	949	768	1,652	1,190	2,601	..	83 3 7½	83 3 7½	
	1 April	503	891	515	1,048	1,018	1,939	..	77 16 6½	77 16 6½	
	8 April	392	816	239	581	631	1,347	..	67 10 5	67 10 5	
EDENDERRY .	5 Feb.	349	802	..	..	349	802	..	43 0 6	44 5 8	
	12 Feb.	293	675	..	..	293	675	..	1 5 2	1 6 0	
	19 Feb.	312	741	..	..	312	741	..	23 0 0	24 6 0	
	26 Feb.	310	728	..	..	310	728	..	25 6 10	26 6 10	
	4 March	385	865	..	..	385	865	..	23 14 7	25 2 9	
	11 March	373	833	..	..	373	833	..	25 14 2	25 18 2	
	18 March	366	796	..	..	366	796	..	25 11 11	25 11 11	
	25 March	374	827	..	..	374	827	..	25 18 8	25 18 8	
	1 April	390	835	..	..	390	835	..	24 9 1	24 9 1	
	8 April	402	884	..	..	402	884	..	24 14 6	27 4 9	
ENNIS . . .	5 Feb.	4,438	10,572	3,932	10,051	8,355	20,623	..	23 13 1	24 13 5	
	12 Feb.	4,452	10,704	4,243	10,989	8,695	21,693	..	43 0 6	44 5 8	
	19 Feb.	4,230	10,217	4,064	9,999	8,294	20,216	..	23 0 0	24 6 0	
	26 Feb.	4,246	10,263	3,931	9,779	8,177	20,042	..	25 6 10	26 6 10	
	4 March	4,157	10,148	3,855	9,630	8,012	19,778	..	23 14 7	25 2 9	
	11 March	4,131	9,864	3,594	9,266	7,725	19,130	..	25 14 2	25 18 2	
	18 March	4,137	10,062	3,748	10,159	7,885	20,221	..	25 11 11	25 11 11	
	25 March	4,142	10,115	3,541	9,261	7,693	19,376	..	25 18 8	25 18 8	
	1 April	1,915	4,926	1,145	3,310	3,060	8,236	..	24 9 1	24 9 1	
	8 April	4,089	9,603	2,981	8,582	7,070	18,185	..	24 14 6	27 4 9	
ENNISCORTHY .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23 13 1	24 13 5	
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43 0 6	44 5 8	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23 0 0	24 6 0	
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25 6 10	26 6 10	
	4 March	1,709	4,328	872	2,895	2,581	7,223	..	23 14 7	25 2 9	
	11 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25 14 2	25 18 2	
	18 March	2,643	7,477	..	..	2,643	7,477	..	25 11 11	25 11 11	
	25 March	1,732	4,433	856	2,906	2,588	7,339	..	25 18 8	25 18 8	
	1 April	1,687	4,626	862	2,722	2,549	7,348	..	24 9 1	24 9 1	
	8 April	1,688	4,300	833	2,582	2,521	6,882	..	24 14 6	27 4 9	
ENNISKILLEN .	5 Feb.	1,624	3,074	..	..	1,624	3,074	..	1 0 4	1 0 4	
	12 Feb.	1,650	3,165	..	..	1,650	3,165	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	1,717	3,461	..	..	1,717	3,461	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	1,821	3,587	..	..	1,821	3,587	..	..	..	
	4 March	1,909	3,727	69	174	1,978	3,901	..	..	..	
	11 March	1,630	3,276	97	273	1,727	3,549	..	..	..	
	18 March	1,900	3,718	160	393	2,060	4,111	..	..	..	
	25 March	1,947	3,800	170	408	2,117	4,208	..	..	..	
	1 April	1,979	3,922	177	419	2,156	4,341	..	..	..	
	8 April	1,973	3,915	199	457	2,172	4,372	..	..	..	

} Cost not stated.

} Particulars not given.

} Particulars not given

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
ENNISTYMON . . .	5 Feb.	5,396	13,235	..	..	5,396	13,235	287 3 10	..	287 3 10	Particulars not given
	12 Feb.	5,562	13,324	..	..	5,562	13,324	299 16 0	..	299 16 0	
	19 Feb.	5,224	12,688	367	1,091	5,591	13,779	305 16 10	..	305 16 10	
	26 Feb.	1,203	2,933	367	1,090	1,570	4,023	11 2 11	75 13 10	86 16 9	
	4 March	2,236	4,554	2,979	7,954	5,215	12,508	0 19 0	151 17 1½	152 16 1½	
	11 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	18 March	2,197	3,640	2,981	6,466	5,178	10,106	..	286 19 7½	286 19 7½	
	25 March	1,937	4,112	3,014	8,033	4,951	12,145	..	316 0 2½	316 0 2½	
	1 April	2,241	4,731	3,306	8,750	5,547	13,431	0 19 6	315 0 8½	316 0 2½	
	8 April	1,777	3,996	3,176	8,266	4,953	12,262	..	..	..	
FERHOY . . .	5 Feb.	4,792	13,157	296	560	5,088	13,717	8 1 3	287 13 7	295 14 10	Cost not given.
	12 Feb.	5,255	14,424	1,256	3,469	6,511	17,893	9 14 4½	340 18 9½	350 13 2½	
	19 Feb.	5,387	14,835	1,283	3,554	6,670	18,389	7 19 3½	349 3 4½	357 2 7½	
	26 Feb.	5,235	14,452	983	2,107	6,218	16,559	10 6 8	369 11 0½	379 17 8½	
	4 March	5,227	14,532	991	2,081	6,218	16,613	9 1 9½	371 14 3	380 14 0½	
	11 March	5,194	14,444	748	1,783	5,942	16,227	9 19 5	358 16 7½	368 16 0½	
	18 March	4,964	13,458	637	1,614	5,601	15,072	5 16 9	338 5 0½	344 1 9½	
	25 March	4,701	12,521	408	970	5,109	13,491	7 5 11½	305 4 10½	312 10 9½	
	1 April	4,585	12,045	192	350	4,777	12,395	7 13 6½	271 15 10	279 9 4½	
	8 April	4,613	12,024	261	495	4,874	12,519	8 8 7	282 14 8½	291 3 3½	
GALWAY . . .	5 Feb.	751	1,843	1,006	2,244	1,757	4,087	..	124 12 8½	124 12 8½	
	12 Feb.	1,148	2,933	2,486	5,412	3,634	8,395	0 19 3	241 8 10½	242 8 1½	
	19 Feb.	1,468	3,768	3,343	7,190	4,811	10,958	0 6 6	387 6 2½	387 12 8½	
	26 Feb.	1,778	4,555	4,221	9,332	5,999	13,887	1 8 6	456 4 6½	457 13 0½	
	4 March	2,036	5,169	4,703	10,927	6,739	16,696	..	578 19 5½	578 19 5½	
	11 March	2,291	5,893	5,239	12,420	7,530	18,313	2 3 0	661 16 8	663 19 8	
	18 March	2,616	6,686	6,008	14,082	8,624	20,768	2 2 6	741 13 3	743 15 9	
	25 March	2,902	7,369	6,564	15,532	9,466	22,901	1 2 4	856 8 6	857 10 10	
	1 April	3,187	7,960	6,982	16,497	10,169	24,457	3 10 6	817 16 2½	821 6 8½	
	8 April	3,293	8,136	7,204	16,542	10,497	24,678	1 1 4	752 5 0	753 6 4	
GLENTIES . . .	5 Feb.	1,226	2,560	301	520	1,527	3,080	..	94 13 6	94 13 6	
	12 Feb.	1,236	2,592	316	561	1,552	3,153	..	97 0 4½	97 0 4½	
	19 Feb.	1,306	2,955	317	627	1,623	3,582	..	101 0 9	101 0 9	
	26 Feb.	1,375	3,135	358	769	1,733	3,904	..	109 10 0½	109 10 0½	
	4 March	1,458	3,416	405	921	1,863	4,337	..	116 9 9	116 9 9	
	11 March	1,542	3,708	427	1,003	1,969	4,711	..	123 10 10½	123 10 10½	
	18 March	1,518	3,607	404	971	1,922	4,578	..	119 17 5½	119 17 5½	
	25 March	1,350	3,243	341	844	1,691	4,087	..	121 9 3	121 9 3	
	1 April	1,661	3,663	425	1,030	2,086	4,693	..	115 9 8½	115 9 8½	
	8 April	1,694	3,695	477	1,075	2,171	4,770	..	118 5 9	118 5 9	
GOREY . . .	5 Feb.	777	1,630	45	102	823	1,732	52 14 10	0 16 8½	53 11 6½	
	12 Feb.	819	1,758	51	124	870	1,892	56 19 10	0 19 9½	57 19 3½	
	19 Feb.	826	1,728	53	122	881	1,850	57 13 10	1 5 10½	58 19 8½	
	26 Feb.	891	1,838	56	137	947	1,975	61 3 7	1 10 1	62 13 8	
	4 March	930	1,915	60	155	990	2,073	63 18 0	1 10 1	65 8 1	
	11 March	935	1,882	68	159	1,003	2,041	64 14 2½	1 12 9	66 6 11½	
	18 March	948	2,034	64	133	1,012	2,167	65 0 5	1 15 8½	66 16 1½	
	25 March	941	1,927	62	124	1,003	2,051	65 19 11	1 17 7½	67 17 6½	
	1 April	927	2,061	50	91	977	2,152	65 9 9	1 16 10½	67 6 7½	
	8 April	981	2,098	49	98	1,030	2,196	65 8 3	2 13 9	68 2 0	
GORT . . .	5 Feb.	409	1,067	1,292	3,026	1,701	4,093	..	132 4 10	132 4 10	
	12 Feb.	584	1,452	2,002	4,397	2,586	5,849	..	193 13 5½	193 13 5½	
	19 Feb.	767	1,831	2,718	5,931	3,485	7,812	..	246 18 11½	246 18 11½	
	26 Feb.	863	2,082	3,069	6,593	3,952	8,675	..	278 12 9	278 12 9	
	4 March	961	2,232	3,404	7,165	4,365	9,397	2 6 0	300 3 3½	302 9 3½	
	11 March	1,002	2,344	3,424	7,429	4,426	9,773	4 3 5	307 6 6½	311 9 11½	
	18 March	1,054	2,319	3,526	7,363	4,580	9,692	6 3 6½	318 1 10	324 5 4½	
	25 March	1,137	2,399	3,869	7,692	5,006	10,091	7 7 1½	328 3 3	335 10 4½	
	1 April	991	2,431	4,284	8,013	5,275	10,454	9 17 8½	334 4 1½	344 1 9½	
	8 April	1,037	2,599	4,448	7,970	5,485	10,569	11 7 0	338 1 1½	349 8 1½	
GORTIN . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief.
GRANARD . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
GRANARD . . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	1,572	3,172	1,893	5,211	3,465	8,383	0 1 0	229 12 10½	229 12 10½	
	11 March	1,731	4,158	2,020	5,849	3,751	10,007	..	273 3 3	273 3 3	
	18 March	1,593	25	1,847	4,590	3,440	84	..	..	..	
	25 March	1,596	3,576	937	3,186	2,533	6,762	..	182 9 2	182 9 2	
	1 April	1,810	4,055	590	1,682	2,400	5,737	0 10 0	147 2 8½	147 2 8½	
	8 April	2,006	4,449	633	1,766	2,639	6,215	0 13 6	152 12 8	153 6 2	
INTSLOWEN . . .	5 Feb.	44	102	..	..	44	102	3 4 6	..	3 4 6	Cost not stated.
	12 Feb.	51	121	..	..	55	121	3 15 4	..	3 15 4	
	19 Feb.	102	198	..	..	102	198	6 2 9	..	6 2 9	
	26 Feb.	114	213	..	..	114	213	6 7 2	..	6 7 2	
	4 March	139	287	..	..	139	287	7 15 2½	..	7 15 2½	
	11 March	173	347	..	..	173	347	9 10 5	..	9 10 5	
	18 March	207	413	..	..	207	413	11 7 7	..	11 7 7	
	25 March	243	434	..	..	243	434	12 4 2½	..	12 4 2½	
	1 April	239	464	..	..	239	464	12 11 1	..	12 11 1	
	8 April	257	446	..	..	257	446	10 10 1	..	10 10 1	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
KANTURK . . .	5 Feb.	6,348	16,279	248	1,046	6,596	17,325	..	452 4 9	432 4 9	
	12 Feb.	6,241	15,927	389	1,421	6,630	17,348	..	430 13 0½	430 13 0½	
	19 Feb.	6,200	15,909	409	1,550	6,609	17,459	..	415 5 3½	415 5 3½	
	26 Feb.	6,609	16,457	693	2,687	7,302	19,144	..	446 13 11½	446 13 11½	
	4 March	6,163	16,070	721	2,733	6,884	18,803	..	425 19 5	425 19 5	
	11 March	6,051	15,763	753	2,831	6,804	18,594	..	404 19 8½	404 19 8½	
	18 March	5,237	13,347	677	2,492	5,914	15,839	..	337 16 8½	337 16 8½	
	25 March	5,517	14,369	769	2,777	6,286	17,146	..	356 1 0½	356 1 0½	
	1 April	4,846	12,179	1,048	3,436	5,894	15,615	..	317 18 3½	317 18 3½	
KELLS	8 April	4,478	11,627	1,298	3,854	5,776	15,481	..	282 4 1	282 4 1	
	5 Feb.	905	2,109	840	2,484	1,745	4,593	1 18 5½	121 3 9½	123 2 2½	
	12 Feb.	877	2,065	702	1,998	1,579	4,063	2 6 1	113 9 2½	115 15 3½	
	19 Feb.	931	2,082	701	1,804	1,632	3,886	1 13 2	117 16 11½	119 10 1½	
	26 Feb.	905	2,058	604	1,598	1,509	3,654	1 1 1½	114 8 6	115 19 7½	
	4 March	840	1,908	575	1,590	1,415	3,498	1 7 7½	119 5 1	120 12 8½	
	11 March	821	1,820	632	1,700	1,453	3,520	0 13 8½	125 18 1½	126 11 10	
	18 March	809	1,779	511	1,436	1,320	3,215	0 1 3	81 19 9½	82 1 0½	
	25 March	791	1,751	6	8	797	1,759	0 3 8	61 18 2½	62 1 10½	
KENMARE . . .	1 April	740	1,580	7	9	747	1,589	0 2 8	54 19 3½	55 1 11½	
	8 April	764	1,600	8	14	772	1,614	0 10 6	54 1 11½	54 12 5½	
	5 Feb.	1,872	5,453	434	640	2,306	6,093	0 19 2	177 18 7½	178 17 9½	
	12 Feb.	1,903	5,453	436	640	2,339	6,093	1 3 5	200 15 1½	201 18 6½	
	19 Feb.	3,052	4,923	426	677	3,478	5,605	2 18 4	179 7 0½	182 5 4½	
	26 Feb.	3,020	4,835	368	597	3,388	5,432	2 15 7	166 14 4½	169 9 11½	
	4 March	2,530	4,512	392	638	2,922	5,150	23 16 8½	129 7 11	153 4 7½	
	11 March	2,464	4,531	351	573	2,815	5,104	7 13 1½	147 12 1½	155 5 2½	
	18 March	2,477	4,564	355	562	2,832	5,126	3 11 0	142 17 6	146 8 6	
KILKEEL . . .	25 March	2,565	4,670	396	611	2,961	5,281	3 12 6	151 18 9	155 11 3	
	1 April	2,589	4,631	500	721	3,089	5,352	1 0 2	165 5 10	166 6 0	
	8 April	3,227	3,989	407	521	3,634	4,510	6 11 10	148 4 3	154 16 1	
	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	15	46	..	..	15	46	..	0 7 10½	0 7 10½	
	26 Feb.	22	69	..	..	22	69	..	0 19 6½	0 19 6½	
	4 March	31	81	..	..	31	81	..	1 8 2½	1 8 2½	
	11 March	52	114	..	..	52	114	..	2 3 9	2 3 9	
	18 March	87	178	..	..	87	178	0 4 0	3 8 7½	3 12 7½	
	25 March	87	178	..	..	87	178	0 4 0	3 8 7½	3 12 7½	
KILKENNY . . .	1 April	101	191	..	..	101	191	0 4 0	3 17 4½	4 1 4½	
	8 April	103	197	..	..	103	197	0 5 0	3 17 1½	4 2 1½	
	5 Feb.	3,802	10,241	301	1,023	4,103	11,264	289 9 1½	2 7 6	291 16 7½	
	12 Feb.	4,091	11,085	375	1,192	4,466	12,277	306 15 4½	2 1 6	308 16 10½	
	19 Feb.	4,290	11,501	411	1,335	4,701	12,836	314 5 2½	2 4 2	316 9 4½	
	26 Feb.	4,194	11,157	356	1,087	4,550	12,264	306 4 1	2 2 10	308 6 11	
	4 March	3,986	10,565	305	883	4,291	11,448	268 4 8	2 3 4	270 8 0	
	11 March	3,780	10,068	275	748	4,055	10,816	278 8 9	2 4 2	280 12 11	
	18 March	3,643	8,898	267	713	3,910	9,611	256 15 6	2 5 4	259 0 11	
KILLARNEY . .	25 March	3,478	8,388	278	751	3,754	9,139	239 4 7½	2 4 2	241 8 9½	
	1 April	3,327	7,666	141	245	3,468	7,911	218 3 1	1 15 8	219 18 9	
	8 April	2,985	6,333	17	31	3,002	6,364	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	5 Feb.	4,014	11,707	225	591	4,239	12,298	..	308 8 9½	308 8 9½	
	12 Feb.	4,321	12,516	211	454	4,532	12,970	..	350 7 10½	350 7 10½	
	19 Feb.	4,368	12,952	266	648	4,634	13,600	..	376 12 5	376 12 5	
	26 Feb.	4,494	13,402	299	758	4,793	14,160	..	392 14 10½	392 14 10½	
	4 March	4,526	13,610	316	827	4,842	14,437	..	410 4 1	410 4 1	
	11 March	4,346	13,426	347	874	4,693	14,300	..	355 11 8½	355 11 8½	
KILMALLOCK . .	18 March	4,541	13,590	305	827	4,846	14,417	..	388 8 7½	388 8 7½	
	25 March	4,244	12,446	358	968	4,602	13,414	..	342 2 10½	342 2 10½	
	1 April	4,163	11,987	541	1,780	4,704	13,767	..	352 8 8½	352 8 8½	
	8 April	4,279	12,229	485	1,582	4,764	13,811	..	363 8 0	363 8 0	
	5 Feb.	5,757	15,149	1,012	2,939	6,769	18,088	437 11 2½	85 8 7	522 19 9½	
	12 Feb.	5,679	15,041	940	2,716	6,619	17,757	412 12 9	80 1 7	492 14 4	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	7,411	18,304	..	..	480 17 3½	
	26 Feb.	4,464	11,827	599	1,697	5,063	13,524	294 3 11½	73 11 0	367 14 11½	
	4 March	4,120	10,279	591	1,583	4,711	11,862	224 7 10½	56 2 0	280 9 10½	
KILRUSH	11 March	4,764	11,942	630	1,889	5,444	13,831	279 3 4½	70 0 0	349 3 4½	
	18 March	4,764	11,942	680	1,889	5,444	13,831	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	25 March	4,764	11,942	680	1,889	5,444	13,831	..	..	..	
	1 April	5,637	13,192	1,188	2,799	6,825	15,991	..	..	..	
	8 April	5,629	13,491	587	1,579	6,216	15,070	..	328 18 5	328 18 5	
	5 Feb.	4,207	13,208	..	..	4,207	13,208	..	348 8 1	348 8 1	
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	4,361	13,135	..	..	4,361	13,135	314 3 7½	..	314 3 7½	
	26 Feb.	4,368	13,207	..	..	4,368	13,207	..	279 4 10½	279 4 10½	
KILSALE	4 March	4,383	13,533	..	..	4,383	13,533	..	285 4 3	285 4 3	
	11 March	4,569	13,891	..	..	4,569	13,891	..	299 4 2½	299 4 2½	
	18 March	4,508	12,603	..	..	4,508	12,603	..	279 3 11½	279 3 11½	
	25 March	4,456	13,427	..	..	4,456	13,427	..	265 1 5½	255 1 5½	
	1 April	4,329	13,636	..	..	4,329	13,636	..	249 8 5½	249 8 5½	
	8 April	4,594	14,292	..	..	4,594	14,292	..	296 7 11½	296 7 11½	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief given.
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
LARNE . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief given.
LETTERKENNY .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief given.
LIMERICK . .	5 Feb.	3,483	7,455	..	..	3,483	7,455	267 14 7	..	267 14 7	
	12 Feb.	3,518	7,225	..	..	3,518	7,425	267 9 8	..	267 9 8	
	19 Feb.	3,659	7,820	..	..	3,659	7,820	278 19 1	0 2 6	279 1 7	
	26 Feb.	3,760	8,455	..	..	3,760	8,455	286 9 2	..	286 9 2	
	4 March	3,907	8,481	..	..	3,907	8,481	299 2 7	..	299 2 7	
	11 March	3,981	8,770	..	..	3,981	8,770	306 9 5	0 3 0	306 12 5	
	18 March	4,090	9,015	..	..	4,090	9,015	315 17 5	0 4 6	316 1 11	
	25 March	4,073	8,865	..	..	4,073	8,865	308 16 8	..	308 16 8	
	1 April	4,092	8,621	..	..	4,092	8,621	316 1 9	..	316 1 9	
	8 April	4,007	8,216	..	..	4,007	8,216	307 2 2	..	307 2 2	
LISBURN . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief given.
LISMORE . . .	5 Feb.	435	1,274	..	..	435	1,274	28 3 3	..	28 3 3	
	12 Feb.	523	1,272	..	..	523	1,272	35 8 11	0 1 6	35 10 5	
	19 Feb.	594	1,684	..	..	594	1,684	37 15 10	..	37 15 10	
	26 Feb.	669	1,652	..	..	669	1,652	40 11 11	0 6 1	40 18 0	
	4 March	683	1,846	..	..	688	1,846	41 9 0	..	41 9 0	
	11 March	705	1,865	..	..	705	1,865	41 14 9	..	41 14 9	
	18 March	711	1,874	..	..	711	1,874	40 18 2	..	40 18 2	
	25 March	689	1,657	..	..	689	1,657	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	1 April	627	1,502	..	..	627	1,502	40 17 5	..	40 17 5	
	8 April	675	1,640	..	..	675	1,640	43 12 7	..	43 12 7	
LISNASKEA . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief given.
LISTOWEL . .	5 Feb.	2,632	5,723	7,119	16,135	9,745	21,858	0 18 4	667 12 3	668 10 7	
	12 Feb.	2,681	5,743	6,844	16,413	9,525	22,156	..	667 4 8½	667 4 8½	
	19 Feb.	2,597	5,521	6,306	16,877	8,903	22,398	0 10 8	627 12 10½	628 3 6½	
	26 Feb.	2,613	5,558	6,214	16,744	8,827	22,302	1 8 0	609 0 1½	610 8 1½	
	4 March	2,808	6,014	5,719	16,017	8,527	22,031	0 4 0	435 17 4	436 1 4	
	11 March	2,799	6,000	4,501	13,277	7,300	19,279	0 2 0	484 0 1	484 2 1	
	18 March	2,748	6,124	4,126	12,097	6,074	18,221	0 9 0	433 2 8½	433 11 8½	
	25 March	2,934	6,265	4,313	12,308	7,252	18,573	0 10 0	478 11 5½	479 1 5½	
	1 April	3,015	6,711	2,850	8,266	5,865	14,977	..	281 16 4½	281 16 4½	
	8 April	3,178	7,379	2,055	5,868	5,233	13,247	..	327 15 9½	327 15 7½	
LONDONDERRY .	5 Feb.	779	1,710	..	..	779	1,710	..	42 11 1	42 11 1	
	12 Feb.	799	1,753	..	..	799	1,753	..	44 0 8½	44 0 8½	
	19 Feb.	869	1,880	..	..	869	1,880	..	47 15 3	47 15 3	
	26 Feb.	1,027	1,966	..	..	1,027	1,966	..	50 16 0	50 16 0	
	4 March	974	2,085	..	..	974	2,085	..	52 0 3	52 0 3	
	11 March	975	2,069	..	..	975	2,069	..	52 5 4	52 5 4	
	18 March	947	1,980	..	..	947	1,980	..	47 13 1	47 13 1	
	25 March	947	1,980	..	..	947	1,980	..	47 13 1	47 13 1	
	1 April	873	1,875	..	..	873	1,875	..	49 3 5	49 3 5	
	8 April	851	1,724	..	..	851	1,724	..	43 11 1	43 11 1	
LONGFORD . .	5 Feb.	3,507	8,159	385	989	3,892	9,148	0 2 0	244 19 7	245 1 7	
	12 Feb.	3,523	7,038	550	1,308	4,073	8,346	..	248 17 8½	248 17 8½	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not stated.
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	3,308	7,701	1,279	2,993	4,677	10,694	..	309 3 5	309 3 5	
	11 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not stated.
	18 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	25 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not stated.
	1 April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	8 April	2,000	5,380	583	924	3,183	6,304	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
LOUGHREA . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not stated.
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	11 March	860	2,044	330	655	1,190	2,699	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	18 March	1,839	4,075	378	893	2,217	4,968	..	..	..	
	25 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not stated.
	1 April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	8 April	1,812	4,210	266	553	2,078	4,763	24 4 6	128 9 5½	152 13 11½	
LOWTHERSTOWN	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	1,121	2,480	35	52	1,156	2,532	16 2 11	49 1 7	65 4 6	
	11 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not stated.
	18 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	25 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	1 April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	8 April	932	2,463	..	..	982	2,463	0 14 3	67 8 0	68 2 3	
LURGAN . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief given.

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
MACROOM . . .	5 Feb.	769	1,913	..	..	769	1,913	..	67 6 9	67 6 9	Particulars not stated. No out-door relief given.
	12 Feb.	933	2,401	..	..	933	2,401	..	64 1 10	64 1 10	
	19 Feb.	1,505	3,382	..	..	1,505	3,382	..	84 13 8½	84 13 8½	
	26 Feb.	1,661	3,628	65	227	1,726	3,855	57 5 2	30 13 0½	87 18 2½	
	4 March	1,796	3,849	422	951	2,218	4,800	88 15 8	26 4 0	114 19 8	
	11 March	2,009	4,308	1,728	3,628	3,737	7,936	98 17 7½	93 1 4½	192 1 0	
	18 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	25 March	1,935	4,146	1,525	3,455	3,460	7,601	91 4 0	87 3 4½	178 7 4½	
MAGHERAFELT .	1 April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief given.
	8 April	1,811	3,788	1,206	2,778	3,017	6,566	87 7 2	67 12 6½	154 19 8½	
	5 Feb.	158	423	21	114	179	542	..	6 16 6½	6 16 6½	
	12 Feb.	170	466	26	126	196	592	..	7 9 10½	7 9 10½	
	19 Feb.	191	517	29	139	220	656	..	8 5 0	8 5 0	
	26 Feb.	203	562	28	131	231	693	..	8 11 4½	8 11 4½	
	4 March	209	589	29	136	238	725	..	8 18 2	8 18 2	
	11 March	231	560	20	76	251	696	8 14 4	..	8 14 4	
MALLOW . . .	18 March	224	591	19	75	243	666	..	9 3 4	9 3 4	No out-door relief given.
	25 March	233	620	22	93	255	713	..	30 13 2	30 13 2	
	1 April	1,848	3,875	1,412	3,198	3,260	7,073	89 7 7½	82 1 0½	171 8 8	
	8 April	262	692	14	76	276	768	..	11 1 5½	11 1 5½	
	5 Feb.	555	1,616	18	43	573	1,659	1 19 4	36 1 5½	38 0 9½	
	12 Feb.	585	1,693	19	51	604	1,744	1 8 0	38 2 3½	39 10 3½	
	19 Feb.	638	1,554	49	126	687	1,680	0 6 2	38 3 7	39 9 9	
	26 Feb.	634	1,571	50	128	684	1,699	0 3 5	38 13 0½	38 16 5½	
MANORHAMILTON	4 March	653	1,597	57	144	710	1,741	0 3 1	39 13 2	39 16 3	No out-door relief given.
	11 March	731	1,811	..	..	731	1,811	0 6 5½	39 13 1	39 13 1	
	18 March	731	1,816	..	..	731	1,816	0 3 1	37 5 11½	37 9 0½	
	25 March	735	1,810	..	..	735	1,810	0 3 1	31 9 2½	31 12 3½	
	1 April	579	1,580	..	..	579	1,580	0 2 10	29 0 5½	29 3 3½	
	8 April	543	1,374	..	..	543	1,374	8 12 3	17 5 8½	25 17 11½	
	5 Feb.	533	1,071	..	..	533	1,071	..	10 4 9½	10 4 9½	
	12 Feb.	1,764	3,951	326	870	2,090	4,821	0 15 0	76 18 7	77 13 7	
MIDLETON . . .	19 Feb.	678	1,506	..	..	678	1,506	..	14 9 1½	14 9 1½	No out-door relief given.
	26 Feb.	762	1,673	..	..	762	1,673	..	14 1 5½	14 1 5½	
	4 March	803	1,759	..	..	803	1,759	..	15 3 3½	15 3 3½	
	11 March	813	1,804	..	..	813	1,804	..	18 12 11½	18 12 11½	
	18 March	850	1,810	..	..	850	1,810	..	23 19 11	23 19 11	
	25 March	864	1,902	..	..	864	1,902	0 6 6	23 18 5	24 4 11	
	1 April	854	1,828	..	..	854	1,828	..	24 9 2½	24 9 2½	
	8 April	825	1,651	58	169	850	80	..	25 7 8½	25 7 8½	
MILFORD . . .	5 Feb.	1,428	3,270	666	1,331	2,094	4,601	..	109 13 3	109 13 3	No out-door relief given.
	12 Feb.	1,568	3,429	786	1,687	2,364	5,116	..	158 2 0	158 2 0	
	19 Feb.	1,602	4,716	938	1,868	2,540	6,584	..	188 13 9½	188 13 9½	
	26 Feb.	1,602	4,716	938	1,868	2,540	6,584	..	188 13 9½	188 13 9½	
	4 March	1,667	4,891	1,017	1,986	2,654	6,877	..	198 8 3	198 8 3	
	11 March	1,653	4,865	1,016	1,947	2,669	6,812	0 9 8	204 7 11½	204 7 11½	
	18 March	1,701	5,036	1,288	2,253	2,989	7,299	1 1 10	214 10 1½	215 11 11½	
	25 March	1,739	5,149	1,386	2,321	3,125	7,470	0 16 8	220 19 9½	221 16 5½	
MOHILL . . .	1 April	1,821	5,409	1,409	2,335	3,230	7,744	0 15 2	224 13 4	225 8 6	No out-door relief given.
	8 April	1,831	5,473	1,400	2,379	3,231	7,853	17 2 2	225 10 0½	226 7 2½	
	5 Feb.	1,568	3,429	786	1,687	2,364	5,116	..	158 2 0	158 2 0	
	12 Feb.	1,602	4,716	938	1,868	2,540	6,584	..	188 13 9½	188 13 9½	
	19 Feb.	1,602	4,716	938	1,868	2,540	6,584	..	188 13 9½	188 13 9½	
	26 Feb.	1,667	4,891	1,017	1,986	2,654	6,877	..	198 8 3	198 8 3	
	4 March	1,653	4,865	1,016	1,947	2,669	6,812	0 9 8	204 7 11½	204 7 11½	
	11 March	1,701	5,036	1,288	2,253	2,989	7,299	1 1 10	214 10 1½	215 11 11½	
MONAGHAN . . .	18 March	1,739	5,149	1,386	2,321	3,125	7,470	0 16 8	220 19 9½	221 16 5½	No out-door relief given.
	25 March	1,821	5,409	1,409	2,335	3,230	7,744	0 15 2	224 13 4	225 8 6	
	1 April	1,821	5,409	1,409	2,335	3,230	7,744	0 15 2	224 13 4	225 8 6	
	8 April	1,831	5,473	1,400	2,379	3,231	7,853	17 2 2	225 10 0½	226 7 2½	
	5 Feb.	1,568	3,429	786	1,687	2,364	5,116	..	158 2 0	158 2 0	
	12 Feb.	1,602	4,716	938	1,868	2,540	6,584	..	188 13 9½	188 13 9½	
	19 Feb.	1,602	4,716	938	1,868	2,540	6,584	..	188 13 9½	188 13 9½	
	26 Feb.	1,667	4,891	1,017	1,986	2,654	6,877	..	198 8 3	198 8 3	
MOUNTMELICK .	4 March	1,653	4,865	1,016	1,947	2,669	6,812	0 9 8	204 7 11½	204 7 11½	Particulars not stated.
	11 March	1,701	5,036	1,288	2,253	2,989	7,299	1 1 10	214 10 1½	215 11 11½	
	18 March	1,739	5,149	1,386	2,321	3,125	7,470	0 16 8	220 19 9½	221 16 5½	
	25 March	1,821	5,409	1,409	2,335	3,230	7,744	0 15 2	224 13 4	225 8 6	
	1 April	1,821	5,409	1,409	2,335	3,230	7,744	0 15 2	224 13 4	225 8 6	
	8 April	1,831	5,473	1,400	2,379	3,231	7,853	17 2 2	225 10 0½	226 7 2½	
	5 Feb.	1,568	3,429	786	1,687	2,364	5,116	..	158 2 0	158 2 0	
	12 Feb.	1,602	4,716	938	1,868	2,540	6,584	..	188 13 9½	188 13 9½	
MULLINGAR . .	19 Feb.	1,602	4,716	938	1,868	2,540	6,584	..	188 13 9½	188 13 9½	No out-door relief given.
	26 Feb.	1,667	4,891	1,017	1,986	2,654	6,877	..	198 8 3	198 8 3	
	4 March	1,653	4,865	1,016	1,947	2,669	6,812	0 9 8	204 7 11½	204 7 11½	
	11 March	1,701	5,036	1,288	2,253	2,989	7,299	1 1 10	214 10 1½	215 11 11½	
	18 March	1,739	5,149	1,386	2,321	3,125	7,470	0 16 8	220 19 9½	221 16 5½	
	25 March	1,821	5,409	1,409	2,335	3,230	7,744	0 15 2	224 13 4	225 8 6	
	1 April	1,821	5,409	1,409	2,335	3,230	7,744	0 15 2	224 13 4	225 8 6	
	8 April	1,831	5,473	1,400	2,379	3,231	7,853	17 2 2	225 10 0½	226 7 2½	
NAAS	5 Feb.	1,698	2,047	2,760	4,958	4,483	7,008	55 10 3½	251 12 5½	307 2 9	No out-door relief given.
	12 Feb.	1,510	3,038	2,014	5,404	3,524	8,442	0 19 4	254 0 8	255 0 0	
	19 Feb.	3,110	6,569	4,412	11,450	7,523	18,019	1 0 8	314 7 1½	315 7 9½	
	26 Feb.	1,194	2,692	2,086	5,204	3,280	7,896	2 9 8	309 5 6	311 14 9	
	4 March	1,792	2,201	3,041	5,174	4,833	7,375	1 5 0	314 9 9½	315 14 9½	
	11 March	1,800	2,101	3,060	5,090	4,860	7,191	1 15 4	319 14 10½	321 10 2½	
	18 March	1,772	2,162	2,719	4,447	4,491	6,609	3 5 3	299 10 3½	302 15 6½	
	25 March	1,785	1,962	2,686	4,283	4,451	6,245	0 15 6	293 8 9	294 4 3	
MOUNTMELICK .	1 April	1,935	3,388	2,228	4,487	4,163	7,875	0 2 0	270 14 0	270 16 0	No out-door relief given.
	8 April	2,128	4,251	1,743	4,138	3,871	8,389	0 3 0	261 18 3½	262 1 3½	
	5 Feb.	1,161	2,370	..	..	1,161	2,370	92 14 4	..	92 14 4	
	12 Feb.	1,195	2,517	..	..	1,195	2,517	96 19 2	..	96 19 2	
	19 Feb.	1,221	2,496	..	..	1,221	2,496	99 1 6	..	99 1 6	
	26 Feb.	1,264	2,709	..	..	1,264	2,709	102 1 4	..	102 1 4	
	4 March	1,247	2,643	..	..	1,247	2,643	99 10 10	..	99 10 10	
	11 March	1,200	2,540	..	..	1,200	2,540	102 2 2	..	102 2 2	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.						
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.							
								£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
NAAS . . .	18 March	1,265	2,849	..	..	1,265	2,849	107	6	3	..	..	..	107	6	3	
	25 March	1,302	2,849	..	..	1,302	2,849	106	2	0	..	..	..	106	2	0	
	1 April	1,225	2,624	..	..	1,225	2,624	97	16	0	..	..	..	97	16	0	
	8 April	1,250	2,684	..	..	1,250	2,684	96	8	5	..	..	..	98	8	5	
NAVAN . . .	5 Feb.	1,662	2,335	..	..	1,662	2,335	..	106	8	11	..	..	106	8	11	
	12 Feb.	1,669	3,309	..	..	1,669	3,309	..	106	11	5½	..	..	106	11	5½	
	19 Feb.	1,663	3,308	..	..	1,663	3,308	..	13	7	1	..	..	106	13	7	
	26 Feb.	1,665	3,281	..	..	1,665	3,281	..	107	16	6½	..	..	107	16	6½	
	4 March	1,652	3,346	..	..	1,652	3,346	..	105	13	0½	..	..	105	13	0½	
	11 March	1,637	3,445	..	..	1,637	3,445	..	104	3	6½	..	..	104	3	6½	
	18 March	1,606	3,220	..	..	1,606	3,220	..	101	3	3½	..	..	101	3	3½	
	25 March	1,542	3,089	..	..	1,542	3,089	..	96	7	3	..	..	96	7	3	
	1 April	1,503	2,886	..	..	1,503	2,886	..	90	5	7	..	..	90	5	7	
	8 April	1,506	2,890	..	..	1,506	2,890	..	92	12	7	..	..	92	12	7	
NENAGH . . .	5 Feb.	4,065	7,538	25	43	4,090	7,581	339	12	6	..	..	..	339	12	6	
	12 Feb.	5,178	10,754	15	23	5,193	10,777	361	3	6	..	..	..	361	3	6	Cost not stated.
	19 Feb.	4,461	8,598	11	23	4,472	8,621	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	3,762	8,408	3	9	3,765	8,417	430	12	0	..	..	..	430	12	0	
	4 March	5,128	10,172	17	43	5,145	10,215	..	280	13	9	..	..	280	13	9	
	11 March	5,161	10,204	135	495	5,296	10,699	..	293	18	7½	..	..	293	18	7½	
	18 March	5,043	9,910	703	2,418	5,746	12,328	..	335	15	10	..	..	335	15	10	
	25 March	4,218	8,939	811	3,233	5,029	12,172	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	1 April	3,800	7,793	726	2,572	4,526	10,545	..	361	19	10½	..	..	361	19	10½	
	8 April	4,654	10,294	8	22	4,662	10,316	..	272	0	11½	..	..	272	0	11½	
NEWCASTLE . .	5 Feb.	2,684	5,238	7,818	17,981	10,502	23,219	1	18	0	667	0	9	668	18	9	
	12 Feb.	2,699	5,262	7,815	18,110	10,514	23,372	2	4	3	669	0	0½	671	4	3½	
	19 Feb.	2,679	5,264	7,889	18,255	10,568	23,519	3	6	3	665	0	6	668	6	9	
	26 Feb.	2,745	5,329	7,863	17,250	10,608	22,585	4	5	9	654	12	5½	658	18	2½	
	4 March	2,842	5,302	7,578	17,215	10,420	22,517	4	5	3	641	18	3½	646	3	6½	
	11 March	2,857	5,327	7,238	16,359	10,095	21,686	3	9	2	518	12	3½	522	1	5½	
	18 March	2,875	5,323	7,101	15,634	9,976	20,937	0	9	6	494	19	11½	495	9	5½	
	25 March	2,872	5,330	6,579	15,169	9,451	20,499	0	5	0	434	1	1	434	6	1	
	1 April	2,928	5,537	6,078	13,954	9,006	19,491	0	4	0	421	9	6	421	13	6	
	8 April	2,946	5,506	5,924	13,744	8,880	19,250	0	4	0	424	2	2	424	6	2	
NEW ROSS . . .	5 Feb.	2,456	5,432	7	14	2,463	5,446	148	8	10	..	..	..	148	8	10	
	12 Feb.	2,718	5,897	13	25	2,731	5,922	158	5	7	2	13	5	160	19	0	
	19 Feb.	2,874	6,264	..	..	2,874	6,264	167	9	5	0	2	1	167	11	6	
	26 Feb.	2,877	6,181	67	128	2,944	6,309	170	2	5	0	18	8	171	1	1	
	4 March	2,891	6,264	284	47	3,175	6,311	167	15	3	1	1	0	168	16	3	
	11 March	2,909	6,284	469	1,363	3,378	7,647	170	19	0	72	9	4	243	8	4	
	18 March	2,913	6,134	467	1,355	3,380	7,489	171	4	4	105	2	9	276	7	1	
	25 March	2,913	6,314	467	1,355	3,380	7,669	171	4	4	105	2	9	276	7	1	
	1 April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Return not received.
	8 April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
NEWRY . . .	5 Feb.	1,438	2,865	18	36	1,456	2,901	..	43	6	2	..	..	43	6	2	
	12 Feb.	1,427	2,816	15	33	1,442	2,849	..	45	8	9	..	..	45	8	9	
	19 Feb.	1,494	2,925	13	27	1,507	2,952	..	46	8	0	..	..	46	8	0	
	26 Feb.	1,572	3,056	16	30	1,583	3,086	..	47	5	10½	..	..	47	5	10½	
	4 March	1,630	3,156	11	23	1,641	3,179	..	48	4	4	..	..	48	4	4	
	11 March	1,683	3,262	9	19	1,692	3,281	..	50	1	0	..	..	50	1	0	
	18 March	1,698	3,423	..	..	1,698	3,423	..	52	2	4	..	..	52	2	4	
	25 March	1,704	3,430	2	8	1,706	3,438	..	51	12	2½	..	..	51	12	2½	
	1 April	1,700	3,269	2	8	1,702	3,277	..	48	19	11½	..	..	48	19	11½	
	8 April	1,553	2,929	..	..	1,553	2,929	..	44	12	10½	..	..	44	12	10½	
NEWTOWNARDS .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief given.
NEWTOWN LIMA-VADY.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief given.
OLDCASTLE . .	5 Feb.	1,605	3,645	920	3,109	2,525	6,754	1	2	10	211	4	3½	212	7	1½	
	12 Feb.	1,608	3,655	942	3,187	2,550	6,872	1	1	4	215	8	4	216	9	8	
	19 Feb.	1,534	3,501	933	3,159	2,467	6,660	1	6	0	212	2	3½	213	8	3½	
	26 Feb.	1,504	3,408	891	2,973	2,395	6,381	0	19	10	194	18	9½	195	18	7½	
	4 March	1,483	3,318	881	2,879	2,364	6,197	0	18	6	186	11	8½	187	10	2½	
	11 March	1,504	3,463	926	2,946	2,430	6,409	0	18	6	172	16	4½	173	14	10½	
	18 March	1,506	3,473	914	2,915	2,420	6,388	1	1	2	180	10	11½	181	12	2	
	25 March	1,518	3,529	923	2,956	2,441	6,485	1	5	2	180	12	5½	181	17	7½	
	1 April	1,397	3,229	938	3,109	2,335	6,338	0	18	3	137	18	5½	138	16	8½	
	8 April	1,393	3,226	941	3,100	2,324	6,326	0	17	7	139	15	0	140	12	7	
OMAGH . . .	5 Feb.	1,451	2,505	23	47	1,474	2,552	0	1	6	51	18	2	51	19	8	
	12 Feb.	1,541	2,787	59	125	1,600	2,912	0	4	11	58	4	5	58	17	3	
	19 Feb.	1,611	2,964	75	163	1,680	3,127	0	6	3	61	13	8	61	19	7	
	26 Feb.	1,641	2,846	85	182	1,726	3,028	0	5	8	62	8	2	62	13	10	
	4 March	1,628	2,905	100	205	1,728	3,110	0	8	4	63	5	0	63	13	4	
	11 March	1,654	2,852	103	215	1,757	3,067	0	7	4	63	15	10	64	3	2	
	18 March	1,692	2,944	115	237	1,807	3,181	0	6	10	64	14	0	65	0	10	
	25 March	1,715	3,000	115	245	1,830	3,245	0	2	2	65	13	8	65	15	10	
	1 April	1,638	2,829	120	269	1,758	3,098	0	1	0	64	0	3	64	1	3	
	8 April	1,631	2,796	124	272	1,745	3,068	0	0	6	63	12	3	63	12	9	
PARSONSTOWN .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief.

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
RATHDOWNS . .	5 Feb.	557	1,065	170	430	727	1,495	1 17 7	51 13 11½	53 11 6½	Cost not stated.
	12 Feb.	607	1,164	152	395	759	1,559	1 19 10	52 0 7½	54 0 5½	
	19 Feb.	639	1,350	127	394	766	1,744	9 18 5	46 5 10½	56 4 3½	
	26 Feb.	702	1,452	59	159	716	1,611	11 19 4½	40 0 5½	51 19 10½	
	4 March	706	1,400	19	131	755	1,531	1 15 2	49 0 5½	50 15 7½	
	11 March	737	1,494	33	73	770	1,567	1 1 9	49 16 4½	50 18 1½	
	18 March	797	1,521	40	92	837	1,612	0 11 9	51 13 11½	52 5 8½	
	25 March	531	1,005	31	70	562	1,075	..	..	..	
	1 April	722	1,377	39	90	761	1,467	1 4 0	47 12 9	48 16 9	
	8 April	715	1,340	34	74	749	1,414	1 6 9	47 19 9½	49 6 6½	
RATHDRUM . .	5 Feb.	637	1,447	..	..	637	1,447	..	35 9 2½	35 9 2½	
	12 Feb.	641	1,456	..	..	641	1,456	..	34 14 3½	34 14 3½	
	19 Feb.	651	1,492	..	..	651	1,492	..	33 18 11½	33 18 11½	
	26 Feb.	1,027	2,259	..	..	1,027	2,289	..	36 15 4½	36 15 4½	
	4 March	1,056	2,312	..	..	1,056	2,312	..	46 8 9	46 8 9	
	11 March	1,063	2,328	..	..	1,063	2,328	..	49 11 10	49 11 10	
	18 March	1,020	2,249	..	..	1,020	2,249	..	43 12 4½	43 12 4½	
	25 March	1,030	2,198	..	..	1,030	2,198	..	43 1 11½	43 1 11½	
	1 April	953	2,154	..	..	953	2,154	..	42 14 0½	42 14 0½	
	8 April	1,056	2,336	..	..	1,056	2,336	..	42 1 2½	42 1 2½	
RATHKEALE . .	5 Feb.	3,467	8,453	1,321	4,857	4,968	13,310	13 17 6	404 10 10	418 8 4	
	12 Feb.	3,722	8,639	1,457	5,470	5,180	14,129	13 17 6	382 8 8	396 6 2	
	19 Feb.	3,526	8,206	1,281	4,641	4,807	12,847	13 15 0	366 13 1	380 8 1	
	26 Feb.	3,443	7,947	1,164	4,157	4,607	12,104	13 14 6	345 8 5	359 2 11	
	4 March	3,376	7,831	1,119	3,958	4,495	11,789	13 13 6	338 9 7	352 3 1	
	11 March	3,364	7,795	1,091	3,884	4,455	11,659	13 16 7	334 3 3	347 19 10	
	18 March	3,351	7,785	1,089	3,679	4,440	11,665	13 13 0	334 6 5	347 19 5	
	25 March	3,348	7,774	1,088	3,904	4,436	11,678	13 7 6	335 3 0	348 10 6	
	1 April	3,477	7,935	1,047	3,907	4,524	11,842	13 5 6	335 10 10	347 16 4	
	8 April	3,536	8,053	896	3,609	4,432	11,662	13 7 6	329 12 8	343 0 2	
ROSCOMMON . .	5 Feb.	1,854	2,092	..	..	1,854	2,092	..	92 14 11½	92 14 11½	
	12 Feb.	3,327	3,759	..	..	3,327	3,759	13 10 9	132 9 11½	146 0 8½	
	19 Feb.	3,921	4,940	..	..	3,921	4,940	..	174 0 4	174 0 4	
	26 Feb.	4,488	5,594	..	..	4,488	5,594	..	213 12 2½	213 12 2½	
	4 March	5,153	7,029	..	..	5,153	7,029	..	242 3 6½	242 3 6½	
	11 March	5,573	7,514	..	..	5,573	7,514	..	290 1 11	290 1 11	
	18 March	6,132	9,424	..	..	6,132	9,424	..	322 17 1	322 17 1	
	25 March	4,077	4,914	2,046	2,969	6,123	7,883	..	360 11 8½	360 11 8½	
	1 April	3,418	4,666	3,880	6,218	7,298	10,884	..	436 0 5	436 0 5	
	8 April	3,791	4,968	4,210	6,408	8,001	11,376	22 1 10½	480 2 2½	502 4 2	
ROSCREA . . .	5 Feb.	1,880	4,266	42	113	1,922	4,879	99 19 7	51 8 2	151 7 9	Cost not stated.
	12 Feb.	2,267	5,603	115	393	2,382	5,901	4 10 5	138 4 4	142 14 9	
	19 Feb.	1,720	4,293	442	1,479	2,162	5,772	1 0 6	154 5 4	155 5 10	
	26 Feb.	1,582	4,163	445	1,592	2,067	5,755	..	153 4 1	153 4 1	
	4 March	1,917	4,758	477	1,716	2,394	6,474	..	..	..	
	11 March	2,046	5,168	536	1,922	2,582	7,090	..	184 0 10	184 0 10	
	18 March	2,202	5,512	618	2,112	2,820	7,624	..	206 8 7½	206 8 7½	
	25 March	2,251	5,617	555	1,944	2,806	7,561	201 17 0	..	201 17 0	
	1 April	2,082	5,148	574	2,081	2,656	7,229	..	184 7 1½	184 7 1½	
	8 April	2,113	5,250	575	2,213	2,688	7,463	..	189 0 1½	189 0 1½	
SCARIFF . . .	5 Feb.	2,194	7,798	169	370	2,363	8,168	135 2 1	203 14 3½	338 16 4½	Particulars not stated.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	2,267	8,588	495	1,604	2,762	10,192	169 10 9	242 11 7	412 2 4	
	26 Feb.	2,249	8,579	492	1,592	2,741	10,171	180 11 7	261 10 0½	442 1 7½	
	4 March	2,574	9,674	880	2,716	3,454	12,390	177 1 2	261 12 11	438 14 1	
	11 March	1,606	7,452	2,557	5,771	4,163	13,222	175 13 2	275 16 10	451 10 0	
	18 March	1,617	7,683	2,613	6,302	4,230	13,985	180 6 0	285 7 10	465 13 10	
	25 March	1,617	7,683	2,613	6,302	4,230	13,985	180 6 0	285 7 10	465 13 10	
	1 April	1,506	6,728	2,405	6,243	3,911	12,971	173 9 7	266 13 7½	440 3 2½	
	8 April	1,449	6,558	2,501	6,038	3,950	12,576	173 6 8	270 9 8½	443 16 4½	
SKILLILLAGH . .	5 Feb.	54	147	..	..	54	147	5 5 0	..	5 5 0	
	12 Feb.	88	244	..	..	58	244	8 13 11	..	8 13 11	
	19 Feb.	134	349	..	..	134	349	10 12 5	..	10 12 5	
	26 Feb.	183	449	..	..	183	449	13 16 8	..	13 16 8	
	4 March	214	518	..	..	214	518	16 2 1	..	16 2 1	
	11 March	227	553	..	..	227	553	17 1 3	..	17 1 3	
	18 March	229	568	..	..	228	568	17 9 7	..	17 9 7	
	25 March	230	565	..	..	230	565	17 8 9	..	17 8 9	
	1 April	236	580	..	..	236	580	17 18 9	..	17 18 9	
	8 April	335	575	..	..	235	575	17 16 8	..	17 16 8	
SKIRREGREEN . .	5 Feb.	3,251	4,033	..	..	3,251	4,033	..	125 4 11	125 4 11	
	12 Feb.	3,551	4,213	..	..	3,551	4,213	..	134 8 7	134 8 7	
	19 Feb.	3,673	4,577	..	..	3,673	4,577	..	145 1 1½	145 1 1½	
	26 Feb.	3,839	4,951	..	..	3,839	4,951	..	147 0 5	147 0 5	
	4 March	4,264	5,583	..	..	4,264	5,583	..	152 19 9	152 19 9	
	11 March	4,621	6,187	..	..	4,621	6,187	..	168 8 9½	168 8 9½	
	18 March	4,775	6,346	..	..	4,775	6,346	..	178 17 7½	178 17 7½	
	25 March	4,976	6,448	..	..	4,976	6,448	..	279 1 8½	279 1 8½	
	1 April	4,948	6,604	..	..	4,948	6,604	..	185 16 10½	185 16 10½	
	8 April	5,363	6,939	..	..	5,363	6,939	..	193 18 10½	193 18 10½	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
SLIGO . . .	5 Feb.	3,104	7,253	..	..	3,104	7,353	6 15 2	203 17 0 ³ / ₄	210 12 2 ³ / ₄	Cost not stated.
	12 Feb.	3,103	7,295	14	14	3,117	7,309	6 17 9	206 18 3 ¹ / ₄	215 16 0 ¹ / ₄	
	19 Feb.	2,967	7,220	56	74	3,023	7,294	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	3,134	7,328	74	104	3,208	7,432	7 4 8	201 15 10 ³ / ₄	209 0 1 ¹ / ₄	
	4 March	3,148	7,430	102	143	3,250	7,573	6 10 0	200 17 8	207 7 8	
	11 March	3,138	7,468	129	173	3,267	7,641	6 13 5	209 6 6	215 19 11	
	18 March	3,010	7,236	127	180	3,137	7,416	7 0 0	201 7 1	208 7 1	
	25 March	2,862	6,664	110	155	2,972	6,819	7 1 6	189 18 9 ¹ / ₄	197 0 3 ¹ / ₄	
	1 April	2,867	6,088	157	231	3,024	6,819	6 19 4 ¹ / ₂	170 2 8 ¹ / ₄	177 2 0 ³ / ₄	
	8 April	2,888	6,433	184	270	3,072	6,703	6 16 2	149 13 0	156 9 2	
STRABANE . .	5 Feb.	400	792	..	..	400	792	20 17 8	..	20 17 8	No out-door relief given.
	12 Feb.	544	1,071	..	..	544	1,071	26 0 5	..	26 0 5	
	19 Feb.	661	1,261	..	..	661	1,261	29 8 4	..	29 8 4	
	26 Feb.	708	1,392	..	..	708	1,392	30 18 0	..	30 18 0	
	4 March	749	1,409	..	..	749	1,409	0 1 0	30 4 6 ¹ / ₂	30 5 6 ¹ / ₂	
	11 March	745	1,363	..	..	745	1,363	0 0 6	29 13 6 ¹ / ₂	29 14 0 ¹ / ₂	
	18 March	757	1,393	..	..	757	1,393	0 1 1	29 16 4 ¹ / ₂	29 17 5 ¹ / ₂	
	25 March	786	1,466	..	..	786	1,466	0 4 5 ¹ / ₄	31 2 0 ³ / ₄	31 6 6	
	1 April	802	1,459	..	..	802	1,459	0 4 0	31 18 2 ³ / ₄	32 2 2 ³ / ₄	
	8 April	856	1,571	..	..	886	1,571	0 4 0	34 14 1	34 18 1	
STRANORLAR . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
SWINEFORD . .	5 Feb.	167	288	60	101	167	389	..	8 14 5 ¹ / ₄	8 14 5 ¹ / ₄	
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	392	901	433	835	825	1,736	..	42 5 6 ¹ / ₂	42 5 6 ¹ / ₂	
	26 Feb.	507	1,107	715	1,425	1,222	2,532	..	72 10 0	72 10 0	
	4 March	831	1,651	1,255	2,842	2,086	4,493	..	132 14 11 ¹ / ₄	132 14 11 ¹ / ₄	
	11 March	1,129	2,208	1,631	3,817	2,760	6,025	..	178 14 3 ¹ / ₄	178 14 3 ¹ / ₄	
	18 March	1,416	2,712	2,055	4,826	3,471	7,538	..	215 0 8 ¹ / ₄	215 0 8 ¹ / ₄	
	25 March	1,722	3,282	2,568	5,882	4,290	9,164	..	263 0 4	263 0 4	
	1 April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	8 April	1,805	3,597	2,351	5,447	4,156	9,044	..	286 10 0 ³ / ₄	286 10 0 ³ / ₄	
THURLES . . .	5 Feb.	2,318	5,392	5,135	12,154	7,453	17,546	..	385 9 9 ¹ / ₄	385 9 9 ¹ / ₄	Particulars not stated.
	12 Feb.	2,329	5,402	5,234	12,331	7,563	17,733	..	388 8 8 ¹ / ₄	388 8 8 ¹ / ₄	
	19 Feb.	2,339	5,413	5,298	12,390	7,637	17,803	0 1 0	391 3 6	391 4 6	
	26 Feb.	2,355	5,446	5,371	12,494	7,726	17,940	..	395 13 9	395 13 9	
	4 March	2,375	5,483	5,427	12,513	7,802	17,996	0 4 0	398 11 11 ¹ / ₄	398 10 11 ¹ / ₄	
	11 March	2,331	5,410	5,423	12,476	7,754	17,886	..	389 13 2 ¹ / ₄	389 13 2 ¹ / ₄	
	18 March	2,324	5,368	5,342	12,192	7,666	17,560	0 2 0	387 17 3 ¹ / ₄	387 19 3 ¹ / ₄	
	25 March	2,310	5,353	5,197	11,661	7,507	17,014	..	398 16 11	398 16 11	
	1 April	2,371	5,323	5,315	11,518	7,486	16,846	0 3 0	418 3 9	418 6 9	
	8 April	2,221	4,735	4,706	10,132	6,927	14,867	0 2 0	382 4 6 ¹ / ₄	382 6 6 ¹ / ₄	
TIPPERARY . .	5 Feb.	3,761	9,436	450	1,864	4,211	11,300	288 1 6	58 19 4	347 0 10	Cost not stated.
	12 Feb.	3,806	9,549	822	3,049	4,628	12,598	238 0 4	96 17 1 ¹ / ₄	384 17 5 ¹ / ₄	
	19 Feb.	3,822	9,570	1,531	4,581	5,323	14,151	278 13 6	119 12 9	393 6 3	
	26 Feb.	3,828	9,581	1,855	5,420	5,683	15,001	202 12 5	223 18 9 ¹ / ₄	426 11 2 ¹ / ₄	
	4 March	3,836	9,598	2,050	5,852	5,886	15,450	157 16 11	252 4 3	410 1 2	
	11 March	3,593	8,188	2,799	8,372	6,392	16,560	145 2 4	269 17 0 ¹ / ₄	414 19 4 ¹ / ₄	
	18 March	3,450	8,409	2,235	6,730	5,685	15,139	137 1 4	284 4 1 ¹ / ₄	421 5 5 ¹ / ₄	
	25 March	3,479	8,486	2,344	6,871	5,823	15,357	118 5 0	305 13 3	423 18 3	
	1 April	3,222	7,490	2,777	7,952	5,999	15,442	140 10 1	269 11 5	410 1 6	
	8 April	3,127	7,182	2,786	8,287	5,913	15,469	130 11 1	275 14 6	406 5 7	
TRALEE . . .	5 Feb.	8,804	16,320	33	123	8,837	16,443	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	12 Feb.	8,772	15,896	298	561	9,070	16,457	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	8,346	15,221	432	816	8,778	16,037	..	..	401 18 8	
	26 Feb.	8,903	15,593	387	757	9,290	16,350	..	407 18 5 ¹ / ₄	407 18 6 ¹ / ₄	
	4 March	5,112	9,047	729	1,379	5,841	10,426	..	243 7 9	243 7 9	
	11 March	4,143	7,683	765	1,496	4,908	9,179	..	210 16 3 ¹ / ₄	210 16 3 ¹ / ₄	
	18 March	4,029	7,266	794	1,538	4,823	8,804	..	207 7 10	207 7 10	
	25 March	2,631	2,418	244	180	2,875	2,598	..	127 7 5 ¹ / ₄	127 7 5 ¹ / ₄	
	1 April	2,787	5,057	113	206	2,900	5,263	..	125 3 1 ¹ / ₄	125 3 1 ¹ / ₄	
	8 April	2,950	5,406	128	282	3,078	5,688	..	134 12 3	134 12 3	
TRIM	5 Feb.	959	1,877	..	..	959	1,877	0 5 9	56 12 11 ¹ / ₄	56 17 10 ¹ / ₄	Cost not stated.
	12 Feb.	999	1,963	..	..	999	1,963	0 8 6	59 0 8 ¹ / ₄	59 9 2 ¹ / ₄	
	19 Feb.	994	1,955	..	..	994	1,955	0 15 2	59 11 4 ¹ / ₄	60 6 3 ¹ / ₄	
	26 Feb.	1,018	1,995	..	..	1,018	1,995	1 3 8	60 16 5 ¹ / ₄	62 0 1 ¹ / ₄	
	4 March	1,017	1,998	..	..	1,017	1,998	1 6 10	60 14 9 ¹ / ₄	62 1 7 ¹ / ₄	
	11 March	1,025	2,020	..	..	1,025	2,020	1 6 10	60 17 11 ¹ / ₄	62 4 9 ¹ / ₄	
	18 March	1,034	2,033	..	..	1,034	2,033	1 7 4 ¹ / ₄	61 12 3 ¹ / ₄	62 19 8 ¹ / ₄	
	25 March	1,060	2,100	..	..	1,060	2,100	2 14 1	63 6 2 ¹ / ₄	66 0 2 ¹ / ₄	
	1 April	1,067	2,006	..	..	1,067	2,006	4 2 10	64 10 0	68 12 10	
	8 April	1,049	2,055	..	..	1,049	2,055	2 16 4	62 3 9 ¹ / ₄	65 0 1 ¹ / ₄	
TUAM	5 Feb.	460	1,104	453	851	913	1,955	0 7 0	69 2 1 ¹ / ₄	69 9 1 ¹ / ₄	Cost not stated.
	12 Feb.	694	1,745	1,169	2,443	1,863	4,188	0 12 8	133 12 7 ¹ / ₄	134 5 2 ¹ / ₄	
	19 Feb.	754	1,732	1,345	2,461	2,099	4,193	0 1 0	131 10 4 ¹ / ₄	131 11 4 ¹ / ₄	
	26 Feb.	854	1,931	1,243	2,762	2,097	4,693	0 2 0	112 15 4 ¹ / ₄	112 17 4 ¹ / ₄	
	4 March	1,175	2,612	1,849	3,893	3,024	6,495	..	176 16 2 ¹ / ₄	176 16 2 ¹ / ₄	
	11 March	1,303	3,055	2,163	4,879	3,484	7,934	..	200 15 0 ¹ / ₄	200 15 0 ¹ / ₄	
	18 March	1,331	3,044	2,333	5,070	3,664	8,114	..	..	..	
	25 March	1,619	3,787	2,686	6,767	4,505	10,554	..	..	..	
	1 April	1,241	2,442	2,280	4,613	3,521	7,055	..	..	..	
	8 April	1,311	2,714	2,513	5,404	3,824	8,118	..	..	..	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
TULLAMORE . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Particulars not given.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	1,781	3,520	583	1,507	2,364	5,207	108 11 4	33 18 7	142 9 11	Nature of relief not stated. Cost not stated.
	11 March	1,474	2,927	490	1,383	1,964	4,310	..	..	..	
	18 March	243	631	192	482	435	1,113	..	..	..	Particulars not stated.
	25 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	1 April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	8 April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
WATERFORD . .	5 Feb.	180	381	..	..	180	381	81 10 0	..	81 10 0	
	12 Feb.	177	400	12	24	189	424	89 10 0	..	89 10 0	
	19 Feb.	1,671	4,983	23	46	1,694	5,029	100 15 9	..	100 15 9	
	26 Feb.	1,808	5,243	33	66	1,841	5,309	119 9 2	0 5 0	119 14 2	
	4 March	2,138	8,574	86	172	2,224	5,926	125 9 5	..	125 9 5	
	11 March	2,263	5,880	96	192	2,359	6,072	137 13 8	..	137 13 8	
	18 March	2,544	6,244	125	250	2,669	6,494	154 15 5	..	154 15 5	
	25 March	2,816	6,428	151	302	2,967	6,730	168 16 8	..	168 16 8	
	1 April	2,905	6,632	151	302	3,056	6,934	169 7 9	..	167 7 9	
	8 April	2,980	6,814	151	302	3,131	7,116	181 9 9	..	181 9 9	
WESTPORT . .	5 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	402 3 6	402 3 6	No out-door relief given. Cost not stated. Particulars not stated.
	12 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	19 Feb.	1,629	3,768	3,151	8,387	4,420	12,155	..	..	..	
	26 Feb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	4 March	2,136	6,330	6,528	15,998	8,664	22,328	..	526 11 8½	526 11 8½	Particulars not stated.
	11 March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	18 March	2,188	6,791	6,810	17,137	8,998	23,928	..	..	..	Cost not stated.
	25 March	1,830	4,909	5,858	14,208	7,688	19,117	..	..	..	
	1 April	2,218	6,250	6,090	15,345	8,308	21,595	..	..	..	
	8 April	2,324	6,556	6,037	15,534	8,361	22,090	..	..	..	
WEXFORD . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	No out-door relief given.

SUMMARY.

Week ending	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.		
	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.
							£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
5 Feb.	147,111	337,665	44,601	107,811	191,712	445,476	3,523 18 8½	9,264 10 3½	12,788 9 0½
12 Feb.	150,763	339,328	50,487	124,674	201,250	464,002	3,436 9 4½	9,501 19 5½	12,938 8 10½
19 Feb.	163,692	376,015	64,591	162,063	228,283	538,078	3,554 11 6½	10,926 6 0½	14,480 17 6½
26 Feb.	165,178	379,767	64,008	158,220	229,186	537,987	3,492 8 11½	11,527 0 11½	15,019 9 11½
4 March	185,590	425,949	94,189	228,763	279,779	654,712	3,352 0 10½	14,212 17 4½	17,564 18 2½
11 March	178,581	407,195	84,845	206,368	263,426	613,563	3,171 4 6½	12,932 0 7½	16,103 5 2½
18 March	171,153	402,873	69,147	165,961	240,300	568,834	3,165 0 1½	12,518 3 7½	15,683 3 9
25 March	181,322	408,616	94,308	231,097	275,630	639,713	3,692 18 5½	13,781 15 7½	17,474 14 1
1 April	180,994	408,923	97,979	235,076	278,973	643,999	3,535 17 3½	13,456 9 2½	17,092 6 6½
8 April	191,198	426,561	87,119	211,580	278,317	638,141	3,041 5 8½	13,858 2 2	16,899 7 10½
	1,715,582	3,912,892	751,274	1,831,613	2,466,856	5,744,505	34,115 15 5	121,979 5 6½	156,095 0 11½

Note.—Returns were not received from the Unions stated below :—

Week ending 5 Feb.	for Ballina, Ballinasloe, Cahirciveen, Castlebar, Clifden, Clones, Drogheda, Dundalk, Enniscorthy, Granard, Loughrea, Mountmelick, and Tullamore.
.. 12 Feb.	for Ballina, Ballinrobe, Banbridge, Castlebar, Clifden, Clones, Drogheda, Dundalk, Enniscorthy, Granard, Kilsrush, Loughrea, Mountmelick, Scariff, Swineford, Tullamore, and Westport.
.. 19 Feb.	for Ballina, Castlebar, Clifden, Dundalk, Enniscorthy, Granard, Longford, Loughrea, Lowtherstown, and Tullamore.
.. 26 Feb.	for Cahirciveen, Castlebar, Clifden, Enniscorthy, Granard, Longford, Loughrea, Lowtherstown, Tullamore, and Westport.
.. 4 March.	for Clifden and Loughrea.
.. 11 March.	for Ballina, Ballycastle, Cahirciveen, Castlederg, Clifden, Enniscorthy, Ennistymon, Kinsale, Longford, Lowtherstown, and Westport.
.. 18 March.	for Ballina, Ballinrobe, Clifden, Longford, Lowtherstown, and Macroom.
.. 25 March.	for Ballina, Clifden, Longford, Loughrea, Lowtherstown, and Tullamore.
.. 1 April.	for Clifden, Longford, Loughrea, Lowtherstown, New Ross, Swineford, and Tullamore.
.. 8 April.	for Ballina, Clifden, New Ross, and Tullamore.

STATEMENT of the COLLECTION of POOR RATE and of the EXPENSES in each UNION in IRELAND during the Six Months from Michaelmas to Lady Day last.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Collection from Michaelmas to Lady Day last.								Expenses.		Difference between Collection and Expenses.	
	Amount of Rate struck between Michaelmas and Lady Day last.	Amount of Arrears of Rate, struck before Michaelmas last, remaining for Collection at Michaelmas last.	Total Amount of Rate in course of Collection within the Six Months, viz., the Old and the New Rate conjointly. (Col. 3 & 2)	Total Amount Collected of the Total Rate in course of Collection. (Col. 4.)	Amount Collected of the New Rate (Col. 2), exclusive of the Rate previously made. (Col. 3.)	Highest Amount per £. Collected in any Electoral Division of the Union during the Six Months.	Lowest Amount per £. Collected in any Electoral Division of the Union during the Six Months.	Average Amount per £. Collected on the whole Union during the Six Months.	Expenses of the Union for the Six Months.	Average Amount per £. of the Expenses, of the Six Months on the whole Union.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.
Column 1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.
<i>Co. Antrim.</i>												
Antrim	..	6,332	6,332	6,332	..	3 6	0 1½	1 3½	3,419	0 8½	2,681	..
Ballycastle	2,937	346	3,283	1,107	761	1 1	0 3	0 11	1,665	0 11½	..	878
Ballymena	7,207	3,503	10,710	4,406	903	1 6½	0 1½	0 11	3,410	0 8½	950	..
Ballymoney	1,060	6,001	7,061	4,338	..	2 0	0 5½	1 2	2,360	0 7½	1,889	..
Belfast	15,450	4,664	20,114	11,759	7,093	1 2½	0 10	0 10½	13,637	1 0	..	1,793
Larne	1,166	2,448	3,614	2,626	178	1 2	0 3½	0 8½	1,647	0 5½	835	..
Lisburn	4,302	19	4,321	4,170	4,151	1 4	0 2½	0 7½	3,093	0 5½	944	..
<i>Co. Armagh.</i>												
Armagh	19,458	4,425	23,883	9,176	4,751	2 5	0 5½	0 11½	5,287	0 7½	3,302	..
Lurgan	13,224	301	13,525	9,281	8,988	4 10	0 0½	2 0	6,440	1 4½	2,900	..
<i>Co. Cavan.</i>												
Bailieborough	6,631	3,725	10,356	7,760	4,035	..	..	3 0½	4,403	1 8½	3,584	..
Cavan	15,936	2,341	18,277	16,305	13,964	3 4	1 8	2 6½	10,661	1 8	5,452	..
Cootehill	11,009	2,274	13,283	5,848	3,574	2 2½	0 3½	1 6	4,887	1 3½	626	..
<i>Co. Donegal.</i>												
Ballyshannon	7,111	507	7,618	6,335	5,828	2 9½	1 6	2 5½	2,573	1 0	3,775	..
Donegal	4,209	1,880	6,089	2,623	743	3 1½	0 10½	1 7½	1,196	0 9	1,356	..
Dunfanaghy	1,006	394	1,400	273	..	1 5½	0 1	0 6½	700	1 3½	..	426
Glenties	2,380	1,148	3,528	2,506	1,358	4 11½	0 8½	3 0	3,069	3 9	..	657
Inishowen	4,960	429	5,289	1,357	928	1 8	0 1	0 10½	1,107	0 7½	463	..
Letterkenny	..	2,787	2,787	1,865	..	2 6½	0 3½	1 1	2,059	1 3½	..	340
Milford	3,182	172	3,354	2,698	2,526	2 9	0 10	1 7½	1,571	1 0	984	..
Stranorlar	3,264	231	3,495	2,181	1,950	2 3	0 8½	1 4½	841	0 6½	1,153	..
<i>Co. Down.</i>												
Banbridge	6,988	3,449	10,437	6,026	2,578	2 6	0 2½	1 0	4,164	0 8	1,899	..
Downpatrick	5,445	174	5,619	4,022	3,848	1 5½	0 0½	0 5½	2,363	0 3½	1,668	..
Kilkeel	..	1,357	1,357	1,305	..	1 9½	0 1½	0 8½	962	0 6	343	..
Newry	4,636	2,736	7,372	4,223	1,487	2 1½	0 1	0 7½	4,332	0 8	..	260
Newtownards	7,894	3,454	11,348	3,441	..	1 10½	0 1½	0 6½	2,966	0 6	329	..
<i>Co. Fermanagh.</i>												
Enniskillen	12,153	696	12,851	8,108	7,412	2 8½	0 4½	1 8½	4,125	0 7½	3,959	..
Lisnaskea	7,356	886	8,272	4,835	3,999	3 0	0 10	2 0	1,874	0 9½	2,805	..
Lowtherstown	6,189	337	6,526	4,949	4,612	3 0	2 6	2 3	3,874	1 9	1,071	..
<i>Co. Londonderry.</i>												
Coleraine	2,589	2,691	5,280	2,858	197	3 3	0 1	0 9	2,884	0 9	25	..
Londonderry	1,775	5,804	7,579	4,360	..	1 8	0 1	0 9½	4,252	0 9	101	..
Magherafelt	..	8,634	8,634	5,540	..	2 9	0 3½	1 4½	2,363	0 7½	2,785	..
N. T. Limavady	4,839	1,298	6,137	2,715	1,417	1 6½	0 4	0 9½	2,030	0 7½	610	..
<i>Co. Monaghan.</i>												
Carriackmacross	..	5,506	5,506	4,705	..	3 1	0 6	2 0½	2,854	1 2½	1,851	..
Castleblayney	1,179	7,926	9,105	7,094	977	3 8	0 7	2 0	5,159	1 6½	1,850	..
Clones	6,881	758	7,639	3,125	2,307	1 7½	0 10½	1 1½	2,799	1 0	317	..
Monaghan	..	11,021	11,021	8,569	..	3 1	0 3½	1 9½	2,901	0 7½	5,666	..
<i>Co. Tyrone.</i>												
Castlederg	..	1,589	1,589	1,306	..	2 1	0 6	1 2½	897	0 9½	409	..
Clogher	4,316	59	4,374	3,834	3,776	2 11½	0 11½	1 9½	2,493	1 2	341	..
Cookstown	..	2,791	2,791	2,083	..	1 11	0 2	0 8½	1,749	0 7½	292	..
Dungannon	5,960	448	6,408	4,403	3,955	1 11	0 4	0 11½	3,132	0 8½	1,134	..
Gortiu	..	1,430	1,430	883	..	1 9	0 7	1 5½	618	0 9½	382	..
Omagh	10,729	858	11,587	5,527	4,669	2 4	0 2½	1 4½	3,892	1 0½	1,367	..
Strabane	1,477	7,661	9,138	7,840	179	2 11	0 9	1 11½	3,397	0 10	4,434	..
Total of Ulster Province	214,930	115,489	330,419	201,804	..	..	..	..	140,216	..	..	..

Statement of the Collection of Poor Rate and of the Expenses in each Union in Ireland, &c.—*continued.*

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Collection from Michaelmas to Lady Day last.								Expenses.		Difference between Collection and Expenses.	
	Amount of Rate struck between Michaelmas and Lady Day last.	Amount of Arrears of Rate, struck before Michaelmas last, remaining for Collection at Michaelmas last.	Total Amount of Rate in course of Collection within the Six Months viz., the Old and New Rate conjointly. (Col. 3&2)	Total Amount Collected of the Total Rate in course of Collection. (Col. 4.)	Amount Collected of the New Rate (Col. 2), exclusive of the Rate previously made. (Col. 3.)	Highest Amount per £. Collected in any Electoral Division of the Union during the Six Months.	Lowest Amount per £. Collected in any Electoral Division of the Union during the Six Months.	Average Amount per £. Collected on the whole Union during the Six Months.	Expenses of the Union for the Six Months.	Average Amount per £. of the Expenses of the Six Months on the whole Union.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.
<i>Co. Clare.</i>												
Ennis	14,773	1,468	16,241	16,211	14,743	4 0	1 11	2 7½	13,652	2 8½	..	412
Ennistymon . .	373	8,624	8,996	7,647	..	3 0½	0 3	1 11½	5,259	1 6½	1,398	..
Kilrush	..	15,153	15,153	7,673	..	3 3	1 10	2 7	7,330	2 5	362	..
Scariff	16,768	2,812	19,580	12,743	9,936	7 2	4 6	4 10½	9,296	4 2	1,569	..
<i>Co. Cork.</i>												
Bandon	..	9,733	9,733	7,053	..	1 8½	0 1½	1 0½	6,543	0 11½	449	..
Bantry	6,285	543	6,828	4,165	3,622	2 11½	1 1½	2 3½	6,031	2 10½	..	1,717
Cork	31,345	11,425	42,770	24,361	12,926	7 5	0 8	1 2½	13,472	0 8½	8,685	..
Dunmanway . .	..	6,808	6,808	5,306	..	2 9	2 1	2 4½	3,605	1 2	2,700	..
Fermoy	..	24,303	24,303	20,353	..	2 11½	2 3	2 7½	16,703	2 2	3,642	..
Kanturk	37,940	..	37,940	37,145	37,145	4 0	3 0	3 2	13,858	2 7½	4,241	..
Kinsale	434	5,472	5,906	4,656	..	2 7	0 3½	1 3	2,948	0 9½	734	..
Macroom	11,409	6,544	17,953	6,155	..	5 0	0 6½	1 2½	4,456	0 11½	1,140	..
Mallow	..	13,969	13,969	12,167	..	3 3	1 4	2 1½	3,981	0 7½	9,900	..
Midleton	2,675	275	26,978	21,940	21,665	3 6½	0 4½	2 8	8,952	1 1	12,997	..
Skibbereen . .	14,703	2,348	17,051	11,555	9,207	3 1	1 2½	2 3½	8,247	1 8	3,197	..
<i>Co. Kerry.</i>												
Caherciveen . .	3,517	285	3,802	2,471	2,186	3 2½	1 2½	2 0½	2,593	2 1	..	97
Kenmare	..	4,603	4,603	3,696	..	3 2½	0 8½	2 11½	3,899	3 2	..	224
Killarney . . .	12,703	230	12,933	11,485	11,455	3 5½	2 6½	2 7½	12,445	2 10½	..	1,023
Listowel	13,784	975	14,759	11,494	10,519	3 1½	0 6½	2 4	13,617	2 9½	..	2,192
Trillick	448	17,068	17,516	14,693	..	3 8½	1 7	2 6½	13,279	2 3½	1,246	..
<i>Co. Limerick.</i>												
Kilmallock . . .	25,321	19,593	44,904	15,868	..	2 9½	1 10	1 9½	11,447	1 3½	4,429	..
Limerick	..	4,078	40,748	27,822	..	3 4½	1 2½	3 9	15,314	1 5½	13,256	..
Newcastle . . .	15,940	17,848	33,788	13,187	..	2 9	1 1½	2 5	19,401	3 7	..	6,170
Rathkale	18,603	16,448	35,056	14,651	..	2 11	1 2	2 1½	13,174	4 11	2,520	..
<i>Co. Tipperary.</i>												
Carrick-on-Suir .	9,585	411	9,996	3,142	7,787	2 7	0 9½	1 9½	4,525	1 0	5,466	..
Cashel	..	18,622	18,622	12,005	..	2 11½	0 9	1 10½	9,240	1 5	3,009	..
Clogheen	764	7,424	8,188	6,426	..	2 8½	0 4	2 0½	5,536	1 9	889	..
Clonmel	..	10,220	10,220	7,615	..	2 10	0 10½	1 8½	6,396	1 4½	1,215	..
Nenagh	..	23,817	23,817	13,917	..	3 0	1 7	2 6½	10,586	1 11	2,330	..
Roscrea	..	15,838	15,838	10,378	..	2 11½	1 1½	2 0½	6,308	1 3	4,031	..
Thurles	166,55	3,218	19,873	11,152	7,934	3 2½	0 6½	2 0½	9,923	1 9½	1,113	..
Tipperary	..	19,015	19,015	12,832	..	2 5	0 9½	1 6½	12,925	1 9	907	..
<i>Co. Waterford.</i>												
Dungarvan . . .	..	14,211	14,211	12,838	..	4 3	0 7½	2 7½	5,516	1 2	6,849	..
Lismore	7,779	75	7,854	7,096	7,021	3 0	1 3	2 2½	2,760	0 10½	4,233	..
Waterford	..	11,195	11,195	8,156	..	1 1	0 6	0 9½	6,758	0 8½	1,396	..
Total of Munster Province	285,836	351,313	637,149	637,149	..	..	..	..	310,014	..	..	..

Statement of the Collection of Poor Rate, and of the Expenses in each Union in Ireland, &c.—continued.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.												
Names of Unions and Counties.	Collection from Michaelmas to Lady-day last.								Expenses.		Difference between Collection and Expenses.	
	Amount of Rate struck between Michaelmas and Lady-day last.	Amount of Arrears of Rate, struck before Michaelmas last, remaining for Collection at Michaelmas last.	Total Amount of Rate in course of Collection within the Six Months, viz., the Old and the New Rate conjointly. (Col. 3 & 2)	Total Amount Collected of the Total Rate in course of Collection. (Col. 4.)	Amount Collected of the New Rate (Col. 2), exclusive of the Rate previously made. (Col. 3.)	Highest Amount per £. Collected in any Electoral Division of the Union during the Six Months.	Lowest Amount per £. Collected in any Electoral Division of the Union during the Six Months.	Average Amount per £. Collected on the whole Union during the Six Months.	Expenses of the Union for the Six Months.	Average Amount per £. of the Expenses of the Six Months on the whole Union.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.
<i>Co. Carlow.</i>												
Carlow	..	15,232	15,232	11,236	..	2 6	0 1	1 3	9,834	1 1½	1,401	..
<i>Co. Dublin.</i>												
Balrothery . . .	..	3,435	3,435	2,952	..	1 5½	0 0½	0 7½	2,800	0 7	150	..
Dublin, North . .	28,860	17,836	46,696	25,135	7,299	0 7½	0 3	1 4½	23,645	1 3½	1,478	..
Dublin, South . .	..	20,020	20,020	11,284	..	0 9½	0 2	0 4½	20,235	0 8½	..	8,932
Rathdown	..	6,754	6,754	5,219	..	1 6½	0 2½	0 7½	4,691	0 7½	225	..
<i>Co. Kildare.</i>												
Athy	1,257	10,715	11,972	7,067	..	1 11½	0 1½	1 3½	5,366	2 0½	1,274	..
Celbridge	6,256	718	6,974	3,686	3,068	1 9	0 4½	0 6½	1,076	0 3	1,741	..
Nuas	..	12,922	12,922	11,221	..	4 6	0 4½	1 7½	5,891	0 10½	6,289	..
<i>Co. Kilkenny.</i>												
Callan	..	11,192	11,192	7,304	..	2 7	0 2½	1 8½	6,352	1 6	954	..
Kilkenny	£8,261	2,284	30,545	19,590	17,306	2 6	0 7	1 6½	11,450	0 11½	7,682	..
<i>King's County.</i>												
Kilbeggan	40,701	217	4,918	4,179	3,962	1 2½	0 2½	0 10½	2,231	0 5½	2,008	..
Parsonstown . . .	..	15,257	15,257	9,665	..	2 9½	0 6½	1 9½	3,427	0 7½	6,228	..
Tullamore	..	9,578	9,578	7,791	..	2 11	0 5½	1 8½	6,343	1 5½	1,201	..
<i>Co. Longford.</i>												
Granard	12,140	3,026	15,166	7,271	4,245	2 10½	0 3½	1 8	4,442	1 0	2,840	..
Longford	15,738	9,400	25,138	6,204	..	1 4½	0 0½	0 11½	8,731	1 4½	..	2,510
<i>Co. Louth.</i>												
Ardee	2,887	7,824	10,711	8,505	681	3 2	0 9½	1 9½	6,024	1 3½	2,479	..
Drogheda	2,234	7,103	9,337	7,730	627	4 1½	0 5½	1 2	6,927	1 0	1,110	..
Dundalk	..	4,535	4,535	2,826	..	1 3½	0 2½	0 6½	3,299	0 7½	..	530
<i>Co. Meath.</i>												
Dunshaughlin . .	4,404	3,602	8,206	4,199	397	1 0	0 2	0 8½	4,111	0 8½	190	..
Kells	372	8,624	8,996	7,647	..	3 0½	0 3	1 2½	7,532	1 2½	..	238
Navan	8,526	1,524	10,050	5,654	4,130	2 0½	0 3	1 6½	5,950	1 2	..	514
Oldcastle	5,457	9,184	14,641	8,166	..	3 4½	0 5	2 0½	8,171	2 0½	6	..
Trim	..	3,491	3,491	3,396	..	2 8	0 1½	0 7	3,795	0 9	..	785
<i>Queen's County.</i>												
Abbeyleix	..	8,307	8,307	6,770	..	3 4	0 2	2 0½	5,370	1 7½	1,399	..
Mountmellick . .	..	12,294	12,294	8,222	..	4 4	0 1½	1 9½	9,450	2 1	..	1,228
<i>Co. Westmeath.</i>												
Athlone	14,896	3,518	18,444	3,354	598	1 0½	0 1½	0 7	3,269	0 7½	..	262
Mullingar	..	3,845	9,345	2,371	..	0 6½	0 0½	0 3	7,541	0 9½	..	5,175
<i>Co. Wexford.</i>												
Enniscorthy . . .	16,728	272	17,000	11,553	11,281	2 4	1 1½	1 9½	8,292	1 3½	3,263	..
Gorey	8,647	2,708	11,355	3,796	1,088	1 4½	0 3½	0 8½	4,022	0 10½	..	795
New Ross	..	18,146	18,146	11,341	..	2 10	1 3	2 0½	9,430	1 8½	1,911	..
Wexford	13,802	1,170	14,972	8,752	7,582	2 2½	0 5½	1 6½	4,787	0 10½	3,895	..
<i>Co. Wicklow.</i>												
Baltinglass . . .	..	4,286	4,286	3,887	..	1 11½	0 2	0 10½	3,783	0 10	313	..
Rathdrum	4,222	4,529	8,751	3,699	576	1 0½	0 0½	0 5	4,358	0 7	..	1,121
Shillelagh	4,447	91	4,538	3,465	3,374	2 0	0 2½	1 0½	2,228	0 8½	1,170	..
Total of Leinster Province . .	153,835	243,339	427,174	251,563	..	..	..	..	225,453	..	..	..

Statement of the Collection of Poor Rate, and of the Expenses in each Union in Ireland, &c.—*continued.*

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Names of Unions and Counties.	Collection from Michaelmas to Lady-day last.								Expenses.		Difference between Collection and Expenses.	
	Amount of Rate struck between Michaelmas and Lady-day last.	Amount of Arrears of Rate, struck before Michaelmas last, remaining for Collection at Michaelmas last.	Total Amount of Rate in course of Collection within the Six Months, viz., the Old and the New Rate conjointly. (Col. 3 & 2)	Total Amount Collected of the Total Rate in course of Collection. (Col. 4.)	Amount Collected of the New Rate (Col. 3), exclusive of the Rate previously made. (Col. 3.)	Highest Amount per £. Collected in any Electoral Division of the Union during the Six Months.	Lowest Amount per £. Collected in any Electoral Division of the Union during the Six Months.	Average Amount per £. Collected on the whole Union during the Six Months.	Expenses of the Union for the Six Months.	Average Amount per £. of the Expenses of the Six Months on the whole Union.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.
Column 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Co. Galway.</i>	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.
Ballinasloe . . .	..	25,004	25,004	15,613	..	2 10½	1 6½	2 0	4,144	0 6½	11,375	..
Clifden . . .	3,244	364	3,608	2,441	2,077	2 9½	1 7½	1 11	859	9	1,332	..
Galway . . .	9,004	5,512	14,516	6,461	949	2 11	0 8	1 3	9,106	1 10½	..	3,033
Gort . . .	7,947	2,349	10,296	2,475	126	4 1	3 8	0 10½	7,230	2 8½	..	4,920
Loughrea . . .	12,532	1,135	13,667	7,801	6,666	2 5	0 9	1 8½	4,490	1 0	3,398	..
Tuam . . .	..	6,081	6,081	4,619	..	1 4	0 11	1 1	4,523	1 0½	140	..
<i>Co. Leitrim.</i>												
Carriek-on-Shannon	8,918	3,209	12,127	3,852	643	1 8	0 7	1 4½	4,879	1 7	..	639
Manorhamilton . .	6,308	204	6,512	3,763	3,559	1 9½	1 1½	1 7	2,174	0 11½	1,584	..
Mohill . . .	7,309	1,711	9,020	3,776	2,065	3 2	0 1	1 2	3,964	1 3½	..	615
<i>Co. Mayo.</i>												
Ballina . . .	..	13,128	13,128	7,349	..	2 10½	0 5½	1 6½	11,082	2 3	..	3,733
Ballinrobe . . .	12,740	1,386	14,126	5,756	4,370	2 4	0 7	1 4½	11,142	2 7½	..	5,392
Castlebar . . .	9,210	706	9,916	2,483	1,777	1 8½	0 1½	0 11½	7,364	2 10½	..	4,681
Swineford . . .	7,182	3,336	10,518	2,342	176	1 7½	0 1	0 11	2,581	1 1½	..	496
Westport . . .	7,335	1,443	8,778	3,886	2,443	4 6½	0 4	1 10	7,929	4 1	..	4,337
<i>Co. Roscommon.</i>												
Boyle . . .	12,057	3,742	15,799	6,382	2,640	2 8½	0 5½	1 6	2,175	0 6	4,016	..
Castlerea . . .	..	17,249	17,249	9,046	..	2 6	0 7½	1 7½	3,846	0 8½	5,241	..
Roscommon . . .	2,033	13,585	15,618	9,244	8,545	3 4½	..	2 1	6,308	1 5½	2,615	..
<i>Co. Sligo.</i>												
Sligo . . .	8,778	23,995	32,773	13,986	..	3 7½	0 8	1 11½	10,433	1 6	13,585	..
Total of Connaught Province . . .	114,627	124,139	238,766	109,716	..	..	..	..	104,526	..	..	..

SUMMARY.

	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.
ULSTER . . .	214,930	115,489	330,419	201,804	..	..	..	..	140,216	..	..	..
MUNSTER . . .	285,836	351,313	637,149	398,271	..	..	..	..	310,014	..	..	..
LEINSTER . . .	183,835	243,339	427,174	251,563	..	..	..	..	225,453	..	..	..
CONNAUGHT . . .	114,627	124,139	238,766	109,716	..	..	..	..	104,526	..	..	..
Total of IRELAND .	799,228	834,280	1,633,508	961,354	..	..	..	..*	780,209	..	..	..
Total at close for previous Month . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

* The expenses of the six months were as follows:—

	£.
October	70,803
November	88,432
December	123,597
January	151,264
February	167,741
March	178,367

Total as above . . 780,209

P A P E R S

RELATING TO

PROCEEDINGS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE
DISTRESS,

AND

STATE OF UNIONS AND WORKHOUSES,

IN IRELAND.

SEVENTH SERIES—1848.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY ALEXANDER THOM, 87, ABBEY-STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1848.

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

PROCEEDINGS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS,

AND

STATE OF UNIONS AND WORKHOUSES,

IN IRELAND.

SEVENTH SERIES.—1848.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Miscellaneous.

Count STRZELECKI to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 31, 1848.*

I BEG to enclose, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, a statement showing the periods on which, according to the opinion of the Poor Law Inspectors, the relief to children should stop in their respective Unions.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT showing the date at which the Poor Law Inspectors recommend that the Relief to Children should be closed:—

Unions in which the relief is to be closed on the 20th August.			Unions in which the relief is to be closed on the 31st August.		
No.	Name of Unions.	Number of Children.	No.	Name of Unions.	Number of Children.
1	Ballina, ...	14,291	1	Boyle, ...	3,960
2	Belmullet, ...	3,683	2	Carrick-on-Shannon, ...	4,140
3	Ballinrobe, ...	7,023	3	Castlerea, ...	8,744
4	Ballyshannon, ...	8,185	4	Kilrush, ...	4,189
5	Bantry, ...	9,411	5	Listowel, ...	7,017
6	Cahiriveen, ...	2,614	6	Milford, ...	2,716
7	Castlebar, ...	4,858	7	Manorhamilton, ...	4,000
8	Clifden, ...	4,226	8	Roscommon, ...	2,117
9	Donegal, ...	5,955	9	Sligo, ...	8,000
10	Galway, ...	4,618	10	Dingle, ...	2,715
11	Glenties, ...	6,211			
12	Kenmare, ...	4,213			
13	Skibbereen, ...	19,141			
14	Swineford, ...	19,064			
15	Tuam, ...	4,640			
16	Westport, ...	8,380			
		126,513			
		47,598			
	Total number of children,	174,111			

Dublin, 31st July, 1848.

P. E. DE STRZELECKI.
B

Miscellaneous.

Mr. LLOYD, Chairman of the British Association for the Relief of Distress in Ireland and Scotland, to Count STRZELECKI:—*July 21, 1848.*

I AM specially instructed by the Committee of the British Association for the relief of distress in Ireland and Scotland, to transmit to you the enclosed resolutions. In discharging this duty, I feel it difficult to confine myself to the cold and measured language of official form. Having devoted an almost uninterrupted attention to the business of the Committee, I have had the means of observing and appreciating the value of the assistance which you have rendered to us from the commencement to the final termination of our proceedings, and which I am sure even the warm language of the resolutions does but imperfectly express.

No great length of time has elapsed since I came forward to certify your fitness to be admitted to the privileges of a British subject; I gave this testimony as a private individual, upon the knowledge which I then possessed of your character—and I did it with unhesitating confidence. But little did I then anticipate that I should so soon be called upon, in a more public capacity, to recognise the abundant proof which you have since afforded, that you possess those high moral qualities which the British public always holds in the greatest esteem; and at the same time to thank you for the valuable co-operation which you have rendered in carrying out one of the noblest efforts, which, even British generosity, has ever made for the relief of distress arising out of a most appalling national calamity.

You have indeed established the strongest claim upon the gratitude of the country which you have adopted. Long may you live to adorn it by your virtues, and to benefit it by the further services which you are capable of rendering to it.

I cannot express to you too strongly the respect and esteem which your conduct has created in the breast of every member of the Committee.

The resolutions which I transmit to you are a candid and honest expression of our united feeling on this subject. To these, let me add the assurance of the personal regard and admiration of your faithful servant and friend.

ENCLOSURE.

At a meeting of the Committee of the British Relief Association, held on Thursday, the 20th July, 1848, it was resolved unanimously—

That this Committee, on the occasion of bringing to a close their official intercourse with the Count P. E. de Strzelecki, feel that the services which he has rendered to the British Association, in their efforts for the relief of distress in Ireland, demand a peculiar and marked acknowledgment.

That the Committee recognise, with the deepest respect and gratitude, the noble spirit which induced Count Strzelecki to place his gratuitous services at their disposal, in the commencement of their proceedings, and the steady perseverance and moral resolution with which, during eighteen months, he has discharged duties involving great labour and anxiety, and a considerable degree of personal risk in carrying out the purposes of the Association; first, in some of the most distressed and desolate districts of Ireland, and subsequently in Dublin.

That the successful result which has attended the labours of the Committee; the grateful acknowledgments which they have received, as well from the gentry and clergy of all denominations in Ireland, as from the recipients of the bounty of the Association; and the full approbation of the measures of the Association, expressed by the Lord Lieutenant and the Government in England, have afforded to the Committee the greatest satisfaction; for which they feel that they are largely indebted to the very able and zealous assistance which they have received from the Count de Strzelecki.

That this Committee, whilst, tendering to Count Strzelecki this testimony of respect and gratitude, for services equally remarkable for their efficiency as for their disinterested character, cannot refrain from expressing their hope that the persevering energy, the correct judgment, and the varied capacity of usefulness of which he has afforded such abundant proof during his connexion with the British Association, may still be rendered available in some other form to his adopted country.

That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to Count de Strzelecki, by the chairman, on behalf of the Committee.

By order of the Committee,

S. J. LLOYD, *Chairman.*

*Committee-room, South Sea House,
July 21, 1848.*

Count STRZELECKI to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 25, 1848.*

THE Committee of the British Relief Association, in terminating their mission and labours in Ireland, could not separate without recording and passing unanimously a vote of thanks and acknowledgments to the Poor Law Inspectors, for the fine spirit with which they have volunteered their gratuitous services to superintend the relief afforded by the Association in the distressed districts; and for the ability and perseverance with which they have discharged that trust since October last, notwithstanding that, by the performance of this additional duty, they entailed upon themselves great personal labour and anxiety, and, from the peculiar nature of the charity dispensed, unavoidably exposed themselves in some instances to much personal hostility.

The Committee having directed me to express to the Poor Law Inspectors this grateful acknowledgment of theirs, I cannot do better than to lay the accompanying minute of resolutions before you, assured as I am that, as the head of the department which rendered such signal services to the subscribers to the fund, you will not only receive with satisfaction the testimony which the Committee offers to the efficiency and value of the officers whom you selected, but that by transmitting to them the vote of the Association, you will stamp that vote with authority, which will render it doubly valuable to them.

I gladly avail myself of this opportunity, afforded to me by the Committee's own acknowledgment, to offer in all sincerity mine to you and to your department, for the constant support and co-operation in the discharge of my duty as the executive officer of the Association, and to which I mainly attribute the successful operation of the measures adopted by them for the relief of distress in this country.

ENCLOSURE.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the British Relief Association, held on Thursday, the 20th July, 1848, it was resolved unanimously—

That this Committee is deeply sensible of its obligation to the Poor Law Inspectors, who volunteered their valuable services and assistance in administering the relief of the British Association in the more distressed Unions in the south and west of Ireland, and thus contributed by their local knowledge and personal superintendence to secure the judicious and efficient application of the funds of the Association.

That Count de Strzelecki be requested to express this feeling, on behalf of the Committee, to the Poor Law Inspectors; and at the same time to convey to them the grateful acknowledgments and thanks of the Committee.

By order of the Committee,

Committee-room, South Sea House,
July 21, 1848.

(Signed,) S. J. LLOYD, *Chairman.*

The COMMISSIONERS to Count STRZELECKI, in reply to the foregoing:—
July 27, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, enclosing a copy of a resolution passed on the 20th instant, by the Committee of the British Relief Association, in which the Committee record their obligation to the Poor Law Inspectors for their valuable services and assistance in administering the relief of the British Association in the more distressed districts in the south and west of Ireland.

The Commissioners have given directions for transmitting a copy of your letter, and of the resolution of the Committee, to each of the Poor Law Inspectors to whom the resolution refers; and the Commissioners do not doubt that the Inspectors will feel highly gratified by the flattering manner in which the Committee and yourself have been pleased to acknowledge their services.

At the same time, the Commissioners deem it right to express to you the high sense which the Commissioners entertain of the advantages which the Inspectors and the Commissioners have derived from the method, punctuality, zeal, and discrimination with which you have superintended the operations for the relief of the school children in the distressed districts. And the Commissioners are convinced that it must be a source of true and refined pleasure to your benevolent mind, to know that your exertions in behalf of the poor children have been attended with even more than that measure of success which could have been anticipated, considering the unfortunate circumstances in which the population of the south and west of Ireland have been placed during the last two years, by the total or partial failure of their accustomed food.

Miscellaneous.

The COMMISSIONERS to the TEMPORARY POOR LAW INSPECTORS of the UNIONS in which the RELIEF of the BRITISH ASSOCIATION was administered.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
July 29, 1848.*

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commissioners to transmit to you herewith a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Committee of the British Relief Association, held on Thursday, the 20th of July, 1848, in which the Committee record their obligation to you and the other Poor Law Inspectors who volunteered their valuable services and assistance in administering the relief of the British Association in the more distressed Unions in the south and west of Ireland; and in which they request Count Strzelecki to express this feeling to you on their behalf, and to convey to you their grateful acknowledgments and thanks.

The Commissioners likewise transmit to you herewith the copy of a letter of Count Strzelecki, dated the 25th instant, in which he expresses to you the feeling which the Committee entertain in reference to your valuable services, and conveys to you their acknowledgments and thanks in accordance with the resolution of the Committee.

The Commissioners feel much gratification in being the medium of communicating to you the Committee's resolution and Count Strzelecki's letter; and they have pleasure at the same time in signifying their concurrence with the opinion expressed in those documents, concerning the value of your services.

(Signed,)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

Sir CHARLES E. TREVELYAN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 31, 1848.*

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having had again under their consideration, the correspondence relative to the repayment of the advances made for the relief of distress in Ireland, under the authority of the 10th Vic. cap. 7, are pleased to give the following directions for your guidance:—

Their lordships will not insist upon any repayment being made which would entail the striking of a new rate before next harvest.

They however desire, that you will examine into the financial condition of such Unions as have balances in hand; and that you will direct the treasurers to pay to the Paymaster of Civil Services, such sums as are due from the several electoral divisions, or so much as can be paid without withdrawing funds which are indispensably required for the relief of the poor until next harvest.

With regard to the subsequent repayments I am to observe, that, under the arrangement of last autumn, by which repayment was to be made to the extent of the difference between the current poor-law expenditure, and the produce of a rate of not less than 3s. in the pound, in any electoral division, repayments have been made only to a small amount; and in many instances this has not been owing to the largeness of the amount required for the expenditure under the ordinary Poor Relief Acts, but has been caused either by no rates having been struck, or such only as, being under 3s. in the pound, left no room for the repayment of the advances.

My lords must require such rates to be struck in the ensuing season as will allow of repayment being duly made; and also, that the rates should be struck sufficiently early to admit of their being collected at the usual period after harvest, and of the repayment being at once made out of the produce of the rate.

It will be remembered that the advances were made under the Act 10 Vic. cap. 7, only upon the Board of Guardians having resolved to make a rate for the purposes of the Act, and the Inspector of the Union having certified to the Relief Commissioners that such resolution had been passed, and that to the best of his belief, the Guardians were proceeding with all possible despatch to make and levy such rate.

These terms were subsequently relaxed by permission being given, under the authority of the Act, to withdraw sums from the produce of the rate for the purpose of defraying the current expenses of the poor law.

In order to determine the amount to be repaid after next harvest by each

electoral division, some general rule must be laid down which will adapt itself to the various circumstances of those districts; and it has occurred to my lords, that the sum to be demanded from each electoral division, should in no case be less than the difference between the expense actually incurred in the maintenance of their poor from Michaelmas, 1847, to Lady Day, 1848, and the sum which would be raised by a rate of 3s. in the pound on such electoral division.

Their lordships, therefore, desire that you will report without delay, in reference to each electoral division, from which any repayments are due—

- 1st. The sum which a rate of 3s. in the pound will produce.
- 2nd. The expense which has been incurred in maintaining their poor from September, 1847, to March, 1848.
- 3rd. The difference between these two amounts.
- 4th. The sum remaining due.

CIRCULAR to BOARDS of GUARDIANS respecting the EXPENDITURE of the HALF-YEARS, ending 25th March, and 29th September, 1848, respectively.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
June 16, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners request that you will prepare with the least possible delay, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a statement of the expense incurred by the several electoral divisions of the Union, in maintaining the poor from the 29th September, 1847, to the 25th March, 1848, showing the amount per pound of such expense on the valuation of the divisions; also a statement of the estimated expense which will be incurred by the several electoral divisions of the Union in maintaining the poor from the 25th March, 1848, to the 29th September, 1848, showing the balance, if any, which will remain to the credit of the divisions out of the present rates, after defraying the estimated expense to the 29th September, 1848.

The Commissioners consider that the estimate required to be prepared by you in accordance with their circular letter of the 9th March last, will be of assistance to you in preparing the statements now required, and the Commissioners enclose duplicate forms in which you will make up the statements.

As regards the manner of calculating the expenses of the half-year ended 25th March, 1848, the Commissioners have reason to believe that in the usual monthly statements of expenses, the clerks of some few Unions have made up the returns of expenses not according to the expenses incurred (whether paid for or not), but according to the Treasurers' payments; thus making a return of payments instead of a return of expenses.

It is to be observed therefore, that the amount to be entered in cols. 4 to 8, is the actual expense incurred in maintaining the poor and keeping up the establishment from the 29th September, 1847, to the 25th March, 1848; accordingly, you will give the actual cost of in-door maintenance according to the collective days of the half-year, and likewise the actual cost of out-relief, according to the actual relief afforded; and these two items should agree exactly, or as nearly as possible, with the corresponding items to be entered in the abstracts of accounts for the half-year in question.

As regards the establishment and other charges for the half-year, the Commissioners wish you to state as nearly as possible the expenses actually incurred under those heads during the half-year, on the same principle as you make up the monthly return of expenses incurred, including officers' salaries, &c., whether paid or not within the half-year.

The Commissioners direct me to state, that the speedy preparation of this return is of much importance, and they request that you will apply yourself to its completion with the least possible loss of time, so that it may be received by the Commissioners within a fortnight.

(Signed,)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To the Clerk of each Union.

STATEMENT of the actual Expenditure for each Electoral Division of the Union for the Half-year from 29th September, 1847, from the 25th March to

Dr.

Dr.						
NAME OF EACH ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Actual Expenses incurred during the Half-year ended 25th March, 1948.			Estimated Amount of the Expenses which will probably be incurred during the Half-year ended 29th September, 1948.		
1.	Balances against the Electoral Division on the 30th September, 1947, representing the balance of the accounts for the Half-year ended 29th Sept., 1947.			On Account of In-Maintenance.		
2.	Net Amount of Establishment and other Debts (excluding Debts to Government not charged against the Divisions in the Accounts closing 29th September, 1947, and consequently not covered by the Government) in favour of the Electoral Division, as given in Columns 2 and 3.			On Account of Out-Relief.		
3.	On Account of Temporary Fever Hospital, chargeable to the Union at large.			On account of Establishment, Salaries, and all other Expenses actually incurred.		
4.	Total Expenses actually incurred during the Half-year, (Cols. 4 to 7.)			Amount per Pound on the Valuation, of the Total Expenses incurred during the Half-year, (Col. 8.)		
5.	On Account of In-Maintenance.			On Account of Out-Relief.		
6.	On Account of Temporary Fever Hospital, chargeable to the Union at large.			On Account of Temporary Fever Hospital, chargeable to the Union at large.		
7.	On Account of Establishment, Salaries, and all other Expenses likely to be incurred during the Half-year.			Total Expenses likely to be incurred during the Half-year, (Cols. 10 to 12.)		
8.	Amount per Pound on the Valuation, of the Total Expenses likely to be incurred during the Half-year, (Col. 13.)			Total Expenditure, actual and estimated, for the year ending 29th September, 1948, (Cols. 2 and 4.)		
9.	Amount per Pound on the Valuation, of the Total Expenditure, of the year, (Col. 14.)			Total Amount of Cols. 2, 3, and 10, being the Amount of Rate which would be required to cover the Debts due at the beginning of the year, (Col. 2), and the Expenditure of the year, (Col. 10.)		
10.	Amount per Pound on the Valuation, of the Amount of Rate required, (Col. 15.)					
11.	Total Union					

NOTE.—The Expenditure, actual and estimated, on account of Paupers chargeable to the Union at large is to be included in the several columns
NOTE ON COLUMN 8.—The Clerk is particularly requested to make out the Statement of the actual Expenses of the Half-year ended 25th March, with reference only to the actual cost of Maintenance and Relief, and the actual Establishment Expenses, Salaries, and other Expenses incurred during will be calculated in the same manner as for the Monthly Return of Expenses, viz.:—according to the cost of Clothing and Bedding, Medicine, Furniture, Repairs completed, including additional Buildings.

CIRCULAR to BOARDS of GUARDIANS respecting the LEVYING OF RATES.

Miscellaneous.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
1848.

SIR,

WITH reference to the rates next to be levied in Union, the Commissioners desire to acquaint the Guardians concerning the sums due on account of advances made by the Relief Commissioners in 1847, on the credit of the rates, that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury require that such rates should be made in the ensuing season as will allow of repayment being duly made, wholly or in part, and that the rates should be made sufficiently early to admit of their being collected at the usual period after harvest, and of the repayment being at once made out of the produce of the rates.

It will be remembered that the advances were made under the Act 10 Vic., cap. 7, only upon the Board of Guardians having resolved to make a rate for the purposes of the Act, and the Inspector of the Union having certified to the Relief Commissioners that such resolution had been passed, and that, to the best of his belief, the Guardians were proceeding with all possible despatch to make and levy such rate.

The sum to be demanded from each electoral division, in the rate after harvest, is to be regulated by the amount of expenses actually incurred in the maintenance of the poor from Michaelmas, 1847, to 25th March, 1848.

If the entire debt of any electoral division to the Relief Commissioners, added

Captain WYNNE'S REPORT:—*May 8, 1848.*

THIS poor woman was found dead in a ditch, into which it is supposed she fell from exhaustion on her return from the relief depot, where she had procured about a quarter stone of oatmeal from the paupers. She no doubt came by her death as stated in the verdict; and her husband and children, I fear, are likely to follow, as he will not give up the land he holds, *twelve acres, and the run of the mountain.* I find that no application was made by or on behalf of this family till after the inquest on deceased, and that then, in consideration of the extreme destitution of the parties, the relieving officer offered them a ticket for the house, although the father would not give up the land.

This case is certainly one of the worst I have met with. I do not think the family can hold out much longer; and yet the father will neither conform to the law, and entitle himself to relief, nor will he accept the workhouse, if we offered it. It is difficult to manage such cases, and they are by no means uncommon.

COPY POLICE REPORT received from the Under Secretary for Ireland, 29th April, 1848.

(Westport Union.)

County of Mayo, Westport, April 15, 1848.

AN inquest was held on the body of Michael Brady, who died in the Westport Union.

Copy of Verdict.—"Died from starvation."

Inspector-General.

DENIS WALSH, Q. S. I.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. LYNCH:—*May 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which they have received from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a poor man in the Westport Union, named Michael Brady; and I am to request that you will have the goodness to make such inquiry into the circumstances as may enable you to report to the Commissioners as to the facts of the case; and especially whether the deceased made application for relief either to the Vice-Guardians of the Westport Union, to the workhouse master, or to any of the relieving officers.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of WESTPORT UNION:—*May 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a copy of a communication which they have received from the Under Secretary's office, relating to the decease of a poor man in the Westport Union, named Michael Brady; and I am to request that the Commissioners may be furnished with the observations of the Vice-Guardians of the Westport Union thereon.

Mr. LYNCH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 9, 1848.*

IN accordance with the directions contained in your letter of the 1st instant, I made inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of a poor man, named Michael Bradley, *not Brady*, and I find that he died from want. He resided in the townland of Creganrue, in the electoral division of Louisburgh. He held two or three acres of land, and, therefore, never applied to the relieving officer for assistance; but left his home for the purpose of begging, and died on the side of the road, within two miles of the town of Westport. His wife, with one infant, have since abandoned the holding at Creganrue, and are gone to live at a place called Derrygorriff, in the same electoral division, and are now receiving out-door relief.

Mr. Carroll, the relieving officer of Louisburgh, reports that there are several families in the most urgent distress, who being holders of land are excluded from relief; that several of these persons have sold their beds and clothing to enable them to purchase seed for the land, and are now actually starving; but still are unwilling to abandon their little farms. I may add, that such cases are not peculiar to Louisburgh, but are to be found in almost every district in the Union.

Miscellaneous.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS of the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*May 10, 1848.*

THE Vice-Guardians have directed the relieving officers to be questioned on the subject; but such a person is not known by any of the relieving officers.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON :—*May 13, 1848.*

WITH reference to the communication referred to the Commissioners on the 29th ultimo, relating to the death of a poor man named Michael Bradley, in the Westport Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to transmit herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a report which the Commissioners have received from Mr. Lynch, Poor Law Inspector for the Westport Union, on the subject.

OBSERVATIONS of Mr. BOURKE, on the Report of Mr. LYNCH :—*May 17, 1848.*

“THERE have been two cases of death in the neighbourhood of Westport “since my arrival, under circumstances such as those alluded to by Mr. Lynch.”

CASE for OPINION of The Right Honourable the ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

IT is provided by the 10th section of the 10 Vict. c. 31, “that no person “who shall be in the occupation of any land of greater extent than the quarter of “a statute acre, shall be deemed and taken to be a destitute poor person, under “the provisions of the first recited Act, 1 & 2 Vict. c. 56, or of the Acts amending “the same, or of this Act.” It is further provided by the same section that “if “any person so occupying more than the quarter of a statute acre shall apply for “relief, or if any person on his behalf shall apply for relief, it shall not be lawful “for any Board of Guardians to grant such relief within or out of the workhouse “to any such person.”

By the 54th section of the 1 & 2 Vict. c. 56, it is provided, “that all relief “given under this Act to a wife or child shall be considered as given to the person “declared by this Act to be liable to maintain such wife or child,” and a similar provision is contained in the 8th section of the 10 Vict. c. 31.

The 10 & 11 Vict. c. 84, repeals so much of the 1 & 2 Vict. c. 56 as provides for the punishment of persons deserting their wives and children, but enacts “that every person who shall desert or wilfully neglect to maintain his “wife or any child whom he may be liable to maintain, so that such wife or child “shall become destitute, and be relieved in or out of the workhouse of any Union “in Ireland, shall, on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace, be com- “mitted to the common gaol or house of correction, there to be kept to hard labour “for any time not exceeding three calendar months.”

On the 15th April last an inquest was held in the county of Leitrim on the body of a woman named Wabby M'Sweeney, and the jury returned a verdict to the effect, that “she came by her death from want of the common necessities of “life, and exposure to the inclemency of the weather.” It was stated at the same time, that “the deceased and her family were in great distress, but could not “obtain relief,” as her husband would not give up twelve acres of land.

Inquiry has been made by the Inspector of the Union in which the woman died, in order to ascertain the truth of this statement, and he has confirmed it; and stated at the same time “that the woman's husband and her children are “not likely long to survive her, as the man will not give up the land he holds.”

The Commissioners regard the conduct of the parent in this case as a neglect to maintain his children, and they would, if justified by the law in its present state, recommend the Guardians to relieve the children, and prosecute the father under the section cited from the Vagrant Act.

The Commissioners are desirous of receiving your opinion :

First. Whether the Board of Guardians could legally afford the children of this man relief, either in or out of the workhouse.

Secondly. Whether he can be prosecuted for neglecting to maintain them if they are received into the workhouse, or otherwise relieved from the poor rates.

The above QUERIES have already been submitted to Mr. Jonathan Henn, and the following is his opinion thereon :—

First. I think they can, *in* the workhouse if there be room for them, or *out of it* if there be not, if they are in a state of destitution as above described. I do not think the retention of the land by the father will make it illegal to relieve them; but

Secondly. If the father, notwithstanding his possession of the land, is really unable to maintain the children, I do not think he could be properly convicted under the 10 and 11 Vict. c. 84, s. 2.

15th May, 1848,
16, Upper Merrion-street.

(Signed,)

J. HENN.

I concur with Mr. Henn in the above opinion. It would not be possible to convict the father for neglecting to maintain the children, considering his refusal to give up his land as such neglect.

But I think, notwithstanding the father's refusal to give up the land, that his children are proper objects for relief.

20th May, 1848.

(Signed,)

J. H. MONAHAN.

CIRCULAR LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to BOARDS of GUARDIANS.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
May 23, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners have been informed that the families of persons occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land suffer in some cases very great privation, in consequence of the head of the family refusing to give up the occupation of any part of such land, and being therefore not entitled to receive relief under the provisions of 10 Vict. c. 31, s. 10.

The Commissioners have resorted to legal advice on this subject, and I am directed to state, that such members of the family of a person holding more than a quarter of an acre of land as may be destitute, can legally be relieved in the workhouse of the Union, or if the workhouse be full, the Guardians may relieve them out of the workhouse, if an order of the Poor Law Commissioners, authorizing the relief of such persons out of the workhouse, under the 2nd section of the Act, be in operation in the Union in which they reside.

The Commissioners desire at the same time to point out, that the provisional power given to relieving officers, under sec. 7 of the Relief Extension Act, applies to every class of destitute persons in all cases of sudden and urgent necessity, whether the parties be or be not relievable out of the workhouse by the Board of Guardians, in virtue of any order of the Poor Law Commissioners issued under the 2nd section of the Extension Act.

It is not to be understood, however, from the above observations, that a person occupying more than a quarter of an acre is himself relievable either in or out of the workhouse.

I am to desire that you will call the immediate attention of the Board of Guardians to the contents of this circular, and to the necessity of their at once giving instruction to the relieving officers of the Union accordingly.

(Signed,)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To the Clerk of each Union.

FURTHER CIRCULAR LETTER from the COMMISSIONERS to BOARDS of GUARDIANS.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
June 8, 1848.*

SIR,

ADVERTING to their circular of the 23rd ultimo, concerning the relief which may legally be afforded from the poor rates to the destitute wives and children of persons occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland direct me to state, that, having reason to believe that some misapprehension exists as to the precise nature of the modifications which the law, as explained in that circular may introduce into the administration of relief, they desire to make the following observations:—

The only practical difference which that circular need make in the administra-

Miscellaneous.

tion of relief is, that Boards of Guardians and relieving officers should not permit the wife or child of a person occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land to die of starvation, or to suffer extreme privations, because the husband or father (as the case may be) refuses to qualify himself for relief, by ceasing to occupy more than such quarter of an acre. But it would be an entire perversion of the meaning of the law, and of the language and meaning of the circular, to give relief systematically and indiscriminately to the wives and children of persons occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land, when the legislature has expressly declared that such occupiers are not to be deemed destitute.

If such occupiers are really able to maintain their wives and families, Boards of Guardians have exactly the same remedy under the Irish Vagrant Act, (10 & 11 Vict. c. 84), against them, as against a person in employment with high wages, who "deserts or wilfully neglects to maintain his wife or any child whom he may be liable to maintain, so that such wife or child shall become destitute, and be relieved in or out of the workhouse of any Union in Ireland." Under that Act any such occupier may be prosecuted for wilfully neglecting to maintain his wife or child, and he "shall, on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace, be committed to the common gaol, or house of correction, there to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding three calendar months."

It is true that Boards of Guardians have no adequate protection against a person who, although he persists in occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land, is so poor that he cannot be said, in the legal sense of the words, wilfully to neglect to maintain his wife or child, and who yet is practically the cause of the destitution of such wife or child, by his refusing to bring himself within the conditions through which he would be entitled by law to relief. The Guardians will be thus exposed to numerous attempts at imposition, which can only be successfully met by patient inquiry and discrimination on the part of themselves and of relieving officers. At the same time it is to be remembered that Boards of Guardians are now deemed to be in a position which will enable them to save an innocent wife or child from death by starvation, arising from the obstinacy of a husband or father; and means are thus afforded for the better securing an object, which must be regarded as the principal aim of every poor law, viz., the preservation of human life.

(Signed,) W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To the Clerk of each Union.

CIRCULAR to CLERKS of GUARDIANS respecting the persons relieved, whose husband or father occupies more than a quarter of an acre of land.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
July 5, 1848.*

SIR,

IN reference to the legal construction of the 10th section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, adverted to in the circular letters of the 23rd May and 8th June respectively, the Commissioners desire to be furnished with precise information of the circumstances of every case in which the wife or child of a person occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land shall have received, or shall hereafter receive, relief in or out of the workhouse.

A form of return, on which such information is to be entered, is enclosed herewith; and the entries should be made in the order of date in which the several cases have occurred.

You will have the goodness to bring this subject before the Board of Guardians immediately, and apply for a direction of the board to each of the relieving officers to afford you such assistance in the preparation of the return as they may be enabled to give in reference to the cases which have arisen in their respective districts.

The Commissioners will cause such a supply of printed sheets in the form annexed to be sent for your use, as you may from time to time inform them are required for making and keeping up the return of the cases in question.

(Signed,) W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To the Clerk of the Union.

FORM OF REPORT.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Date on which Relief was first afforded.	Name of Person relieved.	Name of the Husband or Parent.	Townland in which the Husband or Parent resides.	Electoral Division in which the Townland is situate.	Extent of Land in the occupation of the Husband or Parent.	Present state of the Land, how cropped, &c.	Other known property or means of livelihood of Husband or Parent.	Nature of the order made.	Weekly Cost of Relief ordered.	Other circumstances of the case, showing especially the grounds on which the Guardians or Paid Officers deemed it necessary to afford Relief.

Signed this

day of

1848.

Clerk of the Union.

CIRCULAR as to the QUANTITY of FOOD to be allowed to ABLE-BODIED MEN RECEIVING OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,**May 5, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the subject of the quantity of food to be allowed to able-bodied men receiving out-door relief, on the condition of their being employed eight hours a-day, at least, in breaking stones, or other suitable employment.

The Central Board of Health having been consulted by the Commissioners on this important point, have stated their opinion that one pound of meal is not sufficient for an able-bodied man who is required to work.

The Commissioners of the Board of Health have further stated, in reply to the inquiries of the Commissioners, that the daily allowance to an able-bodied man, required to work for eight or ten hours each day, should be not less than $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of raw meal, or $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of baked bread—a scale which they state may be considered applicable to the daily ration of oat-meal, Indian corn-meal, or wheaten-meal.

The Commissioners have deemed it right to inform the Boards of Guardians of those Unions in which out-door relief is afforded to able-bodied men, of the opinion of the Board of Health on this point, with a view to assist them in the proper exercise of their important function of determining the amount of relief to be afforded in individual cases of destitution.

(Signed,)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.**To the Clerk of the**Union.*

CIRCULAR prescribing a FORM of WORKHOUSE VACCINATION REGISTER.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,**May 18, 1848.*

SIR,

ADVERTING to their circular of 19th ultimo, relating to the supply of virus for the vaccination of inmates of workhouses who require vaccination, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that the Directors of the Cow-pock Institution have expressed their desire to be furnished with an annual report of the numbers vaccinated in each workhouse, the periods adopted for the inspection of the several cases, and such other information concerning vaccination as the medical officers of the workhouses may be able to communicate, which it is considered would materially assist in affording important information as to the progress of vaccination.

The Commissioners accordingly transmit herewith a form of register in which the requisite particulars may be recorded; and the Commissioners request that the medical officer of the workhouse may be supplied with a book, in the accom-

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panying form, and be instructed to register therein every case of vaccination by him in the workhouse, in any Union where the Guardians subscribe to the Cow-pock Institution for the supply of vaccine virus.

The Commissioners also request that a return containing a summary of the cases thus registered may be furnished annually to this office, immediately after 25th March.

(Signed,)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.**To the Clerk of each Union.*

REGISTER OF INOCULATIONS.

Workhouse. Year 18 .

No.	Date of Vaccination.	Name of Person Vaccinated.	Age.			Appearance of the Arm.			Remarks.
			Years.	Months.	Days.	8th day.	12th day.	Crust.	

CIRCULAR as to the preparatory steps to be taken in Unions where OUT-DOOR RELIEF to ABLE-BODIED POOR PERSONS shall be DISCONTINUED.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
July 31, 1848.*

SIR,

As the period of harvest is approaching, when all orders of the Commissioners authorizing relief out of the workhouse under the 2nd section of the Irish Relief Extension Act will be discontinued, the Commissioners are desirous of calling the attention of all Guardians of Unions wherein any such order is now in force, to the preparatory steps which it is advisable to adopt at the present time.

It is to be observed, that the number of able-bodied persons and their families now in the workhouses of such Unions, are a very considerable proportion of the whole; and as in the period which will intervene between the issuing of the present circular and the harvest, a great diminution in the number of inmates may be expected to arise, by persons of this class leaving the workhouse, the course which the Commissioners recommend is, that so soon as inmates begin of their own accord to quit the workhouse, the vacant room should be made available, by offering admission to persons on the out-relief lists in cases where it appears doubtful whether such persons will longer require relief.

The Guardians will not hesitate, in cases where it is clear that persons may obtain employment, or that they will be otherwise in possession of resources, to discharge them absolutely from the relief lists, whether receiving relief in or out of the workhouse.

The Commissioners leave the period at which these reductions may be safely and properly effected to the discretion of the Guardians, requesting them, however, to bear in mind that the extensive relief afforded in rations at this season of the last year underwent a gradual reduction from the 4th July, and was brought to a close in the majority of Unions throughout Ireland, on the 15th August.

(Signed,)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.**To the Clerk to the Board of Guardians**Union.*

CIRCULAR to BOARDS OF GUARDIANS as to COLLECTORS' BONDS.

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
August 7, 1848.*

SIR,

THE Commissioners have had under consideration the superior progress which has been made in the collection of poor rates in Unions in which the

collectors were bound to collect the rates within a limited time; and being anxious to secure generally, a proper discharge of the duties of the office of collector of poor rate, they request the Guardians before issuing a warrant for the collection of any new rate in Union, to bind each collector to collect the amount within such a term (to be specified in the bond), as shall at the time appear to be sufficient for the performance of the duty; and in no case to receive a bond according to the more general form, allowing an unlimited time for the collection.

To effect this object, it will be necessary to have new bonds executed, in case of a present collector being appointed to collect a new rate.

There are several instances in which the greater part of a rate has been efficiently collected within three months.

A form of bond to be used is herewith enclosed. Additional forms may be obtained on application to Mr. Thom, 87, Abbey-street, Dublin.

(Signed,) W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

To the Clerk of Union.

CIRCULAR to BOARDS of GUARDIANS respecting the CROPS.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
August 14, 1848.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, that they will be much obliged to the Guardians of your Union, if they will be so good as to furnish answers to the questions herewith enclosed, concerning disease in the potato crops.

The Commissioners will be glad at the same time to receive information from the Guardians respecting the condition of the other crops in the Union.

(Signed,) W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

The Clerk to the Guardians Union.

ENCLOSURE.

1. Has the potato disease re-appeared in your Union?
2. If yes, in how many electoral divisions, and in which has it appeared?
3. In what electoral divisions has it not appeared?
4. What proportion of the crop has been affected in each electoral division in which the disease has appeared?
5. For how many months' consumption would the healthy portion of the crop supply food?
6. What proportion of the potato crop on the workhouse land is found diseased?

AGRICULTURAL CROPS, IRELAND, 1848.

CIRCULAR OF INQUIRY, TO POOR LAW INSPECTORS.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
August 9, 1848.

SIR,

THE Commissioners request that you will transmit to them at the close of the present week (by the post which will reach Dublin on Monday next), a concise statement of the present appearance of the potato crop in each electoral division, so far as you shall have had an opportunity of personal inspection; also of the appearance of the other crops of human food, stating whether the extent of the latter is considered to be as great, or greater, or less, than usual in the Union.

(Signed,) W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

PERMANENT INSPECTORS' REPORTS ON DISTRICTS OF UNIONS.

Counties of Antrim, Down, parts of Armagh and Londonderry—Mr. Senior:—
August 12, 1848.

Almost the whole potato crop in the north has, during the past week, become affected with disease. With favourable weather, hope may be entertained that a considerable portion may yet be saved. The oat crop is a good one, and has not suffered from the late rains. The wheat crop, on the contrary, is a light one.

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Counties of Mayo and Galway—Mr. R. Bourke:—August 12, 1848.

I have not left the Ballina Union during the whole of this week; but in my progress through various parts of the Union, inspecting the arrangements for administering relief, I have examined attentively into the condition of the potato crop, and have been much concerned to see the progress made by the disease within the last six or seven days. Within this period, the general appearance of the crop has entirely altered, and fields which a week ago were healthy now show every sign of decay. I fear that more than one-half of the potato crop in this Union has already suffered, and I greatly fear the progress of the disease will not be soon arrested. It is difficult to say whether the tuber is so much affected that it cannot be expected to afford wholesome food, but it seems quite certain that even supposing the disease not to extend to the tuber, and that the potato should keep as well as it has done during the past year, yet that the effect produced of checking the growth of the plant before the tubers have come to maturity, will so diminish the quantity of food that the calculations framed at an earlier period will prove quite erroneous.

Farmers are generally digging fast, and potatoes in Ballina market are selling for between 3*d.* and 4*d.* a stone.

The weather has become favourable for the last week, and the corn crops are looking well.

Counties of Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow—Mr. J. Burke:—August 12, 1848.

I regret having to report that the disease in the potato crop has progressed very much during this week, the withered leaves and stalks emitting an unpleasant smell, caused by their advancing to a state of decomposition; at the same time I have remarked that in many instances although a field appears to be greatly damaged, the very next one to it, or even parts of the same field, may be affected in but a trifling degree.

The potatoes brought to market seem to be sound and healthy; and from all I can learn, but few of them exhibit any marks of the disease.

My observations this week apply to the country extending from Enniscorthy to Wexford, and from the latter to Shillelagh, county of Wicklow, by Gorey, Carnew, and Collatin.

Counties of Roscommon, Longford, and Leitrim—Mr. Flanagan:—August 13, 1848.

Having visited, during the past week, three different Unions in the county of Roscommon—Castlereagh, Boyle, and Roscommon—and traversed a considerable extent of country, I regret to state that I observed a very great appearance of the potato blight, and that in places where last week a trace of it was hardly observable.

In the neighbourhood of Longford the disease has likewise made considerable advance.

In the Unions of Mohill and Carrick-on-Shannon, both of which I likewise visited during the week, the disease has shown itself very generally.

Though the blight is, I now believe, general, and affects the entire crop in a greater or less degree, I see no reason for changing the opinion I expressed in my former reports on this subject, that the disease is of a modified type, and that by far the larger proportion of the "tubers" is still uninjured.

The reports I have uniformly received from the most experienced and practical farmers confirm this view.

Counties of Londonderry, Donegal, Sligo, parts of Tyrone and Leitrim—Mr. Otway:—August 15, 1848.

I regret to have to state, that the potato fields in the portions of my district I passed this last week almost universally presented appearances of disease in the stalks, especially about Castlederg; and the blight has rapidly extended during the last ten days; but its effect is much more apparent on the forward and early planted potatoes, than on the late planted potatoes; and as almost the entire crop was planted much earlier this year than usual, I still hope that the main crop has been so far advanced, and was in such a state of maturity

when the stalks were blighted, that no material injury will take place; and I am strengthened in this hope by finding the potatoes dry in the fields where the stalks are completely blasted, well-formed, and healthy. Some intelligent farmers I have spoken to, however, fear that the potatoes will not keep. The potatoes in bog and moory land look much better than those in rich upland, or low loamy soils.

When I compare the state I saw the potatoes themselves in this time two years, and the state of those I now get dug, and see in the markets, I am led to believe that any failure this year will be comparatively very light.

*Counties of Cavan, Fermanagh, Monaghan, parts of Tyrone and Louth—
Mr. Barron:—August 16, 1848.*

I have to report progress with reference to the state of the crops in my district, and more particularly the potato crop, which is the food of the generality of the people of Ireland.

With regard to the potato crop, I am of opinion that up to this period the disease is still partial. In the county of Tyrone, where I was last week, I saw as fine fields of potatoes as I have seen for many years; and although the stalks in some fields were blighted and beginning to wither, still it was but partial. Not so, however, in the counties of Monaghan and Cavan, where the disease is evidently extending. It appears that the stalk begins to wither when it has attained a certain growth; but up to the time I write I understand that the potato itself is not injured. The potatoes having been sown this year earlier than usual, the impression is, that the greater part of the crop will be still available—and in all probability, available for human food until the 1st of February or March.

Potatoes are now selling in some parts of this district from 2d. to 4d. the stone, and these of good quality.

The wheat crop, as I have already stated in my previous reports, is light, and I fear, not of good quality. The barley and oat crops are good, and the latter more than an average one; and the flax and hay crops are very heavy.

Upon the whole, I do not despair of the prospects of the approaching harvest; and should the weather clear up, I have no doubt that—with the assistance of Divine Providence—it will be at least an average one.

*Counties of Meath, Westmeath, Kildare, Dublin, Wicklow—Captain Huband:—
August 17, 1848.*

The samples of potatoes herewith forwarded have been dug by myself from out of fields wherein no plant which I could see had escaped from blight and black spotted leaves. I selected the very worst-looking plants from which to remove the tubers; they are all perfectly sound, but have not yet arrived at their full period of ripeness.

The field from which I selected specimen A is in the Rathdown Union. The leaves and stems of the plants are so much blighted that they are being pulled up by order of the proprietor. These potatoes (cups) were planted upon the 5th of April after lea oats, from seed grown upon the same estate in 1847.

B C and D are from Celbridge Union. The leaves and stems of the plants from which these were taken are all blighted—I selected the worst specimens. A, cup potato, was planted upon the 15th of April, upon farm-yard manure, after lea oats, the seed was Scotch. B, Irish lump, planted upon lea, 20th April. C, French seed from Normandy, planted on the 1st of June, upon compost of garden refuse and stable dung, in old garden ground.

All these specimens are sound, and if there were a week or two of fine weather I am certain that these crops would be saved, but if the weather continues wet they will go.

These specimens have been dug this week. I have not seen any field free from blight.

Counties of Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, &c.—Mr. Hancock:—August 18, 1848.

I have the honour to report I last week attended the meeting of the Guardians at Kilmallock and Rathkeale, in the county of Limerick. Having observed the potato fields, the stalks appeared covered with withered leaves. One very large field of thirty acres belonging to John Croker, Esq., of Ballinagard, appeared a

Miscellaneous.

few weeks ago most luxuriant, and on passing last week appeared black, and the leaves all nearly gone.

Mr. Croker assured me at that time the potatoes were not then diseased, as he had carefully examined many parts of the field.

This week I have been to Ennistymon, thus passing through a portion of the county Clare. The potato fields present the same appearance of withered leaves, and I was assured at Ennistymon that no doubts existed of the taint of the tubers.

I yesterday visited the potato market at Limerick; there was a very large supply in the market, selling at about 4*d.* per stone of 14 lbs. I examined a number of the cart-loads, and in every instance discovered the taint upon the skin of the tubers, in some instances extending about one-sixteenth of an inch deep, and extending over the surface about one-third of the tuber. The general impression with the Guardians of this Union at their meeting on Wednesday—and a very large number of Guardians attended—was, that no doubt existed as to the commencement of the blight; but as to the quantity likely to be attacked, or the amount of food likely to be available, no possible calculation could at present be formed; the weather has been so remarkably wet and unfavourable, and the disease of that nature as to be as little understood by the practical growers of the potatoes as on the first year of the attack of blight. The various opinions canvassed as to what is best to be done to preserve what may yet be untainted—many parties recommend pulling the stalks and earthing up the tubers, others suggest cutting off the tainted stalks only; but, in fact, none of the practical farmers have any decided opinion upon the question.

The wheat in many parts looks well, and is all standing, but there does not appear to be much ripening going forward from the want of sun and dry weather. The oats in some parts good, in others very thin, but all suffering from wet. The barley would be a very good crop if the weather was at all favourable.

Some fields of turnips and mangel look remarkably fine, and the grass lands everywhere good, and plenty of grass. Those fields intended for hay, however, are suffering sadly.

Dr. Phelan:—August 12, 1848.

I regret that my report on the potato crop this week must be more unfavourable than heretofore. From Cork to Mallow the crop looks pretty fair; but several fields exhibited signs of the disease, at least the stalks were becoming prematurely withered. From Mallow to Kanturk, all the early sown fields have become withered, and as I was informed the potato itself in several shows the disease; in several fields the seed did not grow. All around Kanturk the disease has made more progress than in any district that I have gone through. The land is high, generally, the soil retentive and moist, and the cultivation very inferior. Partly perhaps from these circumstances, the crop wherever sown looks badly; much of the seed has missed, and a considerable proportion of the fields shows but feeble stalks, and of course can afford but a small produce: beside, there is not only an appearance of the disease in every field early sown, but the potatoes are actually diseased in them; and although not in large proportion, it is certain that in many fields the root has ceased to grow, and a small produce may be expected.

In this district, and as far as Broadford, about ten miles towards Newcastle, even the late sown crop is becoming withered; and from this it is naturally apprehended that this important portion of the crop will be inconsiderable. It is to be feared that this district will suffer much from the loss of this crop.

I went into several fields along the foregoing line, saw the potatoes dug, and saw that the disease actually existed, although not to so great an extent in some fields as was represented to me.

A respectable-looking Roman Catholic clergyman stated in my presence in the board-room, that a Mr. M'Sweeny, residing about five miles from Kanturk, on the road to King-William's-town, had a large potato field the crop of which was entirely destroyed. Wishing to test this statement I went to the field, the stalks of which were withered; but I learned that the family had only dug a few on the previous day, and that there was not much disease in them, as was proved by having some dug, which I brought to Kanturk.

From Broadford to Newcastle the crop looks much better, the stalks more luxuriant and less free from withering. But even here it is stated that the disease exists, and the quantity sown is much less in proportion than in the other district. I saw none however on this line.

TEMPORARY INSPECTORS' REPORTS.

Ballina Union—Mr. W. J. Hamilton :—August 12, 1848.

I have the honour to acquaint you that the potato disease has made considerable progress in every electoral division in my district since the beginning of August. As yet it has chiefly shown itself in the tops; the potatoes, which are of a tolerable size, having escaped with very few exceptions. I trust, therefore, that a large amount of food will be available for consumption; but whether it will keep sound for any time is very questionable.

The appearance of the crop is precisely the same as I remember it this time two years. In Belmullet and Binghamstown electoral divisions the smell of decomposed vegetable matter is very offensive. I perceived the same smell slightly in three electoral divisions which I visited to-day. I have no doubt that it will be general throughout the district by the middle of next week.

I believe that I have always under-estimated the extent of this unfortunate crop. There are no means at my disposal for obtaining any thing like an accurate estimate; but from all accounts I think it cannot be far short of three-fourths of the quantity planted in prosperous years.

Wheat and oats have never been extensively grown in this district; I think there is considerably less than usual this year. What there is looks well; but, generally speaking, neither crop would bear comparison with that grown in other counties in Ireland. This may be attributed to the exhausted state of the land. The same may be said of barley, of which there is about the usual quantity.

The turnip crop is not nearly so extensive as last year. There have been some partial failures; but wherever any pains have been taken, the crop looks well.

The Society of Friends have 500 Irish acres cultivated; a considerable portion of which is under green crops. They have in addition fifty acres of flax. The former is very much scattered through the Union.

I think that if the potatoes will keep, the quantity of human food will be fully as great as in former years, as the turnip crop will more than make up for any deficiency in other crops.

P.S.—I annex the reports which I have received from the relieving officers for this week.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. MONNELLY to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 9, 1848.*

Kilfian.

I beg leave to inform you that since my last report the blight in the potato crop has increased very much in my district—so much, that scarcely a stalk has escaped. I am of opinion that before many days the stalks will be all gone. The grain and turnip crops are going on well, with the exception made in my last report—namely, Swedish turnips.

Mr. ROBINSON to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 10, 1848.*

Kilgarven—Attymass.

I beg leave to report that the blight in the potato crop is extending to a fearful extent in my district; the disease has already appeared in the potato. The other crops continue to have a prosperous appearance, and will (if there be a good harvest) turn out abundant.

Mr. PUTNEY to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 9, 1848.*

Lackan—Ballycastle.

I am sorry that in my report for this week I have nothing favourable to state of the potato crop. From what I have seen and heard I apprehend that there will be a total loss of the late crop and serious injury to the early one. I saw yesterday the new potatoes diseased; and the owner assured me that his whole garden was infected in the same way. I have, however, seen very fine new potatoes not at all infected. It appears the disease had not reached them. All the other crops look very promising.

Mr. M'DONNELL to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 10, 1848.*

Castleconnor—Kilglass.

I beg leave to inform you about the present state of the crops in the above district. The white crops appear well up to the present date. The potatoes are failing very much for the last week; the blight is appearing in every part of the district; I do not know one field safe without symptoms of the disease. The turnips are much complained of by the farmers.

Mr. NOLAN to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 11, 1848.*

Crossmolina (South).

I beg leave to inform you that I have delayed my report on the state of the crops one day, that I might fully satisfy myself as to whether the disease, which almost withered the stalk, had affected the potato.

I am sorry to say that my fears on the subject are now fully realized; the potato is unfortunately doomed; and if one-third the crop is spared in this district, it is as much as can be expected from the present appearance of the plants.

The grain crops are going on well. Wheat is most luxuriant, and promises an abundant return. The breadth of land under this crop is extremely small.

Barley is ripening, and will be ready for the stook in ten days; the produce will be a fair average; but regret the quantity sown is rather limited.

Oats are now improving fast; the stalk is stretching and appearing more healthy, and will be below an average crop, but the quantity put down is very small.

I think it my duty to inform you I have good reason to dread the result of cutting off very many persons now among the working party; and fear unless the Commissioners continue at least forty per cent. of the able-bodied men, neither life nor property will be safe for one week after.

Mr. REA to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 9, 1848.*

Dromore (West)—Easky.

I beg leave to inform you that the blight has commenced on the potato crop in the Easky and Dromore (West) electoral divisions to a great extent for the last three or four days; the stalks have got quite black in many parts of my district. The only prospect that I see is, the potatoes that were planted early in the season; they have some chance, as the potatoes have grown to some size.

Mr. KIRKWOOD to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 9, 1848.*

Killala—Ballysokeery.

I have the honour to inform you that the blight has made its appearance in the potato crop in my district, and appears to increase daily. The oats and barley look well, and promise to be an average crop, as also the green crops.

Mr. O'MALLEY to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 10, 1848.*

Ardnaree.

I beg leave to state that since my last report of the state of the crops in my district the potato crop is much worse. This week the stalks are, in every part of the district that I could see, and also from information I have received, the greater part partially infected again with the blight; and in some places the potatoes appear infected with the disease, and some totally rotten. The green crops and corn appear tolerably well, and I have no change to mention concerning them since my last report.

Mr. KING to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 10, 1848.*

Ballina (Town portion).

The barley and oat crops about this town look very well, and promise to be abundant. The potatoes in some places have been attacked by the blight, and have suffered from it.

Mr. TIGH to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 11, 1848.*

Crossmolina (North).

I am sorry to inform you that the potato crop in Crossmolina electoral division is very much diseased; and I have good reason to state that my fears as to the safety of the potato crop are now realized; another week will destroy those not already gone; and if one-fourth those put down come to maturity we will be most fortunate.

The grain crop is doing well, except the oats, which are short in the stalk and by no means promising.

Mr. ANDERSON to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 10, 1848.*

Ballina (Rural portion).

The blight of the potato crop continues to increase very much in my district; and I am of opinion that the crop will be totally lost, as the disease has got to the roots, and they are now exhibiting all the symptoms of the former rot. I have seen potatoes dug in many parts of the district within the past week; and wherever the stalks were struck early the potatoes are diseased. The other crops in and about this locality are looking remarkably healthy and good.

Mr. MACHALE to Mr. W. J. HAMILTON :—*August 9, 1848.*

Backs.

Having stated in my last report that the potato blight had been much increasing, I beg leave to inform you it is still becoming more general. The stalks are all blighted, and the potatoes infected and rotting in all parts of the Backs electoral division. All other crops appear well; barley and oats much better than last year.

Ballina Union—Mr. R. Hamilton :— August 12, 1848.

With reference to your letter of the 9th instant, requesting I would report on the appearance of the potato crop, &c., in this district, I regret having to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners, that within the last ten days the blight has spread over nearly every potato field in these two electoral divisions, few of which exhibit the slightest appearance of green; during the same period the disease has appeared to a considerable extent among the tubers, so much so, that I have serious apprehensions the crop will be an entire failure.

The corn crop looks well, but there is a very small extent of it as compared with former years.

The turnip crop has improved considerably during the last fortnight, and on the whole I think it looks well.

Ballinasloe Union—Major Stuart :—August 12, 1848.

I have to report, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, that in every electoral division of this Union the present appearance of the potato crop is bad; and having examined the potatoes in many different spots, I have nowhere found them free from disease, which has considerably increased since the date of my last report.

The other crops of human food bear a favourable appearance, but I am informed that their produce may be expected to be less than usual.

Ballinrobe Union—Dr. Dempster :—August 12, 1848.

I regret to inform you, that from personal inspection, as well as reports from the relieving officer of each electoral division, and likewise from the two supervisors of works, that the potato has again failed. The most promising and luxuriant fields have in one night become blighted; and on pulling up the stalks, the tubers, four out of every six, are diseased; so that no reliance can be placed for human food on this esculent for the ensuing winter.

The wheat crop, as far as I can ascertain, is only middling, and great doubts entertained as to its soundness.

The oats are an average crop, and good, generally speaking. The barley appears to be the best crop; but all these grains, in quantity, fall far short of the usual breadth of land sown in this Union.

The most experienced farmers, with whom I have been speaking on the subject, consider that all the corn growing, and should the weather prove favourable to get in the harvest, would not afford provisions for the population of the Union beyond six months.

I fear the distress will be greater the ensuing winter than even last year; for I find that the poor people, to procure seed potatoes last spring, sold and pledged all their bed-clothes; and to add to their sufferings, there is little turf cut in the country.

The Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends has consigned to my care, for distribution in the Union, a quantity of turnip and cabbage seeds, which, on arrival, I shall dispose of to the best advantage amongst the poor cottagers whose potatoes are lost to them; and although late in the season, I trust will afford some relief in the winter.

Ballyshannon Union—Mr. D'Arcy :—August 13, 1848.

In reply to your letter, dated 9th of August, I have the honour to report the state of the crops generally, and potatoes particularly.

Ballyshannon division.—Potatoes not much diseased in the tuber; the tops diseased, but not considerably. Turnips have improved wonderfully the last ten days, and will be in this division a fair crop. Wheat and oats promise an abundant yield.

Bundoran division may be described as favourably as Ballyshannon.

Churchhill, Devenish, Boho, and Innismaesaint, are for the most part grazing divisions, but in them the potatoes look pretty well and the crops generally.

Kinlough, Glenade, Belleek, and Ballintra, present the potato crop in a much worse state than any other divisions, particularly that of Ballintra, in which the tops or haulm is not alone diseased, but the tuber is attacked.

The quantity of land under crops is, in my opinion, fully as great as former years, with the exception of a small part of Ballyshannon and Kinlough divisions.

Potatoes occupy about two-thirds of the extent they did previous to 1845, and the remaining third is sown with corn, turnips, peas, or beans, as the case may be; of the two last-named crops there is to be found a sprinkling in each division—the greatest quantity appears to be in Belleek.

I do not think there is such ground for alarm in regard to the potato as some persons apprehend. It is evident to the commonest observer the type of the disease is different from 1846. In that year when the top was diseased, so was the tuber; not so now. I have seen the haulm absolutely rotten and the potato sound; at all events, the crop is so much earlier and more forward this year, that it must, if even partially diseased, still produce a very considerable quantity of food; and should this favourable change in the weather continue, the corn crops will, in this part of the country, be more than an average.

Bantry Union—Captain Gordon :—August 12, 1848.

In reply to your communication of the 9th instant, I have the honour to annex a concise statement of the state of the potato crop in each electoral division of this Union, and which I give from my own personal observation. The stalks have long since become withered, and in some gardens are now quite gone. The tubers ceased growing, and were attacked by the disease, first in the skin, gradually causing the destruction of the potato itself, which became rotten. This rotting is increasing to an alarming extent, and in gardens where the tubers were safe a week ago, they are now one-half black. The late crop (but a small proportion of the whole) is quite gone. My opinion is, that an abundant and cheap supply will be found until the beginning or middle of December, from which time there will exist a vast amount of misery and trouble, which can only be met by measures similar to those which I had the honour to lay before you some time ago. It would not be fair upon the poor law to attempt the relief of distress this winter without something of the kind. It would be most desirable if each relieving officer were ordered to make out a correct census of his division, by townlands, showing the means of each individual. I cannot express to you how advantageous it would be. I have not alluded to other crops, since the whole country I may say is under potatoes. Not near so much grain sown as in former years. Turnips are said to have failed in some parts, but in my opinion from the ground not being drained.

ENCLOSURE.

Kilmaccommogue—Stalks quite withered, except about the pass of Kimaneigh, where they appear greener. Tubers diseased, and rotting to an alarming extent—about one-half of the crop already gone.

Bantry—Remarks the same as to Kilmaccommogue. The gardens in the eastern part not so much damaged as about Bantry; many gardens almost entirely useless as human food. I recommended Lord Berehaven to dig up a large portion of his garden, since the potatoes were quite rotten, and plant turnips, which he has done.

Durrus, East and West—This part of the country has been longer attacked than about Bantry, and is therefore worse—many gardens are quite gone.

Kilcrohane—This division has also been longer attacked than Bantry, and many fields are rotten, more especially on the northern side.

Kilcaskin—The crop has suffered much, but has not been so long attacked as the other parts of the Union.

Kilcatherine—The crop most seriously injured, and many gardens rotten, especially about Iries, and to the west of it.

Kilnamanagh—The gardens here were the first attacked in the Union; and the consequence is, not only was the growth checked, but the tubers, generally speaking, are rotten, more particularly along the southern part of it, and at Gornish.

Killaconenagh—The gardens in Bere Island have not suffered so much as on the mainland. I regret to say, that I am afraid from Castleton to the east, along the low ground, more than three-quarters of the crop are gone, and useless as food. It, as well as Kilnamanagh, was first attacked, and a heavy fog appeared to be the cause.

EXTRACT from a letter from the Rev. Thomas O'Grady, rector of the parishes of Killaconenagh, Kilnamanagh, and Kilcathereen, dated Castleton, Berehaven, August 11, 1848.

"Under the strong impression that a famine is again impending over this unfortunate country, I deem it my duty to lay before you the present state of the crops of this district, on my own observation and that of persons on whom I can place strong reliance. I have no hesitation in saying, that the late potato sowings are completely ruined by the blight, and even the early sowings are extensively and deeply injured; and I firmly believe, and have heard from trustworthy persons, that they will not afford food for three months longer. Within a very few days the progress of the disease has been quite alarming, and the poor people are obliged to dig a large extent of ground in order to obtain a meal for their families. I need not tell you that there is very little corn in this district, and utterly inadequate to the support of the people; and even that, I fear, is seriously injured by the late continued wet weather; on the whole, our prospects for the coming year are gloomy in the extreme, and I would therefore entreat of you to call the prompt attention of Government to this destitute locality."

Cahirircree Union—Colonel Clarke:—August 12, 1848.

With reference to your letter of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report to you, that after the most careful personal inspection and minute inquiries, I am compelled to believe that the potato crop throughout the Union is all but a total failure. The late crops, which until within the last week appeared healthy, are now as much affected as the others; and in several instances I have found the tubers not larger than marbles, perfectly black and rotten, and emitting a most offensive odour.

There is a greater extent of land sown with oats, barley, and turnips than usual; but the grain is becoming greatly injured by the continued wet weather; and unless there be an early change, I fear little of these crops will be saved.

I have received a liberal supply of late turnip and cabbage seed from the Society of Friends, but the ground is so saturated with wet as to be in a very bad state for sowing.

Carrick-on-Shannon and Boyle Unions—Captain Wynne:—August 13, 1848.

I have the honour to transmit for the information of the Commissioners the following report on the subject of your communication of the 9th instant, on the subject of the potato and other crops of human food in the Unions under my charge.

I have paid the closest attention to the subject for the last three weeks, and have made constant personal examination, both in the fields and in the markets of the different parts of my district through which I have passed.

The result has left rather a more favourable impression than on this day week, for the following reasons:—

Although the leaves in all cases, and the stalks generally, are affected, and have been so for some time, the disease has not as yet reached the tuber, except in a few instances, and in these no increase is apparent; on the contrary, several fields, which I have been watching closely, appear to improve. In one field near Carrick, which was thus first affected in this country, I was present on yesterday at the digging of a large quantity for market, and in my opinion the crop was improved; the per centage of diseased tubers being two less than on that day week.

No increase of disease is to be found in the potatoes brought to market; but as this might be caused by careful picking, I examined many of the fields while being dug, when the result was the same.

I am decidedly of opinion that the disease in this district, though as general as that of 1846, is by no means as malignant, at least the progress of destruction is not nearly so rapid.

I think it likely that a considerable portion of the early planting will be saved; but see but one chance for the late planting, viz., that, as was found to be the case last year, where the leaves only have been destroyed and the stalks still continue sound, the circulation may go on, and the tuber improve or grow; otherwise the late crop is undoubtedly lost, and comprises three-fourths of the entire.

The breadth under potatoes in Boyle Union is considerably greater than that under the same crop in Carrick-on-Shannon; the former may be estimated at one-third of that of 1845 and 1846, while the latter is not more than one-fifth.

Miscellaneous.

The breadth of land under white crops is greater in Carrick-on-Shannon than in Boyle Union; and may be estimated at one-half that of last year in the former Union, and one-third in the latter.

The white crop appears promising, with the exception of the wheat, which has generally suffered slightly from blight; it will be a short crop; oats good, and an average crop; barley good, also average; turnips scarcely any, and bad; other green crops, none.

From the general embarrassment amongst the small farmers, and the fears they entertained of their crops being distrained by landlords or collectors, or both, immediately on being severed, as well as from a natural preference for the potato, they sowed the latter crop to almost the full extent of their means; considering that they might, under the existing law, enjoy the entire produce while they continued to hold the land, raising the crop as they required it for use—hence a certain deficiency in the white crop.

BOYLE UNION.

Shancough, Kilmastranny, Keadew—Potato crop, black—no material injury to tubers as yet—late crop apparently lost. White crops promising well; wheat slightly injured by blight, and a short crop; oats and barley average; turnips few and bad; white crop one-third of last year's.

Ardcarn, Boyle, Rockingham—Early potato crop, very black; five per cent. in some cases diseased, not extending to the tubers; late crop apparently lost. White crops good, with the exception of wheat, slightly blighted, and a short crop; oats and barley average; turnips few and bad; white crop one-half of last year's.

Breedoge, Croghan, Ballinameen, Shankhill—Potato crop, black; tubers as yet tolerably safe; late planting very unpromising. White crops good, and average; turnips few and bad; white crop one-third of last year's.

Ballinacrad, Toomour, Kilshaley—Potato crop, black; tubers more affected than elsewhere; five per cent. diseased; late crop very bad. White crops average, and in breadth one-third of last year's; wheat slightly blighted; turnips few and bad. In this district the potato crop is more extensive than in any locality which I have seen this year, and is looking very badly; a large proportion was sown the end of May or beginning of June; the tubers as yet not much affected.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON UNION.

Drumreilly, Drumshambo, Keshcarrigan—The potato crop generally affected in leaves and stalks, but not to any extent in the tubers. White crops looking well, and two-thirds the breadth of last year's. Turnips but few, and tolerably good.

Carrick-on-Shannon, Tunna, Leitrim, Killukin, Drumsna—Potato crop generally affected as above; the tuber safe as yet. White crop one-half of last year's, and generally promising well; wheat short; oats and barley average; turnips few and bad.

Kilmore, Creeve, Aughrim—Potato crop as above. White crop one-half of last year's extent, and good; wheat short; oats and barley average; turnips few and good.

Elphin, Kilglass, Gillstown—Potato crop, black in every field; tubers considerably affected; early crop lost. White crops looking well, and in extent one-half of last year's; wheat average; oats and barley broad crops; turnips few and tolerably good.

Cashel Union—Mr. Robinson:—August 12, 1848.

I regret that the report I have to make upon this subject is now most unfavourable. During the last week the disease has increased to a very great extent, and there is no part of the Union in which it has not appeared.

I require the relieving officers to furnish me with a weekly statement of the appearance of the potato crop in each district; and I have the honour to annex, for the information of the Poor Law Commissioners, an extract from the last reports I have received from them upon this subject.

With respect to the other crops. The oats and barley have a very promising appearance, and I am given to understand that the quantity sown exceeds that of other years; but I am sorry to say that the contrary is the case with respect to the wheat: it is exceedingly thin; and the farmers consider the crop bad. I believe also that, in extent, it is considerably less than is usually the case in this part of the country.

ENCLOSURE.

Miscellaneous.

EXTRACT of reports, respecting the state of the potato crop, received from the relieving officers of the Cashel Union upon August 10, 1848.

Ballysheehan—The disease in the potato crop has increased so much this week, that the part affected is about one-fourth of the whole.

Ardmayle and Gaile—The disease has appeared in the early potatoes in the leaf, and in some few instances in the root.

Magorban and Tullamaine—The disease in the potato has exceedingly increased during the week, so much so, that the proportion seems to be about one-half or two-thirds of the whole.

Kilpatrick—The potato disease has increased very much during the week, and the potato shows more of the black disease than before; the late crops are also affected.

Clonoulty and Clogher—The potato disease has appeared so much since last week, that about one-third of the whole crop seems affected.

Cloneen and Kiltinan—The potato disease has appeared in both leaf and root, but has not increased to any great extent, since last week; about one-eighth of the crop seems affected.

Fethard—The disease has appeared in the leaf, and in some few instances in the root; it has increased in the early potatoes since last week.

Killenaule and Graystown—The disease has increased so much during the week, that the part affected bears a proportion of about one-tenth of the whole crop.

Peppardstown and Drangan—The disease has increased very much during the last week in both the leaf and root of the potato.

Knockgraffon—The disease has spread wonderfully during the last week, so much so, that I would say fully three-fourths of the entire crop is now diseased. I have seen a quantity dug, and some were already turning sour.

Cashel—With regard to the state of the potato crop in my district, I have to report a general blight in the stalk, and a partial taint in the potato itself.

Castlebar Union—Captain Farren:—August 13, 1848.

I visited six electoral divisions of the Union during the week, viz., Turlough, Strade, Breafty, Drum, Castlebar, and part of Ballyhean, and regret to state that the potato disease is progressing steadily in all; the different stages of the disease are developing themselves in regular succession, and the effect is lamentably visible in every field.

Turlough electoral division was visited on the 8th instant.—Every potato field diseased; some slightly, others very much so. The effluvia from some of the fields was very offensive. The early potatoes, though in appearance, so far as the plant is concerned, the worst, have not yet suffered much in the root, a small portion only being found diseased, the disease not having yet had sufficient time to attack the bulb. The late potato crop is worthless—the plant has been checked in its growth, and will not come to maturity.

The grain crops are doing well; there is not the same quantity of grain grown as in ordinary years.

Strade electoral division visited 8th instant.—Not a field has escaped the potato disease—all over were affected more or less; and all accounts agree in the conclusion, that the late potato crop is lost. The early potatoes are not in all instances diseased, but the plants are, and the disease in the leaves and branches is gradually extending to the stem and root.

The grain crops are doing well; but in many instances the oat crop is thin, particularly amongst the small holders, whose land has been exhausted by a succession of grain crops. The breadth of land sown with grain is not equal to that of ordinary years; and that sown with potatoes is less by at least one-fourth.

Breafty electoral division.—The potato disease in this district has, if possible, progressed more rapidly than in the others. As an illustration I will give two instances out of many. The disease in field numbered 2 in my report of the 6th instant, which was not so advanced as in other plots inspected on the 2nd, has now reached the stalks of the plants, and apparently checked their growth. On the occasion alluded to I dug up three plants in the field, and found one only diseased at the root, and that slightly. On the 9th I dug in a straight line across all the ridges (twenty-three), taking up one plant selected at random on each ridge, and found only one free from disease at the root; and in that case the stem had been separated from the root by a worm or slug, which had eaten through the stem. In some cases all the potatoes were diseased; in others, one or two only. The produce was not considerable, and the potatoes generally

E

Miscellaneous.

small. All the early fields, however, are not so bad as this one. With regard to the late crop, I will take field numbered 14 in my report of the 6th instant: this field was sown on the 11th May. When I visited it on the 9th instant, I walked in a diagonal line across the ridges, and in each ridge selected the plant which appeared the least affected, one in every ridge, caused them to be dug up, and found as follows:—

1st ridge—only 1	potato, size of a marble.
2nd do. „ 1	do. do.
3rd do. „ 2	do. do.
4th do. „ 1	do. do.
5th do. „ 1	do. do.
6th do. „ 2	do. do.
7th do. „ 3	do., one of which somewhat larger than the others.
8th do. „ 2	do., very small.
9th do. „ 2	do. do.
10th do. „ 2	do., size of a marble.
11th do.	nothing.
12th do.	only 1 do., a little larger than a marble.

This illustrates the state of the late or field potato crop, which amounts to at least one-half of the whole crop—it is worthless.

The grain crops in this district are doing well; but in some instances the oat crop is exceedingly poor and thin. There are cases, and those not few in number, in which the oat and wheat crop is growing on land from which two crops of grain in succession have been already taken. Where the land has not been exhausted by such a process as this, the crop is good.

In *Drum* electoral division, visited the 9th instant, the same remarks apply. The potato crop exceeds that of last year; but is scarcely more than one-half that of ordinary years. The greater portion of the crop was sown after the middle of May, the loss therefore will be very great.

Not so much oats sown as usual; rather more wheat than usual; about the same quantity of barley, and a greater quantity of rye.

Ballyhean electoral division.—About two-thirds the usual quantity of potatoes sown this year, as compared with ordinary years, and about one-half was sown early; the late crop is lost; and if the disease continues its ravages, a considerable portion of the early crop will be useless.

The grain crops generally are doing well. The total quantity of grain sown may be estimated at about one-third or one-fourth less than in ordinary years.

Castlebar electoral division.—The grain crops are doing well. It is estimated that rather more than one-half the usual quantity of oats has been sown; about as much barley; less wheat; a greater quantity of turnips—but a considerable portion of the latter have failed.

With regard to the potato crop, a considerable portion was sown late, upwards of one-half, for which there is no hope whatever. The disease has also reached the roots of some of the early potatoes, but at present not to a great extent; all the plants are however affected. The total quantity of potatoes planted is less than in ordinary years.

The foregoing are the only districts which I was enabled to visit during the week; but I find from inquiries that the other electoral divisions are similarly situated.

Looking at the prospects of the Union generally, the condition of the potato crop is a source of much alarm. All the hopes and efforts of the people were directed to the re-introduction of this plant: the most extraordinary exertions were made in the spring to put a crop in the ground; and it may be estimated that nearly three-fourths the usual breadth of land was sown with the potato. Although a great portion of the crop—indeed more than the usual portion—was planted early, the great bulk of it was set after the beginning of May. This (the late portion) is utterly lost—the growth of the plant has been checked, and the produce will not come to maturity. The early potatoes have not suffered much yet, but the disease is progressing steadily—the leaves and branches of the plant have fallen before its ravages, and it is now descending the stem; already some of the potatoes have been touched, and at every inspection the number so attacked is shown to have increased: a great portion of the early crop will, therefore, be also useless.

Generally, the grain crops are doing well ; but in many instances, particularly amongst small holders, the oat crop is light and thin, successive crops of grain having been taken from the same field. Wheat and barley are satisfactory, except where planted on the stubbles of the former season—not an unfrequent occurrence. The rye, of which a much greater quantity has been planted than usual, is the best in appearance : it, however, bears a very small proportion to the rest of the grain crop. The people are beginning to see the advantage of this description of crop, and its applicability to the land in the Union, few farms being without the sour swampy spots in which it will flourish. The whole breadth of land sown with grain, however, is not equal to that of ordinary years ; all the energies of the people were directed to the potato, and, moreover, they had not the soil for the oat crop—all who could, planted potatoes, and many sold their only cow to purchase seed : still there is land left waste, and many who have neither land nor sowing.

On a careful revision of all these circumstances, it cannot but be apparent that the produce of the harvest in the district will be utterly insufficient for the support of the people for the next twelve months ; and that, weighed down as they have been by want and destitution, there is now before them the prospect of a famine, even more dire and horrible than those which, during the last two years, called forth the utmost vigour of the government, and the charity of the less afflicted and more wealthy portions of the empire, in their behalf.

Castlereagh Union—Mr. Auchmuty:—August 12, 1848.

I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that from my own observations and from every inquiry I have made the potatoes are diseased in every electoral division in this Union. The only grain crop sown here is oats, and there is not near the quantity grown this season there was last year. Turnips were the only green crop the poor sowed, and they were cut off by the fly. I beg to forward, for further information, a return from each relieving officer in the Union.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. Courty to Mr. Auchmuty:—August 10, 1848.

In answer to the questions put by James Auchmuty, Esq., Government Inspector, relative to the growth or appearance of the crops, I have to state from the present appearance of the potato crop I consider it gone ; the leaves and stalks have got black and withered, and the potatoes are getting spotted.

I consider there is only half the quantity of oats that was sown last year, and is considered it will be short, and not as good as the last year's growth.

The turnips have failed in a great many instances.

Mr. Betagh to Mr. Auchmuty:—August 10, 1848.

In answer to the queries put by James Auchmuty, Esq., Poor Law Inspector, relative to the present appearance of the potato crop in each electoral division of the Castlereagh Union, and also of the appearance of the other crops of human food, I beg leave to state that in the electoral division of Castlereagh the potato crop has been attacked by the blight just similarly to that of the year 1846 ; it has made its appearance first in the leaf, from thence to the stalk, and am told by all of whom I inquire that it has made its way to the potato.

The other crops of human food in this electoral division are most commonly oats, rye, and field turnips. The oat crop is much less in extent than in the years 1846 and 1847, but not much inferior in appearance ; not being so much acquainted with the rye crop in this division as in other divisions of this Union it is rather limited in extent ; of the turnip I will say nothing, but that they are a complete failure. There is another species of human food, the parsnip, of which I am sorry to say is entirely forgotten in this as well as in every other division of the Castlereagh Union.

Mr. Thomas to Mr. Auchmuty:—August 10, 1848.

In answer to the inquiry of the Poor Law Inspector, James Auchmuty, Esq., I have to state that the potato crop from the present appearance is gone beyond what could be considered recovery, the stalk quite black, similar to former years, and the potato in many instances showing the former disease. The corn crop, the only grain crop (with very few exceptions) in the division, not quarter the extent of other years, owing to the anxiety of rearing a potato crop, by which the people lost all their time and manure ; and the green crop (although extensively attempted) has failed, whether from bad seed or other causes is not well known ; but with two or three exceptions with respectable farmers, the poor have none, no other green crop in this electoral division.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. COTTON to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 10, 1848.*

In answer to your inquiries respecting the state of the crops in the electoral division of Glanamodda, I beg leave to inform you that from the present appearance of the potato crop, it is considered past any hope of recovering the effects of the late blight. The stalks are becoming daily quite withered and black, and in some instances the potatoes have been found diseased in the ground. As regards the late potato crop, it is quite gone, and of no value whatsoever.

The oat crop is in general very light, and will not, it is considered, average last year's return.

There is a small portion of rye and bere in the electoral division, which in many instances is very deficient.

On the whole, as far as I can learn, the grain crop will not be so productive as last season.

There has been a considerable quantity of turnips planted, but almost in every instance they have failed.

Mr. WALDRON to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 10, 1848.*

In answer to your inquiry as to the state of the crops in the electoral division of Began I have to state, that there is an appearance of the greatest blight in the potato crop, the stalks quite black in most cases. The corn crop not near so abundant as it had been in the years 1846 and 1847, as the people in general depended on the potato crop, in the hope that there would be no failure in the present crop of potatoes.

The turnip crop has been destroyed by the fly, unless what was put down in the end of July.

Mr. BOURNS to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 10, 1848.*

In answer to the inquiry of the Inspector of the Poor Law Commissioners, James Auchmuty, Esq., I have to state that the potato crop, from the present appearance, is gone beyond any hope of coming to any perfection, or being of any use; the tops quite black, and the potatoes in some plots gone past use.

The oat crop, the only corn crop in my divisions, not quarter the extent of last year, and that same in general very bad.

The turnip crop quite a failure among the poor, only one or two gentlemen having any in my electoral divisions.

Mr. O'BRIEN to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 10, 1848.*

In reply to your inquiries respecting the present appearance of the crops in the electoral district of Ballintubber, I beg leave to inform you with regard to the potato crop that it is considered, from the present appearance of the blight on the stalks, that the potato will be lost. And with regard to the grain crops they are in general deficient, both in extent of tillage and growth, to what they were in the year 1847. There are no green crops in this district of any consequence.

Mr. ERINS to Mr. AUCHMUTY.

In answer to your inquiry as to the crops in the Ballyhaunis division, I have to state that the potato crop, from the present appearance, is gone beyond what may be considered recovery; the tops quite black, and the root becoming black. The only corn crop in this division is oats, with the exception of a few acres of wheat. The oat crop less than last year. The turnip crop quite a failure. No other green crops in this division.

Mr. HEYDON to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 11, 1848.*

I am sorry to inform you that the appearance of the potato crop cannot be much worse than it presently shows in my neighbourhood, as also in all my travels through my walk in my electoral division; the stalk is quite withered, and a great portion of the potatoes black and faulty, and much an earlier appearance of continuing so than there had been last season. There is a great failure in the turnip crop; and as to oats and other crops, it is considered that there is a great portion of it blind and smutty, which I have remarked in different parts in my division. There is not such a quantity of oats or other green crops in the Union as had been last season.

Mr. KILBRIDE to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 10, 1848.*

In answer to your inquiry as regards the state of the crops in the Castleplunket electoral division, I beg to state that the appearance of the potato crop is an entire failure, being at this moment all withered; the disease of last year making its appearance in many instances. The oat crop very much short of the last year's sowing. No other grain crop in that electoral division. No turnips at all grown by the poorer class—all a failure. No other green crop sown with us.

Mr. DILLON to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 10, 1848.*

In reply to the queries put by the Inspector of the Poor Law Commissioners, James Auchmuty, Esq., I have to state, from the present appearance of the potato crop, that I

consider it gone, as the leaves and stalks have got black and withered, and the potatoes are getting spotted.

I consider there is only half the quantity of oats that was sown last year, and it is considered that will be short, and not as good as last year's crop.

The turnips have in a great many instances failed.

Mr. DILLON to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 10, 1848.*

In answer to your inquiry as to the state of the crops in the electoral divisions of Bal-laghaderreen and Castlemore, I have to state that there is an appearance of the greatest blight in the potato crop; the stalks quite black in most cases. The corn crop not near so abundant as it had been in the years 1846 or 1847, as the people in general depended on the potato crop, in the hope that there would be no failure in the present crop of potatoes. The turnip crop has been destroyed by the fly, unless what was put down in the end of July.

Mr. NANGLE to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 11, 1848.*

In reply to your communication of this day, calling for a concise statement of the present appearance of the potato crop in the electoral divisions of Ballymac and Ballinakill, I beg to state that it is most unfavourable. I this day examined several fields of potatoes, and found them much affected with the former disease; and in one particular field, near Glusk, I pulled some stalks that last week had no appearance whatever of disease, and they were greatly injured; and it is to be regretted, that every day shows more symptoms of the general failure altogether of the crop.

The other crops of human food I believe, as far as could be ascertained, are not to be considered as great as last season; but, so far as I have seen, their appearance shows well.

It may not be amiss to state, that the turnip crop has considerably failed this season; and, under all the circumstances, the general opinion that prevails is, that this harvest indicates nothing but distress.

Mr. WYNN to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 11, 1848.*

In reply to your communication of this day, calling for a concise statement of the present appearance of the potato crop in the electoral division of Kilkerrin, I beg to state that it is most unfavourable. I have examined several fields, and found them much affected with the former disease. I have seen stalks, that last week had no appearance whatever of disease, that are now withered.

The other crops, as far as I can ascertain, are not considered as great as last season, but their appearance shows well.

In conclusion I have to state, that the turnip crop has considerably failed this season.

Mr. GILFOYLE to Mr. AUCHMUTY :—*August 11, 1848.*

In reply to your inquiry relative to the potato crop I beg to state, that although few of the tubers have as yet suffered materially, yet the stalks show such symptoms as to make us dread the result; at all events, their future growth has been certainly so checked as to prevent their coming to perfection.

As to the other crops of human food, there are none but grain, with the exception of very few patches of turnips, which have succeeded; and of the grain itself, I think we are this year one-third short, in comparison to last year.

This is my opinion, so far as the Templetogher electoral division is at present circum-stanced.

Cavan and Cootchill Unions—Captain Hotham :—August 12, 1848.

In forwarding the return which was required of the state of the potato crop in the several electoral divisions, I may simply state, that I fear a large proportion of this crop will be entirely lost, most of the stalks being affected, and the disease extending to the root.

The oats however look remarkably well, and if fine weather continues will prove abundant.

Wheat and turnips are not generally green in this district.

ENCLOSURE.

Cavan—Almost all the fields are more or less affected.

Ballyhaise—Almost all the fields are more or less affected.

New Inn—No personal knowledge. Relieving officer states, stalks are black, but potatoes not much injured.

Stradone—Disease appears very general.

Butler's bridge, Belturbet, Drumlane, Kilconny—I have not been in these divisions for some days. The last time that I was there I did not remark that the disease was very prevalent. The relieving officer states the disease is very prevalent.

Miscellaneous.

- Redhills*—No personal knowledge. Relieving officer reports them bad.
Kildallan—No personal knowledge. Relieving officer reports stalks bad, and people pulling them to prevent the disease getting to the root.
Derrylane—The same as Butler's-bridge.
Arvagh—No personal knowledge. Relieving officer reports them very bad.
Killeshandra—The same as Butler's-bridge. Relieving officer reports them very bad.
Ballintemple, Kill, Crosskeys—Several fields affected some days since. I do not know their present state.
Kilnaleek—No personal knowledge. Fields affected, relieving officer states.
Ballymachugh—The same as Ballintemple. Stalks black, in some cases potato rather improving, relieving officer states.
Killycrane—No personal knowledge.
Denn—Several fields were affected the last time I was there, about eight days ago.
Crossdoney—Several fields were affected the last time I was there, about eight days ago.
Killykeen—Not much potato cultivation in the district.
Ballyconnell—No personal knowledge.
 COOTEHILL UNION.—*Cooteshill, Ashfield, Rakenny*—Almost all the fields in these divisions are affected, and some seem totally destroyed. I have no knowledge of the other divisions, but Mr. Wright, Vice-Guardian of the Union, states that the disease is very general.

Clifden Union—Mr. Deane:—August 11, 1848.

You have already had in my last reports full information as to the progress of the disease in the four electoral divisions; and I have now merely to state, that I have been over the greater part of the Union within the last ten days, and that every field of potatoes I saw was black. The disease is spreading rapidly to the potato itself, specimens of which are brought daily to my house from all parts of the Union. I consider the late crop to be entirely destroyed; the early crop will not suffer so seriously.

I have made particular inquiries in reference to the appearance and prospect of the corn crops, and have received encouraging reports as to their success; but I regret to state, that there is fully a fourth less of oats, barley, and rye, than in three previous years. With respect to green crops, the amount is so small, that it is scarcely worth noticing: the sowing of turnips has been almost entirely confined to land in occupation by the few gentlemen farmers in the district.

Dingle Union—Captain Sir Thomas Ross, R.N.:—August 12, 1848.

In compliance with the directions contained in your letter of the 9th instant, I beg to acquaint you that having visited the electoral divisions of Minard, Ballinacourty, and Ballinvoher on the 10th, Dingle and Ventry on the 11th, Ballyduff and Castlegregory on this day, I am enabled to state, and I do so with concern and regret, that the potatoes are diseased; the few fields (if indeed there is one) that have escaped, forming the exception to the rule; and I think it more than probable that ere the next week shall have passed over every potato-field in the Union, of both stalks and tubers, will have shown unmistakable symptoms of the blight. I have personally inspected within the last three days at least thirty fields, and although about two-thirds of the tubers attached to each stalk are so far free from disease, I have scarcely seen one stalk the tubers of which were not more or less affected; and certainly not one field, including those planted lately, that was not blighted.

The disease appears to bear every resemblance to that with which they were visited in 1845; and if unhappily the same means be resorted to for their preservation, by the advice of the *savans* of that period, instead of leaving the matter to the common understandings of the people themselves, I may venture to predict an unfavourable result. I followed the instructions of that learned body in their published reports, and to having done so do I attribute the loss of an entire field of about eleven statute acres; whereas my poor, but in this respect more fortunate neighbours, who left them in the ground until the usual digging time in November and December, merely strewing some fresh clay amongst them when housed and pitted, had the satisfaction of preserving at least two-thirds of their crops. I believe that if the stalks are either cut or pulled when the potato has arrived at maturity, as is the case in the present instance, and the tuber left in the ground until the latest possible period, when

they should be removed for the succeeding crop, this simple process will do more to preserve them than all the remedies of the British Association put together.

The corn crop looks healthy; but unfortunately the great efforts made by almost all classes to cultivate the potato, completely exhausted their available funds, and with the exception of those persons who happened to retain some oats and barley for seed, corn-growing was looked upon as quite a secondary consideration; consequently there is not more than half the breadth of land under corn this, that there was last year. I fear, therefore, that although by not taking up too soon, as was the case in 1845, the produce may be sufficient for the present year: we shall not be in a better position with respect to the supply of human food than we have been for the past year.

Donegal Union—Captain Herbert, R.N.:—August 12, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, requiring a statement to be made of the present appearance of the potato crop in each electoral division of this Union, as also the extent of other crops for human food, I do myself the honour to report as follows:—

Donegal—The potato crops are partially attacked with disease, and to a small extent with blight. In the former case, the potatoes are found to be unfit for food for either man or beast; but in the attack of blight the potatoes are sound, and deemed good for present use. As a whole, the early crops at this moment may be considered fit for present consumption, and are retailing at three pence per stone.

Clogher being more inland, the potato crops have not suffered much from blight. The incipient stages of disease are very manifest, but still very limited and partial.

Dunkineely—Disease and blight among the potato crops are very manifest; partial however in its locale, and limited in extent.

Gleneny—Potato crops slightly attacked with disease and blight; both very partial, and very limited.

Inver—In this division, particularly that part situated on the seaboard, blight among the potato crops is very apparent; disease is very apparent too, but still in a limited extent; it has extended more within the last week.

Laghy—The potato crops are here slightly indicating the early stages of disease; very partial and very limited. The blight is visible to a very small extent.

Loughesack—The potato crops are here more attacked with disease and blight than in any other electoral division; but still, neither in virulence nor extent is there any just cause of alarm as yet. Disease is, however, still extending itself.

Loughderg—The potato crops are here but slightly attacked with disease; partial and limited in extent. The blight is still more limited in extent.

Mount-Charles—Disease in all its stages, and gradually extending among the potato crops, is here very visible; it is still partial and limited. The blight is more strongly marked on the seaboard than elsewhere, and yet limited to a small extent.

Tawnhawully—Slight indications of disease and blight are manifest among the potato crops, very partial in their attacks, and to a very limited extent.

Templecarn—Disease is very partial here among the potatoes, and to a very limited extent. The blight is yet more partial and limited.

Large sowings of turnips, which as yet do not promise well; considerable cultivation of the cabbage tribe, with beans and peas to a small extent, and a large breadth of cereal crops, in a state of great luxuriance, justify the opinion I have formed, that, as a whole, the crops for human food are as great as usual throughout the Union, excepting the electoral division of Inver, where the small holders of land have not cultivated to the usual extent.

I cannot close this report without stating that disease is extending its ravages among the potato crops slowly, but gradually, during the last fortnight.

Ennis Union—Mr. Cronyn :—August 15, 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter relative to the state of the potato and other crops of human food in this Union; and in reply regret to say, that there are unhappily too good grounds for apprehending that a large amount of the capital invested in the potato cultivation in this Union will be lost.

The disease, which was first noticed three weeks ago, has, with the exception of a short and remarkable interval, continued to spread in those fields first attacked, and to visit others until recently free from it.

There is not in the Union one electoral division that has escaped; in some, however, it is both more intense and widely spread than in others.

Those most injured are—Ennis, Kilmaley, Feenagh, Clondagad, Inagh, and Ruauun.

I would beg to state, upon authentic information, that in some instances the tuber has been found to be tainted, though the stalk and leaves were green.

The unprecedentedly extensive appropriation of the ground to potato culture has occasioned an insufficient sowing of grain crops.

Very little wheat has been cultivated, and the oat and barley crops, though very luxuriant and promising, are below the average quantity.

The facility with which sea-weed is obtained in this Union, and its usefulness for potato growing (in this soil at least), has occasioned the peasant's labour being devoted so largely to that crop, to the exclusion in some degree of others.

The turnips early sown have been destroyed by the fly, but the second sowing bids fair to recompense the farmer for his first loss.

Beans are a very poor and casual crop in this Union; and parsnips, cultivated extensively as I have been informed last year, are rarely to be seen in any quarter.

The CLERK of the UNION :—*August 15, 1848.*

I beg to forward, by the directions of John Cronyn, Esq., Poor Law Inspector, the observations of the relieving officers on the state of the crops in this Union.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. LYSAGHT to the CLERK of the UNION :—*August 15, 1848.*

In reply to your letter of the 14th, requiring a report of the state of the crops in my district; the potato crop is almost an entire failure, the early potatoes are in general getting black, and the late ones will come to no perfection, in consequence of the blight setting in so early in the season.

There is also a general failure in the turnip crop; especially among the poorer classes, who tilled late.

The wheat crop is considered a light one; oats and barley promised to be very good; but if this wet weather continues corn of all description will be seriously injured.

Mr. HAYES to the CLERK of the UNION :—*August 14, 1848.*

I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, wherein is stated that you have received a communication from Mr. Cronyn, directing that I would transmit you a true report of the potato and other crops in my district; in reply I beg to state that the potatoes sowed in my district in the month of March, and early in April, were doing very well until they were checked by the distemper, and is now blackening worse and worse every day; and, at least by every information, will be of no use in a short time. But as for the potatoes sowed in my district in the month of May—as it was in that month the greater part of them were sowed—they are now, nor will be, of no use whatsoever.

As to wheat: in my district it is not more than two-thirds in extent to what it was last season, and one-fourth of that same is lost by an empty side that is in the ear; and from the continuance of rain it is seen to be growing the second time through the stalk—and a very bad prospect of it.

The oats in my district is pretty good this season; but it is thought by every information it will not be so productive as it was other seasons; it is all lodged.

Barley is one-fourth more in extent this season in my district than it was last season; but from the continuance of rain it is lodged and injured very much, and will not be so productive.

The green crops are all very feeble and badly growing, except with a few exemptions, and them same are gentlemen's.

Turf, meadowing, and other necessitous crops in my district are in a very bad state; and a very weak opinion that the people will be able to save them, from the continuance of rain.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. SILVER to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 15, 1848.*

I received your circular relative to the prospect of the potato and the other crops in my district. I regret to say that the potato crop has failed in a great measure; I have not seen many of the tubers black, but I understand that a gentleman in my neighbourhood has three acres completely diseased. I have made every inquiry amongst the parishioners, and they are all of opinion that the late potatoes have little or no chance. With respect to the corn crops, I think they are equal, or nearly so, to the crops of former years; there are in the district a few fields which are blighted a little, which occurred almost every year, but which I do not attach any importance to.

Mr. CROWE to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 15, 1848.*

I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, wherein is stated that you have received a communication from Mr. Cronyn, directing that I would transmit to you a true report of the prospect of the potato and other crops in my district.

In reply, I beg to state that the potato crop is nearly altogether failed: the oat crop is also blighted, I would say chiefly from the continued rain. The barley crop, which stood best—a small share of which is sowed in my district—is now beginning to give: as to wheat, there is none in my district; and where it is, its prospects are very bad by every information that I can come at.

Mr. D. LYSAGHT to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 14, 1848.*

In compliance with your letter of this date, relative to the prospect of the state of the crops in my district, I beg to say that the potato crop has generally failed, particularly the late sowing. The oat crop is blighted—I should suppose from the excessive rain that we have had this time back. The barley is going on well, but very little of it tilled in my district. As to the wheat crop, there is scarcely any; and what there is is of a very inferior description.

In addition to the above report I would say, that from my knowledge of the country, the crops in general bear a worse aspect than they have done for these years back.

Mr. BREWE to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 15, 1848.*

Your circular of yesterday's date reached me this day at 11 o'clock, requiring me to furnish you with an accurate and correct account of the state of the crops in the Ruaua electoral division.

The potato crop is entirely diseased; and the opinion of the farmers is that there is a total loss.

As regards wheat, there is not more than one-fourth of the usual quantity sown, and that appears quite unhealthy from the effects of the constant rains.

As regards oats, there is very little sown in this district, and what is, promises to be abundant. The barley crop, so far as what was sown early, is promising well; but as regards the barley lately cultivated, it appears very indifferent.

The turnip crops are rather in a declining state, and are not expected by farmers to be more than half an average crop; there are no other green crops sown here.

Mr. SMITH to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 15, 1848.*

In reply to your circular of the 14th instant, relative to the quantity and state of the crops in the Clare electoral division, I take leave to inform you that the potato crop is entirely blighted; the farmers entertain no other prospect than that of a total loss.

With reference to the wheat crop: the number of acres sown is not more than half of the preceding year, in consequence of the soil not being prepared after 1847; the average crop is very light, and such is much damaged by the inclemency of the weather; an average crop cannot be calculated on.

The oats is under the usual average crop, and appears to suffer much from the constant rains.

The barley crop looks healthy though suffering from the above causes.

Farmers entertain an unfavourable opinion of the turnip crop. No other description of green crops are sown here.

The hay is suffering materially from not being cut down; it is rotting on the ground, the season is so constantly wet.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. MORRIS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 15, 1848.*

In reply to your circular of the 14th, requiring a report of the state of the crops in my district: the potatoes are considered a general failure; the wheat is not considered as good as usual; the barley, oat, and turnip crops are in general good, and a good quantity cultivated.

Mr. O'BRIEN to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 14, 1848.*

I have received your letter of this date requesting of me to give a report of the state of the crops in this division. I beg leave to state, for the Commissioners' information, that the potato crop, in every sense of the word, is completely gone. The wheat crop, which is not very abundant in this my neighbourhood, is very thin; but the barley and oat crop, which is rather abundant, appears rather luxuriant; but from the constant rain, which is incessant, the farmers are of opinion, and so am I, that it will retard the ripening of those crops in a great measure, and I fear we will not have an early harvest.

Mr. KELLY to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 14, 1848.*

Your note, requiring an accurate and correct report of the state of the potato and other crops, has been handed me just now, eight o'clock. I regret that my report must be unfavourable. The potato crop, from every information that has reached me, and from my own experience and inspection, is so diseased at present as to convey the fact of their utter failure. With regard to the other crops, at least in the Kilchreest district, my anticipations of their prospects are very disheartening indeed. The wheaten crop is considered unusually light, and under an average yield. The opinions entertained of the oaten crops are also discouraging indeed, and now looked upon as very likely to turn out very inferior. The prospects of the barley crops are yet somewhat favourable. Turnips, in this locality, a complete failure. Hay in a very precarious state; and no turf for the winter fuel. Such, sir, are the melancholy accounts that you have imposed upon me to detail of the harvest crops of this season; nor do I think that this account is either incorrect or hastily incautious. You, sir, require this report by eleven o'clock to-morrow morning, a matter impossible to be accomplished in so short an interval, if my knowledge were not already acquired. I have no more to add, but do still hope that a better providence will yet improve the state of this country and the condition of its people.

Mr. SAMPLIN to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 14, 1848.*

In reply to your communication requiring a knowledge of the crops, I have to state, that they are very unpromising. The potato crop is apparently blighted, and I can form but an indifferent opinion of its produce. I am also of opinion that the oaten crop is in a bad state. Barley is doing very well, and will be an average crop. Wheat, in general, is light, and, from the heavy rain, is considered by the farmers to be a very indifferent crop, and in some instances blighted. The turnip crop holds out no promise but that of a failure.

Mr. O'MARA to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 14, 1848.*

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., wherein it is stated that you have received a communication from Mr. Cronyn, directing that I will transmit to you a true report of the potato and other crops in my district.

In reply thereto I beg to state, that the potato, particularly the late ones, appear to be attacked with the blight, and I believe there are but slight hopes of its preservation. Oats, from the inquiries I have made, is blighted. Barley, from its appearance, is doing well, and will be an average crop, but not much of it sowed. Wheat is a light crop this year, and some of it blighted. Turnips a complete failure.

Mr. CULLINAN to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 15, 1848.*

In compliance with Mr. Cronyn's desire to me, communicated on yesterday by you, I herewith send you my report of the crops in this district, and of the potato crop in particular.

Wheat is not much grown in the district; the breadth put in at any time was not extensive; and I think it is less by one-fourth this year than it has been hitherto; and in my opinion the yield will not produce more than three-fourths the ordinary crop. Oats and barley are a tolerably fair crop in the district; but owing to the continued wet weather I fear much they will, as well as wheat, suffer considerably in coming to maturity. Some beans have been put in for the first time in the district; but as far as I can judge they are a very inferior crop.

The turnip, I think, had been more extensively planted than before; but I am afraid it suffered much by failure in the months of May and June, and will turn out a short crop.

Potatoes, I am sorry to think, are seriously blighted. I think the planting made since April will turn out to be of very little use as human nourishment, though some might be turned to some advantage in feeding swine; but they are almost banished from the neighbourhood. I think the early crop of potatoes—I mean those planted before the

middle of April—may turn out to be of some consequence, as they had nearly come to maturity before the blight set in; and it is my opinion that half that crop, or perhaps three-fourths of it, may turn out to be a crop made available as good food. I may here mention that, as far as I can see at present, there is not, in the crop planted before the middle of April, more than one-eighth at present showing symptoms of decay; but even that proportion is more than was observable seven or eight days since.

If a weekly examination and report, from personal inspection through the district, are desired, I shall use all due diligence in making such every week.

I have given a fair and true account of the crops at present, as far as can be seen or known.

Mr. MOLONY to the CLERK of the UNION:—*August 15, 1848.*

I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, informing me that you had a communication from Mr. Cronyn, requiring that I would report and transmit to you my opinion of the general state of the crops in my district.

I beg to say, in reply, that I regret that I am not able to give as favourable an account of them as I would wish to do.

The early sowing of potatoes some are still holding good; but it is dreaded, from the withered appearance of the stalks, that scarcely a third of them, in a short time, will be fit for use. The late sowing is, I may say, all gone. With regard to wheat, barley, and oats, they are considerably defective from the expectations that were entertained. Barley is the best that is still holding out. Turnips are failing too; and as to turf, the weather is so wet that there is none scarcely to be expected.

Were it not from the knowledge I had of my district, from the short notice I got, I could not make this report; however, it is not made hastily or incautiously.

Mr. LYNCH to the CLERK of the UNION.

In reply to your letter of the 14th instant I beg leave to state, for the Commissioners' information, that the potato crop in my district is mostly a complete failure—the late tillage are completely gone, but those tilled early are doing better.

The wheaten crop, which is not abundantly tilled, is rather light; but the barley and oat crops are doing well up to this time, but the farmers in this neighbourhood are very much afraid will be injured more or less from the constant rain which is incessant, and which is quite sufficient to prevent their ripening in time. Turnips a complete failure with very few exceptions.

Fermoy Union—Major Bolton:—August 12, 1848.

In answer to your letter of the 9th instant, I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that from personal inspection I am of opinion that the disease in the potato crops has decidedly set in, and is evidently progressing. The potatoes in each electoral division of the Fermoy Union appearing to be equally affected, and the prospect of another failure in this portion of the harvest, has caused great apprehension in the minds of the people, who are, in consequence, prematurely digging and selling their potatoes. From a large quantity having been sown much earlier than in former years, more time has been afforded to the crops to arrive at maturity previous to their being attacked by the disease; but the great fear is, that after their being thus attacked there is but little chance of their keeping for any length of time.

The wheaten crop is thin, the sowing having taken place during continued wet weather, and the head of some particular kinds has been more or less injured by the late heavy rains.

The oat crop is considered a fair average, and barley a full crop.

Turnips, and green crops in general, are in many places looking delicate, and the quantity sown is not equal to last year, the small holders of land having given a preference to potatoes.

The above report contains, I think, a fair estimate of the state of the crops generally in the several electoral divisions of this Union.

Galway Union—Major McKie:—August 13, 1848.

In compliance with the instructions conveyed in your letter of the 9th inst., I have to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that throughout the Union the potato crops have become infected with the disease of 1845 and 1846. The disease has made the most rapid progress; and the fears I expressed

Miscellaneous.

in a former report, that the crops in the eastern districts, which were then free, would not long remain so, have, I regret to say, been fully verified. With the exception of some potatoes cultivated by Mr. Skilling, on Lord Wallscourt's property, in Ballinacourty, I do not hear of any that have altogether escaped; and I beg to call attention to the fact, that these potatoes were planted by Mr. Skilling in the autumn—planted whole.

I have observed that the farmers are digging the potatoes and bringing them to market, as the only chance of saving themselves from total loss; and I have also observed, that the diseased potatoes, set aside from the sound in the fields, appear to vary from one-half to one-third of the whole. As a winter store for food, the potato crop in this Union is lost.

On the 23rd of April I reported the extent to which the cultivation of the potato had at that time been carried; and in a subsequent report I stated, that so large a breadth had been planted, to the neglect of other crops, that the safety of the population in the ending winter, would entirely depend on the growth of the potato.

I will now state my observations in each electoral division.

Ballinacourty—Wheat: light in the ground, short in the head, and badly filled; there is probably more wheat in this division than in others. Oats: breadth sown small; crop, an average one. Barley: breadth small; average crop. Potatoes: nearly all blighted, and lost as a winter store. About one-fourth of the tillage uncultivated.

Stradbally—Wheat: small breadth; slight crop. Oats: very small breadth; average crop. Barley: fair breadth, average crop. Potatoes: above an average breadth; all blighted.

Athenry—Wheat: small breadth; very light crop. Oats: very little, but average crop. Barley: breadth small; crop average. Potatoes: an average breadth; all blighted. About one-third of the tillage is waste.

Oranmore—The remarks on Athenry applicable in all respects.

Galway—Wheat very small in breadth, and very light crop. Oats: small breadth; average crop. Barley the same. Potatoes much above an average breadth; totally lost for a winter store: the tubers rotting rapidly.

Moycullen—Wheat is only grown on the southern side; small quantity; very light crop. Oats: breadth short; average crop. Barley: very little; average crop. Potatoes: great breadth; totally gone.

Killanin—Not a wheat country; but to the north, same remark as Moycullen. Oats: small breadth; crop average. Barley: small breadth; crop average. Potatoes: considerable breadth; all blighted.

Oughticonel—The same as Killanin. I may assert that this division depended entirely on the potatoes.

Lackagh—Small breadth of wheat, and bad yield. Oats: small in breadth; average crop. Barley the same. Potatoes: great breadth; many of them late sown, and the potatoes not larger than marbles; all disordered.

Clare Galway—Wheat: small in breadth; crops light. Oats: small in breadth; average crop. Barley: small in breadth; average crop. Potatoes: considerable breadth; the disease has made rapid progress within the last week.

The turnip crops have generally failed, from the attacks of the fly. Some fields have been sown three times; but the green crops are of no extent in this Union. All the small holders, and indeed many of the large holders, had been impressed with the belief, that the potato disease would disappear, and speculating on that idea, they could not be persuaded to sow turnips. Another reason for rejecting this crop was, its liability to degradation, from which cause they suffered great loss last year.

The quantity of wheat and oats is far below an average; and the wheat will be a very poor crop: I think barley will give the best return. The constant rain has no doubt much injured the corn crops. In some places I hear barley is falling from the ear, and some fields are affected with smut.

There can be little doubt that the coming winter will be one of extreme suffering and privation for the poor, and that the extensive failure of the potato will be ruinous to the small farmers.

Glenties Union—Captain O'Neill:—August 12, 1848.

I beg leave to state for your information, and in reply to your letter of the 9th instant, that I have personally examined the potato crop within the electoral divisions of Glenties, Derryloaghan, Ardara, Killybegs, and Meenavally, and I find that the blight is rapidly increasing; scarcely a field has escaped, and the obnoxious smell from some of them can be easily felt from the public road. I have also examined the potato, and find that in many instances one or two on each stalk are affected in some localities; and in other parts of this Union the potatoes are sound, although the tops are withered; and from all the inquiries which I have made throughout the Union, I am of opinion that if the disease continues as it has done for the last ten days, the one half of the potato crop must go. With regard to the quantity of barley and oats sown in this Union, I think there will be a fair average crop. I travelled this week to Ballyshannon and Sligo Unions, accompanied by Mr. D'Arcy, the Poor Law Inspector at Ballyshannon, and we examined several fields of potatoes on our journey, when we found the blight making rapid progress, and in several instances from one to two potatoes at each stalk were affected with the disease. I shall make more minute inquiry in the course of next week, and shall communicate the result without loss of time.

Glenties Union—Extract from Captain O'Neill's Report of August 14, 1848.

I have the honour to state for your information, that I left this on Monday last, the 7th instant, for Ballyshannon, from which place Mr. D'Arcy, the Poor Law Inspector of that Union, and myself travelled to Sligo for the purpose of examining closely into the potato crop, and making every inquiry we could as to the progress of the blight.

I am sorry to be obliged to report that all the fields we passed on our journey are affected with the disease; and in many instances the potato itself completely gone.

Several of the country people to whom we spoke do not like to acknowledge the fact; but still cling to the hope of having a crop, although it is quite evident that, should the disease continue, more than one-half of them must go. On Wednesday and Thursday, on my return, I travelled through the country from Ballyshannon to Donegal, and the greater part of this Union, where I observed several fields that were apparently quite sound a few days before were all affected, and on my pulling up some of the stalks and examining the potato, I generally found one or two of them affected with the blight. The tops in every field throughout this and the adjoining Unions are all quite black, the leaves withered, and the stalks affected down to the seed.

Gort Union—Mr. Gibbons:—August 13, 1848.

I have the honour of reporting, regarding the state of the crops in the Gort Union, that there appears to have been more than an average crop of potatoes sown; but a great portion was sown late by the small holders, and, consequently, they are now the greatest sufferers, as the late sown potato crops have almost generally, in the Gort Union, failed; in fact, the late crop of potatoes appears destroyed—lost.

I have within the last few days pulled up several stalks of the late sown potatoes; there were no potatoes at the root, though the blight in some instances had not apparently extended through the stem to the root. Up to within the last three weeks the potato fields looked beautiful, but they now present a most dismal appearance; the blight has now extended over every potato field in the Union; the fields which looked so luxuriant a short time past are now quite black. The blight is also daily extending to the root. At the commencement the potato was but partially injured; since I have heard of spotted and black potatoes being more generally found, and more late. I am informed that almost every person holding potato crops finds, on digging, more or less black potatoes; the disease gradually and surely extending.

About a fortnight past I inquired of a party who was then digging his potatoes whether they were diseased—he replied, he found a few spotted; since then I again inquired of him, he was also at the time digging his potatoes—he stated, he

Miscellaneous.

found several spotted and some few black. I was at the same field yesterday, and made similar inquiry, and was informed that the greater portion were black, clearly showing, I should say, the progressive disease. I ought to remark that those were the early sown potatoes; but still I am not prepared to admit that the early sown potato is generally seriously diseased; though I must say that the best potatoes that I have seen in this Union, when boiled, are very indifferent, having more of the nature of a turnip than potato.

Some few of the holders are pulling up the stems, others are cutting them close by the earth; but in general the holders do not appear to have taken any remedy.

Respecting the corn crops: the wheat is a very light crop, and has been, in some instances blighted at one side, so that the ear is quite empty on the blighted side—and this occurs more or less in every electoral division in the Union. I should say that the wheat cannot possibly prove an average crop in this Union.

The barley crop looks well—did look most luxuriant; I am inclined to believe it may prove the best corn crop in the Union. I must remark that, within the last few days, I have observed a kind of blight in some of the barley fields.

The oat crop promises well, and may prove a good crop; though, I must also observe, that within the last few days, I observed some appearance of black and blight; it appears extending, particularly in Killeeneen, Beagh, and Killeenavara; however, it is not general, and it is expected that the barley and oats may prove fair crops.

The green cropping is not extensive in this Union; what has been cared promises fairly.

It is strange the people do not at all appear affected by the loss of the potato crop; though the general belief is that the crop is lost, they appear quite reconciled, and evidently consider, as a matter of certainty, that they must get the meal; but I should say, that all possessing small holdings will, consequent on the loss of the potatoes, surrender the land the ensuing year. Many would emigrate had they the means, even from the youngest to the oldest; but all consider the meal as their right, the potatoes being lost.

I might state, that added to the loss of the potatoes, the destitute are likely to suffer in this Union the ensuing winter from the insufficiency of turf.

I have been honoured by a second communication from the benevolent Society of Friends, in which they kindly state, that they have directed 540 lbs. of turnip and cabbage seeds to be forwarded to my care, for the poor of the Gort Union.

Granard Union--Captain Lang :- August 12, 1848.

The reports from all quarters of the progress of disease and failure of the potato crop, and the consequent dismay and panic excited among the farmers of this district, directed my attention to the important subject of your letter of the 9th instant, previous to the receipt of it; and led me in a great measure to anticipate the instructions of the Commissioners, by an extended personal inspection of a considerable breadth of the growing crops of potatoes and other sorts of human food. The results of my observations in the several electoral divisions I have now the honour to submit, in compliance with your communication.

That the potato disease has made alarming and rapid progress in all parts of the country since the date of my last report is now beyond any question or doubt. Yesterday and this morning I examined several fields of potatoes, in different soils and aspects, of from three to four acres each, partly planted in drills, and partly in ridges, in the lazy-bed way; I got several stalks dug from both modes of culture, and in all of the tubers I found the unequivocal and distinctive type of the same disease which partially infected the crop of 1845, and totally destroyed that of 1846. In all of these fields I found the stalks blackened as if by a severe frost. They had all been planted early in March or April, in which months rain and cold weather prevailed to an extent beyond almost any season on record. I subsequently dug up and inspected several stalks in the workhouse ground, which were not planted until May—a month which presented the extraordinary meteorological fact, of cloudless weather, day and night, for the first fortnight, and in which the atmosphere was free from electric influence, which was extremely active in the months of April and June, and has frequently

continued in an active state for the last six weeks. I found the tubers in the workhouse ground perfectly free of disease, though the leaves are partially blackened—from which they appear to be recovering, by the vigour and strength of the stalks; and which I attribute to the dry and warm season in which they were planted, the superior spade cultivation given to the ground, and being perfectly clean and free from weeds.

The heavy wheat and oat crops which were beaten down by the incessant rain and high winds so prevalent at the date of my last report, appear to be much improved within the last few days; and have in all open situations risen again under the genial influence of dry and warm weather.

COUNTY LONGFORD.

Granard Electoral Division—Pasture and meadow prevail more than tillage. The high prices of food during the last two seasons induced a greater breadth of land than usual to be broken up for corn and potato crops in the clay and retentive soils. From a general defect of drainage, much of the land that was ploughed was not sown, in consequence of the continued rains of February, March, and April; nevertheless the quantity of land under crop is greater than the average of the last five years. Throughout this division the complaints of a failure in the potato crop is general. The oat crop looks well; but the wheat, of which the proportion is not equal to other districts, is in many places infected with the rust or blight.

Clonbroney—The observations on Granard apply to a greater extent in this division. The farms are larger; it is a rich pasture district, and the tillage less in proportion. The potato crop is very generally infected.

Gelshagh—This is a poorer district than Clonbroney; the population greater in proportion to its extent and annual value; and the holdings smaller. Much of the land is waste and uncropped from the poverty of the occupiers. The system of tillage is wretchedly bad, and the corn crops I examined are very inferior; the breadth of land under them I should suppose was less than the average of former years. There is a total neglect of drainage or improvement of any sort.

Columbkil—This is the poorest of all the electoral divisions in the Union, and the observations on Gelshagh apply to a greater extent here; but the disease in the potato crop does not as yet appear so general as in other places.

Lough Gowna—The population is less in proportion to extent of area; and though in particular parts of it small holdings and their concomitant evils, poverty and bad farming, exist to a great extent, yet in a great proportion of this district the disease in the potato crop has not as yet appeared so general and widely spread as in other parts of the Union. The oat crops and the small proportion of wheat sown look well, and the quantity of land under these crops is greater than the average of former years.

Abbeylara—The circumstances of this division are in many respects similar to those of Granard. The want of drainage in the tenacious clay land is obvious, and the extent and quality of the oat and wheat crops are below the average of former years: the disease in the potato crop prevails to an alarming extent.

Castlenugent—This division has a less population in proportion to its area and valuation than any of the Union. It is generally divided into large farms, and the tillage much superior to most of the surrounding districts. The breadth of land under crops of human food is greater than the average of former years. The appearance of disease in the potato crop is general.

COUNTY CAVAN.

Scrabby—The tillage throughout this division is of the worst description, and the crops exhibit a corresponding state of inferiority. Wheat is not cultivated to any extent, but there is a greater breadth of land under oats than usual. The disease in the potato crop is prevalent, but some localities continue as yet free from it. The majority of the population are small occupiers; and as is usual with that description of tenantry, they are idle, improvident, and demoralized to an awful extent.

Mullaghoran—The observations on Scrabby apply to a large proportion of this division: that part of it adjoining Drumlumman is in rather a better state. The disease in the potato crop is widely spread and progressing daily.

Drumlumman—A considerable proportion of this division is in grass and

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meadow lands; but the high market prices of the last two years have here also induced a greater breadth of land to be broken up for human food crops, and the average area under wheat and oats is greater than usual. The tillage is of the worst description; the land generally foul with weeds, and no attempt at drainage. The disease in the potato crop is universal, and progressing rapidly to its total destruction. In the whole district I could not find a field free from it. The consequent dismay and alarm of the small farmers is beyond all precedent; they are digging out the crop, and glutting the market with the produce, which has produced a corresponding fall of prices, varying from $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $4d.$ per stone.

COUNTY WESTMEATH.

Foyran, Lickbla, Coole, Street, Rathowen—The statistical circumstances of these five electoral divisions are very similar to each other. They contain a large area of bog, and of flat, alluvial grass and meadow lands, flooded in winter by the rivers Gloise, Inny, and their tributaries. A considerable portion of them are in large pasture farms, and in these the tillage has been greatly extended within the last two years. On the uplands the crops of oats and wheat have a good appearance. The potato disease has throughout these divisions exhibited itself very generally. Strange to say, the peat soils, where the potatoes were the least infected in the former seasons, are this year the worst. The destitute portion of the population in all these five divisions consist chiefly of the cottier tenantry on the large farms, who formerly used to rent con-acres for potatoes from the large farmers, and of those located along the margin of the great turf bogs, occupying patches of ground reclaimed from the bogs, who in summer used to cut and sell turf, and to steal from their neighbours in the winter. Nothing can exceed the wretched state of their habitations, or their barbarous ignorance and demoralization. They generally contrived to plant patches of potatoes on dry parts of the bog, and were in the habit, when this was done, of shutting shop and begging through the country during the summer. The whole of this population are now utterly destitute, and must be supported out of the rates either on out-door relief or as inmates of the workhouse.

I have extended this report beyond the limits which perhaps were required; but it will give the Commissioners a tolerable correct idea of the general state of this Union and of its prospects.

Kells Union—Captain Dent, R.N.:—August 12, 1848.

In compliance with the directions contained in your letter of the 9th instant, calling for a report on the present appearance of the potato and other crops in each electoral division of this Union, I beg to state, that from personal inspection, as well as from every information I could gain from the intelligent small farmers as well as the gentry and large landholders, there is every fear that the disease is gaining ground, and has in appearance much increased since my last report. Certain it is that in the several divisions (see margin,) I have been enabled to go through during the past week, very many fields that were looking healthy and flourishing, show now a black and blasted appearance in the stalks and leaves; and though, in the inspection of the roots, I have seen little beyond the spotted appearance, which on removing with the nail has been found not to have penetrated, from the offensive smell, however, issuing from some fields, there is too much reason to fear that symptoms similar to that of 1846 have manifested themselves. This is shown more particularly in the late sorts. In my communications with different persons, I have brought before them the fact of the late unpropitious weather, not only as respects the extreme wetness of the season but its being attended with cold and frost almost unknown before; and whether to this might not be attributable the present unhealthy and blighted appearance of the potato; and whether more genial weather may not tend, if not to restore, at all events to prevent a further spread. In the answers to those queries I have almost invariably found, that in proportion to the extent of the ground planted by the person, and consequent stake, they were of a desponding or more cheering character.

From an intelligent and large holder with whom I have been in communication this day, Mr. Pat Kearney, of Miltown, in the Kilskeer division, I learn his

Kells,
Burry,
Kilskeer,
Girley,
Rathmore,
Telltown;

opinion, that the disease in his part is not on the increase. He stated to me, that for the purpose of being able to form a more correct judgment of its progress he had refrained from visiting fields of his, which he found showing symptoms, for several days; and that his impression on again seeing them was, that the disease had not gained, and his consequent hope that dry, fine weather would stop the progress. This is the opinion of many: on all sides it is admitted that the present shows nothing of the virulent nature of the attack manifested in the year 1846.

With reference to the wheat and green crops: notwithstanding the dreadful heavy rains we have had they are standing well up under it and look healthy and promising. The extent of these—while the yield is not expected to come up to last, an extraordinary bearing, year—is above the average usual in this Union. In consequence of the great breadth of land occupied by the potato, the turnip will fall far short of last year, though what is planted have a healthy, promising appearance. The oats appear to me the most unpromising, having generally no growth in the stalk; and while the recent weather has done great damage to the hay on the ground, the after-grass, of which they had little or none last year, is most luxuriant this; and will supply in a great measure any deficiency which may be caused by not saving the hay.

I shall consider my next week's report on all will be more conclusive; as by that time, no doubt, I shall be enabled to speak positively as to the progress of the disease.

Kenmare Union—Captain Ommanney, R.N. :—August 12, 1848.

Agreeably with your request contained in letter of the 9th inst., I have the honour to transmit the following statement of the appearance of the crops in each electoral division of this Union:—

Kenmare—Potato crop has everywhere been blighted about the town of Kenmare; the gardens have suffered more severely than any part of the Union; a very large proportion of the tubers are diseased. The proportion of grain crops is inconsiderable; but I am informed a less extent has been sown this year than the last. The oats are looking well; wheat is in a backward state, in consequence of the wet weather; turnips have been sown—every farmer has a small quantity.

Bunawn—Potato crop has been extensively cultivated in this division; it has at present suffered but little damage from the disease, and promises well at present. Of any other crop there is a very small proportion cultivated; oats look well; most of the farmers have a small patch of turnips.

Kilgarvan—The potato crop partially blighted; within the last week there have been some complaints of the disease being in the tubers; previous to this the gardens have been most luxuriant; there is every reason to hope the produce will be considerable and good; turnips are generally sown in small quantities. Of grain there is more sown than in any other part of the Union; oats are looking well; wheat supposed to be damaged by the wet.

Templenoe—Potato crop extensive; everywhere the blight has attacked it—many complaints of the tubers being black; other crops are very inconsiderable; turnips in small quantities are cultivated, but not to any greater extent than last year.

Ballybog—Potato crop is extensive; the disease made its appearance here first, and has done great damage; several gardens are totally ruined, and every one more or less injured; the crop to all appearance suffered extensively. I have seen gardens where all the potatoes are diseased; in others checked before they had grown to a proper size. A few turnips are cultivated; the country and soil incapable of producing grain.

Bourdoneen—Potato crop very extensive; in several localities the disease has destroyed entire gardens, others have escaped as yet; generally they are partially attacked; a large quantity of the crop may yet be safe; oats and wheat are cultivated but partially on some farms, which are looking well; turnips have been planted generally in small quantities, to a greater extent than usual.

Tuosist—Potato crop very extensive; the disease has attacked it throughout the division; in many places the gardens are entirely destroyed, and scarcely any one has escaped. The disease has spread considerably during the last week;

Miscellaneous.

several complaints of the tubers being black. Of grain crops, the proportion is very limited; oats look well; turnips are generally planted in small quantities, but more extensively than any previous year. From all accounts, and from personal observation, it may be considered that at the present time about one-third of the potato crop is destroyed; but from the extent which it has been cultivated this year, should one-half be saved, there will be a considerable quantity of provisions, as the people have risked their "all" upon the fate of the crop; a total destruction will be ruinous to every body. The system of agriculture throughout is of a most indifferent character. The turnip has been brought more extensively into notice this year; I am now distributing seed to put in the ground where potatoes have been dug. Potatoes were selling in the market yesterday for four pence the weight of 21 lbs.

Kilrush Union—Captain Kennedy :—Kilkee, August 12, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 9th August, I have the honour to state that I have attentively observed the state of the crops of human food, so all important in this Union. The potato crop is almost universally blighted wherever it has reached a certain degree of maturity. I have seen whole ridges dug up, and fully one-half were unfit for human food. The remainder, though at present sound, will, I have no doubt, soon become tainted, as the disease is steadily progressing wherever it has made its appearance.

The late crops in many instances still look green and flourishing, and are by their hopeful owners thought to be safe. I am of a totally different opinion; their time is not yet come, and when they arrive at the degree of maturity at which the early crop was attacked I have no doubt that the failure will be still more calamitous. A most flourishing crop under my daily observation has been withered and blackened within three days, and the tubers spotted.

The following are my observations (personal) on particular electoral divisions:—

Kilballyowen—Blight very extensive, though not of so aggravated a character as elsewhere.

Moyarta—A very small quantity for immediate use may be saved; calculations of practical men vary from one-fifth to one-tenth: I fear the latter nearest the truth.

Kilkee—A considerable quantity of early potatoes for immediate use, but all are diseased more or less in every quality of ground.

Killard—Not much early crop, and all diseased.

Kilmurphy—Ditto.

Knock, Kilfidane, and Kildysart—All at a certain degree of maturity diseased.

Killimer and Kilrush—A less quantity planted, but all more or less infected; many fields a total loss.

Killofin—Much the same as Killard, Kilmacduane, and Kilmihil; a less breadth planted, but almost all infected.

Once infected the plant withers progressively and visibly from day to day, a single night making a marked difference in the appearance and colour. The disease resembles that of 1845. But few of the poor seem to realize the extent or consequences of this mysterious calamity.

As regards other crops of human food I have to observe, that a considerable breadth of beans has been planted in the western part of the Union, and look healthy. Taking the average of the Union, I am of opinion that the breadth of cereal crops is equal to former years, though I hear numerous and, from my own knowledge, well-founded complaints of the barley and wheat crops. The continued heavy rain, undrained land, and wretched tillage fully account for this.

Listowel Union—Captain Spark :—August 12, 1848.

In compliance with the request of the Commissioners in your letter of the 9th instant, I regret to have to make a report which may be comprised in five words used by the farmers and others to me in the course of my inquiries—"the potato crop is gone."

Yet I do not go the length of stating that none will be available for food. The common early potatoes, such as were put in the ground early, in March and

April, have in many fields sound tubers not yet affected by the blight, not however full grown; and as this sort preponderates, I consider that about one-third the crop may be saved if they are taken up in time. The later set potatoes will yield nothing, and are daily dying off, as are all others.

Of the corn crops, oats and barley look well—these prevail in preference to wheat; the latter appears thin and weak. The extent of corn crops is considered, as compared with last year's sowing, to be from one-half to one-third less.

The above remarks apply to the following electoral divisions, all I have been able to inspect personally this week. I have had but yesterday and to-day to look to the matter, having received the letter on Thursday, the day of the board's meeting:—

Listowel,	Kilfeighney,
Gunsborough,	Kilshinane,
Ballylongford,	Kilflyn,
Killihenny,	Rattoo,
Kiltomy,	Drumkeen;
Newtown Sandes,	

but I know from former visits and inquiries that the same would perfectly apply to every division of the Union.

If the weather should continue to be wet, as at present, the general opinion is that the corn crop will be jeopardized. Of turnips and other green crops there is little sown in this Union, but they look well.

Longford Union—Mr. Downman:—August 13, 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and in reply beg to make the following statement of the crops in this Union:—

<i>Longford,</i>	Potatoes, with very few exceptions, are all diseased; the bulb of about one-third of the crop is black, and the injury is increasing daily.
<i>Newtown Forbes,</i>	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
<i>Edgeworthstown,</i>	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
<i>Ardagh,</i>	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
<i>Ballinamuck,</i>	Potatoes are all diseased; the bulb of about one-half the crop is affected, and the disease is increasing daily.
<i>Drumlisk,</i>	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
<i>Mohill,</i>	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
<i>Termonbarry,</i>	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
<i>Killashee—Moydow,</i>	Potatoes are safer than in any other part of the Union; one-quarter are at present sound.
<i>Cashel,</i>	Potatoes appear from the stalk to be all gone.
<i>Rathcline,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Ballymahon,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Kilcommack,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Taghshinny,</i>	Ditto, ditto.

The remaining electoral divisions I have not visited for some time, but the reports are that the potatoes are all going. The disease is increasing so rapidly that potatoes that were sound in Killashee on Wednesday were all diseased on Friday. The crop in this Union must be considered nearly as great a failure as the year the disease first appeared.

The wheat is injured in many fields, but to no alarming extent. All other crops are looking remarkably well. There is a greater extent of wheat, and far greater extent of oats, bere, and barley than previous years. There are very few turnips in the Union.

Macroom Union—Mr. Brandling:—August 13, 1848.

In reply to your letter, I have the honour to state that the potato crop appears to be affected throughout the entire of the Macroom Union. In travelling through the country I cannot see a single field of potatoes without the appearance of disease; and this awful calamity is gradually gaining ground in every direction. I examined a cluster of potato gardens, consisting of ten acres, in the neighbourhood of Macroom, and found them completely destroyed. I see loads

Miscellaneous.

of damaged potatoes brought from all quarters to the Macroon market, to be sold at reduced prices for feeding cattle. The weather being so very unfavourable, and the potato disease increasing from day to day, an opinion on the future prospects of the country would be merely a matter of conjecture. At present I do not think that more than one-third of the potatoes are damaged; but this visitation is not equally distributed through the country. Some poor creatures have their gardens destroyed; and these people must depend on the poor rates for their support during the coming winter.

The wheat crops are decidedly scanty. The farmers do not anticipate saving much more than half of an average crop.

A fortnight of fine weather would be of the greatest service to the oat crop, which promises a good return.

The Macroon Board of Guardians have appointed Saturday the 26th of August, for a special meeting, to take into consideration the state of the crops. A written exposition shall be sent from the meeting to the Poor Law Commissioners, to put them in possession of the general prospects of the Union.

Milford Union—Mr. Horsley :—August 12, 1848.

Herewith I have the honour to transmit the statement you called for by your letter of the 9th instant. In consequence of a mistake at the Rathmelton post-office, I received that letter only yesterday evening instead of on Thursday evening.

I had, however, walked and ridden over the greater part of the Union since Monday last; and am therefore able to report, from personal observation, upon the general appearance of the crops in the several electoral divisions of the Union.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT of the present appearance of the Potato Crop, and of the other Crops for Human Food :—*August 12, 1848.*

Rathmelton—In this division disease has within the last few days manifested itself in almost every field of potatoes. The leaves are spotted and withered, and the haulms are partially discoloured or blackened. In some instances the disease has already descended into the tubers. The turnip crop, owing partly to the ravages of the fly, and partly to an insufficiency of manure, is not likely to yield much more than half the bulk and weight given by the same description of crop last year. Nearly one-fourth of the arable land in this division is under potatoes and other green crops.

Oats are strong, and very well corned; unless, however, there should be an immediate occurrence of dry and sunny weather, they will ripen badly and be light in weight. Very little wheat is grown in this division, or indeed in the Union; it is an average crop in appearance.

Carn—In this division also the presence of disease amongst the potatoes is too apparent and general. The turnip crop does not give promise of an abundant yield. About one-seventh of the arable land is under potatoes and other green crops.

Oats and other grain crops look remarkably well, and only want sun and genial weather to ensure their turning out well on the threshing-floor. The frosts which have prevailed for the last few nights are against them however.

Rathmullen—In this division rot among the potatoes is even more apparent than in the two former ones, owing to the crop being, in it, further advanced towards maturity. The turnip crop, from having had the benefit of superior tillage, wears a strong and healthy appearance. About one-seventh of the arable land is under potatoes and other green crops. Peas and beans are both tolerable crops.

Oats and other grain crops only require to ripen well to be above average crops.

Oughterlin—This is a very late division in point of climate, and in addition to this the soil is wretchedly cultivated, consequently all crops are backward in it; but even here the potato crop shows symptoms of disease. Turnips are very bad, having been sown in cold wet soil, and having been given but little manure; almost all the manure was applied to the potatoes. About one-tenth of the arable land is under potatoes and green crops.

I much fear, from the backwardness of the season and the cold nature of the soil in this division, oats will have ultimately to be included under the head of green crop. There is no wheat to any extent grown in this division.

Milford—Here also the first stage of the potato rot has manifested itself generally; and in some fields decomposition has set in amongst the tubers. Turnips do not give promise of an average yield. Peas are a good crop; about one-eighth of the soil under green crop.

Oats, wheat, and other grain crops look luxuriant at present, but are a long way from maturity.

Carrickart—The spotting of the leaves and discolouration of the stems of the potato plant has only just commenced in this division; but I have seen few fields altogether free from taint. The turnip crop, owing to bad farming and bad soil combined, is unpromising. About one-seventh of the arable land is under green crop.

Oats and barley, if well ripened, will both prove above average crops.

Meevagh—Disease among the potato crops in this division is clearly discernible in almost every field or garden; but, as the soil is of a light and dry nature, there is some reason to hope that the tubers, though small, may eventually prove tolerably sound. Turnips look very indifferent. About one-tenth of soil under green crop.

Oats and barley are thin, and but moderately well corned. They will be ready for the sickle sooner than in other places where the soil is stiffer.

Glinsk—The first stage of the rot is visible in every field of potatoes in this division; it is observable in small patches in each field, and will, I much fear, spread over the whole of them. Turnips scarcely promise an average yield. Peas are a good crop. About one-seventh of the arable soil is under green crop of one kind or another.

Oats and barley promise at present to be above average crops.

Carroukeel—There is every appearance of a failure in the potato crop in this division. Turnips suffered a good deal from the ravages of the fly, but they will still be a tolerable crop. About one-eighth of the arable soil is under green crop.

The grain crops generally look very well, but require a fortnight of fine and sunny weather to ripen them.

Greenfort—The potato rot in its first stage is also generally observable in some portion or other of the potato fields in this division. Turnips are not coming away particularly well. About one-eighth of the arable soil is under green crop.

Oats and barley show luxuriantly.

Kilmacrenan—There is less appearance as yet of the potato rot in this division than in any other in the Union; but still there is a distinct indication of it in numerous fields that I have minutely inspected. Turnips look tolerably well in this division.

All the grain crops give promise of a good return, if they get good ripening weather.

Doon—In this division the potato crop has begun to show symptoms of disease; and the small farmers, who in many instances parted with their last head of stock to purchase seed, are in a very desponding state. There is very little land under turnip culture, such as it is.

The grain crops promise well at present.

Observations—Since Saturday last, the 5th of August (the date of my last report on the state of the potato crop), the potato crop has quite changed its aspect in this Union. There is scarcely a field under that crop in the Union which has not been smitten more or less by blight; and I very much fear, that although the mischief is at present almost entirely confined to the leaves and stems of the potato plants, the tubers will, in a great measure, soon become unfit for human food. Even should they remain sound, they are so small, and their further increase in size so improbable when the stems which convey the sap to them are diseased, that much reliance cannot be placed upon them for furnishing any thing like a staple supply of food for the population. But from what I have seen, I cannot entertain any reasonable hope that they will remain sound; nor do the potato growers themselves entertain any such expectation. On the contrary, they are rushing into the markets with their potatoes, and the consequence is, that the price of them is falling daily. I could have purchased to-day any quantity at 2½d. per stone, and by the middle of next week I doubt not the price will fall to 1½d. per stone.

The general impression here is, that the crop will fail almost as signally as it did in 1846.

In corroboration of this I may mention, that a person in this neighbourhood, who is by no means given to rash speculation, has within the last three days ordered, at certain limits, 1,000 tons of Indian corn from America.

The disease in the crop has set in this season much earlier than it did last season, and consequently the tubers at the roots of the plants are still very small. The offensive smell, which is one mark of the disease, is now very observable, especially after sunset.

Should the potato crop fail generally and signally in this Union, as is feared, I have no hesitation in affirming, that the supply of food for human consumption will fall very far short of the produce of last year, or of any other year of recent occurrence, with the exception perhaps of 1846.

Mohill Union—Major Haliday:—August 13, 1848.

In accordance with your desire, conveyed to me in Mr. Stanley's letter of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit the following statement as to the appearance of the potato crop, and the state and relative extent (as compared with former years) of the other crops of human food, in the several electoral divisions of the Mohill Union. I have within the last week passed through portions of eight of these, and inquired particularly of the resident farmers. I may remark, that it is chiefly within the last ten days that the extensive and now rapidly spreading appearance of disease in the potato crop has occurred; and in many cases with a suddenness equal to that of the blight of 1845 and 1846.

STATEMENT of the appearance, &c., of the Potato Crop, and of the amount, &c., of other Crops of Human Food.

Mohill—Potatoes: plants almost universally discoloured within the last week; tubers in some cases affected, but as yet not deeply; existence of the disease unquestionable. Wheat crop (not large), injured by the rain and by smut; other crops, oats, rye, &c., fine, and promise abundant yield; most houses have plots with cabbage, &c. Great extent of waste land from ejectments and surrendered holdings; consequently average extent rather below usual.

Annaduff—Potatoes: nearly every field discoloured, and tubers in many cases affected more or less. Grain crops of every kind fine and luxuriant; wheat somewhat injured; every cottage has its garden, with turnips, cabbages, &c., but no large breadth of green crop. Much waste land as above; average nearly equal to former years.

Annaghweagh—Potatoes: great and general discolouration; tubers in many cases affected. Wheat crop somewhat injured; other green crops very ample and fine; plots of turnip, cabbage, &c., as above. Extent of grain nearly double that of former years.

Rinn—Potatoes: every field blackened, and tubers beginning to be much affected. Grain crops of all kinds good and promising; plots of turnips, &c., numerous and good. Extent, nearly double the usual amount.

Cloone—Potatoes: I have not seen this division for some time; crop reported to me as showing the blight generally, and some potatoes diseased. Grain crops abundant and fine, with the exception of wheat, which is laid by the continued rains; plots of turnips, cabbage, &c., at nearly every house. Great tracts of waste and untilled land—consequently extent of grain rather below usual average.

Eslin—Potatoes: fields generally blackened; tubers said to be in many instances quite destroyed; about one-sixth useless. Grain crops (except wheat), fine and promising; wheat injured by smut and rain. Great extent of waste and surrendered ground; average extent scarcely equal to the usual.

Fenagh—I have recently seen only a very small portion of this division: potato gardens all black; fields also beginning suddenly to be discoloured. Grain crops fine and abundant; numerous garden plots, with cabbage, &c. Extent, one-third larger than usual.

Aghavas—Potatoes: breadth planted very small; general discolouration and complaint of decay. Crops, especially oats, ample and promising well; plots of cabbage, &c., general. Extent, nearly twice as great as former average.

Carrigallen—I have not seen this division lately. Potatoes said to be everywhere diseased, and some quite gone. Crops good and ample; plots of cabbage, &c., but no large breadth of green crop. Extent, one-half larger than usual.

Newtowngore—I cannot speak from recent personal observation. Potatoes said to be much affected, and a large portion diseased. Grain crops good and promising; numerous plots of green crops; turnips, &c. Extent, probably one-half greater than usual.

Drumreilly—Great breadth of potatoes; said to be much affected, and tubers decaying. I have not seen this within a fortnight past. Crops good; most houses have their kitchen garden, with cabbage, &c.; no cultivation of green crops on the large scale. Extent, about one-third greater than usual.

* *Ballinamore*—Potatoes: very little appearance of the blight within a few days past, but the gardens showing discolouration; potatoes in market sound. Crops good and promising; plots of green crops generally attached to the cabins. Extent, fully one-half greater than usual.

* *Oughteragh*—I have not seen any part of this division recently. Same observations as for Ballinamore apply, as I am informed. Crops said to be large and fine. Extent, fully one-half greater than usual.

Newcastle Union—Captain Routh:—August 13, 1848.

On Friday I visited Monagay, Drumcallagher, Killagholehane, and Killeedy; on Saturday, Clouncagh, Ballingarry, Castletown, Kilmeedy, and Mahoonagh.

With the exception of one or two fields, every garden that I passed was blighted, and in several the people were digging the potatoes. In each of these I gathered some potatoes at haphazard, and found in all that a majority of the potatoes were affected.

I was informed that owing to the lateness of sowing the scallion, the potato would not arrive at maturity until 1st of September; yet many are at present taking them up half grown, to realize a little by their sale now. I made inquiries on the road of different farmers, and all gave me the worst possible accounts of them. I also called upon several of the resident gentry, and their opinion was the same. One farmer told me that he considered that the failure

* These divisions comprise much mountain and upland ground; and therefore the crop is later. The non-appearance of disease as yet is therefore probably fallacious.

would be more extensive than in 1846, because in that year the disease made its appearance at a later period, and they were enabled to save more potatoes.

The disease spreads, and the anticipations are, that a very general failure will be the consequence. From my personal inspection, I cannot hold out any hopes, that in the electoral divisions I have mentioned their anticipations will not turn out correct. It is the disease of 1846, and very general.

I send specimens of potatoes gathered from different fields. To-morrow and Tuesday I will visit Abbeyfeale, Rathronan, and Ardagh.

The accounts I receive of the two former places are very bad; but I understand it is not general in Ardagh. I shall be able to write more positively on the subject after my inspection.

The wheat crop is by no means abundant, but what there is is promising; the worm has not affected it materially. Oats and barley are both thick and good. Turnips are middling.

There has not been much wheat or turnips sown. Oats and barley have been sown more extensively; but I am unable at present to give accurate information as to whether the crop sown is greater this year than in preceding years. I shall not fail to inform myself, and let you know the result.

New Ross Union—Mr. Bayly :—August 13, 1848.

I have to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have visited each electoral division in this Union within the three last days. I have carefully examined some hundred potato fields, and regret to be obliged to state that the crop has been seriously attacked by disease, with a very few exceptions, within the last eight days. Most of the farmers first perceived a change on the 6th instant, which they attribute to the heavy showers, accompanied by lightning, which fell on the previous day.

The quantity of potatoes planted is generally supposed to be five times more, turnips and other green crops considerably less, and corn about the same as last year, as in many places grass land was broken up for wheat and oats.

The farmers are much alarmed, and in a most desponding state at the prospect of another potato failure; even the poorest of them having made the most strenuous exertions to plant as much land as they could procure seed for, and neglected sowing turnips or other green crops, of which there was considerably more last year.

I enclose a summary of my observations in each electoral division.

ENCLOSURE.

<i>Fethard,</i>	Potato crop very little injured as yet; about five times more planted than last year; wheat crop thin; oats and barley good. The quantity of land under corn the same as last year, but the quality generally inferior.
<i>Dunbrody,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Tintern,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Whitechurch,</i>	Potato fields all black; in most of them the tubers already show symptoms of disease: wheat, oats, and barley good.
<i>New Ross,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Dysertmoon,</i>	Ditto, ditto; wheat, oats, and barley very thin.
<i>Inistiogue,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Woodstock,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>The Rower,</i>	Potatoes very bad—the tubers very much affected; wheat, oats, and barley good.
<i>Graigie,</i>	Ditto, ditto; wheat thin; oats and barley good.
<i>St. Mullins,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Templeudigan,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Old Ross,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Adamstown,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Carnagh,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Newbawn,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Horetown,</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Clongeen,</i>	Ditto, ditto.

Nenagh Union—Captain Darkey, R.N.:—August 12, 1848.

It gives me the greatest pain to be obliged to report to you, for the information of the Commissioners, that the potato crop throughout the entire of this Union is irreparably damaged. The very inclement weather which has prevailed during the last week has I greatly fear sealed the fate of this crop. There is not now an electoral division in the Union where the disease has not appeared, and is making rapid progress. I have lying before me reports from each electoral division, and they all agree in this lamentable statement. I have just returned from a ride of from thirty to forty miles through the southern part of the Union, including the electoral divisions of Kilmore, Killoscully, Kilnerath, and Newport, and my own observations confirm these sad reports. From many fields the most offensive smell arises, clearly proving that putrefaction is going forward. Unless a favourable change speedily takes place in the weather the late crop will be lost. The people are digging out the early crop for sale, and for their own present use. Potatoes were sold in the market of Nenagh this day at from four pence to five pence a stone weight.

The wheat crop is throughout the Union very thin, and far below the usual average, besides which it has received very serious damage from the severity of the weather. Bere is also a bad crop.

The crops of oats and barley as yet promise to be abundant and good, and an unusual breadth of land has been sown with oats this year. Turnips in general look well, but the quantity cultivated in the Union is insignificant.

Oldcastle Union—Captain Burmester:—August 12, 1848.

In compliance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 9th August, I have the honour to forward a report on the general state of the crops in this Union.

As regards the potatoes I have to state, that up to this date I believe that at least one-third of the crop is destroyed, taking the Union throughout. I find the blight more severe in the vicinity of Oldcastle, and rather lighter in the high land about Crossakeel. I have no doubt but that the destruction is still going on, and it is probable that it will be as extensive as in 1846. I observe that the people have given up keeping the fields clear of weeds, from the opinion that prevails of its being useless to take further trouble about them.

As regards the cereal crops, I believe that the wheat harvest will not be an average one; the grain is light and inferior to that of last year, and some smut is apparent, caused by the prolonged wet during the time the corn was in flower. There are also some instances of its being blighted. The oat crop promises to be abundant and good; some few fields of heavy oats have been slightly damaged by the late rains. As to the turnips, they appear to be good.

In the eight relief districts of this Union, I find from the best information I have been able to obtain, that with reference to the crops of last year there has this year been sown in the

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS OF	OF CORN,	AND OF TURNIPS,
Crossakeel and Killallon . . .	less, . . .	less by one-half than in 1847.
Moylagh and Killeagh . . .	about equal, . . .	less.
Oldcastle and Loughcrew . . .	less, . . .	less.
Castlepollard and Fore . . .	about equal, . . .	about equal.
Munterconnaught and Virginia . . .	rather less, . . .	much less.
Castlerahan	more, . . .	less.
Ballyjamesduff	more, . . .	less.
Kilbride	less, . . .	less.

It is to be observed that much more land was sown with potatoes throughout the Union in 1848 than in the preceding year.

Further Letter from Captain Burmester:—August 12, 1848.

I forward my weekly report on the potato crop.

The blight has increased in every direction, and the proportion of diseased potatoes is greater than it was last week.

I annex the weekly returns of relieving officers.

ENCLOSURES.

Miscellaneous.

Crossakeel—Has the blight increased in this division during the last week?—It has increased very considerably.

What portion of the crop is lost at the present time?—I think about one-ninth part of crop.

Killallon—Has the blight increased in this division during the last week?—It has considerably.

What portion of the crop is lost at present?—About one-tenth part of the crop.

My opinion is, that in the course of one month the entire crop will be gone.

Moylagh—Has the blight increased during the last week?—It has greatly increased.

What portion of the crop is lost at the present time?—I think nearly one-third is lost.

Killeagh—Has the blight increased during the last week?—It has greatly increased.

What portion of the crop is lost at present?—I think one-third of the crop is lost.

I am of opinion if the blight increases as it has for the last ten days, there will not be one-tenth of them safe in another three weeks.

Oldcastle—Has the blight increased during the last week?—The blight has increased during the last week.

What portion of the crop is destroyed at the present time?—Probably one-sixth.

Loughcrew—Has the blight increased during the last week?—It has increased considerably.

What portion of the crop is destroyed at present?—About one-sixth.

In all probability the condition of the poor will be as bad next winter as last winter, if they do not get employment.

Castlepollard—Has the blight increased during the last week?—It has very much.

What portion of the crop is at present destroyed?—Nearly two-thirds.

Fore—Has the blight increased during the last week?—It has.

What portion of the crop is at present lost?—Same as Castlepollard.

The potato that is in the least touched with disease is unfit for use, and even not fit food for pigs; they smell quite strong. Such are the reports of the farmers of the above electoral divisions.

MICHAEL MEAGHER.

Virginia—Has the blight increased during the last week?—Very much.

What portion of the crop is at present lost?—Nearly two-thirds.

Munterconnaught—Has the blight increased during the last week?—Very much.

What portion of the crop is at present lost?—Nearly two-thirds.

There are little or no hopes of their recovery.

FRANCIS DURHAM.

Kilbride—Has the blight increased during the last week?—It has increased considerably.

What portion of the crop is at present lost?—I think about two-thirds of the crop.

In my opinion there will not be a single potato at the 1st of October next.

WILLIAM REILLY.

Ballyjamesduff—Has the blight increased during the last week?—It has increased considerably.

What portion of the crop is at present destroyed?—I think about one-eighth of the crop is at present destroyed.

I think from the failure of the potato crop, which is now almost general, that a greater destitution will prevail in the above district than in any of the preceding years; as many of the small farmers, whose sole dependence was on the potato, are in the catalogue of paupers.

PETER MURPHY.

Castlerahan—Has the blight increased during the last week?—To a great extent.

What portion of the crop is at present destroyed?—The one-half at least.

It is considered, with few exceptions, that the entire of the potatoes will after a short time become unfit for human use.

JOHN FLOOD.

Roscommon Union—Mr. Musters:—August 12, 1848.

I have the honour to inform you, that owing to Mr. L. Mahon's continued illness (for whom I am acting as Vice-Guardian), I have not been able to make as minute an inquiry into the state of the potato and other crops in this Union as I could otherwise have done; but after I read your communication on

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Miscellaneous.

last Wednesday, requesting a report on the state of each electoral division, separately, I made it my business to visit a large portion of the Union during the next three days, comprising the electoral divisions of Roscommon, Kiltewan, Kilbride, Killukin, Tulsk, Dunamon, Kilbegnet, a portion of Athleague and Clontuskert. In each of these divisions, and I think I may safely say in the Union generally, the potato crop is more or less affected—showing the disease chiefly in the leaves and stems, which are nearly everywhere blackened and withered; but the potatoes, though daily becoming worse, are not as yet as much injured as they are reported to be in other places. I very much fear, however, that they soon will become so; as I found the fields belonging to the better class of farmers and gentry, which had been somewhat earlier planted than the general crop, much more injured, and in some cases more than half destroyed. I also got several stalks dug in some of the later crops; and in every case I found diseased potatoes, though the owners of the fields had stated they were as yet quite sound.

I think it is impossible to come to any decided opinion as to the probable loss of this crop at present; but in the course of ten days or a fortnight more, I have no doubt the extent of damage will be pretty well ascertained. The weather has improved very much during the past week; and should it continue favourable, I have no doubt that a considerable portion of the crop may still be saved. The wheat, oats, and bere crops do not appear to have had any damage by the late rains—are ripening fast—and look as well as I ever remember to have seen them at this season of the year.

During the ensuing week I will get returns from the relieving officers of the state of each electoral division; which, with any observations I am able to make myself in the meantime, I will forward to the Poor Law Commissioners on Saturday next.

Roscrea Union—Mr. Todd:—August 14, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 9th instant I have to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have not observed, myself, nor have I heard of any thing in the appearance of the potato crop in this Union peculiar to any one electoral division. In each the same evidences of diseases are apparent: the leaves and stalks discoloured and shrivelled, and particularly so where much sheltered. As yet I believe the disease has not reached the tubers, or at least not to any great extent; and in some few instances people are pulling up the stalk, in the hope of arresting the progress of the disease. There is a potato of the “pink-eye” class much grown in this Union; it is known by many names, but most generally as “dexters.” From this potato much is expected, as it has remained as yet untouched by disease, and the tops are perfectly green.

The wheat crop in this Union will, I fear, prove a short one; there is much smut, the ear is generally light, and in some districts, in consequence of the alternate heat and rain, there are appearances of what I believe farmers call “shoot-ing.” Altogether I fear this crop cannot be calculated at more than three-fourths of that of last year in this Union.

The oat crop promises a fair yield; and in extent is little less than an average one. Barley is not grown to any great extent in this Union, and is rather backward; but I believe it may be also taken at an average crop.

The breadth of land under turnips is, I understand, fully one-third less this season than last year; and of this even a considerable proportion—chiefly early-sown Swedes, &c.—was much injured by the “fly.” I do not believe that the produce will come up to even two-thirds of last year’s turnip crop.

The crops of mangel wurzel, carrots, &c., are, in this Union, of considerable extent; and give every promise of quite an average yield.

Scariff Union—Captain Hart:—August 12, 1848.

In accordance with instructions conveyed in your letter of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that, after a careful personal inspection of the potato crop in seven out of the ten electoral divisions of this Union, I am of opinion that nearly, if not the entire, of the early crop will be saved; as even in those fields in which the leaves are most blackened it is difficult to find a diseased

potato. For the late crop, however, I entertain serious apprehensions, the disease having more or less shown itself on the leaves in every field; and, although in a great many fields the injury as yet inflicted is scarcely perceptible, still in others the plant has been too seriously smitten to justify an expectation of any further growth of the scarcely formed tuber. In any case, however, a large quantity will be saved for early consumption; but, whether they will or will not keep, time alone can prove.

Of the grain crops, fully one-third more has been sown than usual: the wheat, which is thin and occasionally blind, will be much under an average crop; bere is a good crop; barley most luxuriant, also oats; and with a little fine weather the harvest prospects would, on the whole, not be discouraging. A very small quantity of turnips are growing—the fly having been very destructive early in the season.

The most doleful forebodings of another year's famine—worse than any of the past—is in every one's mouth; and the most exaggerated and false accounts of the state of the potato and of the crops generally, reach me hourly. Unhappily there are but too many who are personally interested in propagating evil reports of famine: the labouring class hoping that out-door relief may be continued; and the ratepayers, in order that the poor may be supported by government grants instead of from a poor-rate.

Skibbereen Union—Mr. Marshall:—August 12, 1848.

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that a serious change has taken place in the state of the potato crop within the last ten days. From every information I can collect, the disease has been increasing very generally. The tubers of those planted in March and April have been much diseased; and it is to be feared that those planted later in the season will not come to maturity; the stalks have been partially destroyed, and vegetation in many places stopped. The most unfavourable reports I receive are from the western part of the Union, near the sea-coast. There is a large supply brought to market at present; but this is owing to the alarm of the people, that they will not long be fit for food.

I have continued to distribute large quantities of turnip and cabbage seed, which I received from the Society of Friends, and which the people are sowing generally throughout the Union.

I expect a further supply, in order that the resources of the district may be increased as far as possible before the season advances too far for sowing.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. ATTWIDGE to Mr. MARSHALL:—August 12, 1848.

I regret very much to inform you that the potato disease is daily on the increase in my district. The potatoes planted in March and April may yield half a crop; but those planted in May will produce nothing. I should say the latter comprise a third or more of the entire breadth sown this season.

Mr. BARRY to Mr. MARSHALL:—August 12, 1848.

According to your instructions on Thursday last, through Mr. C. Clebarrow, to me in the board-room, I beg leave to state, that I have examined personally, and minutely made inquiries as to the potato crop in my relieving districts of Myross and Castlehaven; and am extremely sorry to have to inform you, that in every instance the tuber is getting diseased, showing more and more every succeeding day as the potato is dug. I saw on yesterday, at Raheen Castle, eight weights dug for sale, and only three could be sent to market; these were among the earliest tilled and best manured in this parish. I may safely say that, in the parish, all the land sown since the first of May will not produce a weight even fit for seed; as there were no potatoes formed since the blight set in, and have not since shown any disposition to grow a morsel. Indeed I may say, all those sown since the first week of April will never be dug with the spade.

Mr. ADAMS to Mr. MARSHALL:—August 11, 1848.

Having heard a letter from you read at the workhouse yesterday, calling on the relieving officers of this Union to immediately report to you the state of the potato crop in their respective districts, I hasten to comply with your wishes. I regret to state that I cannot confirm my former report. In two or three days after writing that report, the disease first appeared in my district; it has been since progressing rapidly; it has attacked all descriptions, early and late.

Miscellaneous.

The early potatoes, although nearly full grown and unusually large, are now beginning to turn black. I have examined gardens in each electoral division with which I am connected, and I find that nearly one-third of the potatoes are diseased; the late sowing is totally gone, and will not produce as much as was sown in them. It is more to be regretted that the late potato should be lost than the early, for the poorer classes have none other set this year; consequently it will throw the burden of Union support upon the poor farmers, who are nearly as badly off as themselves. Indeed our situation at present is very alarming: the people's food again swept—the funds of all charitable committees totally exhausted—and no resource to turn on but the poor farmer. However, we must only leave it in the hands of Him who has the power to give or to take away.

I shall report on this subject every week.

Skibbereen Union—Mr. Marshall:—August 14, 1848.

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that since I forwarded my report upon the state of the potato crop on the 12th instant, I received your letter of the 9th instant, requesting I would transmit a statement of the present appearance of the potato crop in each electoral division; also, the appearance of the other crops of human food, stating whether the extent of the latter is considered to be as great, or greater, or less than usual in the Union.

Having directed the relieving officers and inspectors of schools throughout the Union to report to me weekly upon this head, I have to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that all accounts concur as to the spread of the disease in the potatoes, and that those not affected in the tubers a week ago are now becoming diseased.

In the western part of the Union, in Kilmore, East and West Skull, about one-half the usual average crop had been planted this season; and in the eastern part of the Union about three-fourths;—of these, taking into account the late crop, which forms about one-third, and which are totally destroyed, as far as I can form an opinion, one-half the entire crop at present is injured, and rendered unfit for food.

With reference to the corn crops: from the reasons stated in my report in April last, that from the small portions of land manured, or in a fit state for this crop, not more than one-third the usual quantity has been sown in the western part of the Union, particularly Kilmore, and about one-half the usual quantity in the eastern part of the Union.

The grain crops have suffered materially from the late severe weather, and, in general, the wheat crop is very inferior to what it has been in other seasons.

On the whole there is a very short supply of provisions in the Union; and should the disease in the potatoes continue to extend itself, there is great danger of the whole of that crop being destroyed. Large quantities of turnip and cabbage seeds have been sown; and I have been endeavouring to urge the people to attend to these, and also sow rye, this being the most favourable time for sowing that valuable crop, which would come in early in June next.

I have this day received a third supply of turnip seed from the Society of Friends for distribution.

Sligo and Manorhamilton Unions—Captain Gilbert:—August 15, 1848.

I beg to inform you that within the latter days of this week I have inspected the crops in the greater part of these Unions.

My personal observation of twelve electoral divisions in Sligo, and of six in Manorhamilton, and the testimony of the Guardians and magistrates of the other parts which I was unable to visit, enable me to make a decisive report on the state of the crops, and more particularly the potato.

In every electoral division the disease is very evident, but variable in its effect. In one field the leaves only are withered, in the next the stalks are black and decomposed, and in another the blight has progressed downwards to the tuber; but in all cases it is spreading and increasing at a rapid pace, and to an alarming extent.

The wheat crop is by no means an average one—short, thin, and degenerate; it was neglected for the planting of potatoes.

The oat crop is small and poor in most places.

There is not much barley sown in these Unions.

In Sligo Union there appears a preponderance of the turnip crop—thanks to the well-directed aid afforded by the Society of Friends. It looks favourably, though in some instances it has repeatedly failed.

Swineford Union—Captain Hanley :—August 12, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, relative to the crops in this Union, I beg to state, that having within the last three days visited the several electoral divisions named in the margin, and having attentively inquired, observed, and examined the different crops, I find the result as follows, and applicable to each.

The potato fields, one and all, showing the blight in different stages; and from those fields in which the disease had made much progress, a most disagreeable smell was perceptible. The stalks of the late crop are quite burned off, same as after severe frost; the root, as yet, generally sound, but in numerous instances bearing the speck of disease; the rapidity of change, from a luxuriant, healthy appearance, has been extraordinary; and fields, two days ago most promising, are now prostrate.

The oat crop is good, but the breadth sown is fully a fourth less than last year. As to wheat and green cropping, there is not much in this Union, and considerably less than last season. The early turnips all failed; the late sowing is doing well; the cultivation of the potato had never been carried to a greater extent—unfortunately to the exclusion of other crops.

Swineford,
Toomore,
Killasser,
Killeaden,
Kilbeagh,
Kilmoree,
Aughamore,
Knock;

Thurles Union—Mr. La Barte :—August 12, 1848.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Commissioners, the accompanying statement, showing the results of my personal observations in seventeen of the electoral divisions through which I have travelled since Thursday last, and of the information acquired from competent persons in the four divisions of the Union (marked *), which I was unable to visit in the short period that has elapsed since the receipt of your letter.

ENCLOSURE.

STATE of the Potato and Corn Crops in the Thurles Union, on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of August, 1848.

Thurles—Potatoes: symptoms of the disease on leaves and stalks as in 1846. Wheat: crop very much injured in some places, and will be far below average. Barley: an average crop; looking well; a little injured in some places where it was heavy. Oats: more than an average crop; a little short in the straw.

Ballycahill—Potatoes: late crop apparently much affected. Wheat: a very light crop, and below average. Barley: hardly any grown in this division. Oats: an average crop, but short in the straw.

Holycross—Potatoes: every field more or less affected. Wheat: a light crop; much below average. Barley: an average crop, and looking very well. Oats: more than an average crop, and looking well.

Moycarkey—Potatoes: late crop much injured; some of the early crop also. Wheat: a bad crop; in many places very much injured; very poor land. Barley: an average crop; looking well. Oats: a fair average crop.

Ballymoreen—Potatoes: stalks and leaves appearing much affected. Wheat: not an average crop. Barley: an average crop, and looking very well. Oats: an average crop.

Burris—Potatoes: symptoms of disease in every field; stalks black and brittle. Wheat: a very light crop; about two-thirds of the usual extent of land under it. Barley: an average crop; looking well. Oats: a good crop, and looking well.

Moyné—Potatoes: late crop apparently affected. Wheat: a light crop; much below average; injured by late rains. Barley: a fair crop, but very little of it. Oats: an average crop, and looking very well.

Rahealty—Potatoes: symptoms of the disease in the leaves and stalks. Wheat: a poor crop; in many places a partial blight. Barley: an average crop, and tolerably good. Oats: a fair average crop, but will be short in straw.

Templetoohy—Potatoes: late crop much affected; early potatoes showing symptoms; heavy smell in the fields. Wheat: a very poor crop, and far below average, particularly where sown upon stubbles. Barley: a very good crop, but not much of it in this division. Oats: an average crop, and looking very well.

Templeree—Potatoes: symptoms of disease, but less than in other divisions. Wheat:

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not an average crop; some good crops in ground previously well prepared. Barley: an average crop, both in the quantity and quality. Oats: a very good crop; more than an average one; looking very well.

Loughmore, East—Potatoes: leaves and stalks more or less affected; edible part sound. Wheat: below average, and partially injured. Barley looking well, but not much ground under it. Oats: a fair average crop in both quantity and quality.

Loughmore, West—Potatoes: disease apparent on leaves and stalks; growth of the root arrested, particularly in sheltered ground. Wheat: a thin crop, and far below average; injured by late rains. Barley: an average crop; looking well; a little injured by bad weather. Oats: an average crop; looking well.

Drom—Potatoes: late crop very generally injured since the 5th instant. Wheat: a very poor crop, and greatly injured; this is the best soil in the Union. Barley: a fair average crop. Oats: a fair average crop.

Inch—Potatoes: stalks and leaves with every symptom of the disease; late crop very bad. Wheat crop below average, and much injured by the weather. Barley looking well, but not much ground under it. Oats: a good crop.

Burrisoleigh—Potatoes: late crops much affected; in the hill country very bad. Wheat: a very poor crop; chiefly sown upon stubbles; far below average. Barley: looking well in the low ground but not much of it. Oats: an average crop; looking well, but will be short in the straw.

Templebeg—Potatoes: symptoms more or less apparent; but much worse in the hills. Wheat: below average; but looking well in the lower part of the division. Barley: an average crop, and looking very well. Oats: a fair average crop; not so good in the hill country.

Moyaliffe—Potatoes: symptoms of the disease in almost every field. Wheat: below average, but looking well; some complaints of blight. Barley: a very good average crop in the lower part of the division. Oats: an average crop; looking well.

* *Templemore*—Potatoes: late crop very much affected in leaves and stalks. Wheat: a light poor crop, and far below average. Barley: an average crop, and looking well. Oats: an average crop; looking very well.

* *Booleick*—Potatoes: symptoms of the disease everywhere; late crop very bad. Wheat: a very light crop, and much injured by bad weather. Barley: an average crop, but not much ground under it. Oats: an average crop.

* *Kilcooly*—Potatoes: late crop much injured. Wheat: below the average; partially injured. Barley: a fair average crop. Oats: a good crop; looking very well.

* *Fennor*—Potatoes: late crop partially affected. Wheat: below average; a light crop. Barley: a good crop, and looking well. Oats: a very fair average crop.

General Observations—The leaves and stems of the potato crop are more or less affected by disease in every part of the Union; and the symptoms are the same as they appeared in the last week of July, 1846. The people in general despair of the late crop. There is a great extent of country under potatoes; and many persons actually sold their last cow to purchase the seed. The early crop is still sound, although I have heard of some instances of their having become black within the last few days. I have no doubt the disease is progressing rapidly. The wheat crop has been much injured by the heavy rains of the last fortnight, and by frosts at night; it will be far from an average crop, either in acreable produce or extent of country under it: the greater proportion was sown upon the stubbles of last year. Barley appears to me to be the best crop—but not having succeeded well in former years, it has not been very generally sown in this Union. The oat crop looks very healthy, and promises to be more than an average crop; in some places it will prove short in the straw. Turnips suffered very much from the fly, and did not succeed well this year.

Tipperary Union—Mr. Haymes:—August 13, 1848.

Since the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., transmitting a request from the Commissioners that I would report from personal inspection on the state of the crops in this Union, I have traversed the several electoral divisions in all directions, and beg to forward the annexed paper as the result of my observations.

It is but fair to state, that some few of the farmers and proprietors still continue to flatter themselves, that because the disease has not yet attacked the potato itself in certain localities they have escaped the contagion altogether; but I have verified so many instances to the contrary that I must conclude their hopes and opinions will prove fallacious. In very many instances they are now being dug quite black, and in not a few perfectly rotten. As to those planted in May and June, I do not believe they will produce a potato. In many instances they have not appeared at all above ground; and those I have examined have two or three potatoes, not larger than a good-sized pea, whilst the haulm is black, and the root covered with the disease.

From what I have seen these last three weeks of the rapid spread of the disease, I am decidedly of opinion there will not be a sound potato in this Union on the 1st of January, 1849.

ENCLOSURE.

REPORT on the state of the Crops in the Tipperary Union, made from personal observation by the Poor Law Inspector, August 13, 1848.

Curdangan—Wheat poor, and thin, and partially blighted. Barley an indifferent crop. Potatoes going fast.

Bansha—Wheat much blighted. Barley poor. Oats promising. Potatoes going fast.

Kilaldriff—Wheat partially blighted, poor, and thin. Barley pretty fair. Oats fine and promising. Potatoes going fast.

Golden—Wheat blighted. Barley poor. Oats promising. Potatoes going fast.

Kilfeacle—Wheat partially blighted. Barley fair average crop. Oats very promising. Potatoes going fast.

Rathliney—Wheat poor and thin, partially blighted. Barley indifferent. Oats very promising. Potatoes going fast.

Bruis—Wheat much damaged. Barley, average crop. Oats very promising. Potatoes going fast.

Grean—Wheat thin, but still healthy. Barley, average crop. Oats looking very well. Potatoes going fast.

Lattin, Emly, Killeely, Shronehill—Chiefly grass lands. Hay crop heavy, some part saved. No wheat. Little barley. Oats looking very well. Potatoes going rapidly.

Ulla—Wheat much damaged. Barley poor. Oats fine. Potatoes going fast.

Cullen—Wheat blighted. Barley poor. Oats promising. Potatoes going fast.

Tipperary—Wheat very thin and blighted. Barley indifferent. Oats fine, but laid in several places. Potatoes digging black.

Sollohed—Wheat very little. Barley short crop. Oats fine. Potatoes digging black.

Doon—Wheat poor, and mostly blighted. Barley very short crop. Oats promising. Potatoes going fast.

Toem—Wheat poor and blighted. Barley very short crop. Oats looking well. Potatoes going rapidly in the low grounds.

Donohill—Wheat mostly blighted. Barley short crop. Oats laid in some places, but fine. Potatoes very bad.

Clonbeg—Wheat very poor and blighted. Oats laid in many places. Barley average crop. Potatoes bad in low places, better on mountain sides, all diseased.

SUMMARY.

Wheat—Very thin, and mostly blighted.

Barley—Much under average crop.

Oats—Very promising, requires sun to give a return.

Potatoes—All in different stages of the disease; not one will keep.

Tralee Union—Mr. Lloyd:—August 12, 1848.

I have the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that in the electoral division of Tralee the potato crop, that a week since appeared healthy, is now rapidly decaying. The disease has struck the stalks, which are withering fast; and the tubers, several of which I have had dug out, are already spotted, and though of a good size, few in number.

In the electoral divisions of Ballincuslane, Ballymacelligot, Brosna, and Castle Island, the potato crop about ten days since appeared to luxuriate. I examined several gardens, the owners of which cheerfully dug several stalks for my inspection; the tubers were sound, but few in number. I yesterday learned from good authority, that since Tuesday the potato fields present a blighted appearance, and the potatoes that have been dug out are spotted.

I cannot, from personal inspection, report upon the state of the crops in either of the electoral divisions of Castlemaine, Kilgarrylander, or Kilgobbin; but I hear from persons competent to form a correct view, that the disease is fast spreading within the last few days.

As regards the corn crops, I have to state that wheat is not generally sown in the Union; its cultivation is confined to the electoral divisions of Ballymacelligot and Tralee, in each of which a greater extent of ground has been sown, but the crop is injured by smut.

Oats in the electoral divisions of Ballymacelligot, Castle Island and Ballincuslane, an average crop. In Kilgarrylander, the quantity of ground sown is equal

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to former years—the crop light. In the other electoral divisions, from a third to a fourth less ground sown, and the crop light.

Barley is not a general crop, and what has been sown is light. I cannot learn that any rye has been sown.

A much greater quantity of turnip has been sown this year, say three times, than hitherto; the crop does not promise well.

I would I could present a less gloomy prospect for the coming year.

Tuam Union—Captain Labalmondiere :—August 12, 1848.

In reply to your letter, dated 9th August, I have to report that I have, in the past week, visited every electoral division in the Union with one exception, (Cloonbern,) and made particular inquiry and inspection into the state of the potato crop throughout. I regret that the same observations now apply to all portions of the district. Everywhere the fields are blackened and shrivelled; and everywhere the blight, identical in character with, though less severe than, that of 1846, is advancing and affecting the tuber in a greater or less degree. No part of the Union is safe.

The yield in the early planted fields is fair, but the potatoes watery. A considerable portion of these may escape; but there is little or no produce from the late sowing, which may be looked upon as entirely lost.

The other crops of human food appear promising, with the exception of turnips, which have failed very generally. Barley, rye, and oats are particularly good; but wheat rather light. Some fields of the latter will be ready for the sickle next week.

I am led to believe that the breadth of land under crops, other than potato, is, if any thing, a little greater than in ordinary years; but much smaller than in last year: though there is more potato than ever, there is less land fallow.

Westport Union—Mr. Lynch :—August 12, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 9th instant I have to report, that since my last communication the potato disease has made considerable progress in all the electoral divisions of the Union of Westport.

In Newport and Kilmeena the disease has been clearly perceptible for more than a fortnight. In Kilmaclasser, Islandeady, and Aughagower it has only appeared within the last week or ten days, but has now become universal. As we proceed more to the west the disease is less general, still it is extending from field to field throughout Westport and Louisburgh; and the accounts received from the more distant districts of Achill, Ballycroy, and Clare Island, give but little hope that any portion of the crop will be safe. Up to the present time, however, but little damage is done to the bulb. I have observed that the root is seldom affected for two or three weeks after the leaves and stalks are attacked.

The farmers and poor people are much alarmed, and they appear most anxious to sell as quickly as possible; the consequence is, that the prices in the market of Westport have been reduced to 2d. and 3d. per stone of 14 lbs.

The breadth of land under corn this year in this Union is considerably less than in any former year, while the crops are more than usually backward, and considered very light.

CIRCULAR TO VICE-GUARDIANS RESPECTING THE POTATO CROP.

GENTLEMEN,

*Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
August, 11, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request that you will by Monday evening's post make a joint report to the Commissioners on the state of the potato crop in your Union as far as you are able to give the Commissioners information on the subject, either from personal observation or on the authority of individuals in whose accuracy you place reliance.

The Commissioners wish you at the same time to report to them on the condition of the potato crop in the workhouse grounds, and to state what proportion of it is likely to be available for human food.

(Signed,)

W. STANLEY, *Secretary*.

Athlone Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

We are in receipt of yours of the 11th instant, and in reply beg to state, that from our own personal knowledge, as well as from what we can learn from good authority, the tubers of the potato crop in this Union, up to the present time, are not showing much symptoms of disease, though the tops generally are decaying fast.

In our humble opinion the tops of the early potatoes are decaying, as much from having arrived at maturity as any other cause, as the tubers are very large and a productive crop. Moreover, any disease shows just as much in the late sowing as the early one; there has been hail showers and slight frost at night during the past week, and many fields of potatoes that were green up to then are now withered.

The potato crop in the workhouse grounds is (as far as disease is concerned,) as safe as the general crop, but we fear the produce will not be as great as we expected, as the ground was very rich and they threw up great tops without growing under. However, we are in hopes two-thirds or (at least) a half, may be available for human food.

Ballina Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 13, 1848.

In reply to your letter received this day, bearing date the 11th instant, requiring us to furnish the "Poor Law Commissioners with a joint report on "the state of the potato crop in this Union," we have the honour to state that, judging from our personal observation, which we have had much opportunity of exercising lately, in visiting the different districts for the purpose of revising the lists of those receiving out-door relief, as also from the information of those on whose accuracy we can rely, we are of opinion that a most extensive failure of the potato crop has taken place within the last fortnight, and one which appears to be daily on the increase. The districts of Killala, Lacken, and Ballycastle seem to be particularly affected. The crops in these places present a blackened appearance, and emit a most unpleasant odour. At the relieving officers' depot, in the Killala division, we saw several potatoes which were so diseased as to render it unpleasant to remain in the room in which they were. The people who are not destitute in these divisions appear quite disheartened, as hitherto they had manifested the greatest hopes of having an abundant crop, to realize which they certainly have endured extreme privation. It is most melancholy to observe their daily receiving confirmation of their worst fears being realized.

We this day examined a field of potatoes near Inuiscroaul, which promised well even on yesterday; this day the greater portion of the stalks are black, and the fruit itself in most cases quite diseased. The person whom we employ as general overseer of working parties, is a practical man, and one entirely uninterested. He has till this last fortnight reported to us regularly, and in most favourable terms, of the state of the potato crop in this Union; but he has lately stated in the most decided manner that the potatoes are all gone. From the great experience he has, and from the many opportunities of judging which he possesses, we are inclined to believe that he has formed a correct opinion: he attributes this sudden failure to the extreme sultry heat of a few days and nights.

We yesterday visited the grounds of Mr. Armstrong, a magistrate of this county. He has six or eight acres of potatoes, which until the last week appeared most flourishing; they are now almost entirely blackened; and he is so confident that they are diseased, that he has drawn the stalks from two acres on yesterday, and purposed doing the same to the remainder on to-morrow in hopes of saving them. He dug up about four stone of those that appeared blackened, and found over one-fourth entirely unfit for use.

We are informed that a most disagreeable odour is emitted from many fields

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of potatoes in the Erris district, which is quite perceptible to those travelling on the road.

The people seem now to despair of preserving them, and in many instances are making use of those which show symptoms of disease, which causes us to be of opinion, that if the failure of the potato crop is ascertained beyond doubt to have taken place in this Union, much of the out-door relief might for a time be safely dispensed with, as the fruit being much larger than it was when the blight commenced last year, and a much greater breadth of land being sown with potato, the anxiety to prevent a total loss would cause a large supply on most moderate terms.

With regard to the state of the potato crop in the workhouse grounds, which is but a very small one, occupying perhaps about an acre, we have to state that one portion, situated in the eastern side of the house, was blighted about four or five weeks past; the other portion, on the western side, presented a most luxuriant appearance until lately; but within this last fortnight the stalks have become quite black, though the fruit does not yet appear much affected; these might be made available for human food if used at once, but it is impossible to state how soon they may rot if suffered to remain till they attain their full growth.

We examined on last Friday the portion in the eastern side, which appeared entirely blighted four or five weeks since, and, on pulling up some of the roots, were astonished to find in some instances a well-grown potato, quite free from disease; that those potatoes must have become formed since the stocks first became blackened, is manifest, which would lead one to suppose that the blackening of the stalks and the apparent cessation of growth are not always to be considered as fatal to the crop.

In conclusion we can state, that till lately there appeared to be every promise of a most abundant crop; that now all hope of such is vanished; but still, from the large quantity that was sown, and from the late period at which the blight commenced, we may reckon upon having a much larger quantity of food than either last year or the preceding one.

Ballinrobe Union—The Vice-Guardians :—August 14, 1848.

By yesterday's post we received your communication, under date 11th August, requiring information respecting the potato crop in this Union.

We regret to have to state, from our own personal observation and from the report of those on whose accuracy we can place reliance, that the potato crop in this Union is very generally diseased, and we should say that one-half at least is unfit for human food now, and the disease is every day getting worse. With respect to the crop in the workhouse ground, we have to report that they are much diseased; indeed, to judge from what we have seen dug, they are even worse than the general crop of the country. This subject has engaged our most anxious attention for some time, but we delayed to make a specific report until we could speak with some certainty, as we did entertain a hope that the disease was not so widely spread; and although a blight had exhibited itself on the leaf long since, the stalk appeared healthy and not infected; but we regret to say that the experience of the past week has shown us that the blight has spread from the leaf to the stalk, and from the stalk to the tuber. This is a melancholy state of things, and we shall have to found a report on it, having relation to the making of the new rate to provide for the exigencies of the year ending 29th September, 1849.

Bantry Union—The Vice-Guardians :—August 15, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 11th instant requesting us to report to you on the condition of the potato crop, we beg leave to state, that from personal observation we are of opinion that the entire crop of this Union is in the most extreme danger. We are strengthened in this opinion by the weekly reports of the relieving officers of each of the electoral divisions, and confirmed by the undoubted testimony of individuals from every portion of the Union, on whose accuracy and judgment the utmost reliance may be placed.

In reference to the crop on the workhouse grounds we have to state, that

there are about five acres under tillage; these were planted with much care, well manured, and the healthiest seed used. Three of these acres were planted in the middle of April, and two acres were set the second week in May. Those planted in April thrived well, were beautifully green, and most exuberantly luxurious until the morning of the 12th ultimo, the leaves of some patches then appeared spotted, as if freely sprinkled with some corrosive acid, and gave all the well-known symptoms of blight; this lasted but for two days, the plants seemed to have had strength sufficient to shake off the disease, new and apparent healthy shoots were formed, and the whole crop re-assumed its former appearance. This continued until the night of the 1st instant, when the leaves over the entire field appeared struck with the most virulent form of the disease. From this period the plant has been daily becoming more decayed, and now not a leaf remains. The stalks are all blackened and prostrate. On examining the tubers, about two-thirds appear healthy; but these, on being exposed to the weather for one or two days become diseased, proving beyond doubt that the only safety for the preservation of such portions of the crop as remain healthy is to allow them to continue in the ground.

The two acres planted the second week in May showed no symptom of the blight of the 12th July, but suffered severely by that of the 1st instant; there is not now a green leaf visible, the stalks are all blackened, and are assuming a rotten appearance; the tubers are not larger than marbles, and are not worth digging out. All future growth in these two acres is at an end.

We are thus particular in reporting the condition of the potato around the workhouse, as we consider it to be a fair specimen of the state of the crop throughout the entire Union. We also deem it necessary to state, that a much greater quantity of land is under potato tillage than for many years past; but from all the information we can glean from parties well acquainted with the subject, we do fear that even that portion of the crop which now appears healthy, will not long continue to be fitting for human food.

We are unwilling to enter into the general food prospects of the Union; but we must confess our gloomy fears for the wants of the wretched people during the approaching winter and spring. How destitution, with all its melancholy train of evils will then be met, is one of those awful problems that may prove difficult to solve.

Boyle Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 13, 1848.

Immediately on receipt of your letter yesterday we proceeded to avail ourselves of every means by which we could obtain the most accurate and full information concerning the subject on which we were directed to report.

We have then the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that the mysterious agency which has caused the existing disease in the potato crops of this Union, is neither so violent nor so sudden in its effects as it was in the year 1845. The character of the disease is not so malignant; but in all other respects it is identical with the disease of 1845.

If the mysterious cause by which the disease is produced ceased to operate now, and not to interfere with the ordinary course of nature, we believe that the loss sustained by this Union in consequence of the visitation would not be so grievous as is generally apprehended. Much recuperative power remains still in the crops; and the disorganization of the tubers not being so general or complete as by the disease of 1845, they would be available as food to a much later period of this and the following year. But if the assaults of the enemy be continued, the vital principle in the plant will be entirely overcome, and a rapid decay will ensue.

During the late brief interval of dry weather the disease has developed itself in this Union most generally, and in a degree much more severe than it appeared during the rainy weather, which imparted to the stalks a greater abundance of sap; this becoming vitiated, the virus has been absorbed by the tuber, in which the rot is now more general and injurious.

The great progress made by the disease is indicated by the increased quantity of diseased potatoes brought into the market of Boyle, and to be seen in different parts of the Union. But if the crops were to be subjected no longer to the influence of the cause, whatever it be, which originates this disease, the mischief

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done, we think, would not involve the loss of a fourth part of the crops in this Union.

We called on Lord Lorton's agriculturist, Mr. Rickaby, who gave us the result of his observations, which have been more close and general than those most probably of any other individual in this county. His statements have confirmed us in the opinions here expressed; so have the remarks of Mr. Fairley, his lordship's gardener—an individual remarkable for his intelligence, and well acquainted with the subject of our report.

It appears, that as far as can be ascertained in this Union, fully one-half is the proportion of the extent of land sown with potatoes this year, when compared with the extent sown last year—that three-fourths of the stalks exhibit more or less the symptoms of disease, but a much less proportion of the tubers, of which not a fourth part can be said to be severely affected or rendered unfit for human food. Without of course accurate means of calculation, this seems to be about the general estimate made by observing persons, or deducible from their statements.

It would appear that the potatoes are at a certain stage of their growth most predisposed to the disease, the plant having then acquired the condition most favourable for the development of the symptoms. It is also remarkable that "lumpers," a species of white potato well known and most generally in use among the poorer classes in this Union, are much more free from the disease than any other kind of potato known in this country.

We are also requested to report on the condition of the potato crop on the workhouse grounds, and to state what proportion of it is likely to be available for human food.

Almost all the stalks are there affected with the disease, the injured stalks showing the symptoms very visibly; but even under those which indicate the disease in an advanced state, the tubers for the most part only manifest it in a very incipient stage—great numbers of them being only marked with little light brown spots, like those on a turkey's egg; and these do not seem deeper than the very thin external skin or rind of the potato. All these potatoes, which are mostly "lumpers," are, with the exception of very few, available for human food; and as the whole crop is far advanced towards maturity, we are disposed to think that it would be well to pull up the stalks, and heap up some additional earth on the ridges and drills, by which, according to a very generally received opinion, the potatoes will remain more secure from the ravages of the rot than by any other mode of keeping them.

Cahirircree Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

We have had the honour to receive your letter of the 11th instant, requesting our joint report on the state of the potato crop at the present date in this Union.

In our weekly reports of the 5th and 12th instant, respectively, we felt it necessary to offer some observations on this subject, and we regret that we are now obliged to reiterate the very unfavourable accounts we then submitted.

We have recently visited nearly all the electoral divisions in the Union; and so far as we could extend our observations on these occasions, the result was fully corroborative of the representations that had been previously made to us, from sources to which we could attach the most implicit credit.

It was long since feared here, that for the early crop little hope could be indulged; the later gardens however gave better promise, and till recently continued to exhibit generally a healthy and vigorous appearance; but we are sorry to add, that within a few weeks past those appearances have altered most materially, and we are most unwillingly obliged to share the now universal feeling of dread, that before Christmas comes round the entire produce of the crop must be exhausted.

Heretofore the tillage in this Union was almost exclusively confined to potatoes; but this year we are happy to state, some tendency has been manifested towards a change, and an unprecedentedly large breadth of land is now under grain crops, especially barley; not sufficient, however, to exercise any very important influence on the prospects of the Union, in the supposed event of the potatoes being lost.

With reference to the workhouse grounds we have to observe, that part of the land has been suffered to lie waste, owing to the building, &c., now going forward there; and that in the portion it was found possible to cultivate, the potatoes (planted towards the end of May and the early part of June,) now exhibit unequivocal marks of disease, and we do not estimate that any of them are likely to prove available for human use.

Carrick-on-Shannon Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

In compliance with instructions contained in your letter of the 11th instant, we beg herewith to furnish, for the information of the Commissioners, a report on the state of the potato and other crops in this Union, so far as, from the limited time given us, we have been able to observe.

Reports on the state of the potato have reached us from all sides for some time past, but from their conflicting nature, we did not wish to come to any conclusion, and determined on visiting each locality, and, by personal inspection, satisfying ourselves as to the correctness of the rumour previous to making any report on the subject. In order more clearly to show the state of the crop in the different electoral divisions, we send herewith a tabular statement which we have drawn up from notes taken during the past week on our visiting the relieving officers' stations.

It will be seen by the document above referred to, that, for the most part, the potato, as an article of food, cannot be relied on. Over the whole country the leaves and stalks of the plant present a decayed appearance, and the offensive effluvia emitted from them is indicative of the presence of decay; as yet, however, the tuber is not so extensively affected as one might expect from the appearance of the stalk. But this may be accounted for by the backward state of the crop, as it is a remarkable fact, that as the plant approaches maturity the disease is then more apparent. Yet there are exceptions to this; as we have seen the larger tubers on diseased stalks entirely free from disease, whilst those immediately connected with the stalk, and of a smaller size, are quite gone.

The disease this year seems not to be affected by the situation of the ground, as it was last season; for in the same locality there will be found as many diseased potatoes in moory as in upland fields, whilst the blight of 1847 was chiefly confined to the upland.

As to the probable amount of food which the present crop is capable of producing, it would be impossible, at the present juncture, to form even an approximate idea. If the disease ceases, as some think will be the case, the potato has not suffered, as food, to any considerable amount. But on the contrary, if the blight, which has undoubtedly attacked the stalk, and also in very many cases the tuber, increases to any extent—and from the experience of the last two years, there is no reason to suppose that such will not be the case—then we should say there will not be a potato fit for human food in six weeks' time within this Union.

We have not planted any potatoes in the workhouse grounds, as we considered we could employ more persons at turnips, which is the crop we are now growing.

The oat crop over the entire country looks well. In a very few fields we have observed smut, particularly in the neighbourhood of Keshcarrigan and Leitrim, where it is sown extensively, but late. In Kilglass and Gillstown there is scarcely any sowing of any kind, but whatever there is is much earlier than in any part of the Union we have seen.

This is not an extensive wheat-growing country; but wherever that crop is seen it looks well, although many complain of smut to a great amount. We are not however of opinion, that it exists to any extent that will be detrimental to the produce, either in quantity (on the average) or in quality. On the whole, the cereal crop looks well, and is very abundant; and, if the ensuing three weeks prove fine, will exceed in quantity any year many remembered in this country. Should, however, the weather continue as it has done for the last three weeks, constantly wet and stormy, the result will be the destruction of the grain, which as yet has received no material damage.

ENCLOSURE.

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A TABLE showing the state of the Potato Crop in the Carrick-on-Shannon Union.

Names of Electoral Divisions.	Oat Crop.	Potato Crop.
Leitrim, . . .	Abundant, but slightly affected by smut.	Every field we could see affected, and the tuber gone in the low lands.
Keshcarrigan, . .	Same.	One field, the largest in division, about five acres, gone entirely both stalk and tuber; every other field affected.
Kiltubride, . . .	A great quantity, but backward and badly sown.	Looking tolerably well, the leaves only being touched.
Drumshambo, . . .	Same.	Same, but not so generally planted.
Drumreilly, . . .	Very small sowing.	The crop here looking better and more abundant than many other parts of the Union; the leaves slightly affected, but not at tubers.
Carrick-on-Shannon,	Good and plentiful.	The crop plentiful, but all affected in the stalk, and several fields gone in both tuber and stalk.
Drumsna, . . .	Oats and wheat better and more plentiful than in any other division of the Union.	Several fields of a great extent gone entirely. Two farmers in this division will lose (at least) one hundred pounds' worth each.
Kilglass, . . .	Very forward, reaped in some places, but exceedingly small amount of sowing.	Sowing small and slightly affected.
Gillstown, . . .	Same remark.	Same.
Aughrin, . . .	More than in former years.	Every field touched in the stalk; many of the tubers gone, particularly in the low grounds; one field of nine acres completely destroyed.
Elphin, . . .	Not much oats, chiefly grazing.	All along the road the fields touched.
Tunna, . . .	Cultivation bad, many holdings deserted, and little oats or crops of any kind sown.	Slightly affected on upland; the moor safe as yet.
Killukin, . . .	Good and abundant.	The stalks and leaves withered, but the tuber (except in one instance, close to the town of Carrick) safe.
Creeve, . . .	Not much oats, chiefly grazing and meadow.	The leaves and stalks only touched, except one field belonging to Mr. Church of Carrick, of about seven acres, which is quite gone.
Kilmore, . . .	Crops good but scarce, shockingly poor country.	Slightly touched, less than anywhere we observed.

Castlebar Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 15, 1848.

In reply to your letter, we have the honour to inform you that we have been anxiously watching the progress of the potato blight for the last three weeks through the Castlebar Union; and our opinion is, that a great part of the early crop is at present fit for food, but the late crop, which was extensively sown, appears a decided failure. From the inquiries we have been enabled to make from persons of intelligence we have been obliged to arrive at the same conclusion. No part of the workhouse grounds was cropped this year, as the paupers were employed levelling the land and making general improvements.

Castlerea Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

In reply to your communication of the 11th instant, requiring to be informed on the state of the potato crop in this Union, we regret to say, that from our own personal observation, and from every information that we have been able to procure, disease is general in that esculent throughout the Union. As yet it has principally appeared in the stalks, and but few of the bulbs are affected. We are informed that the disease appears more generally in the bulbs of those planted early, which induces us to conclude, that as the crop advances to maturity the disease will become more developed.

We further beg to inform you, that we have examined the potatoes growing in the ground attached to the workhouse, which were planted late in the season

(end of May), and find that the stalks are generally diseased, but as yet few of the potatoes are affected. Though the land was highly manured the crop is thin and small. Under those circumstances it is difficult to estimate what proportion of this crop will be available for human food when ripe.

Cavan Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, requesting us by this day's post to report on the state of the "potato crop;" and in answer beg leave to state, that considering the failure of the potato to be one of great importance, we anticipated your wishes to a certain extent at our last board meeting on Thursday, and made a minute of the information we obtained from the several relieving officers of the Union, which we now transcribe for the information of the Commissioners, viz. :—

In the Cavan electoral division the relieving officer states, that one-half the potato crop is gone.

In the Ballyhaise, Butlersbridge, and Redhills relief district, the relieving officer states, the potato crop is partially gone.

In the Belturbet, Drumlane, and Kilconny relief district, the relieving officer reports—the crop appears bad, saw several potatoes injured.

In the Killashandra, Arvagh, and Derrylane relief district, the relieving officer reports—the potato crop very bad in Killashandra and Arvagh electoral divisions, not bad in Derrylane division.

In the Kilnaleek, Crosskeys, and New Inn relief district, the relieving officer reports—that the stalks are black, but the potatoes not much injured.

In the Stradone and Killycrone district, the relieving officer reports—the potatoes not much injured, but the stalks are getting black; in some places considers the potatoes improving.

In the Ballymachugh and Kill district, the relieving officer reports, that about three-fourths of the crop is damaged.

In the Denn and Ballintemple district, the relieving officer reports, that the stalks are nearly all withered, but the potatoes only partially injured.

In the Crossdoney and Killykeen district, the relieving officer states—the stalks look badly, and the people are pulling the stalks to prevent disease getting to the root.

In the Ballyconnell and Kildallan district, the relieving officer states—the stalks are withering, but the potatoes are generally good.

We regret now to state that, short a period as it is since we made that minute, the distemper in the potato crop is making rapid progress in this immediate neighbourhood. In a few fields contiguous to the workhouse there are very few potatoes that are not affected by the disease. The potatoes in the workhouse ground are nearly all gone: we had three yards of a ridge dug, and it only produced about a quarter of a stone, and the potatoes exhibit all the marks of disease. Fortunately, the greatest part of our ground was sown with mangel wurzel and carrots, which are doing well.

Clifden Union—Mr. O'Leary, Vice-Guardian:—August 15, 1848.

I have been most sedulous in obtaining all the available information I could on this vital question; and for several weeks past I have made it my constant aim to arrive at facts, deduced from the concurring opinions and personal knowledge of credible parties qualified to offer practical opinions as to the extent and results of the blight, as well as from my own personal examination of potato fields in each of the electoral divisions, which I have in hundreds of cases entered with the hope of finding them safe, but in which I lament to state the healthy exceptions are so few as not to be taken into consideration when an average of the available crop is to be calculated.

The result of my inquiry and my own observation is a firm conviction that the potato blight is not only general in its appearance, but universal throughout the Union; and that all the hopes which the extent of sowing and the early prospects of a healthy crop created, must be disappointed. For several weeks I was confident that the rumour of the spread of the disease was a groundless

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alarm; but I was first undeceived by the strong exhalation from the fields—a very disagreeable smell of decomposed vegetable matter—and by observing that the leaves and stalks had been maculated with the fatal stain, which, whether it be the consequence of the disease in the tuber, or the disease itself in the stalk, is obviously indicative of the blight. The numbers who dissented from the prevalence of the calamity have now diminished to a few. The universal belief is, that the crop is or will be all tainted; and the opinion is also general, that of all kinds of human food in Connemara there is not more than will suffice for four months. Some of the districts which in 1846 and 1847 were exempt from the blight, particularly those planted with potatoes on a sandy soil, have this year pre-eminently suffered.

I cannot undertake to offer an opinion as to the results which may ensue from leaving the potatoes in the ground. Some allege that they may be thus best preserved; others think (once decayed in the stalk,) that the sooner they are dug the better. It would be most useful to have some knowledge on this disputed point promptly circulated.

In some places the poor people are digging them in despair, and bringing them to market at any price they can obtain for them. I regard this anxiety of the people to get rid of the crop they suffered every privation to secure, as conclusive of the general despair of their being able to preserve them either for food or for seed.

The quantity of potatoes which may be calculated upon as available for human sustenance it is impossible to obtain an estimate of on rational grounds: some allege that one-third of the crop is lost; others say half; whilst persons of considerable practical knowledge in agriculture assert, that one-third will not be saved of the whole breadth sown.

I can offer no opinion of my own, further than judging from the samples that I daily see, that the disease is daily advancing; and that though fitful in its visits—now blighting one townland and again another—it is traversing through all.

The potatoes on the workhouse lands are also considerably affected. With the consent of our medical officer, Doctor Suffield, we propose having them at once used (such as are sound) as food in the workhouse.

It may be desirable to state that one of the worst effects of the potato failure is, that the people having relied upon it the quantity of oats and barley sown was very small. Mr. Deane is actively engaged in making inquiries as to the positive supplies of all food now growing in the Union—a more useful work could not engage his zeal and energy.

I have read the above report, and agree most fully and entirely with the statements and opinions therein contained.

JOHN C. DEANE,
T. P. L. Inspector, Acting Vice-Guardian.

Cootchill Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 15, 1848

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, requiring our joint report of the state of the potato crop in this Union.

We beg to state, that we have made general inquiry from intelligent persons resident in the Union, and also from our own personal observation, we regret to state that the disease appears to be rapidly increasing, both on the stalks of the plant and the tuber, particularly in the rich, heavy soils. Potatoes are selling for two pence and two pence farthing per stone in the Cootchill market, as the farmers appear anxious to dispose of them as soon as possible. We consider that about one-third of the crop will be available for human food.

Enniskillen Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

In obedience to your order of the 11th instant, that we should send by this night's post a report signed by the Vice-Guardians, expressive of their opinion of the state of the potato crop in this Union, they have no hesitation in reite-

rating the melancholy account given in their report of Saturday last. The blight in all parts of this county, as well as the parts of the county of Cavan they have visited, is proceeding with a degree of rapidity that gives but little hope that any portion of the crop will be available for human food by the first of November next. In no season since the blight first showed itself has it, at this early period, exhibited more deadly effects.

We beg leave to call the attention of the Commissioners to the report of Saturday, the 12th instant, in which this subject is particularly referred to.

That they regret that they have further to report that great doubt and apprehension exist with regard to the wheat crop; it is generally pronounced to be affected with smut, and that the ear does not exhibit the full or healthy appearance of other years.

We beg leave to state that this report is the result of our own personal inspection, as well as the opinion of the most experienced agriculturists with whom we have had an opportunity of consulting.

We propose to embody in our weekly report to the Commissioners all the information we can obtain on this most important subject.

Ennistymon Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

With reference to your letter of the 11th instant, in which you state that the Commissioners desire that we should make a report on the state of the potato crop in this Union, we have now the honour to state, that within the last fortnight the crop all through the Union has assumed a completely withered appearance, such as occurs in ordinary seasons in the month of October, when at maturity; and that the tubers are decidedly affected, to the extent of one-half the crop, by rot, similar to the disease of 1846.

On receipt of your letter we had a portion of the different kinds of potatoes on the workhouse grounds washed, when we found that certainly one-half of the crop was tainted; and on this day we procured a sample, dug fresh for our inspection contiguous to Ennistymon, which we found in a very bad state indeed.

As the weather is so very bad at present (raining constantly), it is impossible to form any idea as to what proportion of the potato crop on the workhouse grounds may be fit for human food, as we are of opinion that much rain conduces to the spread of the disease, and that dry weather checks it. Should the Commissioners require it, we shall make a special weekly report upon this matter.

Galway Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, requesting our report on the state of the potato crop in this Union. We beg leave to inform you, in reply, that we regret extremely to say that the crop is now completely diseased in every district in the Union. We have been closely observing the progress of the disease for the last few weeks, going through the country, and found, that in general the crop looked green and healthy until it arrived at a certain stage of maturity, after throwing off the blossom, when it was sure to exhibit the first symptoms of disease in the spotted appearance of the leaves; by degrees the whole stalk became affected. We were for some time in hope that the disease would be only partial, as in every part of the country might be found several fields of potatoes looking quite healthy, whilst others close by them showed manifest appearance of the disease. In a week or ten days after, we found that the fields before healthy had become diseased, and that the former difference of appearance in the several fields in the same townland was caused by the order of time in which the planting took place. The crop now presents precisely the same appearance as in 1846, and we may safely assert that it is diseased almost without exception. Taking into account that the disease set in before the esculent has arrived at maturity, we fear there will be a loss on this account alone to the extent of about one-third of the crop, even supposing the other two-thirds to be free from the disease. The potatoes on the workhouse grounds are all affected. The disease set in, as we observed through the country, according to the maturity of the crop. We had some dug in different places, and

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we regret to say that they are diseased. If the quantity of potatoes now full grown could be preserved, great as is the loss already sustained, we would hope that a considerable amount of food would remain. But what we have most to dread is, that we cannot calculate how long the potatoes now only partially injured may remain fit for use. Some of those dug on the land attached to the workhouse on Friday, and only partially injured, were found on the following day to be much more affected. At present we consider that two-thirds of those potatoes are fit for human food. We abstained from reporting on this all-important subject, in the hope that we might be enabled to have more decided and more cheering results to communicate.

Gort Union—The Vice-Guardians :—August 14, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 14th instant we beg to state, that the result of our personal observation, and the information we have obtained is, that the potato crop in this Union is lost. The stalks and leaves are completely blasted and withered, and the disease is fast extending to the roots. The growth being entirely stopped, the poor people are now using the unripe potatoes; but it is to be feared that the progress of the disease will soon render them unfit for human food.

As regards the potatoes on the workhouse site we have to observe, that being planted late, and the first attack of the disease having put a stop to their growth, the quantity available for food, even if the tubers were not infected, would be scarcely sufficient for three days' consumption; but inasmuch as the disease has extended to the latter, it will be a matter for the consideration of the medical officer as to whether it will be advisable to use them in the workhouse dietary.

Granard Union—Vice-Guardian :—August 14, 1848.

On receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, I devoted yesterday and part of this day in making inquiries of the gentry of this neighbourhood as to the state of the potato crop. Having some interest myself in agricultural affairs, I have been making my own observations previous to your letter. I now have the honour to report the opinions of persons who can be relied on.

This Union comprises a part of three counties, viz. :—Longford, Westmeath, and Cavan.

Longford—The blight upon the potato is more general this year than in 1846 or 1847. Some lands, particularly the moor and peat lands, suffered least the past years, but no description of land has escaped this year.

A greater quantity of potatoes have been set this year than the previous years. Every garden that I have seen presents an awful appearance of disease; they are now getting offensive to the smell; the tubers are generally affected; but how far they can be calculated upon for human food I cannot presume to say.

Cavan and Westmeath—Same report as above.

The potatoes in the workhouse grounds, that a short time back looked so healthy, now present a deplorable appearance of disease; not a stalk that is not completely blasted, though, curious to relate, on trial the tubers have no appearance of disease as yet; but the crop being a late one, I fear the disease will very soon show itself upon the potato.

The crop at present is too young to make use of for the workhouse; and until we begin to use it, and see the state of it then, it will be impossible to calculate what quantity will be likely to be available for human food. The Swede turnip, which is almost a failure, will be very much felt by the poorer class, as they used a great deal of them last year for food. In the absence of my colleague (on leave), I have the honour to lay before you my individual report.

Kanturk Union—The Vice-Guardians :—August 14, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, requesting us to report on the state of the potato crop in Kanturk Union, we have the honour to state, from personal observation, and from the reports yesterday of our collectors, that the stalks of the early crop are blackening fast, and that the root is diseased,

in proportion of 20 per cent. of those dug. In the late crop, planted in April and May, which averages two-thirds of the whole quantity set, the leaf shows symptoms of the disease gradually extending to the stalk.

With reference to the workhouse grounds we have to state, that the whole of the land is under flax.

Kenmare Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

In compliance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 11th inst., we have the honour to submit the following report on the present condition of the potato crop in this Union.

From personal inspection of the division of Bourdoneen, made on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd instant, we are of opinion that the blight attacked every field in it. The tubers were then in many places affected. We have the authority of the relieving officer and the medical attendant of the local dispensary there for stating that the disease in the tuber is rapidly increasing.

Our own examination of the crop in the Ballybog division, the week before last, gave a similar result. Mr. Bland, the proprietor of more than half the division, has since informed us that the disease is spreading in a very alarming manner.

The Templenoe and Kenmare divisions we inspected in the last week—the highland and lowland districts of both. The blighted stalk is universal, and the tubers generally affected.

The division of Tuosist we did not visit since the last week in July; the crop was then supposed to be recovering. We have now the authority of the parish priest, the Rev. C. M'Carthy, and the relieving officer, for stating that the tubers are generally and materially damaged.

The Kilgarvan and Bunawn divisions we visited yesterday; in the former nearly every field is attacked, and the latter, hitherto considered the safest in the Union, the disease has appeared but only partially as yet—some of the late crops being still safe.

It is impossible in the present state of the Union to make even an approximate estimate of the loss, but at least it must be considerable.

With reference to your instructions to report the condition of the potato crop in the workhouse grounds, we have to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that we did not grow any there, having reserved the land for carrots, parsnips, turnips, cabbages, celery, and leeks, all of which are growing there most luxuriantly.

Kilkenny Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

We have the honour to state to the Commissioners, in reply to your communication of the 11th instant, that our personal observations, and such information as has reached us tend to the same opinion, that generally throughout this Union the virulence with which the potato disease has lately attacked the crop almost equals that of 1846. The injuries are serious and extensive. The potatoes in the workhouse grounds exhibit appearances of disease on the tops of the stalks; they are, however, in better condition than most of the fields in the neighbourhood.

To ascertain the actual present state of them we directed the master to have a statute perch (five and a-half yards) of drill dug out, selecting that which seemed worst, of each kind. It was found that the whole produce was, of English reds, fourteen pounds, of which twelve pounds were sound, and two pounds infected; the same extent produced eleven and a-half pounds of lumpers, of which but a quarter of a pound were infected.

The appearance of the potatoes which were dug leads us to believe the crop is deficient; an expression of opinion may, however, be premature as yet.

Kilrush Union—Extract from Vice-Guardians' Report of August 14, 1848.

With sorrow and regret we must state, that the state of the potato crop in this district is most alarming and the spread of the disease rapid. If the disease extends much further that crop cannot be calculated on as an article for human

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food, except on a very limited scale. The leaves of the plant in the workhouse lands present the same appearance of blast as exhibited in every part of the Union. The stems or stalks do not in general appear much affected; but we apprehend the disease will soon extend to them. We have examined the state of each field; in one, containing about one and a quarter acre, which was planted early, the potatoes approach maturity; but as there is no possibility of calculating on their remaining sound, we are of opinion that the best course to adopt would be to dig them out, and dispose of them in the markets; the remainder, near three acres, were planted later, and consequently small; taking them now out of the land would be of little use. We consider it, therefore, better to risk their remaining some time longer; the roots we dug up present different stages of disease in very many cases.

We cannot on the whole attempt to disguise the fact, that from all we can learn by inquiry and observation there will be almost a total failure in this Union.

We have to regret to be obliged to inform the Commissioners that in some parts of the Union a partial blight has taken place of the oat and barley crop, attributable to the almost incessant rains and want of warmth to ripen the grain.

Longford Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

In reply to your favour of the 11th instant we beg to say, that we have all through the season kept a close look-out on the potato crop. Until Friday week the injury was partial, and we flattered ourselves it would not be important; but since then it has spread to a very great extent, and we grieve to say, that we fear it will be most serious.

Every person we speak to dreads the worst; and should we have a general failure, the result to this country will be awful in the extreme. For so far the potato itself is not much injured, but the disease is showing and spreading rapidly.

Our relieving officers from the different parts of this Union state, to-day, that the potatoes are gone.

Loughrea Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, directing us to forward a report of the state of the potato crop in our Union; and also to inform you as to the condition of the potatoes grown in the workhouse grounds.

In reply we have to state, that since our report of the 7th instant, in which we briefly alluded to this subject, we have attentively watched the progress of the disease, and eagerly endeavoured to collect information from individuals that we consider could have no object in misleading us; and from all that we have been able to learn, we grieve to state, that our report must necessarily be unfavourable in the extreme.

There is not a district in our entire Union that is not more or less injured by the disease. Fields of potatoes that ten days since appeared comparatively healthy are now rapidly withering under the influence of the blight. The leaves first exhibit symptoms of decay, which quickly extend to the stem; and the tuber is sure to imbibe the fatal plague in an incredibly short period.

The disease as yet is more severe in its effects in some districts than in others; high lands and light limestone soil are as yet most free. The divisions of Craughwell and Kilconeeran, and the northern parts of the Union, although the crop is almost in every instance attacked, are nevertheless more lightly so, than in the divisions of Ballynakill, Killeenadema, and Dooniry: in the former divisions the disease has not generally reached the tuber; in the latter, about Woodford and Ballynakill particularly, there is scarcely a field in which not only the stems but the tubers also are decayed.

We have had interviews with several gentlemen holding large farms, Mr. Tully, Mr. Pilkington, Mr. P. Skerrett, and others, who all concur in opinion, that at present at least one-half the crop is lost in this Union.

The only chance of any portion of the crop being preserved, is in the case of very early sowing. The tubers have here attained a degree of maturity. But

where the planting was deferred until the end of April and May, as was very generally the case, we fear there is little chance of any return; the leaves and stalks are all under the influence of the blight, and the further growth of the tuber in consequence completely checked.

The unfavourable change which has taken place in the weather within the last twenty-four hours, is calculated to add to the alarm which is, we regret to state, so generally experienced in reference to this all-important subject. With reference to the crop on the workhouse grounds, we cannot report more favourable; we have been mortified to see the daily rapid destruction of what was a most luxuriant and promising crop. We had this day a ridge, measuring twenty-five yards long and five feet wide, dug out for an experiment, the produce when washed weighed but three stone seven pounds, and after a careful examination fully two-thirds of these were badly diseased, and unfit for human food.

The miserable produce in itself would have been sufficient to excite alarm, as every care and attention were bestowed upon this crop, which up to ten days ago was as fine as could be, when the leaves suddenly became tainted, the further progress of the plant to maturity checked, and the result, the melancholy one we have detailed.

We shall continue from week to week to submit a statement of our observations specially on this subject.

Mohill Union—The Vice-Guardians :—August 14, 1848.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, directing us to make a report on the state of the potato crop in the Mohill Union; and in reply have to state, from personal observation, having travelled through a great portion of the Union during last week, and from inquiry we have made amongst persons likely to be well informed on the subject, we find that in nearly every field the leaves and stalks have been attacked, and are withered and blackened; the bulbs, in most instances, remain untouched, and in others but partially affected; however, the general opinion of the farmers is, that the disease will progress, and the crop will fail.

Wherever the potatoes were planted early they are now available for food; but the late crop will scarcely come to any perfection. A few farmers have stated that nearly one-half of their potatoes are unfit for use; but the greater number assert that as yet the attack has committed no injury to the tuber. The potatoes planted in boggy land, we are disposed to think may to a great extent escape the blight; and fortunately a considerable part of the crop of the Union is in land of that description.

Mullingar Union—The Vice-Guardians :—August 14, 1848.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, inquiring the state of the potato crop in this Union; and we beg to observe with regard to the reports of individuals with whom we have conversed on the subject, that they are generally most unfavourable; and from personal observation for the last three weeks, we fear their reports are not exaggerated.

We have this day minutely examined the potato crop in the workhouse grounds, and find the disease is making considerable progress; so much so, that we could not venture to say what proportion of it is likely to be available for human food by the time the potato should arrive at maturity. They were planted late in the season, and are not of an early description.

Some of the farmers, finding their potatoes slightly diseased, had them brought to market, and sold at a very reduced price; and which we fear will ultimately be nearly as injurious to the country as the disease itself.

Newcastle Union—Mr. Brehon, Vice-Guardian :—August 14, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, received by yesterday's post, requiring information as to the state of the potato crop; I beg to inform you, that from the present appearance of it in all that portion of the Union through which

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I have recently travelled, I am decidedly of opinion that it will turn out almost an entire failure. I went to Abbeyfeale on Saturday, and the potato tops all along that line of road were as withered as they would be in ordinary years in October. I also examined the tubers in many districts, and found them in an advanced stage of decomposition. I had the potatoes in the workhouse ground this day examined; they have also got the disease, and it would be at present impossible to calculate what proportion of them may be available for human food. The prospects in regard to the potato crop, at least as far as this Union is concerned, are gloomy in the extreme. I have had private information on which I can place reliance, on this subject, from the counties of Kilkenny and Wexford, which don't represent the disease, particularly in the latter county, as assuming so bad a character as it does here; but this may be accounted for from many concurrent circumstances, the principal of which are, that there has not been any considerable effort made here to drain the land and adopt improved modes of agriculture; and consequently at least nineteen out of every twenty acres of potatoes sown in this Union, were sown in undrained land. The period of their being sown was necessarily retarded to a month or six weeks beyond the proper time in consequence of the wetness of the land in which they were sown; and when attacked by the disease the tubers were only beginning to form: whereas, in the great majority of instances in the county of Wexford, the potatoes are sown in well-drained land, or land which required no manuring; and put into the ground about six weeks earlier than they are here—by which course the tuber has had time to come to a state of perfection before the disease set in.

Newcastle Union—Mr. Devitt, Vice-Guardian:—August 15, 1848.

Mr. Brehon has informed me that during my absence on Union business he replied to your letter calling for our joint report respecting the potato crop in this Union; and having been made acquainted with his opinions on the subject, I beg to say I entirely concur in his views.

Having traversed a great portion of the country in my drive from hence to Limerick and back, and endeavoured by viewing carefully as I passed along the actual state of the growing crop, I have to observe that in every instance the potato seems blighted. I have learned from parties professing to have great experience in the matter, that by having the stalk pulled up by the roots much mischief may be prevented, and a check given to the rapid decay now observable in the tuber. With respect to the oats and barley; both in this district have been late, and therefore have not suffered much notwithstanding the heavy fall of rain for the last few days, and particularly that of yesterday, which continued almost without intermission from seven o'clock A.M. on yesterday until six o'clock A.M. this morning. The wheat is all standing, and the only way for accounting for this is, that the crop is so light and thin the rain did not take that effect on it which would have been the case had the ear been heavy. I am happy to say that as I write (half-past twelve o'clock P.M.) there is a promise of a fine day; and I learn with much pleasure that even now a few weeks of fine weather would give us a large and abundant return of all descriptions of cereal food.

New Ross Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 12th instant, received yesterday, requiring our joint report on the state of the potato crop on the workhouse grounds, also as to its condition in other parts of the Union, we beg leave to inform you that the stalk is universally affected—the root however only partially as yet, and we entertain a hope that it may be available, if used at once for food. From all we have seen and heard it is our opinion that the root is so far affected as to cause great apprehension, that if attempted to be kept over, much of it may be lost.

We regret from the short time permitted us to reply we are prevented giving a more extended report on the subject, but the above information we have learned not only by personal inspection, but from persons on whom we can rely.

Roscommon Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

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In reply to your communication of the 11th instant we have the honour to state, that as far as we have been able to ascertain, both from personal observation and information derived from respectable parties, the potato crop in this Union is very considerably damaged, and we fear getting worse daily. The appearance of the leaves and stalks is very generally the same now—blackened and withered more or less; but the accounts of the tubers vary—some persons stating that they are comparatively safe as yet, and others that more than half their crops are gone.

From our own observation, we fear there is too much reason to believe that a very large proportion of the crop is already diseased; and that that portion which is apparently sound at this moment will be so damaged also as to render it quite impossible to calculate on it as food beyond a short period. We have just examined about a stone of potatoes grown in the workhouse grounds; these were planted in March and April, and are principally lumpers. Until the last few days the leaves and stems of these were very little blighted, but are getting worse, we might say hourly. Out of the quantity just dug we find the disease in several; and they are all much smaller than the usual size of this kind.

We consider it would be better to at once make use of them, or sell them; the latter method of disposing of them we think would be the best, and give us some chance of securing some profit from the crop. If used as food in the workhouse they would not, even if they remained sound, supply the inmates for more than three weeks or so, and totally disarrange the present dietary, which has been found both cheap and wholesome, and be likely to produce dysentery, in which opinion the medical officer concurs. We should feel obliged if the Poor Law Commissioners would give us their opinion on this subject.

Scariff Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 16, 1848.

The state of the potato crop in this Union is very uncertain, so far as relates to that part of it which is under ground.

Within the last fortnight the fields generally which we have seen present a blackened appearance, from the leaves being quite withered on some plants; while at the same time in most of the fields there is still a considerable number of plants whose leaves remain green and apparently healthy. As yet there is not any considerable quantity of diseased potatoes in what have been dug out; on the contrary, many fields which we have personally examined appear to have the tubers perfectly sound, although the leaves are quite withered. A very small portion however of those potatoes which have been already dug in this Union can be said to be ripe, or such as can to any extent be used as wholesome food.

Although we have no evidence we can rely upon of any extensive disease at present existing in the potato itself in any part of this Union, yet, as there can be no doubt of the blight which has fallen on the leaves, and which must in any case prevent the proper maturity of the plants, as there is every probability of the disease descending as in former years from the leaf to the tuber; and as we hear of considerable disease in the tuber in the neighbourhood of Limerick, we cannot indulge in the hope that we shall escape the impending calamity—the extent of which cannot now by any means be estimated.

The continued rain which we have experienced for the last three days, must we think have an unfavourable effect, and tend to promote rather than check the tendency to disease.

Not having any potato crop on the workhouse grounds, that part of your inquiry does not relate to this Union. We have however a very fine crop of mangel-wurzel, which we expect will prove much more profitable than potatoes.

We do not think it would be at all expedient to make use of potatoes as an article of diet in the workhouse.

In addition to the above we have to state, that the quantity of potatoes planted in this Union has been unusually great; and even if a large proportion were to be rendered unfit for human food, there would still be a considerable quantity available for that purpose; and unless the disease be more fatal and extensive than in any previous year, we should think it likely no scarcity will be felt until after Christmas.

Trim Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

We yesterday had the honour of receiving your communication of the 11th instant requesting our joint report on the state of the potato crop in this Union.

In answer thereto we beg leave to state, that for several weeks back we have had our attention particularly directed to the progress of blight on this important crop; and the result of our observation is, that the general appearance of the potato crop in the Union is far from favourable: the stalks almost universally presenting a blackened and scorched appearance—varying however considerably according to the kind of potato and its approach to maturity—the earlier sown crops being in general the most affected. The disease or blight does not appear as yet to have extended in any great degree to the potatoes themselves, as they are in general but partially affected.

As to the state of the crop on the workhouse ground (about two plantation acres), we have to report a like appearance; and upon examination, but partially extending to the root. We yesterday had a portion of the crop dug for the use of the inmates, and found but a small portion affected with the disease—to the amount of about two stone out of fifty.

As to hazarding an opinion on the proportion of the crop likely to be available for human food we feel very great difficulty; but at present there is not a doubt but that only a very small portion is unfit for food: at the same time we cannot conceal from ourselves, that the disease appears to be progressing from day to day. From the best information we can collect among persons well acquainted with the neighbourhood, we are of opinion that not so much ground is under potatoes as formerly, previous to 1846.

We have further to add that the crop where dug appears to be very productive. We shall continue carefully to watch the progress of the disease, and from time to time report on the matter as we see any change take place.

Tuam Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

Previous to the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant, we had personally examined into the condition of the potato crops in all the electoral divisions of the Tuam Union; and we regret to have to report that in every instance the stalks of the potato are blackened and shrivelled, and the tuber is diseased in a great degree. The late sowed crop is almost a total failure; the tubers not exceeding the size of marbles. The yield from the early sowed crop is fair, but the quality of the potato is very inferior to that of last year.

The crop on the workhouse grounds, although planted early, is nearly all lost; three-sevenths only of the crop being at the present time fit for human food, and the remaining four-sevenths totally destroyed. This result we have obtained by digging 14 lbs. of potatoes to-day from the crop on the workhouse grounds.

There are few green crops in the Union, the great majority of the small holdings being under potatoes.

The wheat, oat, rye, and barley crops are promising; but the late and continued heavy rains will we fear materially damage them.

We cannot conclude without expressing our fears that not three-sevenths of the potato crop is at the present period available for human food; and that a total destruction of the crop by the disease, similar to that of 1846, is almost inevitable in the Tuam Union.

Tullamore Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, inquiring into the state of the potato crop in this Union, we beg to apprise you that a very marked change has taken place in the appearance of the potato crop during the last fortnight or three weeks; the leaf is quite gone, but the disease has not as yet generally descended to the stalk, and in but few instances to the bulb. The potatoes, generally speaking, larger than is usual at this time of year; at the same time they are damp, probably on account of the continued rains during the last month. The last week has been very favourable; and should the weather continue fine we consider the potatoes would recover—inasmuch as they would become dry, and probably not be much affected with the disease. The growth, however, must be at an end, in consequence of the blight on the leaf.

As regards the potato crop in the workhouse grounds, we regret to say, that in consequence of the state we found the grounds in we were unable to plant any thing in them; but have had the able-bodied constantly employed filling in the sand-pits and quarry holes around the workhouse. The extent of the grounds belonging to this workhouse are unusually small, being only four acres in extent.

Waterford Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

I have the honour to inform you that a premature decay of the leaves, which in many instances extends to the stalks, has very generally set in.

The cause is attributed to the very cold and ungenial weather we have had for the last fortnight.

I am fully of opinion that although the early sown potatoes are more or less affected by blight on the leaves, yet they were so far matured in ripeness that they may be considered safe, and will in all probability keep well. Coupling this with the fact that a much wider breadth (nearly four and a-half times) has been sown this, beyond the two last years, I do not feel apprehensive at present of any great scarcity this season. The late crops were not sufficiently advanced to maturity to resist the blight so well as the early sown; consequently the more danger as regards this portion of the potato crop is to be apprehended.

As yet instances of affected tubers are rare; and it will require another week or ten days to decide on the extent to which it is likely to affect the late crop.

Our markets are well supplied with wholesome, dry potatoes, with as yet no appearance in them of disease, at a cheap rate.

I have had communications from several gentlemen connected with different electoral divisions of the Union, whose reports can be relied on. They all generally agree as to the correctness of the statement I have the honour to lay before you.

The foregoing is also the opinion of Captain Newport, D.L., a gentleman well acquainted with this district; and who on many occasions has afforded us very valuable assistance and information.

The potato crop on the workhouse grounds appears to have suffered considerably from the blight; but I have not been able to detect many diseased tubers amongst them. As they are at present, I should say that nineteen-twentieths of them are available for human food; but the crop is a late one; about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres in all.

Mr. O'Connor, my colleague, agrees with me in the opinions I have here advanced.

Westport Union—The Vice-Guardians:—August 14, 1848.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, requesting from us a joint report on the state of the potato crop in our Union.

Having travelled through a considerable part of the country, north and south, during the last week, and had much conversation with many judicious persons relative thereto, we are enabled to speak somewhat decisively as to its general condition. The blight which made its appearance in the beginning of the month of August, 1846, has invaded the crop at about the same time this year, commencing by black spots on the leaves, and spreading to canker blotches on the stalks, from the effects of which the entire haulm has become withered in a few days—the decaying vegetable matter loading the atmosphere with a heavy smell as if from fermenting lowland hay. This infliction has become very general throughout the country, and has caused much dismay among the people; but it is to be observed that as yet the tubers have not been affected except in partial instances; and as much of the crop was sown unusually early, and had attained an approximation to maturity when the blight appeared, it may be hoped that such will afford a considerable amount of food; but the same expectation cannot be indulged in with respect to the later sown fields. Should the blight spread over these, of which we fear there is little doubt, no produce need be expected from them; as in all instances where decay precedes the blossoming of the plant no tuber is formed.

It is difficult to form a correct calculation as to the relative extent of the early and later sown crops; but from our own observations during the spring we should conjecture that about two-thirds were put in at an early season, and up to the appearance of the blight they had grown most promisingly. With respect to

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the amount of food which may be calculated on as available from the early sown crop, it must entirely depend on the tuber continuing in a sound state, and the disease making no further progress than on the haulm.

There was but a very small portion of the workhouse grounds sown with potatoes, in consequence of the greater part being occupied with the building of the fever hospital and laying down the materials necessary, also with the quarrying for stones and sand for same. The produce of what was sown cannot be considered as any value.

*Letter from Sir James Dombrain, Inspector-General of the Coast Guard:—
Kilrush-House, August 13, 1848.*

I commenced my inspection at the latter end of May, at Westport; from thence I travelled round the north-west coast, and up to Dublin; I again left Dublin, four weeks since, and up to Cork. I never saw finer crops, and I wrote to the Lord Lieutenant congratulating him on the prospects, and observing that, so far as human calculation went, he would not have distress to contend with. It is very remarkable, that upon leaving Cork (now about eighteen days ago), the first field I saw had strong evidence of the disease; from that day to this I have not seen one field free from it, and the late crop is totally and irretrievably gone. The stalks are blackened down to the ground; the tubers not bigger than marbles; it is impossible they can recover.

The early planting was very extensive—greater in proportion to the late than in any former year; the potatoes generally large and good; for some few days after stems had blackened, but these soon began to show the disease.

I have not seen a man digging potatoes that I have not got out of my carriage and gone to examine them. In no instance have I seen less than one-fourth affected; in some cases three-fourths, and they are daily getting worse. This year it is the disease of 1846, viz., the wet rot; and the weather unfortunately makes it advance with fearful rapidity. Every post brings me letters as to its progress in all these places where I have seen the plants in such a flourishing state. On the consequences of this renewed visitation it is vain to speculate. The scourge is sent by Him who rules all for the best; to Him alone we should all commit ourselves—for it is too evident, in this impoverished country, no human aid can save the people from dying by thousands! I am told that fully half of the potatoes brought in here yesterday to the market were spotted.

If at any time I can give you any information command me.

My journey from Dublin was by Wicklow, Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, and on to this. I visited every coast-guard station in all the promontories and bays to this place—I suppose about 1,500 miles.

Some speak sanguinely of the slight appearance of the disease. My own opinion is, it is a mere question of time, and that it will be quite as bad as in 1846. The stench from the fields is in most cases quite sickening.

*Further Letter from Sir James Dombrain to the Chief Commissioner:—
Galway, August 17, 1848.*

Since I wrote to you I have been down the north side of Galway Bay as far as Castleboy; from thence I crossed over to Arran; and as one fact is worth ten thousand assertions or opinions, I shall mention one for your information.

On going up from the beach to the coast-guard watch-house, I saw a woman washing two basketfuls of potatoes; I should say there was from a bushel and a half to two bushels. We went and examined them; not one could we find sound. I saw another woman with baskets full. She said the man had been all the morning digging what was there before us—and they were what had been separated from the rotten ones—and not one of those, so far as we could see, were quite sound. I have just been in the market here; even among the potatoes picked out as sound several show the disease.

I am of opinion the disease is much worse than in 1846. The constant rain has actually made them turn quite rotten in the ground; and certainly the people are less able to bear it, for I believe they parted with the beds from under them to procure seed.

My accounts from all parts are daily worse.

NOTE.—The reports since received by the Commissioners on Monday, the 21st inst., are of the same general character as the above reports, and show that the potato disease is progressing; but still, in several reports it is stated not to have yet reached the tubers.

BOYLE UNION.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain WYNNE, *April 6, 1848*:—Dissolution of the Board of Guardians.

THE Commissioners request you to proceed with the least possible delay to Boyle Union, and to take evidence on oath respecting the cases of death from starvation specified in the accompanying letter, which was addressed on the 5th instant by the Rev. J. Henery to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

The Commissioners deem it advisable that you should put yourself in communication with Mr. Henery, in order that he may furnish you with the names of the witnesses who will be able to depose to the facts stated in his letter. The Commissioners further recommend that both Mr. Henery and members of the Boyle Board of Guardians should be invited to be present at your examination of the witnesses.

It is the wish of the Commissioners that the inquiry should be thoroughly searching and minute.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

Killoshalway, Ballymote, April 5, 1848.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I regret to be again obliged to direct your Excellency's attention to the appalling state of destitution in the electoral divisions of Kilturra and Killoshalway, in the poor law Union of Boyle.

I had some hope, from the nature of your Excellency's late reply to me on the subject of the distress of these districts, that your Excellency would not in future be horrified at hearing of any more deaths from starvation in the above localities. The following details will convince your Excellency that I hoped in vain. I wish your Excellency to understand, that I do not at present wish to urge any complaint against the Commissioners or the Guardians of the poor, much less do I wish to offer any opinion whether the poor law, no matter how rigidly enforced, can meet the painful and intense destitution of those districts. Those are subjects for your Excellency's grave consideration. But although I cannot take it on myself to say whether the law itself, or the mode of administering it, is to blame, I think yourself would deem me reprehensible if I did not submit to your notice, that, notwithstanding having a poor law, deaths are of daily occurrence from actual starvation in this portion of the poor law Union of Boyle.

Here are the names and townlands where the deaths took place:—

Killoshalway.

Mrs. Kilkenny and child, after several applications in vain for relief,
Mary Connel, found dead by a rick of turf,
Philip M'Gowen's wife and daughter,
Bryan Flanagan, found dead by the road-side,
Widow Davey's daughter,
Andy Davey.

Kilturra electoral division.

John May and son,
Pat Marren,
Widow Carbery,
John O'Hara,
John Healy's two children.

Other deaths from starvation took place previous to my first communication to your Excellency, not included in this list.

I have the honour to remain

Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servant,

JAMES HENERY, P.P.,

Bunaden, Ballymote, county Sligo.

To his Excellency
the Earl of Clarendon,
&c., &c,

No. 426.

II.

Admit provisionally, James Gallagher, wife and son.

Dated 7th March, 1848.

JOHN M'MANAMY,

Relieving Officer.

James Gallagher will be admitted, provided his wife and son accompany him.
This man refused admittance, died on his way home on the road-side.

JAMES HENERY,

March 7, 1848.

Boyle Union.

Captain WYNNE to the COMMISSIONERS:—April 13, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to state for the information of the Commissioners, that in compliance with their request, contained in your letter of the 6th instant, I proceeded on Tuesday the 11th inst., to Gorteen, being the most convenient place, to hold the investigation into the cases of death from starvation specified in the letter of the Rev. J. Henery to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

On receipt of your letter I put myself in communication with Mr. Henery, as also with the Board of Guardians of the Boyle Union, requesting of the former that he would furnish me with the names of such parties as were able to depose to the facts stated in his letter, as also that he would be present on the occasion, and of the Board of Guardians to depute some member or members to attend to give such explanation as their books and knowledge of the facts might enable them to afford.

I received the names required from the Rev. Mr. Henery, and summoned the parties, who were accordingly in attendance on Tuesday, the earliest day on which it was possible to complete my arrangements. The Rev. Mr. Henery, Joseph M'Donnell, Esq. of Doo Castle, Rev. Mr. Brennan, P.P., Rev. Mr. Brown, P.P., Mr. Stanley, late Guardian, &c., &c.; and on the part of the Board of Guardians, Mr. Holmes of Clogher.

I forward you the evidence of each witness as I took it down, and shall make such remarks in explanation thereof as the character and station of the witnesses will render necessary, to lead the Commissioners to a true conclusion.

I shall take the cases seriatim, and would premise that the greatest possible exertion was made, not only to get up a case against the Board of Guardians, but also to prove that the poor law was inadequate to meet the distress that at present exists in the Union, and thereby to establish a claim to part of a sum of £3,000,000 which they stated had been promised by Lord John Russell last year.

It is a fact, more curious than uncommon, that those persons most clamorous, and apparently most zealous in the cause of the suffering poor, were, without exception, defaulters in their rates; no individual present, with the exception of Mr. Holmes, having paid up the last rate, and some owing the two last.

All expressed themselves most anxious for an extension of relief, but not at the expense of the Union.

Case of Anne Kilkenny.—*John Kilkenny* showed a remarkably strong animus, and contradicted himself several times; was a disappointed applicant for out-door relief, being able-bodied.

Mr. Stanley exhibited very strong feeling against the board, of which he was a member until the 25th ultimo.

The other witnesses in this case appeared to give their evidence fairly and impartially.

I am of opinion that this is one of those cases where aversion to enter the workhouse has proved fatal; the deceased may have died from want of medical or other assistance in her confinement, or from exhaustion or want of strength; I could not elicit the fact of the child being born dead; I am of opinion it was; it appeared strange, when considerable anxiety was evinced to prove the case, that none of the children who were in the house at the time were present to depose to this and other facts; it is to be regretted that out-door relief was not given in this case, as it appears to have been one peculiarly suitable.

The relieving officer does not appear to have acted with that promptitude so indispensable where so great an amount of destitution of the most urgent description exists as in the electoral divisions of Kilshalvy and Kilturra in the Boyle Union; he however throws the blame on the Guardians, as will be seen by his evidence.

I do not see any reason to doubt the fact that Honora Kilkenny, the daughter, died of want, and that the remaining children are also likely not to recover; I have strongly recommended a far higher standard of relief in the quantity of food given, and an extension on a considerable scale of the number of recipients. It should however be remembered, that by leaving the workhouse this unhappy family brought upon themselves their sufferings.

I do not think in the case of Mary Connelly death can be said to have been caused by starvation; exposure to the inclemency of the weather while in a state of disease and exhaustion, induced probably by want of food or bad food, was sufficient to produce death, and I have no doubt did; nobody appears to blame but the poor creature herself for having left the workhouse.

In the cases of Philip M'Gowen's wife and child, the details of the husband's evidence were most heart-rending; here again we find pestilence and famine so mixed up that it is almost impossible to say which was the cause of death.

I think it probable that in this case fever, induced by bad or insufficient food, was the immediate cause of death; the workhouse appears to have been offered more than once and refused.

In the case of Bryan Flanagan I cannot see that blame is fairly attributable to anybody, nor does it appear that he died of starvation.

Widow Davey's daughter.—From the mother's evidence there appears too much reason to believe that her daughter died of want of food, indeed the mother is more than half dead, and can scarcely recover with the greatest care; as in the other cases aversion to enter the workhouse appears again to have been fatal; it was certainly a case for out-door relief, but none was given in the Union until after the 25th of February.

Andy Davey.—This is a strange case: there is no doubt but that this man died from want of food; at the same time there is no doubt he possessed the means of relief, from the fact of his having two head of cattle, one of which was sold for his burial; he also refused the workhouse.

James Gallagher.—I am of opinion this poor man's case should have been an exception, and that he should have been admitted provisionally if his state of health rendered him unfit to return home without risk of his life; such is the practice I invariably recommend.

John May and son.—I am of opinion that the application stated to have been made during the illness of the parents, was made by the eldest girl, and should have been promptly attended to by the relieving officer, which appears not to have been the case; it was a case for immediate provisional relief. The relieving officer in excuse pleads the restrictions placed upon him by the Guardians in confining him to relief in the house in cases requiring out-door relief, and gives as proof the cases of the Widow Lang, represented on the 11th of March, as destitute and in fever, yet received no out-door relief till the 25th, when she was ruled by the Guardians for five pounds of meal per week for self and five children. Mr. Holmes, the representative of the Board of Guardians present, stated that this rule was a mistake as entered in the book, that the five pounds of meal were intended as provisional relief till such time as the parties could come into the house; but then it was a case for out-door relief, and out-door relief was being given at the time in the Union; I am of opinion that there are some reasons to doubt these parties having died of starvation. It is difficult to suppose that John May's father, who is represented in evidence as being a humane and kind-hearted man, should have allowed his son and grandchild to die of starvation, at a time when he had a quantity of meal stored in his house, and was in other respects in wealthy circumstances. It appears also that deceased received aid from his priest from a fund which has been furnished by Rome for the relief of the Irish poor; it appears however that the aid was on a small scale. It is clear that deceased and his wife laboured under dysentery for five or six weeks, almost in the same house with his father, a comfortable man with meal stored in his house; and from all the circumstances of the case, I do not think that the deaths can be attributed to want of food, but rather to dysentery, brought on perhaps originally from insufficient or bad food. With regard to the evidence of Mr. Stanley in this case, I shall only observe, that it appeared he had only attended the board in Boyle once in three months, 17th of March; he ruled in favour of out-door relief to all the parties in the relieving officer's book for his (Kilshalvy*) electoral division, many of which the chairman overruled, which has led no doubt to the bad feeling which appears to exist at present between the parties.

Case of Pat Marren.—The relieving officer, from his own evidence, which in point of fact was the only evidence in this case, did his duty. I think on the 25th February deceased's case was one for out-door relief. It is difficult to form an opinion as to the immediate cause of death, as the evidence was not at all conclusive.

Widow Carbery's case.—The relieving officer appears to have neglected this case: I have no doubt but that application was made to him as stated by Honora M'Gowen, and should have been promptly attended to. Deceased was old and declining for some time previous to her death. I do not think the facts elicited in evidence would warrant the conclusion that she died of starvation.

* This will appear from inspection of application and report book of relieving officer for Kilshalvy.

Boyle Union.

Case of John Healy's two children.—The relieving officer appears to have neglected this case also. It appears to have been a particularly urgent one, and should have been promptly relieved the moment the surrender of the land rendered the claimant eligible, or before, if as was the case, that the relieving officer was ignorant of the fact of his holding land. There is too much reason to believe that these poor children died of absolute want.

It may not be out of place to state here, for the information of the Commissioners, the state in which I found the district, particularly the electoral divisions of Kilshalvy and Kilturra, as also the prospects of the increase or diminution of the destitution which exists there at present.

I regret to say I found matters much worse than I expected, or than they were when I last visited the district. An alarming amount of the most urgent destitution appears to exist in the electoral divisions of Kilshalvy and Kilturra, I think mainly attributable to the non-attendance at the board, of Guardians of those divisions, to whom by the rules of the board the care of that district was intrusted. Relief has not been given to the extent which the circumstances of those very poor divisions require, and consequently they have lost ground and will now require a large increase. The population appears to have run down rapidly.

Very little employment has been given in these divisions, at the same time extraordinary exertions are being made in these and other divisions in the Boyle Union to put down the potato crop; a large quantity has been already sown, and preparations are being made for at least an average crop; seed is very plentiful and cheap, being in abundance at from 3s. 6d. to 3s. 10d. per cwt. in the Ballyhadereen market. Scarcely any white crops sown as yet.

No employment under the Land Improvement Act has yet been undertaken, or rather commenced, except in the electoral division of Kilfree, where it has been suspended in consequence of the terms on which it was given, and under which the employed found they could not get on.

The first condition of employment was having paid the last May rent; the second, that the employed should leave one-half his wages in liquidation of the November rent, receiving the other half in meal. This was not found to answer, and the work is suspended.

In conclusion, I beg to say that I was unable sooner to forward this report, consistent with the care and circumspection which were necessary in an investigation which has excited deep interest in the Union; the examination of witnesses taking up two whole days.

ENCLOSURES.

EVIDENCE taken on oath at an investigation held at Gorteen, in the Boyle Union, on the 11th and 12th days of April, 1848, into the cause or causes of the death of the persons named in the letter of the Rev. Mr. Henery, P.P., to his Excellency, the Lord Lieutenant, dated April 5, instant.

CASE I.

Mrs. Kilkenny and child, who died after several applications for relief.

John Kilkenny, being duly sworn.—Knew the deceased; was brother-in-law to her; remembers her death, it was on or about the 20th March last; believes she had no bodily disease, and stated that she left her death on the relieving officer; was confined the morning of her death, or the day before; was anointed on Sunday, and died on Tuesday following; witness applied to the relieving officer the day his sister-in-law was anointed for relief for her; was told by that officer that he was so controlled by the chairman of the board of Guardians, Mr. Phibbs, that he could not give her any relief. Stated at the time that if the woman was not relieved at once, she would die. Deceased told witness when last he saw her, that she was sick and weak from hunger; deceased had no medical attendant or midwife at her confinement, nobody in the house with her but her children.

Mr. Stanley, poor law guardian up to the 25th ultimo, duly sworn.—Knew deceased; applied on her behalf at the board on the 17th March last, when attending at Boyle; represented the case as extremely urgent and requiring prompt attention; the chairman refused on the grounds that she had previously left the workhouse at her own request; does not think the deceased laboured under any organic disease; was greatly exhausted from want of food; stated that if not promptly relieved the woman would certainly die, as she was unable to come into the workhouse; the chairman stated that he could not help it. Many other cases ruled by me, in my division, were overruled by the chairman; of these the greater proportion were widows and orphans.

Witness's attention directed by Mr. Holmes to the cases in the relieving officer's book as ruled by him, witness, and overruled by chairman.

Bryan Davey, an infirm man, unable to work.

Thomas Taaft.—Witness cannot speak as to this man; at the time he ruled in favour of out-door relief for Taaft, did not perceive that relieving officer reported him as able-bodied.

N.B.—Taaft was placed by relieving officer under the head of able-bodied.

John M'Kew.—Sick these five years to his knowledge.

Bernard Cunningham, porter of the Boyle workhouse, duly sworn.—Remembers Anne Kilkenny, deceased; entered the workhouse on the 22nd of February, and left of her own accord on the 26th of same month.

James M'Manamy, relieving officer of Kilshalvy and Kilturra electoral divisions, Boyle Union, duly sworn.—Recollects Anne Kilkenny, deceased; received her application on Mr. Stanley's recommendation on the 14th of February last; gave her a ticket for the workhouse, as there was no out-door relief at the time. Deceased appeared at this period in good health, but her child appeared to suffer from want; deceased went to the workhouse on the 22nd, and left in a few days after. Another application was made on behalf of deceased on the 17th of March by Mr. Stanley and somebody else, who witness forgets; but does not recollect the first witness, Kilkenny, making any application except for himself; represented the case again on the 17th of March to the board, but was refused on the grounds that she had left the house on her own accord; was ordered to offer her the workhouse again; did not do so, but intended to do so the earliest opportunity. Deceased died on or about the 20th.

Examined in reference to Bryan Davey's case, reported as able-bodied, on the 19th of January, in the relieving officer's book. Reported, Bryan Davey, "able-bodied, and destitute from want of employment."

Applied on the 25th of February, on a report made the 19th of January; cannot say I made any explanation to the Guardians in reference to the change that had taken place in him during the interval between the 19th of January and the 25th of February; saw him repeatedly during that time.

My orders are to supply means of conveyance to such persons as are unable to travel to the workhouse, from illness or other cause; have always, when possible, done so; in some instances I was unable to procure carts.

Philip O'Beirne, duly sworn.—Knew deceased; in January she was in a low state from want of food; in February worse; and in March still worse; died about the 20th of March.

Case of Honora Kilkenny, aged eight years, stated to have died of starvation.

John Kilkenny, duly sworn.—Knew Honora Kilkenny; she was eight years of age; had no complaint but want of food; died in the same house with her mother, four days after; is positive she died from starvation; witness was an applicant for relief; received a ticket of admission, and attended on the 31st of March, and was sent home, as the house was full; would not go into the house if he was starving.

Mr. Stanley.—Knew Honora Kilkenny; is positive she died of want; thinks the five other children of Anne Kilkenny will also die on the allowance given them at present by the Guardians, viz., twelve pounds of meal per week.

Philip O'Beirn.—Knew Honora Kilkenny; thinks she died of starvation; the children were in a bad state in January, scarcely able to walk. Five of them are now living on twelve pounds per week, Indian meal, given them by order of the Guardians; their ages are four, ten, eleven, twelve, fourteen; knows four children who get but eight pounds per week.

Case of Mary Connelly, deceased.

.NB.—Name erroneously given by Mr. Henery, in his letter to the Lord Lieutenant.

Philip M'Gowen, duly sworn.—Never knew deceased; knows her father; does not know any thing of her circumstances previous to her death, nor of her death; knows nothing of the matter.

Biddy M'Keon.—Knew the deceased; her name was Winny, not Mary, as stated; supposed her to be a sound girl till the hardship came on the country; was some time in the workhouse; three or four days after she left the workhouse she died; was all swelled, and in a very bad state when she came home from the workhouse; her aunt refused to let her into the house as she heard she had the sickness (fever) in the workhouse; lay by a clump of turf, and was found there dead; the neighbours said she had fever; saw deceased after her return from the workhouse; she lay by a clump of turf; sent her meal, but she was unable to use it; Mr. Taylor, the nailer, that sent her the meal.

Bernard Cunningham, porter of the Boyle workhouse, sworn.—Recollects the family of deceased—it consisted of father, mother, and four children; entered the house on the 3rd of March, and left it on the 6th of same month; the family were all at the time in a delicate state; witness remonstrated with them on the imprudence of leaving the house under the circumstances; there was room in the house at the time.

Case of Philip M'Gowen's wife and child.

Philip M'Gowen, duly sworn.—Was husband to Winny M'Gowen, deceased; deceased died on the 1st of March last; was sick for six weeks previous to her death with bowel complaint; lived on turnip tops and the roots of small turnips, which were not worth taking out of the ground; witness was unable to work, or earn any thing for his family since May last, in consequence of sickness; witness applied to relieving officer four weeks previous to his wife's death; was refused relief unless he brought a certificate signed by three rate-payers; witness found some difficulty in procuring the signatures required; was unable to do so till the 1st of March, on which day his wife died; witness then went to the relieving

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officer, who told him he could do nothing for him then—but directed him to follow him to the meal depot and he would see what he could do for him; witness went at once to the depot, but was told by the relieving officer that nothing could be done for him; relieving officer did not offer him the workhouse on this occasion; witness afterwards received an admission ticket from relieving officer, and went to the workhouse on the 31st of March; was not admitted on that day, and was told by the relieving officer to return home, that the house was full; got nine pounds of meal on the Monday following (April 3rd), for self and five children; lost five children previous to his wife's death; one three days before (his daughter), who he, witness, positively swears died of starvation; would not go into the workhouse if he was dying.

John M. Manamy, relieving officer.—Philip M'Gowen applied on the 5th of February for the first time; was offered the workhouse, which he refused; applied again on the 8th of March, stating that his wife had died of fever, and that his children were then lying ill with same complaint; sent applicant to the depot, as stated by him in evidence; proceeded to the house of applicant, and found three of the children, who did not appear in fever; was told the others were out begging; witness offered a ticket to the workhouse, by the directions of the Guardians, to whom witness stated the foregoing circumstances; gave applicant nine pounds of meal as provisional relief till room in the house could be obtained.

Case of Bryan Flanagan, deceased.

John Andrews, duly sworn.—Knew Bryan Flanagan; he was a neighbour; was an idiot, but strong in constitution; heard of his death, which took place in Tubbercurry, not within the Boyle Union; deceased was a native of the Union, but was a wanderer; Peter Flanagan applied for relief to the relieving officer on the 1st of February, on behalf of his brother; cannot say that the idiot ever applied in person; relieving officer offered him the workhouse; believes there was no out-door relief in the Union at the time.

Relieving Officer.—Bryan Flanagan was not in the Union when his brother Peter applied on his behalf; deceased never made a personal application; witness inquired after deceased, but could not discover where he was.

Case of the Widow Davey's daughter.

Widow Davey, duly sworn.—Remembers the death of her daughter, Mary Davey; she died about Christmas; she was twenty-three years of age; had no complaint but hunger; witness applied for relief to the relieving officer; applied so often cannot recollect how often; held half an acre of land, which she gave up on or about Christmas last; got relief last night for the first time.

John Andrews, sworn.—Knew deceased; the family were in extremely destitute circumstances; on my oath, I believe deceased died of starvation; I have not paid my rates.

John M. Manamy, relieving officer.—Received the Widow Davey's application on the 3rd of February; offered her the workhouse; she held three roods of land; from her extreme destitution overlooked this obstacle; she would not go to the workhouse; she applied again ten days ago, and on producing evidence of having given up the land, witness gave her relief, five pounds of meal.

Case of Andy Davey, deceased.

Nanny Davey.—Was wife to deceased; her husband died on the 22nd of March; was a healthy man till the bad times; had no complaint but want till shortly before his death; thinks her husband applied for relief to relieving officer about a fortnight before his death; was ill herself at the time from hunger; gets at present fourteen pounds of meal in the week, for self and five children; positive her husband died of starvation; the children will soon die.

John M. Manamy, relieving officer.—The first application made by the deceased's family was on the 21st of February; cannot say I visited on said application, but to the best of my belief I did; found on inquiry deceased had two heifers; did not see the heifers, but was told so; when deceased's case was brought before the Guardians this remark was in my report for their guidance; was directed to offer the workhouse; am certain he had the heifers, as one was sold to bury him.

Case of James Gallagher, deceased.

John M. Manamy, relieving officer, stated to the Guardians that James Gallagher could not find his family, who were begging about for themselves, and that he feared the man would be lost if not relieved. Note appended by the Guardians:—"Cannot be admitted without his family." Died, as stated, on his way home, on the road-side.

Case of John May and son, deceased.

Margaret Kilcony, duly sworn.—Was wife to John May, deceased; deceased died on the 7th of March last; had dysentery for five weeks before his death; witness laboured under the same complaint for the same period and at the same time; is sure it was caused by want of food; their only support during this time was what her child was able to procure by begging; she lost a daughter, not a son, as stated; she was eight years old, and had no complaint but hunger; had four children, aged thirteen, ten, eight, four; applied,

by the eldest girl, about a week or fortnight before her husband's death; was unable to go herself, but sent five times to the relieving officer, who did not visit her house till the 3rd of March; never received any relief; was promised it here last night; our little girl was told by the relieving officer that he could not give her any thing, but wrote down something in his book; never received any assistance from her father-in-law, who lived at the end of her house, and had meal stored there; he was a kind man, but the other sons would not allow him to give any thing.

Honora M'Gowen, duly sworn.—Recollects the death of John May; heard he had a sketch of fever, but not a taking one; means not any fever, but the effects of hunger; he was in the workhouse, and only returned a few days, when he took to his bed, and the neighbours shunned him for fear of the disorder; had nothing to support him but the produce of the children's begging; witness went with the little girl to the relieving officer, when she applied for relief; relieving officer told her he had none for her; this was on Thursday, and deceased died on Sunday following; relieving officer gave Widow Beirn, of Kiltarra, meal on the day he refused the little girl; John May's father died a week after the son, and the daughter three days after her father; the neighbours said it was of fever they died; the father of John May was in good circumstances; bore a good character; was kind and humane.

The Rev. Mr. Henery, duly sworn.—Believes the deceased, John May, died of starvation; that starvation may not have been the immediate cause of his death; that he had been long delicate and confined, by reason of want of food; is of opinion that he had not fever; was angry with him for leaving the workhouse; witness gave him some assistance, but for which he believes he would have died long before he did; this assistance was not sufficient for the support of his family.

Mark M'Donagh, duly sworn.—Visited the house of John May, deceased, in company with the relieving officer; deceased complained of a bad cold, and had a very bad colour; cannot say the exact time, but thinks it was in February; heard deceased died of fever; heard that the father also died of fever; heard that the father was not kind to the son, in giving him any assistance.

John M'Manamy, relieving officer.—The deceased applied for relief to witness on the 7th of January; at that time witness reported him "able-bodied, but destitute for want of employment;" did not see his family, who were out begging; witness offered deceased the workhouse; did not know deceased and family had been there before; the daughter of deceased may have made subsequent applications, but he, witness, cannot recollect any such; cannot recollect receiving a note from the Rev. Mr. Henery on the subject, but might have done so; witness is in the habit of visiting any parties whom he believes to be in distress, without an application; has orders to that effect from the Guardians; does not recollect any application being made to him on behalf of deceased on or about the 2nd of March last; cannot say of what deceased died, or of what his daughter died; never heard that the grandfather did not assist his son; attributes blame to the Guardians in placing restrictions on him in the administration of relief; never made any remonstrance to them on the subject; never represented the probable consequences of this restriction, except indirectly; can instance the case of the Widow Lang, on the 27th of March, at which time represented her destitute and in fever; ruled to get five pounds of meal per week, which is not sufficient to keep her and five children alive; Paddy M'Kew represented as a fit object for out-door relief, and unable to go to the workhouse, was overruled by the chairman of the Board of Guardians.

Mr. Stanley, poor law guardian, up to the 25th ultimo.—Visited the board at Boyle on the 17th of March last; proceeded to rule the books of his electoral division, Kilshalvy, but was told by the chairman and Mr. Holmes that he was setting a very bad example in putting so many persons' names on the list; there were present also Mr. Fry, Mr. Frazer, and himself; declared he would not attend again while business was so carried on.

Question by Mr. Holmes, guardian.—Have not paid the last poor rate; am not now a guardian; never heard that a defaulter was ineligible; was a candidate, but has not as yet heard from the clerk on the subject of the election; at the meeting of the 17th, witness disapproved of raising the salary of three of the officers, on the same day that relief was refused to many parties.

Case of Pat Marren, deceased.

James Grumem, duly sworn.—Knew deceased; knew him many years; he was a cripple and a wandering beggar, but a native of the Union; died on the 27th of March last; to the best of witness's belief deceased died of starvation; never knew him to apply for relief.

John M'Manamy, relieving officer.—Deceased applied on the 27th of January for relief, through his son, who applied at the same time on his own account; offered him the workhouse, which he refused; the father was not to be found at the time; met the father afterwards and offered him a ticket, as also the means of bringing him to Boyle, as he could not walk; deceased made no subsequent application; on the 25th of February witness applied to the Guardians for out-door relief for the deceased, stating at the time the circumstances of his case; application refused, and directed to offer him the workhouse; cannot say that it was in consequence of this refusal that deceased died, but believes he died of starvation.

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Case of the Widow Carbery, deceased.

Honora M'Gowen, duly sworn.—Was acquainted with the Widow Carbery for ten years previous to her death, which occurred about a fortnight ago; deceased was about sixty years old, and had no support but what her daughter, who was a beggar, was able to give her; saw deceased a few days before her death; heard deceased say she was in a low state for want of food, and would not live long; she had no food but what her daughter could bring her, and the daughter was often unable to reach home at night, when the deceased had nothing; was with the daughter when she applied to the relieving officer for relief for herself and mother; was told that her name was not in his book, but that he would call; relieving officer never did call; deceased never received any relief; relieving officer promised to visit four other families in the same townland, but never did from that day to this; never visited the locality since January last.

John M'Manamy, relieving officer.—Never heard of this case till now; never received an application on behalf of deceased; do not recollect being asked to visit the locality referred to (Rathbane); have gone through the townland, but did not visit the houses.

Case of John O'Hara, deceased.

No witnesses.

Case of John Healy's two children.

John Milmoë, duly sworn.—Knows Healy, his name is James; he deserted his wife in the hardship with her two children, two years and a-half and four years old; both children died, one about a week ago, the other about a fortnight; Mrs. Healy had nothing but a few turnips which grew on her own land to support herself and children; had an acre of land which she surrendered to her landlord, Mr. M'Donnell, of Doo Castle, on the 23rd of March; witness has not the slightest doubt but that both the children died of starvation; the mother would have died also if not relieved by the Rev. Mr. Henery; the mother is unable to come here or leave her bed; some of the neighbours say she has fever: was a healthy woman till within the last six or seven weeks; heard her say she applied to the relieving officer about eight weeks ago; was unable to do so since from sickness; did not send any other person; never received any relief up to the present time.

Joseph M'Donnell, of Doo Castle, Esq., J.P., duly sworn.—Knows James Healy; he deserted his wife several times; held land from him—about an acre; his wife surrendered it about a month or three weeks since; made application to the relieving officer by letter on her behalf; saw relieving officer in an hour afterwards in his office; cannot say if the woman received relief as yet.

John M'Manamy, relieving officer.—Knows Bridget Healy; her husband has deserted her; received but one application from her—viz., on the 21st of February; might have received Mr. M'Donnell's application, but cannot say positively; offered her the workhouse on the 21st of February; was not aware that she held land; does not think he visited her house; never gave her relief.

EDMUND WYNNE, *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK to the GUARDIANS:—April 20, 1848.

THE Commissioners have received Captain Wynne's report of the inquiry which he was instructed to make into certain alleged cases of death from starvation, specified in a letter addressed by the Rev. J. Henery to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

The Commissioners derive from that report, and from the evidence accompanying it, a strong impression that in certain districts of the Boyle Union many persons in an extreme and urgent state of destitution have not been efficiently relieved by the Board of Guardians and their officers; and that in some cases death has been accelerated, if not occasioned altogether, by the absence of due relief.

The Commissioners transmit herewith a copy of the evidence taken in the inquiry, and they proceed to point out those parts of it which peculiarly affect the conduct of the Board of Guardians themselves, and of their relieving officer, John M'Manamy.

The evidence given in the case of Anne Kilkenny, and her daughter, Honora Kilkenny, aged eight years, shows that the mother and her six children came into the Boyle workhouse on the 22nd February, and left it on the 26th of the same month. On the 17th March the relieving officer states that he again brought her case before the board, but that relief was refused on the ground that she had left the house of her own accord, and that he was ordered to offer her the house again; that he did not do so, but intended to do so the earliest opportunity, and that she died on or about the 20th of March.

It appears further that this poor woman was confined in her own cabin the morning of her death or the day before; that she received no relief or medical assistance whatever, and that nobody was with her in the house but her children.

A few days after her death it appears that her daughter, Honora Kilkenny, died in the same house, without any bodily disease or complaint, and from no other cause than want of food. After this event it appears that the Board of Guardians relieved the remaining five children with twelve pounds of meal weekly, and that the children were receiving this and no other relief at the time of the inquiry by Captain Wynne, and that these poor children were at that time likely to die in consequence of more efficient relief not having been afforded them—their respective ages being four, ten, eleven, twelve, and fourteen.

In the case of Philip M'Gowen and his family, it appears on the evidence that he first applied to the relieving officer for relief on the 5th February, and, as Philip M'Gowen states, was refused relief until he brought a certificate signed by three ratepayers. The relieving officer says that he offered him admission to the workhouse, which he refused. On the 1st March his wife died—one child having died three days previously, as Philip M'Gowen himself swore, of starvation. On the 8th March he again applied for relief, and the relieving officer brought the application before the Guardians, who directed him again to offer the workhouse; and an admission ticket was furnished to Philip M'Gowen accordingly, with which he went to the workhouse on the 31st March, and was told by the relieving officer to return home, as the workhouse was full. On the 3rd April following, this applicant received nine pounds of meal for himself and five children; and the relieving officer describes this as provisional relief until room in the workhouse could be obtained.

In the case of Mary Davey, the daughter of Widow Davey, it appears that she died about Christmas, at the age of twenty-three years, and as her mother states, without any complaint but hunger. The mother appears to have been disqualified from receiving relief, as an occupier of half an acre or three roods of land, until Christmas last, when she says she gave it up. She says she made many applications to the relieving officer for relief, and the relieving officer states that he offered her the workhouse; he adds that ten days ago she applied again, and on producing evidence of having given up the land he gave her five pounds of meal, which, so far as the Commissioners are informed, is all the relief Widow Davey received up to the time of the inquiry. Of this poor person Captain Wynne reports, "the mother is more than half dead, and can scarcely recover with the greatest care."

In the case of Andy Davey (deceased), although it appears that he possessed two heifers at the time of his death, his widow swears that he died of starvation, and that she was herself ill at the time from hunger. That part of this case which deserves special attention is, that the widow and five children now receive only fourteen pounds of meal per week, and she swears that in her belief her children will soon die.

In the case of James Gallagher (deceased), it appears that the relieving officer stated to the Guardians that James Gallagher could not find his family, who were begging about for themselves, and that he feared the man would be lost if not relieved. A note appears to have been placed in the relieving officer's book, by the Guardians, to the effect, "cannot be admitted without his family;" and the man having thus been refused all relief, died on the way home by the road-side.

In the case of John May and his child (both deceased), it appears that he died on the 7th March last, having had dysentery for five weeks previously, and that one of four children, a girl, aged eight years, died within a few days of the same time.

The Widow May states that she applied, by her eldest girl, to the relieving officer about a week or fortnight before her husband's death, and sent five times, but that he did not visit the house until the 3rd March. The relieving officer states that he recollects none of these applications; and in the course of his evidence on this case attributes blame to the Guardians in placing restrictions on him in the administration of relief; he then instances the case of the Widow Lang, on the 27th March, at which time he represented her destitute and in fever, when it was decided that he should give her five pounds of meal per week, which he states was not sufficient to keep her and her five children alive. In explanation of this case, Mr. Holmes, a Guardian, who was present at the inquiry, explained that the order as entered on the relieving officer's book was a mistake,

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and that the five pounds of meal was intended as provisional relief until such time as the parties could come into the house. This widow's case being relievable out of the workhouse, and the workhouse being full, as the Commissioners infer, at the date of the order of the Guardians, they are of opinion that proper provision should have been made for relief out of the workhouse in this case, and the explanation therefore of Widow Lang's case, given by Mr. Holmes to Captain Wynne, does not appear to the Commissioners to be satisfactory.

In the case of Widow Carbery (deceased), there appears to be no reason to doubt the evidence given by Honora M'Gowen, that application was made to the relieving officer by the daughter of Widow Carbery previously to her death, for relief for her mother and herself. The relieving officer states that he recollects no such application, and admits that he never visited any of the houses in the townland in which the Widow Carbery lived.

In the case of John Healy's two children (both deceased), it appears that the father deserted them and their mother, and that both the children died within about a fortnight before the inquiry; and the evidence gives every reason to fear that they died from want. John Healy, it appears, held land to the extent of about an acre, from Mr. M'Donnell, of Doo Castle, which the wife surrendered on the 23rd March; and Mr. M'Donnell swears that he made application to the relieving officer by letter on her behalf, and saw him an hour afterwards in his office. The poor woman appears to have been unable to apply for relief herself from sickness.

The relieving officer admits he had an application from her on the 21st February, and that he then offered the workhouse; and that he might have received Mr. M'Donnell's application, but cannot say positively; he was not aware, he states, that she held land; yet he does not think that he ever visited her house, and he states that he never gave her any relief.

The Guardians will perceive that in going through the evidence on these several cases, the Commissioners have dwelt on those parts alone which are unfavourable to the conduct of the Guardians and their relieving officer. Their object in so doing is to apprise the Guardians clearly of the strong necessity which exists for immediate explanation of their conduct as a board in reference to several of these deplorable cases; and also to give the relieving officer due warning of those parts of the evidence which chiefly impugn his character as a paid officer, subject to removal by the Commissioners.

On the receipt of such observations as the Board of Guardians may deem it proper to make on their own behalf, and of any explanation which the relieving officer may desire to submit on his own part, the Commissioners will be in a position to acquit themselves of the responsibility which rests upon them in regard to the future administration of relief to the destitute poor in Boyle Union.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*April 27, 1848.*

THE board greatly regret and deeply deplore the melancholy occurrences detailed in Captain Wynne's report, and trust there may never be a recurrence of them; but before the Commissioners form an opinion of the conduct of the Guardians, the board earnestly request that they will take into consideration that these painful occurrences took place at the moment when the herculean labour of commencing the out-door relief came upon them, and at the period when the usual assizes business called away many of the board; also from the acknowledged fact that M'Manamy, the relieving officer, had not had sufficient time to visit in person all the applicants; and when all the relieving officers were inexperienced, and most of them new to their districts, it was a difficult matter, seeing how necessary it is to guard against imposition, to select out of a whole population seeking for relief, such classes as were entitled to receive it, under the Commissioners' order.

The electoral divisions of Kilshalvy and Kilturra sent but few inmates to the workhouse. Mr. Stanley, the guardian of the former division, rarely attended; in fact only four times during the last three years; the guardian for Kilturra has also absented himself, and the only ex-officio guardian resident in the district never appeared at the board, consequently the information which the board possessed did not warrant them in giving indiscriminate out-door relief. Caution was absolutely necessary in the first working of the system; and the board dis-

tinently affirm that no complaints were made to them of an insufficiency of food; and the relieving officers, whenever questioned, admitted that the persons relieved were satisfied; however, since the last visit of the Inspector, the allowance has been increased to seven pounds to adults, and three pounds to children.

Though extreme and urgent destitution existed in several parts of the Union, yet there has always been great reluctance to the workhouse test; several applicants for relief have refused to accept admission since the out-door relief commenced; and the board should not be charged with want of humanity, or censured for deaths occurring outside the workhouse, where many individuals have voluntarily taken their discharge, with nothing but starvation before them; if paupers thus leaving, are immediately entitled to relief, the workhouse test so much relied on, ceases to avail, and the whole property of the Union would be inadequate to defray the cost that an indiscriminate system of relief would call for.

The board, after an honest and diligent discharge of their duties for years past, feel assured that the Commissioners will not pass any censure upon them; but if blame is to fall on any one, let it be attached to those individual Guardians who, by their non-attendance, have deprived the board of the necessary information concerning their districts, which would have enabled the board to lessen the calamities that they now so much lament.

The board, feeling that they have diligently and impartially fulfilled their arduous duties, and several members thereof having sacrificed their time at great personal loss, in order to give the working of the law a fair trial, now request, if the Commissioners are dissatisfied with the manner in which their duties have been discharged, to be forthwith relieved, and another board appointed, more humane, more efficient, and more painstaking than the present are.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION :—*May 4, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have to acknowledge the resolution of the Guardians of Boyle Union, of the 27th April last, passed in reply to the letter of the Commissioners of the 20th April.

The Commissioners feel assured of the sincerity of those expressions of regret in which the Guardians have alluded to the melancholy occurrences detailed in Captain Wynne's report; and they have observed with satisfaction some steps which have since been taken by the board, for the purpose of more effectually relieving the severe destitution which has been shown to prevail in some districts of the Boyle Union, and which has heretofore been met by most inadequate measures of relief. The Commissioners do not doubt also that some individual members of the board have been active and attentive in the discharge of their duties as Guardians; but they are compelled by the evidence before them to conclude, that the Guardians, as a collective body, have made great default in this respect, and that by reason thereof, the duties of the Board of Guardians have not been effectually performed, according to the intention of the acts in force for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland.

The chief grounds on which this opinion rests are detailed in the letter of the Commissioners of the 20th April, in which they pointed out to the Guardians those portions of the evidence forwarded by Captain Wynne, which raised the most unfavourable impression of their conduct as a board; but the Commissioners cannot avoid adverting to the remarkable fact, that although on the minutes of the 22nd April, directions are recorded to summon the Guardians specially for the following Thursday, to take into consideration a matter reflecting too strongly on their character as a board, only seven Guardians of a body consisting of thirty-three appear by the minutes to have assembled on that day.

The Commissioners are much surprised by this apparent indifference on the part of the great majority of the Guardians to the vindication of their character as a public body; and they feel bound at the same time to state, that the explanation of the conduct of the board, placed on the minutes by the gentlemen assembled at that meeting, are not in their opinion satisfactory.

An Order dissolving the Board of Guardians of Boyle Union is enclosed herewith; and the appointment of paid officers, to act in execution of their duties, will take place in due course.

Loughrea Union.

LOUGHREA UNION.

Sir THOMAS BURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*June 15, 1848.*

I BEG to forward to you my answer to the letter of the Commissioners for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland, hoping that the whole of the evidence taken before Mr. Lloyd, at Loughrea, together with the Commissioners' letter, and my answer, may be printed in the next Blue Book.

Sir THOMAS BURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*June 15, 1848.*

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th of June, the contents of which do not surprise me. The late Board of Guardians, of which I had the honour to be chairman, did not expect from the Commissioners that they would acknowledge themselves or their officers to have acted wrong; nor should I now make any observations on the contents of your communication, only for the extraordinary and unwarrantable conclusions arrived at by the Commissioners, contrary both to the evidence and the facts: I cannot refrain from alluding to one or two of them. In the first place, the allegations the late board made were not intended to be so much charges against the paid Guardians, as to show that much of what was complained of in their conduct, and for which we had been so unjustly dismissed, was tolerated in our successors.

The Commissioners deny that the charge as to the numbers in the house, under the paid Guardians, has been proved. Now their own officer, Mr. Lloyd, publicly admitted that he was satisfied this had been fully proved by the evidence of O'Brien, the numbers signed regularly by the paid Guardians, and the number of rations issued by them; and stated it was unnecessary to give further proof of that fact.

The Commissioners make no mention of the fact of paupers having been sent to sleep on straw by the paid Guardians, though that was one of the reasons given for the late board's dismissal, and was proved to have frequently happened; nor do they take any notice of the fact, that none of the provision checks or other important accounts had been made up for several weeks previous to the inquiry, or that paupers had been drunk in the house, and had been absent at night, although all these facts were proved.

As to the abuses in the distribution of out-door relief, the Commissioners' assertions are quite incorrect, as no effectual inquiry could have taken place, the printed lists not having been furnished in time, notwithstanding the late board constantly demanded them; but still in the partial examination that did take place many more than the number stated were struck off, and it was notorious that pending the inquiry large numbers were taken off the lists in every electoral division.

With regard to Mr. Lloyd's report, or those portions of the evidence he may have taken down, I know nothing, nor did the late board ever expect either justice or redress from the Commissioners of these officers.

As to the last paragraph in your communication, the late board will be always glad that the really destitute should be relieved, but judging from the recent expenditure they have little hope that the interests of the ratepayers will receive much consideration from the Poor Law Commissioners.

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir THOMAS BURKE:—*June 24, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant.

The Commissioners regret that their decision on the charges brought by you against the Vice-Guardians of Loughrea Union is not satisfactory; but they are bound to add, that they see nothing in your letter to lead them to doubt that their decision was correct. It seems evident to the Commissioners that the charges were founded in a great measure on untrustworthy information derived

from a tainted source; and they think that you have unintentionally rendered a service to the Vice-Guardians, by causing the Commissioners to institute a minute investigation into their conduct, which has been the means of placing on record clear proofs of their assiduity and efficiency.

The request contained in your letter concerning the publication of the documents therein referred to, will be complied with as a matter of course.*

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* See the Sixth Series of Correspondence which had been presented to Parliament at the date of the receipt of Sir Thomas Burke's letter.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS on Sir THOMAS BURKE's letter:—
June 28, 1848.

With respect to the first charge to which Sir Thomas Burke refers, that of a greater number of persons being accommodated in the workhouse by us, than the late board were dismissed for (supposing that to be the cause), we beg distinctly to deny that such is the fact. It is true that O'Brien, the dismissed master, swore that on several occasions after we took charge, it appeared from the books that a greater number slept in the house than ever had been suffered under the old board; but he also admitted on his cross-examination, that he could not say the Vice-Guardians were cognizant of his allowing these excessive numbers to occupy the house; and he further admitted, that by permitting any excess over 900, he knew he was violating an order of the Poor Law Commissioners. It is also true, that Mr. Patrick Skerret swore deliberately, that he had ascertained from the books of the workhouse the gross numbers in the several houses; that he had then deducted the numbers sleeping in the two auxiliary houses from the gross numbers on the books, and found the remainder to have slept in the workhouse. But this gentleman on his cross-examination, when called upon to state from what books he had ascertained the numbers which were accommodated in the auxiliary houses at night, could give no satisfactory reply; and admitted that he had derived his information from O'Brien, the then master, although on his direct examination he stated, that he had procured it himself from books, which at that period were not in existence.

Sir Thomas Burke seems to place much weight on the assertion of Mr. Lloyd, that he had admitted he was satisfied with the evidence of O'Brien on the point of the numbers allowed to occupy the workhouse being greater under us, than during the time of the late board; that as those numbers had been regularly signed by us, and rations issued for them, it was unnecessary to give further evidence on that point; and it is quite true that the first evening of the inquiry, whilst the first witness (O'Brien) was under his direct examination, and before Mr. Lloyd was at all aware of the means of accommodation at our disposal, and which was afforded by the two auxiliary houses situate in the town, and seeing the numbers returned on the minutes, and sworn to by O'Brien as sleeping in the original workhouse, nearly to correspond with the numbers on the provision check; he did inadvertently say, "that he did not see how we could get over that part of the charge, for that the numbers appeared on the minutes and on the provision check, and should have been in the house." But this observation was made the first evening of the inquiry, when the case had been but just opened, before Mr. Lloyd had been made acquainted with the facts, before any rebutting case had been even attempted. But it will hardly be asserted, that Mr. Lloyd repeated such an opinion, that the impression was not clearly and satisfactorily removed from off his mind as well as off the mind of every unprejudiced person in the room, long before the inquiry terminated.

The numbers appearing on the minutes and signed by us each week, or the numbers written up in the provision check account, is no proof or evidence in support of the charge which Sir Thomas Burke labours to establish. The provision check contains only the gross number for which rations are daily issued, or the collective number for the week. And Sir Thomas Burke does not seem correctly to comprehend the true state of the case as regards this point. It is evident he has been imposed upon by untrustworthy persons, and led to suppose that all those appearing on this provision check must have been accommodated in the workhouse; and forgets that the two auxiliary houses taken by the late board were represented by them as capable of accommodating 1,200 persons, which, with the 900 that is allowed by the Commissioners' order to be taken into the workhouse, gives accommodation for 2,100, whilst the

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numbers appearing on the minutes and provision check, never, at that period, much exceeded 1,600, and embraced the entire number in the whole establishment for which rations were issued, without particularizing the house or houses in which the paupers were located at night; and at that period there was no book or record kept by which it could be ascertained what complement of persons occupied the brewery and Bride-street houses, the aggregate only being kept; and in the evidence taken before Mr. Lloyd, not even the witness, O'Brien, ventured to swear to the numbers which went each night to these places.

We also take the liberty of calling the Commissioners' particular attention to the fact, that a very considerable number of paupers, amounting to upwards of 158, appeared upon the workhouse books—more than the numbers actually in the house, and for which rations were charged on the provision checks; and that where O'Brien cautiously confined himself to swear that these numbers appeared on the books, and that "if the books were correct" the numbers he stated were in the house, and as it is an incontrovertible fact that the books were not correct, Sir Thomas Burke should fairly make a reduction of the 158 paupers which we have ascertained were on the books, though not in the house, from any gross number which he had been led to suppose had slept there on any one occasion.

Referring to the charge of paupers being sent to sleep on straw, we submit that, in his better judgment, Sir Thomas Burke would not expect us to be accountable for such a flagrant breach of order and discipline on the part of the workhouse officers, as was proved to have taken place in this respect. It was satisfactorily shown that we had procured a sufficient supply of beds and bedding; and if the officers (who had been appointed by the late board, and who in this respect seem to have supposed they were acting in their interest,) had treacherously taken the straw out of the sacking and strewn it about the room—as the evidence of Mrs. Murphy, the matron, proved had been done—the blame and ignominy of such an act should not be visited on us, but should recoil on those who could lend themselves to countenance, or avail themselves of the subsequent advantage of so unwarrantable and disingenuous a proceeding.

As to the provision check and other important accounts not being made up for several weeks previous to the inquiry, the answer is plain, that in consequence of the irregularities and obstinate opposition given to us and to our officers by the medical officer of the workhouse, in refusing to furnish proper accounts, or to keep the books of his department in such a manner as that any information could be gleaned from them, the provision check could not have been written up at that time, unless it had been done on false returns. The appointment of this officer, and the responsibility of his acts, does not rest on us; and his want of system and peculiar disposition was admitted on more than one occasion during the inquiry by Sir Thomas Burke himself. The other books which were in arrear were so left by Mr. O'Brien, the master, appointed by the late board, not by any officer of our appointment. The relief lists of several of the electoral divisions were six, eight, and ten weeks in arrear; most of what had been written in was incorrect, and all the lists were incomplete; so that we have had to employ other officers to bring up what should have been left clear by the officers of the late board. We have been unremitting in our exertions to rectify the mistakes and irregularities of the ignorant and inefficient staff appointed and confided in by our predecessors. And we have further to state that our provision check is regularly kept, and written up to Saturday the 24th instant.

Sir Thomas Burke must surely mistake the evidence as to paupers being drunk *in* the house and *absent at night*—no evidence of the latter being adduced; and the only cases in which it came under our observation that paupers were drunk about the concerns (not in the house) *we* had promptly punished by the civil power; and no recurrence of such conduct has taken place to our knowledge since. But even suppose Sir Thomas Burke's information to be correct, and that an isolated case of irregularity and breach of workhouse discipline did occur, or even if numerous such cases were notoriously on record, it would not be a matter of surprise; as it would have been impossible for us to have subdued *at once*, the turbulence and total disorganization which a long continuance of mismanagement and want of system had rendered almost inherent to the nature of the wretched inmates; or that we could, by any human exertions, have reduced to order or subordination, during the short period that we were in charge previous to the

inquiry, the indescribable chaos of filth and confusion into which the establishment had lapsed under the management of our predecessors; but which state, we are proud to assert, no longer exists.

We approach the subject of our administration of out-door relief with even more confidence than any of the preceding matter to which we have referred, because we feel persuaded that if the really destitute poor are to be permitted to derive any support at all from the rates, there is not a Union in Ireland so free from abuse as the Union of Loughrea; and it is much to be regretted that a gentleman of Sir Thomas Burke's high character and elevated position in the country should have been so much imposed upon, as to have been led to advance charges which are not tenable—the conclusions which he has arrived at, and on which he grounds his attack, being manifestly unfounded. For instance, when we come to contrast the numbers receiving relief under our administration of the law in this Union, with the numbers relieved last year under the Temporary Relief Act by the local board and local committees sitting in each electoral division, and find that the maximum number as yet relieved by us, on last Saturday, amounted to 7,541 souls; whilst the numbers relieved by the local committees under the Temporary Relief Act last year, at one period, exceeded 30,000 per diem, we can arrive at no other conclusion than, that either we are miserably deficient in the amount of relief which we ought to dispense effectually to meet the destitution, or otherwise, that the local committees of last year are clearly liable to the charge which Sir Thomas Burke has made against us, and “that they must have been wholly ignorant of the parties to whom they gave relief, and that the most flagrant abuses were the consequence:” they must have been either incompetent to discharge such an arduous and important trust, or otherwise they must have acted a highly culpable and dishonest part, by recklessly squandering the relief funds, provided not out of their own pockets, or from their own resources, but obtained from the generous contributions of the British people, and the liberality of the Imperial Parliament.

One thing is certain, that distress to an alarming extent prevails amongst the labouring classes, and has prevailed for some time; and although last year relief to an enormous extent was dispensed out of the treasury funds, yet this year, where the relief had to be procured from another source, namely the rates of the Union, so much liberality was not displayed. Up to the week previous to our taking charge no out-door relief had been administered in the Union, though several deaths from starvation had occurred; and although the house was day after day besieged by hundreds of famine-stricken creatures craving relief, yet no relief was afforded, although it appeared the house was crowded much beyond its number, and although it was boasted that the late board had the funds of the Union in such a prosperous condition.

As to the printed lists not having been furnished the members of the late board, to enable them to go on with their objections, we should suppose that where gentlemen preferred a specific charge as to the existence of abuses in the administration of relief, that they must have been provided with sufficient testimony to warrant them in the first instance in preferring the charge, and subsequently to sustain that charge. But the admission now made by Sir Thomas Burke, clearly shows that the complaint was made against us without any foundation, and that it was sought to derive from amongst our own papers some ground to sustain the complaint. But even in respect to the non-production of the printed lists, the allegations of Sir Thomas are not borne out. Early in the month of March we gave positive directions to have those lists immediately prepared; provided funds for their preparation and publication; frequently endeavoured to expedite the work by urging the clerk to increased exertion, and are in no respect answerable for the delay; yet the very day the inquiry commenced the lists for one of the electoral divisions came out; the day following the list for Ballinakill, Sir Thomas Burke's own division, appeared; and we undertook to have the lists for the entire Union ready before the other charges were disposed of, or before the names on one of the lists already issued could be investigated; and we beg very respectfully to state, that the lists were all published before Mr. Lloyd left this town, that they had been forwarded by post to the members of the late board; had been posted extensively through the Union; and that we were no party to the proposal, often repeated, to withdraw further inquiry; that we offered no opposition to the most searching scrutiny; we applied for no adjournment, and were prepared to go into, and defend every case in which we had ordered relief

Loughrea Union. in the several divisions; and we regret that the promoters of the inquiry did not give us an opportunity of doing so, by having withdrawn from further prosecuting their charges.

The conclusion arrived at by Sir Thomas Burke, that during the inquiry large numbers were taken off the lists in every electoral division, is also erroneous; for no such wholesale revision took place, nor were any persons taken off these lists by us, during that period, or for a very considerable time after, and then only a few, some of whom had been only ordered relief for a limited period in consequence of sickness. It is true that one of the relieving officers (who had been appointed by the late board) did, at the instigation of the driver or under-agent of an extensive landed proprietor, and without any reference to us, remove some widows and destitute persons from off the list for the division of Portumna. But he immediately saw he had done wrong, and represented the cases to us, adding that he feared some of them would perish, and we consequently replaced those cases on the lists again; and the only other division in which we are aware of any names having been struck off by the relieving officer, is in the case of Mr. Hardy, a most efficient officer of our own appointment, who had but just at that period commenced his duty, and had corrected the list of his predecessor, (who had been appointed by the late board, and had been called upon by us to resign in consequence of his inefficiency,) by removing some double entries, and a few cases of mendicants from other Unions, that had got on the lists of his division.

In conclusion, the Commissioners may rest satisfied, that whilst, on the one hand, the interests of the ratepayers and landed proprietors shall ever be considered by us with anxious care, and managed with a due regard to economy, we shall not, on the other hand, be deterred from a faithful discharge of our duty, as well to the Commissioners as answerable for the due administration of the poor law, as to the claims of the destitute poor, by the ungenerous attacks which have been so unremittingly made upon us by those who were certainly not fortunate enough to manage their own affairs advantageously.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*June 29, 1848.*

HAVING now been for upwards of five months in discharge of the duties of Vice-Guardians of this Union, we take the liberty, with great respect, to submit the following report of our proceedings for the information of the Commissioners; and we trust we may flatter ourselves that as far as we have already gone, we have been fortunate enough to merit the approbation of the Commissioners.

The hitherto-neglected state of the workhouse grounds cannot fail to have attracted the notice of the Poor Law Inspectors, and to have been brought through them under the notice of the Commissioners. We have, since we came here, directed much of our attention to these improvements: the plot in front of the workhouse we have had neatly laid out, and planted with shrubs procured at a very trifling expense; and it now presents a pleasing and improved aspect to what we found it in; whilst the land at either side of the house we have had systematically trenched by spade labour, well manured, and laid down under potatoes, which are as luxuriant and flourishing as any we have ever seen.

We mentioned in a former report, that, under the management of our predecessors, two large manure heaps had been suffered to accumulate at the very entrance gates of either yards, and that the unfinished cesspools at each side the building had been permitted to become choked—the manure obstructing the regular discharge from the sewers, and disseminating a deadly effluvia throughout the entire concerns; whilst the noxious vapours arising from the manure heaps, rendered it highly dangerous to approach the building, or indeed in many cases to pass the high road leading to the town. To remedy these evils we have had the cesspools cleansed and sunk to a proper depth, and will then have them vaulted in. We have constructed two proper dung pots at the entrance re-re of the building, formed of lime and stone, by which the manure will be kept compact; and with a judicious application of clay over each layer of manure the noxious gases will be subdued, and consequently the atmosphere will not be impregnated with unhealthy exhalations.

The ventilation of the house has frequently called for remarks from the

Inspectors; and we found it in a very defective state, and immediately applied ourselves to endeavour to improve it, and we trust we have succeeded. We have had apertures opened in range throughout the entire building, by which a current of fresh air is conveyed into every apartment. We have had the doors of the several dormitories perforated, the centre sashes made to slide, six zinc panes put in every window, and ventilators placed in the rere of the roof of the garrets; by which means we have, at a trifling expense, accomplished the perfect ventilation of the workhouse, which, with having been thoroughly whitewashed, and the cleansing of the floors properly attended to, now exhibits something of the appearance which a public establishment ought to have.

The industrial training of the female paupers has not failed to engage our most serious attention. We found on taking charge of the house crowds of idle women—in fact, all idle, for there was no work done by paupers: we have now upwards of one hundred every day employed at sewing, and nearly the same number busy in spinning and carding wool; nearly fifty knitting. We have a large quantity of yarn ready, and will commence with two looms to weave our own clothing next week.

The female school, at first and so long neglected, now presents a cheerful and busy scene, well furnished, and properly supplied with school requisites. During the hours of elementary instruction the various classes, numbering above 130, are to be found in circles, busily engaged; whilst after the hours set apart for such instruction, several classes are employed at working on samplers and making bonnets for the use of the school, and have made a considerable proficiency under the care of the schoolmistress, whom we consider a very efficient and useful officer.

On the important question of out-door relief, we trust our general principles and course of action have met with the approval of the Commissioners; and that, notwithstanding the charges and unsustained assertions of interested parties to the contrary, they will not consider that we have been acting with a wanton indifference to the rights of property, and have been distributing relief to an enormous extent to persons not really destitute or entitled to partake of the provisions which the law allows.

The population of our Union is estimated at 71,774; its area, 152,308 statute acres. The locality, such as we need not particularly refer to, being well known for its poverty, and (a great portion for its sterility) with little private employment, and an inconsiderable amount of public work in drainage—with a superabundant pauper population without food or any resources; the necessity for relief on an extensive scale can hardly be denied. We have however proceeded cautiously, though perfectly regardless of clamour on the one hand or the other; and have visited the rural districts; have made occasional observations on the state of the country and the condition of the people; have forced our relieving officers to a diligent discharge of their visiting duty; and have always kept a sufficiency of accommodation in the auxiliary workhouse to apply the test to the able-bodied; and have relieved such cases out as we considered came legitimately under the provisions of the law.

On Saturday, the 24th instant, the number of persons on our relief lists for the entire Union was 7,541; the total expenditure in money and kind for their support amounted to £208 1s. 2d., a sum which we trust will not be considered extravagant, being at the rate of 6½d. per head per week, and shows a considerable reduction on our previous report; but having discontinued the issue of money except in extreme cases, and having made a very favourable contract for meal, and giving relief where practicable in a cooked state, we are enabled to present this moderate scale. We have at the same time to state, that the people appear quite satisfied with their allowance; and we trust we shall have no real deaths from starvation proved to have taken place under our management. Though from the miserable and exhausted condition of the people, the prevalence of disease, and the continuance of misfortunes, it is not improbable that the lives of some human beings may be terminated under the appearance of want and destitution; but we shall not withhold the means of provisionally relieving distress from our officers, or spare ourselves either trouble or inconvenience in ministering to the wants of the poor.

We have at the same time to observe, that a considerable pressure is now being made upon us for relief, more than at any period since we were invested with the management of the affairs of the Union. The auxiliary houses taken by the

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old board, and represented as capable of containing 1,200 persons, are now much more crowded than with propriety they should be. They never were capable of accommodating with safety more than 800; and a lavish waste of money, in fitting up and rent, has been contracted for them by our predecessors. We shall have to procure additional accommodation immediately, and await a report from Mr. Wilkinson, on a proposal we submitted for constructing a shed in the work-house yard, which will meet the present pressure at a trifling cost.

In conclusion, we shall briefly allude to the collection of the rates, which we are happy to say has proceeded under our direction in a peculiarly satisfactory manner. There has been collected, and lodged to the credit of the Union since we took charge, no less a sum than £8,447; and although some trifling opposition was on some few occasions manifested, by temperance and firmness we subdued that feeling, and have succeeded so far as we have gone in collecting this large amount without having recourse to the aid of military or police. One district in the Union, which was always considered lawless and dangerous to approach, and where the greater portion of the previous rate had been left uncollected and returned in arrear, has been, by kindness but unflinching firmness, brought to a sense of duty; we effected service of civil bills where a bailiff would not previously have liked to venture, and many of the parties paid both their arrear and rate without further trouble; and of the total arrear remaining on the Union on the 24th instant, we hope to be able to collect a considerable sum during the next month, without any extraordinary proceedings; and the entire will be got in by harvest.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*July 7, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 29th ultimo, relating to the Loughrea Union; and I am to express the Commissioners' satisfaction at the statements contained in your report.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*August 7, 1848.*

WE have the honour to submit to the consideration of the Commissioners the following report of the state of the Union under our charge for the month of July, and trust that, on the whole, the statements we are enabled to lay before the Commissioners may be deemed satisfactory.

The collection of the rate during the past month has proceeded but slowly, and little money has been got in; nevertheless, we are not disposed to consider it as discouraging. There has not been any disposition on the part of the people to resist payment, and the want of present means alone has been the cause of our not having the entire collection of the present rate closed by the end of the month.

The sums collected each week for the month of July are—

Week ending 8th July,	.	.	.	£100	5	1
Week ending 15th July,	.	.	.	91	19	2½
Week ending 22nd July,	.	.	.	13	9	4
Week ending 29th July,	.	.	.	35	11	5

Making a total collected within the month of £241 5s. 0½d., and leaving a balance in arrear of the rate struck on the 1st January of £1757 1s. 11¾d.; of this arrear we hope to have collected by the end of harvest at least £1,700, as from every information we have been able to collect, we do not calculate that more than £57 will be irrecoverable.

There are a few immediate lessors now resident, from whom the collectors have not been able to obtain either the rate or any satisfactory reply; we have selected a list of these, which we shall have the honour of submitting to the Commissioners for their approval, previous to instituting proceedings in the superior courts for the recovery of their several liabilities.

The very imperfect state of the old valuation books has rendered it difficult, in many instances, to ascertain accurately the parties legally responsible under the head of "immediate lessors;" but, from the unremitting assiduity of the

newly-appointed revising valuator, and the ready assistance given by the several collectors, we are confident all existing errors will be expunged, and that there will be no room left for cavil at a future period.

We think that perhaps a larger amount of money might have been got in during the month, if we had suffered the furniture and bedding of the poorer classes to be seized to satisfy the rate; but in all cases in which we ascertained that there was a prospect of having the rate met by other means, we have preferred to give a little time, than to deprive the people of such articles of household necessities; and only in a few extreme cases have we resorted to the seizure of furniture and beds, and for which there was a difficulty in procuring purchasers.

The amount of liabilities discharged within the month amounted to £1,294 7s. 2d.: this includes the payment in full of an old building contract entered into by the late board with Mr. Samuel O'Brien, and on foot of which a balance of £129 7s. 4d. remained due. The balance remaining in hands of the treasurer at the close of the month has been reduced to £243 18s. 1d. But we hope to be able, under the sanction of the Commissioners, to make such satisfactory arrangements with the treasurer for an advance of £500 on the credit of the existing rate, as will enable us to meet the most pressing demands; and as the contractors will hold over their accounts for the present, we shall get through to the end of harvest without any serious pecuniary pressure, when we anticipate no difficulty in collecting the arrear, and in having it in our power to make a favourable report of the financial affairs of the Union.

The expenses of the out-door relief during the month have been gradually on the increase; the necessity for this will be admitted from the fact, of the month of July being (even in the most plentiful years) the period in which the greatest amount of destitution prevails in this Union—employment is at this season always difficult to be procured, and food most scarce. But when we consider the superabundant population, with its frightful amount of pauperism, we trust the Commissioners will not have occasion to condemn our acts, or to declare us lavish of the Union funds; and we feel persuaded that the leading members of the late board, and ratepayers generally, must admit that we have acted with as much economy, and consulted their best interests, as much as a due regard for the lives of the starving peasantry would permit.

The numbers relieved out during each week of the month of July are as follow:—

Week ending 8th July,	8,279	at a cost of	£218	16	5
Week ending 15th July,	8,557	at a cost of	228	4	4
Week ending 22nd July,	8,608	at a cost of	232	4	10
Week ending 29th July,	8,685	at a cost of	231	14	7

Making an aggregate number relieved during the month of 34,129, at a cost for food of £911 0s. 2d.

The number relieved in-doors during the month have been exceedingly fluctuating, and appear to be for—

Week ending 8th July,	1,948
Week ending 15th July,	1,854
Week ending 22nd July,	1,760
Week ending 29th July,	1,603

Giving a collective number relieved within the workhouses of 7,165 during the month, at a cost for provisions of £522 17s.; and the average cost of a pauper (including wine and spirits and all necessities required for the fever hospital and workhouse infirmary) is 1s. 5d.

It may be urged, that we did not make a corresponding reduction in the out-door lists as the workhouse accommodation became available, and viewing it in the abstract, we may be considered liable to the charge. But, as we before observed, the discharges from the workhouse have been so fluctuating, and it repeatedly occurring that those who, contrary to our remonstrances, have demanded and obtained their discharge in the morning, have been forced back at night to crave re-admission; and knowing the impossibility of their obtaining employment, the uncertainty of their movements, and the absolute necessity of reserving a sufficiency of room for their reception should a sudden pressure be made—a circumstance neither unusual nor unlikely—we hope it will not be imputed to inattention to the importance of the matter; but that we did not

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consider it would have been advisable, on the first indication of a desire to quit the house, to have filled up the places of those leaving with others from the out-door lists, without knowing how soon they might have to be discharged again, to make room for those destitute classes who could not legally be relieved out of the workhouse. However, as these discharges have continued, and as there is now workhouse accommodation for nearly 300 persons, we have given orders to reduce the out-door lists to the amount of 10 per cent. during the week, and we purpose to follow up that reduction in each succeeding week during the month of August.

The sanitary condition of the workhouse and its inmates furnishes a pleasing matter for observation; and our exertions to place the hospital department in a satisfactory state, to provide the necessaries for the poor patients treated there, and to endeavour to stem the torrent of disease and mortality which was for such a lengthened period making such fearful havoc amongst the paupers, have been successful. Our newly-appointed medical officer has not failed to answer our fullest expectations: cleanliness, system, and perfect regularity now preside throughout every department of the hospital; and the mortality is each week becoming less.

The diseases latterly most prevalent amongst the poor here are dysentery and measles—dysentery of a very bad character, and measles extremely severe. Most of the deaths last week, eighteen in number, were caused by these two prevailing maladies; but the epidemic is becoming milder, and we trust not likely to spread.

The convalescents when discharged from off the medical officer's books, regain their strength steadily, not being discharged until their health is quite restored; they do not, as was formerly almost invariably the case, return in a few days, attacked with their former ailments in a more deadly and concentrated form.

The temporary fever hospital is conducted to our entire satisfaction; the expenditure moderate, and the number of cases under treatment reduced to fifty-three. The number of deaths since the first opening of the establishment, exceedingly moderate, and the epidemic in the town and northern districts of the Union not on the increase; but in Ballinakill and Derrybrien districts much disease is felt. The distance is too far for removal of patients to the temporary hospital; and we have accordingly deemed it advisable to appoint a medical attendant for this district, under the fifth section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, subject to the Commissioners' approval.

The extreme filth of the dwellings of the poor in the lanes and passages of this town and of the many villages throughout the Union is most disgraceful, and calls loudly for improvement. The establishment of a board of health, or of any committee who would see the cabins cleansed and ventilated, the stagnant pools of water and putrid heaps of matter removed from the entrance doors and confined yards, and to point out the ordinary precautions for preserving health, would be a matter of much importance; and we would gladly render any assistance in our power to aid in so desirable and necessary a work. We have lately erected a limekiln on the workhouse ground, where we burn all the lime required for the establishment; and we would willingly supply lime for whitewashing the cabins of the poor free of cost, if any encouragement was given to the work by the more respectable residents of the town.

The industrial occupation of the female paupers and boys at trades has been progressing satisfactorily. The apprentices to both tailors and shoemakers have improved beyond our expectations—each week sending in a fair return of work from their respective shops, finished in a very creditable manner. The female paupers have produced a considerable quantity of fine woollen and linen yarn, which is daily being woven in the house; and we expect by the approach of winter to have such a stock of linen, flannel, and linsey-woolsey, shoes, stockings, &c., on hands, as not alone to be amply sufficient to supply the probable wants of the Union, but to enable us to contract with some neighbouring Unions, who may not have been equally provident, for a supply of several articles of clothing at cost price, should the Commissioners sanction our doing so.

We regret to observe that the prospects of the coming harvest have within the last few days become rather lowering, and much apprehension appears to be entertained respecting the potato crop. We are daily in the habit of visiting some distant part of our Union, and of making our own observations as we go

along; and up to this week we flattered ourselves, that we should have had it in our power to make a favourable report of the harvest prospects generally. But we are bound to state that our opinions are somewhat changed, and that appearances are not so cheering as we had anticipated. The corn crops were all most luxuriant, and as fine as we have witnessed them on any year in our respective counties; but the continued rains and high wind, it is feared, have materially injured the wheat. The bere is a fine crop, very generally sown in small patches, and is fast coming to maturity; and the oats is extensively sown, and promises to be an abundant crop; and we doubt not that, if a bounteous Providence is pleased to send a few weeks of sunshine, many of the gloomy anticipations now indulged in will be dispelled, and the labours of the husbandman crowned with an abundant harvest; and as by that time we shall have forced all the able and destitute poor relieved within the Union on their own resources, we trust the farmers will have no difficulty in procuring a sufficiency of hands to save their crops at reasonable terms.

The appearance of the potato blight in this Union is beyond a doubt; and we have seen fields in which not only the leaves and stems, but the tubers also, were severely damaged. The disease however is not as yet general, as many districts have as yet escaped. A very large quantity of land has been planted with this esculent; and we cannot conceal the fact, that should the blight become general the most serious consequences will be the result; as the turnip crop has been almost neglected, and, as well from bad culture as from the ravages of the fly, is in most places a failure. The experience of the last few years and the undeniable value of the plant, does not seem to have aroused the farmers and cottiers in this part of the country, to the necessity of devoting more of their attention to the cultivation of so valuable a vegetable.

We fear we have trespassed too long upon the Commissioners' attention by the length of this report, for which we beg to be excused.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS in reply:—*August 9, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your report of the 7th instant, relating to the management of the affairs of Loughrea Union; and I am to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the course adopted by you in the administration of out-door relief in the Union.

The Commissioners are convinced that you use all due exertions to prevent parties who are not destitute from receiving relief from the poor rates; and considering all the circumstances of the Union, as proved by unexceptionable witnesses at the investigation conducted by Mr. Lloyd in April last, the Commissioners think that the number of 8,685 persons on the relief lists cannot be deemed excessive. The Commissioners observe that last year there were at one time as many as 33,758 persons receiving relief in Loughrea Union, and that 6,966 persons were on the relief lists when the supply of rations ceased.

The Commissioners trust that you will be able to make an arrangement with your treasurer for an advance of £500, to be repaid from the new rate, and in that case they will make application for permission to guarantee payment of the interest on that sum for a limited period.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*August 18, 1848.*

REFERRING to your report of the 7th inst., relating to Loughrea Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that the proposed appointment of a medical officer for the Ballinakill and Derrybrien districts, under the fifth section of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, is still under consideration.

I am at the same time to request your attention to the enclosed forms of orders, by which it will be observed that medical relief, under the Act 10 Vict., cap. 31, sec. 5, can only be afforded to destitute persons to whom out-door relief can be given. The Commissioners are desirous of being informed whether there is a dispensary in the electoral division of Ballinakill.

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With regard to the state of filth of the town and villages throughout the Union the Relief Committees appointed in 1847, under the Act 10 Vict., cap. 7, were empowered and enjoined to have the towns and the abodes of the poorer classes cleansed, as now recommended; but at present there is not authority to constitute local boards for the purpose, except when it may be necessary to revive the operation of the Sanitary Act of 1819.

Where out-door relief is given, there would be no objection to your directing the employment of some of the recipients in cleansing or repairing the streets and passages of towns in the divisions to which the relief of such persons may be charged.

The able-bodied widows, especially, receiving out-door relief, might be employed for some of the purposes to which you have adverted.

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The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. FLANAGAN :—*May 17, 1848.*

It is stated that on Wednesday the 10th instant, there were several hundred persons waiting outside the workhouse from all parts of the Union, and that the sufferings of the poor are thus increased, with fatal effect in some cases, by their having to attend at the workhouse without having their cases investigated and relief ordered.

It is also stated that the master of the workhouse has admitted that it has not been his practice to superintend the weighing of supplies sent into the workhouse.

To Mr. Flanagan, who is requested to consider whether an arrangement can be made by the Guardians for meeting on several days of the week, to receive applications from divisions wholly within six miles, appointing days solely for the applicants of certain divisions to be named.

Mr. FLANAGAN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*May 22, 1848.*

THE Guardians have appointed Committees under the 6th section of the Act, for all districts within the Union which come within the provision of that section.

I was present on Wednesday the 10th, and I can state that every single case was duly and properly investigated; *i. e.*, every case which had been noticed upon the relieving officers' books.

So far as I can judge I do not see the necessity for appointing several days of meeting. The only applicants who are required to attend, are those from the divisions which are within six miles of Ballinasloe.

The master denies altogether the statement as to his not weighing the supplies.

Very little reliance is to be placed upon statements made to clergymen; they are liable to be, and are, imposed upon by everybody.

The COMMISSIONERS to the Right Rev. Dr. DERRY, R.C. Bishop of Clonfert :—*May 24, 1848.*

THE Commissioners beg to state, in reference to the number of persons observed waiting outside the workhouse of Ballinasloe Union, on Wednesday the 10th instant, that on inquiry of Mr. S. Wolfe Flanagan, Poor Law Inspector, who attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians on that day, it appears that all the persons then in attendance, and on the relieving officers' books, were brought before the board; and that for the electoral divisions which are in every part more than six miles from the workhouse, there are Committees to examine the cases, so that the applicants there, who may be ordered out-door relief, have not to attend at the workhouse.

The Commissioners beg further to state, that Mr. Flanagan reports, in reference to the information communicated to your lordship, with respect to the master of the workhouse, that this officer does not appear to have neglected superintending the weighing of supplies sent into the workhouse.

The Right Rev. Dr. DERRY, R.C. Bishop of Clonfert, to the COMMISSIONERS :—*May 28, 1848.*

THE abuses in the administration of the poor law in the Union of Ballinasloe, to which I lately called your attention, still continue. I mentioned to you on the 18th instant, that certainly not less than a thousand applicants for relief were, on Wednesday the 10th, collected about the workhouse; that many of them came from very distant divisions; and that all bore the aspect which long-endured hunger does not fail to give. Several were lying on the open green, shrieking for food. It is to be apprehended, too, that disease is thus effectively communicated through the mass of predisposed starvelings who are

Ballinasloe Union. thus each week collected. It is manifest that the Guardians cannot at their session subject these applicants to a *bona fide* examination; and thus it appears that the exaction of their attendance can only be for the purpose of deterring the unfortunate paupers from pushing their claim to relief. I am informed, since I returned to the country, that during the last week the poor were several nights outside the workhouse, and that in several instances they were refused admission, although provided with tickets from relieving officers. The answer to their demands for admission frequently was, that the officer whose duty it was to receive them was otherwise engaged. The famished creatures had no other alternative but to beg the materials of fire, and sit beside it during the night. One instance has occurred of actual death from starvation in this electoral division of Ballymacward, under such circumstances as I refer to. A parent and his child went to Ballinasloe, provided with a relieving officer's ticket; was unable to procure admission; after some days' fruitless waiting returned home, and had to witness the famine-death of his exhausted child. I refer to this particular case, not as if it were the only death from starvation in the electoral division—no, I could count of my own knowledge several—but because it is connected with the mismanagement of the workhouse. At home, those who are called able-bodied labourers, but who are in reality the decrepit, infirm memorials of inhumanity, under the name of law, are told to go to a workhouse: if they go during the days the board is not sitting, they are left to die, or live as best they may outside its gates; if they go on board-day, they have such a chance of examination and admission as the presence of some thousand competitors will allow them; if they succeed late in the evening in procuring admission, it is notorious that they are huddled together—no provision being previously made, or probably the state of the house permitting no provision for their reception—a mass of poverty, filth, and disease; if they be not frightened out of the house by this first experience of it, they are perhaps invested in the clothes of some pauper who lately died of dysentery or fever, and in the course of a few days swell the number of the hospital inmates—a number which, as I learn, averages nearly one-fourth of all the inmates of the workhouse.

Nor is the out-door relief administered with any greater regard for the poor. The Ballinasloe Guardians do not hesitate to contravene the instructions of the Commissioners—instructions perfectly consonant with the letter and spirit of the law, and founded on the best motives. In pursuance of these instructions and of the law, it is fit that widows, with two or more legitimate children under fifteen years of age, should get out-door relief. Here, in the Ballinasloe Union, that has been refused, in order to enable landlords to get possession of the houses of such applicants. I am aware, personally, of one case, that of a Widow Scarry, of the electoral division of Kilconnell (Monaveen), who at my instance went to the bailiff of her landlord—he personally taking possession of holdings when surrendered—offered to him all the land beyond an English rood, or rather beyond what the poor law fixes as a maximum, and then sought relief, but was refused. I further directed her to make a solemn declaration to that effect before a magistrate; she did so, and the Guardians being unable to dispute her right to some sort of relief, would give her only the option of going into the workhouse. I know that woman's husband died some months ago of starvation, and that the alms of others only enabled her to bury his remains, or to sustain her family since. She is a woman of correct habits; she has a growing daughter, and she properly preferred risking life outside, rather than risk life and character in a workhouse, where the prostitute and the virtuous matron, the ill-conducted and the innocent girls are promiscuously associated. This, however, is not the only case in which the Ballinasloe Guardians have withheld out-door relief from persons to whom they might otherwise give it, in order to extort for the advantage of landlords a surrender of the houses which are now alone left to shelter the poor that lately cultivated the land. Again, by an arrangement which appears to have been adopted lest the board might be dissolved, the investigation of the claims of paupers to relief is referred to committees of Guardians connected with the relief district. That this arrangement does not obviate the disadvantages of a vast assemblage of paupers in Ballinasloe on board-days, is too well known. Its operation here during the last week was to exclude several of the poorest and most infirm from relief. The duty of this (supposed) committee was done by one gentleman. He was absent on his necessary business on the day the relieving officer expected him to initial his book;

and thus they, whose month of appointed relief had expired, were on last Saturday obliged to go home and wait a week before they can get relief. I may observe, too, that this disappointment came with the greater severity, as the usual day of distributing rations was Thursday. The irregularity of the meal contractor is assigned as the apology for leaving the poor to starve from Thursday to Saturday; and the absence of a committee must be accepted by those whose month of relief had expired as a sufficient excuse for leaving them to live on nettles or dock-leaves until after next board-day. I have also to state that the quality of the meal is infamous. The relieving officer has, he tells me, already reported that it is unfit for human food. If I can procure a sample of it I shall forward it by post to your office.

Ballinasloe Union.

I profit of this occasion to remind you, sir, that you held out to me a hope, that Inspectors of Unions would be appointed for the Union of Ballinasloe and for that of Loughrea. As the obtainment of aid in the latter Union from the British Association for schools, is, I may say, promised as soon as an Inspector is appointed, I beg leave, through you, respectfully, to urge the propriety of an immediate appointment. I have very little confidence in any such measure for the cure of the evils of which the poor in the Ballinasloe Union have to complain; however, the presence of an Inspector at the meetings of the board might have a beneficial effect; and, if really efficient, he might prevent the negligence of officers and the iniquity of giving unsound meal at the relief depots.

I must remark that I do not write this letter with a view of calling for an investigation; before an investigation could be made and a report furnished—as witness the protracted affairs in Loughrea—the most dangerous part of our famine season would be entered on. If the Commissioners think my statements unimportant or dubious, I leave the responsibility on themselves of taking whatever steps, if any, they deem necessary.

P.S.—This letter was not in time for transmission by yesterday's post. The delay enables me to add that the evils of which I complain in the administration of the poor law, by the Ballinasloe board, are felt, not only in the neighbourhood in which I reside, and where I have personal cognizance of their existence in two electoral divisions, but that through the whole of Kilconnell division, and without, in which the town of Aughrim is situate, the same capricious and unjust withholding of relief has, in several instances, taken place. A clergyman of my diocese, who has the care of the parishes to which I refer, assures me that many old persons, whose infirmity and destitution procured for them a place on the out-door relief lists, were refused relief on the last day of distribution, forsooth because their month had expired.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*May 31, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to request the immediate attention of the Board of Guardians of Ballinasloe Union to the enclosed copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from the Right Rev. Dr. Derry, Roman Catholic Bishop of Clonfert, relating to the administration of relief in Ballinasloe Union. I am at the same time to request that the Commissioners may be furnished with the observations of the Board of Guardians on the subject.

The Commissioners have directed their Inspector, Captain Labalmondiere, to proceed to Ballinasloe and report to the Commissioners on the administration of relief in Ballinasloe Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain LABALMONDIERE:—*May 31, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith a communication which they have received from the Right Rev. Dr. Derry, Roman Catholic Bishop of Clonfert, relating to the administration of relief in Ballinasloe Union.

The Commissioners request that you will be good enough to proceed to Ballinasloe Union as soon as possible, and furnish them with a report on the administration of relief in the Union as soon as you have made inquiry on the subject.

Ballinasloe Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the Right Rev. Dr. DERRY, Bishop of Clonfert:—
May 31, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's letter of the 28th instant, relating to the administration of relief in Ballinasloe Union, and I am to acquaint you that the Commissioners do not feel that they would be justified in refraining from instituting an inquiry into the important statements contained in your lordship's letter, concerning the administration of the relief in the Ballinasloe Union.

The Commissioners have accordingly deemed it right to communicate a copy of your lordship's letter to the Board of Guardians of Ballinasloe Union; and have directed their Inspector, Captain Labalmondier, to institute an inquiry into the administration of relief in the Union.

REPLY to the foregoing :—*June 5, 1848.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt on yesterday of your letter of the 31st ultimo, in reply to mine of the 28th of the same, in which you inform me that "the Commissioners do not feel they would be justified in refraining from instituting an inquiry into the important statements contained in my letter, concerning the administration of relief in the Ballinasloe Union;" and "that they have communicated a copy of my letter to the Board of Guardians of Ballinasloe Union, and have directed their Inspector to institute the inquiry."

I have been also favoured to-day with a letter from Captain Labalmondier, the Inspector named, in which he requests me to attend on next Wednesday, and on Thursday, if necessary, at Ballinasloe, with the necessary evidence to "support the charges contained in that communication of mine, of which he has received a copy."

I did not keep a copy of my letter to you, as I wrote for the purpose, not of demanding an investigation but of stating facts which either came under my own notice, or of which I was well assured—facts which, when so communicated by a person in my position, should, I thought, afford sufficient grounds to the Commissioners to appoint an Inspector to watch the administration of relief in the Ballinasloe Union, and guard against a continuance or recurrence of the abuses to which I called attention. I disclaimed the idea of seeking for such an investigation, as I knew in Loughrea considerably interfered with the relief of the poor during its tedious progress; and I have neither inclination nor time for such proceedings. Yet cognizant personally of many of the facts I stated, and fully relying on the testimony of those from whom I learned the others, I did not hesitate to bring them under the notice of the Commissioners. I am glad that they regard them as important.

Without my presence at all at the investigation, Captain Labalmondier can readily ascertain the principal facts on which I relied :—

1st. The delay of two days, from the 25th to the 27th ultimo, in the distribution of the relief meal to those whose destitution left them dependent on out-door relief. This fact can be proved by the relieving officer.

2nd. The bad quality of the meal. The relieving officer again can prove that. It was, in fact, afterwards admitted by the contractor to a Guardian, Mr. Joyce, that the meal was not good. The relieving officer had reported it as bad.

3rd. The exclusion, on the 27th, of several recipients of out-door relief in this division, on the ground that their month of authorized out-door relief had expired. This fact too the relieving officer can prove, as well as the sad apology for it, that those persons excluded (although known to be in continued distress) had not their claim revived after the expiration of a month. I may now add, that the gentleman who did the business of the supposed committee for this division on his return home did sanction anew their claim for a month, but that at Ballinasloe the sanction was reduced to a week, and that a special committee is said to be in contemplation to revive these affairs here to-morrow.

4th. That persons recommended by the relieving officer to the workhouse are not always admitted; that the child of one man, who with his family was so recommended from this division, died after a fruitless stay of some days in Ballinasloe, seeking admission.

The man's name is Cokely; he lives at Cregane, near Castleblakeney, in the electoral division of Ballymacward; and if the Inspector get the poor famished man brought in to Ballinasloe, or if he visit his hovel, he will find that this statement is sustained, and that the poor man is still unrelieved. Ballinasloe Union.

5th. That crowds assemble around the workhouse on all board-days, notwithstanding the supposed efficiency of local committees. The crowds I have seen myself, to the number I mentioned, on one day. The fact is notorious to every one in Ballinasloe. Captain Labalmondier can have no difficulty in verifying it by inquiring from any person.

The inferences from this fact of accumulated pauperism, sickness, &c., &c., collecting once a-week at Ballinasloe, are such as I suppose will suggest themselves to any one.

It is clear that in the present state of the workhouse there cannot be effective preparation made for the cleanly and orderly reception of any large number on one day within a week; and it is not unlikely the prevalence of disease to such an extent, as that three hundred or more of the inmates are regarded as patients, may be caused by the irregularity consequent upon these arrangements.

6th. That Mrs. Scarry was offered workhouse relief and refused out-door relief: the relieving officer, Mr. Cleary, can prove that she has been offered in-door relief. To establish her claim to relief she had to make a solemn declaration that she tendered to her landlord's bailiff possession of all land that could disqualify her. I also vouched, as of my own knowledge, that her husband (whose death might be justly ascribed to want of food) was buried in a coffin bought by the charity of his neighbours. Notwithstanding this documentary evidence, she would get no out-door relief, although other widows were allowed such relief. Hence it was manifest that the Guardians sought to apply to her the more stringent rule, in order to assist the landlord in forcing from her a surrender of her house and small cabbage-garden. All these facts are within the cognizance of the relieving officer and, I presume, of the clerk of the Union. The woman lives at Monaveen, in the electoral division of Kilconnell, and will attend if sent for by the Inspector. If she take my advice, at any risk she will not bring her growing daughter into such a nursery of vice as a workhouse, where she may witness and be familiar with such infamous occurrences as took place publicly in that of Ballinasloe last March.

7th. The Inspector should inquire whether and at what time your circular of the 23rd ultimo was communicated to the relieving officers of this Union. The officer of the Ballymacward relief district had not up to last Saturday received any instructions founded thereon, nor a copy of the letter.

I shall write to Captain Labalmondier, and explain to him the position in which I wish to stand in this case—not as a prosecutor of the Guardians, but as an informant of the Commissioners of facts which they can either accept on my testimony, or verify by their own inquiry.

Further Letter of the COMMISSIONERS to the Right Reverend Dr. DERRY, Roman Catholic Bishop of Clonfert:—*June 7, 1848.*

THE Commissioners beg to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's letter of the 5th instant, specifying several complaints against the administration of relief by the Board of Guardians of Ballinasloe Union, which can be substantiated by the officers of the board or by the poor persons referred to; and stating, that it is your lordship's wish to be considered only as communicating to the Commissioners facts which they may either accept on such communication, or verify by their own inquiry.

The Commissioners, having already directed Captain Labalmondier to make inquiry, beg to state that they will forward the communication now received for his guidance.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain LABALMONDIER:—*June 7, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to forward for your guidance, in reference to the inquiry which they have requested you to make in Ballinasloe Union, a letter from the Right Reverend Dr. Derry, stating that it is his wish to be con-

Ballinasloe Union, sidered only as communicating to the Commissioners facts which he specifies in this letter, and which they may either accept on his communication of them, or verify by their own inquiry.

The Commissioners therefore request that you will call on the Union officers and other persons named as cognizant of the facts to give evidence on oath before you.

Captain LABALMONDIERE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*June 9, 1848.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 31st May, I wrote to Dr. Derry and to the clerk of the Ballinasloe Union, acquainting them that I proposed inquiring into the statements contained in his lordship's letter to you, upon Wednesday the 7th instant, and requesting them to have in attendance all the evidence in support of the charges made, as well as the officers and others who might throw light on the subjects adverted to, and requesting also the attendance of his lordship.

I did not receive your letter of the 7th instant, enclosing that of the Bishop of Clonfert of the 5th, until the 8th, and I had already, on the previous day, taken the course pointed out in that letter, viz., taking the depositions on oath of the persons who were cognizant of the facts of each case, as far as their attendance permitted.

I also made inquiries of the medical officer and others connected with the house, relative to the interior management of the workhouse.

I enclose copies of the depositions which I took, and now proceed to report, seriatim, on each of the statements contained in the bishop's letter.

There was a full meeting of the Guardians, and the Bishop of Clonfert was present but declined making his statement on oath. He repeated that he saw about 1,000 paupers waiting on the green outside the workhouse on the 10th of May, several of whom were shrieking for food. He said that the statement contained in his sentence, commencing "It is manifest," was an inference of his own founded on the presumption that those persons would not come without necessity to the workhouse, and that their cases could not all be adjudicated on by the Guardians, but not from personal knowledge, that cases which should have been, were not investigated by the board.

Mr. Flanagan has already reported, that all cases entered on the relieving officers' books on that day were duly gone into, and it does not appear that any neglect is attributable to the board in this instance. The numbers in attendance outside the house on the 7th instant, were very small; in fact, there are only six electoral divisions whose paupers' cases are disposed of at the house.

With regard to the statement, that paupers had been refused admission, though in possession of tickets from relieving officers, it was admitted that this was the case when the house was full. It was stated that it was the late master's custom to endorse the tickets with the words, "no room," and that the persons so rejected became entitled to out-door relief, as a matter of course. I could not ascertain that any distinct order to this effect had been issued by the Guardians, nor was there a minute to that effect in the books, and the master having been removed to New Ross, I could not examine him on the subject. The bishop declined pressing this statement in consequence of this absence of the late master; but there can be no doubt that applicants have in fact been refused for want of room, and that some specific order should be given to both the master and the relieving officers on this head.

The instance adduced by the bishop, of death by starvation, in consequence of such rejection, in the case of the child of Michael Colclough, is found to be entirely without foundation, by the sworn depositions of the mother. This woman was not in attendance on Wednesday, but I visited her in her cabin on the following day, on my way back to Tuam. Her husband was away from home. She at first stated she had given the names of three children to the relieving officer at the time of her first application to him, and that she would swear to that fact; but when I produced the Testament and required her to do so, she immediately altered her story; and the Commissioners will perceive by her depositions, that none but themselves are blamable for the misery of this family, which is, however, undeniably great.

The statement, that there was an insufficiency of clothing for paupers on their

admission was clearly sustained, and the deficiency is so great that some of the inmates, particularly the children, remain without a change of linen for a fortnight, and even in some instances for three weeks. I also saw a number of children in their own clothes, and this must certainly be very prejudicial to the health of the establishment. Clothing, &c., is being made up in the house, but I would suggest that the Guardians be recommended to employ extra hands to complete the necessary supply with as little delay as possible. By the statement to me of the medical officer it was admitted that for the last month the clothes of paupers who had had dysentery or fever had not been purified by being boiled, as had formerly been the invariable rule, before being re-issued to the paupers, in consequence of the boiler being out of repair, and also that in some instances recovered paupers are allowed out of hospital in clothing which has not been purified, but not unless the doctor is convinced that the clothing is not liable to produce contagion. The disrepair of the boiler is hardly a sufficient excuse for the permitted continuance of the custom, which must be most injurious in its effects, of handing over to fresh comers clothing which had been used by infected persons without its being subjected to a process of purification.

As to the case of the Widow Scarry, the Guardians appear only to have exercised the discretion which they have as to the species of relief to be afforded, and are not fairly subject to the imputation of such motives as are attributed to them by the bishop.

The non-assembly of the local committee in Ballymacward was proved. The paupers already on the list do not appear to have suffered much; as a quantity of meal, within one cwt. of that issued in the previous week, was issued provisionally by the relieving officer. Still no new cases could be entertained, and these applicants therefore felt the consequences of the non-attendance of the members of the committee.

The bad quality of a part of the meal was also proved, and the delay of two days in its issue. If an order for meal in Galway be (as in this case) only issued on Wednesday, it is impossible that the meal can arrive in time for distribution on the following day, Thursday. The relieving officer appears to have done what he could by writing to the contractors on the previous Monday to send the meal. I understand measures have been taken to prevent the recurrence of similar delays. It was elicited on the examination of this relieving officer that his issue of meal was always four days in arrear. To cases passed at the board on Wednesday, he on the following day issues four days' meal, which is to and for the Saturday following; but he does not issue again till the next Thursday, so that the paupers are without food for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. I called the attention of the board to this circumstance, and I afterwards inquired of another relieving officer, who however had previously corrected the system by giving seven days' meal on his first day of issue.

The paupers in Kilconnell electoral division, whose case is mentioned in the postscript to the bishop's letter, do not appear actually to have been refused relief by the Guardians, but they do appear to have been without relief for one week, from the sanction for it having been suffered to lapse without renewal in proper time, on the renewal of the sealed order.

In conclusion, I would observe that the workhouse is cleanly and orderly, and the Board of Guardians appear disposed to exert themselves to do the duties which devolve on them. The pressure on them from so large an Union has been very great, and I believe they have not spared themselves in their endeavours to meet it. At the same time many of the statements in the Bishop of Clonfert's letter have been duly substantiated, and it is to be hoped that, the attention of the board having now been called to these points, they will take immediate steps to remedy the evils complained of, and prevent their recurrence.

ENCLOSURE.

Martin Roe, being duly sworn, states.—I belong to the townland of Clymore, in the electoral division of Ballinasloe, and I saw people by a fire outside the workhouse in Ballinasloe; I don't know the names of any of them; they remained for four days outside, and stated to me that they were seeking admission. One woman, who had three children with her, told me on Thursday week, the 25th May, that she came from Gurtmore, in the electoral division of Killaan; I don't know what became of her.

(Signed,) MARTIN ROE.

Sworn before me, on this 7th day of June, 1848,

(Signed,) D. LABALMONDIERE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

Ballinasloe Union.

Ballinasloe Union.

Martin Forde, being duly sworn, states.—I am relieving officer for the electoral divisions of Eyrecourt and Clonfert, and was so for Kilquain. I remember the application of a woman named Ellen Fahy, and produce my book, by which it appears that she applied on the 1st of March, on which date I gave her relief in money and kind to the value of 11d.; on the same day that I gave her a part of the relief, I gave her a ticket to the workhouse; she brought it back to me, and asked for out-door relief; to the best of my recollection, she stated that she would not go into the workhouse, but would go back to Mr. O'Kelly.

(Signed,) MARTIN FORDE.

Sworn before me, this 7th day of June, 1848,

(Signed,) D. LABALMONDIERE, *Poor Law Inspector*.

John Ryder, being duly sworn, states.—I am relieving officer for the electoral division of Ballymacward. A man of the name of Michael Cogavan, of Cregane, applied to me on the 7th April last for relief for himself, his wife, and two children; this application appears in my book; his case was decided on by the Guardians on the 12th, and a ticket was given to him on the 14th; I never saw him again until Saturday last, when he called to my recollection that I had myself brought him to the porter of the house; but of this I have no remembrance whatever; he told me on that day that one of his children was dead; but in my application and report book I find that I have again taken down his case on the 7th June, and he has given me the same number of children and the same ages as appear entered in the book on the 7th April; his name was called over yesterday for adjudication by the local committee, but he did not appear.

There was a delay of two days in the delivery of the meal, from the 25th to the 27th of May. I received the order from the Guardians on Wednesday the 24th, and sent it off by the post that day to Messrs. Rush and Palmer, the contractors, in Galway; the meal did not arrive till late on Friday, the 26th, and could not be issued till the 27th; this meal, which was issued on the 27th, was for the week ending the 27th; this meal was of an inferior quality; it was very bad; I told the people it was bad, and that I did not think it was fit for food, and that if they would wait till I could communicate with the Guardians, I had no doubt that they would immediately order it to be replaced by good meal; the people said that they would take what was there; I reported the same day to the Guardians that it was bad; there was about thirty-five cwt. bad; the meal since sent has been very good; the day for the meeting of the local committee at Ballymacward was the 23rd May, but they did not meet on that day; and the Board of Guardians did not; therefore, sanction the extension of relief to those persons whose month already sanctioned had expired on the 25th May; I gave provisional relief to all those cases which I considered urgent, but I had previously refused it in one or two instances, until applied to on the subject by the Bishop of Clonfert, on which I gave it to them; I had issued, the previous week, to Ballymacward electoral division, twenty-six cwt., and for that week I issued twenty-five cwt.; I gave provisional relief in meal (Indian) only; I have not yet received instructions relative to the Poor Law Commissioners' circular of the 23rd ultimo.

(Signed,) JOHN RYDER.

Sworn before me, this 7th day of June, 1848,

(Signed,) D. LABALMONDIERE, *Poor Law Inspector*.

John Ryder, on his former oath, adds, that he had written on Monday, the 21st, to Messrs. Rush and Palmer to send the meal on receipt of the letter, but the meal did not come.

Thomas Gill, being duly sworn, states.—I am clerk to the Union of Ballinasloe. With regard to provision for paupers on admission, there is always plenty of food, but with regard to clothing, the supply is not equal to the demand; I think there is bedding sufficient.

(Signed,) THOMAS GILL,

Sworn before me, this 7th June, 1848.

(Signed,) D. LABALMONDIERE, *Poor Law Inspector*.

Martin Croughwell, being duly sworn, states.—I am porter at the Ballinasloe workhouse; all the paupers, on admission, are put into the probationary ward, where they are provided with every material for washing and cleansing; they are made to clean themselves and put on the Union clothes, but if there are no Union clothes for them, they only wash their faces, and hands, and feet; as soon as clothes are provided, I superintend the clothing them in the Union dress, and their own clothes are taken from them and labelled; there may be instances of their retaining some of their own clothes in their possession on their persons.

(Signed,) MARTIN CROUGHWELL.

Sworn before me, this 7th day of June, 1848,

(Signed,) D. LABALMONDIERE, *Poor Law Inspector*.

Ellen Owen, being duly sworn, states.—I am assistant-matron in the Ballinasloe workhouse; on the admission of female paupers to the house, they are stripped, and washed

and cleaned before they are allowed into the body of the house, and clothed in the Union clothing as far as it will go; convalescent patients, on returning from the fever hospital to the body of the house always receive a clean suit of clothes; I believe a fortnight to be the longest time that any female pauper has remained in the house in her own clothes.

(Signed,) ELLEN OWEN.

Sworn before me, this 7th day of June, 1848,

(Signed,) D. LABALMONDIERE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

James Cleary, being duly sworn, states.—I am relieving officer for the electoral division of Kilconnell; I am aware that eight cases in that district lost their relief for one week in consequence of their month, allowed by the Board of Guardians, having expired, and application not having been made until the ensuing week.

(Signed,) JAMES CLEARY.

Sworn before me, this 7th day of June, 1848,

(Signed,) D. LABALMONDIERE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

Sally Colclough (or Cogavan) being duly sworn, states.—I applied to Mr. Ryder, relieving officer, to place on the relief list my name, that of my husband, Michael Colclough, and those of my two children, Pat and Margaret, about five or six weeks ago; I think he gave me a ticket to the workhouse, and we all went in to Ballinasloe in the course of the following week; I gave the ticket to Croughwell (who is the porter at the workhouse), and said that I wanted to go out of the house the following morning to lock up the things in the cabin; he then gave me the ticket back, and told me to come back with my family the next; we all came back to the cabin, and have been living on the charity of the neighbours since; we did not return again to the workhouse, as I expected that when a month had elapsed from the time of our receiving the ticket, we should get the out-door meal; my child, Martin, who died, died two or three days previous to my applying the first time to the relieving officer; my husband went again to Mr. Ryder on last Friday, and got our names put down again.

(Signed,) ^{her} SALLY + COLCLOUGH.
_{mark.}

Witness, JAMES O'DOWD.

Sworn before me, this 8th day of June, 1848,

(Signed,) D. LABALMONDIERE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

True Copies. D. LABALMONDIERE, *Poor Law Inspector.*

Tuam, June 9, 1848.

The Right Rev. Dr. DERRY, R.C. Bishop of Clonfert, to the COMMISSIONERS:—
June 11, 1848.

I SEND herewith a copy of a letter which, on yesterday, I wrote and forwarded to Tuam, to Captain Labalmondiere. I trouble you with this copy, lest the original did not reach Captain Labalmondiere before he had prepared and forwarded his report on the subject-matter of his inquiry at Ballinasloe.

In this letter to Captain Labalmondiere I state, that even on last Wednesday night there was not suitable bed accommodation for those that day admitted. I have this fact from the officers of the house, that although there may have been bed-sacks made, there was not time to fill them. I do not at all blame the officers of the house, for I think the present master is one every way disposed to discharge his duty efficiently; but the admissions were so numerous, and the session of the board so prolonged, that due preparation could not be made. I understand eighty were that day received. It is plain so many could not stop in the probationaries—and I should add, my fear is, that they could not be cleansed. I believe the inspecting officer himself is satisfied that there is not a supply of linen clothes, at least.

In reference to the case of the Widow Scarry, my complaint is—not that the Guardians acted illegally in offering her in-door instead of out-door relief—but that, whilst giving out-door relief to all other widows qualified to receive it, they refused it to her, without any other assignable motive than that she and her husband once held land; and that, whilst willing to part with as much as disqualified for relief, she wished to retain her house and a few perches about it. In fact the Guardians, by offering her workhouse relief, admit that she is qualified and in need; and by refusing out-door relief to her and giving it to other widows, they show a disposition to convert a relief act into an ejectment act. She is still excluded.

Ballinasloe Union.

I beg to add that the relieving officer swore he knew no reason to keep her from out-door relief.

In conclusion, I have to direct your attention to the hardship of persons deemed worthy of out-door relief being left at the end of a month, without any fault of their own, a week without relief, as has been proved in regard to several in Kilconnell and in Ballymacward. It is almost unnecessary for me to state that distress is now very great, and that the most humane interpretation of the Poor Relief Act should be adopted. Even yet your letter of the 23rd ult. has not been communicated to the relieving officers of this Union.

ENCLOSURE.

The Right Rev. Dr. DERRY, R.C. Bishop of Clonfert, to Captain LABALMONDIERE :—
June 10, 1848.

On my return to this place I learn that on your way to Tuam you kindly took the trouble of visiting the house of Cogavan (or Cokely), of Cregane, in this electoral division of Ballymacward; and (Cogavan not being at home) that you examined his wife, as to the facts which, on his representation, I had reported to Mr. Stanley. The variance between her testimony and the statements made by her husband to the clergyman whom you met at Castleblakeney, and to myself, obliges me to trouble you with a few observations.

I first heard of the alleged death of Cokely's child, and of the circumstances under which it was said to have occurred, from the parish clergyman. So assured was the clergyman of the death of the child that he gave the parent the price of a coffin. A statement to the same effect was again made to myself by Cokely, and I gave him some relief.

I have known his extreme poverty during the last few years, and I had no misgivings whatever about the statement that his child died of hunger. In fact, only for some assistance received from me, he himself would have been long since dead. Nor had I any reason to doubt his assertion, that the death had occurred after his application for admission to the workhouse. I have had such ample reason to know the difficulties attending admission, that, without throwing blame in this case on any particular officer, I regarded the assurance of Cokely, that he sought admission, was refused, and had to go home again, as perfectly natural and true. During the progress of your inquiry on Wednesday, I think sufficient admissions were made by the Guardians to warrant you, sir, and me in believing the likelihood of occasional disappointment, even to persons furnished with tickets and seeking admission to the workhouse. I had not, of course, authority to examine Cokely on oath, nor indeed any reasonable ground for distrusting his statement. It now appears, from the evidence of his wife, that the death of the child occurred before the family sought admission to the workhouse, and that the porter acted in accordance with the rule, in refusing to admit her husband, who sought to enter, unless the wife enter also, which she declined, as she would not be allowed out next morning, to go back and secure (better than she had done) her hovel and its contents.

I believe, however, your own observation, sir, has satisfied you of the extremely destitute condition of the family, and especially of the condition of the two surviving children. I shall not be surprised to learn in a few days the death of another, or of both, and to be applied to for the means of procuring their coffins.

As I have an occasion to write to you in reference to Cokely's case, I profit of it to add a few words regarding the due provision for the reception of paupers into the workhouse, especially on board-days. In the course of your inquiry on Wednesday, it appeared (from the evidence of Croughwell) that there was no security whatever that any of the male paupers were cleansed on the day of their admission, and that, in point of fact, no ablution of their persons, generally, was required, when workhouse linen and other dress could not be supplied. During your personal inspection you noticed the scanty supply of linen, even for the actual inmates of the house, and their consequent uncleanness; and you may therefore conceive how frequently it must have happened that, on days of large admissions, such as board-days, many paupers must have escaped the prescribed cleansing, as they could not be provided with workhouse clothes. The assistant-matron acknowledged that paupers may have remained a fortnight after admission without workhouse dress. Of these paupers so circumstanced there is no security whatever that several were not convalescent after fever, or perhaps in its incipient stages; still less was there security that several were not labouring under dysentery—a disease regarded by eminent medical authorities as most dangerously contagious. These paupers, then, who had perhaps never seen each other before, and were necessarily unacquainted with the respective conditions of each other as to health and cleanliness have had to sleep together. An attempt was made to impress you, sir, with the belief that bed accommodation was always provided for them. On this point I shall only remark, that so far from this having been uniformly the case, on the very night after your investigation the paupers admitted on Wednesday could not be so accommodated.

I have heard that before leaving Ballinasloe, you took a note of the number in the house and its auxiliary; and as the amount is said to exceed very considerably what they are regarded as capable of accommodating, I hope you have, sir, ascertained the number of the inmates and the capacity of the houses.

I regret that I have been obliged to trouble you with this letter, but I deemed it due to you, sir, and to others, to explain the grounds on which my statement of Cokely's case rested. Ballinasloe Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*June 17, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration a report which they have received from Captain Labalmondiere, with minutes of the evidence taken by him on the occasion of the inquiry which he has recently made into the administration of relief to the destitute poor of the Ballinasloe Union, as adverted to in communications from the Right Rev. Dr. Derry, Bishop of Clonfert.

With regard to the statement to the effect, that destitute poor persons had been refused admission into the workhouse, although in possession of tickets of admission from relieving officers, it appears to have been admitted that this was the case at a time when the workhouse was full, and that although it was stated to be the custom of the master of the workhouse to endorse the tickets in such cases with the words, "no room," in order that the parties might obtain out-door relief, yet it does not appear that any distinct rule to this effect has been adopted; and the Commissioners consider it to be desirable that some clear course should be prescribed by the Board of Guardians in this respect, for the guidance of the Union officers. The allegation that death from starvation had ensued in consequence of such rejection, in one instance does not appear to have been established by proof.

The statement, that sufficient clothing had not been provided for the persons admitted into the workhouse, appears to have been fully sustained. It appears that some of the workhouse inmates, especially the children, have been kept without change of linen for a fortnight, and in some instances for three weeks, and that many children wear their own clothing. Captain Labalmondiere reports, that a supply of clothing is now being made up; but the matter is one of such great importance, that the Commissioners are desirous of bringing it prominently under the notice of the Board of Guardians, with a view to the evil being remedied with the least possible delay, and they strongly recommend that an increased number of persons should be employed forthwith in making up the clothes.

The Commissioners have also to call the particular attention of the Board of Guardians to the circumstance of clothing used by inmates of the workhouse, in fever and dysentery, having been given to other inmates newly admitted, without having been previously washed or purified.

The alleged non-attendance of the committee of Guardians for the Ballymacward district, appears to have been fully proved; and although it appears that the parties already on the out-door relief list did not suffer in any material degree from that circumstance, yet no new applications could be entertained in the usual manner, and the applicants may have suffered much from the omission of the committee to meet and investigate their claims.

It further appears that the statement as to the bad quality of meal issued to the recipients of out-door relief was proved, as well as a delay of two days on one occasion in the issue of the meal. The Commissioners understand that measures have been taken to prevent the recurrence of similar delays; and if the contractors for the supplies are made fully to understand, that if inferior meal be supplied, the Guardians will return it and obtain meal from other quarters, making the contractors accountable for any loss by reason of difference in price, it will probably have the effect of rendering the supply sufficient in quantity and of good quality in future.

Captain Labalmondiere reports that it was shown that the issue of meal in the district of the relieving officer for Ballymacward division was always four days in arrear. It also appears that the destitute poor ordered out-door relief in the Kilconnell electoral division were without relief for one week, from a neglect of the Union officers to make due arrangements for affording it to them; and the Commissioners deem it right to draw the attention of the Board of Guardians to these defects, with a view to similar irregularities being guarded against in future.

The Commissioners are gratified, by Captain Labalmondiere's report, that the workhouse is in a cleanly and orderly state, and that the Board of Guardians

Ballinasloe Union. appear disposed to exert themselves to discharge the important duties which devolve upon them. He states, as the Commissioners are aware, that the pressure upon the Board of Guardians from so large a Union has been very great, and his belief that the Guardians have not spared themselves in their endeavours to meet it.

The Commissioners desire me to state, for the information of the Board of Guardians, that they have instructed Major Donald Stuart, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, at present engaged in the Dunmanway Union, to proceed to the Ballinasloe Union to assist the board, and to co-operate with it in the administration of relief to the destitute poor.

Major Stuart will probably reach Ballinasloe in the course of the ensuing week.

The COMMISSIONERS to the Right Rev. Dr. DERRY, R.C. Bishop of Clonfert :—
June 17, 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, for your lordship's information, that they have received and considered the report of their Inspector, Captain Labalmondiere, with reference to the administration of relief to the destitute poor of the Ballinasloe Union ; and the Commissioners have communicated with the Board of Guardians on the subject of the defects which were shown to have existed therein.

I am at the same time to state, that the Commissioners have instructed Major Donald Stuart, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, to proceed to the Ballinasloe Union to assist the Board of Guardians in meeting the increased pressure for relief at the present time, and in more effectually affording relief to the destitute poor in the Union.

GORT UNION.

Gort Union.

Viscount GORT to the COMMISSIONERS:—*June 4, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour of forwarding a series of resolutions adopted at a meeting of the late Board of Guardians of the Gort Union; and as I am going to Dublin in a day or two I shall have the honour of waiting upon the Poor Law Commissioners upon my arrival, to explain to them, should they require it, more fully the object of the meeting.

ENCLOSURE.

Gort, May 27, 1848.

At a meeting of the Poor Law Guardians of the late board, held at the Court-house this day—Lord Viscount Gort in the chair—

It was determined that a deputation from this meeting do forthwith wait upon the Vice-Guardians to ask them respectfully for some explanation as to the buildings and alterations now carrying on in the workhouse.

The deputation, consisting of the chairman, Lord Viscount Gort; J. Lambert, Esq., J.P.; the Baron de Basterot; J. Martyn, Esq., J.P.; James Daly, Esq., J.P.; and J. Lahiff, Esq., having accordingly waited upon the Vice-Guardians at the workhouse did through their chairman ask such explanation, and were told by Mr. Hall, in a very uncourteous manner, that he would give no explanation except required to do so by the Poor Law Commissioners.

The deputation having consequently withdrawn and reported progress to the meeting, it was unanimously resolved—

Proposed by J. Lambert, Esq., and seconded by J. Lahiff, Esq.—That the expenditure of the money levied to support the poor in useless wooden buildings upon ground of which there is only a lease of one life, is a profligate waste of the funds of the Union, and if persevered in must not only destroy the large proprietors, but reduce many of the present ratepayers to the condition of paupers, and oblige them to seek relief in the house towards the maintenance of which they have hitherto contributed.

Proposed by J. Martyn, Esq., and seconded by G. Bell, Esq.—That it appears by documents laid before the meeting that much of the work now going on is not by advertised contracts, as required by law; it consequently is done in a most expensive manner—one wall costing 15s. a perch, the usual price of which is about 6s.; and another, costing 9s. 11d. per perch, although the price in the neighbourhood is from 1s. to 1s. 3d.

Proposed by Baron de Basterot, and seconded by A. Alexander, Esq.—That our chairman be requested to lay our case before the Poor Law Commissioners in Dublin, to request of them to order a strict and searching investigation as to the moneys laid out in buildings, the necessity for the same, and also into the expenditure of the Union, and the manner in which the out-door relief is distributed.

Proposed by James Daly, Esq., J.P., and seconded by P. Burke, Esq.—That if our complaint is not investigated by the Poor Law Commissioners, we shall be obliged, in self-defence, to lay our grievances before parliament.

*GORT, Chairman.*The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BOURKE:—*June 8, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith minutes of the proceedings of the Vice-Guardians of Gort Union on the 26th ultimo; and I am to request that on your return to your district you will be good enough to proceed to Gort and make a searching inquiry into the expenditure of the Union, and into the manner in which the out-door relief is distributed by the Vice-Guardians.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of Vice-Guardians.

LORD GORT, with several other gentlemen, members of the late board, came before the board, and Lord Gort stated they were a deputation from a meeting of the late board and ratepayers, at the Court-house, for the purpose of signing a petition to parliament regarding the administration of the poor law by the Vice-Guardians; and that they had thought it right to call on the Vice-Guardians for an explanation regarding certain items of expenditure—such as making the wall at the cemetery at 15s. a perch, when the price of the plan was 7s.—that 9s. 11d. per perch was paid for masons' work—and that the Vice-Guardians were erecting sheds on the ground of Mr. O'Shaughnessy, who had only a lease for a short period, and if he died the place and all that was in it would fall to Lord Gort, and that he might then take off the sheds if he thought proper, while there was plenty of room on the workhouse land for the sheds—also, the rate of masons at Gort was 2s. per day.

The Vice-Guardians stated that under all the circumstances it would be much better that

Gort Union.

their explanations, as to the mode in which the business of the Union was managed, should be made through the Poor Law Commissioners, who appointed them, and to whom they were responsible. Whereupon some of the deputation departed—Lord Gort and one or two other gentlemen remaining. Lord Gort made some observations regarding the demands which had been made upon him for the poor rate due of him as immediate lessor and occupier, and which had not yet been paid.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS :—*June 6, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith for your information, copies of resolutions of a meeting of the late Board of Guardians of Gort Union, on the 27th ultimo; and I am to request that the Commissioners may be furnished with your detailed observations with reference to the resolutions marked I. and II., relative to the expenditure on account of the temporary fever hospital buildings, and of the boundary wall at present in course of erection at the workhouse.

The Commissioners will be obliged by your answer by return of post, if possible.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS :—*June 7, 1848.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge your letter of yesterday's date, with a copy of resolutions passed at a meeting of the late Board of Guardians of Gort Union held on the 27th ultimo, relative to the expenditure for the erection of temporary sheds for the sick, and for the erection of a boundary wall, requesting our observations thereon.

We consider it right in the first instance to assert that our reply to the deputation, that "we consider it better, under all the circumstances, that our explanation should be made through the Poor Law Commissioners, by whom we were appointed, and to whom we were responsible," was made in the most respectful manner possible; and we utterly disclaim the intention or desire of offering any discourtesy to the deputation. In fact, we feared that unpleasant language might be made use of in the event of entering into a discussion with the deputation, involving the necessity of a reference to matters on which strong feelings are entertained by many persons; and we therefore considered it better that our reply should be made in writing through the Commissioners.

In regard to the sheds now in course of erection on land adjoining the site of the workhouse, we have to observe, that on our arrival at Gort we found nearly 300 sick persons in the house, many of them both fever and dysentery cases, two and three in a bed; and in the idiot wards we found persons in dysentery lying five or six in a bed—there being 57 or 58 cases of this disease placed in that portion of the building which was only intended for twelve inmates. There was no separate cooking or washing arrangements provided, and the communication from the hospital to the other parts of the house was constant and unobstructed; under such circumstances, as might be expected, the spread of disease was most alarming, and the mortality excessive. The workhouse appeared to us to be overcrowded; and therefore, in order to enable us to place the institution in a sanitary condition, and to give those who remained a fair chance of recovery from sickness or escape from the contagion, we were under the necessity of discharging a considerable number of aged, infirm, and impotent persons, with widows and other women having children, retaining only in the house able-bodied men and their families, single able-bodied women, with the sick and such cases of chronic disease, together with orphans, as could not be properly provided for outside. Applications for relief continued to increase, both from the able-bodied, and from persons labouring under sickness; the appearance of both classes indicated very great distress and privation. The introduction into the workhouse of any greater number of inmates, either healthy or diseased, would have been attended with increased sickness and mortality; and we were therefore under the necessity of giving out-relief to a considerable extent—to the able-bodied in food, and in cash and food to the sick, for several of whom we had also to pay for lodgings. The number of the latter class was constantly increasing from the spread of contagion consequent on their being located over the country—from the nature of the food of the lower classes, which was principally turnips—and from the hardships which many of them endured by having to leave their cabins, many of which were in process of demolition, and by being exposed to the inclemency of the weather without sufficient shelter or

covering. Under such circumstances out-relief to the sick was only a choice of evils, independently of the opportunity which this course of proceeding afforded for imposition; medical treatment, even if available to any extent, would be of very little use—and in fact the mortality was reported to us to be very considerable.

Moreover cases occurred almost daily where persons labouring under fever or dysentery were discovered lying on the streets or on the sides of the public roads; and in some instances persons in this state were left at the gate of the workhouse. These we were obliged to admit, as otherwise they would have died where they lay, as no person would give them lodgings even for a high amount of payment, and no one would attend them unless at a most exorbitant rate. We were also under the necessity of admitting cases where the entire family, or the principal members, were labouring under disease, and where there was no person to attend the sick parties unless young children.

We had thus always a large number of sick in the house, much more than the extent of accommodation was sufficient for, yet none of them could be properly or safely provided for outside. We were besides for want of room giving out-relief to many of the same class whose chance of recovery would be much increased by being regularly treated in an hospital; and we had also to give out-relief to several able-bodied persons, in order to induce them to attend on the sick relieved out of the house.

Another great evil consequent on the extent of disease in the workhouse, and the want of proper and sufficient accommodation for the sick was, that it rendered it impossible for us to apply the workhouse test to any considerable extent. We could not require the able-bodied to come into a house in which disease was so prevalent and the mortality so excessive. In fact, instances occurred where families, whose houses had been thrown down and who had no place of shelter, entreated for admission, yet we could not take them in; and although we gave them relief out of the house, and in some cases provided them temporarily with lodgings, we much fear that disease and perhaps death may have resulted.

In this state of things we had the choice of two courses—either to extend the administration of out-relief to all applicants who appeared to be destitute, both the healthy and the sick, whereby it would rapidly increase till the amount became enormous, without any adequate means of preventing fraud and irrespective of any benefit to the diseased, or to provide proper and sufficient accommodation for the sick, and to render the workhouse available as a test of the destitution of the able-bodied. We adopted the latter alternative, and determined on a decided course, as being requisite both to stay the progress of disease and mortality, and to enable us to apply the workhouse test where necessary, as well as to avert the ruinous consequences of giving indiscriminate out-relief to all applicants without sufficient proof of destitution. We proposed to remove all the sick, with the hospital staff, from the workhouse; and as we could not obtain any existing building for the purpose we determined to erect sheds for 300 persons, which would not only be sufficient for the sick in the house, but also for diseased persons outside, to whom we should otherwise be under the necessity of giving relief in cash or food, and at the same time have no means of detecting simulated cases of sickness. By this course the entire accommodation of the workhouse would be available for healthy inmates, the danger of the spread of disease in the house would be avoided, the necessity for giving cash payments to the sick, and allowances of food to their attendants would be obviated; and we should thereby be enabled to give admission to many families who, having surrendered their lands and houses, are either wandering about the Union or located in temporary huts which afford neither shelter nor security.

One of the sheds for fifty persons is already completed and occupied. By this proceeding, and by the arrangements we have made for providing proper and sufficient ventilation in the workhouse, we have been enabled to apply the workhouse test to many of those who were previously receiving out-relief. Although we have increased the daily quantity of food for the able-bodied recipients who are employed at stone-breaking, &c., in conformity with the suggestion of the Central Board of Health, and also the weekly rations of several families to whom an insufficient quantity was heretofore allowed, a very considerable reduction has been effected in the total weekly amount of out-relief. Between the reduction in the price of Indian meal and the reduction of the number of recipients the account for the eight weeks ended on the 27th ultimo stands as follows:—

Gort Union.

Week ended the 8th April, . . .	£349	8	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Do. 15th " . . .	346	5	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 22nd " . . .	297	0	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Do. 29th " . . .	282	11	3
Do. 6th May, . . .	275	6	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 13th " . . .	259	18	11
Do. 20th " . . .	273	10	6
Do. 27th " . . .	225	0	11

When the remaining sheds shall be completed, and the additional rooms erected over the idiot wards at the workhouse, we shall be able to effect a further considerable reduction; and we believe that in two months after all the arrangements are completed, it can be shown that their entire cost will have been saved to the Union, in the difference between the then amount of out-relief and what would otherwise have been necessary, independently of the vast saving of human life which will be effected by the proper treatment of the sick in the sheds, in which desirable result we feel at least as deep an interest as in economizing the funds of the Union.

The effect of the late circular regarding the families of destitute persons holding more than a quarter of an acre of land, has fully proved to us the propriety of the course we have adopted. The number of applicants of this class is already becoming so great, that we have little doubt were a means of testing their destitution not available the amount of out-relief would be very soon nearly doubled.

We have now 1,445 persons in the workhouse and its auxiliary establishments, of whom 257 are sick, who cannot be properly relieved outside, and the remaining 1,188 are almost entirely healthy young persons. Were we to refuse admission to any able-bodied applicant, an enormously increased demand would be immediately made on us for out-relief, which, with the applications from the families of persons holding land, would very soon amount to more than could be regularly paid for by the poor rate. Our inability to meet the claims of the contractors would be followed by their ceasing to afford the supply—new contracts should be made at a vastly increased rate—and the debts of the Union, instead of being diminished, would be rapidly augmented to an amount fearful to contemplate.

We have to observe that the statement in the resolution, to the effect that there is only a lease for one life of the land on which the sheds are erected, is erroneous. We have seen the lease, which is for twenty-one years and one life, from the 25th of March, 1831; so that, besides the life, which is still in existence, there are four years to run from the 25th of March last; and it is a part of our agreement that we may remove the sheds at any time we think proper.

The necessity of the sheds at Kinvarra is proved by there being now fifty-three patients in the existing building, which can properly accommodate but forty-six; while fever is increasing, and the number of applicants waiting for an opportunity of being admitted, becoming daily greater.

In reference to the resolution respecting the payment of 15s. per perch for walling—which we believe refers to a portion of the wall of the cemetery, for the erection of which at that rate we have made a contract—we have to observe that we twice caused notices to be posted in the town of Gort for tenders for executing the work. On both occasions we received several proposals which we considered too high, being from 17s. to 21s. the perch. We then, being most anxious to have the ground fenced in in order that we might be able to discontinue the very objectionable practice of burying on the workhouse site, had the parties before us, and, after a great deal of difficulty, made an agreement with one of them to build the wall adjoining the road, and for a short distance at either end, for 15s. the perch of twenty-one feet; the contractor providing all materials and workmanship. The remainder of the wall was erected by persons receiving out-relief, without any expense to the Union except for the powder which was used in blasting. Our anxiety regarding the wall adjoining the road was caused by the Hon. Major Vereker having required, on behalf of Lord Gort, that a proper boundary similar to that on the next farm should be made thereon, and we considered it better to have it properly executed according to his lordship's desire, than to run the risk of the carelessness and delay of the persons getting out-relief. We apprehend that the gentlemen who attended the meeting were under some mistake with respect to this item of expenditure; as when we posted notices for tenders for supplying stones for the wall, 10s. the

perch for this portion of the materials alone was required; and although we offered 15s. a perch for building the wall to a person who brought us a very high character from Major Vereker, he refused to do it for less than 16s. The wall is from seven to eight feet high from the foundation to the horizontal coping course, is about two feet thick on the average, built dry, and rough plastered on the outside, with rough projecting stones at top. It does not appear that 15s. for twenty-one feet in length of a wall of this description is unreasonable, when it is considered that the contractor provides all materials, workmanship, and attendance, and that the work must be properly executed.

We are not paying for any work at the rate of 9s. 11d. the perch. The men employed at raising the yard walls, making openings for and executing ventilators in the workhouse and hospital, erecting a bake-house and setting hot plates, making openings for lights and placing windows, and covering in the sewers, are paid by the day, from 1s. 8d. up to 3s. This latter sum, however, is only paid to masons of the best description, for whom we had to send a considerable distance, there being only two regular masons in Gort, both of whom are employed by the contractor for raising the story over the idiot wards. In fact, it was almost impossible at the commencement to induce any person to work at the building; the extent to which disease had spread in the institution making almost every one fearful of coming into it. And even now, we find some difficulty in prevailing on tradesmen to go into the hospital department for the purpose of carrying out our arrangements for ventilation.

The clerk of works, on whose judgment in these matters we place great reliance, states that the rate of payment is only reasonable, and that a very fair amount of work is performed.

We have now, in conclusion, only to express our hope that the explanations we have given will be satisfactory to the Commissioners. As a proof that our proceedings are approved of by some at least of the late board, we beg leave to refer to the entry made on the visitors' book at the workhouse, by Captain Shaw Taylor, late chairman, and Mr. Hunt, deputy vice-chairman, a copy of which we furnished with our last weekly report of the 3rd instant, and to the following entry which has been made in the visitors' book, by Mr. A. Alexander, who appears to have seconded the third resolution at the meeting of the late Guardians:—

"I find, on examining, the state of the house does great credit to the Vice-Guardians; and what money they have laid out towards building will be a great saving to the Union.

"2nd June, 1848.

"(Signed,)

A. ALEXANDER, *late Guardian.*"

The COMMISSIONERS to Lord GORT:—*June 13, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under their consideration the resolutions received from your lordship on the 6th instant, which were passed on the 27th ultimo at a meeting of some of the members of the late Board of Guardians of the Gort Union.

On receiving these resolutions the Commissioners requested the Vice-Guardians of the Gort Union to furnish them with their observations thereon, especially with reference to the resolutions regarding the expenditure of the Union funds in the erection of temporary buildings for the accommodation of destitute poor persons, and the cost of a boundary wall constructed by the Vice-Guardians.

The Commissioners have been furnished with the explanation of the Vice-Guardians, which they now proceed to give in detail for the information of your lordship and the gentlemen who attended the meeting referred to.

First—As regards the alleged want of courtesy on the part of the Vice-Guardians when a deputation from the meeting waited upon them, the Vice-Guardians affirm that their reply to the deputation to the effect, that they "considered, under all the circumstances, that their explanation should be made through the Poor Law Commissioners, by whom they were appointed, and to whom they were responsible," was made in the most respectful manner possible; and they utterly disclaim the intention or desire of offering any discourtesy to the deputation. They state further, that they feared that un-

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pleasant language might be made use of, in the event of their entering into a discussion with the deputation, involving the necessity of a reference to matters on which strong feelings are stated to be entertained by many persons; and that they considered it better that their reply should be made in writing, through the Commissioners.

With regard to the resolution, "that the expenditure of the money levied to support the poor in useless wooden buildings, upon ground of which there is only a lease of one life, is a profligate waste of the funds of the Union, and if persevered in, must not only destroy the large proprietors, but reduce many of the present ratepayers to the condition of paupers, and oblige them to seek relief in the house towards the maintenance of which they have hitherto contributed." The Vice-Guardians state, that on their arrival at Gort, they found nearly 300 sick persons in the house, many of them both fever and dysentery cases; that two and three were in a bed, and that in the idiot wards they found persons in dysentery lying five or six in a bed—there being 57 or 58 cases of this disease placed in that portion of the building which was only intended for 12 inmates. They further observe that there was no separate arrangement for cooking or washing, and that the communication from the hospital to the other parts of the house was constant and unobstructed.

Under these circumstances the Vice-Guardians remark that the spread of disease was most alarming, and the mortality in the workhouse was excessive. In order to enable the Vice-Guardians to place the institution in a sanitary condition, and to give those who remained a fair chance of recovery from sickness or escape from the contagion, they were under the necessity of discharging a considerable number of aged, infirm, and impotent persons, with widows and other women having children; retaining only in the house, able-bodied men and their families, single able-bodied women with the sick, and such cases of chronic disease, together with orphans, as could not be properly provided for outside. They state that applications for relief continued to increase, both from the able-bodied and from persons labouring under sickness; and that the appearance of both classes indicated very great distress and privation. And as the introduction into the workhouse of any greater number of inmates, either healthy or diseased, would have been attended with increased sickness and mortality, the Vice-Guardians were under the necessity of giving out-door relief to a considerable extent to the able-bodied in food, and in cash and food to the sick. They state that the number of the latter class was constantly increasing from the spread of contagion consequent on their being located over the country—from the nature of the food of the lower classes, principally turnips—and from the hardships which many of them endured by having to leave their cabins, many of which were in process of demolition.

The Vice-Guardians state further, that cases occurred almost daily where persons labouring under fever or dysentery were discovered lying on the streets, or on the sides of the public roads, and that in some instances persons in this state were left at the gate of the workhouse: these cases they were obliged to admit into the workhouse; and they were also under the necessity of admitting cases where the entire family or the principal members were labouring under disease, and where there was no person to attend the sick parties.

The Vice-Guardians state that they had thus always a large number of sick in the house, more in fact than the extent of accommodation was sufficient for, yet that none of them could be properly or safely provided for outside.

In this state of things the Vice-Guardians had the choice of two courses—either to extend the administration of out-door relief to all applicants who appeared to be destitute, both the healthy and the sick, or to provide proper and sufficient accommodation for the sick, and to render the workhouse available as a test for the destitution of the able-bodied. They adopted the latter alternative; and as a decided course was requisite both to stay the progress of disease and mortality, and to enable the Vice-Guardians to offer admission into the workhouse as a condition of receiving relief, where this test of destitution was necessary, they proposed to remove all the sick, with the hospital staff, from the workhouse, and, as they could not obtain any existing building for the purpose, they determined to erect temporary sheds for 300 persons, which would not only be sufficient for the sick in the house, but also for diseased persons outside, to whom they would otherwise have been under the necessity of giving relief in cash or food. They observe that, by this course, the entire accommodation of the workhouse would be available for healthy inmates, the danger of

the spread of disease in the house would be avoided, the necessity for giving cash payments to the sick and allowances of food to their attendants would be obviated, and that they would thereby be enabled to give admission to many families who, having surrendered their lands and houses, are either wandering about the Union or located in temporary huts, which afford neither shelter nor security. It appears that one of the sheds for fifty persons is already completed and occupied; and that, by the arrangements made for providing further ventilation in the workhouse, the Vice-Guardians have been enabled to apply the workhouse test to many of those who were previously receiving out-relief. And they state that, although they have increased the daily quantity of food for the able-bodied employed at stone-breaking, &c., in conformity with the suggestion of the Central Board of Health, and also the weekly rations of several families to whom an insufficient quantity had been heretofore allowed, yet very considerable reduction has been effected in the total weekly amount of out-relief. Between the reduction in the price of Indian meal and the reduction of the number of recipients the account for the eight weeks ended on the 27th ultimo stands as follows:—

Week ended the 8th April	.	.	.	£349	8	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
do. 15th "	.	.	.	346	5	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
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do. 13th "	.	.	.	259	18	11
do. 20th "	.	.	.	237	10	6
do. 27th "	.	.	.	225	0	11

When the remaining sheds shall have been completed and the additional rooms erected over the idiot wards at the workhouse, the Vice-Guardians expect to be able to effect a further considerable reduction; and they state, that they believe that, in two months after all the arrangements are completed, it will be shown that their entire cost will have been saved to the Union in the difference between the then amount of out-relief and what would otherwise have been necessary, independently of the vast saving of human life which will be effected by the proper treatment of the sick in the sheds.

It appears that there are 1,445 persons in the workhouse and its auxiliary establishments, of whom 257 are sick, who cannot be properly relieved outside, and that the remaining 1,188 are almost entirely healthy young persons; and the Vice-Guardians state, that were they to refuse admission to any able-bodied applicant, an enormously increased demand would be immediately made on them for out-relief, which, with the applications from the families of persons holding land, would soon amount to more than could be regularly met by the poor rates.

With regard to the statement in the resolution to the effect that there is only a lease for one life of the land on which the sheds are erected, the Vice-Guardians state that they have seen the lease which is for 21 years and one life from the 25th of March, 1831, so that besides the life which is still in existence there are four years to run from the 25th of March last; and it is a part of their agreement that they may remove the sheds at any time they think proper to do so.

They state further, that the necessity for the sheds at Kinvarra is proved by there being now 53 patients in the existing building, which can properly accommodate but 46—while fever is increasing and the number of applicants waiting for an opportunity of being admitted is becoming daily greater.

With respect to the resolution, "That it appears by documents laid before the meeting that much of the work now going on is not by advertised contracts as required by law, it consequently is done in a most expensive manner—one wall costing fifteen shillings a perch, the usual price of which is about six shillings, and another costing nine shillings and eleven pence per perch, although the price in the neighbourhood is from one shilling to one shilling and three pence;" the Vice-Guardians state that they believe this resolution refers to a portion of the wall of the cemetery, for the erection of which at the rate stated they have made a contract. They state that they twice caused notices to be posted in the town of Gort for tenders for executing the work; that on both occasions they received several proposals which they considered too high, being from 17s. to 21s.

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the perch; and that then, being anxious to have the ground fenced in in order that they might be able to discontinue the objectionable practice of burying on the workhouse site, they had the parties before them and, after a great deal of difficulty, made an agreement with one of them to build the wall adjoining the road, and for a short distance at either end, for 15s. the perch of twenty-one feet—the contractor providing all materials and workmanship. It appears that the remainder of the wall was erected by persons receiving out-door relief, without any expense to the Union except for the powder which was used in blasting. They observe that their anxiety regarding the wall adjoining the road was caused by the Hon. Major Vereker having required that a proper boundary similar to that on the next farm should be made, and they considered it better to have the work properly executed by a contractor than to run the risk which would have been incurred by the employment of the persons getting out-relief on this part of the works. They state further that when they posted notices for tenders for supplying stones for the wall, 10s. the perch for this portion of the materials alone was required; and that although they offered 15s. a perch for building the wall to a person who brought them a very high character from Major Vereker, he refused to do it for less than 16s. It appears that the wall is from seven to eight feet high from the foundation to the horizontal coping course—that it is about two feet thick on the average, built dry, and rough plastered on the outside, with rough projecting stones at top. The contractor provides all materials, workmanship, and attendance, and is bound to see that the work be properly executed.

The Vice-Guardians state that they are not paying for any work at the rate of 9s. 11d. the perch; and that the men employed at raising the yard walls, making openings, and executing ventilators in the workhouse and hospital, erecting a bakehouse and setting hot plates, making openings for lights and placing windows, and covering in the sewers, are paid by the day from 1s. 8d. up to 3s.; the latter sum being paid only to masons of the best description, for whom they had to send a considerable distance, there being only two regular masons in Gort, both of whom are employed by the contractor for raising the story over the idiot wards.

In conclusion, the Commissioners desire me to assure your lordship that the general course of management pursued by the Vice-Guardians of Gort Union, as detailed in this letter, is in accordance with the Commissioners' instructions, and appears to the Commissioners to be founded on the soundest principles of poor law administration. The Commissioners much regret that any misunderstanding should have arisen between the Vice-Guardians and any of the ratepayers; and the Commissioners are convinced that the Vice-Guardians had no intention to give offence to any one. At the same time the Commissioners feel confident that your lordship and the other members of the late Board of Guardians will afford that support to the Vice-Guardians in the discharge of their onerous duties which is so particularly called for in the difficult circumstances wherein they are placed, with great destitution existing in parts of Gort Union, and with the finances of the Union in a state of considerable embarrassment.

Viscount GORT to the COMMISSIONERS, in reply:—*June 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the report which you sent me containing the explanation of the Vice-Guardians of the Gort Union, relative to some resolutions passed at a meeting of some members of the late board. When I return early next week to the country, I shall lose no time in submitting the report for their consideration; in the meantime I think I may say that the object of the meeting, in the first instance, was not in any way to embarrass the Vice-Guardians, but merely to protect their own properties and the property of the ratepayers in general.

The Rev. Mr. NAGLE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*June 17, 1848.*

By desire of the meeting I hereby forward the accompanying resolutions, and request you will take the earliest opportunity of laying them before the Poor Law Commissioners.

ENCLOSURE in foregoing.

At a meeting of the Roman Catholic clergymen of the Gort Union, held on the 13th instant, at Kinvarra, to take into consideration the working of the Act for the Relief

of the destitute poor within this Union—the Right Rev. Dr. Ffrench in the chair; the following clergymen being present:—

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Very Rev. Mr. Nagle, P.P., and V.G.,
Michael O'Shaughnessy, P.P.,
Michael Nelly, P.P.,
John Ford, P.P.,
Thomas Kelly, P.P.,
Francis Arthur, P.P.,

Timothy Shannon, P.P.,
Martin Kelly, C.C.,
Daniel Garrahy, C.C.,
Patrick Tully, C.C.,
Patrick Byrne, Administrator;

after minutely considering the various operations of the Poor Law Act for the last four months, as administered by the Vice-Guardians, Messrs. Dunne and Hall, we unanimously agree to the following resolutions:—

Resolved—That the greatest satisfaction has been given in the different parishes of this Union, and a due regard to proper economy observed in the administration of out-door relief.

Resolved—That we highly approve of the manner the workhouse is conducted under most trying and difficult circumstances, from its crowded state; that order, cleanliness, and a proper dietary, are strictly attended to; the management of the schools also merits our approval.

Resolved—That our best thanks are justly due, and are hereby given, to the Poor Law Commissioners, for their sanctioning the erection of fever sheds within the Union, which has not alone afforded increase of accommodation, so much required at this period, but also the removal of contagious disease to a proper distance from the workhouse.

Resolved—That we feel grateful to the Commissioners for their selection of the Vice-Guardians of this Union, as nothing can exceed their unceasing exertions for the due and legitimate administration of the law; and we hereby pledge ourselves to render them every assistance in our power to carry out, in its integrity, the provisions of the Act.

Resolved—That feeling as we do the greatest satisfaction at the past, we cannot but look forward with well-grounded apprehension to the future resources available in this Union for the maintenance of so dense a pauper population, seeing within our several parishes vast tracts of waste and uncultivated lands, and the occupying tenant (generally speaking), unprepared until harvest, to meet a further rate.

Resolved—That our secretary, the Very Rev. Mr. Nagle be requested to forward the above resolutions to the Commissioners for administering the law for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,

✕ EDMOND FFRENCH, D.D., *Chairman*
MICHAEL NAGLE, V.G., *Secretary*.

The COMMISSIONERS to the Rev. Mr. NAGLE, in reply:—*June 20, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, forwarding a copy of minutes of proceedings of the Roman Catholic clergymen of the Gort Union, at a meeting held by them on the 13th instant; and I am to state that the attention of Government will be drawn to the resolution respecting waste lands in the Union—having reference to the Land Improvement Act.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*June 24, 1848.*

WE have to report for the present week as follows:—The amount of rate lodged with the treasurer, by the collectors, is about £240. The difficulty in enforcing the payment of the rate by distress is becoming daily greater, as scarcely in any instance are cattle of any description allowed to remain on lands, of which the rate is due, in the day-time. We have issued a large number of civil bill processes against defaulters, which we consider a better course in some instances than proceeding by summons. We can have the decree either against the body or goods of the defendant as from the circumstances of the respective cases may appear most expedient.

On the 23rd inst., Mr. F. Gibbons, Poor Law Inspector of this Union, handed us bank post bills for £1,000, advanced by the British Relief Association as a loan, for providing additional hospital accommodation and for properly ventilating the workhouse, which sum we have on this day paid to the treasurer at Loughrea to the credit of the Gort Union. Were it not for this seasonable relief we much fear we should not only have had to suspend our proceedings for completing the temporary hospitals at Gort and at Kinvarra, but also that we should have

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been reluctantly compelled to give up our Indian meal contract from inability to make payments at the periods agreed on.

We regret to have to observe that destitution is increasing, and the number of persons who must depend on poor law relief for support during the next two months is daily becoming greater. This is caused in many instances by the poor people having exhausted every possible means at their disposal to enable them to set a few potatoes; and also by the recent cessation of drainage operations in certain parts of this Union, by which a large number of labourers and small farmers have been thrown out of employment, many of whom must be relieved by us.

Although we have, by the completion of additional portions of the temporary sheds at Gort, been enabled to remove 150 sick persons thereto from the workhouse, and thereby provided increased accommodation in the workhouse itself for the able-bodied, of whom we have admitted several during the week, and have thus increased the number of paupers in the workhouse and its auxiliaries to 1,763; yet we have been obliged to order out-relief for many applicants, as we are fearful of the consequence of adding to the above number of inmates until greater space is available.

The shed at Kinvarra is not yet ready; but now, as we shall be in a position to make advances to the contractor, we expect it will soon be completed, and be available for the numerous cases of fever and dysentery which exist in that district.

The sanitary condition of the house is progressing favourably considering the great number of inmates, and that several of the recent admissions are attacked with disease very soon after they come into the house; besides which, we now admit all cases of fever and dysentery which cannot be properly treated and attended to outside. The number of sick now on the books is 258, and of deaths during the week, 16. Measles is beginning to show itself among the children and young persons.

The improvement in the sanitary state of the district surrounding Gort, generally, is proved by the following gratifying fact, announced to us by the Rev. Mr. Nagle, treasurer to the Relief Committee, that the number of applications for coffins for poor persons dying of fever or other contagious disease in his district, in the month ended the 20th instant, was less by more than one-half than in the previous month ended the 20th May. This favourable result may very probably be attributed to our having been enabled, in the course of the revision of the relieving officers' books, to order a sufficient quantity of food for those who were previously endeavouring to exist on what was called half-rations, and to the extended accommodation which has been provided by means of the additional temporary sheds for the proper treatment of persons suffering from contagious disease; into which, although as yet only in part completed, we have been enabled to admit many who would otherwise have to remain in their own cabins, deprived of medical relief and of the care and attention essential in cases of this nature, and the mortality would in consequence be much greater than it has been.

Adverting to your letter of the 6th instant, accompanying a copy of resolutions passed at a meeting of the late Board of Guardians of the Gort Union on the 27th ultimo, we beg to annex a note handed to us by Mr. Alexander, who is stated to have seconded the third resolution on the occasion referred to. We have also to observe that we cannot learn that Mr. G. Bell, who is reported to have seconded the second resolution, was at any time a guardian of the Gort Union.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. ALEXANDER to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*June 23, 1848.*

HAVING heard with much surprise that a memorial or petition had been sent to the Commissioners stating that I proposed a resolution, I strongly deny having put my name to any document that might have been forwarded to the Commissioners either for or against the Gort Guardians. I was called on to attend a meeting held at the Gort court-house, and no resolution proposed there. My Lord Gort had stated that £2,500 had been expended in building fever sheds—I replied, the country could not afford to pay it. After that I had a conversation with Mr. Dunne, the Vice-Guardian, who told me it only cost about £600. I then went to look at the house, and stated my opinion in the visitors' book; as I was perfectly satisfied with the order and regularity of the house, and consider the fever sheds will be great saving to the country.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 21, 1848.*

Gort Union.

I BEG to inform you that in pursuance of the instructions contained in your letter dated the 8th June, I proceeded to Gort, as soon after my return to my district as circumstances permitted, and have made a searching inquiry into the expenditure of the Union, and into the manner in which the out-door relief is administered by the Vice-Guardians.

The course which I adopted in this inquiry as the most complete, was to classify the total amount of expenditure contracted by the Vice-Guardians, into several distinct heads, and to consider each separately, both with reference to the sums disbursed and the system adopted for detecting fraud or abuse in their application.

I shall now proceed to communicate the result of my inquiry:—

The total expenditure incurred by the Vice-Guardians of the Gort Union since their arrival on the 29th February, up to the 1st July, amounting to £10,186 5s. 4d., is shown in the accompanying return (A), and may be classified under the following heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Provisions for in-door relief, ...	1,921	17	6½
Bedding and Clothing, ...	416	15	2
Establishment charges, ...	366	13	0½
Provisions for out-door relief, ...	5,094	12	6
Fever hospital Committees, ...	249	3	3
Collectors' poundage, ...	420	15	0
Officers' salaries, including Vice-Guardians, ...	594	4	9
Rent, ...	42	0	0
Enlargement of Workhouse (incurred), Ventilation, } Fever sheds, &c., ...	985	4	1½
Fever shed at Kinvarra, ...	140	0	0
	£10,186	5	4½

to which may be added about £641 required to complete the buildings commenced.

In order to judge how far the first of these sums was economically administered for the support of the inmates of the workhouse, it becomes necessary to refer to the numbers relieved in the workhouse and hospital respectively, and the description of dietary in use. By reference to the workhouse books, it appears that the number of inmates has gradually increased from 1,073, on the first week of the Vice-Guardians' arrival, to 1,817, on the 1st July; whilst the number in hospital has seldom been less than 200, and sometimes over 280. In consequence also of the reduced condition of many of the poor applying for relief, it was found necessary to vary the dietary from Indian meal stirabout to the more expensive article of wheaten bread, and to introduce a new and more costly scale of diet in the hospital. Notwithstanding the increased expense thus created, it will be seen by the enclosed returns (B), of the expenses incurred on this head during the last nine weeks of the administration of the late board; and a similar return from their dissolution, down to the 1st July, that whilst on the week ending the 26th February, the cost of maintaining 1,013 persons, amounted to £116 9s., a number nearly equal was maintained during the week ended 20th May, for £78 19s. 1d., and that the average weekly cost during the first period for each inmate, varied from 2s. 7d., to 1s. 6½d., being on an average, 2s. 1½d., whilst the corresponding charge under the management of the Vice-Guardians, varied from 2s. 1¼d., to 1s. 6d., being an average of 1s. 9¾d., showing a diminution of 3¾d., on the weekly cost of each inmate. This saving I believe to have been caused by a greater degree of vigilance exercised on the part of the Vice-Guardians in the distribution of food, and by the reduction they were enabled to effect in the price of two of the most important articles of consumption—bread and milk. Upon this head, therefore, there can be no question that the funds of the Union has been economically disbursed.

The second and third heads consist of necessary clothing for the increased number of persons admitted to the workhouse, and for sundry expenses, as well for the use of the workhouse as for the due arrangement of out-door relief. I have carefully examined into the several items contained in these two heads, and have satisfied myself that the expenses thus incurred were both necessary for the comfort of the inmates and the decent support of the establishment, and that the articles were obtained at fair and reasonable prices.

Gort Union.

The fourth item of expenditure consists of the cost of provisions for the support of the poor receiving out-door relief. Upon this branch a considerable saving has been effected by the favourable contracts for Indian meal obtained by the Vice-Guardians. The constant price at the date of their appointment was £11 10s. per ton; the price now paid is only £8 17s. 6d.; and the weekly saving in this article alone, calculated upon the numbers receiving relief for the week ending 7th July, amounts to £65 5s. In the administration of this relief, it appears to me that the Vice-Guardians have used every means for restricting it to the case of persons whose circumstances entitle them to assistance from the rates. The whole of the out-door relief lists have been carefully revised by the relieving officers, under the direction of the Vice-Guardians themselves. The workhouse test has been applied as extensively as was possible, and the Vice-Guardians are now engaged in a personal scrutiny of every recipient of relief. Considering the extent of destitution prevailing in this Union, the number of families receiving out-door relief appears to me by no means large; and whether viewed with reference to the expense incurred in procuring provisions, to the scale of rations allowed, or to the checks imposed upon those seeking relief, I am of opinion that the administration of the rates has been conducted by the Vice-Guardians with great care and economy.

The two next heads of expenditure do not appear to call for observation. The only fever hospital, (except that at the workhouse), was established by the late Committee under the Temporary Relief Act, and has been conducted upon the ordinary scale of expenses sanctioned in other Unions, and existing at the time of the dissolution of the late board.

In the article of officers' salaries I do not find that any considerable addition has been made by the Vice-Guardians to the charge authorized by the late board. No increase has been made to the salaries of existing officers, and but few new appointments have been made. The annexed returns (C) exhibit the present staff of officers engaged in the administration of relief in and out of the workhouse, distinguishing any new appointments made by the Vice-Guardians. It will be seen that these are limited to an assistant master, two wardsmen, two wardswomen for the workhouse, and nine storekeepers for issuing out-door relief. The first appointments were rendered necessary by the increased number of inmates, and the latter by the introduction of a daily issue of rations which the relieving officers themselves were unable to superintend. The salaries allowed by the Vice-Guardians have in each case been moderate; and in this instance also I consider that they have judiciously administered the funds of the Union.

The two last items of expenditure are those upon which the only difference of opinion can possibly exist. They consist of certain alterations and enlargements made to the workhouse, by introducing improved ventilation, by raising a story over the wings of the infirmary, and by the erection of large sheds for the reception of the sick on a piece of ground adjoining the workhouse. In considering this subject it is necessary to refer to the state of the workhouse and its auxiliary building when the Vice-Guardians entered upon their duties. The number of inmates amounted to about 1,020. Fever and dysentery prevailed extensively, the number of deaths was alarmingly great, and the hospital accommodation was confessedly insufficient. It appeared absolutely necessary to take prompt measures for rendering the house more healthy, and increasing the space devoted to the sick; and the Vice-Guardians at once resolved to erect temporary buildings for the reception of the inmates whilst ventilation was carried on, and the required enlargement made to the hospital. A piece of land adjoining the workhouse containing rather more than two statute acres, was taken from the Rev. Mr. O'Shaughnessy for a term of three years certain, at £8 per acre; and an agreement was entered into for enabling the Vice-Guardians, at the expiration of their term, to remove any buildings they might erect thereon. During the progress of this work the pressure upon the Vice-Guardians for relief continued very severe; and as the power of applying the workhouse test was limited by the size of the building, it was determined to erect a large temporary hospital, and to devote the whole of the workhouse to the reception of healthy cases. With this view the sheds were enlarged so as to accommodate 400 or 500 persons, and a contract was entered into for the purpose at a cost of about £750; and the contract for raising the wings of the infirmary, agreed upon by the late board, was confirmed at a cost of £405; whilst the ventilating and other necessary alterations in and about the workhouse were conducted by the clerk of works. The total cost of additional buildings in and about the workhouse is as follows:—

Raising wings of infirmary, ...	£405	0	0
Temporary hospital, £750, }	867	10	0
Additional shed, £117 10s., }	284	10	0
Building bakehouse, &c., ...	210	0	0
Fever sheds at Kinvarra, ...			
Total, ...	£1,767	0	0

Gort Union.

I have closely looked into the contracts for these buildings and compared them with the prices allowed in other Unions, and fixed by your architect for similar buildings, and am of opinion that they are of the most favourable kind. The estimated cost of such sheds as are here built is stated by your architect at £1 10s. per foot, whilst the price here paid has not exceeded £1 3s. 6d. I have also strictly examined the clerk of the works both as to the contract prices and as to the expense of the works executed without contract under his superintendence, and in each case he has stated his opinion to be that the prices are fair and moderate. I subjoin a memorandum of his answers as taken down by me and the papers and accounts to which he refers. I think there may be some question whether the Vice-Guardians have acted altogether judiciously in incurring so large an expense as £860 in wooden buildings, temporary in their nature, and requiring additional cost to make them suitable in winter; but I have no sort of doubt that the buildings have been erected at a fair cost, that the land on which they stand has been taken upon favourable terms for the Union, and that the advantage arising from their rapid erection has been very great, by the opportunity thus afforded of putting the workhouse test into extensive operation, and thereby limiting the extent of relief.

Taking the whole amount of expenditure as made by the Vice-Guardians, I have no hesitation in stating my opinion that they have acted with prudence and economy in the administration of the funds of the Union; and that whilst they have afforded relief to all whose cases appeared to deserve it, they have used every exertion to arrive at the real condition of all parties, and have administered relief with a due regard to the interest of the ratepayers.

In conclusion, I may state that Lord Gort, who attended in the board-room during my examination of the clerk of works, expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the explanations he heard, and stated that the "documents" referred to in the resolutions of the meeting over which he presided on the 27th May, consisted of a memorandum handed in by a builder of Gort, whose tender it appears had been rejected by the Vice-Guardians as excessive.

ENCLOSURES.

(A.)

FINANCIAL RETURN during the management of the Vice-Guardians, from the 29th February, 1848, to the 1st July, 1848, inclusive.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount of the liabilities of the Union, 29th Feb. 1848,	.	.	.				6,566	14	11½
SUBSEQUENT LIABILITIES.									
Provisions, &c. obtained for in-door relief, viz.:—									
Bread, ...	758	1	3½						
Meal, ...	58	12	3½						
Rice, ...	82	18	2						
Oatmeal, ...	52	6	4						
Indian Meal, ...	180	3	6						
New Milk, ...	528	16	2½						
Sour Milk, ...	25	10	9						
Skimmed Milk, ...	28	12	5½						
Tea, for officers and sick, ...	7	12	8						
Sugar, raw and loaf, ...	40	7	0						
Wine, for hospital, ...	10	7	0						
Pepper, ...	6	11	1						
Coffee, ...	32	19	9½						
Salt, ...	4	2	7½						
Turf, ...	58	7	6½						
Candles, dips and moulds, ...	14	9	3½						
Soap, ...	2	1	4½						
Starch, ...	1	17	8						
Flour and suet for hospital, ...	4	13	6½						
Soda, onions, whiskey, chickens, ...	1	15	11						
Carry forward, ...				1,921	17	6½	6,566	14	11½

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Gort Union.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward, ...				1,921	17	6½	6,566	14	11½
Provisions, &c., cash supplied for out-relief, ...	5,094	12	6	5,094	12	6			
Bedding, clothing, and materials, viz. :—									
Twilled calico, ... 787 yards, ...	22	19	1						
Canvas, ... 296 "	7	7	0						
Men and boys' caps, ... 500 "	17	4	2						
Drogheda linen, ... 4,000 "	133	6	8						
Check, ... 500 "	12	10	3						
Linsey-woolsey, ... 500 "	21	15	5						
Sacking for bed-ticks, ... 500 "	14	11	8						
Corduroy, ... 300 "	15	0	0						
Flannel, ... 569 "	24	13	6						
Thread, tape, canvas, calico, &c., ...	13	5	4						
Leather, 184½ lbs. and findings, ...	12	2	10						
Straw, ... 18 tons, ...	17	14	9						
Wages, making materials in house, ...	6	7	11½						
Blankets, ... 70 pair, ...	35	18	6						
Coverlets, ... 297 "	25	11	5						
Handkerchiefs, ... 257 "	7	7	0						
Shoes, men and women's, ... 136 pair, ...	23	15	5						
Wool, ... 11 stones, ...	5	4	6						
				416	15	2			
Of the materials got in by the Vice-Guardians, there have been manufactured :—									
380 linen sheets, ...	41 girls' linsey petticoats, ...								
178 men's shirts, ...	71 pair men's shoes, ...								
242 boys' do., ...	9 pair women's "								
464 women's shifts, ...	145 pair men's socks, ...								
216 girls' do., ...	144 pair women's "								
300 women's caps, ...	142 twilled calico bed-gowns, ...								
323 women's check aprons, ...	96 " " petticoats, ...								
150 girls' " covers, ...	81 bed-ticks, ...								
161 women's flannel petticoats, ...	7 pair blankets, ...								
140 " linsey "									
Materials got by Vice-Guardians, not yet made up :—									
300 yards corduroy, ...	80 yards canvas, ...								
25 " Drogheda linen, ...	27 " ticken, ...								
210 " twilled calico, ...	10 lb. of wool, ...								
The following materials were in the workhouse on the 29th February, and were made up as follows :—									
439 yards Bengal stripe, made 134 girls' frocks, ...									
96 " flannel, made 34 women's petticoats, ...									
295 " check, made 218 aprons, ...									
400 " twilled calico, made 133 bed-gowns, ...									
328 " Drogheda linen, made 103 men's shirts, ...									
328 " " " 47 boy's "									
435 " corduroy, made 105 boys' suits, ...									
435 " " made 9 pairs men's trowsers, ...									
340 " linsey-woolsey, made 113 women's petticoats, ...									
One piece Bengal stripe still in store.									
Establishment charges, viz. :—									
School books and requisites, ...	9	15	0						
Lasts, aprons, seals, and implements for tradesmen, ...	4	0	4						
Earthenware, glass, &c., ...	1	18	1						
Beams, weights, and scales, ...	3	16	0						
Wool-cards, 12s. 10d. ; spoons, £3, ...	3	12	10						
Saucepans, 14s. 2d. ; brushes, £1 5s. 2d., ...	1	19	4						
Bell to board-room, 10s. ; bedstead, 15s., ...	1	5	0						
Ropes and lines, 18s. ; brooms, £1 13s. 6d., ...	2	11	6						
Lime, £5 11s. 4d. ; books provided, £1 17s., ...	7	8	4						
Rent, meal store, 19s. 2d. ; posting rate, 5s., ...	1	4	2						
Wages, shoemaker, £5 4s. 7d. ; tailor, £4 19s., ...	10	3	7						
" sempstress, £1 2s. ; wardmaster, £1 7s. 4d., ...	2	9	4						
Paying 558 square yards in probationary yards, kitchen yard, washhouse yard, passages and channels ; finding materials, and attendance, at 5d. per yard, ...	11	12	6						
Hire for drawing water, £3 2s. ; deceased paupers, 14s., ...	3	16	0						
Carriage, sundries, £1 13s. 9d. ; straw, 16s. 8d., ...	2	10	5						
Repairs, waterworks, £4 8s. ; ironworks, £1 17s. 6d., ...	6	5	6						
" roof slating, £4 10s. ; car, 6s. 6d., ...	4	16	6						
" sundries, £1 2s. 9d., ...	1	2	9						
Carry forward, ...	80	7	2	7,433	5	2½	6,566	14	11½

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Gort Union.
Brought forward, ...	80	7	2	7,433	5	2½	6,566	14	11½	
Establishment :— <i>continued</i> .										
14 Spinning-wheels, £2 9s. ; 60 spades, £7 3s. 10d., 9	12	10								
36 Shovels, £3 ; 24 buckets, £2 14s., ...	5	14	0							
216 Zinc chamber utensils, ...	18	0	0							
Paid on account of cemetery wall, ...	13	12	0							
Carriage of meal to depots, ...	5	1	9							
„ of paupers to workhouse, ...	2	13	3							
Charge on account of law expenses, ...	20	0	0							
„ on account of bedsteads, tables, forms, ...	6	0	0							
				161	1	0				
Charge on sundry necessities, implements, utensils, furniture, towels, repairs, oil, whiting, blacking, brick, &c., ...				15	9	11				
Tin-work—platters, tins, measures, scoops for out-relief, sconces, candlesticks, tea-pots, kettles, &c., ...	17	17	10							
Medicine and appliances, ...	27	8	9							
Printing and stationery—Kelly, Loughrea, ...	20	0	0							
„ —Thom, Dublin, ...	48	11	6							
Advertisements, ...	15	0	0							
Beams and weights, for out-relief depots, ...	8	12	0½							
				137	10	1½				
Expenses on account Kinvarra Fever Hospital, ...	207	13	3							
„ for coffins, Kinvarra district, ...	18	6	0							
„ „ Gort district, ...	23	4	0							
				249	3	3				
Expenses for coffins for in-door paupers, ...				2	12	0				
Collectors' poundage, ...				420	15	0				
Salaries, including all officers, in and out, valuator, Vice-Guardians, &c., ...	549	4	9							
Rent, up to 1st July, ...	42	0	0							
				591	4	9				
Sheds at Kinvarra, amount executed, ...	140	0	0							
„ at Gort, „	344	10	0							
Story over idiot wards, „	200	0	0							
				684	10	0				
Building materials, tradesmen's wages, and hire paid previous to arrival of clerk of works, for putting up eleven grates, lining long shed with timber, placing two stoves therein, erecting chimneys thereto, tarring same, and dividing interior; making a shed for old clothing in men's yard; putting up a boiler in kitchen, and verging same; repairing washhouse boiler; closing door from board-room to probationary ward; with several minor matters of detail, immediately required on arrival of Vice-Guardians, including brick, £7 7s. ; timber, £9 9s. ; chalk, tar, £1 16s. ; nails, £1 8s. 2d. ; carriage, £1 7s. 6d. ; masons' wages, £2 18s. 9d. ; carpenters' wages, £5 4s. ; sawyers' wages, £2 3s. 8d. ; smiths' wages, 16s. ; cost of eleven grates £6., ...				38	4	11				
Amount of work and materials under superintendence of clerk of works,*				402	9	2½				
Amount of loan obtained from British Association, ...				1,500	0	0				
							11,686	5	4½	
							18,253	0	3½	
Receipts :—										
Balance in treasurer's hands 29th February, ...	1	14	6							
Poor rate collected since, and paid treasurer, ...	5,610	7	10							
Advanced by the British Association, ...	1,500	0	0							
Total receipts, ...	7,112	2	4							
Payments :—										
On invoice account for provisions, &c., ...	4,556	19	2							
„ clothing and bedding account, ...	89	4	4							
„ establishment account, ...	255	5	11							
„ Kinvarra hospital account, ...	153	13	3							
„ out-relief account, cash to relieving officers, ...	178	10	0							
For coffins for poor persons dying out of house, ...	41	10	0							
„ coffins for paupers dying in house, ...	52	12	0							
„ checks drawn by late board, but not paid, ...	63	0	10							
„ debts due of former board, ...	748	0	0							
To clerk of works for shed, ventilation, wall, &c., ...	269	0	11							
„ Nolan, on account of sheds at Gort, ...	344	10	0							
„ Sinane, „ „ at Kinvarra, ...	140	0	0							
„ Gill, „ „ story over idiot wards, ...	200	0	0							
				7,092	6	10				
Total liabilities, ...							£11,160	13	5½	

* For detailed return of works see statement annexed (D).

C.

Gort Union.

RETURN of Officers employed in the administration of Out-door Relief, and the Yearly and Weekly Salaries of each :—

Officers' Names.	Office.	Salary.	—
		£ s. d.	
James Forrest, . . .	Relieving Officer, . . .	50 0 0	Yearly.
Andrew Forde, . . .	ditto, . . .	40 0 0	do.
Richard Kelly, . . .	ditto, . . .	50 0 0	do.
Hubert Glynn, . . .	ditto, . . .	40 0 0	do.
John Smith, . . .	ditto, . . .	40 0 0	do.
George Morton, . . .	ditto, . . .	40 0 0	do.
Thomas Hardiman, . . .	ditto, . . .	40 0 0	do.
Richard Burke, . . .	ditto, . . .	40 0 0	do.
James O'Brien, . . .	ditto, . . .	30 0 0	do.
Patrick O'Donohue, . . .	Overseer, . . .	0 10 0	Weekly.
Patrick Halleran, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
Patrick Stephenson, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
Redmond Sheehan, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
James Silk, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
Thomas Kelly, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
James Jordan, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
Broughton Collier, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
John Leech, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
Michael Power, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
*Patrick Glynn, . . .	Storekeeper, . . .	0 10 0	do.
*Richard Burke, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
*John Butler, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
*Patrick Kinneen, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 10 0	do.
*Michael Connolly, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 7 0	do.
*Peter Birmingham, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 8 0	do.
*Thomas Fallon, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 7 0	do.
*Patrick Regan, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 7 0	do.
*Michael Power, . . .	ditto, . . .	0 7 0	do.

Marked thus (*) are new appointments created by Vice-Guardians.

July 10, 1848.

JAMES SLATOR, Clerk of the Union.

C.

RETURN of Officers of Workhouse, and the Yearly Salary of each :—

Officers' Names.	Office.	Yearly Salary.
		£ s. d.
James Slator, . . .	Clerk, . . .	100 0 0
Charles Nugent, . . .	Master, . . .	50 0 0
Thomas Stephenson, . . .	Porter, . . .	16 0 0
M. D. Nolan, . . .	Medical Officer, . . .	75 0 0
Rev. M. O'Shaughnessy, . . .	Roman Catholic Chaplain, . . .	50 0 0
Cornelius O'Loughlin, . . .	Schoolmaster, . . .	15 0 0
Anne Harte, . . .	Schoolmistress, . . .	16 0 0
Terence Gill, . . .	Apothecary, . . .	40 0 0
Anne Robinson, . . .	Matron, . . .	30 0 0
*James M'Namara, . . .	Assistant Master, . . .	20 0 0
*John Robinson, . . .	Wardsman, . . .	10 0 0
*Stephen O'Donnell, . . .	ditto, . . .	10 0 0
*Mrs. Whelan, . . .	Wardswoman, . . .	8 0 0
*Mrs. Fahey, . . .	ditto, . . .	8 0 0
M. E. Burke, . . .	Head Nurse, . . .	20 0 0
Bridget O'Loughlin, . . .	Assistant Hospital Nurse, . . .	8 0 0
Margaret Harrahil, . . .	ditto, . . .	8 0 0
Anne Crawford, . . .	ditto, . . .	8 0 0
Mary Gibbons, . . .	ditto, . . .	8 0 0
Mary Divany, . . .	ditto, . . .	8 0 0
Mary O'Donnell, . . .	ditto, . . .	8 0 0

Marked thus (*) are new appointments created by Vice-Guardians.

July 10, 1848.

JAMES SLATOR, Clerk of the Union.

D.

Denis Cosgrove, Clerk of Works.—Am clerk of the works, selected by the Architect of the Poor Law Commissioners; have been employed for a considerable part of my life in

Gort Union.

conducting buildings and work; early in April I arrived at Gort to inspect and direct the works carrying on here and in Loughrea Union. The works now in progress here have been conducted under my superintendence; they are as follows:—

- 1.—Temporary fever sheds erected on the ground adjoining the workhouse.
- 2.—Raising walls of the idiot cells.
- 3.—Ventilating the house, erecting a bakehouse, repairing and adding to drains, and raising yard walls.
- 4.—Building an additional shed for 100 patients at Kinvarra.

With respect to the first of these works, I was employed soon after my arrival to erect a temporary shed for fifty patients on the ground now occupied by the hospital. This was erected for the purpose of relieving the pressure on the idiot cells. This shed was erected under my superintendence, without a contract. The timber was procured from a merchant on orders of the Vice-Guardians, and I employed the men. I furnished the Guardians weekly with a pay-sheet, and was supplied with a check in payment of the labourers. In the annexed paper I have enumerated all the works executed under my superintendence in the Gort workhouse, and annexed to each the fair price which, to the best of my judgment, should be given. In the account current, also hereunto annexed, I have stated the amount received and the amounts expended. By a comparison of these documents it will be seen that the amount which the works have actually cost has not come up to the estimate I made of them.

The wages paid to the workmen employed on these works were, according to my judgment, fair and reasonable. Much difficulty was found in procuring masons to work on the improvements in the infirmary in consequence of the indisposition manifested by all persons of this class to approach the building from fear of infection. The masons received from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per diem. They were procured from the county of Limerick, as there were none in Gort competent to execute the work.

Masons were sent for from the adjoining Union of Loughrea, but on seeing the place where they were to work, they declined entering upon it. The wages paid to the Limerick masons were the same as that received by them when employed in their own districts.

Sawyers were employed by task at the following prices:—

For a deep cut, 12 ft. by 9 in. . . .	0s. 2½d.
For flat cut, 12 ft. by 3 in. . . .	0s. 0½d.
And for sawing, per 100, ...	3s. 0d.

The carpenters were paid daily wages, varying in amount from 2s. to 2s. 10d., and one who acted as working foreman received 3s. a day. There were a few labourers employed at a time when pauper-labour was not available, and they received 10d. per day.

With respect to the fever sheds at Kinvarra, the contract price is rather lower than my estimate for the same description of shed; this is caused by a difference in the cost of carriage. The contract for the large sheds on the workhouse grounds was taken at the rate at which I have estimated for those executed under my superintendence.

If it were required, at the expiration of a few years, to remove the present sheds and re-erect them on any other part of the workhouse grounds, I would undertake to do it for 3s. 6d. a foot. I consider that by proper care and management these sheds might be expected to last for twelve or fifteen years, and at the expiration of that period much of the timber would be available for other purposes.

I am acquainted with the terms of the contract entered into by the late Board of Guardians for raising the walls of the idiot cells; I consider it a fair contract, leaving a moderate profit to the contractor.

I consider that the contract price agreed upon for the walls surrounding the cemetery is a fair and reasonable price; I think it is less by 2s. 6d. a perch than the wall would have cost if done by the Vice-Guardians themselves without a contract.

I have estimated the cost of raising the walls round the men and women's yards at 6s. per cubic yard, exclusive of coping: the cubic yard contains 27 feet; reducing this to measurement by statute perch, would give the price for a perch 16 feet long by 1 foot high, and 18 inches width (containing 24½ cubic feet), at 5s. per perch; if this was a ground wall it might have been done for 5s. per perch; but having to be executed from a scaffolding, I consider the price to be reasonable.

(Signed,)

D. COSGROVE.

Dr.		Denis Cosgrove in account with the Vice-Guardians of the Gort Union.		Cr.	
To amount of checks for payment of men,		257	0 11	By amount of work executed per estimate,	359 2 10
To amount paid for use of quarry,		8	0 0	By value of materials on hands,	52 5 7
To amount paid for boiler,		4	0 0	By Denis Cosgrove's salary, ending July 29,	30 15 0
To amount paid for felt,		18	19 4		
To amount paid for hot-plate,		8	12 0		
To amount of timber merchant's acct.,		105	16 11		
					£442 3 5
		£402	9 2		
		£442	3 5		
					£39 14 3

July, 1848.

DENIS COSGROVE.

Estimate of Cost for Erecting Temporary Sheds, and sundry Alterations at Workhouse and
Auxiliary Buildings.

Gort Union.

SHEDS.		Rate.		Amount.	
		s.	d.	£	s. d.
98	Lineal feet of shed, according to plan, (including sketches at per foot)	23	6	115	3 0
45	Lineal feet of half shed, six feet clear breath, and six feet six inches to plate, for clothes' stores in probationary yards, allowing for old timber used, per foot,	6	0	13	10 0
129	Superficial yards of felt on sheds at rear of infirmary, first cost price, carriage, and nails, per yard,	1	0	6	9 0
55	Superficial yards of felt on shed in women's yard, (including labour and nails, per yard,	1	1	2	19 7
BAKEHOUSE.					
15½	Cubic yards of hammered masonry in walls, per yard,	7	0	5	7 4
194	Superficial feet of punched jambs, lintels, arches, and quoins, per foot,	0	3	2	8 6
46	Superficial feet of hammered jambs to doors and windows (internal), per foot,	0	1½	0	5 9
3	Window sills, each four feet ten inches long, each,	4	10	0	14 6
1	Door sill, four feet long, ...	—	—	0	4 0
1	Pair of door blocks, ...	—	—	0	2 6
2	Nine-inch brick arches over door and window, (inside) per	2	6	0	5 0
4½	Squares of roofing and queen ton slating, ... per square,	60	0	14	5 0
36	Superficial feet of wrought scantling frames and sashes, ... per foot,	2	0	3	12 0
320	Superficial feet of rough flagging, ... per foot,	0	1½	2	0 0
3	Sets of lintels for opes, ... per	1	10	0	5 6
VENTILATORS.					
8	Ventilators with shutters, rim plates, window boards and fastenings, including breaking out for and plastering about opes, ... per	35	0	14	0 0
12	Louvre frame ventilators in wings of main building, with cut-stone sills, painted, &c., ... per	30	0	18	0 0
6	Wrought scantling rebated and chamfered frames for quadrant lights in inner flanks of wings, with cut-stone sills, jambs, &c., ... per	25	0	7	10 0
	To cost of boring risers of platforms in boys' and girls' dormitories, and men's and women's dormitories over day-rooms, and all doors throughout main building and wings, except those over infirm wards and dormitories, ...	—	—	1	14 6
270	Perforated zinc plates in casements of windows, in wings and main building, ... per	0	3½	3	18 9
82	Brackets to fix down upper lights of windows in day-rooms and dormitories of main building, wings, &c., ... per	0	2	0	13 8
DRAINS.					
255	Lineal feet of drains from cesspools—fifteen inches by fourteen inches square, side walls fifteen inches thick—flagged top and bottom, the flagging of bottom set on rubble masonry, ... per foot,	1	6	19	2 6
71	Lineal feet of drain, two feet wide by one foot three inches high, bottom flags set on rubble, ... per	2	0	7	2 0
66	Lineal feet of drain leading to and from cesspool in wash-house yard, altered and rebuilt, ... per	0	6	1	13 0
	Building cesspool with cut-stone curb and drop-stone, ...	—	—	1	15 3
	Repairing drains from baths in probationary wards, and mason assisting plumber, ...	—	—	0	8 6
	Taking up and repairing drains to tanks in women's yard, ...	—	—	0	11 0
SUNDRIES.					
19.6	Superficial feet of steps to yard doors of infirmary, ... per	0	8	0	13 0
10.6	Superficial feet of flagging set in kitchen, ... per	0	4	0	3 6
	To mason's time and materials for stopping breaches made by paupers in walls of refractory ward, (twice)	—	—	0	6 0
	To carpenter's time and materials repairing door of ditto, ...	—	—	0	2 0
	To taking down partitions in boys' and girls' dormitories, ...	—	—	0	6 0
	To taking out windows in rear wall of wash-house, and breaking out for and setting same in end wall, with cut-stone lintels and jambs, and brick arches inside, ...	—	—	3	1 6
	To building piers of new cemetery, two feet four inches square, and seven feet from ground to caps, hammered work, including materials, ...	—	—	2	1 3
	To breaking out wall of workroom, and forming window ope, six feet by six feet in same, with cut-stone sill, jambs, and arches, ...	—	—	2	1 2
38	Lineal feet of rebated and chamfered scantling frame in ditto, painted, &c.	1	0	1	18 0
1½	Squares of joists, and grooved and tongued flooring in workroom, including dwarf walls eighteen inches high, ... per	50	0	3	15 0
75	Brackets for fever sheds—for labour, timber, nails, and fixing, ... per	0	3	0	18 9
	To a carpenter fourteen days assisting plumber at pump, &c., and casing pipes, (including material), ...	—	—	2	11 8
	To mason's time and materials building about well and pipes, (twice)	—	—	0	8 6
1½	Cubic yards of rubble masonry in building up door ope in probationary yard wall, ... per yard,	6	0	0	9 0
1½	Cubic yards of rubble masonry, and coping course on walling of open well, ... per yard,	6	0	0	9 0
	To carpenter's time and materials, repairing infirmary yard doors, ...	—	—	0	4 4
65	Lineal feet in three large ladders, made of Norway spars, including iron work and painting, ... per	1	6	4	17 6

Gort Union.

		SUNDRIES.		Rate.		Amount.		
				s.	d.	£	s.	d.
3	Ladders made of domestic timber, average length each, twelve feet, ...			0	4	0	12	0
	To carpenter's time and timber, for five tressels for mason's scaffolds, ...			—	—	0	12	6
3	Mortar boards, for labour and nails, ...			0	0	0	2	3
	To carpenter's time and materials, repairing stairs and furniture of board-room, easing and repairing doors, locks, hinges, &c., ...			—	—	0	17	0
	To making a fumigating box with tongued lid, and strong wrought-iron strap hinges, painted in three coats, ...			—	—	2	18	0
6	Turf boxes with strong iron handles and angle clasps, ...	per		8	2	2	9	0
6	Trays for dining hall, dovetailed at angles, ...	per		5	6	1	13	0
14	Cross-laid bottoms, with vergers for weighing scales, ...	per		1	6	1	1	0
6	Tables for dining hall, ...	per		11	6	3	9	0
6	Forms for ditto, ...	per		4	0	1	4	0
	To a carpenter, one day, repairing shed in women's yard, (timber and nails), ...			—	—	0	4	6
3	Sets of catches for windows, ...	per		2	0	0	6	0
6	Models for men building wall of new cemetery, ...	per		1	2	0	7	0
	To cost of enclosing tillage ground with rustic paling, including labour, timber, and nails, ...			—	—	4	19	4
	To carpenter's time, timber, nails, sawing, &c., repairing hand and wheel-barrows, handles to sledge-hammers, &c., for men employed at work-house and new cemetery, ...			—	—	5	7	6
	To carpenter's time, and nails, erecting temporary accommodation for clergymen officiating at the consecration of the new cemetery, ...			—	—	0	10	0
24	Superficial feet of frame and louvre boarding to window of bread store, ...			0	4	0	8	0
4	Superficial feet of inch mainseat in tube for cleaning out cesspools (including labour, timber and nails), ...			2	0	0	8	0
50	Brackets for new sheds, ...			0	2	0	8	4

YARD WALLS.

114	Cubic yards of rubble masonry in raising walls of men's, boys', and girls', and probationary yard walls, ...	per		6	0	34	4	0
419.6	Lineal feet of saddle-back paned coping, labour, and materials, ...	per		4	0	6	19	10
318	Lineal feet of splaying coping, ...	per		0	2	2	13	0

BRIDGE HOUSE.

12	Windows hung on centres for ventilation, with out-side and in-side stops, ...	per		2	2	1	6	0
7	Opes formed in walls over door-ways for ventilating dormitories, ...	per		1	6	0	10	6
	To fixing cross-bars to side-lights of dormitory and lobby windows			—	—	0	7	0
2	Louvre frames six feet six inches by two feet six inches, in staircase windows, ...			4	6	0	9	0
1	Louvre frame, four feet by three feet in open of roof, ...			—	—	0	5	0
	To forming and carrying up an air tube from ceiling of second floor to louvre in roof, ...			—	—	0	10	6
	To forming opes in kitchen wall over boiler, for ventilation, ...			—	—	0	2	6
5	Perforated zinc plates in schoolroom window, and side-lights of hall, ...			—	—	0	6	0
	To a carpenter, half day (and materials), repairing stairs, ...			—	—	0	2	6
4½	Cubic yards of dry walling, and mortar penning in cesspool to privy, ...			3	6	0	15	9
8	Superficial yards of rough boarding and bearers covering do., for labour, nails, and bearers, only, ...			1	6	0	12	6
9	Tablets for schoolroom, ...			0	6	0	4	6

LAWN HOUSE.

2	Frames and louvre boarding in opes in gables, ...	per		4	6	0	9	0
2	Ventilators formed in ceilings of dormitories, ...	per		2	6	0	5	0
10	Windows hung on centres, with stops, fastenings, &c., ...	per		2	2	1	1	8
2	Ventilators in roof of dormitory over schoolrooms, repairing, slating, &c., ...			15	0	1	10	0
43	Superficial feet sash and glass in school-room and dormitories, ...			1	0	2	3	0
2	Ledged doors and frames (¾) to kitchen and schoolroom, ...			10	0	1	0	0
	Fitting up master's room, including step-ladder, ...			—	—	0	12	6
	To covering privy with rafters (only), and felt, ...			—	—	0	9	0
	To cost of an eighty gallon boiler, including setting, &c., ...			—	—	6	0	0

MATERIALS ON HANDS.

	Hot plate for bakehouse, ...			—	—	8	12	0
157.6	Lineal feet of wrought scantling, six inches square, for posts of drying frames, ...	per		0	8	5	5	0
440	Lineal feet of rails, four and a half inches by two inches, for ditto, ...			0	3	5	10	0
233	Superficial feet of 1½-inch pine, for tube ventilators under platforms, ...			0	3	2	18	3
13	16-feet 11-inch plank, ...	per		5	4	3	9	4
9	20-feet 11-inch ditto, ...	per		6	8	3	0	0
12	12-feet 9-inch ditto, ...	per		3	0	1	16	0
50	Cubic feet of red pine, ...	per ton		65	0	3	11	6
100	Of fire bricks, ...			—	—	0	14	0
1	Piece of ash for barrows, &c., ...			—	—	0	15	0
115	Tons of rubble stone (including walling of well), ...	per		0	11	5	5	5
120	Barrels of lime, ...	per		0	9	4	10	0

MATERIALS ON HANDS— <i>continued.</i>						Rate.		Amount.			Gort Union.
						s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
328	Lineal feet of plank in scaffolds,	.	.	.	per	0	3	4	2	0	
29	Superficial yards of felt,	.	.	.	"	0	9	1	1	9	
20	Superficial feet of zinc,	.	.	.	"	0	6	0	10	0	
76	Superficial feet of punched jamb and arch stones,	.	.	.	"	0	4	1	5	4	
								<u>£52 5 7</u>			

ABSTRACT.

Amount of work executed,	.	.	.	.	£359	2	10
Amount of materials on hands,	.	.	.	.	52	5	7
					<u>£411 8 5</u>		

D. COSGROVE, C.W.

July 1, 1848.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BOURKE, in reply:—*August 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 21st ultimo, of your inquiry relative to the Gort Union; and I am to express the thanks of the Commissioners for your report, which is very satisfactory; at the same time I am to observe, that the Vice-Guardians, in providing temporary buildings, did so to meet a pressure, which would otherwise have required an extension of out-door relief.

Mr. BURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 30, 1848.*

CONSIDERING that the average cost of a patient in the Wexford fever hospital is much higher than the average given in the estimate of any other hospital which comes before me, I declined signing the estimate for April until some explanation was afforded by the Finance Committee, and I herewith forward their observations (marked A). Fearing that the hospital might be inconvenienced for want of funds, I signed the estimate for April, intending when I came here to make further inquiries on the matter. The estimate for May (marked B) was presented to me on Saturday for signature at a meeting of the Guardians which I attended: several members of the Relief Committee, and Mr. Allen, a member of the Finance Committee, being present, they afforded me every information on the subject, and expressed their anxiety, if they could, to lessen the expenditure of the hospital, now about three thousand pounds a year; they stated that it was the charge for stimulants which the medical officer deemed necessary that swelled the average to the large amount it is, and that they felt they could not interfere with the course followed in this respect by the medical officer; they also informed me that Doctor Courtenay had been sent down at one time by the Board of Health, and made a report on the expensive management of this hospital. The Relief Committee on my suggestion furnished the return (marked C), which shows the cost of stimulants for the last seven months to be more than one-third of the entire expenditure for that period.

I would suggest that this matter be referred either to the Board of Health, or to your inspector, Mr. Phelan, to report specially on it, as, being one purely of medical practice, it is not for me to offer an opinion.

ENCLOSURES.

A.

The CLERK of the UNION to Mr. BURKE:—*May 6, 1848.*

THE Board of Guardians of the Wexford Poor Law Union have communicated to the Finance Committee your remarks on the fever estimate for April.

The estimate for that month is at the same rate as those preceding, and the Finance Committee do not think they should ask the Fever Committee to estimate lower. The Finance Committee are aware that the expense per patient is higher than in any hospital they are acquainted with—but the extra expense is in stimulants, viz., wine, spirits, and porter. Those in February cost for 160 patients £108 18s. 8d., equal to 5½d. per patient per day; in March, £68 13s. for 170 patients, 3d. per day. It has been ascertained that the quantity consumed is not greater than what was prescribed by the physicians; and as they state that from some peculiarity in the fever prevalent here, they cannot safely prescribe less, the Finance Committee do not think that either they or the Fever Committee could insist on the physicians altering their prescriptions. All the other articles of food and nourishment do not exceed 4½d. to 5d. each patient per day, but a large outlay has been made for sheeting and other necessaries consequent on the great increase of patients.

If the quantity of stimulants now required is equal to what was necessary in February 1s. per day will be all wanted; if only as in March, a large balance will remain to be deducted from the next estimate, as in the estimate now sent up.

B.

FEVER ESTIMATE.—Wexford Union for month of May, 1848.

The united electoral divisions of Wexford, Lady's Island, Tacumshane, Ross Lane, Moyglass, Kilmore, Kilpatrick, Ardcohen, Rathaspeck, Muhrankin, Barmoud, Taghmon, Killurin.

Hospital Expenses.

	£	s.	d.
Cost of 150 patients at 1s. a day each, exclusive of attendance,	232	10	0
Two head nurses at 25s. each; wages and diet at 25s. each,	5	0	0
Three nurses at 1s. 4d. a day each including diet,	6	4	0
Twenty ward maids at 10d. a day do. do.,	25	16	8
Three washerwomen at 1s. a day do. do.,	4	13	0
Apothecary at 2s. 9d. a day,	4	5	3
Porter at 6s. per week,	1	4	0
Barber at 5s. per week,	1	0	0
Two matrons at 1s. 6d. a day each,	4	13	0
Rent of hospital at £5 per month,	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Eighteen coffins at 5s. each, ...	4	10	0
A man superintending burials at 1s. a day, ...	1	11	0
	£296	6	11
Balance of the estimate for April, ...	85	6	3
Required for May, ...	£211	0	8

Wexford Union.

FRANCIS LE HUNT,

Chairman of Committee of the Temporary Fever Hospital.

We approve of this estimate as corrected, amount £211 0s. 8d.

RICHARD ALLEN, *Chairman.**Finance Committee-room, May 27, 1848.*

C.

A RETURN showing the collective number of days, and the average number of Patients each day in the Wexford Fever Hospital, the total Expenditure of each month, and the Expenditure for Wine and Spirits, for the use of the Patients, from the 1st October to the 30th April, both inclusive :—

Collective number of days.	Average number of Patients each day.	Average number of days for each Patient.	Total Expenditure.	Monthly expenditure for Wine, Spirits, &c.
1847.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
October, . 3,245	105	18	234 13 11	77 12 6
November, 2,492	83	20	166 19 9	65 16 0
December, 2,325	75	22	168 0 11	47 18 6
1848.				
January, . 3,191	103	25	225 10 7½	84 15 0
February, 4,711	162½	28	307 0 0½	108 18 8
March, . 5,118	165	23	289 6 5	68 13 0
April, . 4,719	153½	18	246 0 2½	87 7 9
			£1617 11 10½	£541 1 5

I certify that the above is a correct statement made out from the fever hospital books.

*Wexford, May 27, 1848.*JOHN FURLONG, *Clerk to the Committee.*The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. PHELAN :—*June 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith a report which they have received from Mr. J. Burke, Poor Law Inspector, relating to the alleged excess of charges for stimulants provided for the patients in the Wexford fever hospital; and I am to request that you will be good enough to inquire, and furnish the Commissioners with a report on the subject.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. BURKE :—*June 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 30th ultimo, relating to the alleged excess of charges for stimulants provided for the patients in the Wexford fever hospital; and I am to inform you that Mr. Phelan has been requested to inquire and furnish the Commissioners with a report on the subject.

The enclosure to your report (marked B) is returned herewith.

Mr. PHELAN to the COMMISSIONERS :—*June 13, 1848.*

IN pursuance of your instructions of the 1st instant, I proceeded to Wexford, and on the 5th and 6th I inspected the temporary fever hospital there, on which I have the honour of making the following report :—

I was accompanied through the hospital by Dr. Law, one of the physicians, all whose patients I examined, when I had an opportunity of observing the greater or less intensity of the disease in each case, and the nature and amount of stimuli given to each; I also examined all the patients of Dr. Cardiffe, the other physician, but was not accompanied by him, as he left the hospital before I had completed the examination of his colleague's patients. The hospital was

Wexford Union.

clean, and, so far as a defective construction of the windows admitted, was fairly ventilated, but it was not sufficiently or satisfactorily ventilated.

From the 1st of October, 1847, to the 6th of June, 1,265 patients were admitted into this hospital, and on the first-mentioned day 117 had remained in it from the previous month; in all, 1,376 had been treated in it during that period, and 201 died, making a mortality of $14\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., which is a very high one. This mortality has been nearly equal, in proportion to the admissions and the number under treatment, in each successive month.

When I made the inspection there were 117 patients in the hospital and sheds; 49 of these were males, under Dr. Cardiffe, 68 females, under Dr. Law. About the proportion usually found in other hospitals was in the several stages of fever, or was convalescing, or convalescent; some were marked cases of typhus fever, others were affected with the disease in a milder form, some with it but slightly. I remarked that the severe cases appeared to be more dangerously ill, than a similar number in other hospitals; but whether this was the effect of the gradual progress of fever of a more than usually bad type, or was, to some extent, the result of the early and high stimulation adopted in the treatment, I am unable to state; in fact, it would be a very difficult point to decide, and one upon which I consider that it would be improper for me to give an opinion; although I feel it my duty to advert to the comparatively high stimulation adopted here, as I know that many medical men of eminence are of opinion that, when commenced early and carried far, it becomes a doubtful if not a dangerous practice. As to its effects here, however, I give no opinion, merely contenting myself by stating such circumstances and giving such data as may assist higher authority, if called upon, to give theirs.

I annex a table (A) which shows the number of patients on wine and also whiskey, and that on whiskey only, and the quantity of each given in the last week. It will be perceived that these averages range from 7 oz. of wine in the males to $11\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and from 1 oz. of whiskey, to those who get wine and whiskey, to $3\frac{3}{4}$ oz., whilst, with patients in whiskey only, the range is from $3\frac{3}{4}$ oz. to $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; some also get porter. At the female side, the range of wine is from 7 oz. to 9 oz., and of whiskey to this class 2 oz. to 4 oz., whilst to those who only get whiskey, it ranges from 2 oz. to 4 oz.; some also get porter.

I beg to observe, that some of Dr. Cardiffe's patients are ordered as high as 30 oz. of wine and 12 oz. of whiskey daily, and that there were six on 24 oz. of wine each, two of which had also 12 oz. of whiskey each, and the other four 6 oz. each. Some have as low as 2 oz. of wine, but those on a low quantity were generally convalescents, to whom, in most other hospitals, wine is not given, porter, when not contramedicated, and mild nutritious food being then relied on. With Dr. Law, the amount of wine is not quite so considerable; one of his patients had, on the same day, 20 oz. of wine, two, 15 oz. each, and several 10 oz. and 12 oz., ranging down to 2 oz. In his practice less whiskey is ordered, as will be perceived by the table alluded to.

I find that since the 4th of February to the 4th instant, 1,698 bottles of wine have been supplied to the hospital; the supply being daily, or every other day, ordered by the medical officers, generally by Dr. Cardiffe; 42 gallons of whiskey, 1,402 bottles of porter, and 40 gallons of beer were also supplied. During that period the collective number of days spent by patients in hospital were about 20,000. In most fever hospitals the proportion of the patients on wine rarely exceeds one in six, including the convalescents; in many it is not one in ten; but even if it were one in four in this hospital during that period, there would be an average of $8\frac{1}{4}$ oz. for each patient daily, which is, I believe, far higher than the quantity given in most hospitals, and it is to be observed that this is independent of the whiskey and porter supplied.

At a meeting of the Relief Committee, at which the two medical officers attended, I stated that, after having carefully examined all the patients, and seen the quantity of stimulants ordered, I conceived that the quantity was unusually high; and I also observed, that I felt it my duty to remark that, whilst so much greater expense is there incurred for stimulants, the mortality is also very high compared with that in most hospitals. I stated, that although I made these remarks for the information of the committee and for the consideration of the medical officers, I was not prepared to make any suggestion to them on the subject, having, in fact, no authority to interfere in the practice they considered it necessary to adopt. But I expressed a suspicion, that some of the patients

which I saw, do or could use the quantity of wine and whiskey ordered for them, of which, however, the medical officers appeared to have no doubt. I further observed that, whilst the patients, with few exceptions, were affected similarly to those I usually see in other hospitals, in which far less expense is incurred for stimulants, the mortality in the latter is considerably less; and although I knew that, in a dense population like that of Wexford, cases of fever of a bad type will often occur, a large proportion of the patients are from the rural part of the Union, and therefore, that the mortality most probably did not so much depend on the town cases.

From the foregoing it will be perceived that I incline to the opinion, that the amount of stimuli used in this hospital is very high, and that perhaps it could be reduced without injury to the sick; but I do not think that any instructions to that effect can safely be given to the medical officers, who are of long standing and in respectable practice. I have, however, reason to believe, that they, Dr. Cardiffe especially, are considered to be in the habit of ordering more stimulants than the other practitioners in the district.

But, independent of the cost of stimuli, it appears to me that the expense of this hospital may perhaps be considerably reduced. Its staff is larger than necessary, I think—a point on which I gave the Relief Committee my opinion; besides, the supply of food and the supervision in respect to it are so defective that, possibly, waste takes place to no small extent. On endeavouring to ascertain what diets were given to certain patients, I found to my great surprise that for several months there is no fixed dietary for the hospital. The medical officers, since December last, have directed no particular diets, so understood, for the patients; in a word, there is neither a dietary nor a dietary book in existence. At this the committee was surprised, when I informed them of it; and to show them that such was the case, I had the matrons and head nurses called up, when, on my interrogating them, the following was admitted to be the routine pursued:—

The matrons receive bread, milk, &c., from those who supply them, but they make no entry of the quantities received. They issue them daily to the head nurses, but they make no entry of the quantities they issue. The head nurses call upon the matrons for the several articles of diet, but they give them no written or printed return of the number for which the diets, or the amount of diets, is required. The nurses have no written document from the medical officers, nor from any other person, respecting the diet to be given to the patients, nor to any patient, but these officers give verbal directions on the subject. Those directions however are, as was admitted by both gentlemen, to give the patients such food as they (the nurses) should deem to be fit for them; leaving it optional to the nurse to give more or less of bread, suppose, as she might consider the patient would be able to use; and in this the nurses stated that they would be, and are, much guided by the wishes of the patients themselves. As an instance of this system I beg leave to state, that I found a man on what the nurse called “low” diet, and that, as he was sitting up (as were many others on what was said to be low diet), I asked how much bread he had daily, when I found, after much inquiry, that he had about twenty-four ounces of bread and one quart of milk—not too much, perhaps, but far from being low diet.

I beg to observe that the matrons and those head nurses appear to be persons of integrity; but a system like this cannot be satisfactory—probably not one of sufficient economy, certainly not one by which an hospital should be conducted.

When the committee perceived this want of a fixed dietary, and the irregular and defective mode in which this important portion of the business of the institution was conducted, they inquired of the medical officers why they permitted it, and why they did not, as was understood, act on a fixed dietary, and make the proper entries daily in a dietary book. On this a scene of the most painful nature occurred. The medical officers inculpating each other, not only as to the want of attention to the dietary, but on other points. Dr. Cardiffe stated that having been sent a form of the dietary by the Board of Health, and having modified it, he was informed by that board that he was at liberty to do so, and he stated that under these circumstances he considered that he was doing all that was required of him. As this gentleman has much influence, I have reason to believe, with the committee, and is the person under whose control the hospital is chiefly conducted, I endeavoured to impress upon him that it was incumbent on him and

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on his colleague to adopt *some* dietary, and then to have it acted on, but that they were not at liberty to omit a dietary altogether, as they had done. Dr. Law expressed himself anxious that I would then suggest a form of dietary, and on the committee also appearing to desire it, I was about to do so, when Dr. Cardiffe said he would not adopt one suggested by me—that that which he had got printed was sufficient and might be acted on. I then merely advised that the present system should not be permitted any longer to continue, and that Dr. Cardiffe's dietary, or some other satisfactory one, should be carried out.

As my instructions were only to inquire into the expense of the stimuli ordered in the hospital, with a view to be able to offer an opinion if they were quite necessary, or apparently excessive, I did not deem it proper to go into any inquiry respecting those rumoured abuses; but were the hospital to be permanently under the same system, and under the same medical officers, I should deem it advisable that an inquiry into the past would take place, or a change of medical officers be made—without one or both of which I greatly doubt that the hospital will be managed with that economy and system which are essential to its being satisfactorily conducted.

I feel it but due to Sir Francis Le Hunt, the Chairman of the Committee, to state, that his attention to this institution deserves the greatest praise. He goes through each ward, and exposes himself as if he were one of the officers of the hospital. Other members of the committee are also very attentive; but I have seen no other in the hospital.

I suggested some improvement in the ventilation, which the committee promised to act on; and, as I found some of the wards rather crowded, I advised that a smaller number should be kept in them: also that all chronic cases, whether workhouse paupers, or extern rural patients, be discharged—some of both were then several weeks in the hospital, cases for which the workhouse would be the fitter place.

I should not omit to observe that this is the only fever institution in the Union, some parts of which are at an inconvenient distance from Wexford, to admit of the removal of fever patients from them to it. In one district, that of Taghmon, it was considered desirable to establish a temporary hospital—but some influential parties opposed it, stating it to be unnecessary, and that that at Wexford is sufficiently contiguous and available. I have however good authority for believing that those parties did not speak the sense of the middle, and of several of the respectable classes of the district; in fact, unless I am misinformed, a medical man in Wexford canvassed for the situation of medical officer to it, to be given to his nephew, but, on finding that he would not succeed, he used his influence (which is very considerable) to prevent the establishment of the hospital. I mention this circumstance to show the irregular proceedings which take place, respecting relief of this nature, under the Temporary Fever Act.

P.S.—I herewith return the papers sent.

ENCLOSURE.

TABLE (A.)—MALE PATIENTS.

Day.	Number of Patients on Wine and on Whiskey.	Number on Whiskey only.	Total Number of ounces of Wine ordered.	Total number of ounces of Whiskey ordered.	Average number of ounces of Wine for each.	Average number of ounces of Whiskey for each.	Average number of ounces of Whiskey for those not on Wine.
Wednesday, . . .	14	—	128	26	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
" . . .	—	7	—	30	—	—	4 $\frac{2}{3}$
Thursday, . . .	20	—	151	19	7 $\frac{1}{10}$	1	—
" . . .	—	6	—	24	—	—	4
Friday, . . .	23	—	180	26	8	1 $\frac{3}{5}$	—
" . . .	—	6	—	28	—	—	4 $\frac{1}{3}$
Saturday, . . .	24	—	219	29	9	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
" . . .	—	7	—	34	—	—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sunday, . . .	25	—	232	52	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{12}$	—
" . . .	—	10	—	44	—	—	4 $\frac{2}{3}$
Monday, . . .	21	—	224	56	10 $\frac{2}{3}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
" . . .	—	11	—	42	—	—	3 $\frac{2}{11}$
Tuesday, . . .	20	—	238	68	11 $\frac{4}{10}$	3 $\frac{2}{3}$	—
" . . .	—	10	—	36	—	—	3 $\frac{2}{3}$

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Day.	Number of Patients on Wine and on Whiskey.	Number on Whiskey only.	Total Number of ounces of Wine ordered.	Total number of ounces of Whiskey ordered.	Average number of ounces of Wine for each.	Average number of ounces of Whiskey for each.	Average number of ounces of Whiskey for those not on Wine.
Wednesday, . . .	36	4	261	15	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	—
" . . .	—	1	—	2	—	—	2
Thursday, . . .	28	3	252	12	9	4	—
" . . .	—	1	—	4	—	—	4
Friday, . . .	36	7	265	25	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{7}{8}$	—
" . . .	—	0	—	—	—	—	—
Saturday, . . .	37	5	273	12	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	—
" . . .	—	0	—	—	—	—	—
Sunday, . . .	34	4	246	8	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	—
" . . .	—	2	—	6	—	—	3
Monday, . . .	32	2	227	6	7	3	—
" . . .	1	—	—	2	—	—	2
Tuesday, . . .	37	4	254	11	7	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	—
" . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The COMMISSIONERS to the BOARD OF HEALTH:—*June 23, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to state, for the information of the Board of Health, that Mr. Burke, Poor Law Inspector, having felt some hesitation in countersigning the estimates for the supply of funds for the temporary fever hospital at Wexford, in consequence of the large amount of the items for spiritous liquors, the Commissioners deemed it right to instruct Mr. Phelan to make inquiry on that point, and they have now received a report from him on the subject, of which a copy is enclosed herewith for the information of the Board of Health.

It will be perceived from Mr. Phelan's report, that matters incidentally arose during his inquiry which appear to show that much irregularity exists in the management of the temporary fever hospital; and the Commissioners deem it to be expedient to draw the attention of the Board of Health to the subject.

A copy of the report from Mr. Burke, upon which Mr. Phelan was instructed to make inquiry, is enclosed herewith.

The BOARD OF HEALTH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 14, 1848.*

ADVERTING to your communication of the 23rd ultimo I am directed by the Central Board of Health to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that the board have fully considered those parts of Mr. Phelan's report, of 13th ultimo, which have reference to the administration of wine and other stimulants to the patients in the temporary fever hospital at Wexford.

They have before them the report of their own Inspector, Dr. Freke, of the 22nd June, from which the following is an extract:—

"The enormous sum of £807 19s. 2d. has been expended on wine, spirits, and porter in this hospital since July, 1847, at which time it came under the control of the Central Board of Health. The order book for these articles has been so carelessly and irregularly kept till within the last few months, that it affords no information, which can be relied on, as to the amount ordered for patients during the earlier months. I send herewith an account of the amount furnished, as also of the amount consumed by the patients during the last four months.

"I think it right to observe that Mr. Hughes, the merchant who furnished these articles, is an active member of the hospital committee."

The Board of Health, in order to make the conclusion they have arrived at satisfactory, have obtained returns from other fever hospitals for a period of four months, being the period for which the expenditure is given in Mr. Phelan's and Dr. Freke's reports. From Dr. Freke's report it appears that in the four months of March, April, May, and June there were consumed—1,980 bottles of wine, 58 gallons of whiskey, 1,524 bottles of porter.

Mr. Phelan states in his report that, in addition to the other stimulants, 40 gallons of beer were consumed in four months.

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During the above period of four months, ending the 30th June, the average number of patients in the temporary fever hospital at Wexford was 132.

In Cork-street fever hospital the average number of patients in hospital for the same period, viz., four months, has been 162, and the consumption of stimulants has been—333 bottles of wine; 785 pint bottles of porter; whiskey, none; beer, none.

In Hardwicke fever hospital the average number of patients has been 124, and the consumption of stimulants has been—754 bottles of wine; 1,662 pint bottles of porter; 39 gallons of whiskey; beer, none.

In the Meath hospital (fever wards) the average number of patients has been 29, and the consumption has been—233 bottles of wine; 894 pint bottles of porter; whiskey, none; beer, none.

In the Dublin South Union (Kilmainham) temporary fever hospital the average number of patients has been 229, and the consumption of stimulants has been—1,220 bottles of wine; 2,425 pint bottles of porter; 16 gallons of whiskey; $7\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of brandy.

Reducing the numbers of the patients in these hospitals to equal terms, the relative consumption of wine and other stimulants will be as follows for four months :—

	Wine, Bottles.	Porter, Pint Bottles.	Whiskey, &c., Gallons.
In Cork-street fever hospital, for 100 patients for four months,	205	484	—
* In Hardwicke fever hospital, for 100 patients for four months,	608	1,340	$31\frac{1}{2}$
In Meath hospital, for 100 patients for four months,	803	3,082	—
In South Dublin Union temporary fever hospital, for 100 patients for four months,	532	1,058	10
In Wexford temporary fever hospital, for 100 patients for four months,	1,500	1,154	44

The exhibition of wine and other stimulants is now to be examined in another point of view. It appears from Mr. Phelan's report (vide table A) that there were in the temporary fever hospital in the week ending 13th June 117 patients, of whom sixty-eight were on wine and whiskey; returns have been obtained from the other hospitals referred to for the same week, from which it appears that there were in the same week on stimulants, viz. :—

	Wine and Spirits.
In Cork-street fever hospital of 156 patients,	24
In Hardwicke fever hospital of 124 „	19
In Meath hospital of 26 „	9
In South Union hospital of 139 „	52

On reducing the numbers as before to equal terms, the relative proportions will be—

	Per cent.
Of patients on stimulants in Cork-street fever hospital,	16
„ „ Hardwicke fever hospital,	15
„ „ Meath hospital,	34
„ „ South Union, Dublin,	37
„ „ Temporary fever hospital,	
„ „ Wexford temporary fever hospital,	58

To make this comparison fair, it is necessary to give the average consumption as well as the numbers; it is as follows :—

	Wine. ozs.	Whiskey. ozs.
In Cork-street fever hospital the daily average consumption during the above week for every 100 patients is,	45	—
In Hardwicke fever hospital,	96	19
In Meath hospital (fever wards),	174	—
In South Union, Dublin, temporary fever hospital,	119	4
In Wexford fever hospital,	384	75

* In Hardwicke fever hospital, porter mixed with whiskey, generally in the proportion of one glass of whiskey to a pint of porter, is occasionally administered as a substitute for wine.

It is seen from the above comparisons that both the quantity of wine and spirits consumed, and the proportion of cases in which such stimulants were exhibited, have been excessive in the Wexford fever hospital.

The above observations it is seen refer to the general average expenditure of wine and spirits. The Board of Health would willingly terminate their observations here, but the documents laid before them compel them, reluctantly, to make some observations on the practice pursued in the Wexford fever hospital in reference to individual cases. The Board of Health are well aware how difficult and how obnoxious may be the expression of their opinion on points of practice; and in expressing their dissent from the lavish and injudicious exhibition of wine and spirits at the Wexford fever hospital, they will avail themselves, as already, of a comparison with other hospitals. In Mr. Phelan's report the following passage occurs:—"I beg to observe that some of Dr. Cardiffe's patients are ordered as high as thirty ounces of wine and twelve ounces of whiskey daily, and that there were six on twenty-four ounces of wine each, two of which had also twelve ounces of whiskey each, and the other four six ounces each."

The Board of Health are quite ready to admit that a solitary case of fever may occur, although indeed rarely, in which it is requisite to give stimulants in very considerable quantity for a short period to sustain life, but such cases always form a very small proportion indeed of cases in hospital, and it is impossible to admit that the daily administration to a patient of one bottle and a quarter of wine and three-quarters of a pint of whiskey, could be either requisite or could be even justified. It appears moreover that of forty-nine patients there were six on twenty-four ounces of wine, two of which had also twelve ounces or three-quarters of a pint of whiskey each, and the other four one and a half naggin each. It is impossible to believe that there could be such a proportion as this requiring such an extravagant administration of stimulants. That the Board of Health have sufficient grounds for expressing their decided opinion on a point of practice will be admitted when it appears by the weekly return now before the Board of Health for the month of June, from the four hospitals already referred to for comparison, viz., Cork-street fever hospital, Hardwicke fever hospital, the Meath hospital, and the South Union temporary fever hospital, that of 544 patients under treatment in the month, there was only one case in which twenty-eight ounces, or very little more than one bottle of wine was given within twenty-four hours, and only three cases in which as much as sixteen ounces, or two-thirds of a bottle of wine was allowed in the day; on contrasting this with the disproportionate expenditure in the Wexford temporary fever hospital, the Board of Health cannot hesitate to express their disapprobation of the practice pursued in that hospital.

The following are the tables of mortality for the period of four months from the several hospitals, including the Wexford temporary fever hospital, referred to in this report.

RETURN of Patients admitted in the under-mentioned Hospitals during the Months of March, April, May, and June.

Name of Hospital.	Number admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Number remaining.	Rate per cent of Mortality.
Cork-street fever hospital, ...	971	757	70	144	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kilmainham temporary hospital, ...	1,244	1,064	104	76	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hardwicke fever hospital, ...	961	750	86	125	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meath hospital, ...	177	134	17	26	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wexford temporary fever hospital, ...	855	646	118	91	13 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Board of Health are fully aware that, from the many contingencies* necessary to be taken into the calculation, it is often most difficult to deduce, from tables of comparative mortality, a satisfactory conclusion as to varied mode

* For example, at Cork-street fever hospital it is a rule of the institution, that no patient shall be admitted who has not been previously visited by the extern physician, and certified for as a proper subject for the hospital.*

This rule necessarily excludes the admission of patients whose cases are hopeless; on the other hand, such cases are frequently left by their friends at the gates of other hospitals, and are, as a matter of course, admitted.

* Report on Charitable Institutions of Dublin, ordered by House of Commons to be printed, 1842.

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of practice; but it will, however, be evident from the above tables, that the result of the disproportionately large administration of stimulants in Wexford hospital has not been favourable.

The Board of Health feel themselves also called upon to state, that, from the want of a dietary and from other matters, the whole internal management of the hospital is very defective.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*July 22, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had under consideration your clear and convincing statement respecting the excessive use of wine and spiritous liquors in the Wexford temporary fever hospital.

In regard to the best mode of checking such abuses for the future, the Commissioners are disposed to think that a proper remedy could be provided most effectually by the Board of Health themselves in one of the two following ways, viz., either by their moving his Excellency to determine the appointment of the present medical officer of the Union in charge of the hospital, and to appoint another medical officer for the discharge of the said duties; or by your communicating with the present medical officer, and issuing to him such instructions for his guidance as will lead to an alteration in his present mode of practice in the treatment of fever patients.

Some benefit might also arise by the adoption of another course. If you would be so good as to suggest a dietary for the use of the hospital, with a scale of stimulants in reference to the number of inmates, the Commissioners, acting as Relief Commissioners, might request the Finance Committee and the Relief Committee to accept such dietary and scale of stimulants as the basis of their estimates.

This last expedient would not, however, be so effective or direct as either of the two other alternatives suggested.

THE COMMISSIONERS to the FINANCE COMMITTEE:—*July 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Relief Commissioners to forward herewith, for the information of the Finance Committee of Wexford Union, the substance of a report which the Commissioners have received from the Central Board of Health, relative to the excessive use of wine and spiritous liquors in the Wexford temporary fever hospital; and I am to request that the Finance Committee will be good enough to communicate with the Relief Committee in charge of the hospital on the subject.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Central Board of Health to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, relative to the quantity of stimulants used at the Wexford temporary fever hospital; and in reference to the suggestions offered by the Commissioners I am to state, that the Board of Health have instructed the medical officer in charge of that hospital to send up with each weekly report a list of the patients receiving wine or other stimulants, &c., and they have forwarded to the Guardians forms of dietary for the use of patients in the hospital. Should any additional proceedings be necessary, the board will be prepared to attend to the other suggestion contained in your letter; and meantime they will co-operate with the Guardians in enforcing economy in the management of the hospital.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH to the COMMISSIONERS:—*August 8, 1848.*

ADVERTING to the letter addressed to you on the 14th ultimo, relative to the use of stimulants in the Wexford temporary fever hospital, I am directed by the Central Board of Health to forward to you, for the information of the Commissioners, a copy of a letter which the board have addressed to the chair-

man of the Wexford Relief Committee, and to Dr. Cardiff, the medical officer of the Wexford temporary fever hospital, on that subject. Wexford Union.

ENCLOSURE.

THE Board of Health have before them the reports of the temporary fever hospital at Wexford for the two weeks ending, respectively, 29th July and 5th August. They feel themselves bound to reiterate their opinion, already communicated to the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland in a report (a copy of which is herewith enclosed), that the consumption of stimulants in that hospital is extravagant.

By the return now before them, it appears that the average number of patients in the hospital for the week ended 29th July, was 62
 And the average number of patients receiving wine and whiskey, or both, was 26
 The highest number in hospital on any one day was on Tuesday, 25th ult., when there were 65

Of this number it appears that 27 were taking wine or whiskey, or both, and that on Sunday, the 23rd ultimo, of 63 patients, more than one-half, or 34, were in like manner on wine or whiskey, or both.

In the second week, ending the 5th August, the average number of patients in hospital was 56, and the average number of patients on wine or whiskey, or on both, was 20.

The highest number of patients in hospital, on any one day, was on Tuesday, 1st instant, when 62 patients were in hospital, of whom 22 were on stimulants as above; it also appears, that during the two weeks referred to, one-third of the whole number of patients in hospital were taking wine or whiskey, or both, which is very much beyond the usual proportion of patients in a fever hospital for whom stimulants are found to be necessary. The Board of Health have examined the return from a fever hospital in Dublin, containing for the past week an average number of 110 patients daily, and the number on wine is only 7, or about one-fifteenth of the whole number; whereas in Wexford fever hospital, for the same time, the average number being 56, the average number on wine or whiskey, or both, was 20, or more than one-third of the whole number in hospital.

The Board of Health have now to observe on the quantity of wine administered individually to the patients. They observe that many of the patients, even females, have been ordered daily, for several days in succession, quantities, varying from sixteen ounces of wine and four ounces of whiskey to twenty-eight ounces of wine and six ounces of whiskey.

Giving all the consideration in their power to the matter, and referring to their former report, from which it appears that the mortality in the Wexford temporary fever hospital has been considerably above the ordinary mortality of other fever hospitals, the Board of Health have to express their disapprobation of the practice of administering such quantities of stimulants, and to express their expectation of seeing henceforth a very considerable reduction in their administration.

Swineford Union.

SWINEFORD UNION.

EXTRACT FROM GUARDIANS' MINUTES:—*June 20, 1848.*

Resolved—That we earnestly request the Commissioners will kindly obtain for us a loan to lessen our debt to our contractor for meal, as the pressure on us at present is so serious, and likely to continue so for five weeks. We feel confident that we shall be able to repay this loan by Christmas, with any interest charged upon it, as all over the Union the crops are most flourishing; and we feel satisfied the severe pressure will cease in five weeks from this time; and we request Captain Hanley will lay this case before the Commissioners for us.

Captain HANLEY to the COMMISSIONERS:—*June 28, 1848.*

I YESTERDAY attended the usual meeting of the Board of Guardians; and with regard to the financial affairs of the Union, I suggested the necessity of calling for a statement by advertisement of all outstanding claims, with a view to arranging some mode of adjustment. I was assured of the great anxiety which prevailed on the subject; and that the board was prepared to lay before me a full statement of their liabilities, which I beg to annex.

The contractor for supplying meal having intimated "that with every disposition to afford accommodation to the Union, he would be unable to proceed without a considerable payment on account, the board requested I would lay their case before the Commissioners, trusting for aid, by way of loan, in this great emergency; that a revisor having been appointed, the most expeditious steps would be adopted for arranging the books and striking a rate, sufficient to cover the liabilities of the Union, which would come into operation in harvest, when money is best procurable in this district." I must say, the board evinces the best disposition to do every thing practicable, but without the required aid, I fear we cannot get on. I therefore under all the circumstances beg leave to recommend it to the favourable consideration of the Commissioners.

ENCLOSURE.

LIABILITIES of the Board of Guardians exclusive of any sums due to Government:—

June 27, 1848.

No.	Names of Creditors.	Items.	Amount.
			£ s. d.
1	Messrs. Gallagher, Ballina,	Meal Contractor,	3,763 18 4
2	Do.,	Cheques unpaid,	450 0 0
3	George Horkan,	Milk,	81 4 10½
4	Michael Durkan,	Bread,	45 16 8
5	Do.,	Cheque unpaid,	20 0 0
6	John Kyle,	Groceries, Soap, Candles,	52 7 9
7	Pat Stanton,	Turf,	18 3 10
8	Charles Carroll,	Meat,	11 2 4
9	Michael Cawley,	Groceries,	14 3 10
10	John Mulligan,	Clothing,	37 15 4
11	Anderson, Sligo,	Beer,	14 3 0
12	Messrs. Bryan, Dublin,	Stoves,	17 11 6½
13	Alexander Thom, Dublin,	Books, &c.,	59 12 6
14	Returning Officer,	Election Expenses,	19 3 1
15	Michael Cawley,	Coffins,	13 0 0
16	Rate Collectors,	Poundage,	354 12 0
17	Officers,	Salaries,	187 8 4
18	Sundry small Accounts, (say about)		30 0 0
Total,			5,190 3 5
Cr.—Amount in Treasurer's hands,			£16 18 4 }
Amount sent to the Bank yesterday,			90 12 1 }
Net Amount of Liabilities,			£5,082 13 0

RICHARD KYLE, Clerk of Union.

Colonel VAUGHAN JACKSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*June 28, 1848.*

Swineford Union.

I HAVE been requested by the Swineford Board of Guardians to ask the favour of the Poor Law Commissioners obtaining a loan of £4,000 for the Union, on the security of the rate; and I have been further requested by the Guardians to ask the favour of the Commissioners' attention to the proceedings of the board yesterday, the 27th instant, in reference to this matter.

The Guardians also desire that the Commissioners shall refer to Captain Hanley, Government Inspector, on this subject.

The object of the loan is, to pay Messrs. Gallagher and Co. a debt due them by the Union for meal supplied the poor in the Union.

Messrs. Gallagher and Co. have acted most liberally in their dealings with the Guardians, but the position of the money market makes it most inconvenient to them to have so large a sum owed them in one channel.

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir CHARLES TREVELYAN:—*July 1, 1848.*

THE Commissioners beg leave to bring under the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, an application which has been made by the Board of Guardians of the Swineford Union, to obtain for them a loan to enable them to lessen the debt due to their contractor for meal, who has intimated to the Guardians that he will be unable to continue the supply of meal without a considerable payment on account.

Captain Hanley, the Temporary Inspector of the Union, in a recent communication to the Commissioners states, that he is constantly bringing before the Guardians the state of their finances, and that he is urging the collectors in every possible way to collect the outstanding rates. He further states, that he fears without some assistance much embarrassment to the Union will arise; that the weekly expenditure of the Union is considerable, and must continue so for a short time; that there is a considerable debt owing to the contractors for supplies, and great difficulty experienced in collecting the rate at the present time; but that a new rate has been made, which will come into collection early in the harvest; and that, as no indisposition to pay the rates has appeared in the Swineford Union, he is satisfied, from the prosperous appearance of the crops, the Board of Guardians will be in a position, before Christmas next, to repay the required advance, and meet its other engagements.

The arrears of rate uncollected on the 31st of May last were £6,406, of a rate of £9,319 made in January, 1848, and put in collection at the close of February. The rate was 3s. 1½d. in the pound.

The collection and expenses were as follow:—

	Collections.	Expenses.
March, . . .	£933 . . .	£1,299 . . .
April, . . .	1,042 . . .	1,561 . . .
May, . . .	728 . . .	1,664 . . .
June, . . .	859 . . .	1,664 (about.) . . .
Now making . . .	3,562 . . .	6,188 . . .
Excess of the Expenses for the four months, £2,626		
Debts to the 30th June, . . .		4,453 . . .

The out-door relief in the Union for the week ended the 17th June last cost £467, being about £200 more than the rates collected; and the Commissioners are informed by their Inspector, Mr. R. Bourke, that the destitution in this Union is greatly increased, as evidenced by the numbers on the relief lists.

The Commissioners have now received a communication from the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, in which he states, that the amount which the Guardians are desirous of borrowing is £4,000; and under the circumstances, and looking to the fact that Swineford Union has not participated in the benefits of the British Relief Association, otherwise than in the relief afforded through the public schools, the Commissioners are desirous of placing the application before their lordships, and of recommending it to favourable consideration; at the same time, having regard to the minute of their lordships of the 27th June, the Commissioners consider it probable that if £2,000 be granted to this Union by

Swineford Union. — their lordships, the Guardians may be enabled to borrow the remainder from their treasurer, or some other private source; but unless some aid be given to this Union, the Commissioners would entertain serious apprehension that the destitute poor would not have sufficient means provided for their relief.

Sir CHARLES E. TREVELYAN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 5, 1848*

IN answer to your letter of the 1st instant I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform you, that their lordships cannot comply with the application of the Board of Guardians of the Swineford Union for a loan of £1,000; it being their intention, as stated in their minute dated 27th ultimo, that any assistance which it may be absolutely necessary to give to distressed Unions previously to next harvest should be given in the shape of grants; and it is also to be observed, that the sum of £6,620 is owing to the public by the Swineford Union, on account of advances made under the 10th Vict., c. 7, for which the rates levied after next harvest will be liable.

Their lordships will not, however, refuse their sanction to grants being made to this Union from time to time until next harvest, to the aggregate amount of £2,000, provided it be fully understood that the further sum required for the support of the destitute poor will be raised by the Union.

These and all other grants to distressed Unions will, as directed in the minute of this board, dated the 28th ultimo, be made in meal or other supplies, in every case in which supplies can be furnished from the government depots.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*July 8, 1848.*

ADVERTING to the resolution of the Board of Guardians of the Swineford Union on the 20th ultimo, in which they request the Commissioners to obtain for them a loan to lessen the liabilities of the Union, the Commissioners desire to state, that having regard to the circumstances of the Union they made a representation to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, with a view to obtain some assistance to meet the pressing wants of the Union; and the Commissioners have now received a communication from the Lords of the Treasury, in which their lordships advert to the debt of £6,620 owing to the public by the Union, and state that their lordships will sanction grants being now made to the Union from time to time until next harvest, to the aggregate amount of £2,000, provided that it be fully understood that the further sum required for the support of the destitute poor will be raised by the Union; these advances will be raised in meal or other supplies from the Commissariat Depots: it will, therefore, be necessary that an estimate of the quantity of provision required (to the extent of the £2,000) should be furnished each week to the Temporary Inspector in charge of the Union, through whom all such advances will be made to the Union.

SLIGO UNION.

Sligo Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Sir CHARLES E. TREVELYAN:—*July 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to forward to you herewith an extract from a report received from their Temporary Inspector, Captain Gilbert, on the 14th ult., together with a copy of resolutions of the Board of Guardians of the Sligo Union, on the 13th June and 11th instant, respectively, relative to the present financial state of the Union; and they request that you will be good enough to bring the subject under the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, with a view to this Union being allowed some pecuniary aid under their lordships' minute of the 27th ultimo.

In making this application in behalf of the Sligo Union, the Commissioners desire to state, that they have not resolved to do so without first urging upon the Guardians, through the Temporary Inspector, to procure assistance by loan from the Union treasurer; in which, however, as the Commissioners learn by a letter from Captain Gilbert, dated the 13th ultimo, the Guardians have been unsuccessful.

The rate collected in the present year in this Union has been about three shillings in the pound in nearly all divisions. Other high rates are being prepared, but are considered by the Inspector as available only to a very small extent before harvest.

Looking therefore to the fact, that this Union did not participate in the bounty of the British Relief Association, except in relief to children attending the schools, and the pecuniary difficulties under which the Union is labouring, the Commissioners recommend to the favourable consideration of the Lords of the Treasury, the application now made by the Board of Guardians; and the Commissioners request that their lordships will authorize the Commissioners to assist the electoral divisions referred to in the Guardians' resolution of the 11th instant, to such an extent as the circumstances of those divisions may seem to the Guardians to require.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT FROM CAPTAIN GILBERT TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

THE financial state of the Union requires special notice in this report; and I beg to draw the attention of the Commissioners to it, and request their advice and assistance under the circumstances.

The annexed copy of a resolution was passed at the meeting of the board yesterday. In reference thereto it behoves me to add, that the Guardians are most attentive and zealous in their endeavours to economize in every department, and every exertion has been and is still made to collect every shilling that now remains in the collectors' rate-books; but it is totally impossible to calculate in collecting more than £1,500, from the present outstanding rates; part of this will be obtained with difficulty, as the agents of several of the landlords have refused payment, and others are absent. I have ordered a list of absent landlords and their agents to be made out, which I will forward to you so soon as I receive it.

The Guardians do not make an application for assistance because the Unions in the immediate neighbourhood are obtaining it; but they request the Commissioners to consider the enormous expense they have been put to, in enlarging the accommodation of the house and hiring other auxiliary houses in the town, with the additional salaries of officers attached to these houses—all of which have materially added to the expenses of the Union, and diminished the funds. These steps, though expensive, have been adopted in preference to having recourse to general out-door relief.

The estimates for the year commencing 25th March last have already been made out; and the rates necessary for raising the amount have been struck and forwarded for the approval of the Commissioners.

In the electoral divisions where an instalment of the old rate is only necessary, the collectors might receive orders to commence the collection of such instalment at once; but I do not think it possible, unless from some of the highest ratepayers, that any material sum can be calculated on before harvest; and in electoral divisions where a new rate is struck, it will take at least two months to prepare the books.

Under all these circumstances, I have, at the request of the Guardians specified in their resolution, to submit to the Commissioners the necessity of their affording to the Guardians some pecuniary assistance, to enable them to pay off their liabilities and to meet their weekly expenses, till the rate collectors are able to collect sufficient, on the strength of a new rate, to render such assistance no longer necessary, and to repay any loan the Commissioners may be pleased to appropriate to the service of this Union.

Sligo Union.

RESOLUTION of the GUARDIANS referred to in foregoing extract.

Resolved—That the outstanding debt previous to the 25th March, 1848, amounts to £2,000, and the unpaid cheques posterior to that date to the sum of £4,000 up to the 1st day of June, making the liabilities of the Union to amount to £6,000, to meet which there is only £1,500 of the uncollected rate likely to be collected; and that in fact the Union will require the sum of £7,000, exclusive of the £1,500 to be collected, to carry on the in and out-door relief for the six months, from the 25th March, 1848, to 25th September of the same year. Under these circumstances we request Captain Gilbert to make application to the Commissioners to recommend a loan or grant of that sum, or otherwise a supply of provisions as given to other Unions similarly situated.

(Signed,)

JAMES WOOD, *Chairman*.*Board-room, Sligo, June 13, 1848.*

II.

RESOLUTION of the BOARD of GUARDIANS on the 11th July, 1848.

Resolved—That this board think it but right to represent to the Poor Law Commissioners, that they have since the passing of the poor law used their best endeavours to carry out its provisions; but that from the almost total absence of employment for the able-bodied labourers, the pressure upon the house for relief still continues unabated; that a three-shilling rate is now nearly exhausted, and that they have no hopes of being able to collect any considerable sum until after harvest; that a sum of £3,000 is due their contractor for meal, who is pressing for payment, as well as other liabilities to the amount of £4,000, making a total of £7,000; that in the adjoining Unions in the county of Mayo, large grants have been made in aid of the rates, while in the Sligo Union nothing has been received either in the way of loan or grant; that although there are in this Union several electoral divisions in which the rates collected are adequate to maintain the poor of the division, nevertheless that there are others in which the case is quite different. Under these circumstances the Board of Guardians consider that they have a fair claim for assistance, such as has been afforded to the neighbouring Unions for electoral divisions circumstanced as are the following:—

Ballintogher, balance against, £777,	rate struck, 3s. 4d.,	new rate struck, 7s. 6d
Ballinakill, do. 609,	do. 3s. 4d.,	do. 5s. 0d.
Riverstown, do. 417,	do. 3s. 0d.,	do. 4s. 4d.
Lissadill, do. 318,	do. 3s. 0d.,	do. 4s. 0d.
Ballymote, do. 178,	do. 3s. 2d.,	do. 3s. 2d.
Cliffony, do. 162,	do. 3s. 0d.,	do. 4s. 2d.
Collooney, do. 124,	do. 3s. 0d.,	do. 2s. 6d.
Ballisadare, —	do. 3s. 0d.,	do. 3s. 0d.

The Board of Guardians are desirous of using their best endeavours to carry out the provisions of the poor law; but if it is overburdened with the support of the poor beyond what it is fairly entitled to bear, the rates will become so oppressive that it will be impossible to collect them.

The COMMISSIONERS to Captain GILBERT:—*July 22, 1848.*

WITH reference to your recent report on the subject of the financial condition of the Sligo Union, I am directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith for your information a copy of a communication which the Commissioners have received from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury; and I am to request that you will be so good as to report each week the amount in money which you are able to certify will be requisite to enable the Board of Guardians to provide for affording relief to the destitute poor.

Sir CHARLES TREVELYAN to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 20, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letter dated 15th instant, enclosing an extract from a report of Captain Gilbert respecting the financial state of Sligo Union, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to convey to you their lordships' authority to give such pecuniary aid to the Board of Guardians of the Sligo Union, as may in your opinion be indispensably necessary for the purpose of defraying until harvest the current weekly expense of the maintenance of the poor in the eight electoral divisions referred to in the Guardians' resolution of the 11th instant; but it must be fully understood, that no portion of the grants made to distressed Unions through the medium of the Poor Law Commissioners will, either in this or in any other instance, be employed in discharging the debts of the Union.

BALLINROBE UNION.

Ballinrobe Union.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 13, 1848.*

WE have the honour to state, that we heard by common report that on Sunday the 2nd instant, the Rev. Peter Conway, Roman Catholic curate of this parish, made a statement in the chapel of Ballinrobe to the effect that a lad was ill-treated in the workhouse of this Union, and that in consequence thereof the boy died; with other statements which we were unable to ascertain in such a distinct manner as to warrant our taking notice of it. But on Sunday last, the Rev. John Morris, the respected parish priest of the parish, contradicted from the altar whatever statement Mr. Conway made, and this day brought the matter more immediately under notice by means of a verbal report. We beg therefore to submit the case to you for your especial consideration, and also beg that you will be pleased to direct that Mr. Bourke, Poor Law Inspector of this district, shall make a full and searching inquiry into this very extraordinary matter with the least possible delay, as we feel that any investigation we could institute would not satisfy the parties who have made the allegation. We have also the honour to transmit with this letter a number of the "*Mayo Telegraph*" of the 12th July, containing some allusions to the case in question, headed "Poor Laws in Mayo;" which, independent of the report Mr. Morris had made, would have caused us to make this application to you. We shall not now allude to this subject in the shape of a denial. We leave the matter open to a full and searching inquiry, and the master of the workhouse is prepared to stand or fall by its result.

We have also to report, that in consequence of the unseemly conduct of the Rev. Mr. Conway, and the violence of the mob which attended him to the workhouse this day, a serious riot occurred; and Mr. Cuffe, of Creagh, a magistrate of this county, who happened accidentally to be sitting in the board-room was obliged to issue a requisition for the military to attend. We had a large force of the 13th light dragoons and of the 40th infantry on the spot in a few minutes; and were it not for their appearance and decision we could not answer for the consequences.

We cannot conclude our report without some notice of the attention and assistance we received from Mr. Cuffe, who remained until order was restored, and until we left the workhouse. Mr. Kenny, J.P., also came to our assistance, and tendered his support at once when he received an intimation of the riot.

ENCLOSURE.

NEWSPAPER EXTRACT above referred to.

POOR LAWS IN MAYO.

CARLOW-ISING PAUPERS.—The master of the Ballinrobe workhouse is a man named "Murphy," and from "CARLOW!" Will this Murphy be kind enough to enlighten the public as to the cause of the death of the workhouse-boy from the parish of Mayo? He owes it to his own character to do so; as report says, "the boy was beaten to death, and buried shortly after." We ask the Guardians, was there such a person in the establishment? Is he there now? If he is not, where is he? Was he beaten, and by whom? Did he die of that beating, and was he shortly after privately interred? From what we have heard of this dark deed, we must say the community owes much gratitude to the respected parish priest of the Neale, for his exertions in bringing this circumstance to light. The Guardians, if they would not have themselves considered parties in the transaction, must publicly scrutinize the affair; and if, as the report says, Murphy has beaten the boy, and that he died shortly after, they are bound in justice to the laws of this country, to hand him over to the constituted authorities, who will see that justice shall be done to him. If he be innocent, none will rejoice more than ourselves; but his innocence must be proved by a jury of his countrymen. The life of a Mayo pauper is as valuable in the eye of the law as is that of any Carlow adventurer who comes among us to grow fat and rich on the poverty and leanness of the ratepayers of this county.

LANDLORDISM AND GUARDIANISM.—The abuses in the Union of Ballinrobe are, we understand, awful; and the ratepayers, believing (and justly) that there is no use in expecting redress from the Poor Law Commissioners, have determined on removing the grievance when the new rate is struck, by defending with their lives their property against being mismanaged by a staff of cormorant aliens, who strut about with all the pomp and authority of men of consequence, insulting gentlemen who would not be honoured by having the whole staff employed by them as land-stewards and herds. The independent men of Kilmaine, unlike those of Carra and Murrisk, have sufficient manly spirit in them to resist insolence, and that too with effect. In confirmation of this our opinion of the men of Kil-

Ballinrobe Union. **maine,** we have reason to know that the ratepayers, Protestants and Catholics, have signed an address to that excellent and persevering advocate of the rights of the poor, the Rev. Mr. Conway, R.C.C., thanking him for his exposure of the conduct of the Earl of Lucan, as also of the abuses of the poor law officials in the Ballinrobe Union. They have also determined on informing the Government and the Commissioners of their disapprobation of the mode of administering the relief in the Ballinrobe Union, and their firm resolve to cure the evil by manly resistance. We hope to be able to publish the address of the ratepayers, with Mr. Conway's reply, next week.

INSOLENCE.—We have been told that the inspecting officer of the Ballinrobe Union has had the presumption to ask a highly respectable parish priest to take his oath on a certain subject which that clergyman, in discharge of his duty, had mentioned to him. This is certainly carrying insolence too far. How can the poor starving wretches in Mayo expect credence for their word from this well paid relief inspector when he audaciously asks their parish priest to confirm his statement by swearing on the holy evangelists? What confidence can the public have in the acts of a Government who thrusts such persons into offices to maltreat and starve the poor and insult their only friends, their exemplary pastors? Every act of those fellows tends more and more to widen the already expansive breach which divides the hearts of Irishmen from the British Government.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS :—*July 14, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Commissioners, that a more disgraceful scene I never witnessed than what occurred yesterday at the workhouse, and I trust the authors of it will be brought to justice.

It is necessary to premise, that since the grounds about the workhouse have been laid out in parterres and plots with flowers, &c., as well as a most excellent kitchen-garden in full crop, it has been the practice to place at the outer gate some of the paupers to prevent idle persons coming in and destroying the walks, &c., and more especially on board-days, when numbers of people come from the country looking to be placed on the relief lists. Yesterday there were very few persons at the gate; up to three o'clock P.M. every thing was quiet and in order, when suddenly all matters were reversed. The Rev. Peter Conway, Roman Catholic curate of Ballinrobe, with the Rev. Edward Waldron, parish priest of Kilmolara, came into the board-room in a most excited manner, and without any previous intimation demanded an investigation by the Vice-Guardians. Upon Mr. Fishbourne asking Mr. Conway as to what he wanted said investigation about, Mr. Conway replied, that it had been announced from the altar of the chapel last Sunday by the Rev. Mr. Morris that an investigation would be held at the workhouse this day into the circumstances of a death that occurred in the workhouse some time previously, and to which death and the burial of the boy in the night by the master of the workhouse he, Mr. Conway, had adverted on the Sunday before, and to which death and burial Mr. Morris had given the most unqualified denial that none had taken place.

The Vice-Guardians and myself heard of Mr. Conway's observations from the altar, and we likewise heard that Mr. Morris, the following Sunday, had contradicted Mr. Conway's statement; but there being no foundation for Mr. Conway's report, we gave no heed to the matter. Yesterday a newspaper, published in Castlebar on the 12th inst., was handed to me in the board-room, which the Vice-Guardians have forwarded to the Commissioners, containing a paragraph headed "Poor Laws in Mayo, and Carlow-ising Paupers," and to which I respectfully call the attention of the Commissioners. It is altogether void of truth; no such beating, or death, or burial took place, nor did we—the Vice-Guardians and myself—hear that an investigation was to be held at the workhouse at three o'clock, P.M., on yesterday. Certainly the Rev. Mr. Morris, with Mr. Cuffe, a magistrate of this county, came to the board-room about two o'clock; but they stated the object of their visit to be relative to matters connected with the temporary fever shed of Ballinrobe, having been members of the late committee; and it was not until the arrival of Mr. Conway that the other circumstance was spoken of.

Mr. Conway was accompanied by a large mob of people from the town, who, wishing to force into the gateway, were prevented by the paupers; and it turned out that the master of the workhouse happened to be at the gate when the reverend gentlemen, Messrs. Conway and Waldron, wanted to bring in some persons along with them, and which the master objected to, seeing the riotous state of those attending Mr. Conway. It is reported that the two clergymen assaulted the master, when immediately the riot commenced in earnest: a

general attack upon the house by the mob, stones flying in every direction, and in fact had it not been for the timely aid of the cavalry and infantry, with police, many lives would have been lost—Mr. Cuffe having sent for the force, and was obliged to read the riot act.

Mr. Fishbourne told Mr. Conway that an investigation should be called for by the Vice-Guardians themselves, and that they would request the Commissioners to direct a gentleman to be sent here for that purpose; for although the Vice-Guardians and I might enter into the case, yet we were certain that the result of our inquiries would not answer the purpose of Mr. Conway, who had already stated to the public, as facts, what never existed. Mr. Conway left the board-room in a very excited manner, and we heard nearly paid the penalty of his indiscretion by getting into the midst of the stone-throwing before the military arrived. The excitement continued all the evening in the town, and we were under the necessity of having a police force left at the workhouse for the protection of the property, from the threats held out by the towns-people against the paupers in the house, and every one connected with the establishment. I think it would be a just punishment to stop out-door relief to the able-bodied of Ballinrobe electoral division, for a time at all events; and I have stopped the issued of bread to the school here, as the boys were amongst the most active in stone-throwing.

Ballinrobe Union.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER, in reply:—*July 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 14th instant, reporting the occurrence of a riot at the Ballinrobe Union workhouse on the 13th instant; and I am to state, that the Commissioners approve of the course adopted by the Vice-Guardians in reference to the parties who have joined in the riot, as it cannot be supposed that such parties were really destitute.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. R. BOURKE:—*July 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward to you herewith reports which they have received from the Temporary Poor Law Inspector and Vice-Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union, respectively; and I am to request that you will be so good as to inquire into the facts of the cases therein reported.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 14, 1848.*

WE have the honour to state, that we have received a written communication from Doctor Dempster, Temporary Poor Law Inspector of this Union, calling on us to stop the rations from the paupers receiving relief in the townland and vicinity of Ballinrobe in consequence of the riot which occurred at the workhouse yesterday, and which we had the honour to report to you last night; but we do not feel called upon to take such a rigorous step under the circumstances. However, as many of the rioters can be identified, we intend, with your consent, to stop the rations from any of them who we find are receiving out-door relief. Your early attention to this matter is requested.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*July 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your reports of the 13th and 14th inst., respectively; and I am to inform you that the Commissioners have instructed their Inspector, Mr. R. Bourke, to inquire into the circumstances respecting the case of the boy in the Ballinrobe workhouse, who is alleged to have died from the effects of ill treatment.

With reference to your communication respecting the riot at the workhouse, I am to state that the Commissioners approve of the course adopted by you in reference to the parties who have joined in the riot, as it cannot be supposed that such parties were really destitute.

Ballinrobe Union. EXTRACT from a REPORT from Dr. DEMPSTER, to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 15, 1848.*

REFERRING to my report of occurrences at the workhouse on Thursday last, I beg now to state that on this day the Rev. Mr. Conway had informations sworn before a magistrate against Mr. Murphy, the master of the workhouse, for the murder, as he alleges, of a pauper named Magovern, a child aged seven years. This child was seized suddenly on the 31st of May last, with bronchitis; was taken to hospital, and died same night. Mr. Conway, finding he could make nothing of the first case, reported in the *Telegraph* newspaper—a boy from electoral division of Mayo, aged fourteen years, who enjoys rude health at this moment in the workhouse—now attempts to follow up his original charge of murder by the present. As this will be the subject of judicial inquiry, I shall not further comment on this extraordinary case; however, I cannot refrain from observing, that the Rev. Mr. Conway, by his acts and speeches, is keeping this town in a state of very great excitement. I forward two depositions, the one by David Kelly, the relieving officer of the Ballinrobe electoral division, the other by a person employed in assisting at the distribution of the rations in same division, by which the Commissioners will perceive how the reverend gentleman is conducting himself. I request these two documents may be returned, as they will be required; and I have no copies of them.

ENCLOSURES referred to in foregoing.

GENTLEMEN,

Ballinrobe, June 30, 1848.

HAVING reported to you on last board-day my inability, in consequence of certain parties applying for relief on the days set apart for distribution; I have to say that the person to whom I alluded to in that letter was the Rev. Peter Conway, who wants me to give relief to all who apply to him indiscriminately; and on my refusing, threatened to go at the head of the parish and break open the meal store to get it for them. On his saying this I replied, that I would wish to see him do so, and that I would leave the case before the Vice-Guardians. This threat was used to me twice.

(Signed,) D. KELLY, *Relieving Officer.*

To the Vice-Guardians, Ballinrobe.

County of Mayo, } The deposition of David Kelly, relieving officer of the Ballinrobe
to wit. } electoral division, and Union of Ballinrobe, being duly sworn on the holy evangelists, states that the within statement as to the threats held out by the Rev. Peter Conway, is true.

DAVID KELLY.

Sworn before me, this 30th day of June, 1848,

JAMES DEMPSTER, M.D., *Temporary Poor Law Inspector.*

County of Mayo, } The deposition of Thomas Thompson, of Ballinrobe, in said county,
to wit. } yeoman, who being duly sworn on the holy evangelists, and examined, saith, that he assisted Mr. David Kelly, the relieving officer of the electoral division of Ballinrobe, in the Union of Ballinrobe; and that on many occasions of so assisting said David Kelly, in giving out the meal to the people on the relief lists of said electoral division, he has been interrupted by the Rev. Peter Conway, Roman Catholic curate of the parish of Ballinrobe, who, at the head of a mob of people, came to the stores, and with threats and menaces attempted to prevent him, deponent and his assistants, in giving out the said rations to the people, inasmuch that persons not upon the relief lists or those passed by the Vice-Guardians were brought to the store by the said Conway, who then and there threatened deponent, with those assisting him, if he, said deponent, did not give meal or rations to such persons as he, the said Conway, ordered, he, said Conway, would by force compel deponent to do so. And deponent states, that several times said Conway threatened to break into the stores if the meal was not so given as he ordered.

Deponent further swears, that he attended mass at the chapel of Ballinrobe, on Sunday the 2nd day of July, inst., when the said Rev. Peter Conway spoke from the altar of said chapel, when addressing the congregation—that the Vice-Guardians of the Union of Ballinrobe and the Inspector of said Union should be transported for fourteen years, the thing they were best acquainted with, or words to that effect; and said, that the government of the country was sending down money for the support of the poor of the country, but that the said officials, meaning the aforesaid Guardians and the Inspector, out of every shilling so sent down for the support of the poor as aforesaid, pocketed ten pence, and only gave two pence to the poor; which observations of the said Rev. Peter Conway, as deponent

believes, were calculated to bring the aforesaid officials, meaning the Vice-Guardians and the Inspector, into collision with the mob, over which said Mr. Conway, to deponent, seemed to have complete command. Ballinrobe Union.

THOMAS THOMPSON.

Duly read by deponent before being sworn,

JAMES DEMPSTER, M.D.

Witnessed the above,

Dated, *Ballinrobe, July 15, 1848.*

DAVID KELLY.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 18, 1848.*

WE have the honour to report for your information, that the master of the workhouse was yesterday committed to the county gaol to stand his trial on a charge of murder. We will place the schoolmaster in temporary charge of the house until we hear further from you; and we beg to repeat our anxiety to have the assistance of Mr. Bourke as soon as possible.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS, in reply:—*July 19, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst., reporting that the master of the workhouse of Ballinrobe Union has been committed to gaol to stand his trial on a charge of murder; and I am to express the Commissioners' thanks for your communication.

I am at the same time to state, that Mr. Richard Bourke's address, by the post which leaves Dublin on Friday next, is Ballinrobe; and the Commissioners presume that he may be expected to arrive in Ballinrobe on Friday or Saturday.

The PROTESTANT and ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS of the WORKHOUSE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 18, 1848.*

A SOLEMN sense of the most imperative duty devolves upon us, the chaplains of the Ballinrobe workhouse, to call upon you, the Poor Law Commissioners, in this critical juncture as regards Mr. Murphy, to throw the entire shield of your protection around this injured man.

You will of course be informed by the Vice-Guardians of the circumstances to which we refer, and therefore it is needless for us to enter into particulars; but we desire to record for your further information, that we believe him to be the intended victim, if possible, of as awful a conspiracy as was ever concocted. And most conscientiously believing this, we would be wanting to our sacred calling did we not unequivocally declare it, in our respective official capacities, to you his highest accredited superiors, possessing as you do full power in his behalf.

We write not at the dictation or suggestion of any; and the very fact of our difference in creed may tend to evince our greater unity in making this communication.

But what is the case? A man of unblemished integrity, serving you faithfully, and above all suspicion as to his moral character in the sight of those who are daily observing him, is foully charged with the dreadful crime of murder—is actually incarcerated on that charge, through the most manifest corruption of evidence.

We know that it is scarcely possible, or within the range of possibility, that he could be found guilty; but we respectfully tell you that as no efforts of any kind will be left untried to accomplish this horrid purpose, it is your bounden duty in the sight of God and man, not alone to vindicate the righteous cause of your aggrieved servant, but for the public weal never to rest until you are successfully instrumental in bringing to justice the instigators and abettors of such daring iniquity.

Bear in mind, gentlemen, that the aversion to the whole poor law system has taken such hold of the people of all classes (in this district at all events), that almost every man's judgment is valueless except for opposition; and that this feeling has been so excited as to have been already made to bear with unjustifiable severity upon this poor man, and may eventuate in very frightful consequences indeed.

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What then may not be said, if you do not boldly and unhesitatingly come forward in Mr. Murphy's defence, and place at his disposal the most ample means thereto?

Is it to be expected that so humble an individual, with his pittance of salary, in a strange country, away from friends, can be able (except it be indeed on the platform of his own innocence), to take his stand against a combined array of envenomed accusers, all contributing unsparingly to his persecution and to his prosecution too?

God forbid that we should seek to screen him if guilty; but being so thoroughly persuaded of the contrary, nay of the malice of his enemies, we cannot too strongly express this our conviction of his innocence, nor yet find language at all adequate to set forth our abhorrence of their conduct.

Hence we appeal to you gentlemen, and through you to the Government of the country, for Mr. Murphy's full protection.

We again respectfully demand for him at your hands, at any cost, the most prompt and able advocacy that can be had; and that you will not fail to follow up most strenuously the vindication of his innocence, as he does and will undoubtedly deserve.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CHAPLAINS of the WORKHOUSE, in reply:—*July 19, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, relating to the committal of the master of the workhouse of Ballinrobe Union on a charge of murder.

In reply I am to state, that the Commissioners have instructed their Inspector, Mr. Bourke, to make a searching inquiry on oath into the circumstances of the death of the children of the workhouse, who, as it is alleged, were murdered by the master.

When the Commissioners receive a copy of the evidence, they will be in a position to take such steps in reference to the master as the laws of the land will permit, and the circumstances of the case will seem to require.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. R. BOURKE:—*July 20, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith a communication which they have received from the chaplains of the workhouse of Ballinrobe Union, relating to a charge of wilful murder preferred against the master of the workhouse. I am also to forward a copy of the Commissioners' reply.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 18, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state for the information of the Commissioners, that on Monday night very great excitement existed in this town in consequence of a report that a man had escaped from the workhouse, where the officers were attempting to murder him.

I was in my office about half-past eight o'clock, when a terrible uproar was in the street, and instantly a thundering knock was made at my hall-door, which being answered by the servant, it was announced that the Rev. Mr. Conway was at the head of a mob, and wanted to see me. I went to the door and found Mr. Conway, accompanied by Mr. Martyn, the magistrate, who took the informations against Mr. Murphy, the master of the workhouse. Mr. Conway was leaning upon a pauper, whose face was covered with blood. Mr. Conway called to me to look at the man, whom he stated had been rescued from the murderers in the workhouse. This he said as if to me, although addressed to the mob which followed him. I requested Mr. Martyn and Mr. Conway to walk in, and to bring the man along with them, so that we might examine into the matter. I asked Mr. Martyn to investigate the case, but he wished that I should do so. I did so, and so villanous a case of conspiracy never was exposed.

The man, named Martin Casey, had entered the workhouse on Saturday last; that he attempted to leave it on Monday afternoon by scaling the walls; he had got a new shirt belonging to the Union with which he was making off; he was detected by some of the paupers and brought back before he got over the boun-

dary wall, and was put into the refractory cell by order of the schoolmistress—no other person in authority being at the time in the house, all others being ordered to the court-house to give evidence before the bench of magistrates. Ballinrobe Union.

Whilst in the refractory cell, which he called the black-hole, he stated that a man from outside threw a stone at him through the window of the black-hole, which, striking him on the head, severely injured him and cut and blooded him; this I made Casey repeat circumstantially several times—Mr. Martyn, J.P., acting as interpreter. When I got this matter out I saw at once it was altogether a made up case of subornation, for, as the Commissioners, by referring to the plans of the workhouses, will see that there is no window in these refractory cells, only a slit for air and light, but so made that no one from outside can see into the cell, nor by any possibility throw a stone into it.

On the arrival of the assistant master and porter, &c., from the court-house in Ballinrobe, Casey was liberated, and again made an attempt to get away, in which he succeeded, and came to Mr. Conway, who made out the case and brought the man before Mr. Martyn, as a magistrate. I saw that there was no blood on the shirt collar of Casey, nor any on his coat when he was brought into my office; and being suspicious of the case altogether I thought he was not injured at all, and having heard him say it was in the black-hole he got the blow from the stone confirmed me that I was correct. I had his head examined in presence of Mr. Martyn, by a medical officer of the army who came into my office, who washed off the blood; and there was not even an abrasion of the skin—no wound—no cut or mark even—the man's face had been smeared with blood for effect before the mob.

It was arranged that Mr. Martyn should attend at the workhouse this day at ten o'clock, there more fully to examine into this case; and I said I would get Mr. Arabin, the resident magistrate also, and the Vice-Guardians to be there. I was punctual to time. Mr. Arabin was there; examined the black-hole; saw the impossibility of any stone being thrown through the slit: the Guardians also came. At twelve o'clock I received the accompanying letter from Mr. Martyn, from which the Commissioners will draw their own conclusion. Neither Mr. Conway nor Casey made their appearance, nor has that reverend gentleman made any further stir in this matter; he sees he has gone too far in it, as he was told in my office by Mr. Martyn last night.

Mr. Murphy has been removed to Castlebar gaol for trial at the ensuing assizes. It is not for me to comment on his case, but I must say, that the magistrates would not have retarded the cause of justice in the least if they had waited for the investigation called for by the Vice-Guardians; from which no doubt whatever exists by those who are unprejudiced, that the master must be triumphantly acquitted of those foul charges advanced against him.

I have now been nine months in constant, I may say daily contact with him, and a better public officer I do not know. When it is borne in mind of what materials the congregated paupers in a workhouse are composed, it requires a man of decision and firmness to deal with such a body; and Mr. Murphy had these qualifications. I never saw more sorrow and regret than was exhibited by every inmate in the establishment at the committal of the master; that he was a humane man the punishment-book of the house plainly points out. He will be a great loss to this Union. However, I trust he soon will be liberated, and that those who thus endeavour to injure him, will receive the just punishment of their misconduct.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. MARTYN to Dr. DEMPSTER :—*July 18, 1848.*

THE case of Martin Casey, who you examined in my presence on last evening, seems to me so very unimportant that I believe it useless for me to repair to the poorhouse at 10 o'clock this morning as you requested.

His confinement in the black-hole, of which he complained, was justified; as by his own admission he got over the wall of the yard of the poorhouse and was found in a field of potatoes on the other side.

As to the assault which he stated was made upon him during his confinement in the black-hole, he declared that he could not see or did not know the person who committed it.

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The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 19, 1848.*

WE had the honour yesterday to report that the master of the poor-house had been committed on a charge of murder, but we were then prevented giving you a detailed account of the extraordinary circumstances that have occurred subsequent to the riot reported in our letter of the 14th instant, having been called upon to attend at the poorhouse at ten o'clock to meet the Rev. Mr. Conway, to investigate a charge of violent assault said to have been committed on an inmate of the house. Accompanied by Doctor Dempster and Mr. Arabin, R.M., we attended accordingly, and waited two hours without seeing any thing of the reverend gentleman, or hearing any thing further of the matter. The circumstances of the case, as stated to us by Doctor Dempster, are as follows:—"At a late hour on Monday evening, Mr. Conway, accompanied by Geoffrey Martyn, Esq., a magistrate for this county, called at Doctor Dempster's house, leading a man whose head and face were covered with blood, as if from the effect of a wound; Mr. Conway saying, in presence of a large concourse of persons who had followed him—'here is another instance of the murderous system of the poorhouse!' Doctor Dempster brought the two gentlemen and the man into his office, where the latter deposed to his having been in the poorhouse and to his having been placed in the refractory cell; and whilst confined there that he had been cut in the head by a stone thrown through the window. There not being a window to the cell naturally excited suspicion, when Doctor Dempster, jun. assistant-surgeon, 33rd regiment, being present, washed the man's head and face, which he and Mr. Martyn immediately examined, without being able to find even a scratch or any other mark of violence upon him. The case was one evidently got up to still further excite the populace of this town, who, since Thursday last, have been kept in a very agitated state. Mr. Martyn has since written to say he considers the case so unimportant, he does not intend to make any further investigation; but we trust, that under the present circumstances, you and the Government will think it highly important to have it thoroughly sifted, and the guilty punished."

During the riot on Thursday last, a person named M'Cue, a recipient of outdoor relief, attempted to force his way to the poorhouse, and resisted the master, who endeavoured to prevent him. M'Cue summoned the master before the petty sessions on Monday last, where a number of magistrates attended—some from distant parts of the county (one, for instance, from Westport). The assault was sworn to, and the majority of the bench agreed to fine the master £1 and £1 costs, to be paid to the prosecutor. It was urged on the defence, that by the general orders of the Commissioners, no person except those therein authorized could enter the poorhouse premises without permission of the master, or by order of the board; but we understand it was announced by some magistrates, they did not consider your orders of any force, with many other expressions of hostility to the poor laws; and said by the law of the land they would decide. If this decision is allowed to stand, it will be quite impossible that the poorhouse can be properly conducted, or that we can hold our boards free from the interruption of all who may choose to come there. We would therefore respectfully urge upon you the necessity of having your own authority vindicated in this matter, and the verdict of an improper one set aside.

We shall not further remark upon the charge of murder against the master. Mr. Burke, on his arrival can fully investigate that matter; but we feel ourselves imperatively called upon, from the hostility to the poor laws, and all concerned in their administration—which is not even attempted to be disguised by any class in this county—to state our conviction, that every effort is being made, by subscription and otherwise, if possible, to prosecute the master to conviction; and that his previous conduct fully entitles him to your protection and support.

We have thought it necessary to go fully into detail of the circumstances of those cases in order to lay the matter fully before you; and trust that you will consider them of such importance as to warrant our writing at such length.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*July 20, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, copies of reports which the Commissioners have this day received from the workhouse and the Vice-Guardians of

the Ballinrobe Union, relating to the alleged ill treatment of an inmate of the workhouse of that Union; and I am to state that the Commissioners are desirous that the particular attention of His Excellency should be requested to these reports.

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The Rev. JAMES ANDERSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 20, 1848.*

I SEND herewith copies of testimonials of character given to Mr. Murphy on his retirement from the Carlow workhouse, and on his appointment here, by the Roman Catholic chaplain of the Carlow workhouse, and the Roman Catholic bishop in that country.

I send these testimonials (which I got almost accidentally yesterday lying at the workhouse here mixed up with other papers of no great consequence) as a corroboration of the testimony in his favour signed by the Rev. John Morris, P.P., Roman Catholic chaplain here, and myself, the Protestant chaplain.

As Mr. Morris has been from home these two days, and has not yet returned, I cannot obtain his signature to this communication, but you may consider it as virtually signed by him, for both he and I entertain the highest opinion of Mr. Murphy, and the utmost abhorrence of the malignant conduct now being pursued towards him.

It is to be hoped that you will be true to your aggrieved and faithful servant, and indeed by doing so, you will be but upholding your own respectability.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. MURPHY, now master of the Ballinrobe workhouse, I know intimately; he had been teacher in the Carlow workhouse school, from the opening of that institution up to the day of his appointment to Ballinrobe. To Mr. Murphy is due the highest credit for the manner in which he discharged his duties as teacher in our workhouse school. His intense anxiety for the improvement of the poor children under his care, formed the subject of conversation and the theme of praise with every one connected with the workhouse; and surely the progress made by the children in acquiring a fair English education, affords to all evidence the most conclusive, that he possesses knowledge, good sense, and a practical love of habits of industry and perseverance so requisite to give efficiency to his wishes. I regret the services of such a man are now lost to our house. As to Mr. Murphy's moral character I speak the sentiments of all here, when stating it is excellent; and though Mr. Murphy is a Protestant, it is my duty and delight to declare he was ever equally kind to Catholics, as to those who profess his own religious creed. He is possessed of too much good sense to make odious distinctions on the mere score of religion. In a word, Mr. Murphy is a man in whom may be placed confidence unlimited for kindness of heart, good sense, impartiality, and probity. What I have expressed in the above few lines, convey to the mind of the reader only a faint idea of what I believe to be Mr. Murphy's real worth and deserts.

W. JOYCE, *R.C. Chaplain of Carlow Workhouse.*

September 19, 1847.

MEMORANDUM.—The above was sent to Mr. Murphy by post to Ballinrobe by Mr. Joyce from Carlow, Mr. Murphy having been at Ballinrobe from the 26th August, 1847.

Mr. Murphy has been teacher in the Carlow Union workhouse since that institution has been put in operation; and I feel it is due to him to state, that he has conducted himself very much to my satisfaction.

I have never in a single instance found that he made any attempt to interfere with the religious principles of the Catholic children, and an attempt of that kind could not be made without coming to my knowledge.

✠ F. HALY, *R.C. Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.*

Dated at Carlow this 24th day of August, 1847.

The COMMISSIONERS to the Rev. J. ANDERSON in reply:—*July 22, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, relating to Mr. Murphy, master of the workhouse of the Ballinrobe Union; and I am to state in reply, that the documents forwarded by you are satisfactory, as showing the estimation in which Mr. Murphy was held, previously to his appointment as master of the Ballinrobe workhouse.

Mr. R. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 22, 1848.*

WITH reference to your letters of the 15th and 20th instant, directing me to inquire into the facts of the cases reported in certain communications ad-

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dressed to you by the Temporary Poor Law Inspector and the Vice-Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union, and enclosing a letter from the two chaplains of the workhouse on the same subject, together with a copy of your reply, wherein you state that I have been instructed to make a searching inquiry upon oath into the circumstances of the death of the children, who it is alleged were murdered by the master; I have now the honour to inform you, that on my arrival here this day I had an interview with the chairman of the Vice-Guardians, the Temporary Poor Law Inspector, and the resident magistrate, and that in consequence of the information obtained from them, I have determined to postpone holding any formal inquiry until I shall receive your further instructions.

It appears that on Thursday the 13th instant a large concourse of people, led or accompanied by a Roman Catholic curate named Conway, and a parish priest named Waldron, appeared at the workhouse gate demanding admission. This was refused in consequence of their numbers and the violence they displayed; and after several efforts had been made by the people to force an entrance, and by the clergymen to procure it for them, the master opposed force to force, and a riot ensued, the particulars of which have already been made known to you.

It appears that the assemblage of people at the workhouse originated in a belief, that an investigation would be held there on that day into certain accusations against the master of the workhouse for violence towards the inmates, resulting in murder, which were made by Mr. Conway to his congregation on Sunday the 2nd instant, and contradicted on the following Sunday by the Rev. Mr. Morris, the parish priest. It further appears that Mr. Conway and Mr. Waldron entertained this opinion, for they stated it in the board-room.

The riot was with difficulty quelled at the workhouse, and the rioters were pursued by the troops into the town; but no further proceedings appear to have been taken by Mr. Conway or Mr. Waldron until Saturday the 15th, when informations having been sworn against the master of the workhouse for the wilful murder of a boy at the time an inmate, he was apprehended and (after considerable opposition on the part of the magistrate who received the information) allowed to give bail for his appearance at the ensuing petty sessions. On the Monday following the case was heard, and terminated by the committal of the master to take his trial at the approaching assizes of Castlebar; and he is now a prisoner in the county gaol.

In this posture of affairs it appears to me impossible that I could effectively conduct any inquiry into the charges against the master, or into the circumstances of the riot; and as the truth will probably be made known when the judicial inquiry shall take place, it appears to me to be right to postpone any proceedings until after the trial, which must come on within a fortnight; besides, any interference upon my part at present might be open to misconstruction. If you should not agree with me in this opinion, I shall be ready to proceed in any manner you may direct.

I purposely abstain from comments upon the conduct of the Rev. Mr. Conway during the whole of these transactions, or upon the decision of the justices, as to admitting Mr. Murphy to bail. The latter has been brought specially under the notice of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, by a report from the resident magistrate, Mr. Arabin; and I trust that after the trial is over means may be taken to prevent the repetition of such violence and outrage, as that enacted here on the 13th, through the instrumentality of Mr. Conway. But I may be allowed to state, that it is clear beyond all doubt that Mr. Murphy is the object of a very foul conspiracy; and I hope that you will not deem it improper to assist him in procuring such advice and evidence in his defence as may place his conduct and character in its true light before a jury, to which perhaps his case may be brought. I return the enclosures to your letters.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. R. BOURKE in reply:—*July 25, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd instant, relative to the proposed inquiry into the conduct of the master of the workhouse of Ballinrobe Union; and I am to state, that under all the circumstances of the case the Commissioners approve of your not holding the inquiry adverted to in the Commissioners' instructions of the 18th and 20th instant.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 22, 1848.*

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It occurs to us that it may have been reported to his department by Captain Bindon, R.N., sub-inspector of police in this town, that the Vice-Guardians refused to give him an account of how the riot commenced at the workhouse on the 13th instant; and as reference may be made to you on the subject, we think it necessary that you shall be informed of what passed between Captain Bindon and us on that occasion. When the requisition for the attendance of the police and military was given by James Cuffe, Esq., J.P., Captain Bindon was absent from the town attending the inquest on the body of the child, John Philbin, who died in the electoral division of Ballinrobe, on which case we have had the honour to report. Upon his arrival at the workhouse after the rioters had been dispersed, he entered the board-room and required to be informed what had taken place, why the military and police had been called on, and how the riot began? We told him that we did not see the commencement, and could not therefore inform him, but that he could hear it from others, and that the military and police were there by the orders of Mr. Cuffe. Whilst in the board-room he said he spoke officially, and that if we did not give him a report in writing he would report us. We told him it was out of our power to do so as we were at the time engaged at the board-room table examining the application books, and did not see how it began. He repeated that he would report us, to which we replied he might do so if he thought proper; that we would not presume to dictate to him as to what course he thought proper to pursue, and that he must allow us to judge and act for ourselves. Next morning he wrote the note, a copy of which we forward together with the answer thereto.

ENCLOSURE in the foregoing.

Captain BINDON to Mr. FISHBOURNE:—*July 14, 1848.*

As I cannot get a correct account which caused the tumultuous meeting yesterday at the poorhouse, permit me to beg you will oblige me with the particulars, and state if there was any threatening language made use of at the board-room against any of the members.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*July 14, 1848.*

In reply to your note I have to state that all matters were as usual proceeding with regularity at the workhouse yesterday, until the arrival of the Rev. Messrs. Conway and Waldron, accompanied by a number of persons, who after a little time commenced an attack on the master and inmates of the house, with the intention it is supposed of forcing their way to the board-room, and committing other violence. Being, as I told you yesterday, engaged in the board-room I cannot state how the riot commenced; of its serious character in the intention of those concerned there can be no doubt. I am not aware that any threat was made in the board-room against any person.

The COMMISSIONERS to Colonel M'GREGOR, Inspector-General of the Constabulary in Ireland:—*August 1, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to forward herewith for your information a copy of correspondence which has taken place between the Vice-Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union and Captain Bindon, sub-inspector of police, together with a copy of some observations made by Mr. R. Bourke, Poor Law Inspector, thereon.

OBSERVATIONS referred to in the foregoing Letter.

The Sub-Inspector of Police appears to have acted very improperly on this occasion. He is reported to have said to the master, on his first arrival, "What have you and your pampered paupers been doing now?" and to have conducted himself throughout the affair in a very disagreeable manner towards the Vice-Guardians. He was absent at an inquest when the riot commenced. He attends upon all such occasions, and almost invariably sends up a report to the effect that the party died of starvation. I do not know whether it is the duty of Sub-Inspectors to attend at all inquests, but I think that, being Government officers, they should give their assistance zealously and in earnest to a system like the poor laws, instead of offering it direct opposition.

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Mr. R. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 25, 1848.*

As I have received no further instructions from you by this day's post in reply to my report of the 22nd, I conclude that you approve of my intention of deferring any inquiry into the charges against the master of the Ballinrobe workhouse, until his approaching trial shall have taken place, and I therefore propose to visit Tuam to-morrow, as announced in my weekly report.

The parties concerned in this conspiracy have not been idle since the committal of Mr. Murphy. I informed you in my letter of the 22nd that they had procured a second set of informations, charging him with the murder of a girl named Peggy Thornton; and since then I have learned that a third set have been prepared and transmitted to the Crown Office, charging him with certain aggravated assaults. I have not as yet seen copies of these latter informations; but it is manifest that they have been prepared to obtain a conviction for an assault in the event of the murder or homicide charges falling to the ground, as no count for an assault could have been added to the first indictment for murder or homicide; and if acquitted on the capital charge, he could not have been tried under the same informations for the minor one. Besides this, summonses were taken out against four or five inmates of the workhouse for assault in refusing admission to the mob on the 13th instant, and they have been committed to take their trial at the assizes.

In this last proceeding the parties who are carrying on this conspiracy have quite overshot their mark. They could have obtained any conviction before the magistrates at petty sessions; but by returning the case to the assizes, they have given the Vice-Guardians an opportunity of examining the ringleaders of the riot, and the principal actors in the proceedings—the Rev. Mr. Conway and Rev. Mr. Waldron; and I have no doubt they will thus be enabled to bring out the whole truth. Subscriptions have been collected through the town for defraying the expenses of their numerous prosecutions.

The ill feeling among the townspeople towards Mr. Murphy is, as I really believe, attributable altogether to his being an honest man, who has refused to connive at their frauds in giving bad supplies to the workhouse. It has been also, in some measure, caused by the Vice-Guardians having taken contracts for clothing from Dublin houses, where they procured better articles for fifty per cent. less money than here. But chiefly this disturbance has been caused by Mr. Conway, who is irritated at the complete failure of his charges against Mr. Arabin, relieving officer for Partry, and has expressed himself in the most open and violent manner in reference to the present proceedings.

I have seen and consulted with the attorney who is conducting Mr. Murphy's defence. There appears abundant evidence to contradict all the graver charges against him, even if the grand jury should find bills, which I doubt. And I think that enough has already come out to warrant an indictment for conspiracy against the Rev. Mr. Conway, and an action against the magistrates for false imprisonment. Their conduct throughout has been marked by strong feeling against the administrators of the poor laws; and their language and manner have reflected great discredit on the whole bench.

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. R. BOURKE in reply:—*July 29, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 25th inst.; and as regards the charges against the master of the workhouse I am to state, that the Commissioners addressed to you a letter on the 25th inst., which will have made you aware of the course which the Commissioners suggest in reference thereto.

As regards the indictment of any parties for a conspiracy against the master, the Commissioners are of opinion that the point is well worthy of consideration; but it will perhaps be found advisable to await the result of the indictment of the master for murder at the approaching assizes, before any definite steps are taken in reference to the Rev. Mr. Conway and the Rev. Mr. Waldron.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*August 3, 1848.*

WE have the honour to state that we attended yesterday at the assizes at Castlebar to be present at the trial of the master of the workhouse, and we have the satisfaction to be able to state, for your information, that

the two bills of indictment against him for murder were ignored by the grand jury; and further that the foreman, Sir Robert L. Blosse, stated in open court "that he was directed by the grand jury to say that they thought it was a foul conspiracy, and that it was their opinion that the witnesses for the prosecution were all perjured."

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The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS in reply:—*August 4, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, reporting that the bills of indictment against the master of the workhouse of Ballinrobe Union had been ignored by the grand jury; and in reference thereto I am to state, that the Commissioners felt no apprehension for the result of the case; but regret that the master of the workhouse should have suffered imprisonment on charges now proved to be entirely false, and which were made under circumstances that, viewed dispassionately, might at least be considered to warrant his being admitted to bail at the time.

I am at the same time to request that you will be good enough to furnish the Commissioners with a specific report of the original investigation before the magistrates, giving the names of those who attended, and if they were not unanimous, distinguishing those who were for the committal of the master; also (in any case) the names of those who signed the informations and the committal.

It is also desirable to have copies of the informations, and to know the names, rank, or avocation of the persons who took a leading part in requiring the informations to be taken.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*July 31, 1848.*

WE have to report for your information that the only lodgment made during the past week was £30, per Mr. Brannick. Mr. Walsh, we believe, is really exerting himself to get rates, and we have served Mr. Fair with notice, as you may have perceived from our minutes.

Our numbers on the out-door relief lists have increased, but we intend to strike many of the able-bodied single men and women off the lists, so that we hope our next report will show a considerable decrease in the number of destitute relieved under section two. We anticipate much difficulty, and not a little obloquy, in carrying this into effect; but with the assistance of the relieving officers, and the local knowledge they will be able to bring to bear on the subject, we hope to do so safely and without hazard, exercising due caution at first.

Here we take leave to say, that we have not received that co-operation and assistance, in our administration of the out-door relief, from the landowners and ratepayers of this Union which we confess we did expect we should have received, and which it was manifestly so much to their advantage to afford; this we must attribute in a great measure to the belief, that repayment of the advances made so liberally, and with such an unsparing hand, by the British Association and her Majesty's Government, would not be required; consequently they (the landowners) had no direct interest in keeping down taxation; but, on the contrary, had a direct interest in putting money in the shape of food into the pockets of their tenantry, who would otherwise be obliged to pledge the crops the landlords had in view for the rent, to obtain a subsistence; hence arose the anxiety to evade the law, and to place the numbers which appear so overwhelming on the relief lists. We are anxious to place this before you, at the turn of the tide, as some justification for the expenditure of the enormous sums of public money through our instrumentality.

Mr. Bourke has directed our attention to the subject of increased workhouse accommodation—a subject which, independent of his remarks, had been under our consideration, and we intended to have recommended you to authorize some such measure. We shall now, fortified by his concurrence, endeavour to carry out the scheme, convinced as we are that in an Union professedly so destitute sufficient workhouse accommodation was not provided. Mr. Bourke also alluded to the erection of an oven in the workhouse as a measure of economy; and we intend to communicate with Mr. Wilkinson on the subject, who, no doubt, will be able to point out from the plan of the workhouse, we suppose within his reach, where we can erect it with the least possible inconvenience and expense.

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We have the honour to send herewith a letter received from Lieutenant Stokes, which accounts for the seeming extravagance of our outlay for the past week; and we have to report, that independent of the order for £63, which we returned on Sunday morning, a balance remained due to us at the Commissariat Office here, on closing the accounts, of £32 9s. 10d., which, as a matter of course, he has reported to the head of his department.

We beg to add that our views as to the continuance of out-door relief in this Union to the able-bodied, shall be made the subject of a distinct report.

ENCLOSURES.

I.

Lieutenant STOKES to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*July 27, 1848.*

I BEG to inform you that as it is intended to exhaust the stores of this depot by the orders for provisions signed by Sir R. I. Routh, my future issues must include a proportionable quantity of each of the following articles as far as their extent will admit, viz., Indian meal, biscuit, and rice; and that I shall be unable to deviate from this course, in order to fulfil the instructions I have received.

The provisions and their value available to meet your demands for the present week will be as follow:—

	£	s.	d.	tons.	cwts.	qrs.	£	£	s.	d.
Biscuit, . . .	239	6	0	19	19	0	at 12	238	18	0
Indian meal, . .	184	16	8	20	10	0	at 9	184	9	8
Rice, . . .	118	0	0	7	2	2	at 17	124	2	6
	£542 2 8							£547 10 2		

A balance of thirty pounds remains to your credit from the provision order of last week.

II.

Relieving Officer's return of Destitute Persons relieved out of the Workhouse, week ending July 29, 1848.

Electoral Divisions.	Destitute Persons relieved out of Workhouse 10th Vic. Section 1.		Destitute Persons relieved out of Workhouse, not comprised in Section 1.		Total relieved out of Workhouse.		Cost of Relief for July 22, 1848.		Number of Persons ordered Relief up to last week.	Number of Persons put on this week.	Total of Columns 6 and 10.	Number of Persons for whom Relief was not ordered.	Number of Persons sent to Workhouse by order of Vice-Guardians.	Total No. of Applicants on Relieving Officer's books for this week.	Number of Cases of Provisional Relief.	Meal issued for next week, ending 5th Aug.
	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.								
Ballinrobe,	253	827	1,473	4,291	1,726	5,118	—	136 0 0	5,118	144	5,262	142	18	304	19	280 0
Partry, . .	180	410	924	1,984	1,104	2,394	—	—	2,394	163	2,557	7	—	170	3	130 0
Ballaholla,	71	191	243	657	314	848	—	21 2 73	848	—	848	—	—	—	—	50 0
Ross, . . .	283	661	879	2,612	1,162	3,273	—	81 3 44	3,273	24	3,297	71	—	95	10	170 0
Cong, . . .	341	1,008	1,068	3,508	1,409	4,516	1 0	139 14 14	4,516	68	4,584	52	5	125	7	245 0
Hollymount	283	665	1,358	3,582	1,641	4,247	—	134 11 5	4,247	53	4,300	34	15	102	15	230 0
Robceen, . .	303	845	1,185	3,456	1,488	4,301	—	—	4,301	40	4,341	40	1	81	16	220 0
Barriscarra,	111	276	624	1,357	735	1,633	—	—	1,633	16	1,649	17	—	33	6	85 0
Mayo, . . .	157	423	1,019	2,256	1,176	2,679	—	—	2,679	31	2,710	19	—	50	35	140 0
Kilmaine, . .	284	786	2,140	3,974	2,424	4,760	—	—	4,760	31	4,791	13	5	49	5	210 0
Shrule, . . .	302	482	1,152	3,022	1,454	3,504	—	85 4 3	3,504	42	3,546	40	4	86	4	190 0
Kilmohara,	128	292	701	1,448	829	1,740	—	53 19 103	1,740	17	1,757	11	—	28	10	195 0
Ballindine,	655	1,901	1,209	3,864	1,864	5,765	—	185 5 93	5,765	44	5,809	20	—	64	—	295 0
Claremorris,	850	3,410	1,388	3,358	2,238	6,768	—	—	6,768	16	6,784	32	—	48	16	352 2
Union at Large.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total, . .	4201	12177	15363	39369	19564	51546	1 0	837 1 54	51,546	689	52235	498	48	1,235	146	2692 2

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS in reply:—*August 8, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them your report of the 31st ult., relating to the Ballinrobe Union; and with reference to your observations respecting a reduction in the out-door relief list, I am directed to state that the Commissioners approve of the course proposed, and they recommend its adoption throughout the Union, by your visiting the several districts in succession for the purpose.

Mr. R. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*August 5, 1848.*

IN the last communication which I had occasion to address to you on the subject of the charges brought against the master of the Ballinrobe workhouse, I stated, that all the bills sent up to the grand jury having been ignored, it was

to be presumed that the accused would be forthwith liberated. Some hours after this letter was despatched, one of the members of the grand jury (Mr. Geoffry Browne) communicated to me, officially, the views of his fellow-jurors. He stated that it had become clear, on the hearing of the complaints, that the majority of them had been concocted, through the instrumentality of the Rev. Mr. Conway, and that almost every witness had declared that without this gentleman's interference they should not have thought of accusing the master; but Mr. Browne further stated, that in one of the cases—that of Peggy Thornton—the grand jury had found considerable difficulty in coming to any conclusion, in consequence of the defective state of the hospital books; no record whatever having been made of the admission of Peggy Thornton into hospital, or her death there, although it was sworn that she had been an inmate for upwards of twelve hours.

With respect to the first part of his communication I informed him, that the attention of the Vice-Guardians was directed to the adoption of the most efficacious measures for vindicating the character of the master, and establishing the truth; and that it might perhaps become necessary to require the testimony of some of the grand jury, which he assured me could readily be afforded. As to the irregularity in the medical officers' books, I further stated that strict inquiry should be made into it.

I was surprised a short time afterwards by hearing, when in the Record Court, that upon a representation of certain magistrates, and the assertion that additional evidence had been procured, the judge had, on application of the crown, sent up again to the grand jury the bills for the manslaughter of Peggy Thornton and for the riot. Being engaged in the Record Court till a late hour of the day, I had no opportunity of watching these criminal proceedings further; but before I left Castlebar for Ballina (where I was obliged to proceed), I heard that the bills for riot had been again ignored, and that the bill for manslaughter would probably share the same fate. I therefore left Castlebar requesting Doctor Dempster carefully to watch the proceedings.

This morning I have received a special letter from Captain Farren informing me that the bills for manslaughter had been found, and that the master is to be put on his trial, and requesting me to return to Castlebar; he also states that two counsel have been retained for the master, and that the case will probably come on to-day.

As I cannot hope to reach Castlebar in time to be present at the trial, and as all that was possible appears to have been done, I have not adopted Captain Farren's suggestion.

I have a strong hope that the master will be acquitted altogether. I have had no opportunity of reading the additional evidence laid before the grand jury; but the first informations were certainly most loose and contradictory, and nothing but the alleged irregularity of the medical officer's books, which prevented any complete record of the deceased's life from being laid before the grand jury, would have created even a doubt on their minds as to the nature of the charge. And it is on this ground alone that I have now any fear of the issue. The weakness of proof as to the actual cause of the girl's death may add something of confirmation to the testimony of the witnesses who charge it to the master.

I shall communicate further as soon as I am in a position to do so; but I may now observe with reference to your late letter to the Vice-Guardians, that although this bill for manslaughter has now been found, yet this fact by no means relieves the magistrates from blame in not admitting the accused to bail, as upon the informations returned by them the grand jury ignored the bills, and were only induced by additional evidence to let the case go to trial.

A letter from Captain FARREN:—August 6, 1848.

I HAVE the pleasure to inform you that Murphy, the master of the Ballinrobe workhouse, has been triumphantly acquitted. Mr. Keogh's speech was magnificent, and his cross-examination of the crown witnesses most able. Only one witness for the defence was called, the venerable and respected Roman Catholic priest of Ballinrobe. He gave poor Murphy a splendid character; and in clear, simple, earnest language stated how the affair against him originated. The judge in his address alluded to the manner in which he had given his evidence,

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and commended him highly. His lordship was about to charge the jury, when one of them stated that there was no necessity as they had already made up their minds. The judge, however, said that he wished to make a few observations on this extraordinary case; he spoke of the necessity of investigation in a matter of such vital interest as the well-being of establishments such as these (the poor-houses); that at the risk of much personal inconvenience he had determined to remain, and sift the case to the uttermost; that the trial had been long, but not more so than necessary; alluded to the painful ordeal which one of the witnesses (the Rev. Mr. Conway) had undergone, but added that it was most essential in order to arrive at the facts; rebuked in becoming terms those who presumed to arraign their fellow-creatures at the altar, and by denunciation therefrom to expose them to the anger of an excited people. In fine, he made a most impressive address, which was listened to with breathless attention. At its conclusion a verdict of "not guilty" was handed in; and no other charges having been brought against poor Murphy, he was discharged to the great delight of judge, jury, counsel, and court, and was escorted across the green by the people who cheered him lustily.

Mr. Keogh's cross-examination was most able, words are inadequate to describe the manner in which he dealt with Mr. Conway, it was perfectly crushing; and such a speech, it stirred the hearts of all; and when he concluded, a burst of applause broke forth in the court which could not be suppressed for some time.

Dr. Dempster wishes me to mention that his report will be made on Monday. The trial lasted until between eight and nine o'clock last night.

The VICE-GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*August 6, 1848.*

We had the honour to report that the bills against the master of the poorhouse, upon two charges of murder, had been ignored by the grand jury on Wednesday last. We have now to inform you that on Thursday application was made to the court to have the bills returned to the grand jury to be re-considered, additional evidence having been procured. This application was supported by the Rev. Mr. Conway and four of the magistrates who took part in the proceedings at the petty sessions the day the master was committed for trial. These gentlemen stated that the ends of justice would otherwise be defeated, and had some of their own names entered on the bills as witnesses. On these grounds the bills were sent up to the grand jury on Friday, when the bill in the case of M^rGovern, on which the master was committed for trial, was again ignored; but the bill in Thornton's case, which had been got up after his imprisonment, was found, and the trial fixed for Saturday morning. At the sitting of the court yesterday application was made on the part of the prosecutors, and several affidavits put in, to postpone the trial to the next March assizes, evidently with a view of keeping the master in prison. After much time was taken up in that way the trial proceeded, and resulted in the triumphant acquittal of the master, and the complete exposure of one of the most atrocious conspiracies against the life of an innocent man that was ever brought to light.

We will forward a detailed account according to the desire expressed in your letter; but as it must be prepared with care and accuracy it will occupy two or three days. In the meantime we cannot refrain from expressing our conviction, that the future administration of the poor law free from embarrassing interruptions, perhaps its very existence, in this county, depends on the steps now taken to punish the instigators and abettors of such an atrocious crime. There can be no security for life or liberty if persons intrusted with magisterial power, sworn to do equal justice without fear or favour, are not free from prejudice, and possessed of sufficient moral courage to decide justly, in defiance of either popular clamour and excitement, or any other more sinister influence.

Dr. DEMPSTER to the COMMISSIONERS:—*August 6, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I attended at the assizes of Castlebar in pursuance of a subpoena, in the matter of the committee of the fever hospital of Kilmain, in which I had to produce all papers and documents in my possession, and that there was a verdict in favour of the defendants.

I remained in Castlebar to assist at the trial of Mr. Murphy, the master of the workhouse here, which terminated in an honourable acquittal at 9 P.M. last night. The only witness examined for the defence was the Rev. John Morris, parish priest of Ballinrobe and chaplain to the workhouse. The jury without leaving the box, and before his lordship had spoken on the subject, said, they would save him the trouble and time, as they had agreed to their verdict unanimously. However, his lordship said, that this was a case of such importance to the peace of the country, and from the disclosures which had taken place that day, and from what had occurred in the grand jury-room during the week, and the observations from that body of gentlemen, that he must likewise make some observations on this most extraordinary case, such as, from the time he had the honour of presiding as a judge, or from the time he had practised as a barrister, never came within the scope of his experience; in fact, such a case of wicked conspiracy against the life of an innocent man in particular, and against the officials of the workhouse in general, and every one connected with the poor law in this Union, never was laid before the public. Full notes of the trial were taken for the press, which, when published, I shall transmit for the information of the Commissioners.

I furnished full explanation of the riot at the workhouse on the 13th ultimo, as also of the case of Martin Casey, who was brought to my office on the 18th July, with his head and face smeared with blood, by the Rev. Mr. Conway; as also notes of his several denunciations of us from the altar; so that, I think, for the future the officials of Ballinrobe will be allowed to perform their duty without further interference from that reverend gentleman, to all of which he was examined, and remained for two hours under the most searching inquiry by Mr. Keogh, our counsel, and was clearly shown to the judge and jury to have been the prime mover of this most vile conspiracy.

The COMMISSIONERS to Dr. DEMPSTER in reply:—*August 9, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 6th instant, relating to Ballinrobe Union; and I am to express the satisfaction of the Commissioners at the result of the recent trial of the master of the workhouse.

The Commissioners themselves never entertained any doubt of the result; but it is a great satisfaction to the Commissioners that, owing to the ability of Mr. Keogh, the innocence of the workhouse master was established in such a convincing manner, as appears to have left no doubt on the subject in the mind of the jury or of the learned judge.

The Commissioners request you to communicate this letter to the master of the workhouse, and to assure him that the Commissioners place undiminished confidence in his efficiency, and that he may rely on the unvarying support of the Commissioners as long as he discharges his duty in the manner which has been so favourably brought under their notice.

The Rev. JAMES ANDERSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*August 6, 1848.*

I RETURNED very late last night from the assizes of Castlebar, and am happy to inform you, without delay, that Mr. Murphy, the master of the Ballinrobe workhouse, was most triumphantly acquitted. The jury was a mixed one—Romanists and Protestants; and so overwhelmed were they all, that even the former rose up and requested of the judge (Jackson) to depart from the usual course, and not waste the public time any further by addressing them. I write, because I united with the Rev. John Morris, P.P., before in informing you, that this case was an awful conspiracy; and now you may see, and you will see still more, that we were justified to the fullest extent in our observations. The thanks of the Government and of yourselves should be given to Mr. Keogh, the counsel, and to Mr. Morris; the former has been the means of uncommon service to the country by exposing the diabolical agents in this vile affair, and the latter has raised himself beyond all praise.

It was the feeling, that Mr. Keogh has made his fortune for ever by his speech

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Ballinrobe Union. and cross-examination of the Rev. Peter Conway; and the burst of applause when he sat down was inconceivable for enthusiasm and admiration.

I trust that he and Mr. Morris will be substantially rewarded for the eminent services they have rendered to this country; for if matters were suffered to proceed as they were, I do believe that rebellion would be the dreadful consequence; and such is the exasperated feeling against Mr. Morris, that even (one would suppose respectable) persons in this town of the Roman Catholic persuasion were heard to say, that Mr. Morris might now live on his £50 salary from the workhouse. You will hear, of course, from others all particulars; but I do say, that as the officials, &c., have been themselves accused of conspiracy, &c., by the Rev. Mr. Conway, that steps should be taken to defend us.

The COMMISSIONERS to the Rev. J. ANDERSON in reply :—*August 9, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, relating to the recent trial of the master of the workhouse of Ballinrobe Union; and I am to express the Commissioners' thanks for your communication.

The Commissioners have felt the greatest satisfaction at the result of the trial of the master; and it must be gratifying both to you and to Mr. Morris to know, that the opinion which you long since pronounced on the subject, has been confirmed and approved by the competent authorities at the last assizes.

The Commissioners are convinced that the recollection of having borne convincing testimony to the merits of an innocent and persecuted man, will be a proud consolation to Mr. Morris, under any obloquy which he may be subject to for having so nobly discharged his duty.

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The CLERK of the GUARDIANS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 7, 1848.*

I BEG to enclose herewith a copy of a report of the Visiting Committee of the Board of Guardians of this Union, adopted by a resolution of the Board, at their meeting of the 5th instant, and contained in the minutes of their proceedings forwarded by me this day.

ENCLOSURE.

SPECIAL REPORT of the Visiting and Superintending Committee:—*April 5, 1848.*

GENTLEMEN—Having been requested to examine into the present state of the workhouse, the management of the affairs of the Union under the late Vice-Guardians, and the cases of persons at present receiving out-door relief, have to report:—

That having examined the buildings, we find them insufficient, in regard to size, to afford a test to the numbers at present seeking relief, and take the opportunity to remark, that the architect who planned the present buildings must have had but one object in view, namely, to enclose the least possible quantity of space in the greatest quantity of wall.

The sewerage we find most defective, and consider that immediate steps should be taken to remedy the defect. A plan and specification thereof, approved of by the late Vice-Guardians, is under our consideration. The yards still remain in an unfinished state, in formation, drainage, stoning, and gravelling. We are taking active steps to remedy this neglect.

We find the house as clean as possible, considering the present sewerage and supply of water; but certainly not better, with the exception of the bedding, which has been very recently supplied, than when Mr. Welsh was dismissed from his situation as master, under Dr. Phelan's report.

The fever hospital, which was then in progress of building, has been finished and occupied, which removes many of the difficulties masters heretofore laboured under.

With respect to the management of the affairs of the Union under the late board: having to approve of some steps taken by them in remedying the deficiencies in clothing, furniture, and necessaries, we have also to disapprove of the manner in which the interior economy and arrangements of the house have been carried out by them.

We find the children of the female school are almost entirely from under the charge of the regularly appointed schoolmistress, who was allowed to remain in the workhouse, acting as under matron, (an office objected to by the Commissioners,) while another person was appointed to perform her duties in a detached building, at a salary of £10 per annum and officer's rations; and a pauper on extra rations, in charge of the much smaller portion, who remained in the house.

We find the boys' school-room unoccupied, with the exception of a male pauper (on additional rations) and ten boys; the dormitories used by them in general unoccupied. No regularly appointed schoolmaster in charge of any of the boys; the person appointed to that situation by Messrs. Lucas and Hopper, being, as we find recorded on the minutes of the 26th January last, dismissed for "habits of liquor, irregularity, and insubordination." A person was also appointed to discharge the duties of schoolmaster, as assistant, at the rate of £10 a year, and officer's rations, (without, as far as we can ascertain, the sanction of the Commissioners,) who is not even qualified to teach the rudiments of arithmetic. A great part of the boys, (to the number of thirty-eight,) though actually under thirteen years of age, down to ten, as registered, having been irregularly put on men's rations, as being above fifteen, have been thereby deprived of even the scanty education afforded. The same remark, as regards the additional rations, applies to twenty-five of the female children; but these have not been deprived of the benefit of some education.

Our attention having been drawn by the complaints of Mr. Somerville, late master, to irregularities in the house, over which he had no control, find that it was the practice of the late Vice-Guardians, on board-days and adjourned meetings, to distribute large quantities of bread to applicants, also to give suppers of stirabout in the dining-hall to a very late hour at night, to many; and that no separate account of the amount thus expended could be kept, showing the proportion chargeable to each division. The above irregularities might be excused for once, on the plea of the number of applicants; but it appears that no expedient was adopted to prevent their recurrence, but on the contrary continued many weeks.

A system of giving passes to the paupers was also adopted to a large extent. This practice caused both great loss to the Union, and great irregularity in the house; many who thus left the workhouse dressed in the Union clothes never returned; some of them leaving their wives and families a charge to the Union. Of the passes given, no return that we can find was ever made to the master. Visiting was likewise permitted; and it was sworn before some of your committee, in their capacity of justices of the peace, that on these occasions it was a habit to sell the workhouse stirabout for halfpence and herrings.

We find in the workhouse twenty-eight married women and their families, whose husbands are living in the Union, earning their livelihood as able-bodied labourers; some of

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these men left the house on pass, some deserted from it, and one is an inmate of Ennis-killen workhouse, to which Union the family properly belongs. One woman being questioned as to where her husband was, stated she had not heard of him for a fortnight; but then she understood he was about running away with another woman, for the purpose of marrying her. A few months since a few informations were sworn against paupers of this class, but no further steps seem to have been taken.

In compliance with your request, we visited the different stations where meal is distributed to the out-door paupers, and examined into each of their cases—the entire amounting to 2,820 individuals. We found much irregularity in all the districts, with the exception of Mr. Carson's; but principally in the district of Lowtherstown and Moorfield. Out-door relief appears to have been given without any regard to act of parliament; the cases of women with illegitimate children receiving, being very numerous—likewise women, and their families, whose husbands are working in the country.

In Lowtherstown district, one woman was receiving who had been turned out of the infirmary, without the medical officer's knowledge or consent. This person should never have been received into the house without her husband, as he was known to the relieving officer to be residing in Lowtherstown, and even in the habit of visiting his wife and children in the workhouse. Another pauper, a young able-bodied woman, who had given birth to an illegitimate child in the workhouse three weeks before, is also receiving relief; another labourer, in the receipt of ten pence a day, wages, has two of his children in the workhouse, while he, his wife, and another child, receive out-door relief. The relieving officers, when questioned as to these and such cases, replied, that these and such other paupers were turned out of the workhouse by the Vice-Guardians, and that they (the relieving officers) were not accountable for such cases.

We have recommended a considerable number to be struck off the out-door list, and the workhouse test to be applied to them.

We have no reason to suppose that many of these will seek admittance; as many of them, when told they would receive out-relief no longer than for the present week, impudently said, "they could do without it." Why the workhouse test was not more strictly applied, does not appear to us; as we found the house not full, and one detached building (said in the late Vice-Guardians' reports to be capable of containing 130, but in which we would not recommend more than 70 to be put) containing only 36. We would recommend the second section of the Extension Act, 10 Vic. c. 31, to be still opened, so as to admit of widows with one child, and orphans receiving out-door relief.

In conclusion we beg to state, that we find the Union much demoralized; the poorer classes being impressed with the doctrine, "that instead of finding employment, it must be found for them; and that the decree of the Almighty, 'that man must live by the sweat of his brow,' is changed to the effect that man is to live by act of parliament."

One very painful and melancholy fact has come under our knowledge—the larger proportion of the widows receiving relief, we have found to be the relicts of labourers who died last winter on the Government works.

(Signed for Visiting Committee,)

HENRY D'ARCY, *Chairman.*

EXTRACT FROM GUARDIANS' MINUTES:—April 12, 1848.

Special Report of the Finance Committee.

GENTLEMEN—In compliance with your request we have examined the accounts of the last half-year.

We find the clerk's books regularly and remarkably well kept.

The expenditure has been very great, amounting to £3,799 15s.; while we find that the entire expense of provisions and necessities supplied to the workhouse was £1,005 14s. 10d., and the expenditure in out-door relief, since the 25th of November last, in money, £395, and in kind, since the 23rd of February, £376 3s. 9d., total, £771 3s. 9d.; amounting to, for in-door supplies and out-door expense, £1,776 18s. 7d. We find that the establishment account amounts to £1,250 16s. 4d. We have examined the items, and find several of them ridiculously extravagant: so many of this nature are there that it would be useless to enter into the matter further than to call attention to it.

The clothing and bedding account amounts to the large sum of £682 12s. 9d. The turf account is also large—it amounts to £136 16s., which is included in the above amount for supplies. We would recommend coal to be burned for a short time, in order to find out the relative cost.

The expense of in-door relief having, for the last week, been reduced above £5, and for out-door relief £10 0s. 5d., caused by the decrease in the number of recipients both in and out of the house, affords a hope that the Union will be ultimately saved from the financial ruin threatened by the expenditure of the last six months.

(Signed,)

HENRY D'ARCY, *Chairman of the Committee.*

The CLERK of the UNION to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 17, 1848.*

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I BEG to state, with reference to the special report of the Finance Committee which accompanied the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Guardians of this Union on the 12th instant, I find that the reduced expense of out-door relief for last week is £20 0s. 5d., instead of £10, as reported by committee.

The COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*April 17, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had before them the special report of the Finance Committee of Lowtherstown Union of the 12th instant, transmitted with minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the same date; and with reference to the amount of the establishment account, I am to request that you will state the items of which the amount of £1,250 16s. 4d. is made up.

The CLERK of the UNION to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 19, 1848.*

I BEG to transmit herewith an abstract of the establishment account of this Union for the half-year ended 25th March last, showing the items of which the amount of £1,250 16s. 4d. is made up, as directed by your letter of the 17th instant.

ENCLOSURES.

ABSTRACT of the establishment account for the half-year ended 25th March, 1848.

Salaries, ...	£482	2	7
Repairs, ...	292	16	7
Insurance, ...	4	2	6
Drugs, &c.	24	15	4
Printing, stationery, advertising, books, postage, ...	77	18	5
Furniture and culinary utensils, &c., for workhouse, fever hospital, and detached buildings, ...	216	4	11
Rent paid for detached buildings, ...	4	0	0
Interest on treasurer's account to 29th February, ...	5	14	7
Loan from Commissioners repaid, and included in estimate, ...	100	0	0
Other small charges—(including subscription to Cow-pock Institution, county cess, necessaries for relieving officers, stores, beams, weights, &c., &c.,)	43	1	5

Amount, £1,250 16 4

Further explanation of certain items in the abstract of the establishment account, hereunto annexed, viz.:—

SALARIES—

To Workhouse officers, ...	£76	14	3
„ Chaplains, £30; medical officer, £17 10s.	47	10	0
„ Assistant schoolmaster and mistress, nurses, &c.	6	19	8
„ Master tailor, master shoemaker, and assistants, ...	43	17	0
„ Relieving officers, ...	47	16	9
„ Vice-Guardians, ...	253	4	0
„ Audit fund account, ...	3	5	0
„ Porter, a suit of clothes as salary, ...	2	15	11
	£482	2	7

ADVERTISING, &c.—

Books from National Board for schools, ...	9	13	4
Bibles, and testaments, and prayer-books, ...	5	17	8
	£15	11	0

Advertising, printing, and postage; also books for workhouse and relieving officers, ... 62 7 5

The items of repairs include repairs of workhouse, and £20 for repairs at Anderson's house, given gratis by Mr. D'Arcy, and also repairs to Graham's and Montgomery's. There is also putting up oven, raising yard walls, and repairs in yards, with glazing, smith and carpenter work, including several small items.

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EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF GUARDIANS' proceedings:—*April 19, 1848.*

THE following report of the Visiting Committee was read, viz.:—

GENTLEMEN,—Our attention having been called at the last meeting of the board to the state of the registry of the paupers in the workhouse, we have examined it and found it entirely incorrect. We were obliged to bring all the paupers of the house into the dining-hall, and having called over the roll found eighty paupers registered, as being in the house, who had not been in it for two months, and some for three or four; forty-two paupers were in the house and not entered on the registry, or charged to any division; one family of eight we found to two electoral divisions, and also to the Union at large. The master, since his appointment, has found eighty paupers charged on the books who were not in it, and corrected the registry in those cases; you will of course perceive that no correct account can be made of the proportion of expense chargeable to each division during the period that the affairs of the Union were managed by Vice-Guardians.

The registry is now correct, with the exception of some cases in which paupers seem to us to be charged to wrong divisions.

(Signed,)

HENRY D'ARCY, *Chairman.*

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS:—*April 26, 1848.*

Resolved—That Montgomery's house be given up unless he lets it to the board at a lower rent than £15 a year.

THE COMMISSIONERS to the CLERK of the UNION:—*May 5, 1848.*

IN reference to the resolution of the Board of Guardians of Lowtherstown Union of the 26th ultimo, that the house taken from Mr. Montgomery, as an additional workhouse, be given up unless he lets it to them at a lower rent than £15 per annum, I am directed by the Commissioners to request that the Guardians will consider whether it would not be advisable for them to retain the additional workhouse to meet any increased pressure for relief that may arise; and to enable them, in revising the out-door relief lists, to offer workhouse relief in any doubtful cases of application rather than out-door relief.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES of the BOARD of GUARDIANS:—*May 10, 1848.*

Resolved—That in reference to the Commissioners' letter of 5th May, the clerk be directed to state that the Guardians do not intend to decrease the accommodation for affording in-door relief, and that the resolution referred to was merely made with the view of getting the house at a less price than the extravagant sum given when the affairs of the Union were under the immediate superintendence of the Commissioners, and that the effect of the resolution has been, that the owner offers the house for one-half the sum heretofore given.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE, in GUARDIANS' MINUTES:—*May 10, 1848.*

THE bungling manner in which the workhouse was originally planned is still, and ever must be, the cause of much irregularity. The only way of bringing meal, milk, turf, &c., into the stores and body of the house, is through the kitchen—a fault which the veriest tyro in architecture should be ashamed of. Through this defect, the men employed as porters, and the women as cooks and maids, have frequent opportunity of meeting; and a porter and cook have this week absconded to Scotland, both leaving families chargeable to the Union.

Messrs. M'MANUS and MORTON to the COMMISSIONERS :—*May 29, 1848.*

IN compliance with your letters, addressed to us on the 5th instant, having arranged a meeting for the purpose, we have the honour of forwarding to you our explanation of the several statements occurring in the reports of the 5th, 12th, and 19th ultimo, made to the Board of Guardians of Lowtherstown Union by the Visiting and Finance Committees, with copies of which you favoured us.

For the convenience of reference, and with the desire also of being as succinct as possible, we annex in the margin the successive paragraphs of the reports, the repetition of which may be thus spared in the commentary.

See preceding
pages.

We commence with the special report of the 5th ultimo

Of the defective sewerage, you are already aware that it had our most anxious attention from the first. We had entered into a contract for the masonry of the new sewers, and the works were in rapid progress on our vacating office. The formation and drainage of the yards, which had been delayed by the unfavourable weather, were likewise actively proceeding.

The house, it was stated, was found "as clean as possible." This would demand no observation from us, but for the conflicting representation to be found upon the minutes of the first meeting of the new board (29th March); and which was made the ground of the Guardians rescinding at that meeting the increase of the master's salary, then recently made by us in conformity with the understanding upon which he was engaged, and induced to relinquish his previous situation as assistant master of Lurgan workhouse. We learn that his salary has been further reduced since to £35, being that of previous masters in this Union. We feel called upon to notice the discrepancy, with the view, should you deem it sufficiently important, of the matter being again brought before the board. Mr. Bullick was engaged by us at £40 per annum, to be increased to £45, upon his completing his first month in office, should he give satisfaction.

There were several pressing reasons for the schoolmistress Miss Welsh, remaining in the workhouse, rather than leaving it with the detachment of a portion of the female school. We were unable to procure (or to repair in time for the emergency) a building large enough to accommodate more than sixty out of the entire complement of about one hundred in the female school; and while the forty children thus left in the house required the care of the schoolmistress not less than those detached from it, her assistance in the house was, in other respects, also, at this period, absolutely indispensable. The matron was new in office; and in addition to those ordinary duties, for the discharge of which the matron has constant occasion to lean upon the assistance of the schoolmistress—duties at this time become unusually onerous, from the vast increase in the number of female inmates—there was besides the superintending of the making-up of an *entire* supply of bedding and clothing. For the services thus critically required Miss Welsh was especially qualified, by her having been schoolmistress for so long a period, and while her father also was master. Should the occasion for these services have become less pressing, we should have been at liberty to place Miss Welsh in the immediate charge of the detachment. Under the circumstances, another person, Mrs. Kane, and who, we are happy to say, every way fulfilled our expectations, was appointed to that charge, with the Commissioners' approval, on the terms mentioned in the report, Miss Welsh still superintending the detachment. Reports from both school detachments, comprising all essential particulars, were laid before us at each board meeting.

The various services which we have mentioned, requiring Miss Welsh's occasional absence from the children still continuing in the workhouse, it was found desirable to place some respectable female pauper in charge of them. This person, who had formerly taught a small school of her own, but was now aged and in an infirm state of health, which rendered the house diet less suitable to her, was indulged with bread at her breakfast, and latterly with a small allowance of tea, which Miss Welsh had previously been at the expense of, as almost indispensable to her.

With respect to the boys' school-room—the number remaining in it, after

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detaching the greater number to an out-building, was generally from ten to twenty. The pressure upon the male side of the house was at all times less than upon the female side; and but for the increased number in the entire establishment, which the possession of this out-building warranted us in accommodating, under sanction of the Commissioners, it might (as we found, after the experience of some weeks) have been discontinued without inconvenience in respect of room for the boys. We were induced however, when considering the propriety of bringing in the detachment, to determine against it for awhile, both by the advantage already mentioned; by the additional room it afforded us for putting the workhouse test to able-bodied men, until the extreme pressure should be passed; and by the statement of the medical officer, that the circumstance of their being detached from the workhouse was operating a marked improvement in the health of boys, whose delicacy whilst in the house had made him despair of their retrieving any degree of strength. Over the few remaining boys, whom the detached building could not conveniently accommodate, a male pauper was placed in charge, with the extra allowance of a quarter of a pound of house bread daily.

We are not aware that any of the dormitories was unoccupied. There was an adaptation of the arrangements to circumstances, the best we could devise consistently with classification; and the master's account of these peculiar arrangements, may probably have been misapprehended by the committee.

Due steps were taken to procure a regular workhouse schoolmaster; but the qualifications of the candidates who presented themselves were unsatisfactory. Meanwhile, Mr. Gallagher whose appointment to the charge of the boys' detachment was merely temporary, performed that duty to our perfect satisfaction, and he continues, we understand, to hold that charge under the present board. In this appointment, equally with that of the female over the detachment from the girls' school, we felt ourselves to be fully borne out by the exigency of the occasion, and understood it to be equally approved of by the Commissioners. It is true that Mr. Gallagher's acquirements, and particularly in respect of ciphering, were not such as would have satisfied us had the question been of the office of workhouse schoolmaster. We had, however, the best reason to congratulate ourselves upon his selection for the detachment; which, besides his uniform attention to the health, cleanliness, and conduct of the boys, and the steady order and discipline which he maintained among them, received from him an unusual amount of instruction in spelling, reading, writing, and the more elementary parts of arithmetic.

The dismissal, we may observe, of the previous schoolmaster, in consequence of habits mentioned in the report, can in no respect be regarded as reflecting upon the judgment of those who appointed him. His qualifications in writing, &c., were adequate. He had been in the army; his testimonials creditable; and without allusion to such habits, which could only therefore be discovered upon his trial in office, his dismissal had been for some time in contemplation with us, when the detachment left the workhouse.

The statement of boys registered as under fifteen years having been irregularly put on men's rations will be found, we have reason to believe, entirely at variance with the register. The age of a child bordering on fifteen, and applying for admission into a workhouse, cannot, it is well known, be at all times accurately ascertained from the child's own statement, or that of the parent's. The temptation to untruth—the larger allowance—proves irresistible. It was our unavoidable practice to exercise our own judgment, consulting with the clerk and relieving officers, on all occasions that it was evident the truth was not adhered to; and where absolutely doubtful, the parties had the benefit of the doubt. But most assuredly not a single boy, while we were in office, was, or could be, admitted into the men's class, who had not been registered as above fifteen years of age.

The number 381 is a clerical error, for thirty-eight perhaps, which was, we believe, the number of adult lads who occupied the middle ward as their day-room on our vacating office.

As regards the additional rations to twenty-five of the female children, we used our reasonable discretion, with the assistance of the medical officer in the majority of the cases, and extending the privilege to children of like stature. The necessity of such a distinction between the allowances of food to children scarcely above five

years, and others closely bordering on fifteen, cannot we conceive be questioned. It was at one period brought most strikingly under our notice in the boys' school, in the case of six boys who from their robust appearance when admitted had become painfully emaciated, and were upon that occasion placed on larger allowance by desire of the medical officer.

We lament that there should have been occasion for the irregularities mentioned, in connexion with Mr. Somerville's complaints. With a pressure upon the Union for relief, admittedly without precedent, in the rigours of an unusually severe winter, irregularities of this description were inseparable from the course (a personal scrutiny for some weeks of almost every claim) which, in a Union of limited extent, we conceived it our duty to adopt. And they were unquestionably of light account in comparison of such as were to have been apprehended, had we, as the only other alternative, acted upon the representations of our relieving officers, strangers to us at the outset, and who had moreover all their duty yet to learn.

From the moment that we became satisfied of the safety of changing this course, which was about two months before we vacated office, (and it was the only expedient by which the irregularities in question could be prevented,) they at once and altogether ceased. It was no longer a requisite practice to distribute bread to the famished family before us, a sustenance without which many had not the strength to reply even to the questions we were bound to put, or to give suppers in the dining hall to others to a very late hour of night. The complaint, that no separate account could be kept of the amount thus expended, showing the proportion chargeable to each division, may not perhaps be deemed of very serious import. Looking upon the task of the master as sufficiently onerous without it, and being for that reason, and from the circumstance of his being new in office, from week to week without the master's books duly made up, as stated in our reports to you at the time, we did not feel ourselves called upon to require it of him. It was obvious that a subsequent reference to the relief list would furnish all the accuracy desirable in this respect; and agreeably to these when ultimately reduced from the registers, with the assistance of the clerk, the expense has accordingly been apportioned.

We were far from encouraging passes. No such system existed so far as we were aware. A restriction was placed upon the master's discretion in this particular, and he was forbidden to give a pass without the concurrence of one or other of the Vice-Guardians. Neither was any pauper ever permitted to take with him or her the house clothes; two cases only of paupers so leaving the house, and these without passes, came under our notice. For ourselves, when applied to—the motive for the indulgence being first carefully ascertained, which, by the way, was generally found to be either to look out among the friends or former employers for work, or to fetch a child or parent to the workhouse, previously too unwell to be removed, or to look after some little remnant of furniture that would otherwise have been lost or stolen—we invariably referred to the master for the character of the applicant. The master also was the officer from whom the pass proceeded, with rare exceptions only, when a pauper of good character was employed as messenger. The supposed practice, besides the irregularity and absconding, would, in fact, have been in direct contravention of the spirit and object of workhouse discipline. We had no reason, and we were daily on the spot, to suppose any loss or irregularity incurred from this source, excepting only in the two cases we have mentioned.

No visiting was allowed beyond the customary visiting upon a Tuesday, and this only in the entrance hall, and in the presence of the porter.

We apprehend that stirabout was sold in one instance only, being then, as stated, for halfpence and herrings, and we may add by two female paupers, upon the one occasion, who had the distribution of the meals in the probationary wards. The delinquents were sent before a magistrate, and were sentenced, as we learn, to the extreme penalty of one month's imprisonment; we should mention that other articles of property were abstracted on more than one occasion, and the parties brought to justice. We need hardly observe that the utmost precaution was taken to prevent the repetition of such practices.

With respect to the admission of married women and their families, without the husband, or of the child without the responsible parent, the prosecution of the husband or parent at the next ensuing petty sessions was always required by us in such cases as an indispensable condition. The husband being in the neigh-

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bourhood, employed or otherwise, we as invariably held to be a sufficient ground for refusing the desired admission; and in cases of this kind, where the husband has subsequently come forward, if found at hire for his meal only and a small half-yearly sum, we have admitted the family. The prosecutions in all other cases, constituting an important check on the dispensing of relief to such, and also on the general disposition to give inadequate wages, were strictly enforced. Latterly the clerk took occasion to represent to us the expense of these proceedings, and at the same time in every instance their utter nullity, from the warrants having been left unexecuted. He had our continued orders notwithstanding, to see that the law, so far as it lay with ourselves to carry it out, was duly put in force. The particular cases referred to were never brought before us, with the circumstances mentioned in the report. We should otherwise have communicated with the authorities of the Enniskillen Union, in the one case, and taken due steps in the other, that the husband might have been proceeded against.

Of out-door relief in the first place, with respect to women whose husbands were working in the country, not a single family of this description was to our knowledge admitted to such relief, nor, as from our experience of their integrity and good faith we have reason to believe, to the knowledge of our relieving officers, against whose representations no such relief was in any instance directed by us. Latterly, one disputed and very doubtful case of the kind, which may perhaps have given occasion to the statement in the report, was represented to us by certain ratepayers, relatives of the husband, in the Moorfield district. The representation made to us by those parties was so distinctly characterized by enmity towards the wife and children, and the man's being in the country, or having been heard of for an entire twelvemonth, was so stoutly denied by others not less respectable, that we were unable to come to an opinion upon the truth of the matter. The relief however was suspended, and the woman, whose children were not at the time in a state to be removed, while there was no question as to her destitution, was assisted by a small contribution from ourselves during further inquiries by the relieving officer, and though we failed to elicit any additional information, we preferred subsequently the course of admitting her into the workhouse.

With respect to women with illegitimate children, there were doubtless some such (and we regret to state, from the number of such unfortunate females in the Union, so many as from twenty to thirty of this description,) receiving out-door relief upon the ground of sickness or infirmity. And however preferable, indeed imperative on us, we might otherwise have considered it to relieve such cases in the workhouse, that alternative was no longer open to us, when the house was full, or so nearly so (the case always with us from the commencement of out-door relief), as to leave barely a vacancy for test of the able-bodied.

Of the woman stated to have been turned out of the infirmary without the medical officer's consent, we have only to observe that, in the performance of that part of our duty which demanded the discharge of parties eligible to out-door relief, with the view of making room for the fresh application of the test, such a case may have more than once occurred; at the same time it was our practice with very rare exceptions (and had they been more frequent, lives, we are of opinion, might have been preserved by an earlier departure from this course, which appeared however the more expedient as a general rule), to desire the assistance of the medical officer upon these occasions, and to go round the house with him for the purpose. Nor did that gentleman ever intimate to us his being adverse to any particular discharge. The like remark applies to the case next mentioned in the report; the sickness of the mother, and unsuitableness of the workhouse at the time for her recovery, warranting in our estimation her being placed on out-door relief for a time. But the circumstances of the other case, which are imperfectly and incorrectly stated in the report, require that we should revert to it somewhat more in detail. Andrew Gilligan, with his wife Rose, and three children, one of whom was at the breast, had been previously an inmate of the workhouse, and was discharged by us at an early period upon the out-door relief as infirm, from a fracture of ribs and an asthmatic affection. It was afterwards represented to us that the man had been a rag-gatherer, and though unable to work in any other way, could still earn something in that capacity. The relieving officer having been directed to make inquiry, did not consider that he could thereby support his family, but his allowance was reduced in consequence; and the urgent protest of a gentleman, whose extensive interest in the electoral division

entitled his opinion to a corresponding degree of deference (Mr. Henry D'Arcy), led subsequently, but not without some hesitation upon our part, to his being struck off. The wife within a short time made her appearance at the workhouse in a very deplorable condition. She had her children with her, and stated that her husband had left her some days before. Upon the usual condition of her declaring herself willing to prosecute him, she was admitted; and almost immediately both the woman and the child at her breast had to be removed to the fever hospital. It was reported to us that the husband was seen at this time about the workhouse, and was staying in the immediate neighbourhood; it was also represented to us (we believe by Mr. H. D'Arcy) that he had even visited her; but the porter upon our questioning him, denied this, stating that it was his belief only that he had seen the man hanging about the workhouse. Eventually, however, Andrew Gilligan presented himself to be admitted; and the wife having become convalescent with the infant, the family was once more, upon that occasion, placed upon out-door relief with a diminished allowance.

Of the case of the labourer at wages we can only say, that the relieving officer must have grossly neglected his duty in not reporting him. It would appear by the passage which immediately follows, that this man had been discharged upon out-door relief. Several there were whom we so discharged, being at the time of their discharge under severe sickness; and such sickness of a party within the house, having as we have already intimated, in more than one instance had a fatal termination, when there would have been a prospect of recovery had the party been in due time placed upon out-door relief. We must here observe, that in addition to the ordinary application and report book it had been our care to furnish each relieving officer with a special weekly report book for all cases of out-door relief within his district; and he was instructed to note therein all particulars coming to his knowledge, or ascertained in the course of his duty, respecting the recipients. The examination of these books, with a view to the revision or discontinuance of the allowances, formed a part of our proceedings at every board meeting. The answer therefore of the relieving officers, as represented in the report, where a party discharged upon out-door relief had so far recovered as to be employed at wages, namely, that they were not accountable for such cases, was manifestly in the highest degree discreditable, and could be regarded as reflecting upon themselves only.

Of the four relief districts (three until very recently, when it was found advisable to divide the Lowtherstown district), three were managed to our perfect satisfaction, and we believe we may add, to the satisfaction of the ratepayers in general.

A list of all cases receiving out-door relief was uniformly posted in each division from week to week; and it was the practice of the ratepayers to hold meetings at which such list was discussed, the relieving officer being in attendance, and availing himself of the observations made upon particular cases. Of the general satisfaction thus given, and the estimation in which the officers of these three districts appeared to be universally held, we had frequent testimony.

To Mr. Carson's efficiency we are happy to have the testimony of the present board. Of Mr. Campbell, whose task was a more arduous one, we are only stating what we believe all will admit, when we say, that his character for humanity and efficiency stands so deservedly high in the Union, that his name was never mentioned in it otherwise than with deference and respect. Mr. Aiken, who was placed by us in charge of the part taken from Lowtherstown district, was for only a short time in connexion with us. We found him watchful and diligent, and most attentive to the representations of the ratepayers as well as to our instructions and orders. Lowtherstown district was we regret to say, an exception, for which, until recently divided at our suggestion, the greater mass of destitution and consequent demand upon the energies of the officer, afforded large excuse.

Without needlessly enlarging upon other grounds which arose for our animadversion (originating doubtless in the same cause, the oppressiveness of the duty, but of which we were eventually constrained to take severe notice), it is sufficient for our present purpose to mention, that for the better management of this district in particular, we found it advisable to require in support of the recommendations of the relieving officer, the certificate of three respectable ratepayers as to destitution and other essential particulars in each case.

Having offered these remarks upon the three instances adduced, and as to our

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general management of this important division of relief, we might perhaps be permitted to dismiss the comprehensive allegation of "disregard to Act of Parliament," by merely adding, that we are not only without the consciousness of having in any instance departed from the act, but that the duty of carrying it out to the letter, and in strict accordance with the rules of the Commissioners, was never absent from our minds. But from the necessity, if there should still appear any, of our further enlarging upon this head, we are happily relieved by the minute inquiry into charges which had been preferred against us, in connexion amongst other matters with the out-door relief, held pursuant to your directions by your Commissioner Mr. Otway, for the purpose. It will be found, as we have reason to believe, by his report to you upon that occasion, that the charges in question were entirely unsustained, or rather, we may be permitted to state, the contrary of each was most elaborately and satisfactorily shown. To the same inquiry we may confidently appeal, also, as respects the imputation of extravagance which appears at a later stage in these reports.

To the few objections yet remaining for us to notice, the answers are obvious. The workhouse test, it will be admitted, was applied to the extent of the numbers authorized (viz., 740 in the house and three out-buildings), when, though stated in the report not to have been found full (and on the male side this impression might readily suggest itself), it appears by a paragraph which is added to the report, that "when the Vice-Guardians left there were in the house 740." The detached building, said in our report to be capable of containing 120 (not 130), and found by the committee with only thirty-six inmates in it, was, as we stated also to you in the same report, originally contemplated by us as an accommodation for the school-children; and, if we remember rightly, it was the opinion given us by Mr. Henry D'Arcy, as it was certainly our own at the time, that it would accommodate that number of children with three floors; and equally divided, upon each floor by the passages and staircase, it presents greatly more than twice the accommodation furnished by the building, where, without prejudice to their health, the number of sixty of the female children was constantly maintained, and with a greatly superior ventilation. Our judgment may notwithstanding have been in some degree influenced by the urgency of the pressure and the difficulty we experienced in procuring out-accommodation. Mr. Barron who afterwards visited it when containing sixty female adults, was of opinion that that number was sufficient; and Mr. Otway, at a later period, expressed himself to the same effect. We therefore restricted it to sixty, giving increased accommodation to that extent to the females in the workhouse itself. That it should have been short of this complement by twenty-four when visited by the committee was an accident of the moment, from discharges, removals to hospital and infirmary (which were singularly frequent from this building), and the master's failing to send down as usual the permitted number in their place. We must not take leave of this building with an unfavourable opinion of it in other respects. Creditable to the managers and cheering to visitors as was at all times the appearance of the three detachments, none of them was more conspicuously so than this, under the direction of Mrs. John Irvine. It presented, uniformly, an aspect of quiet, orderly, and effective industry; and disease no sooner made its appearance than it was removed to the appropriate quarter in the main building of the workhouse.

We might allow ourselves, perhaps, after all that has been explained, to pass over the remark of the Union having been found much demoralized. It is deeply painful to have to attest on behalf of the unhappy destitute in this Union, that so far as the opportunity of observation was afforded us, the poorer classes did seek and were anxious for employment (and some, at a trifling sacrifice to ourselves, we sent abroad from the workhouse to seek it), but, with the rarest exceptions, they found it not, nor was it found for them. We are reluctantly compelled to bear them this testimony, by the point which we lament to observe is attempted to be made against them to the opposite effect. We have, at the same time, no interest of our own in rendering it; for the out-door relief, so far as it was authorized to be administered in this Union to the infirm, through age or accident, to those under severe sickness, to the widow with one or more children, to the orphan (a class too numerous in this Union, nor owing to the public works merely, but more largely, as we have reason to know, from the devastations of fever in the workhouse, to enter which was regarded as certain sacrifice of some of the members of each family, and how many we have witnessed during

our administration so reduced, we would too willingly forget), nor to such, unless clearly destitute, has no demoralizing tendency. Considering the number of orphans, and the nature of the calamity by which they have become for a certain period a burden upon the Union, it is not without deep regret, we may here observe, that we have found the industrial training which we introduced chiefly with a view to their benefit (we would hope for the present only), discontinued.

With respect to the seeking and providing of labour, where the necessity is imposed and the duty enjoined to seek upon the one hand, it might be expected that the duty thence arising to assist the seeker, would at the least be admitted and attempted upon the other. But, in the more than absence of such assistance, where the labourer is positively discountenanced, and the very shelter he was heretofore possessed of refused him, compelling in such instances, upon this very account alone, himself and his family to become a useless burden upon the Union—when the first law of nature, that man should eat his bread in the sweat of his brow is denied to him, it can be no reproach to him at least, that he is reduced to live by what after all, is the common title by which every man exists in society—by Act of Parliament.

But why should he have to seek employment in a field, on all sides abundant of promise? This is a question which will be found of serious import to the financial resources of the Union, and to the demand which it is to be apprehended must with a continuance of the present system in this respect continue to be made upon them. The answer to it points at once to the obvious and only remedy for this anomalous and denaturalized condition of things—an interest to the farmer in the land he cultivates. It is not we should hope too sanguine a prediction, that if reasonable scope were afforded to the now pining and straitened energies of the farmer—if he had an assured interest in the fruit of his exertions, the scene would at once change from the listlessness and despondency now witnessed upon all sides, to one of animation and prosperity; and this hitherto half-cultivated soil, now encumbered with its perishing and doubtless it may be added from this source, demoralizing labourers, would present throughout its extent an aspect of contented industry and independence.

With reference to the Financial Report of the 12th April, contenting ourselves as respects the expenditure for provisions and necessaries, with referring to the result of Mr. Otway's inquiry under this head, and with the observation, that the average cost of an in-door pauper under ourselves was for the most part 1s. 3d. weekly or lower, while that of an out-door recipient of relief was according to the age, very nearly 8d., 6d., and 4d.; we have to reply only to the observation upon the items of the establishment account, several of which it is stated, were found by the committee to be "ridiculously extravagant."

The deep responsibility with which we have been invariably impressed when sanctioning any outlay of this kind, warrants the confidence with which we now vindicate ourselves, and assert that not a single item of that account will be found open to the imputation. We annex a summary of it under general heads, with which we have been furnished by the clerk. The particulars are in every instance recorded upon the minutes. In consequence of the extremely deficient supply of clothing and bedding found in the house, an entire new supply of both had to be procured by us, and with the supposition of 740 inmates requiring it. Due steps were taken for proposals, and the price of every article was of the lowest.

To the consumption of turf, necessarily large from the protracted severity of the winter, as well as from the addition of three detached establishments and a fever hospital, the attention of each successive master was repeatedly desired, that the allowance for which there appeared so ample an excuse, might be the more carefully moderated; nor are we satisfied that it has been excessive.

The expenditure of the last six months can require at our hands no further explanation than we have thus given it. There was cause for it in the necessities of the Union, and in its destitution actually developed during that period.

With regard to the decrease in the number of recipients under the present board, we feel called upon to state that it was our belief when we left office (and with the single exception of one gentleman, Mr. Henry D'Arcy, Vice-Chairman of the present board, and whose name we observe is attested to these reports as chairman of committee, we heard the same from all who spoke

with us on the subject), that the proportion of cases which might be found upon the minutest inquiry to admit of being struck off without hazard to life (we were aware of none), would prove to be very inconsiderable. In cases of severe sickness, the out-door relief would of course be discontinued upon recovery. We observe by the report that numbers had been diminished even at its date beyond our anticipation, and they have been still further diminished in the interval which has since elapsed. There is, we conceive, no part of the duty of a Board of Guardians which demands a more unfettered discretion than this. A proportionate forbearance will require to be observed by us in our notice of the reductions which have been made.

We shall only mention a circumstance which will assuredly render this propriety, as respects some at least of the parties, and we have reason to fear not a few of them, questionable in the estimation of the present board itself. Of those who have been struck off, several as we have ourselves seen them, not once or in a solitary instance, but in several instances, and repeatedly, are to be found gleaning nettles by the way-side for the sustenance of themselves and children. And at the present season, when untasked nature may be considered to require less for its support, nothing can be more cadaverous than the appearance of those forlorn creatures. Unquestionably, as we find it stated in the report of the 19th ult., they were supplied with provisional tickets for the workhouse, and had therefore the option of being admitted to in-door relief, which they must as it appears have refused at their own peril, preferring such a support as we have mentioned. But the diminution also of the numbers receiving in-door relief through their own free demand to be discharged, has a bearing upon this point, many of the latter having been for a considerable time inmates, and were without resource of either dwelling or friend.

These circumstances appear to give countenance to a prevailing report, that since the absence of our own daily inspection over them, the power of the workhouse superiors is somewhat arbitrarily exercised, and there is room to apprehend from them that the report has a certain degree of foundation. We shall be pardoned for adverting to such a possibility, as accounting (and we know of no other reason that could be given,) for a state of inoperativeness in the test, so far as these cases are concerned, which every one must lament.

The ratepayer, while complaining of the pressure of the demand upon him, an assured relief from which would be welcomed by him as a rescue from impending ruin, is heard to murmur at the number of wretched outcasts still unrelieved. Every ratepayer can name a number of these familiar to him, whose claims upon him he at the same time freely admits, and to whose effectual rescue from perishing it would be some compensation to him to know that he had contributed.

Of the financial prospects of the Union we regret to be compelled to admit, that they are far from being of a character that can be satisfactory to the ratepayer. These prospects for the coming half-year were fully represented to you in our report upon the subject dated 25th March last.

We may be permitted to add a brief survey of them upon the present occasion, in connexion with the imputation of our having involved the Union in an expenditure threatening its "financial ruin," from which it is stated that through the reductions just referred to, there is a hope of its being saved under the management of the new board. We have already adverted to the heavy pressure of the poor rates, to its chief cause, and to what in our opinion, would be the most effectual remedy. We have been at all times most sensible of this pressure. In considering, notwithstanding, the prospect for the coming half-year, we could not forget that by the enactment for the relief of the destitute poor, they are as fully entitled to be relieved under its provisions as the labourer is entitled to his earnings, or the heir to his wealth. Upon this the only legitimate principle of relief, with the particulars of the actual destitution before us, out of a population of about 33,000, according to the Census of 1841, we were of opinion that the expense of maintenance for the four weeks ending the 5th February last, might be reasonably assumed as the average for the coming half-year. This it of course would not have been, had out-door relief been administered to the able-bodied under the second section of the Extension Act. We see no reason to depart from this opinion. Our estimate for the half-year, including establishment charges, together with the cost of the new sewerage and supply of water, was thus brought to £3,027 12s. 10d. The building instalments, falling due in

April, £1,066—the advances under the Temporary Relief Act, £3,138 4s. 9d.—and our liabilities for ordinary expenses, up to the 25th March, £750 10s. 3d., made with the above a total amount of, £7,982 7s. 10d. On the other side, there was an amount of £2,122 7s. 3d.; consisting of £622 7s. 3d. in the treasurer's hands, and £1,500 of uncollected rate, after allowing for the irrecoverable part; leaving consequently a balance of £5,860 to be raised by the striking of a new rate. Of the immediate necessity of this, which we represented to you accordingly, we recorded also our strong opinion upon the minutes of our last meeting on the eve of our vacating office.

We beg to state that we continue to be of the same opinion; nor do we see how the immediate striking of such new rate, and putting it in course of collection, is to be dispensed with. Under the actual vigilant administration of the poor law over Ireland, it is to be hoped for the sake of the poor in these parts, that what was enacted for their relief will never again prove what all acquainted with its sad history since formed must with grief acknowledge that it has heretofore proved in this Union. Yet to numbers of them it must inevitably be found such if adequate means become wanting. By the effect which this law has operated upon the formerly indulgent spirit of this country towards the destitute poor, not to speak of the Vagrant Act and its provisions, they are absolutely shut out from any other resource.

With respect to the errors in the registry, exclusively forming the subject of the report of the 19th April, the master we must observe had no excuse for any such. It was a part of our weekly duty to authenticate the register, by comparing it with the books of the relieving officers. Mr. Bullick's attention upon his taking office, was specially called to the entries to be made in it, and he was enjoined to observe the strictest regularity in this respect. As a preliminary step, he was required to prepare a roll of the in-door paupers; the practice of keeping a similar roll to be altered from time to time, as occasion should require, being at the same time strictly enjoined. This roll was, after considerable delay, presented to us; but the register and relief lists, which should have been duly made up and laid before us at our weekly meetings, were found to be continually in arrear, notwithstanding our repeated remonstrances. They were eventually produced in a form purporting to be complete up to the date in the course of our final meeting. The examination of the register, with the preparation of indexes to the books of the relieving officers and to the register itself, which had at that time become necessary to enable us to authenticate the latter, occupied at that meeting, when there was a pressure upon us of matters so much more important, a share of our attention, which sufficiently attested our sense of the imperativeness of this part of our duty.

We found reason, as we conceived, upon that occasion, from the nature of some of the errors which we had to correct, to put faith in Mr. Bullick's assurance, that he had at length duly executed his part, so far at least as to have entered every inmate whose name appeared upon his roll, or to be found in the workhouse. It would appear by the statement in the report, that this was still far from being the case. We examined the book moreover, such as it was laid before us, and authenticated the entries found in it by comparison with the books of the relieving officers. We are not aware that more could be done on our part. Of the relief lists we perceived that they exhibited, after all our remonstrances, numerous errors of the description mentioned in the report, and which is to be understood at this part, as applying itself to those lists; and these errors, as we subsequently discovered, were transferred, with a singular disregard of accuracy (as where the same family was twice entered in a single page), into the lists for the new half-year. We directed the clerk's attention to this circumstance, pointing out to him at the same time, and to Mr. Bullick himself, several of these errors in detail; and the latter was once more instructed to correct them, a list of all prepared with infinite pains by ourselves, being furnished to him for the purpose. It was at the same time arranged, that the correction which no longer presented the slightest difficulty, should be duly observed in making out the past half-year's accounts in the several divisions; so far was it from being the case, "that no correct account could be made of the proportion of expenses chargeable to each division, during the period of our managing the affairs of the Union." And lest there should be any remaining possibility of this matter passing unattended to, the particulars were mentioned by us to certain members of the new board, whose attention to it we requested.

Of the importance of the task which we have now brought to a close, irksome

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to us in no ordinary degree, but which may not be without its fruits to the cause of the poor law in this Union, we have been most deeply sensible. The last-mentioned consideration, which may not have presented itself to those whose unmerited censure in such a variety of particulars has been the occasion of imposing upon us so unpleasing a duty, has led us to trespass upon your attention at a greater length than we should otherwise have considered necessary. Knowing how little foundation existed for this censure, which we lament only as it is of no favourable indication for the cause which we have served with a devotedness known to all—a devotedness eminently successful in the accomplishment of its great object, and it will be admitted under circumstances of no ordinary difficulty, but for which we claim no praise beyond your simple approval—we have been relieved of all occasion for personal excitement; and what we have had to submit to you in explanation, will, we trust, by its uniform tenor throughout bear testimony to the absence of any such on our part. The same freedom from impulse or motive of any kind but what proceeds from a sense of public duty, which we may justly claim to have exhibited during our period of office, will be found, we confidently hope, to characterize our present observations. We shall esteem ourselves fortunate, if they shall be found in consequence deserving of the more weight, and especially such of them as bears upon the actual and prospective conditions of this Union.

STATEMENT annexed to the foregoing Report.

Abstract of the Establishment Account, for the half-year ended 25th March, 1848.

Salaries	£482	2	7
Repairs	292	16	7
Insurance	4	2	6
Drugs, &c.	24	15	4
Printing, stationery, advertising, books, and postage	77	18	5
Furniture, and culinary utensils for workhouse, fever hospital, and detached buildings	216	4	11
Rent	4	0	0
Interest on treasurer's account current	5	14	7
Loan from Commissioners repaid	100	0	0
Other small charges (including subscription to Cow-pock Institution, county cess, requisites for relieving officers, beams, weights, buckets, scales, &c., &c.	43	1	5

Total amount, £1,250 16 4

Lowtherstown, April 19, 1848.

JOHN IRVINE, Clerk of the Union.

ESTABLISHMENT ACCOUNT, further explanation of.

SALARIES—

Workhouse officers and clerk	£76	14	3
Two chaplains and medical officer	47	10	0
Schoolmaster and assistant schoolmistress, and nurses	6	19	8
Master tailor and master shoemaker and assistants*	43	17	0
Relieving officers	47	16	9
Vice-Guardians	253	4	0
Audit fund account	3	5	0
Porter's clothes, hat, &c. £1 16s. 11d., Wardmaster's ditto, 19s. 0d.	2	15	11

£482 2 7

*Furniture Account includes—*For fever hospital bedsteads, £27 14s.; drying rails, woman's yard, £18 12s. 6d.; school desks and forms, pump shed, tables, forms, &c., for dining-hall; altar, £7; iron fire-screen in day wards and school-rooms, bakehouse furniture, &c., &c., &c.

*Repairs' Account includes—*Raising yard walls, putting up oven, enlarging schoolmaster and schoolmistress' rooms, glazing workhouse and detached buildings, repairs to auxiliary workhouse in town, £20; Mr. Tickle's contract for supply of water, paid £40, &c.

Printing, &c. Account—

Printing, advertising, postage, and stationery	£62	7	5
National school-books, maps, slates, stationery, &c.	9	13	4
Bibles, testaments, and prayer-books for use of paupers	5	17	8

£77 18 5

J. IRVINE, Clerk of the Union.

* These were tradesmen to whom, during the great pressure for relief and the consequent necessity for clothing, work was given out of doors.

Mr. MORTON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 18, 1848.*

Lowtherstown
Union.

I AM this morning in receipt of your letter dated the 16th instant, transmitting an extract from minutes of the Board of Guardians of Lowtherstown Union of the 10th instant, respecting the terms on which the building therein referred to was taken from Mr. Montgomery as an additional workhouse, with a copy also of the Guardians' previous minute of the 26th April, and the Commissioners' letter thereon of 5th instant, and desiring my observations upon the subject.

The Guardians, it appears, have succeeded in engaging the house in question at half the rate heretofore agreed for by ourselves; and to enable them to accomplish this they have availed themselves of circumstances which must be considered as making a very material difference in their favour, while at the original agreement we had to contend with circumstances entirely adverse.

These circumstances in the Guardians' favour are—

1. The out-door relief being on the decrease, so as to enable them to come to the resolution to dispense with the accommodation altogether, if not to be had on lower terms; to which resolution, they ascribe, as I observe, the advantage they have obtained.

2. The greater facility at their command to engage other premises, and probably even to make a selection from among several, both from their local influence and the altered time of year, in the event of such accommodation being still desirable, which I perceive it is admitted to be.

3. Mr. Montgomery's disappointment as to the disposal of his interest in the house and farm which he represented to us that he had then an immediate prospect of—and we had reason to know that he was actually at the time negotiating for the purpose with Mr. D'Arcy, the landlord of the premises in question. The farm is now cropped, and will remain in Mr. Montgomery's hands for the present.

On the other hand, the necessity we were driven to of procuring extra accommodation in the depth of winter, and I may add, when every tenement that could be had in or about the town was crowded with families whose houses had been levelled in the country parts around, was urgent and well-known. We had been seeking such accommodation in every direction, and so great was the difficulty we experienced, at the same time that the pressure brooked no delay, that it had become a question with us whether we should not have to apply to you to put in force the second section of the Act. At this so eminently critical moment, and most fortunately, as we conceived for the Union, Mr. Montgomery's house became vacant, by his removing to another upon a farm at some distance. It was especially suited to our purpose from its immediate proximity to the workhouse upon the country side. We visited it, and authorized the clerk to confer with him as to terms for a single month; but he was not certain that he could conveniently let us have it even for that period, having the prospect, as he conceived, of immediately disposing of both house and farm to Mr. D'Arcy. He at length stated himself willing to give it for 5s. more than we eventually agreed at, which last was, if I rightly remember, 25s. for the month, nor then otherwise than with the condition (mentioned, I think, in the particulars of the agreement upon our minutes,) of our surrendering it up even before the expiration of the month if desired.

The clerk, as I believe, did his best to make as good a bargain as possible for the Union on this as on every other occasion; and under the circumstances, being moreover for a temporary object, and not at all contemplating a yearly tenure at £15, we considered the terms far from exceptionable.

In a word, when we dealt with Mr. Montgomery, he had no occasion to be solicitous for the engagement, but rather the reverse—the Union the most urgent occasion possible; at the recent dealing with him, he had every occasion—the Union none, at least of an urgent character; a difference, it will be admitted, quite adequate to account for the difference of payment, without censuring us as for a piece of needless extravagance.

I take the opportunity to mention that my late colleague having done me the kindness of passing this way from Dublin, to consider together the various particulars referred to in the reports of the Visiting and Finance Committees which you transmitted to us in connexion with our administration of the affairs of the Union, with a view to our joint explanation of them; such explanation will be now forthwith forwarded to you.

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Mr. M'MANUS to the COMMISSIONERS:—*June 3, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th ultimo, which, from having been detained in Gardiner-street, only reached me here on the 24th; also, of copies of a minute of the Board of Guardians of the Lowtherstown Union, dated 26th April, and of the Commissioners' letter thereon, and an extract from a later minute of the same board, dated 10th May.

On the subject alluded to in those documents I beg to offer the required observations.

When Montgomery's house was first suggested to my late colleague and myself, and afterwards taken by us, as the only fit place then to be had, to detach about sixty of the schoolboys from the workhouse, circumstances were very different in many respects from what they were on the late occasion of the re-taking of the same premises, at a considerably reduced rent, by the present Board of Guardians. At that time we were placed in such circumstances as fully justified us in giving the rent we did, viz. 25s. per month, as I shall presently explain; whereas, on the late occasion, the exigencies that affected us did not exist, at least not to any thing like the same extent; and the other circumstances of the case were so altered, as certainly not to entitle the elected board to take much credit to themselves for having reduced to half the amount what they were pleased to term "the extravagant sum given by the Vice-Guardians."

At the time we were in treaty for the house, the pressure of the numerous and urgent demands for relief throughout the Union was such as to cause strong apprehensions that we should be obliged to have recourse to the second section of the Extension Poor Relief Act, if additional workhouse accommodation were not at once provided so as to enable us to put the test to all able-bodied applicants for relief, and until the extreme pressure should have subsided. We were in the position that we should either apply for your sealed order to open the second section of the act—an alternative which would have entailed much expense, and might have really led to the demoralization assumed in a former minute of the same board, to have already existed in the Union, but an alternative which, happily for the interests of the Union, we were saved the necessity of having recourse to by the measures we then adopted—or else, lose not a moment in procuring, *even on much higher terms*, if necessary, than those we gave, such accommodation, in the way of auxiliary workhouses, as might be required.

In such a position we, without hesitation, chose the latter course, as being obviously most for the benefit of the Union.

Montgomery and his family, moreover, were at the moment residing in the house, and it was quite optional with them to leave it or not as they might choose; they were, of course, the less inclined to submit to lower terms than they would otherwise have been willing to take had the house been vacant, or our necessities for it the less urgent. Nor had *we* the influence over him that a landlord has over a tenant, whose lease is about to expire or has actually ceased to exist. I might also add, as almost a sufficient justification in itself for Mr. Montgomery's asking, and for our giving, a higher rent for the premises, that they were taken by us only by the month, either party having the power of breaking the contract at a very short notice; he not wishing to lose a tenant for the whole by dividing the house from the land, and we for the reason that we then hoped the occasion for holding on the house would be only temporary.

In conclusion, I may be allowed to express my surprise that the circumstance above alluded to should have been put forward as an instance of the "extravagance practised whilst the Union was under the immediate superintendence of the Commissioners," with such unsubstantial grounds and inconclusive evidence to rest so serious a charge upon.

Mr. WILKINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 8, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th instant, on the subject of the Lowtherstown poorhouse, with an extract from the Visiting Committee's report.

I have to state that the house was intended only for a certain number of paupers, and that it will well contain the number it was built for. Plans for

its enlargement were sent to the Vice-Guardians, and steps were taken by them but not carried out, I believe, for putting the drains, yards, site, and other matters in a satisfactory state, and it appears that the present Guardians are about to do the same. The drains were out of order, and I intended to recommend when the new fever hospital at Enniskillen was in progress, that the clerk of works, who would be employed there, should give occasional inspection and assistance to the Vice-Guardians; this may not be necessary now, perhaps, if the Guardians get these matters done as proposed.

With regard to the walling being excessive for the space enclosed, I quite differ from the committee, and believe I can prove to the contrary. Barracks, gaols, and asylums are almost all buildings of narrow widths. The wings of the poorhouses are double buildings, with three walls instead of four side walls, and the main body of the buildings with only two side walls for a double width.

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Union.

Mr. WILKINSON to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May* 19, 1848.

IN reply to your communication of the 10th instant respecting the Lowtherstown Union workhouse, and the statement as extracted from the Guardians' minutes, viz., that the only way of bringing meal, milk, turf, &c., into the house is through the kitchen, and that much inconvenience results therefrom, I have to state that I do not consider it necessary to make the kitchen the passage for the stores in question. A reference to the plans will, I think, show that the inconvenience complained of is capable of being avoided.

Castlebar and
Westport Unions.

CASTLEBAR AND WESTPORT UNIONS.

The COMMISSIONERS to the VICE-GUARDIANS:—*April 15, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have directed me to acquaint you that it is their intention to place Westport and Castlebar Unions, respectively, under separate Boards of Guardians on the 25th instant; and they would propose to appoint you at that time as Vice-Guardians for Westport Union alone, if you are willing still to give the Commissioners the benefit of your services.

In announcing to you their intention of separating two Unions, both of which you have hitherto had under your superintendence, the Commissioners desire to assure you that the reasons which have led them to this determination do not in any degree involve diminished confidence in you. On the contrary, the Commissioners are fully sensible of the value of your exertions, and they have to thank you for the energy and ability with which you have discharged the onerous duties which have been imposed upon you.

Still the Commissioners are convinced that in the present condition of Castlebar and Westport Unions, it is for the interests of the public service that each of these Unions should occupy the undivided official attention of two Vice-Guardians; and the Commissioners feel, moreover, that it is their duty to regard their interests as paramount to all personal considerations.

The rate of salary for the Vice-Guardianship of Westport Union will be the same as the salary fixed by the Commissioners for your late colleague, Mr. Fishbourne, in the adjoining Union of Ballinrobe.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*April 16, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose a copy of the rules and of the forms to be adopted in the management of working parties and the administration of relief to the able-bodied, which have been approved by the Vice-Guardians of the Westport and Castlebar Unions. They are similar in all essential points to those adopted in Ballina and other Unions; and as these have already been approved by you, I have authorized the Vice-Guardians to have the present forms printed, they having ascertained by a previous estimate from Messrs. Chambers, in Abbey-street, that the cost would be moderate. I hope in a few days we shall receive some copies, and may introduce the system.

I intend to forward, by to-morrow's post, a further report on the progress making in these Unions, in arrangements for the better management of working parties.

ENCLOSURES.

INSTRUCTIONS to RELIEVING OFFICERS with reference to the Employment of Able-bodied Paupers.

THE relieving officer will prepare on each board-day a list (according to Form A), for every overseer in his division, of the able-bodied paupers who are there ordered relief in return for labour, and shall forward the same, with the least possible delay, to such overseers respectively. Also lists of such persons as by order of the board are struck off the relief lists.

Lists to the same effect, but according to Form B, shall also be furnished to the contractors.

Whenever an application is made to the relieving officer by or on behalf of any able-bodied man, ordered by the Board of Guardians to be set to work, alleging that such person is unable through sickness to perform it, the relieving officer shall proceed to his residence, and having satisfied himself of the truth of the statement, shall order provisional relief for food to be afforded to him until the next board-day, when he shall report all the circumstances to the board. Such relief to be in cooked food, supplied by daily orders on the contractor—Form C.

The relieving officer will obtain from the contractors, on every Monday in each week, an account of the bread issued for the preceding week, supported by vouchers, which he will compare, and if correct, certify the account; and having entered the particulars in his relief list, will transmit the account and vouchers to the board-room before ten o'clock on the morning of the board-day, to be examined by the clerk and laid before the board.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPERVISORS.

1. The supervisor shall visit each working party in his district at least twice in every week. He shall keep a full and exact diary of his proceedings each day, stating the precise hours of his visits to the working parties, the number of men present, amount of work performed since last weekly return, and containing such general remarks upon the state of the party, together with such suggestions concerning them as circumstances may require; and shall on the morning of each board-day lay a copy of such diary before the Board of Guardians, accompanied by a return of the number of implements, and their condition, according to a form to be provided for the purpose.

2. At each visit he shall call the roll of the working party from the overseer's book, and ascertain that the overseer has correctly entered each person's attendance. His signature to this portion of the overseer's book shall be considered as a voucher, for the correctness of which he shall be considered strictly responsible.

He shall examine into the nature of the work in progress, and give all necessary directions for securing its due execution, and advancing order and regularity.

He shall count and examine the tools in use, and give directions for all such as are out of repair to be forwarded to the house of the relieving officer.

He shall measure the work done since last visit, and ascertain if the amount executed agrees with the entry in the overseer's book, according to task assigned to each person.

He shall enter on the overseer's book the amount of stone broken, and make arrangements for securing against any of the work thus measured being brought forward for re-measurement on his next visit.

He shall attend at the board-room at ten o'clock on the board-day, and closely examine the overseer's books, and compare them with the weekly return up to the previous Saturday, in order to their being submitted to the chairman.

He shall also compare and check the issue of bread, as returned by the contractors in their accounts, with the numbers returned present in the overseer's books for the corresponding period, and certify the accuracy of the same on the face of the contractor's bill.

After the board have decided upon the applications for relief, the supervisor shall copy, from lists prepared for the overseer, the names of all parties ordered to work, according to Form A; and on his next visit to each working party he shall, by an inspection of the individual, enter in the appropriate columns the class to which he belongs, and the task of work he has to perform, having reference to his ability and the work on which he is to be engaged.

The labourers shall be divided into three classes—the first shall break two boxes daily, the second a box and a half, and the third one box daily. The stones to be broken of a size to pass through a ring not exceeding an inch and a half in diameter. It is calculated that one quarryman can raise stones enough for three breakers.

INSTRUCTIONS TO OVERSEERS OF WORKING PARTIES.

The overseers will be furnished by the relieving officers from time to time with a list containing the names and number in application book of each able-bodied pauper who is to render a task of work—Form A: this list will also contain the age of each individual and the quantity of provision he will be entitled to receive, and columns for "class" and "task to be executed." The two latter will be filled up by the supervisor.

Hours of work shall be from eight o'clock in the morning until five in the afternoon—one hour, viz., from twelve to one, to be allowed for dinner.

Roll to be called at eight, one, and five o'clock each day.

Each person answering to have a mark put against his name in the column for the day, in books to be furnished for the purpose—Form D.

At five o'clock the work of each man is to be measured, and if complete according to the allotted task, a ticket is to be issued (Form E), which will entitle him to the number of rations appointed by the Vice-Guardians.

In inclement weather when work cannot be done, it will be sufficient that the men shall have answered the roll calls at eight, one, and four o'clock.

In case a representation is made on behalf of any labourer, that he is unable from sickness to work, the overseer shall forthwith refer him to the relieving officer, but shall on no account whatever give him the food ticket.

On of each week the overseer shall send in to the clerk of the Union a weekly return of labour and of implements, according to Form F, and shall likewise send in his labour-book in the morning of each board-day.

The overseer shall on no account absent himself from his working party under pain of fine or dismissal, and every irregularity or misconduct in the issue of tickets or otherwise, will be severely punished, and the loss to the Union thereby occasioned deducted from his salary. He will receive his pay through the hands of the supervisor alone.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRACTORS for supplying Relief to the able-bodied Paupers.

The contractors will be furnished by the relieving officers after each board-day with a list of persons for whom bread is to be supplied, specifying the quantity for each person respectively. He will supply bread upon tickets addressed to him by the overseers, in the Form E. He will also supply bread upon the tickets of the relieving officers—Form C. Tickets marked for a double quantity will be issued each Saturday.

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He will be required to close his accounts on each Saturday evening, and prepare a return according to Form G, for each electoral division, which, with the tickets to support each item, must be handed over to the relieving officer on Monday.

Separate returns to be made of the bread issued on the tickets of the relieving officers, which, with the vouchers, are to be handed over in like manner every Monday.

Any item in the accounts not duly supported by voucher will be deducted from the payment.

Form A.

UNION.

Electoral Division of _____

RETURN of able-bodied persons to render a task of work.

Working party, No. _____

Dated at _____ the _____ of _____ 1848.

No. in Application book.	Quantity of food authorized if task be executed.	Name.	Age.	Class.	Task to be executed.	

Signature, _____

Form B.

UNION.

Electoral Division of _____

RETURN of able-bodied destitute persons to receive daily rations of rye-bread, provided the daily task of work be performed by them.

Week ending _____ of _____ 1848.

No. in Application book.	Name.	No. of pounds of rye-bread allowed daily.	

Signature of Relieving Officer _____

Form C.

CASUAL RELIEF—ABLE-BODIED.

Electoral Division.

No. _____

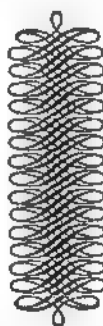
day of _____ 1848.

Name _____

No. in Application book _____

lbs. of _____

No. of working party _____



UNION. _____ Electoral Division.

No. _____

Give bearer for _____ No. in application book _____ he being sick, _____ lbs of bread.

To _____

Contractor.

Signature of Relieving Officer.

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FORM F.

Return of Implements in charge _____ of _____ 1848.

In hands, ...									
Received on _____ of _____									
Total, ...									
Returned into store, — of —, ...									
In hands, ...									

I certify the foregoing to be correct, and that the Implements returned in hands were counted by me and found in good condition; this _____ of _____ 1848.

Signature of overseer.

Countersigned, _____ Supervisor.

FORM G.—CONTRACTOR'S BILL.

Union, _____ electoral division of _____

The Vice-Guardians Dr. to _____ for rye-bread supplied during week
ended _____ lbs. at _____ per lb.

(Per annexed return.)

FORM G— _____ UNION.

Electoral Division of _____

Return of quantity of rye-bread supplied by _____ contractor, during the week
ended _____ 1848, upon tickets signed by overseers of work; the said tickets
being hereunto annexed.

Number in Application and Report Book.	Lbs. of bread supplied on the following days.						Total.	
	Monday. Lbs.	Tuesday. Lbs.	Wednesday. Lbs.	Thursday. Lbs.	Friday. Lbs.	Saturday. Lbs.		
Total,								

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____ 1848.

Signature.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS :—May 8, 1848.

WITH reference to my former communications on the state of the collection in these Unions, I beg to inform you that since my last report I have had frequent communications with the two collectors by whom the bulk of the rate remains still to be collected, and have endeavoured, by examination of their books, to make myself thoroughly acquainted with the present position and future prospects of the revenue of these Unions. Much time has undoubtedly been lost; and without entering into the causes of this delay, it is evident that if the collectors had sooner made themselves master of their duties, and acted energetically upon them, the results would have been different. Considering

the importance of the duties which these collectors have discharged so unsatisfactorily, I have been more than once inclined to recommend their instant dismissal; but on reflection, I have satisfied myself that this course might be prejudicial to the important law proceedings now pending, and would actually produce the greatest embarrassment by the necessary cessation of funds during the interval between the appointment of a new collector and the time when his first lodgments could be made. Upon the whole, therefore, I am of opinion that the best course to adopt is, to retain these two collectors; and I have drawn up a memorandum to guide the Vice-Guardians in the course they should adopt with respect to them. The principle upon which it is based is, that on a certain day in each week, one or more of the collector's books should be examined in turn; that careful and distinct orders should be written down upon any case requiring interference on the part of the Vice-Guardians; and that such instructions should be conveyed in a formal notice to the collector (who should attend the meeting), and unless found to have been acted upon on the next day of meeting, should be followed by punishment, under the 100th section of the Poor Law Act. This course to be continued until each electoral division has been gone through, when the first should be again taken up. I think, by regularly acting up to this line, a systematic course may be pursued which will succeed in getting in as much of the rate as is collected; but I must add, that in both Unions I have no doubt whatever that a considerable amount must be considered irrecoverable. In the case of Mr. Loudon, of Westport, you will perceive that, by means of a large contribution from Lord Sligo, he has been enabled to pay in more than the sum required of him during the past week, and this saved the penalties attached to his disobedience. But it is quite hopeless to expect a continuance of lodgments at this rate.

I have visited a very large portion of these Unions during the past week, and am able to state that the administration of relief is proceeding satisfactorily. On Wednesday I went over the greater part of Castlebar Union, and visited eight or ten working parties. In every one (with a single exception) the attendance was large, amounting generally to three-fourths of the persons returned, which, considering the prevalence of sickness, is a large average. And in every single instance the amount of stone-breaking performed was very large. I have no hesitation in saying, that in that Union the labour test has been well carried out as far as the amount of work is concerned.

On Friday and Saturday I visited Newport and Achill and intended to have seen Clare Island, but the violence of the weather prevented me. However, the Vice-Guardians, at my suggestion, had visited it on the previous week (when illness prevented my accompanying them), and I now transmit a letter which the chairman addressed to me on the subject. I should have forwarded it sooner, but wished to wait until I had an opportunity of confirming its views by personal observation. I am however quite satisfied by this information and that afforded by a trustworthy relieving officer, appointed at my suggestion, that the present powers for relief in the hands of the Vice-Guardians are sufficient to meet the destitution.

My own observation as to Achill enables me to say the same for that division; and I hope that the more uninterrupted presence of the relieving officer, who is now only to leave his district once a fortnight, and the attendance on every alternate week of the Guardians themselves, will secure to this remote locality due attention. I transmit a statement made to me by a very respectable and benevolent gentleman as to the want of medical assistance. It shows in a lamentable manner the imperfection and insufficiency of the established system of medical charities in this country; and the evil appears to me so pressing that I propose that the Vice-Guardians shall appoint a medical officer under the 5th section of the Extension Act, and when the arrangements for this purpose are completed, your sanction will be requested. The labour test is certainly by no means so well worked in this Union as in Castlebar; but much improvement has been effected by means of the new overseers lately appointed, and I have no doubt that in a short time the working parties will be as efficient as can reasonably be expected.

The books and forms being now all ready and on their way from Dublin, daily distribution will now be universally carried out in both Unions. In Castlebar the contracts are ready; and the system having been commenced in two electoral divisions, will easily be extended. Greater difficulty exists here, but some tenders

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have been sent in which I hope may be accepted on next board-day, and but little delay may then be expected to intervene. I am disappointed at the loss of time already incurred, but I found it impossible sooner to overcome the obstacles in my way.

In Achill it is proposed to give cooked food to all classes, but in the other electoral divisions to the able-bodied only, at least for the present.

In addition to the fortnightly visits to be paid by the Vice-Guardians to Achill and Ballycroy, I am arranging for regular attendances at each of the other districts, where boards can in turn be held, and where applicants and their families may be assembled in the manner recommended by you, together with any other persons on the relief lists whom it may be necessary to inspect, and where the assistance of neighbouring proprietors may be secured for the detection of fraud. The printed lists of persons receiving relief in two electoral divisions of this Union are already in the hands of the Vice-Guardians, and I expect the remainder of them, both for this Union and Castlebar, in a few days; they will, I am sure, be found of much use.

I can bear strong testimony to the activity at present displayed in the cultivation of the land between Westport and Newport, a distance of about nine miles; I observed at least 300 or 400 men at agricultural work, many employed by Sir R. O'Donnell under the Land Improvement Act, but at least an equal number by the farmers and small holders preparing land for potatoes and turnips. As I advanced further to the west, where the country becomes mountainous and less thickly inhabited, bodies of labourers were no longer seen; but in the vicinity of almost every farmer's house two or three persons might be observed in active employment, and the shores of the small bays, with which the country is intersected, were covered with women and children collecting and carrying sea-weed for manure. I conversed with many persons of intelligence and trustworthiness and found all agreeing in their testimony to the activity and anxiety of the farmers and people to raise crops for their support during the ensuing year. The value of the turnip as human food has been proved to them by this year's experience; and, with more than ordinary forethought, the people seem now anxious to possess a crop of it in order to save the potatoes for seed for the following year.

Many different reasons may be assigned for the improvements in industry and activity observable in this season over the last; but whatever be its true cause, it is satisfactory to observe, that it has arisen and been developed during the administration of an extended poor law.

ENCLOSURES.

STATEMENT of Dr. ADAMS, as to the condition of the people in Achill Island.

I AM a physician, and have resided in the missionary settlement at Achill for twelve years. There is no other medical practitioner on the island. I have been in the constant habit during the whole period of attending to the poor of this district—have done so gratuitously. The medicines for the sick poor were originally provided by voluntary subscriptions, solely; but some years ago the dispensary was taken up by the county, and for five years an amount equal to the private subscriptions was presented for, and expended upon, this object; for the last two years this sum has been withheld, and the dispensary has been, and continues to be, dependent for support on private contributions alone. I have constant opportunities of judging of the sanitary condition of the people. During the past winter low fever, dysentery, and anasarca were exceedingly prevalent. The deaths in consequence have been very numerous, and frequent relapses have taken place amongst the sick from want of a proper description of nourishment. At the present moment I believe the violence of these diseases has abated; and the returning hope which the prospect of support from their own industry has called up, appears to act as a stimulant, and to assist in throwing off the tendency to sickness. Still the amount of disease is considerable, and at least 500 or 600 persons are supplied with medicines, monthly, from the dispensary. The Indian meal, which is distributed under the poor law to the poor, is not well suited to meet the evils under which the people suffer. I think much benefit would result from the administering of rice or oatmeal to the sick; I also think that food distributed in a cooked form would be of much more advantage than the distribution of meal.

NEASON ADAMS, M.D.

Mr. LECKY to Mr. BOURKE:—April 30, 1848.

I think it right to inform you that on Thursday last I made a visit to Clare Island, for the purpose of inspecting the condition of the people there, and ascertaining whether

the steward and relieving officer were fulfilling their duties, and the meal distributor dealing fairly by the poor people. I found the island itself much above what a distant inspection had led me to suppose, and some of the land really promising, and here and there good and comfortable houses; the people on the stone-breaking gangs, about seventy, were looking strong, healthy, and well fed, but the amount of work executed, compared with the numbers on the lists, was insignificant. The steward had evidently and wilfully neglected the duty intrusted to him, and must be dismissed as soon as a person can be found to fill his place. There is also every reason to suppose that the time which the people ought to have spent on the stone-breaking has been occupied on their lands, as the greater part of that ever tilled is turned up now; and I think the land round every village is well prepared, much of it sown, and the remainder ready for turnip seed. It is in vain to inquire who the cultivated land belongs to—no one will tell; but the secrecy is evidence that it belongs to persons receiving out-door relief, and that the parties certified for by Sir Samuel O'Malley's bailiff never were out of possession or occupation of their holdings; and this will account for Sir Samuel declining to answer my letter, inquiring whether his bailiff, Mr. Malley, had authority to take surrenders from his tenantry. I walked the whole length of the island, and across the southern end, and in all the distance had but six applications for relief. These shall be attended to on next board-day; and I left word for Vanston to give them provisional relief.

I do not think there is such an amount of destitution among the classes lately cut off as could not be met by relief in the workhouse; however, to set the question at rest, I propose that we should go there again on next Thursday and hold a board, that then every case can be investigated. It would be most satisfactory if we could have the advantage of your presence on that occasion. Captain Broad, of the Dolphin revenue cutter, who kindly gave me a passage to the island, and brought me away again at night, will, I have no doubt, afford us the same accommodation if he is in the bay.

I think it is worthy of remark, that just before my arrival, Sir William O'Malley, Sir Samuel's eldest son, and agent, left the island, after a week's residence, with two vessels freighted with cattle distrained for rent, and yet not one penny of rate will this gentleman pay to enable us to feed his starving tenantry; and Sir William has latterly been sending certificates to the board stating the destitution of parties on the island, who on inquiry were found to be possessed of land, and even tilling and sowing it.

REPLY to the foregoing:—*May 16, 1848.*

THE Commissioners desire to express their thanks for your report of the 8th instant, on the collection of the rates and administration of out-door relief, as well as the progress of cultivation and industry in the Castlebar and Westport Unions.

With regard to the proposal to appoint a medical officer in Westport Union, under the 5th section of 10 Vic., cap. 31, the Commissioners forward herewith a copy of an order issued in Killarney Union for your information, as to the nature of the arrangement which the Commissioners contemplate adopting generally in such cases.

DEANERY OF WESTPORT.

At a meeting of the Catholic Clergy of the Deanery of Westport, held on the 25th of April, Very Rev. Dean Burke, P.P., in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved—That we contemplate with feelings of the deepest anguish the present condition of our respective flocks, reduced as they are to the last extremity of destitution, and almost annihilated before our eyes by the ravages of hunger and disease, chiefly owing to the mismanagement and heartless indifference of the well-paid officers who pretend to administer the Poor Law Act in this Union.

Resolved—That from all we have seen and heard of the manner of acting of those who are paid for carrying out the provisions of the poor law, it is our firm conviction, that if it were intended to starve the people to death, and entail everlasting ruin on the district, it would be impossible to discover a more effective plan, or one better calculated to accomplish such infernal policy than that which has been adopted from the beginning, and is still, in spite of all remonstrance, recklessly persevered in by all parties connected with the administration of that law.

Resolved—That we particularly deplore the cruel policy which has permitted a statute purporting to be enacted for the relief of the poor to be shamelessly converted into an ejectment law, whilst the poor are robbed of even the miserable privilege conferred upon them by the ruthless "Gregory clause," to indulge the levelling propensities of some exterminating landlords who, to all appearance, care not what becomes of their unfortunate tenants, provided they can banish them by any means from off their estates.

Resolved—That the utter recklessness about the lives of the poor on the part of the Vice-Guardians and their staff has been perfectly evinced by their recent conduct, in strik-

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ing off the relief list vast numbers of the most destitute, even those who had been actually obliged to throw down their houses to qualify themselves for relief. That it is worse than mockery to tell those famishing creatures, as the Guardians so unfeelingly have done, "to go seek for employment from the farmers!" well aware at the same time that there are no farmers in this district, where persons have been known to offer themselves to work for a penny a day rather than starve, but could get no one to employ them.

Resolved—That a gleam of hope is kindled within us at witnessing the extraordinary efforts being made at present by the inhabitants of our respective parishes to till so very extensively, notwithstanding their heart-broken and bankrupt state, and the shameless absence of all encouragement, nay, the positive discouragement of many of the landlords, that those who have made such noble efforts are now almost universally at the point of starvation, having exhausted all their scanty means in seeding the land; that therefore we respectfully and most earnestly call on the Government to come forward at once with a liberal grant for feeding the people and carrying them through the crisis from this till harvest, when we hope, with the blessings of Providence, our patient and long-suffering people will have abundance of food to support themselves, and will be no longer depending on such precarious sustenance.

Resolved—That the foregoing resolutions be published, and that a copy of same be forwarded immediately to the Prime Minister, and another to Mr. John O'Connell, with a request that he will lose no time in pressing the subject on the attention of the House of Commons, as it is one at this moment of the most vital importance.

(Signed,)

BERNARD BURKE, *Chairman.*

The COMMISSIONERS to Mr. REDINGTON:—*May 9, 1848.*

THE Commissioners have had their attention drawn to a series of resolutions, published in the "Dublin Freeman's Journal" of the 5th instant, as having been adopted at a meeting of the Roman Catholic Clergy of the Deanery of Westport, held on the 25th ultimo.

In the first and second of these resolutions it is represented that the poorer classes are reduced to the last extremity of destitution, and almost annihilated by the ravages of hunger and disease, chiefly owing to the mismanagement and heartless indifference of the officials administering the poor law in the Union; and that if it were intended to starve the people to death, and entail everlasting ruin on the district, it would be impossible to discover a more effective plan "to accomplish such infernal policy," than that which has been adopted from the beginning, and still recklessly persevered in, by all parties connected with the administration of that law.

No reference is given, however, to any measures, contrary to the law, which were adopted in administering the enactments to which such results are ascribed; and no instances are afforded of the denial of relief in any cases in which it could have been legally given by the local administrators of the law.

Up to the 21st of March, relief out of the workhouse was afforded to all classes of destitute persons to whom it could be given, under the provisions of the Relief Extension Act, 10 Vic. cap. 31; from that date out-door relief has been restricted so as to exclude able-bodied men who are unmarried, or who being married have only a wife and one child, and the total number so relieved daily throughout the last month, under such restricted order of the Commissioners, exceeded twenty-one thousand.

Much stress is laid in the third resolution on the effect of the enactment requiring that persons occupying more than quarter of an acre of land should not receive relief; but in administering the law subject to this clause, relief was directed to be given to such persons as had ceased to occupy land of greater extent than the law allowed in such cases.

In the fourth resolution "utter recklessness about the lives of the poor" is imputed to the Vice-Guardians and their staff, "as evinced by their recent conduct in striking off the relief list vast numbers of the most destitute, even those who had been obliged to throw down their houses to qualify themselves for relief," and who were told to seek employment from the farmers. The Commissioners beg to observe, that the Vice-Guardians have not required houses to be thrown down as the condition on which relief would be given, as the law allows relief to householders, and portion of this resolution must therefore have been intended to refer to other parties than the administrators of the poor law. The Commissioners also beg to state, that before the issue of their order of the

21st March, by which unmarried men, and those having but a wife with one child, were excluded from relief except in the workhouse, the number of persons who received out-door relief, under the 2nd section of the Act, 10 Vic. cap. 31, in this Union extended to 17,137, and was in the following week reduced to 14,208; therefore 2,929 persons would appear to have been the number excluded by the order referred to; and the population of the Union in 1841 amounted to 77,952.

However, in the fifth resolution, there is evidence of the good result of this order, as it detached from the relief lists the labourers who enabled the landholders to crop their farms, which might otherwise have remained to a great extent uncultivated.

There is not in any of the resolutions an acknowledgment of the relief administered from the funds of the British Relief Association, to the children who attend at the public schools of the Union, in which there are 8,250 children daily supplied with food.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 11, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that during the last three days I have visited the largest of the islands comprising the Clare Island electoral division of this Union, and examined attentively into the operation of the poor law there. I was accompanied in this visit by the chairman of the board of Vice-Guardians, and the medical officer of the workhouse. The first of the islands we visited was Boffin, where I regret to say a robbery had been committed a few nights before on the store where the relief meal was placed. We took some police with us to the island and made every inquiry likely to lead to a discovery of the offenders, but without much success. A strong case of suspicion has however been made out, which may eventually lead to the apprehension of the guilty parties; and we have left the constables on the island to make further investigation, and to assist Mr. Hildebrand (the principal inhabitant) in bringing the parties to justice.

The island of Boffin has a considerable population, which supports itself by agriculture and fishing; but in consequence of their present poverty they have been up to this time unable to avail themselves of this latter occupation, and have trusted entirely for support to out-door relief. A short time ago I applied to Count Strzelecki for a grant of biscuit for the use of these fishermen—a request with which he most promptly complied; and I feel great pleasure in being able to state, that this benevolence has been attended with the best effects. Already upwards of thirty crews (most of whom had been previously receiving out-door relief) are partaking of its benefits; and being themselves supported by the biscuit whilst engaged in their business, are enabled, from the produce of their fishing, to maintain their families without public assistance. At present, indeed, their profits are small, for the season has been unfavourable; but I think before long their industry and self-reliance may meet with greater success. The agricultural portion of the population are suffering severely from poverty, and many who, up to this time, have remained in occupation of their land, are now forced to resign it, in order to obtain food. I feel no doubt that the distress in this island can, and will, be sufficiently met by means of the poor law; and I also believe that its administration is secured from abuses by the co-operation of Mr. Hildebrand, agent to the proprietor, Lord Sligo, who resides on the island and knows every resident.

From Boffin we proceeded to Clare Island, where we spent a day. My own observation has confirmed the report already made by the Vice-Guardians, as to the condition of this island, and forwarded in my letter of the 8th. The island appears to me to be in course of cultivation to an extent equal to that of former years; but I am disposed to think that though much land has been tilled and manured, but little has been sown with corn or planted with potatoes. The poverty of the inhabitants has prevented their procuring seed; but their desire to provide for the wants of next year, and the repeated advice of their clergymen, have induced them to prepare the land in hopes of obtaining a gratuitous supply of seed. There can be no doubt, from the appearance of the island, that many of them in receipt of relief from the rates have continued in occupation of some of their land, and have employed themselves in its cultivation instead of being engaged in breaking stones. These two abuses I have applied myself to correct, since I have been here, and I have no doubt, with success. An intelligent, and

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I believe upright person, named Vanston, has been appointed relieving officer; and arrangements have been made for enabling him to remain on the island as much as possible. A more strict attention has also been paid to the working parties, and a larger amount of work has been performed during the last month than for any previous part of the year. And in order more efficiently to conduct this branch, I intend that a person shall be sent to the island as overseer and assistant relieving officer, in whom more confidence can be placed than in the person now employed. By these means, I believe the orders under which relief should be administered may be carried out; but it is right to add, that the difficulties already experienced will still continue to be felt. These result in some measure from the circumstances of the island. It is the property of a single proprietor, Sir Samuel O'Malley, a gentleman in very embarrassed circumstances. Very little rent has been paid on it for some years; and I believe almost all the defaulting tenants have surrendered their holdings, but been permitted to re-occupy their houses. Finding themselves undisturbed, and likely to continue so, (for the proprietor is not in a position to take the land into his own hands, and can get no tenant to rent it as long as the present tenantry remain,) they have exerted themselves to dig and manure as much of their land as possible, trusting to the chance of getting seed gratuitously, and being supported until harvest by the rates. The inquiries of the relieving officer as to occupation, are met by an allegation of surrender, supported in many cases by a certificate to the same effect from Sir William O'Malley (eldest son of Sir Samuel); whilst the rundale system of holding land, which prevails in a most complicated manner in the island, renders personal observation as to the fact of occupancy almost impossible. There is scarcely one man whose land adjoins his house, and most of the arable land is held in small lots of a quarter or half an acre, and so intermixed, that it is very easy to mislead on the question of ownership. I think, therefore, that in the case of this island, the Vice-Guardians can never feel confident that the provisions of the tenth section of the Extension Act are duly enforced. These causes are now producing great suffering among the people. It is impossible for Vice-Guardians to afford relief against a strong conviction that the parties are in occupation of land; and yet, in so limited a district, it is difficult for the poor (who have no other house than their own to go to, and have already dug and manured some of their land) to establish the fact that they have ceased to occupy. In cases where there appears a doubt, I have advised the Vice-Guardians to offer the workhouse. I feel very much for these poor people; they have shown the strongest wish to help themselves. They have done all in their power to secure their own support; but every effort they have made appears likely to be lost for want of assistance they might naturally expect from their landlord. I shall endeavour to interest the Society of Friends on their behalf, and to procure a renewal of the relief to the school children, which has, unfortunately, been for the last fortnight withdrawn. The medical officer who accompanied me will send in a report of the sanitary state of the island, which, on receipt, I will transmit to you. I fear there is much sickness, and am sorry to say there is no medical man in any part of the electoral division. If you think it right to adopt my recommendation on the last minutes, and direct the Vice-Guardians to appoint a medical officer under the fifth section of the Extension Act, I think the benefits will be materially felt in these islands; and the expense of travelling will not be much, as the revenue cutters have been offered by their commanders for this service.

The calm state of the weather detained me longer in these islands than I had intended, and has produced some arrears in my correspondence.

Mr. BOURKE to the COMMISSIONERS:—*May 14, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to forward the report from the medical officer of Westport Union to which I alluded in my last letter of the 11th, upon the condition of the inhabitants of the islands comprising the electoral division of Clare Island.

I stated in my letter the steps I should recommend for meeting the evils stated by the medical officer as existing in Clare Island itself; and have only to add, that the Vice-Guardians will immediately take measures for securing a supply of salt for the use of the poor.

ENCLOSURE.

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REPORT on the Sanitary Condition of the Islands of Boffin, Shark, and Clare.

*Westport, May 12, 1848.**Boffin and Shark.*

FEVER, which I learned had recently prevailed to a great extent, has considerably abated in those islands, both in the number of cases and frequency of relapse; there are, however, a good many cases in Shark of a mild character, which, particularly among the destitute, are followed frequently by diarrhoea, dysentery, and subsequent dropsical effusion of the lower extremities. I have found several cases of each of these diseases. Scrofulous disease, manifested by ulcers and glandular enlargements, are of frequent occurrence.

But notwithstanding the prevalence of those affections, I feel warranted in stating that the present sanitary condition of those islands is not unusually bad—the extreme destitution under which many of their inhabitants are suffering being duly considered.

To the vigilant attention bestowed by Mr. Hildebrand (Lord Sligo's agent at Boffin) on the people, I believe is mainly attributable the absence of diseases in worse forms than at present prevail.

Clare Island.

This island having been represented as being in a state of extreme destitution, and consequent suffering from disease, I made minute inquiries and personal examination into the sanitary condition of its people.

The result of my investigation has painfully confirmed the truthfulness of the representations which had reached me. Of fever there are not, indeed, many cases, but cutaneous diseases, diarrhoea, dysentery, and dropsy, prevail to a very great extent; the latter disease (particularly amongst the young) in some of its worst forms.

The mortality of this island has been, and must be for some time to come, very great; the appearance of some, especially the children, is wretchedly miserable and squalid.

I deem it proper to mention a fact communicated to me by Mr. Hamill, the district inspector of national schools, viz., the want of salt—a privation which must be productive of many evils.

I have prescribed for a vast number, and intend forwarding the necessary medicines (compounded) to the relieving officer, with the necessary directions for their proper distribution.

T. HAMILTON BURKE, *Fellow R. C. Surgeons, &c.*REPLY to the foregoing:—*May 20, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, transmitting a report from the medical officer of Westport Union, relative to the condition of the inhabitants of the islands comprising the Clare Island electoral division; and I am to inform you that the Commissioners will direct the appointment of a medical officer for Boffin and Clare Islands, under the 5th section of the Temporary Poor Relief Extension Act.

Continuation of CORRESPONDENCE between the Earl of LUCAN and the VICE-GUARDIANS, or their SOLICITOR, on the subject of POOR RATES.

The Earl of LUCAN to Mr. O'DONEL :—*February 15, 1848.*

See 6th Series,
page 544.

IN my letter of the 29th ultimo I expressed my intention of immediately repairing to Ireland, at whatever inconvenience, to endeavour to arrange amicably and speedily the poor rate claims you have been instructed to enforce against me; having realized that intention, your reply of the 7th instant only reached me last evening. You observe that you believe the language used by me respecting the acts and intentions of the officers connected with the administration of the law for the relief of the poor in this Union to be undeserved. I confined my remarks, as much as possible, to facts in refutation of the observations made by you; and I can assure you, that to me it was a source of regret to find myself compelled to make charges so severe, and in language so strong; but I thought then, as I think now, that the unjustifiable attack upon my property and my character, which it is attempted to assail, did not permit me to express myself differently. You state that the law does not sanction an arbitration, or rather reference, such as I proposed. Now, so long as you do not contradict my assertion, that with Mr. Lynch, of Partrey, that course was adopted, and sanctioned by the Poor Law Commissioners—and I can name other cases where compromises have been allowed—I must doubt your authority.

See however page
46, 6th Series—
Ballinrobe Union.

As you declare that you knew nothing of the injustice of the demands you are endeavouring to enforce against me, I am sorry to have used the expression I did. I must however in my own justification state, that the notoriety of the fact, and the circumstance of the Clerk of the Union being your own clerk, would not allow me to suppose that what was known to everybody else was unknown to you, the law adviser of the paid Guardians. And you say, that opposed to my statements of the injustice is the fact, that I did not deem it proper to have recourse to the quarter sessions for protection and redress. To no one better than myself can it be known, that no protection or redress of that or any other sort has been open to me. At the time of the quarter sessions, £228 2s. 2d. only had been demanded. I had paid £150 13s. 3d., a sum exceeding by £12 2s. my just liabilities; and I had had furnished to Mr. Lecky, by his desire the particulars of every objected item. Subsequent to the commencement of the sessions, a further demand, without particulars, was made for £262 10s. 2d.; and you, only six days later, on the 12th January called upon me to pay £692 4s. 2d., adding that the particulars had been furnished to my agent, a statement quite contrary to fact; and when only £339 19s. 1d. of the gross sum demanded remained unpaid, my agents at first assisted by myself, have by search, with much labour made out the particulars of the first two demands, and there appear to be upwards of 1,100 cases of objection in this Union alone. In the different Unions where my estates are situate, they cannot fall short of 2,000. Could any solicitor prepare 2,000 appeals in the time? and mine, as you know, was confined to his bed, and his life despaired of. The law requires recognizances being entered into by the appellant himself, not his agent, and in Ireland. I was at the time attending Parliament in England;—how could I enter into 2,000 recognizances? The law does not make it sufficient to discharge myself, by showing that I was not liable. I must discover, in each of the 2,000 cases, where the rated property lay, to whom it legally belonged, and by whom and by what term it was occupied, and all the parties interested should be served with a fourteen days' notice. Such is the law which, you say, offered me protection and redress against demands, without particulars, of which the greater part was only made during and subsequent to the sessions, where these 2,000 appeals were to be fought; besides which, what sane man would embark in such endless and fruitless litigation? What! fight 2,000 cases with parties of whose liabilities I must be most imperfectly acquainted, and perhaps with paupers, at a cost that the profits of my Irish property could not meet. If to you it shall appear differently, to the public it will be manifest that in my case at least an appeal to the quarter sessions is a

mockery, and that the law offered to me no protection or redress whatever against the extraordinary demands insisted upon by the paid Guardians, who themselves created the difficulty and injustice by positively preferring a valuation condemned and discarded, and notoriously fallacious and false, to one revised, and it is to be supposed correct. Sincere in my wish to effect the object of my long journey, I have repeated to the paid Guardians my desire to refer. I cannot allow myself to believe that those gentlemen will refuse to settle amicably these claims, and that in the discharge of a public duty they will persist in the harassing litigation with which you continue to threaten me—a course so oppressive to me, and so costly to the Union, whose affairs they are appointed to administer, and whose funds they are bound to economize.

Castlebar Union.

Mr. O'DONEL to the Earl of LUCAN:—*February 18, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's letter of the 15th instant. I have, by this post, submitted it to the consideration of the Guardians of the Castlebar Union.

The CLERK of the UNION to the Earl of LUCAN:—*February 15, 1848.*

I AM directed by the Guardians to forward to your lordship the following copy minute from their proceedings on the 14th instant:—

MINUTE.

The Vice-Guardians have received the following letter from the Earl of Lucan, viz.:—

Castlebar, February 14, 1848.

GENTLEMEN,

Though only arrived on Saturday evening last I have already investigated the claims against me for rates to this Union. I find that the payments are short £8 5s. 10½d.; and I have directed that the amount shall be paid to the rate collector this day.

Being most anxious to arrange all demands on the part of the Union amicably and speedily, I beg to propose, that you should depute some competent person to examine closely with me every item, when I shall explain each and every cause of objection, and where the objections are ill-founded (if any) be prepared to concede them, and discharge the amount.

I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

To the Vice-Guardians, Castlebar Union.

LUCAN.

Resolved—That having entrusted to the hands of their solicitor the recovery of the poor's rate alluded to in the above letter, the Vice-Guardians do not feel themselves in a position to interfere in the manner suggested by his lordship.

The clerk is directed to forward to the Earl of Lucan a copy of the above minute.

Mr. O'DONEL to the Earl of LUCAN:—*March 20, 1848.*

I HAVE been instructed by the Vice-Guardians of the Westport Union to apply to your lordship for payment of the rates apportioned upon you in that Union; and to state, that unless the amount due be paid, I shall be obliged to institute legal proceedings.

Your lordship will, I am sure, admit that hitherto I have not acted with any degree of precipitation; and that if expense of a serious amount be now incurred, I at least cannot be considered to blame, except, perhaps, in so far as I omitted to obey my instructions more promptly.

Mr. O'DONEL to the Earl of LUCAN:—*April 6, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's letter of the 31st* ultimo, in reply to my application on the part of the Westport Guardians, to whom I have forwarded your lordship's letter.

* This letter has not been received by the Commissioners.

FINANCIAL RETURNS:—

[In continuation of similar Series in Sixth Series of Poor Law Correspondence of the present Session.]

STATEMENT (pp. 195–219) showing for each POOR LAW UNION IN IRELAND,—

- I.—The Average Numbers of Destitute Persons Relieved in the Workhouse, and out of the Workhouse, during the Months of April, May, and June respectively.
- II.—The Expenses of each Month, distinguishing the Cost of In-Maintenance, of Out-Relief, and of all other Expenses.
- III.—The Progress of the Collection of Poor Rate during each Month, compared with the Expenses of the Month.
- IV.—The Financial Condition at the close of each Month, the State of the Balance on the Treasurer's Account, and the Amount of Liabilities to Contractors or others, exclusive of any sum due to Her Majesty's Government, on account of Building Loans or other Advances.
- V.—A Comparative Summary of the Collection and Expenses of the Seven Months, from 1st October, 1847, to 30th April, 1848.
- VI.—A Comparative Summary of the Collection and Expenses of the Eight Months, from 1st October, 1847, to 31st May, 1848.
- VII.—A Comparative Summary of the Collection and Expenses of the Nine Months, from 1st October, 1847, to 30th June, 1848.

FINANCIAL RETURN, APRIL, 1848.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during April, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during April, 1848.					State of Collection during April, 1848.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenses of April on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount relaid with the Treasurer, including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY ANTRIM:															
Antrim	49,168	1,050	633	—	633	1.69	253	—	227	480	0 11	—	3	743	—
Ballycastle	26,920	340	429	—	429	1.64	150	—	146	296	0 11	1,002	1,002	228	1,172
Ballymena	74,023	1,150	931	1,220	2,151	2.9	400	101	316	717	0 2	1,854	1,811	705	4,449
Ballymoney	48,812	752	731	987	1,718	3.52	196	79	119	394	0 11	468	611	321	2,267
Belfast	100,992	2,922	2,850	—	2,850	2.82	1,000	—	936	1,936	0 11	1,985	1,984	1,045	6,361
Larne	38,758	980	559	—	559	1.44	152	—	145	297	0 1	309	459	578	671
Lisburn	75,444	1,450	822	—	822	1.08	287	—	181	468	0 1	90	90	268	63
COUNTY ARMAUGH:															
Armagh	110,408	1,800	1,148	1,889	2,537	2.29	294	107	387	788	0 1	2,823	2,819	22	11,841
Lurgan	71,128	1,512	1,017	—	1,017	1.43	374	—	233	607	0 11	688	691	20	4,226
COUNTY CAVAN:															
Bailieborough	49,395	1,114	1,028	4,457	5,485	11.11	366	626	112	1,104	0 5	998	1,175	944	6,136
Cavan	97,371	1,950	1,625	7,632	9,257	9.51	681	620	568	1,869	0 31	200	234	413	1,663
Cootehill	67,170	1,000	881	5,583	6,464	9.62	249	495	489	1,233	0 4	2,145	2,132	1,499	5,768
COUNTY DONEGAL:															
Ballyshannon	49,403	870	707	1,259	1,966	4.52	188	113	701	1,002	0 41	291	424	422	1,061
Donegal	41,371	550	541	1,217	1,758	4.24	208	129	333	668	0 5	1,103	1,008	352	2,359
Dunfurnaghy	18,571	300	268	—	268	1.44	86	—	105	191	0 41	336	293	151	791
Glenties	49,571	600	466	4,069	4,535	10.10	179	393	39	611	0 81	501	592	266	519
Inishowen	43,560	600	411	550	961	2.20	169	47	150	357	0 21	1,072	1,223	335	2,804
Letterkenny	25,921	920	402	—	402	1.55	123	—	87	210	0 11	119	150	289	791
Milford	38,108	430	208	1,899	2,107	5.73	107	125	335	567	0 41	314	342	498	332
Stranorlar	25,786	460	332	—	332	1.28	145	—	75	220	0 11	279	414	400	1,626
COUNTY DOWN:															
Banbridge	87,323	1,350	1,202	1,370	3,072	3.51	347	151	172	670	0 11	731	739	231	4,138
Downpatrick	74,938	1,060	704	—	704	.93	287	—	97	384	0 01	304	304	371	1,651
Kilkeel	28,638	300	257	192	449	1.56	116	14	46	176	0 11	—	—	246	82
Newry	95,541	1,350	1,155	2,653	3,808	3.98	307	190	314	781	0 11	641	641	992	4,045
Newtownards	60,165	1,165	582	—	582	0.96	216	—	131	347	0 01	942	943	905	6,961
CO. FERMANAGH:															
Enniskillen	81,534	1,270	1,171	4,155	5,326	6.53	427	433	388	1,248	0 31	1,273	1,137	1,746	3,472
Lisnakea	37,920	904	818	—	818	2.15	236	—	80	316	0 11	826	571	47	2,568
Lowtherstown	34,063	740	587	2,047	2,634	7.53	198	219	61	478	0 21	237	290	459	1,336
CO. LONDONDERRY:															
Coleraine	52,704	960	630	—	630	1.19	214	—	151	365	0 1	550	819	101	1,776
Londonderry	64,740	1,100	897	1,747	2,644	4.08	407	334	490	1,311	0 21	987	987	1,417	2,246
Magherafelt	80,818	1,140	882	773	1,655	2.04	253	45	98	396	0 11	230	391	711	2,861
Newtownlimavady	39,058	890	488	—	488	1.24	122	—	73	194	0 01	365	365	83	3,095
CO. MONAGHAN:															
Carrickmacross	39,729	650	643	2,140	2,783	7.00	188	226	133	549	0 31	167	122	544	6,329
Castleblaney	58,945	1,220	765	2,276	3,041	5.15	241	187	466	894	0 31	864	422	1,244	1,645
Clones	42,320	850	820	2,060	2,880	6.80	325	207	244	776	0 81	1,298	1,298	1,638	3,217
Monaghan	69,959	1,076	878	—	878	1.25	292	—	250	542	0 11	369	378	875	2,083
COUNTY TYRONE:															
Castlederg	21,368	570	375	—	375	1.75	96	—	150	246	0 21	50	51	1	284
Clogher	39,800	700	620	1,695	2,315	5.81	300	148	144	492	0 21	219	237	385	320
Cookstown	46,455	600	573	781	1,354	2.91	214	72	90	376	0 11	185	104	321	576
Dungannon	70,000	990	928	1,618	2,546	3.62	248	118	190	556	0 11	343	503	857	1,722
Gortin	18,747	428	141	—	141	0.75	55	—	20	75	0 1	63	63	65	492
Omagh	69,099	1,104	934	2,660	3,594	5.20	346	244	188	728	0 21	1,877	1,463	366	4,382
Strabane	58,883	960	788	1,627	2,413	4.09	307	179	133	709	0 2	200	202	842	1,099
TOTAL ULSTER	2,362,132	41,717	33,115	58,556	91,671	3.88	11,483	5,594	9,542	26,619	0 11	28,888	29,642	23,946	110,432
Total for March	2,362,132	41,339	36,026	60,761	96,787	4.10	12,323	6,038	11,616	30,011	0 21	33,749	33,893	39,358	126,434

* CAVAN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 8th December, 1847.

* COOTEHILL.—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February, 1848.

FINANCIAL RETURN, APRIL, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of April, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of April, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the seven months, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of April, 1848.								Valuation of Rated Property.	NAMES OF UNIONS.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Rate collected in the seven months.	Expenses of the seven months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the seven months.	Amount per pound of Collection during the seven months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the seven months on the entire Valuation.				
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.												
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£			
COUNTY ANTRIM:															
—	480	1,455	—	—	951	6,800	3,699	2,401	—	1 3	0 9½	100,611	Antrim.		
796	—	1,380	—	—	1,143	2,079	2,161	—	02	1 0½	1 1	39,160	Ballycastle.		
1,137	—	1,357	—	—	629	6,214	4,127	2,087	—	1 3½	0 10½	97,462	Ballymena.		
7½	—	621	—	—	499	4,717	2,754	1,063	—	1 3½	0 9	73,086	Ballymoney.		
49	—	970	—	1,655	—	13,829	15,573	—	1,744	1 0½	1 1½	271,915	Belfast.		
12	—	840	—	—	539	2,891	1,944	947	—	0 9½	0 6½	72,437	Larne.		
—	378	—	527	836	—	4,127	3,561	566	—	0 7½	0 6½	136,397	Lisburn.		
COUNTY ARMAGH:															
2,035	—	4,131	—	—	3,326	11,412	6,075	5,337	—	1 3½	0 8½	174,372	Armagh.		
81	—	671	—	45	—	10,028	7,047	2,981	—	2 2	1 6	52,682	Lurgan.		
COUNTY CAVAN:															
—	106	502	—	982	—	8,983	5,567	3,478	—	3 5½	2 1½	52,156	Bailieborough.		
—	1,669	3,844	—	103	—	16,313	12,530	3,783	—	2 6½	1 11½	127,302	Cavan.		
912	—	1,886	—	667	—	7,658	6,120	1,538	—	2 1	1 7½	78,490	Cootehill.		
COUNTY DONEGAL:															
—	711	2,246	—	—	1,426	6,639	3,575	3,064	—	2 6½	1 4½	51,435	Ballyshannon.		
435	—	1,333	—	189	—	3,655	1,864	1,791	—	2 3½	1 2	31,639	Donegal.		
145	—	213	—	18	—	610	891	—	281	1 1½	1 8	10,543	Dunfanaghy.		
—	110	350	—	2,143	—	2,913	3,680	—	767	3 6½	4 5½	16,330	Glenties.		
715	—	1,209	—	—	820	2,642	1,464	1,178	—	1 5½	0 9½	36,607	Inishowen.		
—	91	53	—	565	—	1,829	2,269	—	440	1 1½	1 5	31,635	Letterkenney.		
—	253	448	—	—	1	2,860	2,138	731	—	1 9½	1 4½	31,377	Milford.		
59	—	806	—	—	718	2,303	1,061	1,242	—	1 6½	0 8½	29,402	Stranorlar.		
COUNTY DOWN:															
61	—	707	—	—	92	6,794	4,834	1,960	—	1 1	0 9½	123,970	Banbridge.		
—	80	3,081	—	—	2,807	4,335	2,747	1,588	—	0 6½	0 3½	167,893	Downpatrick.		
—	176	69	—	236	—	1,305	1,130	167	—	0 8½	0 7½	36,931	Kilkeel.		
—	140	863	—	107	—	4,713	5,113	—	400	0 8½	0 9½	129,651	Newry.		
595	—	—	506	934	—	4,237	3,313	924	—	0 8½	0 6½	118,469	Newtownards.		
COUNTY FERMANAGH:															
25	—	332	—	1,707	—	9,357	5,373	3,984	—	1 11½	0 10½	96,103	Enniskillen.		
510	—	2,015	—	—	1,092	5,505	2,190	3,315	—	2 4	0 11	46,919	Lisnaskea.		
—	236	74	—	122	—	5,182	4,847	835	—	2 4½	1 11½	43,944	Lowtherstown.		
Co. LONDONDERRY:															
165	—	960	—	—	534	8,459	3,249	210	—	0 10½	0 10	76,410	Coleraine.		
—	324	787	—	202	—	5,340	5,568	—	223	0 11½	0 11½	111,959	Londonderry.		
—	166	1,226	—	—	991	5,378	2,769	2,619	—	1 5	0 8½	73,339	Magherafelt.		
171	—	785	—	—	560	3,005	2,224	781	—	0 10	0 8	65,630	Newtownlimavady.		
COUNTY MONAGHAN:															
—	382	645	—	—	328	4,872	3,133	1,739	—	2 1½	1 5½	46,325	Carrickmacross.		
—	530	9	—	2,348	—	7,373	6,053	1,320	—	2 3	1 10	65,473	Castleblanney.		
522	—	403	—	—	355	4,414	3,575	839	—	1 7½	1 3½	55,055	Clonea.		
—	173	4,220	—	—	3,760	8,936	3,443	5,493	—	1 10½	0 8½	94,431	Monaghan.		
COUNTY TYRONE:															
—	196	63	—	305	—	1,356	1,143	213	—	1 2½	1 0½	21,790	Castlederg.		
—	273	702	—	117	—	4,053	2,985	1,068	—	1 11	0 4½	42,275	Clogher.		
—	191	178	—	386	—	2,226	2,125	101	—	0 8½	0 8½	58,550	Cookstown.		
—	213	255	—	748	—	4,609	3,688	921	—	1 0½	0 9½	90,330	Dungannon.		
—	12	—	—	504	—	1,063	693	370	—	1 4½	0 10½	15,751	Gortin.		
1,149	—	1,835	—	—	947	7,136	4,620	2,516	—	1 10½	1 2½	75,354	Omagh.		
—	509	4,812	—	—	3,539	8,031	4,106	3,925	—	1 11½	1 0	81,529	Strabane.		
9,668	7,399	46,849	1,033	14,874	25,852	230,692	166,654	67,975	3,937	1 4½	1 0	3,320,133	TOTAL ULSTER.		
10,838	7,100	41,092	894	15,267	23,644	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,320,133	Total for March.		

* ENNISKILLEN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March, 1848.

* LOWTHERSTOWN.—Elected Guardians at the close of March succeeded the Vice-Guardians, who were appointed 18th September, 1847.

FINANCIAL RETURN, APRIL, 1848—continued.
PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during April, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during April, 1848.					State of Collection during April, 1848.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of Maintenance.	Cost of Out-relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenses of April on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY CLARE:															
Ennis	77,840	1,200	1,118	18,738	19,856	25.50	£ 343	£ 2,145	£ 681	£ 3,169	s. d. 0 7½	£ 691	£ 696	£ 2,623	£ 2,296
Ennistymon ^a . .	49,035	700	787	14,424	15,211	30.46	257	1,660	162	2,079	0 7½	140	550	452	14,674
Kilrush ^b	82,353	1,330	1,255	13,523	14,778	17.94	376	1,443	196	2,015	0 8	689	689	565	6,788
Scariff ^c	53,563	2,300	1,095	17,205	19,100	35.65	665	1,783	718	3,166	1 5	952	1,452	2,060	5,881
COUNTY CORK:															
Bandon	81,772	2,075	1,924	—	1,924	2.35	485	—	270	755	0 1½	504	442	3,023	2,177
Bantry ^d	56,165	976	866	6,765	7,651	13.62	270	660	239	1,169	0 6½	584	1,467	781	1,109
Cork	156,657	4,550	3,599	—	3,599	2.20	982	—	1,291	2,273	0 1½	5,132	5,132	2,061	13,277
Dunmanway . . .	30,527	875	612	3,114	3,926	12.86	200	296	276	772	0 4½	237	237	715	1,264
Fermoy	92,353	1,160	1,300	12,850	14,158	15.33	277	902	468	1,647	0 2½	1,262	1,255	1,086	2,690
Kanturk ^e	85,561	1,705	1,644	13,702	15,346	17.93	404	993	646	2,043	0 4½	1,793	1,793	1,723	20,546
Kinsale	41,342	1,250	1,088	—	1,088	2.63	339	—	209	548	0 1½	222	222	283	1,031
Macroom	50,818	1,250	1,292	6,105	7,397	12.57	317	588	170	1,075	0 2½	2,054	1,721	1,188	10,567
Mallow	63,292	1,450	1,071	—	1,071	1.69	292	—	456	748	0 1½	481	525	653	1,322
Midleton	78,420	2,686	2,316	—	2,316	2.95	738	—	694	1,432	0 2½	664	664	1,632	4,373
Skibbereen . . .	104,508	2,250	2,053	6,246	8,299	7.94	601	922	466	1,989	0 4½	1,815	1,750	1,802	3,692
COUNTY KERRY:															
Cahiriveen ^f . . .	38,838	1,240	1,077	3,169	4,246	13.74	304	351	97	752	0 7½	208	208	445	1,123
Dingle ^g	35,512	—	—	10,063	10,063	28.33	—	1,144	+100	1,244	0 10½	—	1,300	—	—
Kenmare ^h	33,656	1,060	1,058	4,106	5,164	15.34	305	572	133	1,010	0 9½	115	144	251	1,325
Killarney	53,345	1,750	1,231	10,756	11,907	22.47	346	1,207	92	1,645	0 4½	201	201	407	1,042
Listowel	78,756	1,096	1,132	12,552	13,684	17.37	431	1,762	367	2,610	0 6½	1,280	1,295	1,445	1,993
Tralee	56,151	1,946	1,532	4,851	6,383	11.36	541	505	296	1,342	0 3½	57	343	357	2,868
COUNTY LIMERICK:															
Kilmallock . . .	75,687	1,300	1,225	15,937	17,162	22.78	419	1,431	250	2,100	0 2½	213	421	346	20,713
Limerick	132,067	3,450	2,503	8,614	11,117	8.41	675	1,243	1,213	3,131	0 3½	1,924	2,431	4,660	11,005
Newcastle ⁱ . . .	60,007	775	787	18,569	19,336	32.22	257	1,620	700	2,577	0 5½	4,483	3,861	2,838	16,118
Rathkeale	68,174	1,574	1,100	8,728	9,826	14.41	342	1,112	172	1,626	0 3½	548	514	3,175	19,753
Co. TIPPERARY:															
Carriek-on-Suir . .	45,333	1,140	828	860	1,688	3.72	265	77	357	699	0 2	133	292	970	1,716
Cashel	69,640	1,475	1,416	10,400	11,816	16.96	732	1,358	459	2,549	0 4½	948	745	1,754	5,668
Glogheen	47,023	1,200	914	7,512	8,426	17.91	379	550	376	1,205	0 4½	191	191	895	1,571
Clonmel	39,993	1,900	1,495	3,286	4,781	11.95	501	358	422	1,281	0 5½	138	138	1,575	2,471
Nenagh	39,874	1,700	1,537	11,396	12,933	14.36	494	1,062	298	1,854	0 3½	919	950	1,799	8,982
Roscrea	63,016	1,230	1,033	7,367	8,405	13.32	380	700	350	1,510	0 3½	730	738	2,213	4,781
Thurles	71,976	960	1,125	14,719	15,844	22.01	429	1,737	285	2,451	0 5½	1,945	1,953	2,929	6,904
Tipperary	79,516	1,050	1,066	15,683	16,749	21.06	363	1,674	305	2,422	0 4	823	828	3,835	5,358
Co. WATERFORD:															
Dungarvan	68,642	1,550	1,184	4,353	5,537	8.06	308	418	190	916	0 2½	499	498	1,011	1,217
Lismore	38,617	1,290	1,167	1,868	3,035	7.85	274	218	325	817	—	246	246	909	889
Waterford ^j . . .	84,360	1,670	1,796	7,406	9,202	10.90	600	757	143	1,500	—	204	204	906	2,886
TOTAL MUNSTER	2,435,347	55,113	48,211	294,895	343,106	14.08	14,941	31,328	13,852	60,121	0 3½	33,025	36,066	54,947	217,470
Total for March	2,435,347	53,320	49,206	308,518	357,724	14.60	17,184	35,291	17,151	69,607	0 4½	47,847	50,252	62,833	236,391

^a ENNISTYMON.—Vice-Guardians appointed 29th Feb., 1848.
^b KILRUSH.—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March, 1848.
^c SCARIFF.—Vice-Guardians appointed 28th October, 1847.
^d BANTRY.—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th October, 1847.
^e KANTURK.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th Nov., 1847.
* The Union of Dingle was declared on the 22nd February, 1848, being formed of Ten Electoral Divisions, previously belonging to Tralee Union. No Workhouse Expenses above given in

FINANCIAL RETURN, APRIL, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of April, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of April, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the seven months, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of April, 1848.								NAMES OF UNIONS.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Rate collected in the seven months.	Expenses of the seven months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the seven months.	Amount per pound of Collection during the seven months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the seven months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rate Property.		
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.											
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	COUNTY CLARE:	
—	2,478	—	10	2,783	—	13,952	16,851	—	2,899	2 9	3 3½	101,222	Ennis.	
—	1,939	473	—	3,913	—	6,797	7,338	—	541	2 0	2 2½	67,486	Ennistymon.	
—	1,326	34	—	4,306	—	8,361	9,345	—	964	2 9½	3 1	59,449	Kilrush.	
—	2,214	40	—	5,913	—	11,811	12,456	—	645	5 3½	5 7	44,609	Scariff.	
COUNTY CORK:														
—	251	4,160	—	—	3,334	7,501	7,303	198	—	1 1½	1 1	136,166	Bandon.	
—	585	754	—	4,689	—	4,898	7,200	—	2,302	2 4	3 5½	41,629	Bantry.	
2,859	—	8,141	—	—	7,499	27,269	15,745	11,544	—	1 5½	0 10½	365,623	Cork.	
—	535	2,003	—	—	1,745	5,542	3,277	2,165	—	2 6½	1 6½	44,084	Dunmanway.	
—	395	5,921	—	—	3,149	21,607	10,850	3,257	—	2 9½	2 4½	153,452	Fermoy.	
—	250	1,681	—	2,278	—	19,892	15,901	3,991	—	3 9	3 0	106,114	Kanturk.	
—	326	1,659	—	—	1,449	4,904	3,496	1,408	—	1 3½	0 11½	73,928	Kinsale.	
979	—	847	—	—	58	7,690	5,561	2,119	—	1 7½	1 2	93,875	Macroon.	
—	267	6,384	—	—	5,950	13,472	4,739	8,733	—	2 2½	0 9½	122,703	Mallow.	
—	768	9,884	—	—	8,886	22,513	10,284	12,229	—	2 9	1 3½	163,070	Midleton.	
—	174	1,773	—	—	1,106	13,259	10,236	3,023	—	2 8½	2 0½	98,255	Skibbereen.	
COUNTY KERRY:														
—	544	386	—	1,738	—	2,704	3,345	—	641	2 2½	2 8½	24,866	Cahirciveen.	
—	1,244	—	—	—	—	—	*1,244	—	*1,244	—	—	29,230	Dingle.	
—	895	33	—	2,398	—	3,790	4,900	—	1,119	3 0½	3 11½	24,689	Kenmare.	
—	1,444	—	131	3,978	—	11,623	14,090	—	2,467	2 8½	3 3½	85,828	Killarney.	
—	1,330	560	—	4,047	—	12,705	16,227	—	3,522	2 7½	3 3½	97,558	Listowel.	
—	1,285	15	—	2,650	—	14,682	14,621	61	—	2 6½	2 0½	84,625	Tralee.	
COUNTY LIMERICK:														
—	1,887	—	5	3,939	—	16,089	13,547	2,542	—	1 9½	1 6	177,880	Kilmallock.	
—	1,207	7,291	—	—	4,264	30,494	18,445	12,049	—	2 11½	1 9	206,861	Limerick.	
1,906	—	1,118	—	3,244	—	17,714	21,978	—	4,264	3 2½	4 0½	109,499	Newcastle.	
—	1,078	1,931	—	—	197	15,242	14,800	442	—	2 2½	2 2½	138,337	Rathkenile.	
COUNTY TIPPERARY:														
—	566	—	109	1,444	—	8,124	5,224	2,900	—	1 9½	1 2	89,871	Carrick-on-Suir.	
—	1,601	136	—	2,642	—	13,197	11,789	1,408	—	2 0½	1 9½	130,293	Cashel.	
—	1,014	306	—	579	—	6,616	6,741	—	125	2 1½	2 1½	62,760	Clogheen.	
—	1,143	1,008	—	101	—	7,749	7,677	72	—	1 8½	1 8½	91,108	Clonmel.	
—	935	263	—	2,675	—	14,835	13,440	1,395	—	2 5½	2 2½	119,802	Nenagh.	
—	780	1,511	—	—	1	11,069	7,818	3,251	—	2 2	1 6½	102,171	Roscrea.	
—	506	580	—	624	—	12,981	12,874	607	—	2 4½	2 3½	108,931	Thurles.	
—	1,599	2,164	—	558	—	13,655	15,347	—	1,692	1 10	2 1	148,526	Tipperary.	
COUNTY WATERFORD:														
—	417	6,115	—	—	5,448	12,914	6,482	6,432	—	2 8½	1 4½	94,591	Dungarvan.	
—	571	2,834	—	—	2,430	7,259	3,597	3,662	—	2 3	1 1½	54,583	Lismore.	
—	1,296	—	454	2,313	—	8,358	8,258	100	—	0 10½	0 10½	193,771	Waterford.	
5,744	32,840	70,005	709	61,812	47,802	431,298	370,135	33,588	22,425	2 3½	1 11½	3,777,103	TOTAL MUNSTER.	
8,312	30,072	89,147	170	40,467	47,709	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,777,103	Total for March.	

* CARRIGIVEEN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December, 1847.
 † KENMARE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 20th January, 1848.

‡ NEWCASTLE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 4th March, 1848.
 § WATERFORD.—Vice-Guardians appointed 25th March, 1848.

accommodation had been provided, and no rate had been made in Dingle Union down to the close of April; but on the 29th April a rate was agreed upon. The Return of confined to the month of April.
 † Estimated.

PAPERS RELATING TO THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS,

FINANCIAL RETURN, APRIL, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during April, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during April, 1848.					State of Collection during April, 1848.			
			Average Number of inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenses of April on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY CARLOW:															
Carlow . . .	77,922	2,100	1,698	5,768	7,466	9.70	£ 763	£ 500	£ 542	£ 1,805	s. d. 0 2½	£ 665	£ 877	£ 1,023	£ 3,330
COUNTY DUBLIN:															
Balrothery . . .	20,116	544	454	886	1,340	4.76	208	100	96	309	0 1	30	30	40	454
Dublin, North . . .	123,128	4,100	3,277	3,280	6,557	5.33	1,451	527	1,196	3,174	0 2	3,695	3,691	2,133	17,867
Dublin, South . . .	178,745	2,535	2,451	5,775	8,226	4.60	1,228	1,033	846	3,107	0 1½	411	417	2,905	8,327
Rathdown . . .	44,214	726	632	1,652	2,204	5.16	350	232	197	779	0 1½	296	386	637	1,240
COUNTY KILDARE:															
Athy . . .	47,912	1,120	941	2,469	3,410	7.13	450	472	97	1,019	0 2½	760	830	1,180	4,144
Colbride . . .	25,342	519	332	—	332	1.31	121	—	249	370	0 0½	512	512	184	3,044
Nuas . . .	52,226	1,110	999	2,763	3,764	7.20	484	485	465	1,434	0 2½	447	447	1,912	1,251
COUNTY KILKENNY:															
Callan . . .	38,524	1,130	795	7,195	7,990	20.74	265	641	515	1,421	0 4	877	1,118	1,627	3,006
Kilkenny ^a . . .	130,062	2,600	1,532	7,339	8,671	7.38	527	863	480	1,870	0 2	3,271	3,281	3,907	7,685
KING'S COUNTY:															
Edenderry . . .	34,679	840	543	869	1,412	4.07	186	110	244	540	0 1½	268	268	606	410
Parsonstown . . .	76,528	1,500	1,159	—	1,159	1.52	441	—	298	739	0 1½	993	1,128	243	4,599
Tullamore ^b . . .	53,905	1,200	1,062	6,237	7,329	13.41	458	620	198	1,266	0 3½	403	405	682	1,377
COUNTY LONGFORD:															
Granard ^c . . .	55,180	700	854	5,942	6,796	12.33	306	1,010	522	1,838	0 5	2,641	2,641	1,848	5,194
Longford ^d . . .	87,757	1,450	1,729	5,633	7,367	8.39	400	600	190	1,190	0 2½	2,238	2,238	1,878	16,410
COUNTY LOUTH:															
Ardee . . .	43,348	770	698	1,919	2,617	6.03	262	210	217	689	0 1½	818	818	715	1,369
Drogheda . . .	52,251	940	679	3,222	4,011	7.67	287	279	129	695	0 1½	239	239	1,210	1,378
Dundalk . . .	65,509	948	670	2,575	3,245	4.95	230	263	251	744	0 1½	205	291	642	1,208
COUNTY MEATH:															
Danshaughlin . . .	20,985	596	460	1,026	1,486	7.08	189	212	134	535	0 1	731	770	489	3,174
Kells . . .	45,282	1,280	1,172	1,543	2,720	6.00	325	208	464	997	0 2	371	371	504	979
Navan . . .	35,831	900	650	2,864	3,514	9.80	252	308	242	862	0 2	762	706	149	3,817
Oldcastle . . .	48,373	644	821	6,290	7,051	14.57	249	606	320	1,175	0 3½	1,061	1,020	871	5,409
Trim ^e . . .	34,411	898	444	2,097	2,541	7.39	222	283	283	790	0 1½	310	206	1,341	7,625
QUEEN'S COUNTY:															
Abberley . . .	41,230	900	910	2,820	3,730	9.04	383	415	225	1,023	0 3½	451	357	365	1,096
Mountmelick . . .	67,674	1,944	1,409	3,596	5,095	7.50	763	672	475	1,910	0 5	652	652	1,801	3,419
COUNTY WESTMEATH:															
Athlone ^f . . .	72,168	1,178	1,162	8,736	9,898	13.71	512	1,042	363	1,917	0 4½	4,409	4,409	3,667	10,642
Mullingar . . .	73,272	1,016	965	7,797	8,752	11.94	323	969	64	1,356	0 1½	848	837	607	18,566
COUNTY WEXFORD:															
Enniscorthy . . .	61,816	1,039	925	5,096	6,021	9.74	429	700	306	1,435	0 2½	940	993	1,395	4,606
Gorey . . .	39,654	850	883	2,179	3,063	7.84	295	274	491	1,060	0 2½	1,722	1,012	1,988	7,195
New Ross . . .	74,293	1,800	1,783	3,377	5,160	7.08	566	458	476	1,500	0 3½	1,355	1,492	1,181	4,987
Wexford . . .	53,401	1,000	893	—	893	1.65	328	—	932	1,260	0 2½	581	545	1,260	5,635
COUNTY WICKLOW:															
Baltinglass . . .	40,687	900	763	1,710	2,473	6.07	219	186	570	977	0 2½	308	298	942	6,006
Rathdrum . . .	56,709	1,140	792	2,250	3,042	5.36	266	164	169	599	0 1	785	761	756	5,744
Shillelagh . . .	34,800	627	606	697	1,203	3.45	190	61	107	358	0 1½	259	259	180	813
TOTAL LEINSTER .	2,006,036	41,044	35,263	115,544	150,807	7.51	13,923	14,595	12,855	40,873	0 2½	34,819	34,814	39,898	171,989
Total for March .	2,006,036	39,310	36,622	133,349	169,971	8.46	15,112	15,714	12,666	43,496	0 2½	36,549	36,889	45,062	173,912

^a KILKENNY.—Vice-Guardians appointed 28th February, 1848.
^b TULLAMORE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 9th February, 1848.

^c GRANARD.—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th February, 1848.
^d LONGFORD.—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March, 1848.

FINANCIAL RETURN, APRIL, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of April, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of April, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the seven months, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of April, 1848.								NAMES OF UNIONS.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Rate collected in the seven months.	Expenses of the seven months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the seven months.	Amount per pound of Collection during the seven months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the seven months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property.		
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.											
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£		
-	1,140	337	-	1,273	-	11,900	11,639	261	-	1 4	1 3½	179,037	COUNTY CARLOW : Carlow.	
-	369	-	19	886	-	2,982	3,199	-	217	0 7½	0 8	94,521	COUNTY DUBLIN : Balrothery.	
521	-	2,791	-	-	1,490	26,813	26,819	1,999	-	1 6½	1 5½	369,745	Dublin, North.	
-	2,696	-	2,733	7,133	-	11,714	23,342	-	11,620	0 5	0 9½	569,940	Dublin, South.	
-	493	108	-	1,695	-	5,212	5,470	-	258	0 8½	0 8½	152,314	Rathdown.	
-	259	216	-	578	-	7,400	6,385	1,015	-	1 5½	2 3	102,881	COUNTY KILDARE : Athy.	
142	-	1,492	-	-	1,147	3,929	2,046	1,883	-	0 7½	0 3½	130,776	Celbridge.	
-	987	3,836	-	-	2,192	11,627	7,325	4,302	-	1 8½	1 1	135,232	Naas.	
-	544	141	-	259	-	8,183	7,773	410	-	1 11½	1 10	34,103	COUNTY KILKENNY : Callan.	
1,401	-	1,455	-	-	169	22,403	13,320	9,083	-	1 10½	1 1½	241,775	Kilkenny.	
-	272	1,873	-	-	1,173	4,507	2,771	1,736	-	0 11	0 6½	98,634	KING'S COUNTY : Edenderry.	
254	-	3,156	-	-	2,417	10,648	4,166	6,482	-	1 11½	0 9	109,286	Parsonstown.	
-	878	101	-	2,935	-	7,952	7,629	323	-	1 10	1 9	86,516	Tullamore.	
803	-	3,962	-	-	1,601	9,923	6,280	3,643	-	2 3½	1 5	87,209	COUNTY LONGFORD : Granard.	
1,048	-	1,471	-	5,227	-	8,459	9,921	-	1,462	1 4½	1 6½	124,496	Longford.	
129	-	793	-	-	711	9,331	6,713	2,608	-	2 0	1 5½	93,047	COUNTY LOUTH : Ardee.	
-	456	648	-	1,436	-	8,276	7,622	654	-	1 2½	1 1½	136,604	Drogheda.	
-	539	-	710	1,789	-	2,965	4,043	-	1,078	0 6½	0 8½	106,680	Dundalk.	
196	-	405	-	535	-	5,032	4,646	386	-	0 10	0 9½	118,486	COUNTY MEATH : Dunshaughlin.	
-	628	61	-	2,570	-	7,665	8,529	-	864	1 2½	1 4½	123,339	Kells.	
-	120	-	713	2,102	-	6,198	6,832	-	634	1 2½	1 4	101,527	Navan.	
-	114	602	-	1,504	-	9,238	9,346	-	108	2 3½	2 4	79,721	Oldcastle.	
-	480	17	-	660	-	3,320	4,585	-	1,265	0 7½	0 10½	100,634	Trim.	
-	572	-	7	2,264	-	7,220	6,393	827	-	2 13	1 11	66,759	QUEEN'S COUNTY : Abbeyleix.	
-	1,258	-	2,455	3,468	-	8,874	11,360	-	2,486	1 11½	2 6	89,914	Mountmelick.	
2,492	-	285	-	1,651	-	7,416	5,762	1,654	-	1 5½	1 13	103,078	COUNTY WESTMEATH : Athlone.	
-	508	-	74	5,133	-	3,214	8,897	-	5,683	0 4	0 11	190,944	Mullingar.	
-	495	1,130	-	-	360	12,495	9,727	2,768	-	1 11½	1 6½	126,921	COUNTY WEXFORD : Enniscorthy.	
662	-	100	-	829	-	4,949	5,082	-	133	1 0½	1 1	94,001	Gorey.	
-	145	652	-	350	-	12,696	10,930	1,766	-	2 3½	1 11½	109,748	New Ross.	
-	679	3,360	-	-	2,776	9,263	6,047	3,216	-	1 7½	1 1	113,714	Wexford.	
-	669	784	-	-	3	4,404	4,760	-	356	0 10½	1 0½	90,888	COUNTY WICKLOW : Balinglass.	
186	-	550	-	120	-	4,022	4,957	-	935	0 6½	0 8	153,246	Rathdrum.	
-	99	82	-	497	-	3,657	2,585	1,071	-	1 1½	0 9½	64,485	Shillelagh.	
7,834	14,388	29,908	6,711	44,834	14,039	285,882	266,902	46,087	27,107	1 3	1 13	4,624,542	TOTAL LEINSTER.	
6,550	13,496	31,659	4,197	37,691	15,263	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,624,542	Total for March.	

* TRIM.—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th January, 1848.

* ATHLONE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 22nd January, 1848.

* NEW ROSS.—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March, 1848.

FINANCIAL RETURN, APRIL, 1848—continued.
PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during April, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during April, 1848.					State of Collection during April, 1848.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief List during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenses of April on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY GALWAY:															
Ballinasloe	99,026	1,450	1,467	6,783	8,250	8.33	£ 612	£ 709	£ 415	£ 1,736	s. 0 d. 23	£ 994	£ 1,011	£ 2,171	£ 8,383
Clifden ^a	33,465	360	310	10,360	10,670	31.88	224	1,590*	200	2,014	1 9 1	103	103	193	960
Galway ^b	88,973	1,210	1,245	25,530	26,795	30.11	490	2,821	780	4,091	0 9 0	502	693	706	7,553
Gort ^c	43,543	1,050	792	10,416	11,208	25.74	429	1,619	336	2,384	0 10 3	2,093	1,672	2,000	5,725
Loughrea ^d	71,774	1,900	1,584	6,495	8,079	11.15	507	930	342	1,779	0 4 1	1,925	1,925	2,050	8,836
Tuam ^e	74,974	1,150	1,051	14,634	15,735	21.0	404	1,890	589	2,863	0 8 8	195	1,696	703	1,267
COUNTY LEITRIM:															
Carrick-on-Shannon ^f	67,077	860	941	10,774	11,715	17.46	338	1,063	431	1,862	0 7 1	973	895	1,250	6,462
Manorhamilton . . .	45,990	1,015	874	1,377	2,251	5.0	167	101	192	460	0 2 1	984	1,159	922	1,769
Mohills	68,859	790	950	7,992	8,950	13.0	214	916	250	1,388	0 5 1	1,009	982	1,068	5,823
COUNTY MAYO:															
Ballina ^h	120,787	1,550	12,607	36,782	38,049	31.50	444	3,793	1,067	5,304	1 1 1	713	1,772	2,443	5,066
Ballinrobe ⁱ	85,031	800	786	34,700	35,486	41.75	248	3,209	237	3,695	0 10 1	1,025	1,025	1,016	7,346
Castlebar ^j	61,063	900	806	17,197	18,003	29.0	267	2,050	173	2,490	0 11 1	576	1,569	1,078	6,887
Swineford	73,529	900	446	9,833	10,299	14.0	139	1,444	278	1,561	0 8 8	1,042	1,048	929	7,135
Westport ^k	77,952	1,100	1,001	22,247	23,248	29.82	276	2,000	150	2,435	1 3 3	347	1,666	905	4,547
Co. ROSCOMMON:															
Boyle	71,355	744	737	7,738	8,465	11.86	383	356	104	795	0 2 1	830	767	1,095	8,689
Castlereagh ^l	92,861	1,850	1,863	10,741	11,804	12.7	316	1,089	452	1,857	0 3 1	995	1,195	918	7,298
Roscommon ^m	63,487	1,290	1,234	11,888	13,122	15.75	479	1,985	250	2,714	0 7 1	838	965	1,932	4,283
COUNTY SLIGO:															
Sligo	111,054	2,000	1,708	7,707	9,415	8.45	524	734	1,057	2,315	0 3 1	605	605	639	17,737
TOTAL CONNAUGHT.															
Total for March . . .	1,370,753	20,119	16,200	253,204	271,544	19.80	6,411	28,001	7,361	41,773	0 7 7	15,749	20,768	23,718	110,208
	1,370,753	19,670	16,682	201,134	219,616	16.03	6,668	24,296	4,870	36,037	0 5 1	20,304	23,035	25,357	125,118
SUMMARY.															
ULSTER	2,362,132	41,717	33,115	58,556	91,671	3.98	11,483	5,594	9,542	26,619	0 2 2	28,068	29,642	29,346	110,432
MUNSTER	2,435,347	55,113	48,211	294,895	343,106	14.08	14,941	31,328	13,352	60,121	0 3 1	33,025	36,066	54,947	217,470
LEINSTER	2,006,036	41,044	35,263	115,544	150,807	7.51	13,923	14,595	12,355	40,873	0 2 1	34,319	34,314	39,898	171,989
CONNAUGHT	1,370,753	20,119	18,260	253,284	271,544	19.80	6,411	28,001	7,361	41,773	0 7 7	15,749	20,768	23,718	110,206
TOTAL APRIL															
Total March	8,174,203	157,993	134,849	722,279	857,123	10.48	46,758	79,518	43,110	169,886	0 8 3	111,931	120,790	142,509	610,095
	8,174,203	153,639	140,536	703,762	814,298	10.32	51,487	81,389	46,303	179,151	0 3 1	138,449	144,069	172,610	661,855

^a CLIFDEN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 7th February, 1848.

^b GALWAY.—Vice-Guardians appointed 3rd January, 1848.

^c GORT.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th February, 1848.

* Estimated.

^d LOUGHREA.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th February, 1848.

^e TUAM.—Vice-Guardians appointed 18th February, 1848.

^f CARRICK-ON-SHANNON.—Vice-Guardians appointed 26th January, 1848.

† £6,307 is included in the 10th column headed "Establishment, &c.," being the expenses of Temporary Fever Hospitals, making the total for

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the LIABILITIES of the

- I.—The total Debts of all Unions to Contractors, Treasurers, or others (exclusive of all Loans obtained from Government, or from Private Parties simply for Building purposes), amounted, on the { 30 April, 1848, to £265,441, }
which the Debts on the { 29 Sept., 1847, } in the Treasurers' hands, was, on { 29 Sept., 1847, 117; } Unions amounted, on
- II.—The number of Unions in { 30 April, 1848, } exceeded the amount of the money { 30 April, 1848, 79; } the Debts of those
- III.—The number of Unions in which the money in the { 30 April, 1848, 51; } the money in the hands of the Treasurers' hands exceeded the Debts was, on { 29 Sept., 1847, 13; } surer of those Unions, amounted, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to
- NOTE.—The Debts due to Government or the British Association

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Collection and Expenses for the Seven Months, from 1st October, 1847, to 30th April, 1848, inclusive; showing also the Amount advanced by the British Association in aid of the Poor Rates on the recommendation of the Poor Law Commissioners, but exclusive of the Expenditure of the Association in providing Food and Clothing for Children in the Public Schools.

	Expenses.	Collection.	Excess of Collection.	Excess of Expenses.	Amount advanced by the British Association.
	£	£	£	£	£
1847—October, . . .	70,808	121,255	50,447	—	300
" November, . . .	88,432	151,684	63,252	—	450
" December, . . .	123,697	168,850	45,153	—	1,300
1848—January, . . .	151,364	194,054	42,790	—	2,600
" February, . . .	167,046	187,064	19,218	—	10,751
" March, . . .	179,151	138,449	—	40,702	17,230
" April, . . .	169,386	111,981	—	57,405	25,898
Total, 7 Months, . .	950,584	1,073,837	220,860	98,107	+56,529
or 122,753 net excess of Collection.					

† The Unions to which the Advances were made to the close of April

ULSTER PROVINCE.

Cavan, . . .	£300
Glenties, . . .	400
Total, . . .	£700

MUNSTER PROVINCE.

Bantry, . . .	£1,400
Cahiriveen, . . .	400
Dingle, . . .	1,300
Ennistymon, . . .	500
Kenmare, . . .	1,910
Total, . . .	£8,206

LEINSTER PROVINCE.

Athlone, . . .	£500
New Ross, . . .	500
Total, . . .	£1,000

FINANCIAL RETURN, APRIL, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of April, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of April, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the seven months, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of April, 1848.								NAMES OF UNIONS.	
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Rate collected in the seven months.	Expenses of the seven months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the seven months.	Amount per pound of Collection during the seven months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the seven months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rateable Property.			
17.	18.	In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£			
—	742	7,800	—	—	7,117	16,510	5,877	10,633	—	2 2	0 9½	151,664	COUNTY GALWAY:		
—	1,911	4	—	3,304	—	2,314	3,773	—	1,459	2 0½	4 ½	22,426	Ballinasloe.		
—	3,589	56	—	13,241	—	6,055	13,497	—	6,642	1 4½	2 8	100,777	Clifden.		
—	291	282	—	8,476	—	4,403	9,614	—	5,211	1 8	3 7½	58,037	Galway.		
146	—	3,128	—	—	2,708	9,813	6,269	3,544	—	2 2	1 4½	91,007	Gort.		
—	2,688	1,127	—	7,306	—	4,858	7,406	—	2,540	1 1½	1 8½	86,236	Loughrea.		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Tuam.		
—	909	174	—	5,397	—	5,213	6,761	—	1,543	1 8½	2 2½	61,450	COUNTY LITTIM:		
524	—	936	—	—	278	4,742	2,634	2,109	—	2 0½	1 1½	47,284	Carrick-on-Shannon.		
—	379	—	10	2,844	—	4,358	5,352	—	904	1 6½	1 9½	57,778	Manorhamilton.		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Mohill.		
—	4,591	405	—	6,523	—	8,062	10,306	—	8,324	1 8½	3 4½	95,774	COUNTY MAYO:		
—	2,660	9	—	3,133	—	6,775	14,827	—	8,052	1 7½	3 5½	85,217	Ballina.		
—	1,914	29	—	5,955	—	8,050	9,854	—	6,795	1 2½	3 10½	50,981	Ballinrobe.		
—	519	132	—	2,698	—	3,127	4,142	—	1,015	1 4½	1 9½	46,016	Castlebar.		
—	2,088	769	—	7,074	—	3,879	10,364	—	6,485	1 11½	5 4	38,876	Swineford.		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Westport.		
35	—	540	—	461	—	7,021	2,970	4,051	—	1 8½	0 8½	81,408	COUNTY ROSCOMMON:		
—	862	465	—	2,514	—	10,082	5,703	4,379	—	1 9	1 0	114,349	Boyle.		
—	1,876	105	—	4,379	—	9,761	9,022	739	—	2 3½	2 1	85,837	Castlereagh.		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Roscommon.		
—	1,710	20	—	5,269	—	14,623	12,748	1,875	—	2 0½	1 9½	142,030	COUNTY SLIGO:		
705	26,729	16,061	10	78,974	10,188	125,455	147,199	27,329	49,073	1 8½	2 0	1,465,643	Sligo.		
4,816	20,048	18,511	—	56,956	10,946	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,465,643	TOTAL CONNAUGHT.		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Total for March.		
9,668	7,399	46,849	1,033	14,874	25,852	230,692	166,654	67,975	3,937	1 4½	1 0	3,320,133	ULSTER.		
5,744	32,840	70,005	700	61,812	47,802	431,298	370,135	63,508	22,425	2 3½	1 11½	3,777,103	MUNSTER.		
7,834	14,368	29,908	6,711	44,634	14,039	285,662	266,902	46,087	27,167	1 8	1 1½	4,624,542	LEINSTER.		
705	26,729	16,061	10	78,974	10,188	125,455	147,199	27,329	49,073	1 8½	2 0	1,465,643	CONNAUGHT.		
23,951	81,356	162,823	8,463	200,494	97,876	1,073,327	950,690	224,979	102,542	1 7½	1 5½	13,187,421	TOTAL, April.		
30,016	70,716	180,409	5,261	150,381	97,562	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,187,421	TOTAL, March.		

* MOHILL.—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th December, 1847.

† BALLINA.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December, 1847.

‡ BALLINROBE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July, 1847.

§ CASTLEBAR.—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July, 1847.

¶ WESTPORT.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th August, 1847.

‡ CASTLEREA.—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February, 1847.

• ROSCOMMON.—Vice-Guardians appointed 31st December, 1847.

* Estimated.

In-Maintenance, Out-Relief, and Temporary Fever Hospitals, £133,083, leaving £36,305 for "Establishment and all other Expenses."

Unions on 29th September, 1847, and 30th April, 1848.

from which amount, deducting the { 30 April, 1848, £162,823, } the net amount of Debts, over and { 30 April, 1848, £102,610, } money in the Treasurers' hands, viz. { 29 Sept., 1847, £39,966, } above the money in hands, would be, { 29 Sept., 1847, £232,977.

{ 30 April, 1848, to £231,272, } and the money in their Treasurers' hands amounted, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to £14,236, } deducting which amount, the net { 30 April, 1848, £200,494, } amount of Debts, over and above { 29 Sept., 1847, £252,727, } the money in hands, would be, on { 29 Sept., 1847, £252,727, }

£132,045, } and the Debts { 30 April, 1848, to £34,169, } deducting which there would remain a { 30 April, 1848, to £97,876, }

£25,730, } amounted, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to £5,980, } net balance to their credit, amounting, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to £19,750, }

on account of Loans, are excluded from this Statement.

STATEMENT showing the amount of Poor Rate collected during each month since the commencement of the year 1846; also the Amount uncollected, and the state of the Balances at foot of the Treasurers' accounts at the close of each month.

MONTH.	Amount of Rate collected during the Month.			Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.			Amount in hands of Treasurers of certain Unions at close of the Month.			Amount due to Treasurers of certain Unions at the close of the Month.		
	1846.	1847.	1848.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1846.	1847.	1848.
January.	£ 36,229	£ 52,480	£ 194,054	£ 219,052	£ 250,953	£ 708,511	£ 41,362	£ 33,274	£ 177,228	£ 7,358	£ 23,565	£ 4,395
February.	41,885	47,264	187,064	206,664	279,140	653,856	54,314	30,363	208,545	5,294	20,312	3,728
March.	38,909	52,561	138,449	174,734	265,149	661,855	57,129	26,493	180,409	5,014	31,112	5,261
April.	38,436	63,110	111,981	173,956	349,773	610,095	55,906	21,611	162,623	6,590	32,278	8,463
May.	31,230	64,865	—	163,508	406,223	—	57,655	15,424	—	6,152	30,526	—
June.	30,630	59,436	—	130,201	463,730	—	56,425	14,404	—	6,649	31,897	—
July.	24,185	62,097	—	129,125	594,120	—	47,801	18,726	—	7,808	34,860	—
August.	17,173	53,369	—	133,233	690,103	—	44,350	25,210	—	8,165	35,567	—
September.	21,510	73,358	—	155,718	816,452	—	39,913	89,966	—	8,071	29,841	—
October.	26,805	121,255	—	225,815	864,049	—	32,114	64,144	—	11,089	28,782	—
November.	38,639	151,664	—	244,050	859,718	—	34,393	105,893	—	14,746	16,879	—
December.	46,440	168,850	—	243,334	890,629	—	35,358	143,706	—	19,452	8,786	—
Total.	390,071	970,308	631,548	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

By the British Association, and the Amounts, are subjoined.

CONNAUGHT PROVINCE.

Ballina.	£10,850	Clifden.	£3,059	Sligo.	£500
Ballinrobe.	8,400	Galway.	3,100	Tuam.	2,000
Carrick-on-Shannon.	1,520	Gort.	500	Westport.	6,810
Castlebar.	6,185	Mohill.	1,500		
Castlereagh.	1,000	Roscommon.	1,200	Total.	£46,624

PAPERS RELATING TO THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS,

FINANCIAL RETURN, MAY, 1848.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during May, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during May, 1848.					State of Collection during May, 1848.			
			Average Number of In-mates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenditure of May on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY ANTRIM:															
Antrim	49,168	1,050	793	—	793	1.61	243	—	249	492	0 1 1/2	—	—	393	—
Ballycastle	26,020	840	433	—	433	1.66	161	—	326	489	0 3	314	352	542	858
Ballymena	74,022	1,150	899	632	1,731	2.33	809	63	697	1,069	0 2 1/2	1,826	1,870	1,032	2,623
Ballymoney	48,812	752	696	1,026	1,722	3.5	174	101	198	473	0 1 1/2	354	313	152	1,913
Belfast	100,992	2,922	2,668	—	2,668	2.6	996	—	1,426	2,434	0 2 1/2	1,937	1,979	2,293	4,424
Larne	38,758	980	553	—	553	1.4	137	—	298	435	0 1 1/2	158	163	231	512
Lisburn	75,444	1,450	729	—	729	0.9	222	—	258	480	0 0 1/2	25	25	268	31
COUNTY ARMAGH:															
Armagh	110,408	1,300	1,082	622	1,704	1.5	205	64	433	782	0 1	1,277	1,300	938	10,554
Lurgan	71,128	1,512	947	—	947	1.3	320	—	618	938	0 2 1/2	1,825	1,826	735	5,202
COUNTY CAVAN:															
Bailieborough	40,383	1,114	1,103	4,177	5,280	10.7	378	415	110	903	0 4 1/2	540	517	791	5,596
Cavan*	97,271	1,950	1,645	7,932	9,577	9.8	469	858	432	1,759	0 3 1/2	185	176	1,771	1,477
Cooteshill†	67,178	1,350	1,108	5,239	6,347	9.4	244	451	595	1,290	0 4 1/2	2,046	1,791	2,529	3,711
COUNTY DONEGAL:															
Ballyshannon	43,403	870	683	1,329	2,012	4.6	184	125	87	396	0 1 1/2	207	210	901	794
Donegal	41,371	550	580	1,317	1,897	4.5	168	112	116	396	0 3	953	1,163	848	1,406
Dunfanaghy	18,371	300	243	—	243	1.3	83	—	72	155	0 3 1/2	155	175	181	636
Glenties	43,371	600	581	2,795	3,376	7.7	95	265	46	406	0 6	96	5	590	422
Inishowen	43,569	600	419	720	1,139	2.6	112	81	145	338	0 2 1/2	635	490	427	2,314
Letterkenny	25,921	920	414	—	414	1.6	106	—	52	158	0 1 1/2	79	62	143	712
Milford	38,103	430	254	1,764	2,018	5.2	120	102	75	297	0 2 1/2	152	129	250	170
Stranorlar	25,786	460	369	—	369	1.4	68	—	42	110	0 1	207	226	120	618
COUNTY DOWN:															
Banbridge	87,323	1,350	1,158	1,803	2,961	3.4	380	140	240	760	0 1 1/2	568	568	595	3,569
Downpatrick	74,938	1,060	729	—	729	0.9	212	—	128	340	0 0 1/2	281	281	555	1,370
Kilkeel	28,630	390	254	163	417	1.4	47	18	59	124	0 0 1/2	—	—	61	1,541
Newry	95,541	1,350	1,276	1,862	3,138	3.2	360	149	257	786	0 1 1/2	524	525	1,062	3,320
Newtownards	60,165	1,165	566	—	566	0.9	215	—	604	879	0 1 1/2	1,369	1,363	296	5,591
CO. FERMANAGH:															
Enniskillen*	81,534	1,270	1,187	3,483	4,670	5.7	425	332	267	1,024	0 2 1/2	1,498	1,601	1,018	1,974
Lisnaskea	57,920	899	734	—	734	1.9	168	—	95	263	0 1 1/2	732	1,018	430	1,836
Lowtherstown†	34,963	740	636	1,302	1,938	5.5	168	156	104	426	0 2 1/2	254	325	281	1,082
CO. LONDONDERRY:															
Coleraine	52,704	960	629	—	629	1.1	158	—	162	320	0 1	297	228	417	1,479
Londonderry	64,740	1,100	834	1,550	2,384	3.7	250	90	206	546	0 1	566	566	1,048	1,680
Magherafelt	80,816	1,140	828	869	1,697	2.1	217	53	79	349	0 1 1/2	161	215	411	2,701
Newtownlimavady	39,058	890	423	—	423	1.1	90	—	80	170	0 0 1/2	362	362	170	2,733
CO. MONAGHAN:															
Carrickmacross	39,729	650	657	2,317	2,974	7.4	228	255	215	698	0 3 1/2	—	96	558	6,230
Castledaney	58,945	1,220	838	2,261	3,099	5.2	278	240	85	553	0 2	198	147	248	1,497
Clones	42,820	850	900	2,004	2,904	6.8	363	197	311	871	0 3 1/2	687	687	508	2,530
Monaghan	69,559	1,076	912	—	912	1.3	317	—	258	575	0 1 1/2	846	347	403	1,737
COUNTY TYRONE:															
Castlederg	21,368	570	381	—	381	1.7	72	—	28	100	0 1	18	29	63	215
Cloghar	39,000	700	615	1,505	2,120	5.3	167	164	105	436	0 2 1/2	176	184	531	138
Cookstown	46,455	600	592	685	1,277	2.7	190	53	76	319	0 1 1/2	218	898	546	358
Dungannon	70,000	990	930	1,546	2,476	3.5	265	113	93	471	0 1 1/2	373	430	411	1,348
Gortin	18,747	428	142	—	142	0.7	45	—	20	65	0 1	100	100	98	—
Omagh	69,099	1,104	862	2,461	3,323	4.8	231	170	182	583	0 1 1/2	1,514	1,887	686	2,868
Strabane	58,883	960	806	1,591	2,397	4.0	309	154	249	712	0 2	253	253	728	845
TOTAL ULSTER	2,362,132	42,002	33,088	53,155	86,243	3.06	10,029	4,921	10,202	25,152	0 2	23,406	24,883	26,276	91,075
Total for April	2,362,132	41,717	33,115	58,556	91,671	3.88	11,483	5,594	9,542	26,619	0 1 1/2	28,888	29,642	23,946	110,432

* CAVAN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 6th December, 1847.

* COOTESHILL.—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February, 1848.

FINANCIAL RETURN, MAY, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of May, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of May, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the eight months, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of May, 1848.								Valuation of Rented Property.	NAMES OF UNIONS.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Rate collected in the eight months.	Expenses of the eight months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the eight months.	Amount per pound of Collection during the eight months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the eight months on the entire Valuation.				
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.												
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s.	d.	s.	d.	£	
—	492	1,062	—	—	459	6,300	4,391	1,909	—	1	3	0	10 ³ / ₄	100,611	COUNTY ANTRIM :
—	175	1,091	—	—	1,007	2,393	2,650	—	257	1	2 ¹ / ₄	1	4	39,160	Antrim.
757	—	2,195	—	—	1,431	8,040	5,196	2,844	—	1	7 ³ / ₄	1	1	97,492	Ballycastle.
—	119	782	—	—	563	5,071	3,227	1,844	—	1	4 ³ / ₄	0	10 ³ / ₄	73,086	Ballymena.
—	497	656	—	2,111	—	15,766	18,007	—	2,241	1	1 ³ / ₄	1	4	271,915	Ballymoney.
—	277	772	—	—	267	3,049	2,379	670	—	0	10	0	7 ³ / ₄	72,437	Belfast.
—	453	—	770	1,292	—	4,152	4,041	111	—	0	7 ¹ / ₄	0	7	136,397	Larne.
															Lisburn.
															COUNTY ARMAGH :
405	—	4,492	—	—	3,644	12,689	6,857	5,832	—	1	5 ³ / ₄	0	9 ³ / ₄	174,572	Armagh.
887	—	1,763	—	—	841	11,853	7,983	3,868	—	2	6 ³ / ₄	1	8 ³ / ₄	92,662	Lurgan.
															COUNTY CAVAN :
—	363	229	—	1,369	—	9,525	6,410	3,115	—	3	7 ³ / ₄	2	5 ³ / ₄	52,156	Bailieborough.
—	1,674	1,248	—	1,637	—	16,498	14,249	2,209	—	2	7	2	2 ³ / ₄	127,282	Cavan.
756	—	1,148	—	312	—	9,704	7,410	2,294	—	2	7 ³ / ₄	2	0	73,420	Cootehill.
															COUNTY DONEGAL :
—	189	1,555	—	—	1,240	6,846	3,971	2,875	—	2	7 ³ / ₄	1	6 ³ / ₄	51,435	Ballyshannon.
557	—	1,671	—	—	579	4,608	2,260	2,343	—	2	10 ³ / ₄	1	5	31,639	Donegal.
—	—	207	—	—	38	765	1,046	—	281	1	5 ³ / ₄	1	11 ³ / ₄	10,543	Dunferry.
—	310	—	243	2,546	—	3,009	4,086	—	1,077	3	8 ³ / ₄	4	11 ³ / ₄	16,330	Glenties.
297	—	1,273	—	972	—	3,277	1,802	1,475	—	1	9 ³ / ₄	0	11 ³ / ₄	36,607	Inishowen.
—	79	—	27	662	—	1,908	2,427	—	519	1	2 ³ / ₄	1	6 ³ / ₄	31,435	Letterkenny.
—	145	327	—	166	—	3,021	2,435	586	—	1	11	1	6 ³ / ₄	31,377	Milford.
97	—	994	—	—	834	2,610	1,171	1,339	—	1	8 ³ / ₄	0	9 ³ / ₄	29,492	Stranlar.
															COUNTY DOWN :
—	192	681	—	44	—	7,362	5,594	1,768	—	1	2 ¹ / ₄	0	10 ³ / ₄	123,970	Banbridge.
—	59	2,807	—	2,868	—	4,616	3,007	1,529	—	0	6 ³ / ₄	0	4 ³ / ₄	167,393	Downpatrick.
—	124	7	—	361	—	1,305	1,262	43	—	0	8 ³ / ₄	0	8	36,931	Kilkeel.
—	242	327	—	348	—	5,237	5,879	—	642	0	9 ³ / ₄	0	10 ³ / ₄	129,651	Newry.
490	—	561	—	451	—	5,606	4,192	1,414	—	0	11 ³ / ₄	0	8 ³ / ₄	118,469	Newtownards.
															COUNTY FERMANAGH :
474	—	915	—	1,131	—	10,855	6,897	4,458	—	2	3	1	1	96,108	Enniskillen.
469	—	2,603	—	2,447	—	6,237	2,453	3,784	—	2	8	1	0 ³ / ₄	46,919	Lisnakea.
—	174	118	—	243	—	5,438	4,775	661	—	2	5 ³ / ₄	2	1 ³ / ₄	43,944	Lowtherstown.
															Co. LONDONDERRY :
—	23	779	—	—	443	3,756	3,569	187	—	0	11 ³ / ₄	0	11	76,410	Coleraine.
20	—	305	—	272	—	5,906	6,109	—	203	1	0 ³ / ₄	1	0 ³ / ₄	111,959	Londonderry.
—	188	1,029	—	856	—	5,539	3,108	2,431	—	1	5 ³ / ₄	0	10	75,339	Magherafelt.
192	—	977	—	732	—	3,367	2,394	973	—	1	0 ³ / ₄	0	8 ³ / ₄	65,630	Newtownlimavady.
															COUNTY MONAGHAN :
—	698	182	—	274	—	4,872	3,831	1,041	—	2	1 ³ / ₄	1	9	46,325	Carrickmacross.
—	415	91	—	2,731	—	7,511	6,606	905	—	2	8 ³ / ₄	2	0	65,473	Castleblaney.
—	184	583	—	—	171	5,101	4,446	655	—	1	10 ³ / ₄	1	7	55,055	Clones.
—	229	4,164	—	—	3,532	9,282	4,018	5,264	—	1	11 ³ / ₄	0	10 ³ / ₄	94,431	Monaghan.
															COUNTY TYRONE :
—	32	29	—	—	377	1,374	1,243	131	—	1	3	1	1 ³ / ₄	21,790	Castlederg.
—	260	356	—	133	—	4,229	3,421	808	—	2	0	1	7 ³ / ₄	42,275	Clogher.
—	101	524	—	192	—	2,444	2,444	—	—	0	10 ³ / ₄	0	10 ³ / ₄	55,550	Cookstown.
—	98	275	—	789	—	4,982	4,159	823	—	1	1	0	10 ³ / ₄	90,330	Dungannon.
35	—	2	—	470	—	1,163	758	405	—	1	5 ³ / ₄	0	11 ³ / ₄	15,731	Gortin.
981	—	3,036	—	—	2,251	8,650	5,293	3,447	—	2	3 ³ / ₄	1	4 ³ / ₄	75,354	Omagh.
—	459	3,838	—	—	3,080	8,284	4,018	3,466	—	2	0 ³ / ₄	1	2	81,529	Strabane.
6,457	8,203	45,652	1,040	17,392	26,984	245,098	191,806	67,512	5,220	1	6 ³ / ₄	1	2	3,320,133	TOTAL ULSTER.
9,668	7,399	46,849	1,003	14,874	25,852	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,320,133	Total for April.

* ENNISKILLEN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March, 1848.

* LOWTHERSTOWN.—Elected Guardians at the close of March succeeded the Vice-Guardians, who were appointed 16th September, 1847.

FINANCIAL RETURN, MAY, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during May, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during May, 1848.					State of Collection during May, 1848.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenses of May on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount paid with the Treasurer including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY CLARE:															
Ennis . . .	77,840	1,500	1,420	18,123	19,543	25.1	£ 420	£ 2,325	£ 666	£ 3,411	s. 0 d. 8	£ 1,920	£ 1,920	£ 1,020	£ 15,087
Ennistymon ^a . . .	49,933	760	780	10,708	19,546	39.1	*256	2,150	162	2,568	0 9½	1,819	1,821	635	12,784
Kilrush ^b . . .	82,353	1,330	1,308	16,358	17,666	21.4	377	1,863	225	2,465	0 9½	962	1,062	3,037	5,826
Scariff ^c . . .	53,563	2,800	1,866	15,514	17,380	32.4	558	1,715	807	3,080	1 4½	726	2,726	2,365	5,154
COUNTY CORK:															
Bandon . . .	81,772	2,075	1,955	—	1,955	2.4	478	—	171	649	0 1	596	1,032	51	1,581
Bantry ^d . . .	56,165	926	837	5,050	6,837	12.2	251	662	262	1,175	0 6½	827	380	1,137	1,003
Cork . . .	156,657	4,550	3,623	—	3,623	2.3	759	—	1,210	1,969	0 1½	3,640	3,640	1,770	9,637
Dunmanway . . .	30,537	875	921	2,349	3,270	10.7	213	210	253	675	0 3½	129	129	656	1,136
Fermoy . . .	92,353	1,750	1,413	11,994	13,407	14.5	346	937	287	1,670	0 2½	234	234	910	1,764
Kanturk ^e . . .	85,561	1,700	1,590	12,733	14,323	16.7	409	870	770	2,049	0 4½	3,237	3,387	2,730	17,159
Kinsale . . .	41,342	1,250	1,058	—	1,058	2.5	248	—	329	577	0 1½	86	91	497	945
Macroom . . .	50,818	1,230	1,311	5,773	7,114	12.1	315	565	213	1,093	0 2½	1,787	1,531	1,109	8,831
Mallow . . .	63,232	1,450	1,016	—	1,016	1.5	302	—	219	521	0 1	123	115	449	1,200
Midleton . . .	78,426	2,686	2,511	—	2,511	3.2	713	—	650	1,363	0 2	278	306	813	4,095
Skibbereen . . .	104,508	2,250	1,910	6,642	8,553	8.1	427	640	645	1,712	0 4½	832	928	1,221	2,940
COUNTY KERRY:															
Cahiriveen ^f . . .	30,688	1,240	1,042	2,071	4,013	13.9	348	415	96	859	0 8½	392	392	489	731
Dingle [†] . . .	35,512	—	—*	10,116*	10,118	3.4	—	1,100*	300	1,400	0 11½	—*	500	—	—
Kenmare ^g . . .	33,656	1,000	1,060	4,618	5,678	16.8	298	641	153	1,092	0 10½	159	488	376	3,207
Killarney . . .	53,345	1,750	1,427	10,459	11,866	22.2	349	1,119	171	1,639	0 4½	2,466	2,466	2,149	14,022
Listowel . . .	78,756	1,096	1,216	11,600	12,816	16.2	408	787	422	1,617	0 3½	916	777	923	1,077
Tralee . . .	56,151	1,946	1,721	5,983	7,704	13.7	487	602	301	1,390	0 2½	356	624	610	4,162
COUNTY LIMERICK:															
Kilmallock . . .	75,687	1,300	1,303	16,044	17,347	22.9	442	1,710	266	2,418	0 3½	1,678	1,665	1,187	27,035
Limerick . . .	182,067	3,450	2,380	8,472	10,352	5.2	607	1,282	702	2,541	0 2½	1,423	1,494	2,090	9,582
Newcastle ^h . . .	60,007	775	876	18,041	18,917	31.5	314	2,078	199	2,591	0 5½	5,270	4,893	4,322	10,848
Rathkenile . . .	68,174	1,574	1,303	3,775	10,076	14.7	348	1,023	248	1,619	0 2½	1,084	1,149	985	18,670
CO. TIPPERARY:															
Carrick-on-Suir . . .	45,333	1,140	769	902	1,671	3.6	272	120	336	728	0 1½	312	233	305	1,404
Cashel . . .	69,640	1,475	1,474	9,868	11,342	16.2	518	1,023	687	2,228	0 4	895	986	1,043	4,773
Clogheen . . .	47,033	1,200	852	7,491	8,343	17.7	355	669	243	1,267	0 4½	215	215	327	1,355
Clonmel . . .	89,993	1,900	1,502	2,359	3,861	9.6	508	237	170	915	0 2½	54	54	904	8,028
Nenagh . . .	89,874	1,700	1,651	11,182	12,833	14.2	494	1,178	249	1,921	0 3½	1,493	1,494	1,449	7,488
Roscrea . . .	63,016	1,230	1,034	6,323	7,357	11.6	407	736	396	1,539	0 3½	1,013	869	1,744	3,717
Thurles . . .	71,976	996	932	14,311	15,243	21.1	316	1,129	322	1,767	0 3½	913	917	1,315	5,991
Tipperary . . .	79,516	1,050	1,077	15,894	16,971	21.3	438	2,130	458	3,026	0 5	561	563	2,704	4,797
CO. WATERFORD:															
Dungarvan . . .	68,642	1,550	1,236	4,725	5,963	8.6	314	453	349	1,116	0 2½	223	210	1,025	994
Lismore . . .	38,617	1,290	1,359	2,631	3,990	10.07	363	331	454	1,148	0 4½	122	344	647	267
Waterford ⁱ . . .	84,360	1,670	1,504	7,815	9,319	11.04	610	646	515	1,771	0 2	1,124	1,124	1,206	25,749
TOTAL MUNSTER	2,435,347	56,064	49,319	294,787	344,106	14.1	14,267	31,296	14,006	59,569	0 3½	37,464	41,679	44,202	243,039
Total for April	2,435,347	55,113	48,211	294,895	343,106	14.08	14,941	31,328	13,852	60,121	0 3½	38,025	36,066	54,947	217,470

^a ENNISTYMON.—Vice-Guardians appointed 29th Feb., 1848.^b KILRUSH.—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March, 1848.^c SCARIFF.—Vice-Guardians appointed 28th October, 1847.^d BANTRY.—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th October, 1847.^e KANTURK.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th Nov., 1847.^f The Union of Dingle was declared on the 22nd February, 1848, being formed of Ten Electoral Divisions, previously belonging to Tralee Union. No Workhouse Expenses above given in^g Estimated.^h Estimated.ⁱ Estimated.

FINANCIAL RETURN, MAY, 1848—continued:

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of May, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of May, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the eight months, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of May, 1848.								NAMES OF UNIONS.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expense over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Rate collected in the eight months.	Expenses of the eight months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the eight months.	Amount per pound of Collection during the eight months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expense during the eight months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property.		
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.											
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	COUNTY CLARE:	
-	1,491	890	-	4,109	-	15,872	20,262	-	4,390	3 1½	3 11½	101,222	Ennis.	
-	749	1,662	-	*4,660	-	8,616	9,906	-	1,290	2 6½	2 11½	67,486	Ennistymon.	
-	1,503	-	1,040	4,809	-	9,343	11,810	-	2,467	3 1½	3 10½	59,449	Kilrush.	
-	2,354	401	-	6,267	-	12,537	15,536	-	2,999	5 7½	6 11½	44,609	Scariff.	
COUNTY CORK:														
-	53	5,188	-	-	4,441	8,097	7,952	145	-	1 2½	1 2	136,166	Bandon.	
-	818	2	-	5,553	-	5,225	8,875	-	3,150	2 3	4 0	41,829	Bantry.	
1,671	-	10,011	-	-	9,171	30,929	17,714	13,215	-	1 8½	0 11½	365,623	Cork.	
-	546	1,476	-	-	1,200	5,671	4,052	1,619	-	2 6½	1 9½	44,084	Dunmanway.	
-	1,436	5,245	-	-	1,713	21,841	20,020	1,821	-	2 10	2 6½	153,452	Fermoy.	
1,338	-	2,338	-	491	-	23,279	17,950	5,329	-	4 4½	3 4½	106,114	Kanturk.	
-	491	1,253	-	-	962	4,990	2,020	917	-	1 4½	1 1	73,928	Kinsale.	
644	-	1,315	-	-	543	9,417	6,654	2,763	-	2 0	1 4½	93,875	Macroon.	
-	399	6,049	-	-	5,544	13,594	5,260	8,334	-	2 2½	0 10½	122,706	Mallow.	
-	1,085	9,377	-	-	7,823	22,791	11,647	11,144	-	2 9½	1 5½	163,070	Middleton.	
-	890	1,517	-	-	523	14,091	11,948	2,143	-	2 10½	2 5½	90,255	Skibbereen.	
COUNTY KERRY:														
-	467	209	-	2,161	-	3,096	4,204	-	1,108	2 6½	3 5½	24,366	Cahirciveen.	
-	1,400	-	-	*1,200	-	-	2,644	-	2,644	-	-	29,230	Dingle.	
-	933	145	-	3,002	-	3,040	6,001	-	2,052	3 3½	4 10½	24,689	Kemmare.	
827	-	186	-	3,150	-	14,089	15,720	-	1,640	3 3½	3 8½	85,023	Killarney.	
-	701	411	-	4,869	-	13,621	17,844	-	4,223	2 9½	3 7½	97,558	Listowel.	
-	1,034	29	-	3,416	-	15,038	16,011	-	973	2 7½	2 11½	84,625	Tralee.	
COUNTY LIMERICK:														
-	740	473	-	4,692	-	17,767	15,965	1,802	-	2 0	1 9½	177,800	Kilmallock.	
-	1,118	6,695	-	-	4,954	31,917	20,986	10,931	-	3 1	1 11½	206,861	Limerick.	
2,679	-	1,691	-	5,941	-	22,984	24,669	-	1,585	4 2½	4 6½	109,499	Newcastle.	
-	535	2,093	-	273	-	16,326	16,419	-	93	2 4½	2 5½	139,337	Rathkeale.	
COUNTY TIPPERARY:														
-	416	-	181	1,917	-	8,436	5,952	2,484	-	1 10½	1 3½	89,871	Carrick-on-Suir.	
-	1,333	79	-	3,883	-	14,092	14,017	75	-	2 2	2 1½	130,293	Cashel.	
-	1,052	194	-	1,630	-	6,831	3,008	-	1,177	2 2	2 6½	62,760	Clogheen.	
-	861	158	-	963	-	7,803	8,592	-	789	1 8½	1 10½	91,108	Clonmel.	
-	428	308	-	3,103	-	16,328	15,361	967	-	2 8½	2 6½	119,802	Nenagh.	
-	526	656	-	919	-	12,082	9,357	2,725	-	2 4½	1 10	102,171	Roscrea.	
-	854	181	-	1,474	-	13,894	14,141	-	247	2 6½	■ 7	108,931	Thurles.	
-	2,465	23	-	3,921	-	14,216	18,373	-	4,157	1 11	2 6	148,326	Tipperary.	
COUNTY WATERFORD:														
-	893	5,300	-	-	4,541	13,137	7,598	5,539	-	2 9½	1 7½	94,591	Dungarvan.	
-	1,028	2,531	-	-	1,763	7,381	4,745	2,636	-	2 3½	1 5½	64,583	Lismore.	
-	647	-	713	3,874	-	9,482	10,029	-	547	0 11½	1 0½	193,771	Waterford.	
7,159	29,264	68,166	1,934	75,897	43,183	468,762	429,704	74,589	35,531	■ 5½	2 3½	3,777,103	TOTAL MUNSTER.	
5,744	82,840	70,005	709	61,812	47,802	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,777,103	Total for April.	

* CAHIRCIVEEN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December, 1847.

* KEMMARE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 20th January, 1848.

b NEWCASTLE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 4th March, 1848.

c WATERFORD.—Vice-Guardians appointed 23th March, 1848.

accommodation had been provided, and no rate had been made in Dingle Union down to the close of May; but on the 29th April a rate was agreed upon. The Return of confined to the months of April and May.

FINANCIAL RETURN, MAY, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during May, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during May, 1848.					State of Collection during May, 1848.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenses of May on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor-Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer including other receipts than Poor-Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY CARLOW:															
Carlow . . .	77,922	2,100	1,623	6,212	7,835	10·0	£ 006	£ 502	£ 747	£ 1,855	s. d. 0 2½	£ 233	£ 1,303	£ 600	£ 3,097
COUNTY DUBLIN:															
Balrothery . . .	28,116	544	476	937	1,413	5·0	162	86	96	344	0 1	286	272	301	3,932
Dublin, North . . .	123,128	4,100	3,114	3,078	6,192	5·0	1,214	333	766	2,333	0 1½	3,113	3,147	2,300	14,754
Dublin, South . . .	178,745	2,535	2,147	5,748	7,895	4·4	811	815	607	2,233	0 1	8,165	8,165	4,067	46,134
Rathdown . . .	44,214	726	569	905	1,474	3·3	371	143	217	731	0 1	146	151	251	5,774
COUNTY KILDARE:															
Athy . . .	47,912	1,120	915	2,579	3,494	7·3	349	382	204	935	0 2	394	397	499	3,750
Dubridge . . .	25,242	519	295	—	295	1·1	107	—	145	252	0 0½	533	533	344	2,511
Naas . . .	52,228	1,110	1,005	2,727	3,732	7·1	367	403	204	974	0 1½	158	158	622	1,064
COUNTY KILKENNY:															
Callan . . .	33,524	1,130	869	7,318	8,187	21·2	206	636	417	1,351	0 3½	550	667	721	2,458
Kilkenny* . . .	120,062	1,900	1,439	6,664	8,103	6·7	447	786	566	1,799	0 1½	1,849	1,869	1,688	5,836
KING'S COUNTY:															
Edenderry . . .	34,679	840	504	826	1,330	3·8	170	111	509	790	0 2	89	89	648	821
Parsonstown . . .	76,528	1,500	1,229	—	1,229	1·6	368	—	231	649	0 1½	505	509	69	4,094
Tullamore ^b . . .	53,905	1,200	1,014	6,128	7,142	13·2	365	533	161	1,059	0 3	1,815	1,846	1,512	10,371
COUNTY LONGFORD:															
Granard ^c . . .	55,130	700	788	7,016	7,804	14·1	250	1,080	435	1,765	0 4½	1,706	1,706	2,204	3,488
Longford ^d . . .	87,757	1,450	1,729	6,277	18,206	9·1	355	582	398	1,325	0 2½	2,238	2,238	1,878	14,172
COUNTY LOUTH:															
Ardee . . .	43,348	770	653	2,055	2,708	6·2	238	219	297	754	0 2	463	463	683	905
Drogheda . . .	52,251	940	594	3,058	3,652	3·9	197	181	71	449	0 0½	276	276	881	1,102
Dundalk . . .	65,509	948	602	2,281	2,883	4·4	215	245	163	622	0 1½	591	621	589	5,821
COUNTY MEATH:															
Dunshaughlin . . .	20,985	596	429	969	1,398	6·6	141	134	277	552	0 1	826	807	914	2,347
Kells . . .	45,282	1,260	1,256	1,505	2,761	6·1	325	162	473	960	0 1½	281	282	236	5,801
Navan . . .	35,831	900	604	2,717	3,321	9·2	208	354	241	803	0 2	903	715	424	2,914
Oldcastle . . .	48,373	644	927	5,836	6,763	14·0	307	779	555	1,641	0 5	1,698	1,379	1,492	3,702
Trim ^e . . .	84,411	898	417	2,166	2,583	7·5	214	288	252	754	0 1½	1,219	1,210	706	6,405
QUEEN'S COUNTY:															
Abbeyleix . . .	41,230	900	887	3,057	3,944	9·5	347	387	163	897	0 3½	99	146	151	7,845
Mountmelick . . .	67,874	1,944	1,547	4,648	6,195	9·1	620	442	261	1,323	0 3½	547	547	1,209	2,792
COUNTY WESTMEATH:															
Athlone ^f . . .	72,168	1,168	1,268	8,278	9,546	13·2	441	769	478	1,687	0 4	1,899	1,899	1,877	8,737
Mullingarb . . .	73,272	1,016	989	7,054	8,043	10·9	318	864	140	1,322	0 1½	3,415	3,391	3,894	15,151
COUNTY WEXFORD:															
Eaniscorthy . . .	61,816	1,039	1,251	4,873	6,124	9·9	328	584	807	1,719	0 3½	1,003	1,005	1,726	3,602
Gorey . . .	39,054	830	692	2,397	3,289	8·3	296	291	208	795	0 2	1,131	1,137	1,045	9,276
New Ross ^h . . .	74,293	1,900	1,689	4,837	6,526	8·7	610	453	422	1,485	0 3½	453	453	955	4,534
Wexford . . .	53,401	1,000	844	—	844	1·5	369	—	551	920	0 2	638	666	920	5,002
COUNTY WICKLOW:															
Baltinglass . . .	40,687	900	836	1,665	2,501	6·1	238	185	293	716	0 1½	607	480	689	5,318
Rathdrum . . .	56,709	1,140	798	2,331	3,129	5·5	256	187	297	740	0 1½	1,090	1,090	619	6,612
Shillelagh . . .	34,800	627	626	684	1,260	3·6	149	89	119	857	0 1½	152	152	269	661
TOTAL LEINSTER .	2,006,036	40,914	34,825	116,776	151,601	7·55	12,055	13,027	11,809	36,891	0 2	89,146	89,771	36,963	220,283
Total for April .	2,006,036	41,044	35,263	115,544	150,807	7·51	13,923	14,595	12,355	40,873	0 2½	84,819	84,814	39,898	171,989

^a KILKENNY.—Vice-Guardians appointed 26th February, 1848.
^b TULLAMORE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 9th February, 1848.

^c GRANARD.—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th February, 1848.
^d LONGFORD.—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March, 1848.

FINANCIAL RETURN, MAY, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of May, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of May, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the eight months, from 22nd September, 1847, to the close of May, 1848.							NAMES OF UNIONS.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of deficit, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of deficit.	Rate collected in the eight months.	Expenses of the eight months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the eight months.	Amount per pound of Collection during the eight months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the eight months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property.	
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.										
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
—	1,622	1,042	—	1,812	—	12,183	13,494	—	1,361	1 4½	1 6½	179,037	COUNTY CARLOW:
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Carlow.
—	58	—	48	908	—	3,268	3,543	—	275	0 8½	0 9	94,521	COUNTY DUBLIN:
780	—	3,637	—	—	2,804	31,931	29,152	2,779	—	1 8½	1 6½	369,745	Balrothery.
5,932	—	1,865	—	—	255	19,879	25,575	—	5,696	0 8½	0 10½	569,940	Dublin, North.
—	585	6	—	2,276	—	5,358	6,201	—	843	0 8½	0 9½	152,314	Dublin, South.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Rathdown.
—	541	114	—	1,150	—	7,794	7,320	474	—	1 6½	1 5	102,831	COUNTY KILDARE:
291	—	1,680	—	—	1,420	4,462	2,298	2,164	—	0 8½	0 4½	130,776	Athy.
—	816	3,372	—	—	1,964	11,785	8,219	3,486	—	1 9	1 2½	135,232	Celbridge.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nans.
—	801	87	—	943	—	8,733	9,124	—	391	2 1	2 1½	54,103	COUNTY KILKENNY:
50	—	1,562	—	—	189	24,352	15,119	9,133	—	2 0	1 3	241,775	Callan.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Kilkenny.
—	701	814	—	—	427	4,596	8,661	1,035	—	0 11½	0 8½	98,634	KING'S COUNTY:
—	144	3,597	—	—	2,276	11,153	4,815	6,338	—	2 0½	0 10½	109,286	Edenderry.
756	—	435	—	2,020	—	9,767	8,688	1,079	—	2 3	2 0	86,516	Parsonstown.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Tullamore.
—	59	3,464	—	—	1,541	11,629	8,045	3,584	—	2 8	1 9½	87,209	COUNTY LONGFORD:
913	—	1,471	—	4,144	—	10,697	11,246	—	549	1 8½	1 9½	124,496	Granard.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Longford.
—	291	573	—	—	420	9,784	7,467	2,317	—	2 1½	1 7½	93,047	COUNTY LOUTH:
—	173	43	—	1,609	—	8,552	8,071	481	—	1 3	1 2	136,601	Ardee.
—	31	—	677	1,328	—	3,556	4,665	—	1,109	0 8	0 10½	106,680	Droghda.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Dundalk.
274	—	298	—	260	—	5,858	5,198	660	—	1 0	0 10½	118,486	COUNTY MEATH:
—	679	108	—	3,246	—	7,946	9,489	—	1,543	1 3½	1 6½	123,339	Dunshaughlin.
100	—	—	422	2,229	—	7,101	7,635	—	534	1 4½	1 6	101,527	Kells.
57	—	489	—	1,766	—	10,936	10,987	—	51	2 9	2 9	79,721	Navan.
465	—	521	—	203	—	4,539	5,339	—	800	0 11	1 0	100,634	Oldcastle.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Trim.
—	798	—	5	3,015	—	7,319	7,290	29	—	2 2½	2 2½	66,759	QUEEN'S COUNTY:
—	776	—	3,117	4,244	—	9,421	12,633	—	3,262	2 1½	2 9½	89,914	Abbeyleix.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Mountmelick.
212	—	306	—	1,439	—	9,315	7,449	1,866	—	1 9½	1 5½	103,078	COUNTY WESTMEATH:
2,093	—	—	577	3,063	—	6,629	10,219	—	3,590	0 8½	1 0½	190,944	Athlone.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Mullingar.
—	716	418	—	97	—	13,498	11,446	2,052	—	2 1½	1 9½	126,921	COUNTY WEXFORD:
336	—	192	—	486	—	6,080	5,877	203	—	1 3½	1 3	94,001	Enniscorthy.
—	1,092	150	—	1,404	—	13,149	12,415	734	—	2 4½	2 3	109,748	Gorey.
—	287	3,105	—	—	2,521	9,896	6,967	2,929	—	1 9	1 3	113,714	New Ross.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Wexford.
—	29	757	—	232	—	5,091	5,476	—	385	1 1½	1 2½	90,888	COUNTY WICKLOW:
350	—	—	—	—	470	5,112	5,697	—	585	0 8	0 9½	153,246	Baitinglass.
—	205	35	—	692	—	3,809	2,943	866	—	1 2½	0 11	64,485	Rathdrum.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Shillelagh.
12,599	10,344	29,459	4,046	38,586	13,840	325,038	303,793	42,209	20,974	1 4½	1 3½	4,624,542	TOTAL LEINSTER.
7,834	14,388	29,908	6,711	44,334	14,039	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,624,542	Total for April.

* THIR.—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th January, 1848.
 † ATHLONE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 22nd January, 1848.

* MULLINGAR.—Vice-Guardians appointed 6th May, 1848.
 † NEW ROSS.—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March, 1848.

FINANCIAL RETURN, MAY, 1848—continued.
PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during May, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during May, 1848.					State of Collection during May, 1848.			
			Average Number of inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief lists during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of Int-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenses of May on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
COUNTY GALWAY:							£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£
Ballinasloe	99,026	1,450	1,482	9,413	10,845	10.9	652	948	423	2,018	0 3	932	953	1,646	7,451
Clifden ^a	83,465	360	258	17,100	17,358	51.8	177	2,407	272	2,936	2 7½	30	1,930	1,925	930
Galway ^b	88,973	1,210	1,466	26,960	28,426	32.0	402	2,489	396	3,297	0 7½	374	2,757	2,789	7,179
Gort ^c	43,543	1,050	1,044	9,032	10,076	23.1	309	1,055	619	1,983	0 8½	1,780	1,645	1,723	3,945
Loughrea ^d	71,774	1,900	1,489	6,064	7,553	10.5	561	774	446	1,781	0 4½	970	970	979	2,866
Tuam ^e	74,974	1,150	1,094	13,167	14,261	19.0	276	1,304	229	1,809	0 5	594	2,129	3,097	5,859
COUNTY LEITRIM:															
Carrick-on-Shannon ^f	67,077	960	904	11,763	12,667	18.8	301	1,392	260	1,953	0 7½	906	2,918	2,834	5,555
Manorhamilton	45,990	1,015	692	1,275	1,967	4.2	151	99	150	400	0 2	472	472	985	1,297
Mohills	68,869	790	888	8,024	8,912	12.9	248	951	826	1,525	0 6½	793	2,063	1,496	5,034
COUNTY MAYO:															
Ballina ^g	120,787	1,604	1,478	34,284	35,762	29.6	491	3,601	837	4,929	1 0½	556	2,037	2,263	4,510
Ballinrobe ^h	85,031	800	817	38,252	39,069	45.9	248	3,545	481	4,274	1 0	590	590	768	6,756
Castlebar ⁱ	61,063	900	750	20,318	21,077	34.5	221	2,160	154	2,555	1 0	278	2,235	2,000	6,809
Swineford	73,529	850	612	10,354	10,966	14.9	186	1,229	249	1,664	0 8½	718	714	816	6,406
Westport ^k	77,962	1,900	1,025	26,051	27,076	34.6	288	2,401	433	3,122	1 7½	1,196	4,064	3,573	3,560
Co. ROSCOMMON:															
Boyle ^l	71,355	774	772	11,830	12,102	16.9	340	897	775	2,012	0 6	1,500	1,515	1,131	7,189
Castleroa ^m	92,861	1,050	1,066	15,864	16,930	18.2	284	1,764	341	2,369	0 5	457	1,497	1,812	6,781
Roscommon ⁿ	83,437	1,490	1,559	17,618	19,117	22.9	530	1,819	310	2,659	0 7½	761	2,163	2,849	3,521
COUNTY SLEIGO:															
Sligo	111,054	2,000	1,800	8,250	10,050	9.0	456	716	486	1,658	0 2½	1,585	1,516	1,507	16,092
TOTAL CONNAUGHT.	1,370,753	20,353	19,155	285,119	304,274	22.12	6,121	29,656	7,187	42,964	0 7	14,502	32,168	34,193	101,529
Total for April	1,370,753	20,353	18,260	253,294	271,544	19.80	6,411	28,001	7,361	41,773	0 7	13,749	29,768	28,716	110,206
SUMMARY.															
ULSTER	2,362,132	42,003	33,088	53,155	86,243	3.00	10,029	4,921	10,202	25,152	0 2	23,416	24,683	26,276	91,075
MUNSTER	2,435,347	56,064	49,319	294,767	344,106	14.1	14,267	31,296	14,006	59,569	0 3½	37,464	41,679	44,202	243,039
LEINSTER	2,006,036	40,914	34,825	116,778	151,601	7.55	12,055	13,027	11,809	36,891	0 2	30,146	39,771	36,983	220,283
CONNAUGHT	1,370,753	20,353	19,155	285,119	304,274	22.12	6,121	29,656	7,187	42,964	0 7	14,502	32,168	34,193	101,529
TOTAL MAY	8,174,268	159,333	136,387	749,837	886,224	10.84	42,472	78,900	43,204	164,576	0 3	114,518	138,501	141,654	655,926
TOTAL APRIL	8,174,268	157,993	134,849	722,279	857,128	10.43	46,758	79,518	43,110	169,356	0 3	111,981	129,790	142,509	610,095

^a CLIFDEN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 7th February, 1848.
^b GALWAY.—Vice-Guardians appointed 3rd January, 1848.
^c GORT.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th February, 1848.
^d LOUGHREA.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th February, 1848.
^e TUAM.—Vice-Guardians appointed 18th February, 1848.
^f CARRICK-ON-SHANNON.—Vice-Guardians appointed 30th January, 1848.
^g MOHILLS.—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th December, 1847.
† £7,279 is included in the 10th column headed "Establishment, &c.," being the expenses of Temporary Fever Hospitals, making the total for

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the LIABILITIES of the

- I.—The total Debts of all Unions to Contractors, Treasurers, or others (exclusive of all Loans obtained from Government, or from Private Parties simply for Building purposes), amounted, on the { 29 Sept., 1847, to £272,943, }
II.—The number of Unions in { 31 May, 1848, } exceeded the amount of the money { 31 May, 1848, 83; } the Debts of those which the Debts on the { 29 Sept., 1847, } in the Treasurers' hands, was, on { 29 Sept., 1847, 117; } Unions amounted, on
III.—The number of Unions in which the money in the { 31 May, 1848, 48; } the money in the hands of the Treasurers' hands exceeded the Debts was, on { 29 Sept., 1847, 13; } surer of those Unions, amounted, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to
- NOTE.—The Debts due to Government or the British Association

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Collection and Expenses for the Eight Months, from 1st October, 1847, to 31st May, 1848, inclusive; showing also the Amount advanced by the British Association in aid of the Poor Rates on the recommendation of the Poor Law Commissioners, but exclusive of the Expenditure of the Association in providing Food and Clothing for Children in the Public Schools.

	Expenses.	Collection.	Excess of Collection.	Excess of Expenses.	Amount advanced by the British Association.
	£	£	£	£	£
1847—October, . . .	70,808	121,253	50,447	—	900
„ November, . . .	88,432	151,684	63,252	—	450
„ December, . . .	123,697	168,850	45,153	—	1,300
1848—January, . . .	151,264	194,054	42,790	—	2,600
„ February, . . .	167,846	187,064	19,218	—	10,751
„ March, . . .	179,151	128,449	—	40,702	17,230
„ April, . . .	169,466	111,981	—	57,485	23,898
„ May, . . .	164,576	114,518	—	50,058	34,044
Total, 8 Months, . .	1,115,160	1,187,855	220,860	148,165	†90,578
or £72,695 net excess of Collection.					

ULSTER PROVINCE.		MUNSTER PROVINCE.		LEINSTER PROVINCE.	
Cavan, . . .	£300	Bantry, . . .	£2,400	Athlone, . . .	£500
Glenties, . . .	540	Cahiriveen, . . .	600	New Ross, . . .	500
Total, . . .	£840	Dingle, . . .	1,800		
		Ennistymon, . . .	1,000		
		Kenmare, . . .	2,980		
		Total, . . .	£15,005	Total, . . .	£1,000

† The Unions to which the Advances were made to the close of May,

FINANCIAL RETURN, MAY, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of May, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of May, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the eight months, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of May, 1848.								Names of Unions.	
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Rate collected in the eight months.	Expenses of the eight months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the eight months.	Amount per pound of Collect on during the eight months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the eight months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property.			
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.												
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£			
—	1,086	7,108	—	—	6,058	17,442	7,895	9,547	—	2 3½	1 0½	151,664	COUNTY GALWAY:		
—	2,906	5	—	3,806	—	2,344	6,709	—	4,365	2 1	5 11½	23,426	Ballinasloe.		
—	2,923	24	—	13,781	—	7,229	16,794	—	9,565	1 5½	3 3½	100,777	Clifden.		
—	203	204	—	8,814	—	6,103	11,597	—	5,414	2 4½	4 4	53,037	Galway.		
—	811	2,148	—	—	1,521	10,783	8,050	2,733	—	2 4½	1 9	91,907	Gort.		
—	1,215	159	—	7,222	—	5,452	9,215	—	3,763	1 3	2 1½	86,236	Loughrea.		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Tuam.		
—	1,047	258	—	4,932	—	6,119	8,714	—	2,595	1 11½	2 9½	61,450	COUNTY LEITRIM:		
72	—	423	—	73	—	5,214	3,034	2,180	—	2 2½	1 3½	47,284	Carrick-on-Shannon.		
—	732	556	—	2,319	—	3,151	6,877	—	1,726	1 9½	2 3½	57,778	Manorhamilton.		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Mobill.		
—	4,373	259	—	6,165	—	8,618	21,315	—	12,697	1 9½	4 4½	95,774	COUNTY MAYO:		
—	3,684	57	—	2,982	—	7,265	19,101	—	11,736	1 3½	4 5½	85,217	Ballina.		
—	2,277	263	—	6,276	—	3,337	12,409	—	9,073	1 3½	4 10½	50,961	Ballinrobe.		
—	926	30	—	3,649	—	3,855	5,806	—	7,951	1 8	2 6	46,016	Castlebar.		
—	1,926	1,260	—	3,618	—	5,075	13,446	—	8,411	2 6	6 11½	38,876	Swineford.		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Westport.		
—	512	928	—	959	—	8,521	4,062	3,539	—	2 1	1 2½	81,408	COUNTY ROSCOMMON:		
—	1,952	160	—	3,113	—	10,539	8,092	2,447	—	1 10	1 5	114,349	Boyle.		
—	1,898	—	978	4,874	—	10,522	11,691	—	1,169	2 5½	2 8½	65,837	Castlereagh.		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Roscommon.		
—	73	26	—	5,411	—	16,203	14,406	1,802	—	2 3½	3 0½	142,030	COUNTY SLIGO:		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Sligo.		
72	23,534	13,870	978	77,994	7,574	130,957	160,163	22,246	73,454	1 11	2 7	1,465,643	TOTAL CONNAUGHT.		
705	26,729	16,061	10	78,974	10,183	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,465,643	Total for April.		
6,457	8,203	45,052	1,040	17,392	28,984	254,058	191,806	67,512	5,220	1 6½	1 2	3,320,183	ULSTER.		
7,159	29,264	63,106	1,994	75,397	43,183	468,762	429,704	74,569	35,531	2 5½	2 3½	3,777,103	MUNSTER.		
12,599	10,344	29,459	4,846	38,586	13,840	325,938	302,798	42,209	20,974	1 4½	1 2½	4,624,542	LEINSTER.		
73	28,534	13,070	978	77,994	7,574	139,957	190,163	22,248	73,454	1 11	2 7	1,465,643	CONNAUGHT.		
26,387	76,345	157,147	8,798	209,369	93,581	1,187,045	1,115,466	206,558	134,179	1 9½	1 8½	13,187,421	TOTAL, MAY.		
23,951	81,356	162,323	8,463	200,494	97,076	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,187,421	TOTAL, APRIL.		

¹ BALLINA.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December, 1847.

² BALLINROBE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July, 1847.

³ CASTLEBAR.—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July, 1847.

⁴ WESTPORT.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th August, 1847.

⁵ BOYLE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 9th May, 1848.

⁶ CASTLEREA.—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February, 1848.

⁷ ROSCOMMON.—Vice-Guardians appointed 31st December, 1847.

In-Maintenance, Out-Relief, and Temporary Fever Hospitals, £128,651, leaving £35,925 for "Establishment and all other Expenses."

Unions on 29th September, 1847, and 31st May, 1848.

from which amount, deducting the { 31 May, 1848, £157,147, } the net amount of Debts, over and { 31 May, 1848, £115,783, } money in the Treasurers' hands, viz. { 29 Sept., 1847, £39,966, } above the money in hands, would be, { 29 Sept., 1847, £232,977, }

{ 31 May, 1848, to £239,910, } and the money in their Treasurers' hands amounted, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to £14,236, } deducting which amount, the net { 31 May, 1848, £269,369, } amount of Debts, over and above { 29 Sept., 1847, £252,727, }

£126,606, } and the Debts { 31 May, 1848, to £33,025, } deducting which there would remain a { 31 May, 1848, to £93,591, }

£25,730, } amounted, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to £5,980, } net balance to their credit, amounting, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to £19,750, }

on account of Loans, are excluded from this Statement.

STATEMENT showing the amount of Poor Rate collected during each month since the commencement of the year 1846; also the Amount uncollected, and the state of the Balances at foot of the Treasurers' accounts at the close of each month.

Month.	Amount of Rate collected during the Month.			Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.			Amount in hands of Treasurers of certain Unions at close of the Month.			Amount due to Treasurers of remaining Unions at the close of the Month.		
	1846.	1847.	1848.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1846.	1847.	1848.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
January . . .	36,229	52,439	194,054	219,052	250,953	788,511	41,362	33,274	177,228	7,258	23,565	4,395
February . . .	41,885	47,264	187,064	206,664	279,140	653,856	54,314	30,283	208,545	5,204	28,312	3,728
March . . .	38,909	52,561	138,449	174,734	265,149	661,855	57,129	26,493	100,409	5,014	31,112	5,261
April . . .	38,436	63,110	111,981	173,956	349,773	610,095	55,986	21,611	162,623	6,580	32,278	8,463
May . . .	31,230	64,865	114,518	163,500	406,223	655,926	57,655	15,424	157,147	6,152	30,526	8,798
June . . .	30,530	59,436	—	150,201	463,730	—	56,425	14,404	—	6,649	31,897	—
July . . .	24,185	62,097	—	129,125	594,120	—	47,801	18,726	—	7,368	34,860	—
August . . .	17,173	53,329	—	135,233	690,103	—	44,350	25,210	—	8,165	35,507	—
September . . .	21,510	73,353	—	155,718	816,452	—	39,913	29,966	—	8,071	29,841	—
October . . .	26,805	121,255	—	225,015	864,049	—	32,114	64,444	—	11,089	28,782	—
November . . .	36,639	151,684	—	244,050	859,718	—	34,393	105,893	—	14,746	16,879	—
December . . .	46,440	168,850	—	243,394	890,639	—	35,358	145,706	—	19,452	8,788	—
Total . . .	390,071	970,308	746,066	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

by the British Association, and the Amounts, are subjoined.

CONNAUGHT PROVINCE.

Ballina, . . .	£16,050	Clifden, . . .	£5,359	Sligo, . . .	£500
Ballinrobe, . . .	12,850	Galway, . . .	6,680	Tuam, . . .	3,500
Carrick-on-Shannon, . . .	8,314	Gort, . . .	500	Westport, . . .	9,910
Castlebar, . . .	8,815	Mobill, . . .	2,500		
Castlereagh, . . .	1,750	Roscommon, . . .	2,000	Total, . . .	£73,728

PAPERS RELATING TO THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS, FINANCIAL RETURN, JUNE, 1848.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during June, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during June, 1848.					State of Collection during June, 1848.			
			Average Number of inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expense of June on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY ANTRIM:															
Antrim	49,168	1,050	757	—	757	1.6	218	—	231	440	0 1	—	—	406	—
Ballycastle . . .	26,020	340	429	—	429	1.6	146	—	220	366	0 2	213	213	300	—
Ballymena	74,022	1,150	876	223	1,099	1.4	256	25	425	707	0 13	1,403	1,405	878	644
Ballymoney	48,012	752	704	944	1,648	3.3	172	82	131	335	0 13	387	479	403	1,536
Belfast	100,992	2,922	2,607	—	2,607	2.5	899	—	917	1,816	0 13	1,165	1,128	1,566	3,259
Larne	38,758	980	544	—	544	1.4	143	—	58	201	0 03	260	263	333	253
Lisburn	75,444	1,450	685	—	685	0.9	199	—	85	284	0 03	31	31	468	—
COUNTY ARMAGH:															
Armagh	110,400	1,300	1,121	334	1,455	1.3	240	29	276	545	0 02	702	640	509	9,832
Lurgan	71,128	1,512	866	—	866	1.2	280	—	308	588	0 14	1,628	2,196	933	3,634
COUNTY CAVAN:															
Bailieborough . . .	49,305	1,250	1,213	3,983	5,196	10.5	299	437	272	1,008	0 43	569	542	569	6,907
Cavan ^a	97,271	1,950	1,547	8,093	9,640	9.9	490	764	476	1,738	0 34	645	261	393	6,931
Cootehill ^b	67,178	1,350	1,291	5,227	6,518	9.7	325	479	344	1,148	0 34	756	1,017	264	2,955
COUNTY DONEGAL:															
Ballyshannon . . .	43,403	870	677	1,430	2,107	4.8	156	121	188	465	0 23	130	128	695	656
Donegal	41,371	550	574	1,545	2,119	5.1	175	141	229	545	0 4	308	334	653	1,099
Dunfannonghy . . .	18,571	300	259	—	259	1.4	75	—	146	221	0 5	109	86	186	527
Glenties	43,571	600	578	5,495	6,068	13.9	132	569	45	746	0 103	77	565	219	345
Inishowen	43,569	640	408	503	1,031	2.5	124	55	54	233	0 13	274	274	233	2,040
Letterkenney	25,921	870	445	—	445	1.7	117	—	47	164	0 13	215	275	95	3,078
Millford	38,103	430	282	1,461	1,743	4.5	83	63	49	195	0 13	55	55	261	115
Stranorlar	25,786	460	407	—	407	1.5	91	—	87	173	0 13	63	108	90	755
COUNTY DOWN:															
Banbridge	87,323	1,410	1,125	1,423	2,548	2.9	355	117	238	705	0 13	518	518	969	3,051
Downpatrick	74,938	1,060	696	—	696	0.9	220	—	106	326	0 03	428	428	103	1,042
Kilkeel	28,638	380	246	173	419	1.4	58	13	94	165	0 1	368	336	186	1,180
Newry	95,541	1,350	1,306	1,953	3,259	3.4	345	166	235	746	0 13	895	895	582	4,050
Newtownards	60,165	1,165	557	—	557	0.9	205	—	260	465	0 03	1,281	1,280	1,244	4,310
CO. FERMANAGH:															
Enniskillen ^c	81,534	1,370	1,258	4,207	5,465	6.7	458	389	302	1,149	0 23	998	1,073	1,830	981
Lisnaskea	37,920	840	787	—	787	1.9	180	—	116	296	0 13	344	438	144	1,491
Lowtherstown ^d . . .	34,963	740	629	1,201	1,830	5.2	161	131	86	378	0 2	166	119	258	914
CO. LONDONDERRY:															
Coleraine	52,704	960	647	—	647	1.2	213	—	152	365	0 1	238	235	230	1,243
Londonderry	64,740	1,100	816	1,599	2,415	3.7	234	—	201	539	0 13	414	414	363	1,266
Magherafelt	60,816	1,140	805	526	1,811	2.2	226	124	112	397	0 13	133	155	243	2,567
Newtownlimavady . .	39,058	890	427	—	427	1.1	98	59	79	172	0 03	721	721	56	2,011
CO. MONAGHAN:															
Carriemacross	39,729	750	724	2,315	3,039	7.6	208	243	410	861	0 43	745	752	698	5,484
Castleblaney	58,945	1,270	905	2,150	3,055	5.1	274	213	117	604	0 24	220	225	149	7,793
Clones	42,320	850	911	2,214	3,126	7.4	284	210	274	764	0 34	445	448	852	2,086
Monaghan	69,959	1,176	994	—	994	1.4	307	—	258	565	0 13	280	292	507	1,446
COUNTY TYRONE:															
Castlederg	21,368	570	332	—	332	1.5	76	—	52	128	0 13	51	163	63	164
Clogher	39,800	700	651	1,428	2,079	5.2	173	113	69	355	0 2	66	80	430	3,527
Cookstown	46,455	600	601	691	1,292	2.8	179	58	120	357	0 13	190	314	255	168
Dungannon	70,000	990	928	1,498	2,421	3.4	246	105	75	426	0 1	458	460	363	890
Gortin	18,747	428	555	—	555	3.0	47	—	28	75	0 1	—	—	—	—
Omagh	69,099	1,104	961	1,957	2,918	4.2	365	144	283	692	0 21	1,031	1,073	672	1,897
Strabane	58,883	960	846	1,379	2,125	3.6	282	108	88	478	0 13	127	127	546	718
TOTAL ULSTER . .	2,362,132	42,539	34,092	54,327	88,419	3.77	9,718	5,058	8,234	23,010	0 13	19,122	20,656	20,838	87,828
Total for May . .	2,362,132	42,002	33,088	53,155	86,243	3.06	10,029	4,921	10,202	25,152	0 2	23,406	24,863	26,276	91,075

^a CAVAN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 6th December, 1847.

^b COOTEHILL.—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February, 1848.

FINANCIAL RETURN, JUNE, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of June, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of June, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the nine months, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of June, 1848.								NAMES OF UNIONS.	
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Rate collected in the nine months.	Expenses of the nine months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the nine months.	Amount per pound of Collection during the nine months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the nine months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property.			
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.												
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£			
COUNTY ANTRIM:															
-	449	655	-	-	11	6,300	4,840	1,460	-	1 3	0 11½	100,611	Antrim.		
-	153	938	-	-	854	2,006	3,016	-	410	1 3½	1 6	39,160	Ballycastle.		
698	-	2,722	-	-	2,127	9,445	5,803	3,532	-	1 11	1 2½	97,492	Ballymena.		
2	-	777	-	-	517	5,458	3,612	1,846	-	1 6	0 11½	73,086	Ballymoney.		
-	651	218	-	2,799	-	16,931	19,023	-	2,892	1 3	1 5½	271,915	Belfast.		
59	-	701	-	-	329	3,809	2,680	729	-	0 11	0 8½	72,437	Larne.		
-	253	1,207	-	1,346	-	4,183	4,825	-	142	0 7½	0 7½	136,397	Lisburn.		
COUNTY ARMAGH:															
157	2	4,562	-	-	3,939	13,391	7,402	5,989	-	1 6½	0 10	174,572	Armagh.		
1,040	-	3,025	-	-	1,949	13,481	8,573	4,908	-	2 10½	1 10	52,683	Lurgan.		
COUNTY CAVAN:															
-	439	202	-	2,142	-	10,094	7,418	2,676	-	3 10½	2 10½	52,156	Bailieborough.		
-	1,093	717	-	3,063	-	17,053	16,037	1,016	-	2 8	2 6	127,282	Cavan.		
-	392	1,901	-	448	-	10,460	8,550	1,902	-	2 10	2 3½	73,490	Cootehill.		
COUNTY DONEGAL:															
-	327	997	-	-	912	6,684	4,436	2,248	-	2 8½	1 0½	51,435	Ballyshannon.		
-	237	1,353	-	-	369	4,916	2,805	2,112	-	3 11	1 9	31,639	Donegal.		
-	112	104	-	96	-	874	1,267	-	393	1 7½	2 4½	10,543	Dunfanaghy.		
-	669	346	-	2,034	-	3,086	4,032	-	1,746	3 9½	5 10½	16,330	Glenties.		
41	-	1,313	-	-	1,013	3,551	2,035	1,516	-	1 11½	1 11	36,607	Inishowen.		
51	-	153	-	552	-	2,123	2,591	-	468	1 4	1 7½	31,835	Letterkenny.		
-	140	121	-	303	-	3,076	2,630	466	-	1 11½	1 8	31,377	Milford.		
-	115	1,012	-	-	764	2,673	1,349	1,324	-	1 9½	0 11	29,402	Stranorlar.		
COUNTY DOWN:															
-	187	230	-	636	-	7,680	6,299	1,381	-	1 3½	1 0	123,970	Bachbridge.		
102	-	3,132	-	-	2,009	5,044	3,413	1,631	-	0 7½	0 4½	167,393	Downpatrick.		
203	-	156	-	190	-	1,673	1,427	246	-	0 10½	0 9	36,921	Kilkeel.		
149	-	640	-	200	-	6,132	6,625	-	493	0 11½	1 0½	129,651	Newry.		
816	-	597	-	23	-	6,887	4,057	2,230	-	1 2	0 9½	118,469	Newtownards.		
COUNTY FERMANAGH:															
-	156	129	-	1,242	-	11,848	7,546	4,202	-	2 5½	1 3½	96,108	Enniskillen.		
48	-	2,897	-	-	2,566	6,281	2,749	3,532	-	2 9½	1 2	46,910	Lisnaskea.		
-	212	-	20	517	-	5,602	5,153	449	-	2 6½	2 3½	43,914	Lowtherstown.		
CO. LONDONDERRY:															
-	127	775	-	-	312	3,904	3,934	60	-	1 0½	1 0	76,410	Coleraine.		
-	145	356	-	420	-	6,320	6,669	-	348	1 1½	1 2	111,959	Londonderry.		
-	264	941	-	-	614	5,672	3,305	2,167	-	1 6	0 11½	75,339	Magherafelt.		
549	-	1,643	-	-	1,291	4,088	2,566	1,522	-	1 3	0 9½	65,630	Newtownlimavady.		
COUNTY MONAGHAN:															
-	116	286	-	382	-	5,617	4,692	925	-	2 5	2 1½	46,325	Carrikmacross.		
-	384	-	13	3,085	-	7,731	7,210	521	-	2 4½	2 2½	65,473	Castleblanoy.		
-	319	178	-	145	-	5,546	5,210	336	-	2 0	1 10½	55,035	Clones.		
-	275	3,948	-	-	3,257	9,572	4,583	4,989	-	2 0½	0 11½	94,431	Monaghan.		
COUNTY TYRONE:															
-	77	130	-	342	-	1,425	1,371	54	-	1 3½	1 2½	21,790	Castlederg.		
-	289	6	-	409	-	4,295	3,776	519	-	2 0½	1 9	42,275	Clogher.		
-	167	583	-	-	149	2,634	2,891	-	167	0 11½	0 11½	56,550	Cookstown.		
32	-	372	-	756	-	5,440	4,585	855	-	1 2½	0 11½	90,330	Dungannon.		
-	75	2	-	545	-	1,163	833	330	-	1 5½	1 0½	15,751	Gortin.		
339	-	3,437	-	-	2,631	9,681	5,895	3,786	-	2 6½	1 6½	75,354	Omagh.		
-	331	3,419	-	-	2,729	8,411	5,296	3,115	-	2 0½	1 3½	81,529	Strabane.		
4,286	8,174	46,831	35	21,872	29,242	273,230	214,816	65,474	7,059	1 7½	1 3½	3,320,133	TOTAL ULSTER.		
6,457	8,203	45,652	1,040	17,392	28,984	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,320,133	Total for May.		

* ENNISKILLEN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March, 1848.

* LOWTHERSTOWN.—Elected Guardians at the close of March succeeded the Vice-Guardians, who were appointed 18th September, 1847.

FINANCIAL RETURN, JUNE, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during June, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during June, 1848.					State of Collection during June, 1848.			
			Average Number of inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenses of June on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY CLARE:															
Ennis . . .	77,840	1,800	1,630	17,465	19,095	24.5	£ 492	£ 2,034	£ 639	£ 3,165	s. d. 0 7½	£ 6,206	£ 6,200	£ 6,107	£ 8,881
Ennistymon ^a . . .	49,935	760	889	21,671	22,560	45.2	254	2,108	267	2,629	0 6½	3,550	4,033	4,722	9,230
Kilrush ^b . . .	82,353	1,330	1,289	18,154	19,448	22.4	358	1,835	358	2,601	0 10½	1,317	1,317	1,203	4,508
Scariff ^c . . .	53,563	2,300	2,042	16,459	18,501	34.5	641	2,192	496	3,329	1 5½	731	3,331	3,118	4,423
COUNTY CORK:															
Bandon . . .	81,772	2,075	1,734	—	1,734	2.1	513	—	193	706	0 1½	752	887	1,045	834
Bantry ^d . . .	53,165	936	963	3,323	4,291	7.6	259	651	136	1,046	0 6	113	143	1,086	911
Cork . . .	156,657	4,550	3,663	—	3,663	2.3	772	—	1,647	2,419	0 1½	1,041	1,055	2,463	8,598
Duninaway . . .	30,327	825	950	2,359	3,309	10.3	215	312	273	800	0 6	40	249	740	1,025
Fermoy . . .	92,353	1,750	1,573	12,762	14,335	15.5	441	1,257	551	2,249	0 3½	186	229	3,132	1,577
Kanturk ^e . . .	85,561	1,700	1,817	12,674	14,691	17.1	458	1,153	857	2,468	0 5½	6,559	6,619	2,672	10,602
Kinsale . . .	41,342	1,350	1,115	—	1,115	2.4	322	—	188	510	0 1½	230	235	520	706
Maerroom . . .	50,818	1,200	1,437	5,722	7,159	12.1	329	556	137	1,022	0 2½	1,196	1,418	871	7,634
Mallow . . .	63,282	1,450	1,110	—	1,110	1.7	257	—	186	443	0 0½	105	110	304	1,094
Midleton . . .	70,420	2,686	2,911	—	2,911	3.7	905	—	499	1,404	0 2	188	264	827	3,507
Skibbereen . . .	104,508	2,090	1,988	5,645	7,633	7.3	514	999	342	1,855	0 4½	584	568	1,065	2,419
COUNTY KERRY:															
Oahirciveen ^f . . .	30,080	1,240	1,015	2,670	3,685	12.0	293	316	50	699	0 6½	143	1,242	411	588
Dingle [†] . . .	35,512	—	146	9,968	10,114	28.5	30	1,216	48	1,294	0 10½	753	753	—	3,861
Kenmare ^g . . .	33,656	1,090	939	5,550	6,489	19.2	314	752	103	1,169	0 11½	132	690	468	3,074
Killarney . . .	53,345	1,750	1,601	9,431	11,032	20.6	401	1,267	219	1,887	0 5½	2,874	2,874	2,089	11,149
Listowel . . .	78,756	1,246	1,175	19,243	20,418	25.9	413	2,519	280	3,312	0 7½	66	206	600	1,011
Tralee . . .	56,151	1,946	1,753	8,167	9,920	10.8	501	992	368	1,851	0 3½	518	549	515	3,643
COUNTY LIMERICK:															
Kilmallock . . .	75,687	1,550	1,483	15,649	17,132	22.6	467	1,682	529	2,698	0 3½	2,735	2,954	3,359	24,308
Limerick . . .	132,067	3,450	2,748	8,706	11,454	8.6	798	1,814	2,316	4,428	0 5½	1,193	1,140	3,644	8,389
Newcastle ^h . . .	60,007	775	850	13,762	19,612	32.6	222	2,014	217	2,453	0 5½	4,446	5,387	6,665	6,402
Rathkeale . . .	68,174	1,574	1,443	10,409	11,942	17.5	426	1,329	1,015	2,770	0 4½	2,350	2,389	1,956	16,319
CO. TIPPERARY:															
Carriek-on-Suir . . .	45,333	1,440	779	965	1,744	3.8	234	109	266	609	0 1½	377	395	473	3,492
Cashel . . .	60,640	1,475	1,410	12,615	14,025	20.1	474	1,037	348	2,640	0 4½	709	791	556	4,065
Clogheen . . .	47,033	1,200	906	7,122	8,028	17.0	311	713	201	1,225	0 4½	331	331	314	1,021
Clonmel . . .	39,993	1,900	1,565	2,454	4,019	10.0	511	261	202	974	0 2½	1,282	1,275	975	6,746
Nenagh . . .	89,874	1,670	1,675	13,853	15,528	17.2	547	1,671	501	2,719	0 5½	1,805	2,315	2,124	5,683
Roscrea . . .	63,016	1,230	1,069	5,879	6,948	11.0	331	690	642	1,663	0 3½	744	780	1,247	2,971
Thurles . . .	71,976	966	874	14,580	15,454	21.4	323	1,531	445	2,299	0 5	514	522	700	5,476
Tipperary . . .	79,518	1,050	1,038	16,165	17,203	21.6	337	2,186	377	2,900	0 4½	1,004	1,004	739	18,127
CO. WATERFORD:															
Dungarvan . . .	68,642	1,600	1,535	4,043	5,578	8.8	372	393	612	1,377	0 3½	155	221	1,463	838
Lismore . . .	38,617	1,690	1,520	2,864	4,384	11.3	350	303	299	952	0 3½	68	95	900	199
Waterford ⁱ . . .	84,360	2,372	1,466	8,216	9,682	11.4	488	668	323	1,479	0 1½	2,838	2,838	2,777	22,911
TOTAL MUNSTER	2,435,347	58,231	52,131	313,840	365,971	14.9	14,893	36,090	16,170	67,953	0 4½	47,858	55,458	62,535	216,610
Total for May	2,435,347	56,064	49,319	294,787	344,106	14.1	14,267	31,286	14,006	59,569	0 3½	37,464	41,679	44,202	243,039

^a ENNISTYMON.—Vice-Guardians appointed 29th Feb., 1848.^b KILRUSH.—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March, 1848.^c SCARIFF.—Vice-Guardians appointed 28th Oct., 1847.^d BANTRY.—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th October, 1847.^e KANTURK.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th Nov., 1847.^f Estimated.[†] The Union of Dingle was declared on the 22nd February, 1848, being formed of Ten Electoral Divisions, previously belonging to Tralee Union. No Workhouse Expenses above given in

FINANCIAL RETURN, JUNE, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of June, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of June, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the nine months, from 23rd September, 1847, to the close of June, 1848.								Valuation of Rated Property.	NAMES OF UNIONS.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Rate collected in the nine months.	Expenses of the nine months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the nine months.	Amount per pound of collection during the nine months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the nine months on the entire Valuation.				
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.												
27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.	41.	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£		COUNTY CLARE :	
3,041	—	989	—	1,067	—	22,078	23,427	—	1,349	4 0	4 7½	101,222		Ennis.	
921	—	1,662	—	2,957	—	12,166	12,585	—	369	3 7½	3 8½	67,486		Ennistymon.	
—	1,284	—	1,006	5,093	—	10,660	14,411	—	3,751	3 0½	4 9½	59,449		Kilrush.	
—	2,598	519	—	6,364	—	13,268	18,865	—	5,597	5 11½	8 5½	44,609		Scariff.	
														COUNTY CORK :	
46	—	5,028	—	—	4,395	8,849	8,658	191	—	1 3½	1 3½	136,166		Bandon.	
—	926	670	—	4,353	—	5,343	9,421	—	4,078	2 6½	4 6	41,629		Bantry.	
—	1,376	8,503	—	—	7,207	31,970	20,133	11,837	—	1 8½	1 1	365,623		Cork.	
—	751	984	—	—	647	5,720	4,052	668	—	2 7	2 3½	44,684		Dunmanway.	
—	2,063	2,353	—	807	—	22,027	22,269	—	242	2 10½	2 10	153,452		Ferm y.	
4,091	—	6,235	—	—	1,693	29,833	20,419	9,420	—	5 7½	3 10	106,114		Kanturk.	
—	271	968	—	—	691	5,229	4,503	646	—	1 4½	1 2½	73,928		Kinsale.	
174	—	1,863	—	—	936	10,613	7,676	2,937	—	2 1½	1 7½	93,875		Macroon.	
—	339	5,856	—	—	5,212	13,699	5,703	7,996	—	2 2½	0 11	122,709		Mallow.	
—	1,216	3,834	—	—	6,612	22,979	13,051	9,928	—	2 9½	1 7½	163,070		Midleton.	
—	1,271	414	—	962	—	14,675	13,803	872	—	2 11½	2 10	98,255		Skibbereen.	
														COUNTY KERRY :	
—	556	1,221	—	978	—	3,239	4,503	—	1,664	2 7½	4 0½	24,366		Cahiriveen.	
—	541	42	—	2,101	—	753	3,936	—	3,185	0 6	2 8½	29,230		Dingle.	
—	1,037	358	—	3,377	—	4,051	7,170	—	3,039	3 3½	5 9½	24,639		Kenmare.	
987	—	971	—	2,164	—	16,963	17,616	—	653	3 11½	4 1½	85,828		Killarney.	
—	3,146	17	—	7,895	—	13,687	21,056	—	7,369	2 9½	4 3½	97,558		Listowel.	
—	1,383	62	—	4,719	—	15,556	17,862	—	2,306	2 9½	3 3½	84,625		Tralee.	
														COUNTY LIMERICK :	
87	—	68	—	4,436	—	20,562	18,663	1,829	—	2 3½	2 0½	177,860		Kilmallock.	
—	3,235	4,191	—	—	1,665	33,110	25,414	7,696	—	3 2	2 5	286,661		Limerick.	
1,993	—	414	—	3,007	—	27,430	27,022	408	—	5 0	4 11½	109,499		Newcastle.	
—	420	2,527	—	655	—	18,676	19,189	—	513	2 10½	2 10	130,337		Rathkeale.	
														COUNTY TIPPERARY :	
—	232	—	260	2,132	—	8,813	6,561	2,252	—	1 11½	1 5½	89,871		Carrick-on-Suir.	
—	1,940	313	—	5,742	—	14,801	16,666	—	1,865	2 3½	2 6½	130,293		Castel.	
—	894	211	—	2,541	—	7,162	9,233	—	2,071	2 3½	2 11	62,760		Clogheen.	
308	—	458	—	661	—	9,085	9,566	—	481	1 11½	2 1½	91,108		Clonmel.	
—	914	499	—	3,508	—	18,133	18,030	53	—	3 0½	3 0	119,802		Nenagh.	
—	919	195	—	1,803	—	12,826	11,020	1,806	—	2 6	2 1½	102,171		Roscrea.	
—	1,785	4	—	3,252	—	14,408	16,440	—	2,032	2 7½	3 0	108,931		Thurles.	
—	1,896	288	—	4,456	—	15,220	21,273	—	6,053	2 0½	2 10½	148,326		Tipperary.	
														COUNTY WATERFORD :	
—	1,222	4,058	—	—	3,335	13,292	8,975	4,317	—	3 2½	1 10½	94,591		Dungarvan.	
—	884	1,726	—	—	624	7,449	5,697	1,752	—	2 3½	1 9½	64,583		Lismore.	
1,859	—	—	652	3,099	—	12,820	11,508	812	—	1 3½	1 2½	193,771		Waterford.	
12,957	33,052	62,631	1,918	77,624	33,667	516,620	497,657	65,630	46,667	2 8½	2 7½	3,777,103		TOTAL MUNSTER.	
7,159	29,264	68,166	1,934	75,397	43,183	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,777,103		Total for May.	

* CARRIVEEN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December, 1847.
 * KENMARE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 20th January, 1848.

* NEWCASTLE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 4th March, 1848.
 * WATERFORD.—Vice-Guardians appointed 25th March, 1848.

accommodation had been provided, and no rate has been made in Dingle Union down to the close of May; but on the 29th April a rate was agreed upon. The Return of confined to the months of May and June.

FINANCIAL RETURN, JUNE, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during June, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during June, 1848.					State of Collection during June, 1848.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each (18) of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenses of June on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY CARLOW:															
Carlow	77,922	2,100	1,599	4,163	5,762	7.4	£ 610	£ 529	£ 1,006	£ 2,144	s. d. 0 23	£ 910	£ 914	£ 1,650	£ 11,062
COUNTY DUBLIN:															
Balrothery . . .	28,116	544	418	917	1,335	4.7	163	102	123	283	0 1	594	563	726	3,388
Dublin, North . .	123,123	4,100	3,024	3,006	6,030	4.9	1,233	340	924	2,535	0 13	2,446	2,372	2,502	12,309
Dublin, South . .	178,745	2,535	2,097	4,868	6,965	3.9	765	772	614	2,051	0 1	9,731	9,757	8,028	36,403
Rathdown	44,214	726	543	739	1,302	2.9	371	125	165	*661	0 1	913	790	566	7,574
COUNTY KILDARE:															
Athy	47,912	1,120	910	1,262	2,171	4.5	352	407	173	932	0 21	336	480	625	3,441
Celbridge	25,242	519	270	—	270	1.0	110	—	69	179	0 02	319	319	260	2,195
Naas	52,228	1,110	934	2,757	3,691	6.1	340	411	314	1,065	0 2	151	151	1,265	852
COUNTY KILKENNY:															
Callan	38,524	1,130	859	7,935	8,793	22.8	305	949	540	1,794	0 5	334	355	370	2,073
Kilkenny ^a	120,082	1,000	1,562	6,425	7,987	6.6	736	620	591	1,967	0 2	1,323	1,323	1,723	4,513
KING'S COUNTY:															
Edenderry	34,679	840	513	870	1,391	4.0	175	132	184	491	0 14	180	180	371	141
Parsonstown . . .	76,623	1,700	1,373	—	1,373	1.8	433	—	435	868	0 2	795	795	57	3,299
Tullamore ^b	53,903	1,200	1,069	5,770	6,839	12.6	395	548	160	1,073	0 3	2,913	2,954	2,437	7,459
COUNTY LONGFORD:															
Granard ^c	55,130	700	847	7,422	8,269	15.0	258	858	595	1,711	0 43	964	1,004	1,731	2,584
Longford ^d	87,757	1,480	1,400	12,875	14,355	16.3	324	902	493	1,731	0 34	2,190	2,190	2,656	12,269
COUNTY LOUTH:															
Ardee	43,348	770	678	2,084	2,762	6.4	242	240	105	587	0 11	201	201	617	714
Drogheda	52,251	940	627	1,197	1,824	3.5	211	215	57	483	0 1	138	139	233	904
Dundalk	65,509	948	617	2,217	2,834	4.3	217	244	154	615	0 12	878	814	822	4,943
COUNTY MEATH:															
Dunshaughlin . . .	20,985	596	403	930	1,333	6.3	146	154	107	407	0 1	1,005	984	532	1,342
Kells	45,282	1,433	1,330	1,417	2,777	6.1	337	149	531	1,037	0 2	1,073	1,095	1,167	4,727
Navan	35,831	900	617	2,539	3,156	8.8	221	342	294	857	0 2	912	1,010	975	2,007
Oldcastle	40,373	844	1,114	5,380	6,494	13.4	314	666	501	1,481	0 41	1,517	1,495	1,217	7,527
Trim ^e	34,411	893	417	2,090	2,507	7.2	160	271	303	734	0 13	1,475	1,439	531	4,930
QUEEN'S COUNTY:															
Abbeyleix	41,230	900	895	1,457	2,352	5.7	320	474	190	1,000	0 34	1,930	1,993	1,992	8,056
Monastmelick . . .	67,874	1,944	1,378	3,470	4,856	7.1	699	532	203	1,434	0 4	733	733	1,001	9,176
COUNTY WESTMEATH:															
Athlone ^f	72,168	1,178	1,408	9,597	11,005	15.2	567	1,123	183	1,873	0 43	1,926	1,926	1,627	6,810
Mullingarb	73,272	1,560	1,027	6,404	7,431	10.1	352	938	499	1,789	0 24	4,016	4,003	2,986	11,135
COUNTY WEXFORD:															
Enniscorthy	61,816	1,220	1,123	3,831	4,954	8.0	364	530	447	1,341	0 23	708	750	1,167	2,894
Gorey	39,054	890	839	2,543	3,378	8.6	305	390	323	1,023	0 23	1,237	1,333	1,031	7,988
New Ross ^h	74,293	1,900	1,635	4,561	6,196	8.3	534	568	345	1,467	0 31	92	92	390	4,442
Wexford	53,401	1,000	719	—	719	1.3	296	—	451	747	0 13	315	318	747	4,686
COUNTY WICKLOW:															
Baltinglass	40,667	900	881	1,795	2,676	6.5	278	204	516	998	0 23	652	751	813	4,667
Rathdrum	56,769	1,140	776	2,356	3,132	5.5	256	227	293	776	0 11	945	945	973	5,666
Shillelagh	34,800	607	579	624	1,203	3.4	170	86	87	343	0 14	144	144	143	517
TOTAL LEINSTER .	2,006,036	42,737	34,560	113,572	148,132	7.3	12,432	14,255	11,893	38,580	0 2	44,105	44,831	44,009	202,703
Total for May . .	2,006,036	40,044	34,825	116,776	151,601	7.51	12,055	13,027	11,809	36,891	0 2	39,146	39,771	36,983	220,383

^a KILKENNY.—Vice-Guardians appointed 26th February, 1848.
^b TULLAMORE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 9th February, 1848.

^c GRANARD.—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th February, 1848.
^d LONGFORD.—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March, 1848.

^e Estimated.

FINANCIAL RETURN, JUNE, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of June, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of June, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the nine months, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of June, 1848.								NAMES OF UNIONS.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Rate collected in the nine months.	Expenses of the nine months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the nine months.	Amount per pound of Collection during the nine months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the nine months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property.		
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.											
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£		
-	1,234	307	-	3,043	-	13,043	15,630	-	2,595	1 5½	1 9	179,037	COUNTY CARLOW: Carlow.	
211	-	-	192	709	-	3,862	3,926	-	64	0 9½	0 10	94,521	COUNTY DUBLIN: Balrothery.	
-	89	3,507	-	-	1,595	34,377	31,687	2,690	-	1 10½	1 8½	369,745	Dublin, North.	
7,680	-	3,094	-	-	2,347	29,610	27,626	1,984	-	1 0½	0 11½	569,940	Dublin, South.	
252	-	231	-	*2,147	-	6,271	6,862	-	591	0 10	0 10½	152,314	Rathdown.	
-	596	-	20	1,603	-	8,130	8,252	-	122	1 7	1 7½	102,831	COUNTY KILDARE: Athy.	
140	-	1,730	-	1,523	-	4,781	2,477	2,304	-	0 8½	0 4½	130,776	Culbridge.	
-	914	2,258	-	-	1,063	11,936	9,364	2,572	-	1 9½	1 4½	135,232	Naas.	
-	1,410	72	-	2,382	-	9,117	10,916	-	1,801	2 2	2 6½	84,103	COUNTY KILKENNY: Callan.	
-	644	1,236	-	633	-	25,575	17,086	8,489	-	2 1½	1 3	241,775	Kilkenny.	
1,840	311	623	-	-	161	4,776	4,052	724	-	0 11½	0 10	96,634	KING'S COUNTY: Edenderry.	
-	73	4,335	-	-	2,204	11,948	5,683	6,265	-	2 2½	1 0½	109,286	Parsonstown.	
-	-	953	-	*130	-	12,680	9,761	2,919	-	2 11½	2 3	86,516	Tullamore.	
-	747	2,753	-	-	834	12,593	9,756	2,837	-	2 10½	2 2½	87,309	COUNTY LONGFORD: Granard.	
-	-	807	-	3,886	-	12,887	12,930	-	93	2 0½	2 0½	124,496	Longford.	
-	386	157	-	-	34	9,985	8,054	1,931	-	3 1½	1 8½	93,047	COUNTY LOUTH: Ardee.	
-	345	-	51	1,954	-	8,690	8,554	136	-	1 3½	1 3	136,604	Drogheda.	
263	-	-	686	1,129	-	4,434	5,280	-	846	0 10	0 11½	106,680	Dundalk.	
598	-	751	-	-	296	6,863	5,605	1,258	-	1 2	0 11½	118,486	COUNTY MEATH: Dunshaughlin.	
36	-	36	-	3,187	-	9,019	10,526	-	1,507	1 5½	1 8½	123,339	Kells.	
55	-	-	388	2,170	-	8,013	8,492	-	479	1 7	1 8	101,527	Navan.	
36	-	768	-	1,875	-	12,453	12,468	-	15	3 1½	3 1½	79,721	Oldcastle.	
741	-	1,409	-	-	501	6,014	6,073	-	59	1 2½	1 1½	100,634	Trim.	
939	-	2	-	2,022	-	9,268	8,290	968	-	2 9½	2 5½	66,750	QUEEN'S COUNTY: Abbeyleix.	
-	701	-	8,636	4,945	-	10,154	14,117	-	3,963	2 3	3 1½	89,914	Mountmelick.	
53	-	605	-	1,387	-	11,241	9,323	1,919	-	2 2½	1 10½	103,078	COUNTY WESTMEATH: Athlone.	
2,227	-	440	-	1,692	-	10,645	12,008	-	1,363	1 1½	1 3	190,944	Mullingar.	
-	633	2	-	688	-	14,206	12,787	1,419	-	2 3	2 0	126,921	COUNTY WEXFORD: Enniscorthy.	
264	-	995	-	-	144	7,367	6,900	467	-	1 6½	1 5½	94,001	Gorey.	
-	1,875	-	148	2,909	-	13,241	13,882	-	641	2 5	2 6½	109,748	New Ross.	
-	432	2,677	-	-	2,093	10,211	7,714	2,497	-	1 9½	1 4½	113,714	Wexford.	
-	346	513	-	480	-	5,743	6,474	-	731	1 3½	1 5	90,888	COUNTY WICKLOW: Baltinglass.	
169	-	993	-	-	530	6,057	6,473	-	416	0 9½	0 10½	153,246	Rathdrum.	
-	199	-	35	892	-	3,953	3,286	667	-	1 2½	1 0½	64,485	Shillelagh.	
15,960	10,435	31,254	5,166	41,395	11,802	369,133	342,573	42,046	15,286	1 7½	1 5½	4,624,542	TOTAL LEINSTER.	
12,599	10,344	29,459	4,846	38,586	13,840	826,028	303,798	42,209	20,974	1 4½	1 3½	4,624,542	Total for May.	

* TRIM.—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th January, 1848.
 * ATHLONE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 22nd January, 1848.

* MULLINGAR.—Vice-Guardians appointed 6th May, 1848.
 * NEW ROSS.—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March, 1848.

FINANCIAL RETURN, JUNE, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Work-house accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during June, 1848.				Expenses of Relief during June, 1848.					State of Collection during June, 1848.			
			Average Number of inmates in the Work-house during the month.	Average Number on the Out-relief Lists during the month.	Total Average Number relieved during the month.	Proportion relieved to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Cost of Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per pound of the Expenses of June on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
COUNTY GALWAY:															
Ballinasloe	99,926	1,650	1,625	9,968	11,593	11.7	£ 667	£ 1,094	£ 304	£ 2,145	s. d. 0 3½	£ 640	£ 641	£ 1,809	£ 6,811
Clifden ^a	33,465	246	272	18,325	18,597	55.3	147	2,518	302	2,967	2 7½	158	2,548	2,307	772
Galway ^b	88,973	1,600	1,477	30,493	31,970	25.9	463	3,446	1,162	5,073	1 0	69	69	27	7,110
Gort ^c	43,543	1,500	1,622	8,665	10,287	83.6	532	1,001	1,785	3,318	1 3	963	2,549	2,271	2,982
Loughrea ^d	71,774	1,900	1,673	7,433	9,106	12.7	568	1,001	385	1,954	0 5½	732	732	1,469	2,133
Tuam ^e	74,974	1,228	1,284	13,412	14,696	19.6	255	1,508	462	2,325	0 6½	1,225	3,025	2,679	12,142
COUNTY LEITRIM:															
Carrick-on-Shannon ^f	67,077	960	898	18,536	14,454	21.5	330	1,668	581	2,537	0 9½	538	565	2,950	5,018
Manorhamilton	45,990	940	569	1,499	2,088	4.5	133	114	227	474	0 2½	560	560	775	737
Mohills	68,859	740	1,040	7,758	9,798	12.8	304	1,130	476	1,910	0 7½	765	2,412	2,281	4,268
COUNTY MAYO:															
Ballina ^h	120,787	2,094	1,634	38,168	39,802	32.9	607	5,145	893	6,645	1 4½	490	1,174	1,230	4,011
Ballinrobe ⁱ	85,031	800	810	43,767	44,577	52.4	274	4,556	718	5,543	1 3½	451	1,139	916	6,304
Castlebar ^j	61,063	900	830	24,229	25,059	41.0	283	3,116	207	3,606	1 5	131	3,445	3,590	6,478
Swinsford	73,529	850	912	17,013	17,925	24.3	272	1,948	294	2,514	1 1	938	925	928	5,469
Westport ^k	77,952	1,030	1,019	20,892	29,911	38.4	301	2,928	596	3,822	1 1½	426	2,763	4,052	2,925
Co. ROSCOMMON:															
Boyle ^l	71,355	800	789	15,258	16,047	22.4	300	1,604	236	2,140	0 6½	985	1,031	1,357	6,204
Castlerea ^m	92,861	1,150	1,253	17,075	18,328	19.7	284	2,108	335	2,727	0 5½	108	388	277	6,593
Roscommon ⁿ	85,437	1,780	1,767	19,139	20,906	25.0	643	2,204	314	3,061	0 8½	259	373	1,869	3,262
COUNTY SLIGO:															
Sligo	111,054	2,070	1,975	9,264	11,239	10.1	522	794	765	2,081	0 9½	859	844	636	15,193
TOTAL CONNAUGHT.	1,370,753	22,338	21,469	223,914	345,383	25.2	6,995	37,880	9,967	54,942	0 9	10,486	25,183	31,773	98,412
Total for May,	1,370,753	20,353	19,155	285,119	304,274	22.12	6,121	29,656	7,187	42,964	0 7	14,502	32,163	34,193	101,529
SUMMARY.															
ULSTER	2,362,132	42,539	34,092	54,327	88,419	3.8	9,718	5,058	8,234	23,010	0 13	19,122	20,656	20,830	87,823
MUNSTER	2,435,347	58,231	52,131	312,840	365,971	14.8	14,893	36,890	16,170	67,953	0 4½	47,858	55,150	62,535	216,610
LEINSTER	2,006,636	42,737	34,560	113,472	148,132	7.3	12,432	14,255	11,893	38,580	0 2	44,103	44,831	44,009	202,703
CONNAUGHT	1,370,753	22,338	21,469	223,914	345,383	25.2	6,995	37,880	9,967	54,942	0 9	10,486	25,183	31,373	98,412
TOTAL JUNE	8,174,268	165,845	142,252	805,653	947,905	11.6	44,038	94,063	46,264	184,395	0 3½	121,571	146,128	158,755	605,548
TOTAL MAY	8,174,260	159,333	136,367	749,837	886,224	10.84	42,472	78,900	43,204	164,576	0 3	114,518	138,501	141,654	655,926

^a CLIFDEN.—Vice-Guardians appointed 7th February, 1849.^b GALWAY.—Vice-Guardians appointed 3rd January, 1848.^c GORT.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th February, 1848.^d LOUGHREA.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th February, 1848.^e TUAM.—Vice-Guardians appointed 18th February, 1848.^f CARRICK-ON-SHANNON.—Vice-Guardians appointed 26th January, 1848.^g MOHILLS.—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th December, 1847.

† £7,908 is included in the 10th column headed "Establishment," &c., being the expenses of Temporary Fever Hospitals, making the total for

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the LIABILITIES of the

- I.—The total Debts of all Unions to Contractors, Treasurers, or others (exclusive of all Loans obtained from Government, or from Private Parties simply for Building purposes), amounted, on the { 30 June, 1848, to £302,088, } { 29 Sept., 1847, to £372,943, }
- II.—The number of Unions in { 30 June, 1848, } exceeded the amount of the money { 30 June, 1848, 85; } the Debts of those which the Debts on the { 29 Sept., 1847, } in the Treasurers' hands, was, on { 29 Sept., 1847, 117; } Unions amounted, on
- III.—The number of Unions in which the money in the { 30 June, 1848, 46; } the money in the hands of the Treasurers' hands exceeded the Debts was, on { 29 Sept., 1847, 13; } surer of those Unions, amounted, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to
- NOTE.—The Debts due to Government or the British Association

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Collection and Expenses for the Nine Months, from 1st October, 1847, to 30th June, 1848, inclusive; showing also the Amount advanced by the British Association in aid of the Poor Rates on the recommendation of the Poor Law Commissioners, but exclusive of the Expenditure of the Association in providing Food and Clothing for Children in the Public Schools.

	Expenses.	Collection.	Excess of Collection.	Excess of Expenses.	Amount advanced by the British Association.
	£	£	£	£	£
1847—October, ...	70,808	121,255	50,447	—	300
„ November, ...	88,738	151,684	62,946	—	450
„ December, ...	123,697	168,850	45,153	—	1,300
1848—January, ...	151,264	194,054	42,790	—	2,600
„ February, ...	167,846	187,064	19,218	—	10,751
„ March, ...	179,151	198,449	—	40,702	17,230
„ April, ...	169,886	111,981	—	57,405	23,898
„ May, ...	164,576	114,518	—	50,058	34,044
„ June, ...	184,385	121,571	—	62,214	39,155
Total, 9 Months, ...	1,299,851	1,809,426	220,554 or £9,575 net excess of Collection.	210,979	+129,728

ULSTER PROVINCE.

Cavan, ...	£300
Glenties, ...	1,312
Total, ...	£1,612

† The Unions to which the Advances were made to the close of June,

MUNSTER PROVINCE.

Bantry, ...	£3,400
Cahirvreen, ...	2,040
Dingle, ...	1,800
Ennistymon, ...	1,000
Kenmare, ...	3,869
Kilrush, ...	2,030
Total, ...	£21,125

LEINSTER PROVINCE.

Athlone, ...	£500
New Ross, ...	500
Total, ...	£1,000

FINANCIAL RETURN, JUNE, 1848—continued.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Difference between the Collection & Expenses of June, 1848.		Financial condition at the close of June, 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the nine months, from 29th September, 1847, to the close of June, 1848.								NAMES OF UNIONS.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the close of the month.		Net amount of debts, deducting the balance in Treasurer's hands, if any.	Net amount of money in hands of Treasurer, remaining to credit of Unions, after deducting the amount of debts.	Date collected in the nine months.	Expenses of the nine months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the nine months.	Amount per pound of Collection during the nine months on the entire Valuation.	Amount per pound of Expenses during the nine months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property.		
		In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.										29.	
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	COUNTY GALWAY:	
—	1,505	5,940	—	—	4,549	16,092	10,040	8,042	—	2 4½	1 3½	151,664	Ballinasloe.	
—	2,809	250	—	8,826	—	2,503	9,076	—	7,174	2 2½	8 7½	22,426	Clifden.	
—	5,004	07	—	13,702	—	7,293	21,807	—	14,569	1 5½	4 3½	100,777	Galway.	
—	2,355	481	—	9,584	—	7,146	14,915	—	7,769	2 8½	5 7	53,037	Gort.	
—	1,223	1,173	—	—	469	11,515	10,004	1,511	—	2 6	2 2	91,007	Loughrea.	
—	1,100	505	—	6,398	—	6,677	11,540	—	4,863	1 6½	2 8	86,236	Tuam.	
—	1,999	44	—	4,749	—	6,657	11,251	—	4,594	2 2½	3 7½	61,450	COUNTY LEITRIM:	
86	—	209	—	—	13	5,774	3,508	2,266	—	2 5½	1 6	47,284	Carrick-on-Shannon.	
—	1,145	737	—	1,817	—	5,916	8,787	—	2,871	2 0½	2 11½	57,778	Manorhamilton.	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Mohill.	
—	6,146	203	—	6,866	—	9,117	27,960	—	18,843	1 10½	5 9½	95,774	COUNTY MAYO:	
—	5,092	280	—	2,795	—	7,816	24,644	—	16,820	1 10	5 9½	85,217	Ballina.	
—	3,475	148	—	5,532	—	3,468	16,015	—	12,547	1 4½	6 3½	50,981	Ballinrobe.	
—	1,576	27	—	5,495	—	4,793	8,320	—	3,527	2 1	3 7½	46,016	Castlebar.	
—	3,396	—	28	4,211	—	5,501	17,300	—	11,807	2 9½	8 10½	36,876	Swineford.	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Westport.	
—	1,155	602	—	2,068	—	9,506	7,122	2,384	—	2 4	1 9	81,408	COUNTY ROSCOMMON:	
—	2,539	271	—	5,451	—	10,727	10,819	—	92	1 10½	1 1½	114,349	Boyle.	
—	2,802	—	1,974	7,846	—	10,781	14,742	—	3,961	2 6	3 4½	85,837	Castlerena.	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Roscommon.	
—	1,122	236	—	6,643	—	17,167	16,487	680	—	2 5	2 4	142,030	COUNTY SLIGO:	
86	44,442	11,173	2,002	89,048	5,031	150,443	245,005	14,883	109,445	2 0½	3 1	1,465,643	Sligo.	
72	28,534	13,070	978	77,994	7,574	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,465,643	TOTAL CONNAUGHT.	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Total for May.	
4,286	8,174	46,831	35	21,872	29,242	273,230	214,816	65,474	7,059	1 7½	1 3½	3,320,133	ULSTER.	
12,957	33,052	62,631	1,918	77,624	33,067	516,620	497,657	65,630	46,667	2 8½	2 7½	3,777,103	MUNSTER.	
15,960	10,435	31,254	5,166	41,395	11,802	369,133	342,373	42,046	15,266	1 7½	1 5½	4,624,542	LEINSTER.	
86	44,442	11,173	2,002	89,048	5,031	150,443	245,005	14,883	109,445	2 0½	3 1	1,465,643	CONNAUGHT.	
33,289	96,103	151,080	9,121	229,939	79,742	1309,426	1299,851	188,933	178,458	2 0	1 11½	13,187,421	TOTAL, JUNE.	
26,267	76,345	157,147	8,798	209,369	93,581	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,187,421	TOTAL, MAY.	

¹ BALLINA.—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December, 1847.

² BALLINROBE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July, 1847.

³ CASTLEBAR.—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July, 1847.

⁴ WESTPORT.—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th August, 1847.

¹ BOYLE.—Vice-Guardians appointed 9th May, 1848.

² CASTLEREA.—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February, 1848.

³ ROSCOMMON.—Vice-Guardians appointed 31st December, 1847.

In-Maintenance, Out-Relief, and Temporary Fever Hospitals, £146,029, leaving £38,356 for "Establishment and all other Expenses."

Unions on 29th September, 1847, and 30th June, 1848.

from which amount, deducting the £30 June, 1848, £151,889, the net amount of Debts, over and £30 June, 1848, £150,199.
 money in the Treasurers' hands, viz. { 29 Sept., 1847, £29,966, } above the money in hands, would be, { 29 Sept., 1847, £232,977.
 { 30 June, 1848, to £263,750, } and the money in their Treasurers' hands amounted, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to £14,236, } deducting which amount, the net { 30 June, 1848, £220,939.
 { 29 Sept., 1847, to £266,963, } amount of Debts, over and above { the money in hands, would be, on { 29 Sept., 1847, £253,727.
 £118,080, } and the Debts { 30 June, 1848, to £38,338, } deducting which there would remain a { 30 June, 1848, to £79,742.
 £25,730, } amounted, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to £5,990, } net balance to their credit, amounting, on { 29 Sept., 1847, to £19,750.
 on account of Loans, are excluded from this Statement.

STATEMENT showing the amount of Poor Rate collected during each month since the commencement of the year 1846; also the Amount uncollected, and the state of the Balances at foot of the Treasurers' accounts at the close of each month.

Months.	Amount of Rate collected during the Month.			Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the close of the Month.			Amount in hands of Treasurers of certain Unions at close of the Month.			Amount due to Treasurers of remaining Unions at the close of the Month.		
	1846.	1847.	1848.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1846.	1847.	1848.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
January . . .	36,229	52,439	194,054	219,052	250,953	788,511	41,362	83,274	177,228	7,358	23,565	4,305
February . . .	41,885	47,264	187,064	206,664	279,140	653,856	54,314	30,383	208,545	5,294	28,312	3,728
March . . .	38,909	52,561	138,449	174,734	265,149	661,855	57,129	26,493	180,409	5,014	31,112	5,261
April . . .	38,436	63,110	111,981	173,956	349,773	610,095	55,986	21,611	162,823	6,580	32,278	8,463
May . . .	31,230	64,865	114,513	163,508	400,223	655,926	57,655	15,424	157,147	6,152	30,526	8,798
June . . .	30,620	59,436	121,571	150,201	463,730	605,548	56,425	14,404	151,889	6,649	31,897	9,121
July . . .	24,185	62,097	—	129,125	594,120	—	47,801	18,726	—	7,368	34,860	—
August . . .	17,173	53,389	—	135,293	690,103	—	44,350	25,210	—	8,165	35,507	—
September . . .	21,510	73,358	—	155,718	816,452	—	39,913	39,966	—	8,071	29,841	—
October . . .	26,805	121,255	—	225,815	864,049	—	32,114	64,444	—	11,089	28,762	—
November . . .	36,639	151,684	—	244,050	859,718	—	34,393	105,893	—	14,746	16,879	—
December . . .	46,440	168,950	—	243,304	890,639	—	35,358	145,706	—	19,452	8,788	—
Total . . .	390,071	970,308	867,637	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

by the British Association, and the Amounts, are subjoined.

CONNAUGHT PROVINCE.

Ballina, . . .	£20,530	Clifden, . . .	£8,349	Sligo, . . .	£1,000
Ballinrobe, . . .	17,615	Galway, . . .	12,250	Tuam, . . .	5,300
Carrick-on-Shannon, . . .	5,784	Gort, . . .	1,500	Westport, . . .	12,670
Castlebar, . . .	12,293	Mohill, . . .	3,500		
Castlerena, . . .	2,700	Roscommon, . . .	2,500	Total, . . .	£105,991

PAUPERS IN

[In continuation of Returns in Sixth Series of

SUMMARIES of Weekly Returns of Inmates in the Workhouses in the several Provinces in Ireland, and corresponding Weeks in the Years 1847 and 1846, respectively, showing the Amount of Workhouse as compared with the previous Week of the Year, also with the corresponding Weeks of the previous

Week ended Saturday, May 6, 1848,

NAMES OF PROVINCES.	Population of Province according to Census of 1841.	WORKHOUSE ACCOMMODATION.				NUMBER OF PAUPERS IN THE WORKHOUSES IN						
		No. of Paupers the Workhouses were originally calculated to contain.	No. the Fever Hospitals are calculated to contain.	No. for which additional accommodation has been provided.	Total No. for which accommodation is provided in each Province.	Able-bodied.			Children under 15 years of age.	Sick in the Workhouse Hospitals.		
						Males.	Females.	Total.		Fever Patients.	Other Cases.	Total.
ULSTER, . . Sat. 6 May, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	2,979	10,538	41,717	1,973	5,814	7,787	16,349	1,852	3,156	5,008
" 8 May, 1847						1,320	4,140	5,460	14,036	3,210	3,400	6,610
" 9 May, 1846						473	1,465	1,938	5,830	175	1,493	1,668
MUNSTER, . Sat. 6 May, 1848	2,435,347	26,210	4,700	24,793	55,703	4,734	9,723	14,459	17,781	1,211	5,535	6,746
" 8 May, 1847						1,543	4,222	5,764	11,918	3,377	4,509	7,966
" 9 May, 1846						888	1,974	2,862	7,015	290	2,385	2,675
LEINSTER, . Sat. 6 May, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,427	12,763	41,040	2,536	5,687	8,223	11,952	1,272	4,072	5,344
" 8 May, 1847						1,043	3,653	4,696	10,981	1,753	3,404	5,237
" 9 May, 1846						576	1,731	2,307	6,443	164	2,142	2,306
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 6 May, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	1,438	4,015	20,053	2,180	3,782	5,962	6,325	836	2,694	3,530
" 8 May, 1847						519	1,196	1,715	2,672	740	1,462	2,202
" 9 May, 1846						197	362	559	1,448	56	409	465
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 6 May, 1848	8,174,268	93,860	12,544	52,109	157,513	11,423	25,008	36,431	52,307	5,171	15,457	20,628
" 8 May, 1847						4,433	13,211	17,644	39,607	9,080	12,935	22,015
" 9 May, 1846						2,134	5,532	7,666	20,736	685	6,429	7,114

Week ended Saturday, May 13, 1848,

ULSTER, . . Sat. 13 May, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	2,979	10,823	42,003	1,992	5,795	7,787	16,434	1,765	3,014	4,779
" 15 May, 1847						1,380	4,363	5,743	14,397	3,186	3,164	6,350
" 16 May, 1846						481	1,506	1,987	5,856	289	1,409	1,698
MUNSTER, . Sat. 13 May, 1848	2,435,347	26,210	3,935	25,919	56,064	4,939	9,770	14,709	17,689	1,006	5,123	6,129
" 15 May, 1847						1,396	3,973	5,369	11,767	3,095	4,590	7,685
" 16 May, 1846						1,087	2,093	3,180	7,166	310	2,454	2,764
LEINSTER, . Sat. 13 May, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,881	12,733	40,914	2,924	6,610	9,534	13,032	1,374	4,120	5,494
" 15 May, 1847						1,203	3,929	5,132	11,719	2,074	3,611	5,685
" 16 May, 1846						635	1,814	2,449	6,889	221	2,320	2,541
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 13 May, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	1,438	4,315	20,353	2,129	3,783	5,912	6,157	760	2,573	3,333
" 15 May, 1847						568	1,240	1,816	3,323	676	1,089	2,565
" 16 May, 1846						291	505	796	1,830	69	489	550
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 13 May, 1848	8,174,268	93,860	11,683	53,790	159,333	11,984	25,958	37,942	53,302	4,905	14,830	19,735
" 15 May, 1847						4,547	13,513	18,060	41,206	9,031	13,254	22,285
" 16 May, 1846						2,494	5,918	8,412	21,741	889	6,672	7,561

Week ended Saturday, May 20, 1848,

ULSTER, . . Sat. 20 May, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	3,549	10,504	42,253	1,997	5,796	7,793	16,501	1,614	2,926	4,540
" 22 May, 1847						1,470	4,380	5,850	14,643	3,321	3,233	6,554
" 23 May, 1846						491	1,508	1,999	5,927	239	1,472	1,711
MUNSTER, . Sat. 20 May, 1848	2,435,347	26,210	3,935	25,933	56,078	5,211	10,201	15,412	18,182	1,010	5,010	6,020
" 22 May, 1847						1,646	4,563	6,209	12,532	2,767	4,347	7,114
" 23 May, 1846						1,151	2,164	3,315	7,437	261	2,446	2,707
LEINSTER, . Sat. 20 May, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,247	12,793	40,890	2,760	6,292	9,052	12,961	1,332	4,185	5,517
" 22 May, 1847						1,258	4,085	5,343	12,004	2,187	3,490	5,677
" 23 May, 1846						617	1,823	2,439	6,922	230	2,277	2,507
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 20 May, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	1,418	4,285	20,303	2,325	4,258	6,583	6,393	791	2,526	3,317
" 22 May, 1847						597	1,293	1,830	3,436	739	1,490	2,229
" 23 May, 1846						288	471	759	1,800	75	448	523
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 20 May, 1848	8,174,268	93,860	12,149	53,515	159,524	12,293	26,547	38,840	54,037	4,747	14,047	19,394
" 22 May, 1847						4,971	14,261	19,232	42,605	9,014	12,560	21,574
" 23 May, 1846						2,547	5,965	8,512	22,086	805	6,643	7,448

* The Numbers for Castlebar, Enniscorthy, Longford, Mohill, New Ross, Tralee, and Waterford, are not included in the above.
† The Numbers for Cahirciveen, Castleross, Clifden, Glenties, Longford, Tralee, and Westport, are not included in the above.

WORKHOUSES.

Poor Law Correspondence of the present Session.]

Fever Hospitals connected therewith, in the Months of April, May, June, and July, 1848, and in the Accommodation; Numbers of the several Classes in the Workhouses; the Increase or Decrease in each Week Years; and the Number of Fever Patients, and of Deaths.

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

EACH PROVINCE.			Total No. in Workhouses	Total No. in Workhouses in last preceding week of present year.	Increase or Decrease in present week compared with the preceding week of present year.	Increase or Decrease in No. of Paupers in the Workhouses in present year.		Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance per head (exclusive of Clothing.)	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals unconnected with Workhouses.			No. of Fever Patients.			Deaths.		
All other Classes.						No. in the week in present year.	Increase or Decrease in week of 1848.		No. in the week in present year.	No. in the previous week of present year.	Increase or Decrease.	No. in the present week of present year.	No. in the previous week of present year.	Increase or Decrease.			
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.					As compared with 1847.								As compared with 1846.	As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1848.
1,715	2,379	4,094	33,238	33,278	D. 40	2,020	20,431	s. d. 1 4½	31	27	11	1,852	1,982	D. 130	227	257	D. 30
1,734	2,561	4,295	30,410					1 11½	4								
1,128	1,470	2,606	12,042					1 8	20								
2,604	3,373	5,977	44,963	45,206	D. 243	12,457	27,515	1 4½	416	160	385	1,211	1,184	27	403	404	D. 1
2,225	3,308	5,533	31,181					2 13½	256								
1,649	2,293	3,942	16,494					1 8½	31								
2,296	2,845	5,141	30,660	31,011	D. 351	4,363	15,665	1 4½	100	13	92	1,272	1,333	D. 61	161	201	D. 40
2,511	2,872	5,383	26,297					2 4½	95								
1,743	2,196	3,939	14,995					1 10½	16								
316	461	777	15,494	10,360	154	7,083	9,394	1 5½	45	-	45	836	887	D. 51	208	216	D. 8
431	637	1,068	7,657					2 3½	45								
190	181	371	2,843					1 9½	-								
6,931	9,058	15,989	125,355	125,855*	D. 500	26,731	73,005	1 4½	600	200	533	5,171	5,386	D. 215	999	1,078	D. 79
6,901	9,378	16,279	95,545					2 2½	400								
4,710	6,148	10,858	46,374					1 9	67								

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,741	2,886	4,127	33,127	33,238	D. 111	2,246	20,152	1 4	36	D. 7	14	1,765	1,852	D. 87	217	227	D. 10
1,735	2,656	4,391	30,881					1 11	43								
1,090	1,493	2,583	12,124					1 8	22								
2,656	3,425	6,081	44,608	44,181	477	12,461	27,559	1 4	357	D. 8	327	1,006	1,180	D. 174	376	400	D. 24
2,423	3,570	5,993	30,814					2 1	365								
1,655	2,284	3,939	17,049					1 8	30								
2,390	2,981	5,371	33,421	33,455	D. 34	4,997	17,468	1 4	140	79	120	1,374	1,480	D. 106	176	182	D. 6
2,675	3,318	5,993	28,424					2 4	61								
1,840	2,234	4,074	15,953					1 10	20								
465	590	1,055	16,457	16,325	232	6,955	11,724	1 4	33	33	33	760	804	D. 44	191	193	D. 2
419	570	989	8,701					2 3	-								
233	246	481	3,665					1 9	-								
7,252	9,302	16,554	127,613	127,049†	564	26,659	76,903	1 4	566	97	494	4,905	5,316	D. 411	960	1,002	D. 42
7,252	10,017	17,269	98,820					2 2	469								
4,818	6,259	11,077	48,791					1 9	72								

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,704	2,395	4,099	32,933	32,859	74	1,400	20,127	1 4	26	D. 76	9	1,614	1,753	D. 139	165	214	D. 49
1,865	2,621	4,486	31,533					1 11	103								
1,129	1,460	2,589	12,326					1 8	17								
2,536	3,208	5,744	45,358	45,200	158	12,449	27,858	1 4	347	D. 83	315	1,010	963	47	316	369	D. 53
2,276	3,458	5,734	31,579					2 1	490								
1,669	2,372	4,041	17,600					1 8	82								
2,408	3,053	5,461	32,991	33,421	D. 430	4,098	16,965	1 7	88	31	80	1,332	1,374	D. 42	135	176	D. 41
2,699	3,170	5,869	28,893					2 4	57								
1,840	2,318	4,158	16,026					1 10	8								
460	573	1,033	17,326	17,071	255	6,947	12,376	1 5	47	46	47	791	815	D. 24	179	197	D. 18
479	668	1,147	8,642					2 4	1								
250	268	518	3,600					1 9	-								
7,108	9,229	16,337	128,608	128,551†	57	24,894	77,326	1 5	508	D. 82	451	4,747	4,903	D. 158	795	956	D. 161
7,319	9,917	17,236	100,647					2 2	590								
4,888	6,418	11,306	49,352					1 9	57								

† The Numbers for Boyle, Cahirciveen, Castleroe, Ennistymon, Longford, Milford, and Skibbereen, are not included in the above.

Week ended Saturday, May 27, 1848,

NAMES OF PROVINCES.	Population of Provinces according to Census of 1841.	WORKHOUSE ACCOMMODATION.				NUMBER OF PAUPERS IN THE WORKHOUSES IN						
		No. of Paupers the Workhouses were originally calculated to contain.	No. the Fever Hospitals are calculated to contain.	No. for which additional accommodation has been provided.	Total No. for which accommodation is provided in each Province.	Able-bodied.			Children under 15 years of age.	Sick in the Workhouse Hospitals.		
						Males.	Females.	Total.		Fever Patients.	Other Cases.	Total.
ULSTER, . Sat. 27 May, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	3,549	10,550	42,299	1,631	5,223	7,054	15,868	1,423	2,683	4,106
" 29 May, 1847						1,507	4,314	5,821	14,601	2,889	2,903	5,852
" 30 May, 1846						498	1,470	1,968	5,823	253	1,392	1,645
MUNSTER, . Sat. 27 May, 1848	2,435,347	26,210	3,824	25,037	55,971	5,312	10,491	15,803	18,450	816	4,950	5,766
" 29 May, 1847						1,546	4,207	5,753	12,323	2,545	4,358	6,903
" 30 May, 1846						1,072	2,037	3,109	7,101	180	2,423	2,602
LEINSTER, . Sat. 27 May, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,201	12,574	40,715	2,666	5,810	8,476	12,587	1,241	3,904	5,145
" 29 May, 1847						1,335	3,986	5,321	11,924	2,186	3,353	5,539
" 30 May, 1846						642	1,766	2,408	6,833	219	2,130	2,349
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 27 May, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	1,488	4,565	20,653	2,129	4,185	6,294	6,551	755	2,425	3,180
" 29 May, 1847						424	1,028	1,452	2,850	833	2,123	2,955
" 30 May, 1846						224	391	615	1,658	69	430	508
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 27 May, 1848	8,174,268	93,860	12,152	53,626	159,638	11,938	25,689	37,627	53,456	4,235	13,962	18,197
" { " 29 May, 1847						4,812	13,535	18,347	41,597	8,453	12,696	21,149
" { " 30 May, 1846						2,496	5,664	8,160	21,415	721	6,383	7,104

Week ended Saturday, June 3, 1848,

ULSTER, . Sat. 3 June, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	3,179	11,130	42,509	1,959	5,423	7,387	16,261	1,312	2,601	3,913
" 5 June, 1847						1,496	4,283	5,779	14,682	2,943	2,859	5,802
" 6 June, 1846						503	1,445	1,948	5,778	245	1,372	1,617
MUNSTER, . Sat. 3 June, 1848	2,435,347	26,210	3,930	26,129	56,269	5,838	10,331	16,669	19,130	914	5,084	5,998
" 5 June, 1847						1,734	4,509	6,243	12,789	2,149	4,304	6,453
" 6 June, 1846						1,155	2,180	3,335	7,413	351	2,432	2,783
LEINSTER, . Sat. 3 June, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,291	12,821	40,962	2,939	5,482	8,421	12,191	1,099	3,718	4,817
" 5 June, 1847						1,322	3,076	4,398	11,181	2,101	3,257	5,358
" 6 June, 1846						613	1,804	2,417	6,688	260	1,993	2,253
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 3 June, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	1,624	4,570	20,794	2,914	5,089	8,013	7,640	863	2,785	3,598
" 5 June, 1847						583	1,285	1,868	3,714	980	2,066	3,046
" 6 June, 1846						327	510	837	1,965	59	481	540
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 3 June, 1848	8,174,268	93,860	12,024	54,650	160,534	13,650	26,840	40,490	55,242	4,108	14,188	18,326
" { " 5 June, 1847						5,135	13,953	19,088	42,316	8,173	12,436	20,659
" { " 6 June, 1846						2,598	5,939	8,537	21,844	915	6,278	7,193

Week ended Saturday, June 10, 1848,

ULSTER, . Sat. 10 June, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	3,179	11,160	42,539	2,083	5,531	7,614	16,663	1,204	2,798	4,082
" 12 June, 1847						1,566	4,529	6,095	15,127	3,163	3,183	6,341
" 13 June, 1846						516	1,487	2,003	5,903	233	1,355	1,588
MUNSTER, . Sat. 10 June, 1848	2,435,347	26,210	4,135	26,351	56,696	5,436	10,873	16,309	18,553	901	4,611	5,512
" 12 June, 1847						1,560	4,258	5,818	11,949	2,106	3,936	6,042
" 13 June, 1846						1,084	2,135	3,219	7,261	355	2,391	2,746
LEINSTER, . Sat. 10 June, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,291	13,018	41,159	3,134	6,167	9,301	13,330	1,296	3,917	5,213
" 12 June, 1847						1,400	3,983	5,383	11,747	2,557	3,893	6,450
" 13 June, 1846						667	1,798	2,465	7,321	241	2,186	2,427
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 10 June, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	1,400	4,910	20,910	2,935	5,203	8,138	7,876	814	2,500	3,314
" 12 June, 1847						567	1,224	1,791	3,554	1,048	1,751	2,799
" 13 June, 1846						280	410	690	1,502	39	874	413
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 10 June, 1848	8,174,268	93,860	12,005	55,439	161,304	13,638	28,074	41,713	56,422	4,295	13,826	18,121
" { " 12 June, 1847						5,093	13,994	19,087	42,377	8,869	12,763	21,632
" { " 13 June, 1846						2,547	5,330	7,877	21,987	868	6,306	7,174

Week ended Saturday, June 17, 1848,

ULSTER, . Sat. 17 June, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	3,179	11,156	42,535	2,153	5,638	7,790	16,943	1,305	2,828	4,133
" 19 June, 1847						1,620	4,560	6,180	15,355	5,103	3,181	6,294
" 20 June, 1846						517	1,487	2,004	5,776	215	1,410	1,625
MUNSTER, . Sat. 17 June, 1848	2,435,347	26,210	5,510	25,886	57,606	5,681	11,411	17,092	19,405	887	4,755	5,642
" 19 June, 1847						1,483	4,093	5,576	11,872	2,133	4,004	6,137
" 20 June, 1846						1,066	2,093	3,159	7,568	369	2,412	2,781
LEINSTER, . Sat. 17 June, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,367	13,358	41,575	3,339	6,874	10,263	14,077	1,324	3,767	4,991
" 19 June, 1847						1,376	4,071	5,447	12,026	2,090	3,934	6,024
" 20 June, 1846						682	1,818	2,495	7,631	261	2,152	2,413
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 17 June, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	1,714	5,784	22,098	3,322	5,667	8,989	8,562	731	2,716	3,447
" 19 June, 1847						650	1,351	2,001	3,991	1,327	1,906	3,233
" 20 June, 1846						315	499	814	1,974	51	468	519
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 17 June, 1848	8,174,268	93,860	13,770	56,184	163,814	14,544	29,580	44,134	58,987	4,147	14,066	18,213
" { " 19 June, 1847						5,129	14,075	19,204	43,244	9,453	12,975	22,428
" { " 20 June, 1846						2,580	5,892	8,472	22,949	896	6,442	7,338

* The Numbers for Cabel, Ennisecorby, Enniskillen, Ennistymon, Galway, Glenties, Longford, Skibbereen, and Westport, are not included in the above.
† The Numbers for Dunamaghy, Ennisecorby, Enniskillen, Ennistymon, Longford, Skibbereen, and Tullamore, are not included in the above.

RETURNS.

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

EACH PROVINCE.			Total No. in Workhouses	Increase or Decrease in present week compared with the preceding week of present year.	Increase or Decrease in No. of Paupers in the Workhouses in present year.		Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance per head (exclusive of Clothing.)	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals un- connected with Workhouses.			No. of Fever Patients.			Deaths.			
All other Classes.					No. in the week in present year.	Increase or Decrease in week of 1846.		No. in the week in present year.	No. in the previous week of present year.	Increase or Decrease.	No. in the present week of present year.	No. in the previous week of present year.	Increase or Decrease.				
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.				As compared with 1847.								As compared with 1846.	As com- pared with 1847.	As com- pared with 1846.	
1,750	2,410	4,160	31,133	31,440	D. 232	105	19,035	s. d. 1 4	12	D. 56	D. 3	1,423	1,545	D. 122	157	163	D. 6
1,935	2,794	4,729	31,003					1 11 3	60								
1,072	1,405	2,477	11,913					1 8	15								
2,584	3,199	5,783	45,802	44,843	959	13,801	23,030	1 33	336	D. 166	274	816	933	D. 17	310	320	D. 10
2,357	3,507	5,864	30,642					2 13	502								
1,616	2,320	3,936	16,748					1 38	62								
2,360	3,081	5,441	31,649	32,003	D. 350	3,193	16,138	1 7 4	70	D. 19	59	1,241	1,332	D. 191	150	181	27
2,596	3,076	5,672	23,456					2 4 4	89								
1,792	2,129	3,921	15,511					1 10 4	11								
431	561	992	17,017	16,649	368	5,033	11,341	1 6 8	53	53	52	755	728	27	146	152	D. 6
391	574	965	8,222					2 4									
213	230	443	3,224					1 9 3	1								
7,125	9,251	16,376	125,656	124,940*	716	23,112	74,544	1 5 1	471	D. 180	382	4,235	4,536	D. 303	771	766	5
7,279	9,951	17,230	98,323					2 2 3	659								
4,003	6,084	10,777	47,396					1 9 4	89								

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,787	2,486	4,223	31,784	31,534	250	228	19,094	1 3 3	17	D. 128	8	1,312	1,433	D. 121	128	149	D. 21
1,919	2,907	4,726	30,989					1 11 3	145								
1,092	1,430	2,522	11,865					1 8	9								
2,668	3,585	6,223	49,040	47,250	790	16,504	29,424	1 4	349	D. 49	309	914	809	25	320	312	8
2,433	3,588	6,021	31,456					2 2	399								
1,669	2,352	4,021	17,552					1 8 3	40								
2,330	2,964	5,294	30,723	30,650	73	3,315	15,579	1 7	57	D. 50	44	1,099	1,131	D. 32	131	155	D. 24
2,564	3,107	5,671	27,408					2 4 4	107								
1,716	2,070	3,786	15,144					1 10 3	13								
396	504	900	20,151	19,430	721	7,300	14,600	1 7	30	25	30	863	831	12	208	158	50
544	710	1,254	9,882					2 4	5								
232	276	508	3,850					1 9 4	-								
7,201	9,439	16,640	130,698	120,964	1,834	27,435	78,997	1 5 3	453	D. 202	391	4,183	4,304	D. 116	787	774	13
7,460	10,212	17,672	99,735					2 2 3	655								
4,709	6,128	10,837	48,411					1 9	62								

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,793	2,528	4,321	32,680	32,419	261	307	20,322	1 3 3	13	D. 91	D. 2	1,284	1,367	D. 83	153	131	22
1,873	2,847	4,720	32,288					1 11 3	104								
1,122	1,470	2,592	12,086					1 8	15								
2,518	3,242	5,760	46,134	45,008	1,066	16,720	20,914	1 4	333	D. 136	325	901	899	2	275	308	D. 31
2,249	3,356	5,605	29,414					2 2	519								
1,613	2,381	3,994	17,220					1 8 3	58								
2,421	3,007	5,428	33,572	33,150	422	4,110	17,333	1 7	64	D. 16	61	1,296	1,435	D. 139	179	147	32
2,642	3,240	5,882	29,462					2 4 1	80								
1,834	2,192	4,026	16,239					1 10 3	3								
421	524	945	20,323	19,396	937	8,097	14,055	1 6 3	70	58	70	814	863	D. 49	153	194	D. 41
491	673	1,164	9,308					2 6 3	12								
224	263	487	3,092					1 11 3	-								
7,153	9,301	16,454	132,709	130,023	2,686	29,324	80,624	1 5 1	530	D. 185	454	4,295	4,564	D. 269	760	778	D. 18
7,255	10,116	17,371	100,467					2 5	715								
4,793	6,306	11,099	48,637					1 9 3	76								

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,817	2,534	4,351	33,217	32,941	276	807	20,927	1 3 3	13	D. 44	2	1,305	1,284	21	137	159	D. 22
1,850	2,791	4,641	32,410					1 11 3	57								
1,134	1,470	2,604	12,009					1 8	11								
2,890	3,625	6,515	48,654	48,218	436	18,706	30,854	1 4	389	D. 13	334	887	901	D. 14	247	235	D. 38
2,599	3,764	6,363	29,948					2 2	402								
1,713	2,579	4,292	17,800					1 8 3	55								
2,468	3,059	5,527	34,858	34,696	162	4,758	18,211	1 6 3	63	D. 101	50	1,224	1,296	D. 72	129	188	D. 54
2,628	3,175	5,803	30,100					2 4	164								
1,884	2,224	4,108	16,647					1 10 3	13								
464	565	1,029	22,027	21,126	901	9,369	15,755	1 6 4	38	D. 29	38	731	814	D. 83	167	167	=
522	700	1,222	10,447					2 4	67								
248	285	533	8,840					1 9 3	-								
7,639	9,783	17,422	138,756	136,981	1,775	33,640	85,747	1 5	503	D. 187	424	4,147	4,295	D. 148	680	794	D. 114
7,599	10,430	18,029	102,905					2 2 3	690								
4,979	6,658	11,537	50,296					1 9	79								

† The Numbers for Boyle, Cahirciveen, Dunfanaghy, Enniscorthy, Ennistymon, Glenties, and Tralee, are not included in the above.
 § The Numbers for Cahirciveen, Ennistymon, Glenties, and Tralee, are not included in the above.

Week ended Saturday, June 24, 1848,

NAMES OF PROVINCES.	Population of Provinces according to Census of 1841.	WORKHOUSE ACCOMMODATION.				NUMBER OF PAUPERS IN THE WORKHOUSES IN						
		No. of Paupers the Workhouses were originally calculated to contain.	No. the Fever Hospitals are calculated to contain.	No. for which additional accommoda- tion has been provided.	Total No. for which accommoda- tion is provided in each Province.	Able Bodied.			Children under 15 years of age.	Sick in the Workhouse Hospitals.		
						Males.	Females.	Total.		Fever Patients.	Other Cases.	Total.
ULSTER, . Sat. 24 June, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	3,279	11,060	42,539	2,264	5,421	8,105	17,161	1,256	2,677	4,133
" " 26 June, 1847						1,699	4,588	6,287	15,437	3,247	3,129	6,376
" " 27 June, 1846						518	1,426	1,944	5,738	200	1,395	1,595
MUNSTER, . Sat. 24 June, 1848	2,435,347	26,210	5,635	26,386	58,231	5,892	11,544	17,436	19,732	799	4,895	5,694
" " 26 June, 1847						1,612	3,989	5,601	11,525	1,932	3,670	5,602
" " 27 June, 1846						1,101	2,152	3,253	7,396	369	1,824	2,193
LEINSTER, . Sat. 24 June, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,271	14,616	42,737	3,303	6,809	10,112	13,987	1,308	3,701	5,009
" " 26 June, 1847						1,297	3,994	5,291	12,006	2,952	3,976	6,928
" " 27 June, 1846						630	1,018	2,448	7,470	251	2,197	2,448
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 24 June, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	1,784	3,954	22,338	3,521	5,820	9,341	8,540	768	2,581	3,349
" " 26 June, 1847						647	1,305	1,952	3,942	1,056	1,947	3,003
" " 27 June, 1846						347	537	884	1,979	52	470	522
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 24 June, 1848	8,174,268	93,860	13,969	58,016	165,845	15,000	29,994	44,994	59,426	4,131	14,054	18,185
" " 26 June, 1847						5,255	13,876	19,131	42,910	9,187	12,722	21,909
" " 27 June, 1846						2,596	5,933	8,529	22,583	872	5,886	6,758

Week ended Saturday, July 1, 1848,

ULSTER, . Sat. 1 July, 1848	2,362,132	26,200	3,279	11,130	42,609	2,228	5,661	7,889	17,040	1,257	2,786	4,043
" " 3 July, 1847						1,650	4,544	6,194	14,980	3,022	3,086	6,108
" " 4 July, 1846						507	1,423	1,930	5,841	173	1,312	1,485
MUNSTER, . Sat. 1 July, 1848	2,435,347	26,210	5,510	26,546	58,266	6,046	11,830	17,866	20,237	825	4,859	5,684
" " 3 July, 1847						1,730	4,025	5,755	11,509	1,764	3,836	5,600
" " 4 July, 1846						1,074	2,067	3,171	7,395	354	2,309	2,753
LEINSTER, . Sat. 1 July, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,271	14,246	42,367	3,446	6,767	10,213	13,996	1,117	3,755	4,872
" " 3 July, 1847						1,320	3,820	5,040	11,861	2,943	3,581	6,524
" " 4 July, 1846						597	1,794	2,391	7,234	252	2,194	2,446
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 1 July, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	2,036	5,754	22,390	3,493	5,704	9,197	8,316	745	2,086	2,831
" " 3 July, 1847						782	1,334	2,066	3,849	1,181	1,451	2,632
" " 4 July, 1846						332	505	837	1,851	64	487	551
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 1 July, 1848	8,174,268	93,060	14,096	57,676	165,632	15,213	29,952	45,165	59,579	3,944	13,486	17,430
" " 3 July, 1847						5,332	13,723	19,055	42,199	8,910	11,954	20,864
" " 4 July, 1846						2,510	5,819	8,329	22,321	843	6,342	7,185

Week ended Saturday, July 8, 1848,

ULSTER, . Sat. 8 July, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	3,289	11,149	42,638	2,144	5,588	7,732	16,895	1,154	2,713	3,867
" " 10 July, 1847						1,756	4,249	6,005	14,931	2,938	2,928	5,866
" " 11 July, 1846						521	1,412	1,933	5,859	175	1,268	1,443
MUNSTER, . Sat. 8 July, 1848	2,435,347	26,610	6,104	26,006	58,720	6,228	12,038	18,261	20,364	895	4,682	5,547
" " 10 July, 1847						1,729	3,899	5,628	11,580	1,607	3,766	5,373
" " 11 July, 1846						1,072	2,044	3,116	7,113	343	2,400	2,743
LEINSTER, . Sat. 8 July, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,355	14,145	42,350	3,401	6,804	10,205	13,951	1,116	3,836	4,952
" " 10 July, 1847						1,251	3,785	4,086	11,888	2,754	3,364	6,118
" " 11 July, 1846						578	1,739	2,317	7,189	259	2,169	2,428
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 8 July, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	2,046	6,004	22,650	3,266	5,351	8,617	8,375	612	2,139	2,751
" " 10 July, 1847						792	1,407	2,199	4,010	1,164	1,716	2,880
" " 11 July, 1846						271	425	696	1,774	63	461	524
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 8 July, 1848	8,174,268	94,260	14,794	57,304	166,358	15,039	29,776	44,815	59,585	3,777	13,340	17,117
" " 10 July, 1847						5,528	13,290	18,818	42,409	8,463	11,774	20,237
" " 11 July, 1846						2,442	5,620	8,062	21,935	840	6,298	7,138

Week ended Saturday, July 15, 1848,

ULSTER, . Sat. 15 July, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	3,479	10,955	42,634	2,182	5,497	7,679	17,066	1,028	2,582	3,610
" " 17 July, 1847						1,606	4,212	5,818	14,890	2,788	2,814	5,602
" " 18 July, 1846						530	1,420	1,950	5,743	139	1,311	1,450
MUNSTER, . Sat. 15 July, 1848	2,435,347	26,210	5,974	26,536	58,720	6,450	12,241	18,691	20,966	916	4,583	5,499
" " 17 July, 1847						1,488	3,649	5,137	11,077	1,490	3,590	5,080
" " 18 July, 1846						1,037	2,101	3,138	7,510	422	2,276	2,698
LEINSTER, . Sat. 15 July, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,981	12,266	41,047	3,223	6,667	9,890	13,994	1,140	3,649	4,789
" " 17 July, 1847						1,154	3,690	4,844	11,636	2,713	3,337	6,050
" " 18 July, 1846						558	1,735	2,293	7,151	264	2,134	2,398
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 15 July, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	1,910	6,328	22,938	3,537	5,565	9,102	8,644	644	2,080	2,733
" " 17 July, 1847						748	1,340	2,088	3,955	1,325	1,795	3,120
" " 18 July, 1846						348	545	893	1,944	72	448	520
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 15 July, 1848	8,174,268	93,860	15,294	56,085	165,239	13,392	29,970	45,362	60,670	3,729	12,903	16,631
" " 17 July, 1847						4,996	13,891	17,887	42,298	8,316	11,536	19,852
" " 18 July, 1846						2,473	5,801	8,274	22,348	897	6,169	7,066

* The Numbers for Bantry, Ennistymon, and Tralee, are not included in the above.

† The Numbers for Bantry, Boyle, Ennistymon, Glenties, Shillelagh, and Tralee, are not included in the above.

RETURNS.

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

EACH PROVINCE.				Total No. in Workhouses in last preceding week of present year.	Increase or Decrease in present week compared with the preceding week of present year.	Increase or Decrease in No. of Paupers in the Workhouses in present year.		Average Weekly Cost of maintenance per head (exclusive of Clothing).	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals unconnected with Workhouses.		Number of Fever Patients.			Deaths.			
All other Classes.			Total No. in Workhouses			As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.		No. in the week in present year.	Increase or Decrease in week of 1845.		No. in the week in present year.	No. in the previous week of present year.	Increase or Decrease.	No. in the present week of present year.	No. in the previous week of present year.	Increase or Decrease.
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.								As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.						
1,907	2,608	4,515	33,914	33,793	121	1,227	21,177	s. d. 1 33	16	D. 39	6	1,256	1,315	D. 59	124	140	D. 16
1,922	2,765	4,587	32,687					1 11 1/2	55								
1,143	1,440	2,583	11,860					1 8	10								
2,840	3,715	6,555	49,417	48,593	824	20,319	31,018	1 3 1/2	341	D. 149	307	799	826	D. 27	246	242	4
2,465	3,905	6,370	29,098					2 2	490								
1,905	2,692	4,597	17,439					1 8 1/2	34								
2,466	3,076	5,542	34,650	34,850	D. 208	4,714	18,175	1 7	81	D. 15	73	1,308	1,224	84	137	129	8
2,589	3,122	5,711	20,936					2 4	96								
1,899	2,210	4,109	16,475					1 10 1/2	8								
441	575	1,016	22,248	22,027	219	9,758	16,756	1 7 1/2	41	41	39	768	731	37	157	167	D. 10
470	696	1,166	10,663					2 4	-								
243	298	541	3,936					1 9 1/2	2								
7,654	9,974	17,628	140,227	130,271*	956	36,018	87,126	1 5 1/2	479	D. 162	425	4,131	4,096	35	664	678	D. 14
7,346	10,488	17,834	101,784					2 2 1/2	641								
5,190	6,640	11,830	49,700					1 9	54								

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,910	2,648	4,558	33,530	33,336	194	1,637	21,470	1 34	39	D. 49	29	1,257	1,247	10	106	125	D. 19
1,852	2,759	4,611	31,893					1 11 1/2	88								
1,120	1,385	2,505	11,761					1 8	10								
2,837	3,470	6,307	50,084	49,417	667	21,539	31,664	1 34	355	D. 9	354	825	799	26	230	246	D. 16
2,246	3,435	5,681	28,545					2 14	364								
1,709	2,429	4,138	17,457					1 8 1/2	1								
2,351	2,956	5,307	34,388	34,075	313	5,460	18,371	1 7	60	34	50	1,117	1,276	D. 159	147	136	11
2,422	3,061	5,503	28,928					2 4	26								
1,824	2,122	3,946	16,017					1 10 1/2	2								
414	637	1,051	21,395	21,470	D. 75	9,516	16,100	1 6	42	32	38	745	768	D. 23	137	152	D. 15
459	635	1,094	9,641					2 3 1/2	10								
281	275	506	3,695					1 9 1/2	4								
7,512	9,711	17,223	139,397	138,298†	1,099	38,152	87,005	1 5	496	8	479	3,944	4,090	D. 146	620	659	D. 39
6,979	9,910	16,889	99,007					2 2 1/2	488								
4,084	6,211	11,095	48,930					1 9	17								

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,886	2,658	4,544	33,038	33,530	D. 492	1,755	21,019	1 34	2	D. 101	D. 1	1,154	1,257	D. 103	108	106	2
1,743	2,788	4,531	31,283					1 10 1/2	103								
1,079	1,394	2,473	11,708					1 7 1/2	3								
2,871	3,558	6,429	50,601	50,412	189	22,953	33,020	1 4	468	304	431	895	903	D. 8	213	233	D. 20
2,067	3,000	5,067	27,648					1 11 1/2	164								
1,566	2,166	3,732	16,704					1 8	37								
2,834	2,997	5,831	34,439	34,415	24	5,836	10,574	1 6 1/2	63	D. 42	60	1,116	1,135	D. 19	126	145	D. 19
2,475	3,136	5,611	28,603					2 2 1/2	105								
1,806	2,125	3,931	15,865					1 9 1/2	3								
374	574	948	20,691	20,535	156	9,295	15,584	1 5 1/2	28	20	27	612	712	D. 100	128	132	D. 4
425	578	1,003	10,092					2 3 1/2	8								
240	281	521	3,515					2 0 1/2	1								
7,465	9,787	17,252	138,709	138,892†	D. 123	39,839	88,197	1 4 1/2	561	181	517	3,777	4,007	D. 230	575	616	D. 41
6,710	9,452	16,162	97,626					2 2	389								
4,691	5,966	10,657	47,792					1 9 1/2	44								

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,862	2,589	4,451	32,806	33,038	D. 232	2,142	20,830	1 34	58	D. 31	52	1,028	1,154	D. 126	120	108	12
1,779	2,635	4,414	30,664					1 10 1/2	89								
1,132	1,387	2,519	11,562					1 7	6								
2,759	3,340	6,099	51,255	51,679	D. 424	23,618	33,937	1 34	376	218	330	916	909	7	225	205	20
2,274	3,269	5,543	27,637					1 10 1/2	158								
1,652	2,520	3,972	17,318					1 8	46								
2,293	2,965	5,258	33,931	34,439	D. 508	5,749	18,089	1 6 1/2	69	D. 12	62	1,140	1,116	24	130	126	4
2,504	3,148	5,652	28,182					2 2	81								
1,843	2,157	4,000	15,842					2 0 1/2	7								
824	429	753	21,232	21,611	D. 379	11,015	15,828	1 5 1/2	20	20	19	644	596	48	125	130	D. 5
433	621	1,054	10,217					2 1 1/2									
222	253	475	3,832					2 0	1								
7,238	9,323	16,561	139,224	140,767§	D. 1,543	42,524	88,684	1 4 1/2	523	195	463	3,723	3,775	D. 47	600	569	31
6,990	9,673	16,663	96,700					2 0	828								
4,849	6,117	10,966	48,654					1 10	60								

† The Numbers for Dingle, Ennistymon, Galway, Glenties, Newcastle, Rathdown, and Waterford, are not included in the above.
 § The Numbers for Cahirciveen, Glenties, Mohill, Rathdown, and Waterford, are not included in the above.

Week ended Saturday, July 22, 1848,												
NAMES OF PROVINCES.	Population of Provinces according to Census of 1841.	WORKHOUSE ACCOMMODATION.				NUMBER OF PAUPERS IN THE WORKHOUSES IN						
		No. of Paupers the Workhouses were originally calculated to contain.	No. the Fever Hospitals are calculated to contain.	No. for which additional accommodation has been provided.	Total No. for which accommodation is provided in each Province.	Able-bodied.			Children under 15 years of age.	Sick in the Workhouse Hospitals.		
						Males.	Females.	Total.		Fever Patients.	Other Cases.	Total.
ULSTER, . Sat. 22 July, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	3,479	10,755	42,434	2,152	5,470	7,622	17,021	921	2,644	3,565
" 24 July, 1847						1,546	4,085	5,581	14,778	2,671	2,759	5,430
" 25 July, 1846						529	1,359	1,888	5,756	131	1,308	1,439
MUNSTER, . Sat. 22 July, 1848	2,435,347	26,610	6,088	26,586	59,284	6,309	11,683	17,992	20,353	904	4,421	5,325
" 24 July, 1847						1,624	3,559	5,183	11,429	1,372	3,776	5,148
" 25 July, 1846						1,073	2,101	3,174	7,512	341	2,417	2,758
LEINSTER, . Sat. 22 July, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	4,131	13,201	42,182	2,925	6,217	9,142	13,718	992	3,433	4,425
" 24 July, 1847						1,147	2,394	3,541	11,279	2,371	3,233	5,604
" 25 July, 1846						554	1,607	2,161	6,876	253	1,962	2,215
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 22 July, 1848	13,70,753	14,600	2,046	6,320	22,874	3,620	5,672	9,292	8,819	617	2,152	2,769
" 24 July, 1847						752	1,459	2,211	4,137	1,363	1,669	3,032
" 25 July, 1846						340	518	858	2,025	62	478	540
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 22 July, 1848	8,174,268	94,260	15,744	56,770	166,774	15,006	29,042	44,048	59,906	3,434	12,650	16,084
" 24 July, 1847						5,069	12,447	17,516	41,623	7,777	11,437	19,214
" 25 July, 1846						2,496	5,585	8,081	22,169	787	6,165	6,952

Week ended Saturday, July 29, 1848,												
ULSTER, . Sat. 29 July, 1848	2,362,132	28,200	3,279	11,055	42,534	2,021	5,065	7,086	16,102	858	2,523	3,381
" 31 July, 1847						1,403	3,759	5,162	14,071	2,678	2,498	5,176
" 1 Aug. 1846						515	1,328	1,843	5,523	132	1,201	1,333
MUNSTER, . Sat. 29 July, 1848	2,435,347	26,610	6,088	26,306	59,084	5,902	11,072	16,974	19,972	943	4,383	5,326
" 31 July, 1847						1,262	2,332	3,594	11,040	1,405	3,660	5,065
" 1 Aug. 1846						958	1,989	2,947	7,300	394	2,382	2,776
LEINSTER, . Sat. 29 July, 1848	2,006,036	24,850	3,571	15,681	44,102	2,710	5,991	8,701	13,584	949	3,322	4,271
" 31 July, 1847						1,066	3,154	4,220	11,058	2,214	3,007	5,221
" 1 Aug. 1846						565	1,555	2,120	6,788	234	1,964	2,198
CONNAUGHT, Sat. 29 July, 1848	1,370,753	14,600	2,046	6,138	22,784	2,565	4,353	6,918	7,171	546	1,606	2,152
" 31 July, 1847						549	981	1,530	3,245	1,145	1,393	2,538
" 1 Aug. 1846						231	351	582	1,442	59	354	413
Total of IRELAND, { Sat. 29 July, 1848	8,174,268	94,260	14,984	59,260	168,504	13,198	26,481	39,679	56,829	3,196	11,834	15,030
" 31 July, 1847						4,280	11,126	15,406	39,414	7,442	10,558	18,000
" 1 Aug. 1846						2,269	5,223	7,492	21,053	819	5,901	6,720

* The Numbers for Cahirciveen, Dingle, Enniscorthy, Glenties, Tullamore, and Waterford, are not included in the above.

RETURNS.

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

EACH PROVINCE.			Total No. in Workhouses.	Total No. in Workhouses in last preceding week of present year.	Increase or Decrease in present week compared with the preceding week of present year.	Increase or Decrease in No. of Paupers in the Workhouses in present year.		Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per head (exclusive of Clothing.)	Fever Patients removed to Fever Hospitals unconnected with Workhouses.			No. of Fever Patients.			Deaths.		
All other Classes.						As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.		No. in the week in present year.	Increase or Decrease in week of 1848.		No. in the week in present year.	No. in the previous week of present year.	Increase or Decrease.	No. in the present week of present year.	No. in the previous week of present year.	Increase or Decrease.
Males aged 15 and upwards.	Females aged 15 and upwards.	Total.								As compared with 1847.	As compared with 1846.						
1,032	2,564	4,396	32,604	32,806	D. 202	2,409	20,735	1 31	5	D. 53	D. 2	921	1,028	D. 107	109	120	D. 11
1,774	2,632	4,406	30,195					1 104	57								
1,043	1,440	2,483	11,566					1 77	7								
2,769	3,390	6,159	49,929	51,255	D. 1,426	22,924	83,570	1 83	370	177	312	904	916	D. 12	190	225	D. 35
1,909	3,176	5,145	26,905					1 102	193								
1,577	2,238	3,815	17,259					1 8	50								
2,167	2,860	5,027	32,307	32,209	18	5,822	17,296	1 64	59	D. 79	57	992	1,034	D. 42	122	128	D. 6
2,157	2,904	5,061	26,483					2 21	133								
1,708	2,051	3,759	15,911					1 93	2								
384	583	917	21,797	22,154	D. 357	11,350	16,329	1 44	18	D. 76	18	617	703	D. 86	127	123	2
426	641	1,067	10,447					2 14	94								
252	310	562	3,985					1 101	-								
7,132	9,347	16,499	136,537	138,504*	D. 1,967	42,505	86,930	1 41	452	D. 30	385	3,434	3,661	D. 247	548	598	D. 50
6,326	9,353	15,679	94,032					2 0	482								
4,560	6,039	10,619	47,821					1 9	67								

and corresponding Periods of 1847 and 1846.

1,783	2,498	4,281	30,850	31,604	D. 754	2,281	19,452	1 31	9	D. 43	D. 5	858	906	D. 48	97	108	D. 11
1,653	2,507	4,160	28,569					1 11	52								
1,036	1,360	2,396	11,095					1 72	14								
2,616	3,214	5,830	48,002	49,829	D. 1827	22,176	31,057	1 91	384	218	339	843	904	D. 61	177	190	D. 13
2,078	3,149	5,227	25,826					1 101	166								
1,613	2,309	3,922	16,945					1 81	45								
2,158	2,774	4,912	31,468	32,307	D. 839	5,755	16,615	1 61	55	D. 33	54	949	992	D. 43	118	122	D. 4
2,245	2,969	5,214	25,713					2 14	88								
1,681	2,066	3,747	14,853					1 9	1								
261	442	703	16,944	17,679	D. 735	3,785	12,503	1 6	13	D. 27	12	546	535	11	89	105	D. 16
314	502	846	8,159					2 1	40								
206	272	478	2,915					1 10	1								
6,798	8,928	15,726	127,264	131,419†	D. 4155	38,997	79,707	1 5	461	115	400	3,196	3,387	D. 141	481	525	D. 44
6,320	9,127	15,447	88,267					2 0	346								
4,536	6,007	10,543	45,808					1 9	61								

† The Numbers for Ballinrobe, Boyle, Cahirciveen, Castleblaney, Dingle, Ennisceorthy, Galway, Glenties, Mohill, Tullamore, and Waterford, are not included in the above.

RETURN of PERSONS receiving OUT-DOOR RELIEF, and of the Expenditure thereon, for a period of Sixteen Weeks, ending July 29, 1848.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
ARDEYLEIX .	15 April	1,174	2,714	85	121	1,259	2,835	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	22 April	1,185	2,722	87	126	1,272	2,848	5 8 11	86 17 0	93 5 6	
	29 April	1,141	2,667	92	121	1,233	2,788	3 14 7	87 18 1	92 2 4	
	6 May	1,133	2,663	76	104	1,209	2,767	1 3 6	87 12 3	91 12 8	
	13 May	1,185	2,859	98	132	1,283	2,991	2 1 4	93 18 7	88 15 9	
	20 May	1,215	2,926	83	113	1,297	3,039	2 8 2	96 11 3	95 19 11	
	27 May	1,246	3,011	95	130	1,341	3,141	3 12 11½	97 6 8	98 19 5	
	3 June	1,310	3,137	96	131	1,406	3,268	3 10 9	100 7 4	100 19 7½	
	10 June	1,321	3,239	95	139	1,416	3,378	3 11 1	105 2 10	103 17 7	
	17 June	1,339	3,282	107	148	1,446	3,430	10 7 4	99 16 0	108 13 11	
	24 June	1,387	3,386	114	154	1,501	3,540	17 7 8	95 4 9	110 3 4	
	1 July	1,414	3,493	102	146	1,516	3,639	32 15 5	81 15 1	112 12 5	
	8 July	1,431	3,522	119	164	1,550	3,686	7 19 4	110 14 11	103 17 7	
	15 July	1,505	3,620	123	169	1,628	3,789	6 15 4	114 1 3	118 14 3	
	22 July	1,477	3,633	124	175	1,601	3,808	6 16 3	113 6 1	120 16 7	
	29 July	1,473	3,611	120	167	1,593	3,778	7 7 3	112 15 3	120 2 4	
ANTRIM . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
ARDER . . .	15 April	915	1,779	—	—	915	1,779	51 9 5	—	51 9 5	
	22 April	967	1,979	—	—	967	1,979	54 1 6	—	54 1 6	
	29 April	980	2,006	—	—	980	2,006	54 9 11	—	54 9 11	
	6 May	1,030	2,018	—	—	1,030	2,018	54 14 7	—	54 14 7	
	13 May	993	2,064	—	—	993	2,064	55 4 7	—	55 4 7	
	20 May	1,035	2,055	—	—	1,035	2,055	55 13 3	—	55 13 3	
	27 May	1,009	2,047	—	—	1,009	2,047	54 19 1	—	54 19 1	
	3 June	1,012	2,072	—	—	1,012	2,072	55 10 3	—	55 10 3	
	10 June	1,016	2,089	—	—	1,016	2,089	55 17 5	—	55 17 5	
	17 June	995	2,037	—	—	995	2,037	55 10 1½	—	55 18 1½	
	24 June	1,005	2,080	—	—	1,005	2,080	56 13 4	—	56 13 4	
	1 July	1,012	2,124	—	—	1,019	2,124	56 8 6	—	56 8 6	
	8 July	995	2,130	—	—	995	2,130	—	—	—	
	15 July	1,001	2,105	—	—	1,001	2,105	55 14 1	—	55 14 1	
	22 July	991	2,082	—	—	991	2,082	53 9 5	—	53 9 5	
	29 July	825	1,651	—	—	825	1,651	42 12 9	—	42 12 9	
ARMAGH . . .	15 April	917	1,499	—	—	917	1,499	—	27 0 3	27 0 3	
	22 April	860	1,376	—	—	860	1,376	—	25 18 10½	25 18 10½	
	29 April	881	1,292	—	—	881	1,292	—	24 5 6½	24 5 6½	
	6 May	658	986	—	—	658	986	—	19 8 2½	19 8 2½	
	13 May	615	742	—	—	615	742	—	14 16 1½	14 16 1½	
	20 May	458	658	—	—	458	658	—	13 3 2½	13 3 2½	
	27 May	320	467	—	—	320	467	—	8 5 8½	8 5 8½	
	3 June	269	390	—	—	269	390	—	8 3 6	8 3 6	
	10 June	238	350	—	—	238	350	—	7 4 7½	7 4 7½	
	17 June	204	289	—	—	204	289	—	6 4 0½	6 4 0½	
	24 June	226	318	—	—	226	318	—	6 11 2	6 11 2	
	1 July	234	322	—	—	234	322	—	6 15 8½	6 15 8½	
	8 July	213	303	—	—	213	303	—	6 4 8½	6 4 8½	
	15 July	213	303	—	—	213	305	—	6 5 3½	6 5 3½	
	22 July	213	305	—	—	213	305	—	6 5 5½	6 5 5½	
	29 July	212	299	—	—	212	299	—	6 3 9½	6 3 9½	
ATHLONE . . .	15 April	2,610	5,817	824	2,988	3,434	8,805	—	206 11 7	206 11 7	
	22 April	2,861	5,964	825	3,010	3,686	8,874	—	210 12 12	210 12 12	
	29 April	2,615	5,839	696	2,591	3,311	8,430	5 13 9	193 4 7	198 18 4	
	6 May	2,608	5,859	560	2,109	3,168	7,968	6 16 9	184 5 9	191 2 6	
	13 May	2,564	6,076	610	2,187	3,174	8,263	5 15 4	183 3 10	188 19 2	
	20 May	2,564	5,979	600	2,140	3,164	8,119	5 19 7	187 7 3	193 6 10	
	27 May	2,692	6,248	597	2,206	3,289	8,454	4 17 3	180 3 2	195 0 5	
	3 June	2,897	6,693	642	2,206	3,530	8,699	5 6 10	203 3 8	208 10 6	
	10 June	2,917	6,967	625	2,230	3,543	9,197	5 8 3	212 3 4	217 11 7	
	17 June	3,041	7,228	652	2,413	3,693	9,641	5 15 3	220 16 11	226 12 2	
	24 June	3,036	7,547	694	2,556	3,730	10,103	6 17 10	225 8 3	232 6 1	
	1 July	3,087	7,371	735	2,775	3,822	10,146	5 1 1	232 7 2	237 8 3	
	8 July	3,094	7,361	746	2,824	3,840	10,185	4 18 7	234 10 3	238 8 10	
	15 July	2,995	7,309	732	2,697	3,727	10,006	3 15 9	222 12 0	226 7 9	
	22 July	2,916	7,175	700	2,830	3,616	10,005	3 7 7	213 13 9½	217 1 4½	
	29 July	2,945	7,011	664	2,666	3,609	9,677	3 3 1	202 12 9	205 15 10	
ATHY . . .	15 April	1,282	2,391	—	—	1,282	2,391	97 5 10	—	97 5 10	
	22 April	1,274	2,411	—	—	1,274	2,411	96 5 4	—	96 5 4	
	29 April	1,258	2,607	—	—	1,258	2,607	95 9 3	—	95 9 3	
	6 May	1,253	2,643	—	—	1,253	2,643	95 12 1	—	95 12 1	
	13 May	1,263	2,610	—	—	1,263	2,610	95 12 2	—	95 12 2	
	20 May	1,263	2,530	—	—	1,263	2,530	95 2 9	—	95 2 9	
	27 May	1,256	2,596	—	—	1,256	2,596	96 3 7	—	96 3 7	
	3 June	1,250	2,582	—	—	1,250	2,582	95 14 2	—	95 14 2	
	10 June	1,266	2,711	—	—	1,266	2,711	95 13 1	—	95 13 1	
	17 June	1,274	2,695	—	—	1,274	2,695	96 7 3	0 5 9	96 13 0	
	24 June	1,261	2,764	—	—	1,261	2,764	93 17 11	0 7 3	94 5 2	
	1 July	1,257	2,717	—	—	1,257	2,717	93 0 1	0 4 6	93 4 7	
	8 July	1,234	2,644	—	—	1,234	2,644	91 6 9	0 7 8	91 14 5	
	15 July	1,240	2,664	—	—	1,240	2,664	92 6 4	0 7 2	92 18 6	
	22 July	1,236	2,694	—	—	1,236	2,694	92 13 5	0 14 1	93 7 6	
	29 July	1,217	2,775	—	—	1,217	2,775	92 19 10	0 3 4	98 3 2	
BAILIEBOROUGH .	15 April	1,835	4,503	—	—	1,835	4,503	—	113 19 0½	113 19 0½	
	22 April	1,801	4,535	—	—	1,801	4,535	—	115 1 10½	115 1 10½	
	29 April	1,731	4,334	—	—	1,731	4,394	—	110 9 7½	110 9 7½	
	6 May	1,664	4,120	—	—	1,664	4,120	—	113 11 5½	113 11 5½	
	13 May	1,666	4,186	—	—	1,666	4,186	—	104 11 7½	104 11 7½	
	20 May	1,681	4,219	—	—	1,681	4,219	—	104 16 2½	104 16 2½	
	27 May	1,675	4,126	—	—	1,675	4,126	—	102 11 1	102 11 1	
	3 June	1,631	4,030	—	—	1,631	4,030	—	103 18 5½	103 18 5½	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
BAILIEBOROUGH (continued)	10 June	1,589	3,942	—	—	1,589	3,942	—	100 3 7 ¹ / ₂	100 3 7 ¹ / ₂	
	17 June	1,601	3,954	—	—	1,601	3,954	—	100 17 0 ¹ / ₂	100 17 0 ¹ / ₂	
	24 June	1,604	3,990	—	—	1,604	3,990	—	102 9 5 ¹ / ₂	102 9 5 ¹ / ₂	
	1 July	1,602	4,000	—	—	1,602	4,000	—	102 0 0	102 0 0	
	8 July	1,581	4,006	—	—	1,581	4,006	—	91 8 11 ¹ / ₂	91 8 11 ¹ / ₂	
	15 July	1,621	4,060	—	—	1,621	4,060	—	91 18 1 ¹ / ₂	91 18 1 ¹ / ₂	
	22 July	1,627	4,069	—	—	1,627	4,069	—	91 8 5 ¹ / ₂	91 8 5 ¹ / ₂	
	29 July	1,575	3,876	—	—	1,575	3,876	—	88 11 6 ¹ / ₂	88 11 6 ¹ / ₂	
BALLINA	15 April	4,580	11,329	11,224	25,937	15,804	37,260	0 18 2	918 14 0 ¹ / ₂	919 12 2 ¹ / ₂	
	22 April	4,590	11,163	11,457	25,585	16,047	36,740	1 12 3	1,236 7 3 ¹ / ₂	1,237 19 6 ¹ / ₂	
	29 April	4,587	11,295	10,955	25,038	15,542	36,333	1 18 9	1,196 5 8 ¹ / ₂	1,198 4 5 ¹ / ₂	
	6 May	4,592	11,844	10,836	24,745	15,428	36,089	1 16 2	1,166 10 3 ¹ / ₂	1,168 6 5 ¹ / ₂	
	13 May	4,999	11,967	10,832	22,972	15,831	34,939	1 16 2	1,146 8 4 ¹ / ₂	1,148 4 6 ¹ / ₂	
	20 May	4,573	11,332	10,558	22,053	15,131	33,385	1 16 6	1,032 1 6 ¹ / ₂	1,033 18 0 ¹ / ₂	
	27 May	4,849	11,261	10,421	23,269	15,270	34,530	2 0 9	986 18 2 ¹ / ₂	988 18 11 ¹ / ₂	
	3 June	4,535	11,196	11,803	23,435	16,339	34,631	2 1 9	1,022 8 9 ¹ / ₂	1,024 10 6 ¹ / ₂	
	10 June	4,729	12,098	11,508	24,135	16,237	36,203	2 2 9	1,199 0 4 ¹ / ₂	1,201 3 1 ¹ / ₂	
	17 June	4,808	12,040	12,741	26,672	17,549	38,712	2 5 3	1,189 10 4 ¹ / ₂	1,191 15 7 ¹ / ₂	
	24 June	4,498	11,494	12,815	26,851	17,313	40,345	2 8 0	1,226 17 1 ¹ / ₂	1,229 5 1 ¹ / ₂	
	1 July	4,848	11,504	13,387	29,367	18,235	40,871	2 14 6	1,260 15 6 ¹ / ₂	1,263 10 0	
	8 July	4,947	11,769	13,562	30,059	18,509	41,028	2 13 6	1,308 11 4 ¹ / ₂	1,310 13 10	
	15 July	4,984	11,917	13,948	30,801	18,932	42,718	2 9 9	1,346 17 10 ¹ / ₂	1,349 7 7 ¹ / ₂	
	22 July	4,806	12,172	13,997	31,157	18,993	43,329	2 12 3	1,289 1 4 ¹ / ₂	1,291 13 7 ¹ / ₂	
	29 July	4,801	11,449	14,187	31,788	18,908	43,237	2 15 0	1,345 4 7 ¹ / ₂	1,347 19 7 ¹ / ₂	
BALLINASLOE	15 April	2,443	4,886	351	845	2,794	5,731	0 16 6	157 13 2 ¹ / ₂	158 9 8 ¹ / ₂	
	22 April	2,717	6,169	374	892	3,091	7,001	0 18 10	194 16 2 ¹ / ₂	195 15 0 ¹ / ₂	
	29 April	2,817	6,370	499	1,247	3,316	7,617	1 0 6	217 10 1 ¹ / ₂	218 10 7 ¹ / ₂	
	6 May	3,040	6,970	644	1,692	3,684	8,663	0 16 0	241 3 6 ¹ / ₂	241 19 6 ¹ / ₂	
	13 May	3,113	7,207	735	1,873	3,848	9,060	0 15 6	230 12 6 ¹ / ₂	231 8 0 ¹ / ₂	
	20 May	3,306	7,497	835	1,992	4,141	9,489	0 17 0	240 14 7 ¹ / ₂	241 11 7 ¹ / ₂	
	27 May	2,985	7,327	897	2,244	3,972	9,071	0 17 8	227 9 4 ¹ / ₂	228 7 0	
	3 June	2,953	7,252	716	1,971	3,669	9,223	0 11 0	233 7 5 ¹ / ₂	233 18 5 ¹ / ₂	
	10 June	3,179	7,249	972	2,232	4,151	9,481	0 11 0	241 11 9 ¹ / ₂	242 2 9 ¹ / ₂	
	17 June	3,307	7,511	1,139	2,664	4,446	10,175	0 17 0	253 18 0	256 15 0	
	24 June	3,331	7,568	1,280	2,957	4,611	10,465	1 1 6	265 15 1	266 16 7	
	1 July	3,319	7,533	1,163	2,965	4,482	10,498	3 11 2	262 8 8	265 19 10	
	8 July	3,479	7,903	1,463	3,376	4,942	11,279	0 15 0	281 15 7	282 10 7	
	15 July	3,393	7,768	1,527	3,486	4,920	11,254	0 15 6	282 19 5	283 14 11	
	22 July	3,362	7,641	1,553	3,527	4,935	11,168	0 11 6	265 2 5 ¹ / ₂	265 13 11 ¹ / ₂	
	29 July	3,320	7,403	1,640	3,829	4,960	11,232	0 9 2	288 2 11 ¹ / ₂	288 12 1 ¹ / ₂	
BALLINROBE	15 April	3,192	9,497	9,822	23,953	12,914	33,450	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
	22 April	3,349	9,843	9,310	25,095	12,559	34,933	—	—	—	
	29 April	3,456	10,118	9,535	25,595	12,991	35,713	—	—	—	
	6 May	3,430	10,230	10,389	26,362	13,818	36,600	—	—	—	
	13 May	3,490	10,404	10,246	26,092	13,736	37,396	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
	20 May	3,560	10,580	10,407	27,678	14,055	38,250	0 11 9	506 1 5 ¹ / ₂	506 13 2 ¹ / ₂	
	27 May	3,653	10,775	10,897	28,327	14,550	39,102	—	—	—	
	3 June	3,776	10,992	11,085	29,128	14,861	40,120	2 11 3	999 17 2	1,002 8 5	
	10 June	3,840	11,243	11,596	30,320	15,444	41,629	0 11 9	1,047 11 1	1,048 2 10	
	17 June	3,965	11,516	12,272	32,008	16,237	43,524	0 3 6	960 3 0 ¹ / ₂	960 6 0 ¹ / ₂	
	24 June	4,072	11,786	13,117	34,202	17,189	45,988	0 4 7	915 17 11 ¹ / ₂	916 2 6 ¹ / ₂	
	1 July	4,110	11,884	13,592	35,591	17,702	47,475	0 14 2	934 0 0	934 14 2	
	8 July	4,114	11,852	14,080	36,642	18,194	48,494	0 3 0	1,151 0 0	1,151 3 0	
	15 July	4,152	12,030	14,994	38,437	19,146	50,476	0 16 0	1,128 13 10	1,129 9 10	
	22 July	4,201	12,177	15,363	39,369	19,564	51,546	0 1 0	1,487 15 5 ¹ / ₂	1,487 16 5 ¹ / ₂	
	29 July	4,203	12,190	15,654	39,983	19,957	52,173	0 1 1	1,412 6 9	1,412 7 10	
BALLYCASTLE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
BALLYMENA	15 April	622	1,233	—	—	622	1,233	—	21 11 9 ¹ / ₂	21 11 9 ¹ / ₂	{ Out-door relief discontinued.
	22 April	624	1,228	—	—	624	1,228	—	22 2 10	22 2 10	
	29 April	621	1,198	—	—	621	1,198	—	19 18 6	19 18 6	
	6 May	575	1,079	—	—	575	1,079	—	16 10 6 ¹ / ₂	16 10 6 ¹ / ₂	
	13 May	518	933	—	—	518	933	—	15 11 2	15 11 2	
	20 May	499	886	—	—	499	886	—	14 3 5	14 3 5	
	27 May	399	679	—	—	399	679	—	10 14 6	10 14 6	
	3 June	282	422	—	—	282	422	—	7 11 7 ¹ / ₂	7 11 7 ¹ / ₂	
	10 June	237	350	—	—	237	350	—	6 17 5 ¹ / ₂	6 17 5 ¹ / ₂	
	17 June	230	349	—	—	230	349	—	5 15 3	5 15 3	
	24 June	188	291	—	—	188	291	—	5 13 0	5 13 0	
	1 July	178	264	—	—	178	264	—	4 9 8	4 9 8	
	8 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	15 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BALLYMONEY	15 April	585	981	—	—	585	981	20 1 3	—	20 1 3	
	22 April	588	986	—	—	588	986	19 19 2 ¹ / ₂	—	19 19 2 ¹ / ₂	
	29 April	587	996	—	—	587	996	19 10 6	—	19 10 6	
	6 May	583	1,013	—	—	583	1,013	19 15 0	—	19 15 0	
	13 May	579	1,009	—	—	579	1,009	20 1 0	—	20 1 0	
	20 May	588	1,036	—	—	588	1,036	20 9 0	—	20 9 0	
	27 May	587	1,034	—	—	587	1,034	20 8 0	—	20 8 0	
	3 June	584	938	—	—	584	938	20 1 6	—	20 1 6	
	10 June	582	989	—	—	582	989	19 13 9	—	19 13 9	
	17 June	565	932	—	—	565	932	19 0 0	—	19 0 0	
	24 June	551	949	—	—	551	949	18 13 0	—	18 13 0	
	1 July	537	911	—	—	537	911	18 4 6	—	18 4 6	
	8 July	536	913	—	—	536	913	18 5 3	—	18 5 3	
	15 July	527	903	—	—	527	903	17 13 0	—	17 13 0	
	22 July	521	897	—	—	521	897	17 12 3	—	17 12 3	
	29 July	505	916	—	—	505	916	16 18 3	—	16 18 3	
BALLYSHANNON	15 April	768	1,284	—	—	768	1,284	—	25 9 9 ¹ / ₂	25 9 9 ¹ / ₂	
	22 April	781	1,226	—	—	781	1,226	0 3 4	26 5 3 ¹ / ₂	26 8 7 ¹ / ₂	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
BALLYSHANNON (continued)	20 April	799	1,268	—	—	799	1,268	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	6 May	820	1,315	—	—	820	1,315	0 3 0	27 8 0	27 8 0	
	13 May	826	1,330	—	—	826	1,330	0 3 3	27 9 5	27 12 5	
	20 May	817	1,337	—	—	817	1,337	—	27 15 6	27 17 9	
	27 May	806	1,322	—	—	806	1,322	0 6 0	27 7 2	27 7 2	
	3 June	799	1,381	—	—	799	1,381	0 6 6	26 9 11	26 16 5	
	10 June	814	1,397	—	—	814	1,397	0 3 6	26 11 4	26 14 10	
	17 June	858	1,423	—	—	858	1,423	0 1 6	26 19 4	27 0 10	
	24 June	904	1,462	1	1	905	1,463	0 4 6	28 2 3	28 6 9	
	1 July	895	1,455	1	1	896	1,456	0 6 0	28 9 6	28 15 6	
	8 July	1,004	1,448	1	1	1,005	1,449	0 6 4	28 15 6	29 1 9	
	15 July	1,009	1,455	1	1	1,010	1,456	0 7 6	28 17 1	29 4 7	
	22 July	885	1,493	1	1	886	1,494	0 7 6	29 12 8	30 0 2	
	29 July	869	1,482	1	1	870	1,483	0 12 0	29 8 6	30 0 6	
BALROTHERY	15 April	496	851	—	—	496	851	0 7 2	28 17 10	29 5 0	
	22 April	505	858	—	—	505	858	—	19 0 5	19 5 5	
	29 April	555	948	—	—	555	948	—	18 18 5	18 18 5	
	6 May	556	962	—	—	556	962	0 5 10	20 19 0	20 19 0	
	13 May	560	950	—	—	560	950	0 5 10	21 1 7	21 7 5	
	20 May	552	932	—	—	552	932	0 11 6	20 19 6	21 11 0	
	27 May	548	920	—	—	548	920	0 0 7	20 12 4	20 12 11	
	3 June	552	942	—	—	552	942	0 3 0	22 9 10	22 12 10	
	10 June	552	936	—	—	552	936	0 7 4	23 16 7	24 3 11	
	17 June	540	911	—	—	540	911	0 4 0	23 17 11	24 1 11	
	24 June	538	906	—	—	538	906	0 4 10	23 5 8	23 10 6	
	1 July	533	893	—	—	533	893	0 2 11	23 6 11	23 9 10	
	8 July	509	854	—	—	509	854	0 6 0	23 2 0	23 8 0	
	15 July	502	845	—	—	502	845	0 6 2	22 6 9	22 12 11	
BALTINGLASS	22 July	504	834	—	—	504	834	0 0 3	21 18 2	21 18 5	
	29 July	502	835	—	—	502	835	0 2 6	21 14 7	21 17 1	
	15 April	817	1,697	—	—	817	1,697	—	21 12 4	21 12 4	
	22 April	822	1,731	—	—	822	1,731	1 0 2	45 12 8	46 12 10	
	29 April	811	1,701	—	—	811	1,701	1 3 9	47 1 5	48 5 2	
	6 May	800	1,684	—	—	800	1,684	0 19 5	45 19 7	46 19 0	
	13 May	793	1,653	—	—	793	1,653	1 11 5	45 10 1	47 1 6	
	20 May	786	1,660	—	—	786	1,660	0 19 5	45 6 5	46 5 10	
	27 May	781	1,683	—	—	781	1,683	1 7 8	44 6 4	45 14 0	
	3 June	792	1,742	—	—	792	1,742	1 3 6	44 8 1	45 11 7	
	10 June	788	1,696	—	—	788	1,696	1 0 9	44 19 6	46 0 4	
	17 June	812	1,826	—	—	812	1,826	1 4 6	44 14 1	45 18 7	
	24 June	822	1,878	—	—	822	1,878	1 5 6	46 19 9	48 5 4	
	1 July	814	1,835	—	—	814	1,835	1 7 7	47 6 9	48 14 4	
BANBRIDGE	8 July	802	1,774	—	—	802	1,774	1 2 5	47 2 6	48 4 11	
	15 July	796	1,748	—	—	796	1,748	1 5 6	51 15 7	53 1 1	
	22 July	784	1,718	—	—	784	1,718	1 7 1	53 12 3	53 19 9	
	29 July	780	1,676	—	—	780	1,676	1 2 4	52 8 8	53 11 0	
	15 April	940	1,848	—	—	940	1,848	1 2 5	53 10 8	53 13 12	
	22 April	960	1,899	—	—	960	1,899	—	—	—	
	29 April	945	1,863	—	—	945	1,863	—	35 1 7	35 1 7	
	6 May	916	1,786	—	—	916	1,786	—	36 7 1	36 7 1	
	13 May	919	1,798	—	—	919	1,798	—	34 17 3	34 17 3	
	20 May	923	1,778	—	—	923	1,778	—	31 15 2	31 15 2	
	27 May	947	1,844	—	—	947	1,844	—	30 11 2	30 11 2	
	3 June	780	1,458	—	—	780	1,458	—	30 13 0	30 13 0	
	10 June	738	1,368	—	—	738	1,368	—	34 8 0	34 8 0	
	17 June	750	1,421	—	—	750	1,421	—	30 17 7	30 17 7	
BANDON	24 June	744	1,421	—	—	744	1,421	—	27 18 5	27 18 5	
	1 July	749	1,447	—	—	749	1,447	—	26 16 8	26 16 8	
	8 July	730	1,422	—	—	730	1,422	—	26 11 9	26 11 9	
	15 July	750	1,450	—	—	750	1,450	—	26 1 7	26 1 7	
	22 July	756	1,443	—	—	756	1,443	—	25 10 6	25 10 6	
	29 July	763	1,465	—	—	763	1,465	—	25 8 8	25 8 8	
	15 April	3,775	6,593	—	—	3,775	6,593	—	25 15 10	25 15 10	
	22 April	3,515	6,761	—	—	3,515	6,761	—	27 7 7	27 7 7	
	29 April	3,921	7,003	—	—	3,921	7,003	—	—	—	
	6 May	3,665	6,520	—	—	3,665	6,520	—	159 6 3	159 6 3	
	13 May	3,589	6,601	—	—	3,589	6,601	—	158 7 8	158 7 8	
	20 May	3,476	5,625	—	—	3,476	5,625	—	159 14 9	159 14 9	
	27 May	3,476	5,625	—	—	3,476	5,625	—	156 5 2	156 5 2	
	3 June	3,339	6,927	—	—	3,339	6,927	—	148 19 12	148 19 12	
BANTRY	10 June	3,339	6,927	—	—	3,339	6,927	—	145 4 9	145 4 9	
	17 June	3,319	7,049	—	—	3,319	7,049	—	141 6 3	141 6 3	
	24 June	3,182	5,962	—	—	3,182	5,962	—	142 12 11	142 12 11	
	1 July	3,461	6,022	—	—	3,461	6,022	—	153 15 3	153 15 3	
	8 July	3,228	5,907	—	—	3,228	5,907	—	154 19 6	154 19 6	
	15 July	3,139	5,603	—	—	3,139	5,603	0 2 0	153 6 11	153 8 11	
	22 July	3,097	5,500	—	—	3,097	5,500	—	149 16 2	149 16 2	
	29 July	2,998	5,260	—	—	2,998	5,260	—	82 2 10	82 2 10	
	15 April	2,047	5,408	648	1,609	2,695	7,017	54 7 3	73 14 2	125 8 6	
	22 April	1,963	5,304	658	1,788	2,620	7,092	51 9 4	73 10 0	124 2 0	
	29 April	2,340	6,184	1,120	2,920	3,460	9,104	50 11 11	73 10 0	124 2 0	
	6 May	2,506	6,756	1,371	3,617	3,877	10,373	68 16 3	46 14 1	115 10 4	
	13 May	2,574	6,874	1,432	3,838	4,006	10,712	—	—	—	
	20 May	2,761	7,242	1,771	4,866	4,532	12,108	—	—	—	
27 May	2,529	6,183	1,861	4,987	4,390	11,170	—	—	—		
3 June	2,839	7,939	2,212	6,031	5,051	13,970	—	—	—		
10 June	2,946	7,877	2,359	6,602	5,305	14,479	—	—	—		
17 June	3,024	8,342	2,477	6,846	5,501	15,188	—	—	—		
BELFAST	15 April	2,047	5,408	648	1,609	2,695	7,017	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
	22 April	1,963	5,304	658	1,788	2,620	7,092	—	—	—	
	29 April	2,340	6,184	1,120	2,920	3,460	9,104	—	—	—	
	6 May	2,506	6,756	1,371	3,617	3,877	10,373	—	—	—	
	13 May	2,574	6,874	1,432	3,838	4,006	10,712	—	—	—	
	20 May	2,761	7,242	1,771	4,866	4,532	12,108	—	—	—	
	27 May	2,529	6,183	1,861	4,987	4,390	11,170	—	—	—	
	3 June	2,839	7,939	2,212	6,031	5,051	13,970	—	—	—	
	10 June	2,946	7,877	2,359	6,602	5,305	14,479	—	—	—	
	17 June	3,024	8,342	2,477	6,846	5,501	15,188	—	—	—	
	15 April	2,047	5,408	648	1,609	2,695	7,017	—	—	—	
	22 April	1,963	5,304	658	1,788	2,620	7,092	—	—	—	
	29 April	2,340	6,184	1,120	2,920	3,460	9,104	—	—	—	
	6 May	2,506	6,756	1,371	3,617	3,877	10,373	—	—	—	
BOYLE	13 May	2,574	6,874	1,432	3,838	4,006	10,712	—	—	—	
	20 May	2,761	7,242	1,771	4,866						

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
BOYLE--(continued)	24 June	3,152	8,610	2,701	7,392	5,853	16,002	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Cost not stated.
	1 July	3,220	8,800	2,875	7,800	6,095	16,600	—	—	—	
	8 July	2,904	8,116	2,871	7,880	5,775	15,996	—	379 13 11½	379 13 11½	
	15 July	2,848	7,888	2,738	7,519	5,586	15,507	—	402 13 7	402 13 7	
	22 July	2,826	7,894	2,652	7,342	5,478	15,236	—	377 6 11	377 6 11	
	29 July	2,730	7,461	2,650	6,658	5,380	14,119	—	360 7 0	360 7 0	
CAHIRCIVEEN	15 April	1,270	2,847	188	391	1,458	3,138	0 5 0	96 11 10½	90 16 10½	
	22 April	1,291	2,898	185	389	1,466	3,187	0 3 0	88 14 4½	88 17 4½	
	29 April	1,283	2,901	176	391	1,458	3,182	0 3 0	88 11 6½	88 14 6½	
	6 May	1,278	2,793	177	257	1,455	3,045	1 15 0	85 7 8½	87 2 8½	
	13 May	1,274	2,762	181	203	1,455	3,045	1 15 6	82 2 8	83 18 2	
	20 May	1,234	2,840	167	244	1,401	3,084	1 4 6	81 16 8½	83 1 2½	
	27 May	1,203	2,781	2	2	1,205	2,783	1 0 6	73 4 6	74 5 0½	
	3 June	1,179	2,696	1	1	1,180	2,697	0 14 6	70 8 4½	71 2 10½	
	10 June	1,179	2,641	2	6	1,181	2,647	0 11 3	70 9 1½	71 0 4½	
	17 June	1,199	2,669	2	2	1,201	2,671	0 2 6	71 3 10½	71 6 4½	
	24 June	1,211	2,701	—	—	1,211	2,701	—	72 1 0½	72 1 0½	
	1 July	1,172	2,636	—	—	1,172	2,636	—	70 19 5½	70 19 5½	
	8 July	1,170	2,628	—	—	1,170	2,628	0 0 6	69 18 0	69 19 3	
	15 July	1,123	2,515	—	—	1,123	2,515	—	73 9 1	73 9 1	
	22 July	963	2,019	—	—	963	2,019	—	65 17 10½	65 17 10½	
	29 July	930	2,032	—	—	930	2,032	0 7 6	63 16 1	64 3 7	
CALLAN	15 April	1,536	3,321	1,361	3,945	2,897	7,266	47 6 10½	114 17 10½	162 4 9½	
	22 April	1,607	3,322	1,273	3,860	2,880	7,163	47 2 4	112 7 7½	159 9 11½	
	29 April	1,605	3,473	1,184	3,665	2,789	7,130	42 7 5½	111 2 2	153 9 7½	
	6 May	1,610	3,461	1,150	3,625	2,760	7,086	38 15 10	111 14 11½	150 10 9½	
	13 May	1,619	3,500	1,176	3,770	2,795	7,270	35 15 4	111 8 1½	147 3 5½	
	20 May	1,630	3,533	1,181	3,738	2,811	7,271	31 9 5	122 13 7½	154 3 0½	
	27 May	1,662	3,592	1,205	3,822	2,867	7,414	37 8 11	149 2 2½	186 11 1½	
	3 June	1,678	3,633	1,230	3,930	2,908	7,569	35 3 2	178 16 1½	213 19 3½	
	10 June	1,672	3,639	1,271	4,051	2,943	7,690	13 0 0	192 3 1½	205 3 1½	
	17 June	1,694	3,670	1,353	4,263	3,047	7,933	2 7 6	218 6 10½	220 14 4½	
	24 June	1,712	3,730	1,411	4,416	3,123	8,146	2 0 10	214 11 1½	216 11 11½	
	1 July	1,708	3,716	1,456	4,562	3,164	8,278	2 5 10	215 13 5	217 19 3	
	8 July	1,846	4,020	1,543	5,003	3,894	9,023	2 4 7	214 7 0	216 11 7	
	15 July	1,955	4,006	1,543	4,823	3,498	8,029	2 4 10	214 7 0	216 11 10	
	22 July	1,946	3,963	1,526	4,781	3,372	8,764	2 1 3	203 15 7½	205 16 10½	
	29 July	1,721	3,707	1,491	4,601	3,212	8,308	2 2 0	215 8 6½	217 10 6½	
CARLOW	15 April	2,241	5,648	—	—	2,241	5,648	123 0 6½	0 7 2	123 7 8½	
	22 April	2,282	5,788	—	—	2,282	5,788	127 10 6½	0 11 5½	128 2 0	
	29 April	2,322	5,869	—	—	2,322	5,869	127 3 4	0 9 3½	127 12 7½	
	6 May	2,373	6,012	—	—	2,373	6,012	125 11 11	0 10 8½	126 2 7½	
	13 May	2,414	6,119	—	—	2,414	6,119	125 2 5	0 13 9½	125 16 2½	
	20 May	2,446	6,201	—	—	2,446	6,201	124 9 6	1 0 9½	125 10 3½	
	27 May	2,493	6,318	—	—	2,493	6,318	124 3 2	0 14 9	124 17 11	
	3 June	2,551	6,497	—	—	2,551	6,497	123 16 10	0 14 0	124 10 10	
	10 June	2,574	6,563	—	—	2,574	6,563	121 14 0	0 2 0	121 16 0	
	17 June	2,607	6,643	—	—	2,607	6,643	120 19 6	0 3 2	121 2 8	
	24 June	1,797	4,213	—	—	1,797	4,213	122 14 2½	0 4 11	122 19 1½	
	1 July	1,838	4,237	—	—	1,838	4,237	126 4 2	0 5 6	126 9 8	
	8 July	1,834	4,239	—	—	1,834	4,220	126 14 7	0 9 8	127 4 3	
	15 July	1,854	4,253	—	—	1,854	4,253	125 7 11	0 5 8	125 13 7	
	22 July	1,840	4,205	—	—	1,840	4,205	122 12 0	0 12 9½	123 4 9½	
	29 July	1,807	4,037	—	—	1,807	4,037	121 2 2	0 8 1	121 10 3	
CARRICKMACROSS.	15 April	836	2,002	66	116	902	2,118	53 2 8	—	53 2 8	
	22 April	846	2,015	68	120	914	2,135	52 14 2	0 18 4	53 12 6	
	29 April	831	2,027	76	140	907	2,167	51 18 6	3 3 4	55 1 10	
	6 May	855	2,086	88	174	943	2,260	53 5 2	3 19 10	57 5 0	
	13 May	883	2,145	90	181	973	2,326	54 15 8	3 7 10	58 3 6	
	20 May	897	2,168	94	159	991	2,327	54 15 2	3 9 2	58 4 4	
	27 May	884	2,141	96	159	980	2,300	54 6 4	3 10 6	57 16 10	
	3 June	891	2,131	99	180	990	2,311	53 7 10	3 13 0	57 0 10	
	10 June	918	2,118	98	183	1,016	2,301	53 3 4	3 19 0	57 2 4	
	17 June	902	2,131	103	184	1,005	2,315	0 16 10	55 12 6	56 9 4	
	24 June	909	2,138	94	168	1,003	2,306	0 5 6	56 2 4	56 7 10	
	1 July	868	2,168	95	175	963	2,343	0 6 0	56 8 10	56 14 10	
	8 July	856	2,142	92	159	948	2,301	0 15 0	54 18 4	55 13 4	
	15 July	866	2,184	94	176	960	2,360	0 5 8	56 4 10	56 10 6	
	22 July	881	2,200	105	212	986	2,412	0 13 8	56 11 8	57 5 4	
	29 July	872	2,156	101	191	973	2,347	0 2 9	56 6 0	56 8 9	
CARON-SHANNON.	15 April	2,242	5,590	3,090	5,222	5,332	10,812	—	274 5 7	274 5 7	
	22 April	2,314	5,821	3,085	5,280	5,379	11,101	—	243 1 6½	243 1 6½	
	29 April	2,325	5,965	3,126	5,443	5,451	11,408	—	270 9 0½	270 9 0½	
	6 May	2,334	5,972	3,148	5,472	5,482	11,444	—	274 17 6½	274 17 6½	
	13 May	2,332	5,986	3,121	5,375	5,453	11,261	—	356 17 4	356 17 4	
	20 May	2,395	6,189	3,208	5,548	5,603	11,737	—	370 7 9	370 7 9	
	27 May	2,454	6,280	3,314	6,011	5,768	12,291	—	389 13 7½	389 13 7½	
	3 June	2,532	6,654	3,502	6,210	6,034	12,864	—	377 18 10½	377 18 10½	
	10 June	2,618	6,921	3,685	6,841	6,803	13,762	—	384 16 3½	394 16 3½	
	17 June	2,632	6,971	3,750	6,956	6,382	13,927	—	383 2 3½	383 2 3½	
	24 June	2,607	6,900	3,699	6,838	6,306	13,738	—	375 9 10½	375 9 10½	
	1 July	2,640	6,885	3,662	6,604	6,302	13,489	—	415 3 11½	415 3 11½	
	8 July	2,595	6,857	3,583	6,483	6,180	13,340	—	434 5 2½	434 5 2½	
	15 July	2,568	6,827	3,493	6,284	6,061	13,111	—	426 17 3½	426 17 3½	
	22 July	2,512	6,633	3,435	6,131	5,947	12,764	—	411 15 10½	411 15 10½	
	29 July	2,449	6,346	3,240	5,798	5,689	12,144	—	383 17 8	383 17 8	
CARRICK-ON-SUEB	15 April	358	848	—	—	358	848	0 2 0	18 13 6½	18 15 6½	
	22 April	368	878	—	—	368	878	0 6 3	19 2 7	19 8 10	
	29 April	358	854	—	—	358	854	0 0 10	18 16 2½	18 17 0½	
	6 May	357	854	—	—	357	854	0 5 0	18 18 11	19 3 11	
	13 May	367	871	—	—	367	871	0 7 0	19 6 7	19 13 7	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
CARRICK-ON-SWIR (continued)	20 May	374	905	—	—	374	905	£ 5 6	19 17 13	20 2 73	
	27 May	385	929	—	—	385	929	0 4 8	20 8 6	20 13 2	
	3 June	392	940	—	—	392	940	0 6 0	20 9 73	20 15 73	
	10 June	388	915	—	—	388	915	0 3 0	22 12 113	22 15 113	
	17 June	404	960	—	—	404	960	0 2 0	25 19 11	26 1 11	
	24 June	421	1,005	—	—	421	1,005	0 2 0	27 15 9	27 17 9	
	1 July	421	1,017	—	—	421	1,017	0 5 0	27 9 4	27 14 4	
	8 July	431	1,036	—	—	431	1,036	0 4 0	26 0 43	26 4 43	
	15 July	424	1,022	—	—	424	1,022	0 4 0	24 14 5	24 18 5	
	22 July	425	1,006	—	—	425	1,006	0 0 6	24 6 73	24 7 13	
	29 July	424	1,009	—	—	414	1,009	0 1 6	24 11 03	24 12 63	
CASHEL	15 April	2,221	4,668	2,677	6,364	4,898	11,032	0 6 0	279 6 23	279 12 23	
	22 April	2,255	4,769	2,465	5,506	4,720	10,365	0 1 6	260 8 4	260 9 10	
	29 April	2,280	4,885	2,270	4,919	4,559	9,804	0 7 0	240 14 83	241 1 83	
	6 May	2,335	5,097	2,227	4,534	4,563	9,631	0 9 3	246 19 33	247 8 63	
	13 May	2,418	5,048	2,245	4,588	4,663	9,636	1 3 9	253 14 5	254 18 2	
	20 May	2,440	5,368	2,218	4,432	4,658	9,800	1 14 3	253 16 2	255 10 5	
	27 May	2,548	5,706	2,236	4,461	4,784	10,167	1 18 3	263 7 53	265 5 83	
	3 June	2,602	5,843	2,306	4,817	4,908	10,660	2 5 0	273 5 0	275 10 0	
	10 June	2,021	4,425	1,733	4,250	3,754	8,675	0 17 0	317 16 53	318 13 53	
	17 June	2,721	6,208	2,956	6,985	5,677	13,193	1 16 6	457 4 1	459 0 7	
	24 June	2,775	6,263	3,081	7,384	5,856	13,607	1 12 6	471 13 13	473 5 73	
	1 July	2,791	6,319	2,509	6,800	5,300	13,119	2 0 9	450 8 10	452 9 7	
	8 July	2,753	6,387	2,187	6,561	4,940	12,948	1 10 6	367 6 53	368 16 113	
	15 July	2,752	6,362	1,656	6,179	4,408	12,541	1 11 6	346 16 103	348 8 43	
	22 July	2,750	6,417	1,457	5,405	4,207	11,822	1 7 6	326 6 6	327 14 0	
	29 July	2,759	6,395	1,344	5,045	4,103	11,440	0 4 0	322 9 63	323 13 63	
CASTLEBAR	15 April	2,250	6,770	3,197	9,465	5,456	16,235	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
	22 April	1,846	5,689	2,678	7,248	4,524	12,937	—	—	—	
	29 April	2,568	7,657	3,738	14,762	6,306	22,419	—	—	—	
	6 May	2,630	7,503	3,862	11,054	6,492	18,557	—	—	—	
	13 May	2,705	8,092	3,934	12,071	6,639	20,163	—	—	—	
	20 May	2,734	8,571	4,083	11,838	6,817	20,409	552 16 8	37 14 8	590 11 4	
	27 May	2,798	8,398	4,057	11,987	6,855	20,385	0 5 9	487 11 03	487 16 93	
	3 June	2,901	8,738	4,170	12,966	7,071	21,699	0 5 9	336 13 103	336 19 73	
	10 June	3,078	9,515	4,441	13,805	7,519	23,320	—	538 9 53	538 9 53	
	17 June	3,175	9,915	3,744	14,399	7,919	24,314	0 12 0	591 7 113	591 19 113	
	24 June	3,285	10,310	5,163	14,740	8,448	25,050	0 1 6	737 11 3	737 12 9	
	1 July	3,509	10,648	5,669	16,116	9,178	26,764	0 15 0	776 19 23	777 14 23	
	8 July	2,909	7,854	5,774	15,777	8,633	23,631	—	687 10 11	687 10 11	
	15 July	3,065	8,577	5,679	17,184	8,744	25,761	0 1 0	684 8 63	684 9 63	
	22 July	3,085	8,690	5,536	17,103	8,921	25,793	—	676 4 53	676 4 53	
	29 July	3,151	8,928	5,600	17,230	8,751	26,058	—	676 14 43	676 14 43	
CASTLEBLANEY	15 April	1,114	2,326	—	—	1,114	2,326	1 0 6	52 11 63	53 12 03	
	22 April	1,101	2,256	—	—	1,101	2,256	0 11 43	52 17 53	53 8 93	
	29 April	1,009	2,247	—	—	1,080	2,247	0 16 13	53 17 113	53 14 1	
	6 May	1,108	2,373	—	—	1,108	2,273	1 5 8	49 18 13	51 3 93	
	13 May	1,106	2,257	—	—	1,106	2,257	0 19 93	49 16 93	50 16 73	
	20 May	1,105	2,269	—	—	1,105	2,269	0 12 113	50 1 2	50 14 13	
	27 May	1,103	2,258	—	—	1,103	2,258	1 2 7	49 6 73	50 9 23	
	3 June	1,112	2,257	—	—	1,112	2,257	0 17 8	49 2 3	49 19 11	
	10 June	1,110	2,153	—	—	1,110	2,153	1 3 8	49 18 11	51 2 7	
	17 June	1,111	2,160	—	—	1,111	2,160	1 5 3	49 10 23	50 15 53	
	24 June	1,108	2,134	—	—	1,108	2,134	0 17 4	48 18 53	49 15 93	
	1 July	1,072	2,044	—	—	1,072	2,044	0 14 103	46 9 73	47 4 53	
	8 July	1,045	2,107	—	—	1,045	2,107	0 3 8	46 0 113	46 4 73	
	15 July	1,031	2,076	—	—	1,031	2,076	0 10 3	45 2 93	45 13 03	
CASTLEBERG	22 July	914	1,808	—	—	914	1,808	0 2 6	39 18 83	40 1 23	
	29 July	839	1,625	—	—	839	1,625	0 10 53	36 3 43	36 13 10	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
CASTLEREA	15 April	2,987	6,249	74	212	3,061	6,461	7 5 9	146 11 33	153 17 03	
	22 April	5,110	10,523	652	1,338	5,762	11,861	10 11 2	280 19 103	291 11 03	
	29 April	4,121	9,346	2,427	4,555	6,548	13,901	5 3 2	323 5 13	327 8 33	
	6 May	3,732	8,925	3,346	6,383	7,078	15,308	5 6 4	382 8 113	387 15 33	
	13 May	3,612	8,333	3,816	7,457	7,420	15,790	2 13 5	427 9 93	430 3 23	
	20 May	3,414	7,823	4,125	8,133	7,539	15,455	2 5 11	414 4 7	416 10 6	
	27 May	3,544	7,811	4,084	8,535	7,628	16,346	1 18 8	415 18 8	417 17 4	
	3 June	3,424	7,553	4,240	8,650	7,664	16,203	2 0 0	438 10 5	440 10 5	
	10 June	3,327	7,483	4,332	8,922	7,659	16,405	2 3 9	444 8 9	446 12 0	
	17 June	3,628	7,630	4,793	9,609	8,421	17,299	2 12 8	471 7 9	474 0 5	
	24 June	3,568	7,892	5,163	10,499	8,731	18,391	3 2 3	495 6 2	498 8 5	
	1 July	3,602	7,940	5,310	10,743	8,912	18,688	2 2 2	493 10 63	495 12 83	
	8 July	3,641	7,972	5,461	10,979	9,102	18,951	2 3 10	580 7 6	582 11 4	
	15 July	3,645	8,090	5,524	11,323	9,169	19,413	3 3 8	543 12 4	546 16 0	
	22 July	3,563	8,055	5,990	11,759	9,553	19,314	2 4 10	554 4 6	556 9 4	
CAVAN	29 July	3,638	7,691	6,378	11,909	10,016	19,600	1 15 0	562 19 2	564 14 2	
	15 April	3,068	6,898	271	513	3,339	7,411	0 16 11	159 16 3	160 13 2	
	22 April	3,236	7,189	264	513	3,500	7,703	1 8 3	163 16 93	165 5 03	
	29 April	3,279	7,263	267	509	3,546	7,782	0 17 83	166 12 03	167 9 83	
	6 May	3,223	7,163	291	560	3,514	7,723	0 18 1	163 14 83	164 12 93	
	13 May	3,232	7,226	312	623	3,544	7,849	0 17 2	166 19 93	167 16 113	
	20 May	3,382	7,370	222	662	3,504	8,032	0 18 8	171 3 93	172 2 53	
	27 May	3,245	7,210	345	705	3,590	7,915	1 1 5	169 1 83	170 3 13	
	3 June	3,205	6,952	371	812	3,576	7,764	1 2 8	163 13 11	164 16 7	
	10 June	3,191	6,912	417	938	3,608	7,850	1 7 1	167 3 9	168 10 10	
	17 June	3,225	7,011	446	1,030	3,671	8,041	1 0 5	173 4 103	174 5 33	
	24 June	3,254	7,051	437	1,030	3,691	8,081	1 3 10	179 19 103	181 3 83	
	1 July	3,356	7,193	506	1,178	3,842	8,371	1 3 2	197 14 63	198 17 83	
	8 July	3,381	7,371	507	1,177	3,888	8,548	0 19 10	205 3 9	206 3 7	
	15 July	3,380	7,580	445	1,065	3,825	8,645	0 19 11	202 13 63	203 13 53	
	22 July	3,358	7,523	452	1,089	3,810	8,612	0 11 3	195 10 113	196 2 23	
	29 July	3,358	7,540	484	1,043	3,798	8,583	0 11 1	185 1 10	186 12 11	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
CELBRIDGE .	15 April							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	No out-door relief.
	22 April										
	29 April										
	6 May										
	13 May										
	20 May										
	27 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	3 June										
	10 June										
	17 June										
	24 June										
	1 July										
	8 July	—	—	5	12	5	12	0 17 0	—	0 17 0	
	15 July	8	7	—	—	3	7	0 6 6	—	0 6 6	
	22 July	3	10	—	—	3	10	0 6 0	—	0 6 0	
	29 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
CLIFDEN .	15 April										Returns not recd.
	22 April										
	29 April										
	6 May	3,852	9,833	5,712	4,402	9,564	14,235	—	467 4 3½	467 4 3½	
	13 May										
	20 May										
	27 May										
	3 June	4,764	12,306	1,983	4,907	6,747	17,213	—	562 9 11½	562 9 11½	
	10 June										
	17 June										
	24 June										
	1 July										
	8 July	5,246	12,933	2,034	5,212	7,280	18,145	—	—	—	
	15 July										
	22 July										
	29 July										
CLOGHER .	15 April	2,306	7,374	42	113	2,348	7,487	0 2 6	138 3 0½	138 10 6½	
	22 April	2,314	7,434	2	6	2,316	7,440	0 2 6	138 7 0½	138 9 6½	
	29 April	2,347	7,534	15	47	2,362	7,531	0 2 6	135 18 1½	136 0 7½	
	6 May	2,316	7,387	24	61	2,340	7,428	0 2 6	130 16 2½	130 18 8½	
	13 May	2,312	7,291	23	59	2,335	7,350	0 2 6	129 17 8	130 0 2	
	20 May	2,346	7,467	33	84	2,379	7,531	0 2 6	133 0 10½	133 3 4½	
	27 May	2,349	7,481	35	93	2,384	7,574	0 2 6	133 10 9½	133 13 3½	
	3 June	2,361	7,526	36	96	2,397	7,622	0 3 6	134 10 3½	134 13 9½	
	10 June	2,282	7,112	31	79	2,313	7,191	0 2 6	172 17 6½	173 0 0½	
	17 June	2,238	6,927	29	73	2,267	7,000	0 2 0	172 12 5½	172 14 5½	
	24 June	2,238	6,841	27	68	2,265	6,901	0 3 6	171 11 6	171 15 0	
	1 July	2,179	6,811	32	77	2,211	6,888	0 2 0	167 13 11	167 15 11	
	8 July	2,128	6,580	30	78	2,158	6,658	0 5 6	134 15 7½	135 1 14½	
	15 July	2,096	6,532	28	73	2,124	6,605	0 1 6	129 3 5½	129 4 11½	
	22 July	2,074	6,463	27	71	2,101	6,534	0 2 0	128 14 1½	128 16 1½	
	29 July	2,054	6,397	11	27	2,065	6,424	0 1 6	127 6 7	127 8 1	
CLOGHER .	15 April	928	1,721	—	—	928	1,721	—	40 12 8	40 12 8	
	22 April	910	1,719	—	—	910	1,719	—	39 8 7½	39 6 7½	
	29 April	892	1,645	—	—	892	1,645	—	37 19 8½	37 19 8½	
	6 May	845	1,567	—	—	845	1,567	—	33 5 2½	33 5 2½	
	13 May	814	1,520	—	—	814	1,520	—	31 18 7	31 18 7	
	20 May	797	1,491	—	—	797	1,491	—	31 2 1½	31 2 1½	
	27 May	797	1,506	—	—	797	1,506	—	31 2 7½	31 2 7½	
	3 June	799	1,548	—	—	799	1,548	—	31 12 11½	31 12 11½	
	10 June	802	1,535	—	—	802	1,535	—	28 3 7½	28 3 7½	
	17 June	798	1,510	—	—	798	1,510	—	26 16 4½	26 16 4½	
	24 June	795	1,497	—	—	795	1,497	—	26 14 10	26 14 10	
	1 July	571	1,050	—	—	571	1,050	—	19 7 10½	19 7 10½	
	8 July	372	599	—	—	372	599	—	12 19 4	12 19 4	
	15 July	401	724	—	—	401	724	—	12 16 7	12 16 7	
	22 July	250	420	—	—	250	420	—	8 8 9½	8 8 9½	
	29 July	235	510	—	—	235	510	—	8 18 6	8 18 6	
CLONES .	15 April	1,021	2,077	—	—	1,021	2,077	—	42 4 2½	42 4 2½	
	22 April	1,025	2,054	—	—	1,025	2,054	—	40 15 1	40 15 1	
	29 April	1,025	2,048	—	—	1,025	2,048	0 1 6	40 7 10	40 9 4	
	6 May	1,000	1,990	—	—	1,000	1,990	0 2 0	39 17 10½	39 19 10½	
	13 May	999	2,012	—	—	999	2,012	0 2 6	39 4 11½	39 7 5½	
	20 May	1,009	2,030	—	—	1,009	2,030	0 4 10	39 3 0	39 7 10	
	27 May	991	1,969	—	—	991	1,969	0 3 3	39 1 0½	39 4 3½	
	3 June	1,009	2,064	—	—	1,009	2,064	—	39 7 7	39 7 7	
	10 June	1,044	2,165	—	—	1,044	2,165	—	45 10 8	45 10 8	
	17 June	1,051	2,163	34	75	1,085	2,240	0 4 6	51 8 11½	51 13 5½	
	24 June	1,058	2,182	48	99	1,101	2,281	—	53 10 4	53 10 4	
	1 July	1,061	2,164	63	155	1,126	2,319	0 1 6	53 11½	53 2 5½	
	8 July	1,078	2,168	59	132	1,137	2,300	—	51 15 9½	51 15 9½	
	15 July	1,078	2,170	71	163	1,149	2,333	0 5 0	51 12 4½	51 17 4½	
	22 July	1,071	2,376	69	157	1,140	2,533	0 5 4	49 18 6	50 3 10	
	29 July	1,068	2,144	97	204	1,165	2,348	0 2 10	47 16 7½	47 19 5½	
CLOXMEEL .	15 April	967	2,030	830	1,673	1,797	3,703	27 4 11	70 1 1	97 6 0	
	22 April	1,005	2,132	826	1,691	1,831	3,823	27 1 9	67 13 5	94 14 2	
	29 April	1,050	2,114	59	219	1,109	2,333	27 5 11	42 1 4	69 7 3	
	6 May	1,070	2,288	—	—	1,078	2,288	25 5 8	35 4 8	60 10 4	
	13 May	1,117	2,341	—	—	1,117	2,341	24 7 5	36 13 7	61 1 0	
	20 May	1,125	2,371	—	—	1,123	2,371	23 18 11	37 3 8	61 2 7	
	27 May	1,115	2,366	—	—	1,115	2,366	5 1 3	49 2 9	54 4 0	
	3 June	1,123	2,395	—	—	1,123	2,395	5 10 1	49 13 11	55 4 0	
	10 June	1,138	2,431	—	—	1,138	2,431	5 15 11	50 1 6	55 17 5	
	17 June	1,152	2,469	—	—	1,152	2,469	5 15 1	58 2 6	63 17 7	
	24 June	1,162	2,504	—	—	1,162	2,504	5 17 1	58 19 10	64 16 11	
	1 July	1,162	2,474	—	—	1,162	2,474	5 17 11	58 17 3½	64 15 2½	

PAPERS RELATING TO THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS,

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
CLONMEL (<i>continued</i>)	8 July	1,169	2,492	—	—	1,169	2,492	£ 7 10 3	58 18 33	65 6 24	
	15 July	1,180	2,496	10	21	1,190	2,517	6 13 11	59 11 24	66 5 13	
	22 July	1,193	2,547	41	105	1,234	2,652	6 13 1	62 7 2	69 0 3	
	29 July	1,200	2,561	54	150	1,254	2,711	6 14 9	63 12 11 1/2	70 7 8 1/2	
COLERAINE ..	15 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
	22 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	29 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	6 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	13 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	20 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	27 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	3 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	10 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	17 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	24 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	8 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	15 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	22 July	4	19	—	—	4	19	—	0 14 9 1/2	0 14 9 1/2	
	29 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
COOKSTOWN ..	15 April	344	813	—	—	344	813	—	15 2 2 1/2	15 2 2 1/2	No out-door relief.
	22 April	331	768	—	—	331	768	—	15 11 0 1/2	15 11 0 1/2	
	29 April	330	763	—	—	330	763	—	14 11 9 1/2	14 11 9 1/2	
	6 May	352	747	—	—	352	747	—	13 14 6 1/2	13 14 6 1/2	
	13 May	316	717	—	—	316	717	—	13 0 3 1/2	13 0 3 1/2	
	20 May	303	680	—	—	303	680	—	12 6 9 1/2	12 6 9 1/2	
	27 May	300	658	—	—	300	658	—	12 2 4 1/2	12 2 4 1/2	
	3 June	302	686	—	—	302	686	0 14 0	12 2 5 1/2	12 16 5 1/2	
	10 June	298	683	—	—	298	683	—	12 1 6 1/2	12 1 6 1/2	
	17 June	302	687	—	—	302	687	0 15 0	12 6 2 1/2	13 1 2 1/2	
	24 June	310	711	—	—	310	711	4 8 8	12 11 9 1/2	17 0 5 1/2	
	1 July	305	687	—	—	305	687	—	12 4 0 1/2	12 4 0 1/2	
	8 July	307	684	—	—	307	684	1 2 0	12 5 7 1/2	13 7 7 1/2	
	15 July	312	685	—	—	312	685	—	12 2 1 1/2	12 2 1 1/2	
	22 July	311	686	—	—	311	686	1 0 0	11 18 1 1/2	12 18 1 1/2	
	29 July	311	686	—	—	311	686	1 0 0	11 18 1 1/2	12 18 1 1/2	
COOTEHILL ..	15 April	2,162	4,615	306	816	2,468	5,431	0 2 9	123 6 10	122 9 7	
	22 April	2,411	4,807	319	836	2,730	5,643	0 5 8	126 19 8	127 5 4	
	29 April	2,216	4,857	319	818	2,535	5,675	0 11 2	126 7 3	126 18 5	
	6 May	2,144	4,597	303	781	2,447	5,378	0 2 0	116 5 4	116 7 4	
	13 May	2,107	4,503	301	774	2,408	5,277	1 6 8	113 1 10	114 8 6	
	20 May	2,079	4,520	274	756	2,353	5,276	0 3 4	111 3 4	111 6 8	
	27 May	2,034	4,413	272	751	2,306	5,164	0 10 9	108 3 2	108 13 11	
	3 June	2,055	4,396	271	737	2,326	5,133	—	107 16 7	107 16 7	
	10 June	2,051	3,938	280	685	2,331	4,623	0 3 0	108 1 8	108 4 8	
	17 June	2,052	4,349	271	721	2,323	5,070	0 2 6	94 11 8	94 14 2	
	24 June	2,144	4,553	334	912	2,478	5,465	0 6 0	113 7 5	113 13 5	
	1 July	2,223	4,677	363	969	2,586	5,646	0 6 7	117 0 3	117 6 10	
	8 July	2,232	4,984	386	1,065	2,618	6,049	0 1 6	140 12 1	140 13 7	
	15 July	2,318	5,153	397	1,066	2,715	6,219	0 2 6	146 19 5	147 1 11	
	22 July	2,297	5,112	357	949	2,654	6,061	0 2 6	140 16 7	140 19 1	
	29 July	2,310	5,111	350	987	2,660	6,078	0 0 6	141 11 2	141 11 8	
CORK ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out door relief.
DINGLE ..	15 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
	22 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	29 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	6 May	2,941	5,001	2,645	4,206	5,586	9,207	—	203 3 3 1/2	203 3 3 1/2	
	13 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	20 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	27 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	3 June	3,111	5,269	2,769	4,570	5,880	9,839	—	287 4 5	287 4 5	
	10 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	17 June	2,964	5,459	2,853	5,184	5,817	10,643	—	284 14 10	284 14 10	
	24 June	2,709	5,029	2,838	5,089	5,547	10,118	—	—	—	
	1 July	2,812	5,072	2,871	5,030	5,683	10,102	—	292 8 3 1/2	292 8 3 1/2	
	8 July	2,767	5,077	2,823	5,296	5,590	10,373	—	294 18 5 1/2	294 18 5 1/2	
	15 July	2,589	4,595	2,631	5,281	5,220	9,876	—	282 3 5	282 3 5	
	22 July	2,298	4,363	1,823	3,280	4,121	7,643	—	254 4 0	254 4 0	
	29 July	2,373	4,020	1,932	3,090	4,305	7,110	—	239 0 6 1/2	239 0 6 1/2	
DONEGAL ..	15 April	623	1,189	—	—	623	1,189	1 15 5	24 1 2	25 16 7	
	22 April	627	1,205	—	—	627	1,205	2 8 7	24 11 10 1/2	27 0 5 1/2	
	29 April	650	1,257	—	—	650	1,257	1 10 10	25 14 5	27 5 3	
	6 May	649	1,259	—	—	649	1,259	1 9 2 1/2	25 14 0 1/2	27 3 3	
	13 May	661	1,287	—	—	661	1,207	1 9 1	26 7 5 1/2	27 16 6 1/2	
	20 May	668	1,307	—	—	668	1,307	1 11 5	24 13 5	26 4 10	
	27 May	684	1,358	—	—	684	1,358	2 0 0	27 0 8 1/2	29 11 8 1/2	
	3 June	687	1,376	—	—	687	1,376	1 14 0 1/2	27 11 9	29 5 9 1/2	
	10 June	730	1,518	—	—	730	1,618	1 13 6 1/2	30 9 11 1/2	32 3 6	
	17 June	754	1,570	—	—	754	1,570	1 15 5	31 6 11	33 2 4	
	24 June	758	1,616	—	—	758	1,616	1 14 10	31 17 6	33 12 4	
	1 July	771	1,638	—	—	771	1,638	1 11 2	32 5 1 1/2	33 16 3 1/2	
	8 July	788	1,664	—	—	788	1,664	1 14 4	32 17 10	34 12 2	
	15 July	813	1,719	—	—	813	1,719	2 5 2	34 5 8	36 10 10	
	22 July	823	1,737	—	—	823	1,737	2 0 2	34 10 8	36 10 10	
	29 July	831	1,717	—	—	831	1,717	2 2 6	34 16 10	36 19 4	
DOWNPATRICK ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
DROGHEDA ..	15 April	1,246	2,982	144	401	1,390	3,383	1 11 8 1/2	63 2 1 1/2	64 13 5	
	22 April	1,254	2,877	150	414	1,404	3,291	0 7 0	65 8 10	65 10 10	
	29 April	1,254	2,886	150	407	1,404	3,293	0 7 6	64 7 11 1/2	64 15 5 1/2	
	6 May	1,243	2,894	150	403	1,393	3,297	0 8 0	63 0 3 1/2	63 8 3 1/2	
	13 May	1,232	2,940	1 4	391	1,376	3,331	0 5 10	63 1 2 1/2	63 7 0 1/2	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
DROGHEDA (continued)	20 May	1,207	2,909	21	53	1,228	2,962	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	27 May	1,196	2,881	—	—	1,196	2,881	—	56 4 43	56 4 43	
	3 June	1,183	2,840	—	—	1,183	2,840	0 3 6	52 12 8	52 12 8	
	10 June	1,207	2,711	8	12	1,215	2,723	—	64 2 13	64 2 13	
	17 June	1,215	2,669	4	10	1,219	2,679	—	62 13 8	62 13 8	
	24 June	1,190	2,642	4	9	1,194	2,651	—	60 15 3	60 15 3	
	1 July	1,178	2,597	2	2	1,175	2,599	—	56 1 7	56 1 7	
	8 July	1,160	2,579	5	20	1,165	2,599	—	58 2 3	58 2 3	
	15 July	1,143	2,525	—	—	1,143	2,525	0 4 6	56 2 4	56 2 4	
	22 July	1,094	2,352	—	—	1,094	2,352	—	53 12 7	53 12 7	
	29 July	1,014	2,207	—	—	1,014	2,207	—	50 10 8	50 10 8	
								—	52 0 1	52 0 1	
DUBLIN, NORTH	15 April	1,745	3,248	—	—	1,745	3,248	10 19 11	93 6 10	104 6 7	
	22 April	1,737	3,310	—	—	1,737	3,310	10 19 9	93 4 6	104 4 3	
	29 April	1,704	3,283	—	—	1,704	3,283	—	97 3 0	97 3 0	
	6 May	1,692	3,177	—	—	1,692	3,177	—	97 3 0	97 3 0	
	13 May	1,661	3,109	—	—	1,661	3,109	—	91 7 33	91 7 33	
	20 May	1,640	3,089	—	—	1,640	3,089	—	89 3 10	89 3 10	
	27 May	1,625	3,037	—	—	1,625	3,037	—	86 12 12	86 12 12	
	3 June	1,621	3,028	—	—	1,621	3,028	—	85 11 10	85 11 10	
	10 June	1,652	3,070	—	—	1,652	3,070	—	85 1 7	85 1 7	
	17 June	1,602	3,008	—	—	1,602	3,008	—	85 0 0	85 0 0	
	24 June	1,593	3,004	—	—	1,593	3,004	—	83 16 8	83 16 8	
	1 July	1,559	2,922	—	—	1,559	2,922	—	81 16 0	81 16 0	
	8 July	1,540	2,913	—	—	1,540	2,913	—	80 11 6	80 11 6	
	15 July	1,510	2,791	—	—	1,510	2,791	—	85 16 11	85 16 11	
	22 July	1,497	2,785	—	—	1,497	2,785	—	83 13 11	83 13 11	
	29 July	1,492	2,751	—	—	1,492	2,751	—	82 5 2	82 5 2	
								—	83 4 5	83 4 5	
DUBLIN, SOUTH	15 April	3,052	5,817	—	—	3,052	5,817	13 0 4	197 5 9	210 6 1	
	22 April	3,022	5,764	—	—	3,022	5,764	13 1 10	195 12 7	208 14 5	
	29 April	3,004	5,743	—	—	3,004	5,743	12 19 7	192 10 0	205 9 7	
	6 May	3,003	5,736	—	—	3,003	5,736	12 19 8	193 2 6	206 2 2	
	13 May	3,018	5,730	—	—	3,018	5,730	12 17 1	192 18 10	205 15 11	
	20 May	3,045	5,767	—	—	3,045	5,767	12 17 7	192 4 7	205 2 2	
	27 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not recd.
	3 June	2,101	4,067	—	—	2,101	4,067	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
	10 June	2,036	3,814	—	—	2,036	3,814	—	—	—	
	17 June	2,627	4,797	—	—	2,627	4,797	12 9 9	161 7 10	173 17 7	
	24 June	2,611	4,664	—	—	2,611	4,664	12 13 4	159 5 3	171 18 7	
	1 July	2,641	4,688	—	—	2,641	4,688	12 17 8	161 12 7	174 10 9	
	8 July	2,680	4,810	—	—	2,680	4,810	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
	15 July	2,336	4,307	—	—	2,336	4,307	—	—	—	
	22 July	2,782	5,101	—	—	2,782	5,101	12 4 0	146 3 3	158 7 3	
	29 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not recd.
DUNDALK	15 April	1,058	2,480	—	—	1,058	2,480	66 8 13	—	66 8 11	
	22 April	1,038	2,467	—	—	1,038	2,467	65 1 1	—	65 1 1	
	29 April	1,070	2,480	—	—	1,070	2,480	65 16 4	—	65 16 4	
	6 May	1,040	2,402	—	—	1,040	2,402	63 13 7	—	63 13 7	
	13 May	1,019	2,340	—	—	1,019	2,340	62 3 5	—	62 3 5	
	20 May	985	2,245	—	—	985	2,245	59 6 7	—	59 6 7	
	27 May	922	2,257	—	—	922	2,257	59 9 1	—	59 9 1	
	3 June	956	2,209	—	—	956	2,209	57 18 11	—	57 18 11	
	10 June	1,039	2,207	—	—	1,039	2,207	56 19 9	—	56 19 9	
	17 June	969	2,230	—	—	969	2,230	57 2 1	—	57 2 1	
	24 June	975	2,228	—	—	975	2,228	56 8 10	—	56 8 10	
	1 July	974	2,212	—	—	974	2,212	56 6 7	—	56 6 7	
	8 July	989	2,223	—	—	989	2,223	57 1 10	—	57 1 10	
	15 July	955	2,171	—	—	955	2,171	55 15 0	—	55 15 0	
	22 July	928	2,109	—	—	928	2,109	54 6 11	—	54 6 11	
	29 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not recd.
DUNFANAGHY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
DUNGANNON	15 April	818	1,681	—	—	818	1,681	0 17 3	27 3 8	28 0 11	
	22 April	783	1,591	—	—	783	1,591	0 14 2	26 3 7	26 17 9	
	29 April	776	1,584	—	—	776	1,584	0 15 2	24 13 4	25 8 6	
	6 May	775	1,574	—	—	775	1,574	0 14 8	25 1 3	25 15 11	
	13 May	783	1,595	—	—	783	1,595	0 19 10	25 10 3	26 10 1	
	20 May	776	1,572	—	—	776	1,572	0 16 2	23 0 10	23 17 0	
	27 May	734	1,472	—	—	734	1,472	0 8 2	23 9 9	23 17 11	
	3 June	735	1,504	—	—	735	1,504	0 8 2	23 10 4	23 18 6	
	10 June	734	1,489	—	—	734	1,489	0 11 2	23 3 2	23 14 4	
	17 June	741	1,488	—	—	741	1,488	0 11 2	24 9 7	25 0 9	
	24 June	758	1,503	—	—	758	1,503	0 5 10	24 13 7	24 19 5	
	1 July	746	1,484	—	—	746	1,484	0 1 6	23 16 0	23 17 6	
	8 July	719	1,490	—	—	719	1,490	0 3 0	23 18 5	24 1 5	
	15 July	741	1,461	—	—	741	1,461	—	22 17 3	22 17 3	
	22 July	715	1,420	—	—	715	1,420	—	22 3 4	22 3 4	
	29 July	710	1,396	—	—	710	1,396	0 1 6	22 2 0	22 3 6	
DUNGARVAN	15 April	2,240	4,414	14	43	2,254	4,462	74 13 6	24 11 6	99 5 0	
	22 April	2,401	4,747	24	73	2,425	4,820	77 11 2	28 4 9	105 15 11	
	29 April	2,470	4,859	27	79	2,497	4,938	77 6 6	28 8 1	105 14 7	
	6 May	2,461	4,836	34	96	2,495	4,932	75 5 4	27 12 7	102 17 11	
	13 May	2,424	4,768	42	109	2,466	4,877	73 8 4	23 19 1	102 7 5	
	20 May	2,346	4,735	34	90	2,380	4,825	75 15 8	27 17 2	103 12 10	
	27 May	2,177	4,420	17	53	2,194	4,473	69 18 10	24 6 8	104 5 6	
	3 June	2,243	4,584	14	47	2,257	4,631	74 1 0	35 7 6	109 8 6	
	10 June	1,992	3,902	12	41	2,004	3,943	59 18 11	24 16 10	84 10 10	
	17 June	1,978	3,859	12	41	1,990	3,900	62 6 4	26 4 11	88 11 3	
	24 June	2,023	4,008	3	12	2,026	4,020	63 14 2	23 0 2	91 14 4	
	1 July	1,903	3,713	3	11	1,906	3,724	64 11 2	23 9 10	94 1 0	
	8 July	2,008	3,940	3	11	2,011	3,951	60 12 8	21 2 0	91 14 8	
	15 July	2,021	3,926	3	11	2,024	3,937	61 4 11	33 9 9	94 14 8	
	22 July	2,029	3,970	3	11	2,032	3,981	60 0 6	32 19 1	92 19 7	
	29 July	1,903	3,700	3	11	1,906	3,711	55 7 7	32 5 1	87 12 8	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
DUNMANWAY.	15 April	1,065	2,755	342	587	1,407	8,342	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	22 April	959	2,717	127	265	1,086	2,982	—	79 8 3	79 8 3	
	29 April	1,051	2,709	169	308	1,220	3,017	—	68 11 2	68 11 2	
	6 May	1,041	2,662	159	289	1,200	2,951	—	68 2 2	68 2 2	
	13 May	1,041	2,662	159	289	1,200	2,951	—	66 4 10	66 4 10	
	20 May	746	1,866	93	166	839	2,032	—	66 4 10	66 4 10	
	27 May	771	1,896	96	167	867	2,063	—	46 12 3	46 12 3	
	3 June	687	1,985	90	162	777	2,147	—	46 11 9	46 11 9	
	10 June	811	2,070	—	—	811	2,070	—	67 7 7	67 7 7	
	17 June	860	2,238	—	—	860	2,238	—	65 7 0	65 7 0	
	24 June	946	2,483	—	—	946	2,483	—	69 16 6	69 16 6	
	1 July	1,080	2,859	—	—	1,080	2,859	—	76 15 10	76 15 10	
	8 July	1,096	2,904	—	—	1,096	2,904	—	83 13 7	83 13 7	
	15 July	1,091	2,826	—	—	1,091	2,826	—	88 9 2	88 9 2	
	22 July	1,039	2,644	—	—	1,039	2,644	—	85 9 1	85 9 1	
	29 July	737	1,798	—	—	737	1,798	—	81 14 9	81 14 9	
								—	54 4 11	54 4 11	
DUNSHABOHLIN.	15 April	447	869	142	330	589	1,199	—	37 7 10	37 7 10	
	22 April	430	780	68	136	498	916	—	33 3 8	33 3 8	
	29 April	426	820	70	144	496	964	—	32 0 0	32 0 0	
	6 May	423	809	73	154	496	963	—	33 0 2	33 0 2	
	13 May	418	812	71	154	489	966	—	33 0 2	33 0 2	
	20 May	393	768	87	209	480	977	—	34 0 6	34 0 6	
	27 May	392	781	77	182	469	963	—	32 19 0	32 19 0	
	3 June	397	770	77	183	474	953	—	33 11 11	33 11 11	
	10 June	410	748	79	189	489	937	—	35 1 7	35 1 7	
	17 June	422	772	78	189	500	961	—	36 2 2	36 2 2	
	24 June	428	789	79	192	507	981	—	36 3 3	36 3 3	
	1 July	391	727	36	91	427	818	—	38 15 3	38 15 3	
	8 July	410	812	—	—	410	812	—	33 19 6	33 19 6	
	15 July	357	686	—	—	357	686	—	31 16 6	31 16 6	
	22 July	370	725	—	—	370	725	—	29 7 8	29 7 8	
	29 July	366	722	—	—	366	722	—	30 3 3	30 3 3	
								—	29 6 3	29 6 3	
EDENDERRY.	15 April	413	872	—	—	413	872	27 19 8	0 4 2	28 3 10	
	22 April	418	808	—	—	418	808	28 17 4	—	28 17 4	
	29 April	431	928	—	—	431	928	28 13 11	—	28 12 11	
	6 May	412	852	—	—	412	852	27 17 2	—	27 17 2	
	13 May	412	852	—	—	412	852	27 17 2	—	27 17 2	
	20 May	414	810	—	—	414	810	26 19 11	—	26 19 11	
	27 May	404	817	—	—	404	817	27 9 5	—	27 9 5	
	3 June	415	836	—	—	415	836	26 17 1	0 3 6	27 0 7	
	10 June	436	883	—	—	436	883	33 15 8	—	33 15 8	
	17 June	428	872	—	—	428	872	33 10 6	—	33 10 6	
	24 June	428	872	—	—	428	872	33 10 6	—	33 10 6	
	1 July	443	929	—	—	443	929	33 4 2	0 9 0	33 13 2	
	8 July	436	896	—	—	436	896	31 18 8	0 5 0	32 3 8	
	15 July	419	839	—	—	419	839	31 19 0	0 8 8	32 7 8	
	22 July	412	833	—	—	412	833	31 12 0	0 2 6	31 14 6	
	29 July	414	831	—	—	414	831	31 16 10	—	31 16 10	
ENNIS.	15 April	4,131	9,524	3,127	9,086	7,258	18,610	4 4 7	513 11 3	517 15 10	
	22 April	3,900	8,968	3,328	9,779	7,228	18,747	4 10 2	496 17 4	501 7 6	
	29 April	3,937	9,095	3,402	9,761	7,339	18,856	3 19 9	514 7 9	518 7 6	
	6 May	3,941	8,773	3,510	10,124	7,451	18,897	4 9 0	531 6 10	535 15 10	
	13 May	3,905	8,725	3,417	9,900	7,322	18,625	6 4 8	525 14 8	531 19 4	
	20 May	3,906	8,841	2,970	9,377	6,876	18,118	4 1 9	498 11 3	502 13 0	
	27 May	3,927	9,081	2,818	8,545	6,745	17,628	6 6 1	483 15 1	490 1 2	
	3 June	3,871	9,002	2,713	8,227	6,584	17,229	7 17 10	470 8 6	478 6 4	
	10 June	3,907	9,068	2,665	8,184	6,572	17,252	8 13 9	468 2 5	476 16 2	
	17 June	3,958	9,187	2,944	8,039	6,902	17,226	9 0 10	468 7 4	477 8 2	
	24 June	4,071	9,585	2,948	7,948	7,019	17,533	9 0 10	475 9 4	484 10 2	
	1 July	3,873	9,323	2,506	7,605	6,379	16,928	8 17 2	461 3 0	470 0 2	
	8 July	4,140	10,051	2,560	7,842	6,700	17,893	9 14 6	454 0 11	463 15 5	
	15 July	4,114	9,979	2,487	7,650	6,601	17,629	9 9 3	440 16 1	450 5 4	
	22 July	4,055	9,827	2,402	7,386	6,457	17,213	8 13 10	433 7 3	442 1 1	
	29 July	3,985	9,566	2,352	6,999	6,337	16,565	9 1 2	406 17 2	415 10 4	
ENNISCORTHY.	15 April	1,054	2,535	524	1,483	1,578	4,018	78 9 1	84 16 1	163 5 2	
	22 April	1,677	3,994	565	1,681	2,242	5,675	85 15 8	77 2 3	162 17 11	
	29 April	1,669	3,737	579	1,857	2,248	5,594	73 18 8	88 13 0	157 11 8	
	6 May	1,677	4,109	608	1,993	2,285	6,107	76 14 1	86 0 1	162 14 2	
	13 May	1,351	3,187	389	1,119	1,740	4,306	59 5 9	63 2 9	122 8 6	
	20 May	1,674	4,083	606	1,943	2,283	6,026	80 16 6	79 0 10	159 17 4	
	27 May	1,445	3,297	368	990	1,813	4,287	73 18 9	50 9 5	124 3 2	
	3 June	1,455	2,906	343	887	7,098	3,798	57 10 0	65 3 4	122 13 4	
	10 June	1,463	2,982	341	878	1,804	3,860	69 7 5	56 3 3	125 10 8	
	17 June	1,469	3,005	340	874	1,809	3,879	67 7 1	58 8 4	125 15 5	
	24 June	1,473	3,025	332	850	1,804	3,875	48 8 6	81 2 1	129 10 7	
	1 July	1,304	2,597	285	736	1,589	3,333	33 7 2	86 15 6	120 2 8	
	8 July	1,306	2,716	284	731	1,590	3,447	17 13 7	95 11 10	118 10 5	
	15 July	1,325	2,765	292	748	1,617	3,513	19 16 10	94 0 6	113 17 4	
	22 July	1,324	2,817	271	456	1,595	3,273	44 16 6	62 17 3	107 13 9	
	29 July	1,263	2,653	286	703	1,549	3,555	20 18 9	74 5 6	95 4 3	
ENNISKILLEN.	15 April	1,923	3,828	193	426	2,116	4,254	96 4 4	—	96 4 4	
	22 April	1,873	3,757	169	367	2,042	4,124	4 6 10	90 12 6	94 19 4	
	29 April	1,873	3,728	163	359	2,041	4,087	—	92 13 7	92 13 7	
	6 May	1,857	3,688	170	370	2,037	4,058	—	91 7 5	91 7 5	
	13 May	1,560	3,129	143	308	1,703	3,437	—	69 3 11	69 3 11	
	20 May	1,599	3,342	156	338	1,855	3,680	—	80 12 1	80 12 1	
	27 May	1,495	3,010	146	323	1,641	3,333	—	90 13 6	90 13 6	
	3 June	1,824	3,685	153	357	1,982	4,042	—	90 7 5	90 7 5	
	10 June	1,848	3,822	170	416	2,013	4,238	—	92 2 3	92 2 3	
	17 June	1,850	3,815	159	389	2,009	4,204	—	93 13 7	93 13 7	
	24 June	1,871	3,878	158	381	2,029	4,254	—	90 13 0	90 13 0	
	1 July	1,839	3,824	173	473	2,012	4,297	—	85 12 10	85 12 10	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
ENNISKILLEN (continued)	8 July	1,828	3,840	181	498	2,009	4,338	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	15 July	1,807	3,763	177	490	1,984	4,253	—	89 18 11	89 18 11	
	22 July	1,789	3,742	177	490	1,966	4,232	—	94 3 6	94 3 6	
	29 July	1,759	3,578	163	474	1,922	4,052	—	85 1 0	85 1 0	
ENNISTYMON	15 April	2,083	4,408	3,606	9,277	5,689	13,685	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
	22 April	2,159	4,639	3,859	9,834	6,058	14,523	—	—	—	
	29 April	2,305	4,926	4,085	10,137	6,390	15,063	—	—	—	
	6 May	2,971	6,919	5,691	13,476	8,662	20,395	7 0 4	444 3 1	451 3 5	Cost not stated.
	13 May	3,428	7,159	6,267	8,531	9,695	15,690	11 0 9	457 16 13	468 16 10	
	20 May	1,815	3,772	4,038	8,902	5,853	12,674	—	—	—	
	27 May	2,979	6,088	5,898	11,051	8,787	17,939	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
	3 June	2,968	7,078	6,047	13,839	9,015	20,917	13 5 0	456 13 9	469 18 9	
	10 June	2,982	6,573	5,597	12,633	8,459	19,206	—	—	—	
	17 June	3,062	7,328	6,403	14,718	9,465	22,046	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
	24 June	3,101	7,362	6,307	14,363	9,528	21,725	—	—	—	
	1 July	3,192	7,406	6,351	14,370	9,543	21,776	16 10 1	474 4 10	490 14 11	
	8 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not rec'd. Cost not stated.
	15 July	2,553	5,696	4,767	11,213	7,320	16,909	—	—	—	
	22 July	3,265	7,686	6,101	13,699	9,396	21,385	17 13 1	471 18 10	489 11 11	
	29 July	3,229	7,678	5,992	13,419	9,221	21,097	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
FERMOY	15 April	4,623	12,153	281	553	4,904	12,708	9 12 10	286 17 10	296 10 8	
	22 April	4,666	12,309	292	558	4,958	12,867	7 12 0	290 17 2	298 9 2	
	29 April	4,709	12,482	283	516	4,997	12,998	6 19 4	292 0 8	299 0 1	
	6 May	3,992	10,584	275	507	4,267	11,091	4 8 2	258 14 9	263 2 11	
	13 May	4,690	12,386	287	502	4,977	12,888	3 12 11	235 16 0	239 8 11	
	20 May	4,611	12,106	289	487	4,900	12,673	3 2 9	231 6 3	234 9 0	
	27 May	3,754	9,935	278	480	4,032	10,423	3 7 2	223 16 8	227 3 10	
	3 June	4,364	11,502	278	512	4,637	12,014	3 12 1	249 9 0	253 1 1	
	10 June	4,472	11,958	308	600	4,780	12,558	2 16 8	269 11 0	272 8 3	
	17 June	4,521	12,112	321	638	4,842	12,750	3 7 4	284 6 0	287 13 5	
	24 June	4,609	12,500	316	614	4,925	13,114	2 19 10	309 4 8	312 4 6	
	1 July	4,697	12,831	307	544	5,004	13,375	3 13 6	309 4 3	312 17 9	
	8 July	4,765	12,982	334	654	5,099	13,646	3 5 1	300 4 9	303 9 10	
	15 July	4,743	12,866	320	590	5,063	13,576	4 18 7	291 19 7	296 18 2	
	22 July	4,788	13,090	317	587	5,055	13,677	3 6 11	289 8 7	292 15 6	
	29 July	4,707	13,036	322	584	5,029	13,620	3 9 7	298 4 0	301 13 7	
GALWAY	15 April	3,303	8,289	7,411	16,294	10,714	24,533	0 10 6	576 2 6	576 13 0	
	22 April	3,482	8,660	7,673	17,429	11,155	26,089	0 7 0	607 15 4	608 2 4	
	29 April	3,581	9,007	7,765	17,405	11,346	26,412	0 6 6	605 11 1	605 17 7	
	6 May	3,774	9,439	7,601	16,469	11,375	25,906	0 0 6	614 3 2	614 3 8	
	13 May	3,823	9,442	7,830	17,301	11,652	26,743	0 0 6	605 0 1	605 0 7	
	20 May	3,920	9,704	7,973	17,523	11,893	27,227	0 1 8	634 0 3	634 1 11	
	27 May	3,962	9,709	7,920	17,201	11,822	26,910	0 0 6	637 10 6	637 11 0	
	3 June	3,997	10,239	8,290	17,985	12,257	28,244	0 1 6	755 6 6	755 8 0	
	10 June	3,980	10,533	8,596	19,050	12,576	29,503	—	815 0 5	815 0 5	
	17 June	4,094	10,837	9,050	20,260	13,144	31,097	—	796 6 3	796 6 3	
	24 June	4,128	10,939	8,921	20,414	13,049	31,353	—	805 14 3	805 14 3	
	1 July	4,178	11,122	9,155	21,069	13,333	32,191	—	822 8 8	822 8 8	
	8 July	4,204	11,095	9,046	20,623	13,250	31,718	—	841 9 6	841 9 6	
	15 July	4,208	11,147	9,060	20,549	13,268	31,696	0 15 0	839 14 5	840 9 5	
	22 July	4,157	11,382	8,715	20,326	12,872	31,708	—	844 2 10	844 2 10	
	29 July	4,198	11,609	8,364	20,057	12,562	31,066	—	940 2 6	940 2 6	
GLENIES	15 April	2,132	3,064	406	1,033	2,628	4,097	—	116 14 3	116 14 3	
	22 April	1,585	3,568	416	1,031	2,001	4,599	114 7 6	—	114 7 6	
	29 April	1,317	2,737	301	775	1,618	3,512	—	90 13 1	90 13 1	
	6 May	1,290	2,670	278	679	1,568	3,349	—	85 1 3	85 1 3	
	13 May	841	1,589	168	369	1,069	1,928	—	48 11 0	48 11 8	
	20 May	1,054	2,102	231	538	1,285	2,640	—	66 5 11	66 5 11	
	27 May	1,306	2,891	319	927	1,625	3,818	—	89 17 10	89 17 10	
	3 June	1,388	3,061	328	923	1,716	3,989	—	94 7 5	94 7 5	
	10 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not received.
	17 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	24 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not received.
	8 July	1,559	3,646	1,406	2,883	2,965	6,528	—	223 18 1	223 18 1	
	15 July	2,031	4,082	1,886	3,331	3,917	7,413	—	245 0 10	245 0 10	
	22 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not received.
	29 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
GOREY	15 April	993	2,105	43	85	1,036	2,190	66 8 2	2 6 5	68 9 7	
	22 April	985	2,083	32	82	1,017	2,145	66 9 9	1 9 0	67 18 9	
	29 April	995	2,125	41	76	1,036	2,201	66 16 3	2 7 4	69 3 7	
	6 May	1,023	2,224	48	96	1,071	2,320	67 8 11	3 6 0	70 14 11	
	13 May	1,062	2,290	44	86	1,106	2,376	69 12 7	2 17 5	72 10 0	
	20 May	1,082	2,333	55	100	1,137	2,433	69 19 11	3 19 9	73 19 8	
	27 May	1,072	2,286	48	95	1,120	2,331	69 17 11	3 16 11	73 14 7	
	3 June	1,127	2,472	50	96	1,177	2,568	72 1 3	5 9 0	77 10 3	
	10 June	1,186	2,607	82	247	1,268	2,914	73 5 4	16 18 1	90 3 5	
	17 June	1,168	2,470	64	141	1,232	2,611	76 13 3	12 13 11	89 7 2	
	24 June	1,194	2,614	78	179	1,373	2,793	75 16 9	12 8 10	15 15 7	
	1 July	1,216	2,682	77	174	1,393	2,856	78 4 11	12 1 2	90 6 1	
	8 July	1,189	2,567	70	175	1,259	2,742	76 7 4	9 14 4	86 1 8	
	15 July	1,184	2,549	71	174	1,255	2,723	74 16 10	9 2 3	83 19 1	
	22 July	1,174	2,458	68	172	1,242	2,630	74 2 7	9 7 3	83 9 10	
	29 July	1,157	2,461	63	184	1,220	2,595	73 8 5	8 11 9	82 0 2	
GORT	15 April	1,043	2,641	4,319	8,087	5,362	10,728	13 4 6	333 1 4	346 5 10	
	22 April	1,055	2,716	4,345	8,148	5,400	10,864	16 0 2	280 19 11	297 0 1	
	29 April	1,062	2,724	4,289	8,187	5,351	10,911	16 9 10	266 1 5	282 11 3	
	6 May	1,041	2,648	4,163	7,959	5,204	10,607	12 18 7	262 2 6	275 1 1	
	13 May	1,032	2,689	4,074	7,709	5,106	10,398	9 16 6	250 4 9	260 1 3	
	20 May	1,011	2,552	3,487	6,962	4,498	9,514	6 7 0	231 3 6	237 10 6	
	27 May	968	2,409	3,329	6,040	4,297	8,449	5 16 10	219 4 1	225 0 11	

Return of Persons receiving Out-Door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
GORT (continued).	3 June	937	2,424	3,214	5,984	4,151	8,408	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	10 June	955	2,471	3,128	6,020	4,083	8,491	4 2 11	221 15 11	225 18 10	
	17 June	980	2,598	3,082	5,941	4,062	8,539	5 0 1	222 14 11	227 14 21	
	24 June	1,004	2,738	3,332	6,183	4,336	8,921	4 5 0	228 12 21	232 17 21	
	1 July	1,019	2,764	3,311	6,201	4,330	8,965	3 7 6	235 19 11	239 7 5	
	8 July	1,034	2,709	3,370	6,305	4,404	9,014	2 7 6	236 0 31	238 7 91	
	15 July	1,054	2,730	3,352	6,233	4,406	8,963	1 17 6	238 17 41	240 14 101	
	22 July	980	2,556	3,199	5,940	4,179	8,496	0 19 0	240 15 21	241 14 21	
	29 July	941	2,394	2,953	5,671	3,893	8,065	0 12 0	227 17 01	258 9 01	
								0 9 0	214 1 111	214 10 111	
GORTIN	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
GRANARD	15 April	1,730	3,777	247	484	1,977	4,261	0 15 0	155 10 5	156 5 5	
	22 April	2,163	5,144	399	1,186	2,562	6,330	0 14 6	168 0 01	168 14 61	
	29 April	2,078	4,594	587	1,643	2,645	6,237	0 12 6	162 13 71	163 6 11	
	6 May	2,012	4,497	684	2,025	2,696	6,522	0 8 0	166 13 71	167 1 71	
	13 May	2,089	4,594	743	2,177	2,832	6,771	0 13 0	171 5 01	171 18 01	
	20 May	2,125	4,703	878	2,436	2,998	7,139	0 13 0	182 17 21	183 10 21	
	27 May	2,125	4,725	862	2,414	2,987	7,139	0 8 0	187 9 21	187 17 21	
	3 June	2,041	4,642	1,029	2,800	3,070	7,442	0 7 0	189 7 11	189 14 11	
	10 June	2,044	4,562	1,076	2,812	3,120	7,374	0 8 6	191 17 01	192 5 61	
	17 June	2,042	4,558	1,111	2,889	3,153	7,447	0 15 8	191 19 11	192 14 91	
	24 June	2,041	4,571	1,070	2,849	3,114	7,420	0 15 10	190 18 8	191 14 6	
	1 July	2,015	4,556	1,042	2,861	3,057	7,417	0 12 10	189 1 41	189 14 21	
	8 July	2,005	4,428	1,070	2,912	3,075	7,340	0 12 0	187 9 31	188 1 31	
	15 July	1,965	4,309	936	2,499	2,901	6,808	0 7 0	175 13 81	176 0 81	
	22 July	1,849	3,895	282	564	2,131	4,449	0 13 6	121 13 61	122 9 01	
	29 July	1,824	3,876	519	1,036	2,343	4,912	0 12 0	184 17 51	185 9 51	
INISHOWEN	15 April	290	498	—	—	290	498	0 8 1	10 19 2	11 7 3	
	22 April	289	550	—	—	289	550	0 8 4	12 1 4	12 9 8	
	29 April	308	602	—	—	308	602	0 2 6	13 10 6	13 13 0	
	6 May	333	656	—	—	333	656	0 6 9	14 7 2	14 13 11	
	13 May	361	731	—	—	361	731	0 3 9	15 17 7	16 1 4	
	20 May	387	734	—	—	387	734	0 2 6	17 10 2	17 13 8	
	27 May	356	696	—	—	356	696	0 1 6	15 2 10	15 4 4	
	3 June	328	618	—	—	328	618	0 1 6	13 12 1	13 13 7	
	10 June	348	633	—	—	348	633	0 3 1	13 19 0	14 2 1	
	17 June	306	532	—	—	306	532	0 1 0	11 14 5	11 15 5	
	24 June	320	597	—	—	320	597	—	12 12 0	12 12 0	
	1 July	314	547	—	—	314	547	0 2 6	12 5 4	12 7 10	
	8 July	369	711	—	—	369	711	0 3 4	15 11 7	15 14 11	
	15 July	337	591	—	—	337	591	0 0 6	13 5 11	13 6 5	
	22 July	347	616	—	—	347	616	—	13 17 11	13 17 11	
	29 July	363	649	—	—	363	649	0 1 0	14 11 9	14 12 9	
KANTURK	15 April	4,377	11,346	1,261	3,644	5,638	14,990	—	260 2 3	260 2 3	
	22 April	3,748	9,843	1,132	3,398	4,880	13,231	—	230 12 111	230 12 111	
	29 April	3,564	9,474	1,139	3,311	4,703	12,785	—	219 13 0	219 13 0	
	6 May	3,504	9,685	1,194	3,408	4,758	13,088	—	217 10 01	217 10 01	
	13 May	3,498	9,530	1,141	3,329	4,639	12,859	—	220 9 61	220 9 61	
	20 May	3,379	9,185	1,122	3,283	4,501	12,468	—	213 18 2	213 18 2	
	27 May	3,417	9,493	1,164	3,579	4,581	12,872	—	218 6 101	218 6 101	
	3 June	3,438	9,424	1,143	3,440	4,581	12,864	—	226 10 51	226 10 51	
	10 June	3,453	9,588	1,249	3,760	4,702	13,148	—	269 19 7	269 19 7	
	17 June	3,447	9,259	1,180	3,496	4,577	12,755	—	274 7 61	274 7 61	
	24 June	3,444	9,228	1,152	3,546	4,596	12,774	—	277 16 31	277 16 31	
	1 July	3,382	9,219	1,184	3,609	4,566	12,828	—	281 10 41	281 10 41	
	8 July	3,357	9,167	1,154	3,571	4,511	12,738	—	277 19 61	277 19 61	
	15 July	3,228	8,571	1,933	4,547	5,160	13,118	—	275 19 31	275 19 31	
	22 July	3,197	8,499	1,907	4,448	5,104	12,947	—	281 17 5	281 17 5	
	29 July	3,110	8,963	1,089	3,489	4,199	12,452	—	273 5 41	273 5 41	
KELLS	15 April	721	1,512	8	16	729	1,528	0 8 0	50 2 31	50 10 31	
	22 April	718	1,531	16	26	734	1,557	0 5 10	48 4 91	48 10 71	
	29 April	735	1,531	17	27	752	1,558	0 7 8	46 6 01	46 13 81	
	6 May	729	1,485	17	31	746	1,516	0 9 0	41 19 51	42 8 51	
	13 May	711	1,482	16	25	727	1,507	0 17 10	36 11 51	37 9 31	
	20 May	743	1,544	16	26	759	1,570	0 7 6	35 18 11	36 4 51	
	27 May	689	1,414	15	25	704	1,439	0 0 2	34 18 51	34 18 71	
	3 June	687	1,414	17	27	704	1,441	—	34 13 31	34 13 31	
	10 June	689	1,397	20	36	709	1,433	0 7 0	34 3 31	34 10 31	
	17 June	690	1,392	16	26	706	1,418	0 4 0	34 2 9	34 6 9	
	24 June	708	1,452	22	44	730	1,496	0 6 0	34 16 21	35 2 21	
	1 July	694	1,429	22	44	716	1,473	0 1 6	34 14 51	34 15 111	
	8 July	699	1,402	23	48	722	1,450	0 6 6	35 5 41	35 11 101	
	15 July	702	1,449	23	49	725	1,498	0 5 6	35 7 101	35 13 41	
	22 July	684	1,406	35	78	719	1,484	0 5 6	35 2 101	35 8 41	
	29 July	686	1,407	34	77	720	1,484	0 3 0	35 2 2	35 5 2	
KENMARE	15 April	3,166	8,644	293	318	3,459	3,962	5 0 0	133 17 11	133 17 11	
	22 April	3,145	3,767	296	341	3,441	4,108	4 17 0	134 2 71	138 19 71	
	29 April	3,151	3,774	386	474	3,537	4,248	3 14 2	136 4 4	139 18 6	
	6 May	3,181	3,774	478	660	3,659	4,434	2 16 3	149 8 5	152 5 1	
	13 May	3,259	3,943	556	644	3,815	4,587	2 8 6	161 7 9	163 16 3	
	20 May	3,321	3,893	637	702	3,958	4,595	4 9 6	154 6 7	158 16 1	
	27 May	3,321	3,893	693	782	4,014	4,675	4 6 6	154 8 4	158 14 10	
	3 June	4,181	5,701	596	951	4,777	6,652	4 5 0	171 4 9	175 9 9	
	10 June	4,225	5,416	1,045	1,340	5,370	6,756	4 5 91	188 16 21	193 2 0	
	17 June	4,301	5,629	1,090	1,425	5,391	7,054	2 9 0	190 12 0	193 1 0	
	24 June	4,386	5,754	1,131	1,546	5,517	7,300	2 16 0	179 6 51	182 2 51	
	1 July	4,386	5,744	1,131	1,546	5,517	7,290	3 4 1	191 17 41	195 1 51	
	8 July	4,386	5,744	1,048	1,409	5,434	7,153	2 18 6	182 6 10	185 5 4	
	15 July	4,386	5,745	1,108	1,409	5,494	7,154	2 17 3	178 18 7	181 11 3	
	22 July	4,568	5,752	1,133	1,420	5,701	7,172	6 1 7	178 8 1	184 9 8	
	29 July	4,334	5,604	993	1,244	5,927	6,848	3 10 3	169 6 71	162 16 101	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
KILKEEL . . .	15 April	106	203	—	—	106	203	£ 0 2 6	4 1 1½	4 3 7½	
	22 April	107	207	—	—	107	207	0 2 6	3 15 1	3 17 7	
	29 April	98	166	—	—	93	166	0 2 6	3 9 5½	3 11 11½	
	6 May	91	162	—	—	91	162	0 2 6	3 8 10½	3 11 4½	
	13 May	95	164	—	—	95	164	0 2 6	3 9 11½	3 12 5½	
	20 May	93	164	—	—	93	164	0 2 6	3 9 2½	3 11 8½	
	27 May	94	163	—	—	94	162	0 2 3	3 8 8	3 11 4	
	3 June	98	187	—	—	98	187	—	3 15 3½	3 15 3½	
	10 June	97	177	—	—	97	177	0 0 4	3 12 8½	3 13 0½	
	17 June	92	165	—	—	92	165	0 1 1½	3 9 3	3 10 3	
	24 June	93	161	—	—	93	161	0 0 1½	3 9 7½	3 9 9½	
	1 July	98	174	—	—	98	174	0 3 10	3 14 9½	3 18 7½	
	8 July	94	170	—	—	94	170	—	3 14 0	3 14 0	
	15 July	92	165	—	—	92	165	0 2 6	3 12 5½	3 14 11½	
	22 July	93	170	—	—	93	170	0 0 2	3 12 8	3 13 10	
	29 July	92	167	—	—	92	167	0 0 6	3 12 0	3 12 6	
KILKENNY . . .	15 April	3,349	7,135	198	295	3,547	7,430	207 6 0	9 8 6½	216 14 6½	
	22 April	3,310	7,082	142	237	3,452	7,319	202 19 8	15 4 0	218 3 8	
	29 April	3,273	7,041	142	229	3,415	7,270	196 8 5½	15 12 8½	212 1 1½	
	6 May	3,215	6,923	85	68	3,250	6,991	189 14 1½	12 11 4	202 5 5½	
	13 May	3,143	6,704	37	77	3,180	6,781	184 2 8	13 9 6½	197 12 2½	
	20 May	3,100	6,603	35	74	3,135	6,677	175 9 7½	17 4 7	192 14 2½	
	27 May	3,105	6,456	36	78	3,141	6,534	171 19 3	21 12 9½	193 12 0½	
	3 June	3,088	6,439	30	47	3,118	6,486	170 7 2½	25 1 4½	195 8 7	
	10 June	3,041	6,347	34	45	3,075	6,392	168 3 7	22 0 2½	190 3 9½	
	17 June	3,027	6,327	31	39	3,058	6,366	167 12 1	21 14 7½	189 6 8½	
	24 June	3,054	6,392	31	39	3,085	6,431	169 11 9	21 13 4	191 5 1	
	1 July	3,116	6,412	32	40	3,148	6,452	168 18 9	23 16 7½	192 15 4½	
	8 July	3,068	6,379	32	39	3,100	6,410	167 6 4	23 17 11½	191 4 3½	
	15 July	3,069	6,418	31	40	3,100	6,458	168 1 7	24 18 5½	192 15 0½	
	22 July	3,056	6,371	31	45	3,087	6,416	168 7 3	24 6 8½	192 13 11½	
	29 July	3,064	6,390	27	33	3,091	6,423	168 10 0½	25 13 5½	194 3 6	
KILLARNEY . . .	15 April	4,017	11,423	423	1,319	4,440	12,742	—	333 5 5½	339 5 5½	
	22 April	3,330	8,501	343	1,119	3,673	9,620	—	244 12 4½	244 12 4½	
	29 April	3,429	8,758	358	1,146	3,787	9,904	—	259 7 0	259 7 0	
	6 May	3,482	8,988	419	1,420	3,901	10,408	—	268 14 9	268 14 9	
	13 May	3,513	9,085	376	1,152	3,889	10,237	—	283 2 9	283 2 9	
	20 May	3,572	9,341	364	1,088	3,936	10,429	—	279 16 7½	279 16 7½	
	27 May	3,615	9,552	382	1,158	3,997	10,710	—	287 14 2½	287 14 2½	
	3 June	3,649	9,440	361	993	4,010	10,433	—	316 14 10½	316 14 10½	
	10 June	3,384	8,387	344	972	3,724	9,359	—	320 9 9½	320 9 9½	
	17 June	3,358	8,092	335	912	3,693	9,004	—	292 9 8½	292 9 8½	
	24 June	3,399	8,143	334	892	3,733	9,035	—	274 10 6½	274 10 6½	
	1 July	3,478	8,404	346	931	3,924	9,335	—	284 14 7½	284 14 7½	
	8 July	3,508	8,499	355	174	3,863	9,478	—	278 14 4	278 14 4	
	15 July	3,420	8,235	348	964	3,769	9,199	—	276 6 11½	276 6 11½	
	22 July	3,468	7,917	328	912	3,796	8,829	—	266 9 5½	266 9 5½	
	29 July	3,435	8,072	353	948	3,788	9,020	—	274 10 6½	274 10 6½	
KILMALLOCK . . .	15 April	5,680	13,984	598	1,810	6,278	15,294	0 4 7	319 9 4½	319 13 11½	
	22 April	5,826	14,515	690	1,667	6,516	16,182	0 7 7	357 17 3	358 4 10	
	29 April	5,876	14,647	691	1,688	6,567	16,335	0 8 0	370 2 7	370 10 7	
	6 May	6,074	14,724	700	1,519	6,774	16,243	0 6 9	370 16 2½	371 2 11½	
	13 May	6,084	14,221	669	1,490	6,753	15,711	0 14 11	380 2 1½	380 17 0½	
	20 May	6,026	14,616	794	1,756	6,820	16,372	0 8 3	384 18 5½	385 1 8½	
	27 May	5,880	14,226	791	1,822	6,671	16,048	0 11 11	396 16 1	397 7 0	
	3 June	6,006	14,064	797	1,852	6,803	15,916	1 9 9	407 19 10½	409 9 7½	
	10 June	5,801	13,953	769	1,717	6,570	15,670	3 6 0	389 13 7½	392 19 7½	
	17 June	5,605	13,383	750	1,725	6,355	15,108	0 9 3	387 9 5	387 13 8	
	24 June	5,598	13,711	746	1,752	6,344	15,463	0 9 8	394 5 10	394 15 1	
	1 July	5,523	14,304	769	1,784	6,291	16,038	0 9 3	391 8 11½	391 18 2½	
	8 July	5,496	14,217	733	1,637	6,229	15,854	1 7 2	388 6 7	389 13 9	
	15 July	5,377	14,066	720	1,577	6,097	15,643	0 15 0	337 13 11	338 8 11	
	22 July	5,235	13,712	668	1,448	5,903	15,160	1 17 10	317 14 9½	318 12 7½	
	29 July	4,920	12,723	612	1,303	5,532	14,026	1 2 8	293 9 4½	294 12 0½	
KILRUSH . . .	15 April	2,099	5,021	404	952	2,503	5,973	7 3 3	175 7 6½	182 10 9½	
	22 April	5,348	15,981	—	—	5,348	1,6981	—	345 10 0	345 10 0	
	29 April	6,021	17,614	—	—	6,021	1,7814	—	418 5 5½	418 5 5½	
	6 May	6,136	18,606	—	—	6,136	18,606	—	489 11 10	489 11 10	
	13 May	3,831	10,461	1,517	6,107	5,348	16,568	—	423 1 3½	423 1 3½	
	20 May	4,163	11,223	1,713	6,501	5,876	17,804	—	398 19 9	398 19 9	
	27 May	4,241	8,972	1,710	5,732	5,951	14,704	—	388 4 3½	388 4 3½	
	3 June	4,265	9,792	1,762	5,664	6,027	15,456	—	430 12 9	430 12 9	
	10 June	4,305	11,522	1,807	6,429	6,112	17,951	—	409 16 8½	409 16 8½	
	17 June	4,394	12,098	1,957	7,074	6,351	19,172	—	446 10 9½	446 10 9½	
	24 June	3,994	10,915	1,642	6,082	5,636	16,997	—	—	—	
	1 July	4,441	12,394	1,919	6,675	6,360	19,069	—	423 3 8½	422 3 8½	Cost not stated.
	8 July	4,714	13,314	1,938	7,487	6,652	20,801	—	430 13 4½	430 13 4½	
	15 July	4,825	11,532	1,945	6,796	6,770	18,268	—	484 11 5½	484 11 5½	
	22 July	4,843	12,277	1,991	7,279	6,834	19,556	—	481 10 6	481 10 6	
	29 July	4,766	12,290	1,827	7,073	6,598	19,363	—	465 19 6½	465 19 6½	
KINSALE . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
LARNE . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
LETTERKENNY . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
LIMERICK . . .	15 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not recd.
	22 April	4,109	8,526	—	—	4,109	8,526	312 5 10	—	312 5 10	
	29 April	4,166	8,702	—	—	4,166	8,702	315 19 5	—	315 19 5	
	6 May	4,241	8,801	—	—	4,241	8,801	319 10 1	—	319 10 1	
	13 May	3,904	8,438	—	—	3,904	8,438	304 8 3	—	304 8 3	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
LIMERICK (continued)	20 May	3,881	8,425	—	—	3,881	8,425	£ s. d. 306 7 9	—	£ s. d. 306 7 9	No out-door relief.
	27 May	3,865	8,542	—	—	3,865	8,542	301 12 7	—	301 12 7	
	3 June	3,850	8,499	—	—	3,850	8,499	302 3 7	—	302 3 7	
	10 June	3,825	8,467	—	—	3,825	8,467	298 18 4	—	298 18 4	
	17 June	3,787	8,533	—	—	3,787	8,533	301 5 11	—	301 5 11	
	24 June	3,913	8,858	—	—	3,913	8,858	308 5 4	—	308 5 4	
	1 July	4,029	9,174	—	—	4,029	9,174	321 7 2	—	321 7 2	
	8 July	4,134	9,516	—	—	4,134	9,516	331 16 0	—	331 16 0	
	15 July	4,336	9,781	—	—	4,336	9,781	339 10 6	—	339 10 6	
	22 July	4,256	9,976	—	—	4,256	9,976	344 10 3	—	344 10 3	
	29 July	4,274	10,000	—	—	4,274	10,000	343 15 6	—	343 15 6	
LISBURN	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
LISMORE	15 April	724	1,694	—	—	724	1,694	46 5 9	—	46 5 9	
	22 April	769	1,924	—	—	769	1,924	49 1 9	—	49 1 9	
	29 April	811	1,906	—	—	811	1,986	51 18 2	—	51 18 2	
	6 May	845	2,250	—	—	845	2,350	56 19 5	—	56 19 5	
	13 May	987	2,462	—	—	987	2,452	62 17 1½	—	62 17 1½	
	20 May	1,045	2,575	—	—	1,045	2,575	67 1 5	—	67 1 5	
	27 May	1,140	2,865	—	—	1,140	2,865	71 17 1	—	71 17 1	
	3 June	1,182	3,096	—	—	1,182	3,096	73 10 8	—	73 10 8	
	10 June	1,195	2,929	—	—	1,195	2,929	—	73 7 2	73 7 2	
	17 June	1,213	2,915	—	—	1,213	2,915	71 18 7	—	71 18 7	
	24 June	1,174	2,746	—	—	1,174	2,746	69 10 10	—	69 10 10	
	1 July	1,140	2,633	—	—	1,140	2,633	66 0 4½	—	66 0 4½	
LISNASKEL	8 July	1,054	2,389	—	—	1,054	2,389	61 18 11½	—	61 18 11½	No out-door relief.
	15 July	932	2,115	—	—	932	2,115	38 17 0	15 5 10½	54 2 10½	
	22 July	840	1,948	—	—	840	1,948	38 11 4	8 14 11	47 6 3	
	29 July	746	1,779	—	—	746	1,779	36 19 5	8 14 5½	45 13 10½	
LISNASKEL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
LISTOWE	15 April	3,151	7,349	1,881	5,936	5,032	13,285	—	335 8 5½	335 8 5½	
	22 April	3,186	7,522	1,826	5,733	5,012	13,255	—	352 10 4½	352 10 4½	
	29 April	3,204	7,242	1,361	3,874	4,565	11,116	—	289 14 10	289 14 10	
	6 May	3,255	7,674	1,262	3,580	4,517	11,254	—	290 10 9	290 10 9	
	13 May	3,300	7,832	1,240	3,498	4,540	11,330	—	294 8 10	294 8 10	
	20 May	3,337	7,957	1,242	3,511	4,579	11,468	0 5 8	329 17 10½	330 3 6½	
	27 May	3,474	8,153	1,248	3,551	4,722	12,004	0 1 8	354 17 5½	354 19 1½	
	3 June	3,494	8,097	2,131	7,192	5,625	15,289	0 4 0	467 6 9	467 10 9	
	10 June	3,679	8,478	3,259	10,498	6,938	18,971	—	559 14 3½	559 14 3½	
	17 June	3,753	8,632	3,692	11,103	7,445	19,735	—	606 3 8½	606 3 8½	
	24 June	3,791	8,747	4,142	12,118	7,933	20,865	0 2 0	633 19 7	634 1 7	
	1 July	3,823	9,059	4,180	12,298	8,003	21,357	—	604 14 0	604 14 0	
LONDONDERRY	8 July	3,788	8,992	4,243	12,505	8,031	21,497	0 2 0	307 13 3½	307 15 3½	Cost not stated. Returns not recd.
	15 July	3,830	9,045	4,157	12,624	7,907	21,669	—	555 7 4½	555 7 4½	
	22 July	3,913	9,219	4,073	12,545	7,986	21,764	0 2 6	571 18 1½	572 0 7½	
	29 July	3,667	8,602	3,862	11,944	7,549	20,546	—	556 8 1	556 8 1	
	15 April	827	1,747	—	—	827	1,747	—	42 16 5	42 16 5	
	22 April	815	1,773	—	—	815	1,773	—	42 1 0	42 1 0	
	29 April	785	1,723	—	—	785	1,723	—	39 19 8	39 19 8	
	6 May	742	1,564	—	—	742	1,564	—	37 16 8	37 16 8	
	13 May	746	1,595	—	—	746	1,595	—	38 7 7	38 7 7	
	20 May	740	1,521	—	—	740	1,521	—	27 18 2	27 18 2	
	27 May	750	1,536	—	—	750	1,526	—	27 4 1	27 4 1	
	3 June	754	1,525	—	—	754	1,525	—	27 6 2	27 6 2	
LONGFORD	10 June	770	1,545	—	—	770	1,555	—	28 9 5	28 9 5	Returns not recd. Cost not stated.
	17 June	776	1,585	—	—	776	1,585	—	29 0 8	29 0 8	
	24 June	795	1,665	—	—	795	1,665	—	29 16 3	29 16 3	
	1 July	805	1,674	—	—	805	1,674	—	30 2 10	30 2 10	
	8 July	814	1,652	—	—	814	1,652	—	30 14 9	30 14 9	
	15 July	844	1,692	—	—	844	1,692	—	30 10 3	30 10 3	
	22 July	827	1,626	—	—	827	1,626	—	29 11 0	29 11 0	
	29 July	781	1,525	—	—	781	1,525	—	28 9 9	28 9 9	
	15 April	2,029	5,638	—	—	2,029	5,638	—	—	—	
	22 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	29 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	6 May	3,315	6,836	—	—	3,315	6,836	—	124 14 1½	124 14 1½	
LOUGHREA	13 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not recd. Cost not stated.
	20 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	27 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	3 June	3,950	8,038	406	728	4,364	9,566	0 15 7½	168 19 8	169 15 3½	
	10 June	4,423	12,807	700	936	4,929	13,743	0 18 7	185 6 9	186 5 4	
	17 June	4,577	13,114	631	1,122	5,208	14,236	1 8 3	104 0 2½	195 8 5½	
	24 June	4,293	9,679	854	1,520	5,147	11,199	2 7 10½	208 3 1½	205 11 ½	
	1 July	4,394	9,857	966	1,698	5,360	11,555	1 3 3½	246 5 3½	247 8 7	
	8 July	4,274	9,554	975	1,706	5,249	11,280	1 3 3½	259 12 0½	260 15 4	
	15 July	4,280	9,692	1,001	1,772	5,291	11,374	1 8 5	262 8 1½	263 16 6½	
	22 July	4,248	9,437	1,019	1,763	5,261	11,200	1 8 11	256 10 5½	267 19 4½	
	29 July	4,304	9,181	1,011	1,719	5,315	10,900	1 5 5	245 18 9	247 4 2	
LOUGHREA	15 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not recd. Cost not stated.
	22 April	2,480	5,990	496	1,304	2,976	7,294	—	—	—	
	29 April	1,883	4,574	450	1,123	2,933	5,697	—	—	—	
	6 May	2,376	4,700	395	839	2,771	5,529	3 2 9	155 9 1	158 11 10	
	13 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	20 May	2,740	5,130	450	943	3,190	6,073	—	—	—	
	27 May	2,128	4,950	432	1,106	2,560	6,056	8 4 0½	160 9 11	177 13 2	
	3 June	2,483	5,823	497	1,233	2,980	7,056	7 12 9	185 1 11½	192 14 8½	
	10 June	2,552	5,928	488	1,167	3,040	7,095	10 11 5	186 17 0½	197 8 5½	
	17 June	2,631	6,126	525	1,292	3,156	7,418	11 9 7	192 17 6	204 7 1	
	24 June	2,686	6,285	552	1,270	3,238	7,555	11 17 2	196 4 0½	208 1 2½	
	1 July	2,741	6,578	592	1,480	3,333	8,058	11 6 6½	204 17 0½	216 8 7½	
	8 July	2,809	6,745	610	1,534	3,419	8,279	10 5 8½	108 10 8	218 16 5½	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
LOUGHREA (continued.)	15 July	2,897	6,932	657	1,625	3,554	8,557	£ s. d. 9 17 11	£ s. d. 218 6 53	£ s. d. 238 4 43	
	22 July	2,924	6,983	665	1,615	3,589	8,598	8 16 5	223 8 5	232 4 10	
	29 July	2,944	7,027	630	1,658	3,624	8,685	9 8 8	222 5 11	231 14 7	
LOWTHERSTOWN.	15 April	897	2,314	—	—	897	2,314	0 2 6	55 18 0	56 0 6	
	22 April	919	1,965	42	95	961	2,060	—	52 9 1	52 9 1	
	29 April	821	1,767	—	—	821	1,767	—	46 7 9	46 7 9	
	6 May	696	1,365	72	134	768	1,499	—	40 13 73	40 13 73	
	13 May	689	1,235	71	136	760	1,371	0 1 6	36 14 53	36 15 113	
	20 May	630	1,136	69	110	737	1,246	—	32 6 1	32 6 1	
	27 May	714	1,193	66	96	780	1,289	—	32 7 5	32 7 5	
	3 June	706	1,163	66	97	772	1,260	—	31 0 0	31 0 0	
	10 June	690	1,129	67	110	757	1,239	—	30 13 2	30 13 2	
	17 June	634	1,090	64	101	748	1,191	—	31 12 11	31 12 11	
	24 June	677	1,073	62	98	739	1,171	—	30 7 6	30 7 6	
	1 July	662	1,050	61	97	723	1,147	—	29 12 4	29 12 4	
	8 July	644	1,016	61	96	705	1,114	—	28 9 10	28 9 10	
	15 July	633	991	58	93	69	1,044	—	27 15 7	27 15 7	
	22 July	627	968	58	91	685	1,059	—	26 13 7	26 13 7	
	29 July	604	911	56	64	660	995	—	25 5 8	25 5 8	
LURGAN	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
MACROOM	15 April	1,763	3,691	1,152	2,680	2,915	6,380	89 7 10	69 15 03	150 2 103	
	22 April	1,761	3,605	1,002	2,377	2,763	5,982	87 19 54	57 7 101	145 7 31	
	29 April	1,718	3,611	1,013	2,341	2,731	5,952	87 2 3	53 7 8	140 9 11	
	6 May	1,728	3,540	987	2,333	2,715	5,873	80 3 34	57 15 53	137 18 09	
	13 May	1,754	3,533	971	2,272	2,725	5,805	72 2 7	56 3 63	128 6 13	
	20 May	1,704	3,511	955	2,272	2,659	5,763	81 2 11	53 16 103	134 19 93	
	27 May	1,672	3,454	975	2,278	2,647	5,732	79 7 6	54 9 43	133 16 103	
	3 June	1,653	3,415	1,007	2,368	2,660	5,783	76 2 7	58 2 53	134 5 03	
	10 June	1,631	3,316	1,050	2,522	2,681	5,836	75 0 3	59 2 63	134 10 23	
	17 June	1,586	3,256	1,044	2,501	2,630	5,757	74 10 3	59 9 4	133 19 7	
	24 June	1,495	3,061	970	2,500	2,465	5,561	70 2 9	59 5 43	129 8 12	
	1 July	1,504	3,061	972	2,608	2,476	5,669	70 7 6	70 6 83	140 14 23	
	8 July	1,470	3,031	1,061	2,651	2,531	5,682	69 3 6	80 5 113	149 9 53	
	15 July	1,464	2,995	1,076	2,714	2,540	5,709	67 17 6	81 19 83	149 17 23	
	22 July	1,410	2,854	1,016	2,621	2,426	5,475	65 13 0	77 16 0	143 9 0	
	29 July	1,204	2,449	931	2,464	2,135	4,013	56 2 6	74 9 0	130 11 6	
MAGHERAFELT	15 April	264	733	15	72	279	805	—	11 4 23	11 4 23	
	22 April	273	725	8	33	281	758	—	11 11 34	11 11 34	
	29 April	274	739	4	18	278	757	—	11 13 73	11 13 73	
	6 May	281	747	10	46	291	793	—	12 3 83	12 3 33	
	13 May	296	790	12	53	308	843	—	13 0 6	13 0 6	
	20 May	306	835	8	35	314	870	—	13 12 83	13 12 83	
	27 May	320	841	13	55	333	896	—	14 4 0	14 4 0	
	3 June	327	879	15	64	342	943	—	14 11 11	14 11 11	
	10 June	331	976	13	61	344	1,037	—	14 12 10	14 12 10	
	17 June	301	909	10	46	311	955	—	13 1 62	13 1 62	
	24 June	294	852	5	22	299	874	—	12 8 73	12 8 73	
	1 July	281	797	5	22	286	819	—	12 2 03	12 2 03	
	8 July	262	767	7	32	269	799	—	11 18 4	11 18 4	
	15 July	279	761	7	32	286	793	—	11 17 2	11 17 2	
	22 July	236	611	2	7	238	618	—	9 6 33	9 6 33	
	29 July	229	585	5	23	234	600	—	9 3 1	9 3 1	
MALLOW	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
MANORHAMILTON.	15 April	552	1,403	—	—	552	1,403	0 1 10	25 13 0	25 14 10	
	22 April	518	1,339	—	—	518	1,339	0 1 10	25 3 53	25 5 33	
	29 April	524	1,390	—	—	524	1,390	—	24 8 13	24 8 13	
	6 May	499	1,319	—	—	499	1,319	—	25 5 8	25 5 8	
	13 May	434	1,228	—	—	434	1,228	—	25 3 53	25 3 53	
	20 May	462	1,086	51	112	513	1,198	—	25 13 2	25 13 2	
	27 May	550	1,399	—	—	550	1,399	—	26 9 13	26 9 13	
	3 June	609	1,477	—	—	609	1,477	—	30 16 6	30 16 6	
	10 June	584	1,602	—	—	584	1,602	—	28 0 1	28 0 1	
	17 June	488	1,323	50	135	538	1,458	—	25 2 13	25 2 13	
	24 June	407	1,307	50	135	537	1,442	—	25 0 7	25 0 7	
	1 July	504	1,366	56	144	560	1,510	—	25 16 6	25 16 6	
	8 July	499	1,315	54	117	553	1,432	—	25 19 63	25 19 63	
	15 July	512	1,348	54	116	566	1,464	—	26 10 93	26 10 93	
	22 July	513	1,349	56	118	569	1,467	—	26 11 83	26 11 83	
	29 July	510	1,321	53	113	563	1,334	—	25 9 13	25 9 13	
MIDLETON	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
MILFORD	15 April	839	1,741	46	127	885	1,868	—	25 6 9	25 6 9	
	22 April	855	1,705	68	201	923	1,906	—	25 18 103	25 18 103	
	29 April	863	1,726	66	197	929	1,923	—	24 3 1	24 3 1	
	6 May	775	1,564	43	149	818	1,704	—	24 0 13	24 0 13	
	13 May	673	1,623	44	137	717	1,760	—	20 11 10	20 11 10	
	20 May	802	1,669	33	111	835	1,780	—	20 15 103	20 15 103	
	27 May	788	1,616	40	137	828	1,753	—	20 16 03	20 16 03	
	3 June	746	1,516	44	134	790	1,650	—	20 0 63	20 0 63	
	10 June	697	1,426	25	87	722	1,513	0 2 8	18 1 1	18 3 9	
	17 June	569	1,369	14	41	583	1,410	0 7 6	17 8 10	17 16 4	
	24 June	674	1,406	—	—	674	1,406	0 6 8	18 0 9	18 7 5	
	1 July	660	1,342	9	28	669	1,370	0 5 4	16 13 7	17 5 11	
	8 July	661	1,312	9	28	670	1,340	0 5 4	16 14 93	17 0 13	
	15 July	543	1,123	8	23	551	1,146	—	13 5 11	13 5 11	
	22 July	656	1,327	8	23	664	1,350	0 3 6	16 10 13	16 13 73	
	29 July	537	1,124	9	25	546	1,149	—	13 9 03	13 9 03	
MOHILL	15 April	1,842	5,531	1,492	2,559	3,334	8,090	0 11 0	228 12 13	229 3 13	
	22 April	1,844	5,564	1,360	2,330	3,204	7,894	0 5 0	230 18 63	231 3 63	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
MOHILL (continued)	29 April	1,819	5,455	1,356	2,250	3,175	7,705	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	6 May	1,860	5,561	1,392	2,441	3,252	8,002	0 0 6	229 11 6	229 12 0	
	13 May	1,902	5,680	1,419	2,511	3,321	8,191	0 9 0	230 11 0	230 11 0	
	20 May	1,911	5,460	1,418	2,604	3,329	8,064	0 2 6	240 2 5	240 11 5	
	27 May	1,764	5,232	1,205	2,505	2,969	7,817	0 2 6	238 7 2	238 9 8	
	3 June	1,700	5,195	1,251	2,624	2,951	7,819	0 7 0	241 13 5	241 13 5	
	10 June	1,667	5,131	1,201	2,451	2,968	7,582	0 6 0	238 10 11	239 5 11	
	17 June	1,652	5,085	1,248	2,610	2,900	7,695	0 6 0	232 12 7	233 18 7	
	24 June	1,671	5,182	1,367	2,555	3,038	7,687	1 7 9	236 4 2	237 11 11	
	1 July	1,732	5,310	1,303	2,699	3,040	8,069	0 9 9	241 13 9	242 3 6	
	8 July	1,758	5,353	1,436	2,812	3,104	8,165	4 13 6	246 8 11	251 2 7	
	15 July	1,930	5,478	1,411	3,031	3,341	8,509	2 0 11	249 11 4	251 12 3	
	22 July	1,896	5,313	1,510	2,855	3,396	8,168	0 9 11	264 5 0	264 14 11	
	29 July	1,861	5,214	1,485	2,828	3,346	8,042	0 7 6	262 14 5	263 1 11	
								6 7 9	250 6 5	256 14 2	
MONAGHAN .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
MOUNTMELICK	15 April	1,571	3,264	—	—	1,571	3,264	114 4 4	1 15 8	116 0 0	
	22 April	1,933	4,030	—	—	1,933	4,030	137 16 1	1 16 3	139 12 4	
	29 April	1,556	3,495	—	—	1,556	3,495	111 19 11	0 14 2	112 14 1	
	6 May	1,298	2,872	—	—	1,298	2,872	86 18 8	1 5 1	88 8 9	
	13 May	1,651	3,527	—	—	1,651	3,527	95 6 5	18 6 8	113 13 1	
	20 May	1,749	3,766	—	—	1,748	3,766	116 3 2	2 10 8	118 13 10	
	27 May	2,091	4,381	875	2,271	2,966	6,652	0 2 0	202 2 7	202 4 7	
	3 June	1,009	4,002	—	—	1,009	4,002	119 8 10	3 6 11	122 15 9	
	10 June	1,918	4,041	—	—	1,918	4,041	122 8 4	2 9 2	124 17 6	
	17 June	1,916	4,026	—	—	1,916	4,026	122 15 7	2 5 2	125 0 9	
	24 June	1,926	4,025	—	—	1,926	4,025	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
	1 July	1,944	4,164	—	—	1,944	4,164	122 0 5	1 10 2	123 10 7	
	8 July	1,983	4,224	—	—	1,983	4,224	128 13 2	2 5 3	133 18 10	
	15 July	1,920	4,060	—	—	1,920	4,060	127 16 3	1 0 0	129 4 3	
	22 July	2,011	4,216	—	—	2,011	4,216	133 5 0	2 4 4	135 9 4	
	29 July	2,006	4,213	—	—	2,006	4,213	133 17 9	1 16 4	135 14 1	
MULLINGAR .	15 April	2,052	4,221	1,460	3,607	3,512	7,823	—	244 16 7	244 16 7	
	22 April	2,093	4,461	1,426	3,466	3,521	7,947	0 3 0	233 0 1	233 3 1	
	29 April	2,126	4,405	1,360	3,091	3,426	7,586	0 2 0	196 8 3	196 10 3	
	6 May	2,133	4,512	1,277	3,014	3,410	7,526	0 2 0	238 8 5	238 10 5	
	13 May	2,129	4,563	1,244	2,883	3,378	7,386	0 2 0	221 18 5	222 0 5	
	20 May	2,115	4,486	1,028	2,564	3,143	6,990	0 2 0	200 18 0	210 0 9	
	27 May	2,097	4,415	920	2,341	3,017	6,786	—	226 16 9	226 16 9	
	3 June	2,080	4,405	812	2,177	2,993	6,582	—	243 12 9	243 12 9	
	10 June	2,077	4,599	793	2,118	2,875	6,517	—	201 15 6	201 15 6	
	17 June	2,080	4,399	786	2,090	2,866	6,489	—	243 12 5	243 12 5	
	24 June	2,076	4,408	714	1,925	2,790	6,323	—	190 18 11	190 18 11	
	1 July	2,052	4,455	629	1,747	2,681	6,102	—	229 18 2	229 18 2	
	8 July	1,938	4,186	402	808	2,340	4,994	—	147 8 3	147 8 3	
	15 July	2,022	4,159	320	636	2,342	4,795	—	171 10 5	171 10 5	
	22 July	1,974	4,015	254	503	2,226	4,518	—	133 3 2	133 8 2	
	29 July	2,012	4,079	5	18	2,017	4,097	—	146 15 7	146 15 7	
NAAS .	15 April	1,263	2,730	—	—	1,263	2,730	100 0 8	—	100 0 8	
	22 April	1,297	2,801	—	—	1,297	2,801	100 11 2	—	100 11 2	
	29 April	1,280	2,763	—	—	1,280	2,763	99 16 0	—	99 16 0	
	6 May	1,285	2,793	—	—	1,285	2,793	100 0 6	—	100 0 6	
	13 May	1,248	2,697	—	—	1,248	2,697	97 2 6	—	97 2 6	
	20 May	1,240	2,716	—	—	1,240	2,716	96 10 8	—	96 10 8	
	27 May	1,268	2,777	—	—	1,268	2,777	98 14 11	—	98 14 11	
	3 June	1,275	2,778	—	—	1,275	2,778	97 19 7	—	97 19 7	
	10 June	1,308	2,848	—	—	1,308	2,848	100 6 6	—	100 6 6	
	17 June	1,319	2,913	—	—	1,319	2,913	101 5 0	—	101 5 0	
	24 June	1,308	2,879	—	—	1,308	2,879	94 4 6	—	94 4 6	
	1 July	1,058	2,370	—	—	1,058	2,370	79 18 10	—	79 18 10	
	8 July	1,082	2,256	—	—	1,082	2,256	77 19 10	—	77 19 10	
	15 July	997	2,162	—	—	997	2,162	74 12 2	—	74 12 2	
	22 July	874	1,885	—	—	874	1,885	61 6 10	—	61 6 10	
	29 July	624	1,289	—	—	624	1,289	44 16 2	—	44 16 2	
NAVAN .	15 April	1,502	2,668	—	—	1,502	2,668	—	92 0 4	92 0 4	
	22 April	1,492	2,669	—	—	1,492	2,669	—	92 1 8	92 1 8	
	29 April	1,486	2,857	—	—	1,486	2,857	—	91 15 3	91 15 3	
	6 May	1,458	2,806	—	—	1,458	2,806	—	89 18 4	89 18 4	
	13 May	1,444	2,777	—	—	1,444	2,777	—	88 15 7	88 15 7	
	20 May	1,422	2,713	—	—	1,422	2,713	—	87 2 6	87 2 6	
	27 May	1,398	2,663	—	—	1,398	2,663	—	85 4 3	85 4 3	
	3 June	1,369	2,644	—	—	1,369	2,644	—	83 17 1	83 17 1	
	10 June	1,339	2,610	—	—	1,339	2,610	—	82 10 2	82 10 2	
	17 June	1,285	2,526	—	—	1,285	2,526	—	79 19 10	79 19 10	
	24 June	1,255	2,490	—	—	1,255	2,490	—	78 2 7	78 2 7	
	1 July	1,233	2,429	—	—	1,233	2,429	—	76 7 5	76 7 5	
	8 July	1,242	2,466	—	—	1,242	2,466	—	77 7 9	77 7 9	
	15 July	1,233	2,444	—	—	1,233	2,444	—	76 9 11	76 9 11	
	22 July	1,217	2,394	—	—	1,217	2,394	—	75 3 1	75 3 1	
	29 July	1,207	2,375	—	—	1,207	2,375	—	75 2 8	75 2 8	
NENAGH .	15 April	4,810	11,433	—	—	4,810	11,433	—	283 19 11	283 19 11	
	22 April	4,847	11,697	—	—	4,847	11,697	—	292 3 0	292 3 0	
	29 April	4,809	11,059	—	—	4,809	11,059	—	288 13 10	288 13 10	
	6 May	4,810	11,628	—	—	4,810	11,628	—	289 8 17	289 8 17	
	13 May	4,660	11,231	—	—	4,660	11,231	—	280 5 8	280 5 8	
	20 May	4,604	11,148	—	—	4,604	11,148	—	278 11 8	278 11 8	
	27 May	4,567	11,168	—	—	4,567	11,168	—	275 13 3	275 13 3	
	3 June	4,696	11,486	—	—	4,696	11,486	—	283 8 4	283 8 4	
	10 June	4,860	12,240	—	—	4,860	12,240	—	305 8 8	305 8 8	
	17 June	5,092	12,892	—	—	5,092	12,892	—	326 10 11	326 10 11	
	24 June	5,178	13,038	1,048	3,120	6,226	16,167	—	404 8 8	404 8 8	
	1 July	5,158	12,929	1,178	3,559	6,936	16,480	—	410 6 0	410 6 0	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
NENAGH (continued)	8 July	5,214	13,040	1,217	3,730	6,431	16,770	—	409 2 9½	409 2 9½	
	15 July	5,201	12,963	1,304	3,961	6,505	16,924	—	408 10 9½	408 10 9½	
	22 July	5,258	13,035	1,334	4,021	6,592	17,106	0 1 6	413 5 7½	413 7 1½	
	29 July	5,269	13,122	1,338	3,986	6,627	17,108	0 3 0	414 17 7½	415 0 7½	
NEWCASTLE .	15 April	3,010	6,230	5,303	12,340	8,313	19,070	0 3 0	411 13 3½	411 16 3½	
	22 April	2,680	5,977	5,182	12,436	8,013	18,463	0 3 0	406 5 11½	406 8 11½	
	29 April	2,777	6,226	5,086	11,948	7,863	18,174	0 3 0	391 3 7	391 6 7	
	6 May	2,881	6,269	5,035	11,920	7,906	18,189	—	399 15 1	399 15 1	
	13 May	2,819	6,279	5,041	12,018	7,860	18,297	2 15 7	411 13 0	414 13 7	
	20 May	2,827	6,299	5,029	12,319	7,856	18,618	1 0 6	430 1 1	431 1 7	
	27 May	2,706	6,061	4,214	11,349	6,920	17,210	0 8 6	438 2 3	436 10 9	
	3 June	2,708	6,036	4,342	11,584	7,050	17,620	1 12 10	445 5 10½	450 18 8½	
	10 June	2,807	6,300	4,024	12,563	7,731	18,883	1 18 10	467 15 6½	469 14 4½	
	17 June	2,841	6,358	4,974	12,689	7,815	19,167	2 7 6	470 16 12	473 3 7½	
	24 June	3,037	6,361	5,006	12,947	8,043	19,306	2 9 4	475 4 9½	477 14 1½	
	1 July	2,879	6,058	4,884	12,774	7,763	18,832	4 4 6	468 0 5½	472 12 11½	
	8 July	2,736	5,708	4,947	11,932	7,683	17,640	4 16 0	501 8 10½	506 4 10½	
	15 July	2,725	5,702	4,795	11,711	7,520	17,413	5 1 2	493 0 0	498 1 2	
	22 July	2,636	5,670	4,690	11,359	7,335	17,029	4 13 5	467 2 7½	471 16 0½	
	29 July	2,653	5,667	4,660	11,365	7,295	17,022	4 19 3	470 5 8	475 4 11	
NEW ROSS .	15 April	1,239	2,438	—	—	1,239	2,438	124 14 6½	7 1 0½	131 15 7	
	22 April	2,393	4,616	—	—	2,393	4,616	42 9 10	65 4 4½	107 14 2½	
	29 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Returns not recd.
	6 May	2,414	4,983	—	—	2,414	4,983	44 2 11½	70 7 9	114 10 8½	
	13 May	2,370	4,723	—	—	2,370	4,723	26 18 4	84 11 7	111 9 11	
	20 May	2,420	4,864	—	—	2,420	4,864	—	115 11 10	115 11 10	
	27 May	2,449	4,923	—	—	2,449	4,923	—	114 9 10½	114 9 10½	
	3 June	2,330	4,579	—	—	2,330	4,579	0 5 0	115 11 0½	115 16 0½	
	10 June	2,322	4,557	—	—	2,322	4,557	0 2 4	115 16 11	115 19 8	
	17 June	2,336	4,635	—	—	2,336	4,635	—	148 0 3½	148 0 3½	
	24 June	2,317	4,567	—	—	2,317	4,567	—	144 11 8½	144 11 8½	
	1 July	2,281	4,468	—	—	2,281	4,468	—	137 18 0	137 18 0	
	8 July	2,191	4,268	—	—	2,191	4,268	—	131 16 5	131 16 5	
	15 July	2,132	4,141	—	—	2,132	4,141	—	127 1 5½	127 1 5½	
	22 July	2,009	3,861	—	—	2,009	3,861	—	117 10 3½	117 10 3½	
	29 July	1,923	3,749	—	—	1,923	3,749	—	113 8 10½	113 8 10½	
NEWRY .	15 April	1,495	2,798	—	—	1,495	2,798	0 6 0	41 6 4½	41 12 4½	
	22 April	1,378	2,644	—	—	1,378	2,644	—	40 18 5½	40 18 5½	
	29 April	1,301	2,519	—	—	1,301	2,519	0 7 6	40 15 11½	41 3 5½	
	6 May	1,111	2,179	—	—	1,111	2,179	—	35 13 2	35 13 2	
	13 May	982	1,932	—	—	982	1,932	—	30 13 9½	30 18 9½	
	20 May	936	1,830	—	—	936	1,830	1 15 0	29 10 9	31 5 9	
	27 May	930	1,824	—	—	930	1,824	—	34 4 8	34 4 8	
	3 June	948	1,851	—	—	948	1,851	—	36 14 8½	36 14 8½	
	10 June	961	1,891	—	—	961	1,891	—	38 9 8½	38 9 8½	
	17 June	992	1,975	—	—	992	1,975	—	38 6 11	38 6 11	
	24 June	1,034	2,015	—	—	1,034	2,015	—	39 9 1	39 9 1	
	1 July	1,047	2,035	—	—	1,047	2,035	—	40 1 6	40 1 6	
	8 July	1,043	2,081	—	—	1,043	2,081	—	39 0 3	39 0 3	
	15 July	1,077	2,059	—	—	1,077	2,059	—	38 1 0½	38 1 0½	
	22 July	1,081	2,063	2	10	1,083	2,073	0 10 6	33 16 7½	36 7 1½	
	29 July	1,072	2,026	—	—	1,072	2,026	—	36 19 6	36 19 6	
NEWTOWNARDS .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
N. T. LIMAVADY .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
OLDCASTLE .	15 April	1,421	3,159	950	3,139	2,371	6,298	0 18 11	139 3 11	140 2 10	
	22 April	1,423	3,143	955	3,075	2,378	6,218	1 0 4	142 1 11½	143 2 3½	
	29 April	1,328	3,171	946	3,014	2,274	6,105	0 18 6	142 16 1½	143 14 7½	
	6 May	1,508	3,294	834	2,644	2,342	5,938	0 14 9	135 11 7	136 6 4	
	13 May	1,439	3,220	898	2,765	2,337	5,985	0 11 0	134 14 5½	135 5 5½	
	20 May	1,432	3,163	870	2,645	2,302	5,808	0 10 6	133 5 2	133 15 8½	
	27 May	1,435	3,148	858	2,567	2,293	5,715	2 2 6	149 4 9½	150 7 3½	
	3 June	1,399	3,133	799	2,452	2,190	5,567	1 11 9	153 13 1½	155 4 10½	
	10 June	1,485	3,185	779	2,364	2,264	5,499	1 1 9	150 6 1½	151 1 10½	
	17 June	1,457	3,076	765	2,310	2,222	5,366	0 19 7	152 17 7½	153 17 2½	
	24 June	1,488	3,162	723	2,181	2,211	5,343	1 2 2½	156 19 0½	158 1 2½	
	1 July	1,479	3,127	698	1,987	2,177	5,114	0 19 2	158 2 0½	159 1 0½	
	8 July	1,366	3,110	629	1,993	1,995	5,103	0 19 6	142 3 4	143 2 10	
	15 July	1,373	3,127	578	1,766	1,951	4,893	0 19 0	137 4 5	138 3 5	
	22 July	1,338	2,954	596	1,822	1,934	4,770	—	135 18 6½	135 13 0½	
	29 July	1,277	2,653	625	1,669	1,902	4,321	—	128 4 1	128 4 1	
OMAGH .	15 April	1,592	2,740	126	281	1,718	3,021	0 0 6	62 18 3	62 18 9	
	22 April	1,559	2,793	126	280	1,685	2,988	0 0 6	61 13 3	61 13 9	
	29 April	1,357	2,704	121	269	1,678	2,973	0 0 6	60 16 7	60 17 1	
	6 May	1,528	2,662	118	259	1,646	2,921	0 0 6	53 9 2	53 9 8	
	13 May	1,479	2,558	112	252	1,591	2,810	0 0 6	49 8 2	49 8 8	
	20 May	1,280	2,190	97	225	1,377	2,415	0 0 6	42 9 1	42 9 7	
	27 May	1,263	2,148	9	14	1,272	2,157	0 0 6	38 11 4	38 11 10	
	3 June	1,098	1,833	—	—	1,098	1,833	0 0 6	32 8 5	32 8 11	
	10 June	1,140	1,945	—	—	1,140	1,945	0 0 6	33 13 3	33 13 9	
	17 June	1,159	1,935	—	—	1,159	1,935	0 0 6	34 2 7	34 3 1	
	24 June	1,154	1,985	—	—	1,154	1,985	0 0 6	33 16 10	33 17 4	
	1 July	1,160	1,989	—	—	1,160	1,989	0 1 0	33 15 6	33 16 6	
	8 July	1,174	2,018	—	—	1,174	2,018	0 1 0	34 10 4	34 11 4	
	15 July	1,181	2,019	—	—	1,181	2,019	0 1 0	34 10 3	34 11 3	
	22 July	1,173	2,005	—	—	1,173	2,005	0 1 0	34 6 11	34 7 11	
	29 July	1,178	2,012	—	—	1,178	2,012	0 1 0	34 11 8	34 12 8	
PARSONSTOWN .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
RATHDOWN .	15 April	698	1,299	33	67	731	1,366	1 6 9	44 4 5½	45 11 2½	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
RATHDOWN (continued)	22 April	681	1,276	33	54	714	1,330	£ s. d. 1 7 9	£ s. d. 44 4 9	£ s. d. 45 12 6	Cost not stated.
	29 April	646	1,212	30	50	676	1,262	1 5 3	41 17 8	43 2 6	
	6 May	606	1,118	26	42	632	1,160	0 17 0	37 15 11	38 12 11	
	13 May	506	937	17	27	523	964	0 18 7	29 7 2	30 5 9	
	20 May	478	839	15	25	493	914	0 17 7	26 12 3	27 9 10	
	27 May	437	814	12	25	449	839	0 17 7	23 6 4	26 3 11	
	3 June	436	796	11	21	447	817	0 18 1	25 1 7	25 19 3	
	10 June	433	785	9	19	441	804	0 16 6	25 1 5	25 17 11	
	17 June	389	705	2	6	391	711	0 15 11	22 7 7	23 3 6	
	24 June	335	701	2	6	337	707	0 16 4	22 1 10	22 18 2	
	1 July	279	487	—	—	279	487	—	—	—	
	8 July	345	596	—	—	345	596	0 9 0	19 4 9	19 13 9	
	15 July	337	585	—	—	337	585	0 7 9	19 0 4	19 8 13	
	22 July	330	570	1	1	331	571	0 7 9	18 1 1	18 8 10	
	29 July	315	546	1	1	316	547	0 7 9	17 7 4	17 15 1	
RATHDRUM.	15 April	1,039	2,197	—	—	1,039	2,197	—	41 8 6	41 8 6	
	22 April	1,046	2,332	—	—	1,046	2,332	—	40 15 1	40 15 1	
	29 April	1,001	2,223	—	—	1,001	2,223	—	40 6 5	40 6 5	
	6 May	1,032	2,315	—	—	1,032	2,315	—	42 15 11	42 15 11	
	13 May	1,044	2,334	—	—	1,044	2,334	—	45 8 1	45 8 1	
	20 May	1,061	2,239	—	—	1,061	2,239	—	45 18 7	45 18 7	
	27 May	1,055	2,421	—	—	1,055	2,421	—	53 4 3	53 4 3	
	3 June	1,058	2,319	—	—	1,058	2,319	—	53 18 11	53 18 11	
	10 June	1,068	2,364	—	—	1,068	2,364	—	54 14 7	54 14 7	
	17 June	1,067	2,385	—	—	1,067	2,385	—	53 15 9	53 15 9	
	24 June	1,059	2,380	—	—	1,059	2,380	—	51 6 5	51 6 5	
	1 July	1,052	2,331	—	—	1,052	2,331	—	51 7 10	51 7 10	
	8 July	1,033	2,299	—	—	1,033	2,299	—	50 11 10	50 11 10	
	15 July	1,031	2,229	—	—	1,031	2,229	—	49 17 5	49 17 5	
	22 July	1,022	2,243	—	—	1,022	2,243	—	50 15 2	50 15 2	
	29 July	1,022	2,221	—	—	1,022	2,221	—	51 8 5	51 8 5	
RATHKRALE.	15 April	3,378	7,636	870	1,229	3,748	8,865	13 2 6	238 12 2	251 14 8	
	22 April	3,382	7,660	870	1,036	3,752	8,698	13 0 0	252 13 10	265 13 10	
	29 April	3,440	7,667	336	956	3,796	8,623	—	251 3 1	251 3 1	
	6 May	3,477	7,816	351	930	3,828	8,746	—	254 11 4	254 11 4	
	13 May	3,506	8,005	319	732	3,827	8,737	—	254 13 8	254 13 8	
	20 May	3,506	8,063	323	732	3,829	8,795	—	256 9 10	256 9 10	
	27 May	3,506	8,063	322	732	3,828	8,795	—	256 9 10	256 9 10	
	3 June	3,534	8,167	318	675	3,852	8,842	0 4 6	257 19 5	258 3 11	
	10 June	3,549	8,213	315	664	3,864	8,877	0 1 6	258 19 5	259 0 11	
	17 June	3,634	8,532	372	924	4,006	9,456	—	276 2 5	276 2 5	
	24 June	3,824	9,058	827	3,007	4,651	12,065	0 2 4	351 13 3	351 13 7	
	1 July	3,860	9,462	1,013	3,794	4,973	13,256	—	386 19 8	386 19 8	
	8 July	4,073	9,776	1,163	4,417	5,236	14,193	1 0 0	414 6 10	415 6 10	
	15 July	4,114	9,811	1,240	4,708	5,354	14,519	—	424 1 1	424 1 1	
	22 July	4,146	9,846	1,267	4,707	5,413	14,653	—	429 3 2	429 3 2	
	29 July	4,097	9,770	1,229	4,704	5,326	14,474	0 5 0	422 2 7	422 7 7	
ROSCOMMON.	15 April	3,707	8,846	4,248	11,470	7,955	20,316	4 10 4	487 10 5	492 0 9	
	22 April	3,703	8,891	4,172	10,985	7,875	19,876	5 3 8	509 9 4	514 13 1	
	29 April	3,623	8,583	3,938	10,280	7,561	18,863	2 7 8	474 8 6	476 16 3	
	6 May	3,860	8,183	3,904	10,086	7,272	18,269	8 10 0	472 1 2	480 11 2	
	13 May	3,572	8,421	3,645	9,658	7,217	18,079	1 13 9	456 16 10	458 10 7	
	20 May	3,601	8,558	3,867	6,814	6,960	17,372	3 0 11	434 10 9	437 11 8	
	27 May	3,536	8,447	3,296	8,957	6,832	17,404	4 2 11	438 15 6	442 18 5	
	3 June	3,563	8,200	3,357	8,653	6,920	16,853	2 18 10	455 8 7	458 7 5	
	10 June	3,574	8,945	3,460	9,557	7,034	18,502	3 10 7	469 13 7	473 4 3	
	17 June	3,880	9,257	3,679	10,009	7,759	19,266	7 0 8	511 15 0	518 15 9	
	24 June	3,923	9,340	4,308	10,607	8,236	19,947	3 5 3	526 16 5	530 1 8	
	1 July	4,023	9,540	4,625	10,827	8,548	20,367	4 13 0	585 16 10	590 9 11	
	8 July	4,044	9,661	4,765	11,316	8,809	20,577	3 0 5	610 2 10	613 3 3	
	15 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	22 July	4,108	9,767	4,983	11,554	9,091	21,321	8 4 2	588 5 5	596 9 7	
	29 July	4,123	9,716	4,923	11,580	9,056	21,296	6 17 7	586 13 8	593 11 3	
ROSCREA.	15 April	2,168	5,318	567	2,176	2,735	7,494	—	190 6 4	190 6 4	
	22 April	2,089	5,204	566	2,238	2,655	7,442	—	188 14 1	188 14 1	
	29 April	2,059	5,047	541	2,118	2,600	7,165	—	183 0 11	183 0 11	
	6 May	2,025	4,969	460	1,836	2,485	6,805	—	173 14 2	173 14 2	
	13 May	1,987	4,812	407	1,563	2,394	6,375	—	167 3 3	167 3 3	
	20 May	2,031	4,934	380	1,521	2,411	6,455	2 3 6	164 0 8	166 4 2	
	27 May	1,981	4,828	320	1,311	2,301	6,130	0 19 5	156 3 6	157 2 11	
	3 June	1,974	4,794	252	1,077	2,226	5,871	1 2 0	151 2 7	152 4 8	
	10 June	1,967	4,785	252	1,079	2,219	5,864	1 1 1	150 3 3	151 4 4	
	17 June	1,969	4,786	246	1,067	2,215	5,853	0 17 0	150 18 5	151 15 6	
	24 June	1,960	4,741	244	1,056	2,204	5,797	1 1 7	149 8 8	150 10 3	
	1 July	2,021	4,927	252	1,052	2,273	6,009	1 4 6	174 8 2	175 7 8	
	8 July	1,981	4,800	258	1,093	2,239	5,893	0 14 11	175 15 0	176 10 0	
	15 July	2,025	4,949	265	1,128	2,290	6,077	0 10 5	181 9 6	181 19 11	
	22 July	2,027	4,935	277	1,183	2,304	6,118	0 14 3	183 8 10	184 3 1	
	29 July	2,041	4,965	276	1,174	2,317	6,139	0 12 6	184 17 10	185 10 4	
SCARIFF.	15 April	2,253	6,294	2,435	7,456	4,688	13,750	141 15 0	812 2 0	459 17 0	
	22 April	2,126	5,449	2,104	8,443	4,290	13,892	63 11 4	374 5 6	437 16 10	
	29 April	2,065	5,384	2,927	8,590	4,992	13,974	100 15 0	346 19 1	447 14 1	
	6 May	2,276	5,842	3,437	9,592	5,713	15,434	102 19 0	354 0 5	456 19 5	
	13 May	2,277	5,841	3,544	9,719	5,821	15,560	103 14 0	360 7 4	464 1 4	
	20 May	2,287	5,824	3,534	9,469	5,821	15,293	96 2 0	378 14 5	474 16 5	
	27 May	2,354	5,982	3,624	9,707	5,978	15,689	106 5 0	371 15 9	478 0 9	
	3 June	2,351	5,970	3,712	10,029	6,063	15,999	111 17 6	385 16 11	497 14 5	
	10 June	2,387	6,025	3,811	10,261	5,698	16,286	117 2 0	389 5 8	506 7 8	
	17 June	2,416	6,104	3,424	10,466	5,840	16,570	118 0 0	393 5 9	511 5 9	
	24 June	2,482	6,216	3,446	10,475	5,928	16,691	133 3 6	400 19 11	534 3 5	
	1 July	2,505	6,218	3,640	10,830	6,145	17,048	133 9 6	442 16 1	576 5 7	
	8 July	2,470	6,180	3,801	11,343	6,351	17,473	138 16 6	453 14 5	592 10 11	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
SCARIFF (continued)	15 July	2,475	6,009	3,934	11,426	6,409	17,435	£ 142 7 3	£ 461 10 5	£ 603 18 11	
	22 July	2,446	6,038	3,919	11,354	6,365	17,442	£ 139 15 6	£ 419 12 11	£ 559 8 5	
	29 July	2,264	5,565	3,609	11,276	6,073	16,841	£ 139 15 4	£ 377 2 6	£ 516 17 10	
SHILLELAGH	15 April	235	575	—	—	235	575	£ 17 16 8	—	£ 17 16 8	
	22 April	242	597	—	—	242	597	£ 18 9 7	—	£ 18 9 7	
	29 April	245	621	—	—	245	621	£ 19 0 5	—	£ 19 0 5	
	6 May	250	624	—	—	250	624	£ 19 4 7	—	£ 19 4 7	
	13 May	260	634	—	—	260	634	£ 19 7 6	—	£ 19 7 6	
	20 May	266	636	—	—	266	636	£ 19 10 10	—	£ 19 10 10	
	27 May	260	634	—	—	260	634	£ 19 7 6	—	£ 19 7 6	
	3 June	286	672	—	—	286	672	£ 20 12 6	—	£ 20 12 6	
	10 June	283	567	—	—	283	567	£ 20 11 8	—	£ 20 11 8	
	17 June	285	659	—	—	285	659	£ 20 12 11	—	£ 20 12 11	
	24 June	290	663	—	—	290	663	£ 20 16 3	—	£ 20 16 3	
	1 July	266	602	—	—	266	602	£ 18 17 11	—	£ 18 17 11	
	8 July	266	602	—	—	266	602	£ 18 17 11	—	£ 18 17 11	
	15 July	249	536	—	—	249	536	£ 17 2 1	—	£ 17 2 1	
	22 July	249	534	—	—	249	534	£ 17 0 5	—	£ 17 0 5	
	29 July	250	530	—	—	250	530	£ 16 18 4	—	£ 16 18 4	
SKIBBEREEN	15 April	5,493	6,873	—	—	5,493	6,873	—	£ 191 15 10	£ 191 15 10	Cost not stated. Returns incomplete.
	22 April	5,493	6,876	—	—	5,493	6,876	—	—	—	
	29 April	3,796	4,990	—	—	3,796	4,990	—	£ 168 13 11	£ 168 13 11	
	6 May	5,311	6,713	—	—	5,311	6,713	—	£ 174 10 7	£ 174 10 7	
	13 May	5,181	6,691	—	—	5,181	6,691	—	£ 179 10 10	£ 179 10 10	
	20 May	5,319	6,729	—	—	5,319	6,729	—	£ 177 10 2	£ 177 10 2	
	27 May	5,126	6,518	—	—	5,126	6,518	—	£ 177 2 4	£ 177 2 4	
	3 June	5,097	6,528	—	—	5,097	6,528	—	£ 191 3 3	£ 191 3 3	
	10 June	5,122	6,592	—	—	5,122	6,592	—	£ 200 5 11	£ 200 5 11	
	17 June	5,042	6,489	—	—	5,042	6,489	—	£ 203 17 10	£ 203 17 10	
	24 June	5,008	6,462	—	—	5,008	6,462	—	£ 204 3 4	£ 204 3 4	
	1 July	4,868	6,354	—	—	4,868	6,354	—	£ 199 5 10	£ 199 5 10	
	8 July	4,780	6,077	—	—	4,780	6,077	—	£ 189 16 1	£ 189 16 1	
	15 July	4,711	5,941	—	—	4,711	5,941	—	£ 162 0 9	£ 162 0 9	
	22 July	4,498	5,645	—	—	4,498	5,645	—	£ 173 13 1	£ 173 13 1	
	29 July	4,180	5,198	—	—	4,180	5,198	—	£ 159 12 3	£ 159 12 3	
SLIGO	15 April	3,207	7,281	193	291	3,403	7,572	£ 7 15 6	£ 150 8 4	£ 158 3 10	
	22 April	3,257	7,329	188	265	3,445	7,614	£ 7 17 6	£ 150 3 0	£ 158 0 7	
	29 April	3,212	7,569	237	367	3,449	7,936	£ 7 13 11	£ 151 6 7	£ 159 0 6	
	6 May	3,210	7,610	265	367	3,475	7,997	£ 6 13 6	£ 145 18 2	£ 152 11 8	
	13 May	3,222	7,623	272	409	3,494	8,042	£ 5 6 8	£ 155 9 2	£ 160 15 10	
	20 May	3,223	7,628	279	421	3,502	8,249	£ 4 19 9	£ 161 12 10	£ 166 12 7	
	27 May	3,306	8,031	286	426	3,673	8,459	£ 5 1 10	£ 164 5 6	£ 169 7 4	
	3 June	3,398	8,113	318	453	3,716	8,571	£ 5 1 2	£ 164 10 8	£ 169 11 10	
	10 June	3,570	8,569	236	484	3,906	9,064	£ 5 8 1	£ 174 10 7	£ 179 18 8	
	17 June	3,579	8,897	353	509	3,932	9,406	£ 5 2 7	£ 181 17 6	£ 187 0 1	
	24 June	3,721	9,653	375	521	4,096	9,574	£ 5 1 8	£ 184 13 7	£ 189 15 3	
	1 July	3,770	9,164	363	540	4,133	9,704	£ 5 3 7	£ 187 11 1	£ 192 14 6	
	8 July	3,852	9,271	387	547	4,239	9,818	£ 5 3 9	£ 192 2 4	£ 197 6 1	
	15 July	3,905	9,470	387	562	4,292	10,032	£ 5 0 3	£ 195 1 2	£ 200 1 6	
	22 July	3,916	9,526	403	595	4,319	10,121	£ 4 19 2	£ 194 3 7	£ 199 2 9	
	29 July	4,001	9,448	415	610	4,316	10,053	£ 4 19 2	£ 193 15 4	£ 196 16 6	
STRADANE	15 April	914	1,611	—	—	914	1,611	£ 0 1 0	£ 35 6 8	£ 35 7 6	
	22 April	909	1,614	—	—	909	1,614	£ 0 5 0	£ 35 4 6	£ 35 9 6	
	29 April	913	1,655	—	—	913	1,655	£ 0 3 0	£ 35 5 8	£ 35 8 8	
	6 May	912	1,637	—	—	912	1,637	£ 0 2 6	£ 34 12 5	£ 34 14 11	
	13 May	909	1,674	—	—	909	1,674	£ 0 3 6	£ 33 13 10	£ 33 17 4	
	20 May	892	1,601	—	—	892	1,601	£ 0 2 6	£ 33 1 2	£ 33 3 8	
	27 May	854	1,497	—	—	854	1,497	£ 0 10 0	£ 31 5 10	£ 31 15 10	
	3 June	779	1,398	—	—	779	1,398	£ 0 7 0	£ 27 17 6	£ 28 4 6	
	10 June	758	1,357	—	—	758	1,357	£ 0 3 0	£ 27 8 5	£ 27 11 5	
	17 June	692	1,235	—	—	692	1,235	£ 0 7 6	£ 24 13 4	£ 25 0 10	
	24 June	683	1,217	—	—	683	1,217	£ 0 1 0	£ 23 19 8	£ 24 0 8	
	1 July	660	1,190	—	—	660	1,190	£ 0 0 10	£ 23 2 11	£ 23 3 9	
	8 July	634	1,192	—	—	634	1,192	—	£ 23 0 9	£ 23 0 9	
	15 July	628	1,144	—	—	628	1,144	—	£ 21 15 11	£ 21 15 11	
	22 July	469	811	—	—	469	811	£ 0 0 6	£ 16 2 4	£ 16 2 10	
	29 July	427	762	—	—	427	762	£ 0 14 6	£ 14 11 0	£ 15 3 6	
STRANGLAR	15 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
	22 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	29 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	6 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	13 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	20 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	27 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	3 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	10 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	17 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	24 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	8 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
SWINEFORD	15 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
	22 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	29 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
		1	4	—	—	1	4	£ 0 3 4	—	£ 0 3 4	
SWINEFORD	15 April	1,912	3,775	2,505	5,783	4,417	9,557	£ 1 5 6	£ 284 9 10	£ 285 15 4	
	22 April	1,948	4,094	2,473	5,720	4,431	9,814	£ 0 9 6	£ 274 10 10	£ 175 0 4	
	29 April	2,011	4,069	2,721	6,120	4,732	10,189	£ 0 1 8	£ 291 15 11	£ 291 17 7	
	6 May	2,050	4,109	2,738	6,222	4,788	10,331	£ 0 0 7	£ 308 11 0	£ 308 11 7	
	13 May	2,152	4,329	2,845	6,463	4,997	10,792	£ 0 1 1	£ 307 9 8	£ 307 10 9	
	20 May	2,006	4,170	2,563	5,907	4,569	10,977	£ 0 8 2	£ 303 7 3	£ 303 15 5	
	27 May	2,055	4,237	2,605	5,956	4,660	10,193	£ 0 3 4	£ 303 16 1	£ 303 19 6	
	3 June	2,335	4,527	2,637	6,292	5,032	10,819	£ 0 3 7	£ 308 18 9	£ 309 2 4	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
SWINEFORD (continued)	10 June	2,588	5,260	3,285	8,386	5,873	13,655	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	17 June	2,854	5,876	3,998	10,664	6,852	16,540	0 3 0	272 18 94	273 1 94	
	24 June	2,968	6,272	4,999	14,271	7,967	20,543	0 3 2	466 17 5	467 0 7	
	1 July	3,133	6,636	5,015	16,871	8,940	23,507	0 2 84	517 11 94	517 14 53	
	8 July	3,294	6,851	5,810	17,667	9,404	24,518	0 18 10	520 6 114	521 5 94	
	15 July	3,386	7,071	6,254	18,662	9,640	25,733	0 6 9	539 15 9	540 2 6	
	22 July	3,173	6,726	5,431	17,337	8,604	24,063	0 3 0	557 13 94	557 16 94	
	29 July	3,048	6,264	5,134	15,873	8,182	21,837	—	527 1 54	527 1 54	
								0 14 0	478 12 14	479 6 14	
THURLES	15 April	2,252	4,885	4,063	10,179	6,315	15,064	0 2 0	329 11 24	329 13 24	
	22 April	2,283	5,077	3,917	9,510	6,200	14,587	0 2 0	320 19 44	321 1 44	
	29 April	2,293	5,102	3,878	9,406	6,171	14,508	0 2 0	335 12 0	335 14 0	
	6 May	2,294	5,110	3,892	9,398	6,176	14,508	0 2 0	283 11 04	283 13 04	
	13 May	2,297	5,123	3,862	9,313	6,159	14,436	0 1 0	281 6 4	281 7 4	
	20 May	2,317	5,175	3,830	9,155	6,147	14,330	1 2 0	280 17 34	281 19 34	
	27 May	2,320	5,189	3,765	8,980	6,083	14,169	2 0 6	200 11 34	282 11 94	
	3 June	2,351	5,243	3,768	9,040	6,139	14,293	1 14 8	283 11 14	285 5 94	
	10 June	2,372	5,297	3,856	9,157	6,280	14,454	1 12 6	289 6 114	290 19 54	
	17 June	2,384	5,348	3,905	9,290	6,289	14,638	1 14 2	326 8 44	329 2 64	
	24 June	2,401	5,369	3,917	9,283	6,318	14,672	1 15 6	328 5 64	330 1 64	
	1 July	2,396	5,363	3,969	9,491	6,365	14,854	1 14 6	338 12 44	340 6 104	
	8 July	2,397	5,381	3,975	9,479	6,372	14,800	1 12 6	340 2 54	341 14 114	
	15 July	2,403	5,393	4,009	9,626	6,413	15,019	1 11 0	344 13 4	346 4 4	
	22 July	2,395	5,385	3,943	9,414	6,338	14,799	1 9 0	336 15 14	338 4 14	
	29 July	2,362	5,291	3,978	9,230	6,340	14,521	1 12 0	356 5 4	357 17 4	
TIPPERARY	15 April	2,910	7,227	2,680	8,169	5,599	15,396	127 3 4	283 19 9	411 3 1	
	22 April	2,923	7,215	2,830	8,596	5,753	15,811	123 16 8	302 15 7	426 14 3	
	29 April	3,092	7,113	3,049	8,729	6,141	15,842	121 5 4	308 2 64	429 7 104	
	6 May	3,104	7,184	3,080	8,774	6,194	15,958	123 3 2	303 0 44	426 8 64	
	13 May	3,089	7,156	3,102	8,775	6,191	15,981	119 8 7	309 8 84	428 17 84	
	20 May	3,033	7,063	3,092	8,587	6,125	15,650	87 6 5	328 9 1	415 15 6	
	27 May	3,050	7,141	3,154	8,961	6,212	16,102	82 11 10	343 0 5	425 12 3	
	3 June	3,074	7,102	3,287	9,206	6,361	16,308	58 17 5	374 11 0	433 9 1	
	10 June	3,124	7,320	3,276	9,047	6,400	16,867	44 11 9	470 14 1	515 5 10	
	17 June	3,039	6,923	3,471	9,435	6,510	16,356	39 12 1	487 16 4	527 8 5	
	24 June	3,021	6,991	3,436	9,235	6,457	16,126	39 3 3	480 13 2	519 16 5	
	1 July	2,925	6,513	3,252	9,155	6,277	15,668	38 4 2	474 8 2	512 7 4	
	8 July	2,889	6,486	3,263	9,008	6,152	15,494	37 1 0	468 10 2	505 11 2	
	15 July	2,868	6,562	3,218	8,955	6,086	15,507	36 14 10	461 19 8	490 14 6	
	22 July	2,923	6,500	3,107	8,561	6,030	15,061	32 9 6	445 8 1	477 17 6	
	29 July	2,825	6,320	3,103	8,618	6,028	14,933	32 8 2	457 14 4	490 2 6	
TRALEE	15 April	2,495	4,910	90	218	2,585	5,128	—	112 9 24	112 9 24	
	22 April	2,909	5,634	101	260	3,090	5,904	—	124 17 24	124 17 24	
	29 April	2,950	5,773	210	458	3,160	6,281	—	132 18 0	132 18 0	
	6 May	2,921	5,676	206	439	3,127	6,115	—	131 9 114	131 9 114	
	13 May	2,886	5,623	211	436	3,097	6,050	—	130 2 74	130 2 74	
	20 May	2,981	5,625	184	341	3,165	5,966	—	131 16 54	131 16 54	
	27 May	2,920	5,503	215	423	3,135	5,926	—	137 19 74	137 19 74	
	3 June	2,926	5,487	221	460	3,147	5,947	—	140 16 14	140 16 14	
	10 June	2,982	5,617	237	506	3,219	6,123	—	139 17 64	139 17 64	
	17 June	3,154	6,013	340	702	3,494	6,715	—	152 6 64	152 6 64	
	24 June	2,854	6,315	2,113	2,521	4,467	8,836	—	263 19 4	263 19 4	
	1 July	3,661	6,936	2,739	6,279	6,406	13,215	—	403 14 9	403 14 9	
	8 July	3,698	6,817	3,227	8,265	6,925	15,092	—	466 9 04	466 9 04	
	15 July	3,679	6,882	3,275	8,638	6,954	15,520	—	507 5 11	507 5 11	
	22 July	3,234	6,546	3,712	9,781	6,946	16,827	—	528 14 1	528 14 1	
	29 July	3,301	6,583	3,477	9,241	6,778	15,824	—	509 0 7	509 0 7	
TRIM	15 April	1,161	2,071	—	—	1,161	2,071	2 16 4	62 16 6	65 12 10	
	22 April	1,061	2,086	—	—	1,061	2,086	2 16 4	62 17 7	65 13 11	
	29 April	1,074	2,155	—	—	1,074	2,155	2 16 4	64 9 04	67 5 44	
	6 May	1,070	2,154	—	—	1,070	2,154	2 14 10	61 9 2	64 4 0	
	13 May	1,077	2,160	—	—	1,077	2,160	4 0 9	61 8 114	65 9 84	
	20 May	1,085	2,165	—	—	1,085	2,165	3 2 9	61 17 104	65 0 74	
	27 May	1,083	2,172	—	—	1,083	2,172	3 7 2	61 19 4	65 6 6	
	3 June	1,069	2,108	—	—	1,069	2,108	3 9 8	60 8 04	63 17 84	
	10 June	1,074	2,119	—	—	1,074	2,119	3 14 2	60 17 84	64 11 104	
	17 June	1,053	2,111	—	—	1,053	2,111	3 13 2	59 13 74	63 7 94	
	24 June	1,035	2,093	—	—	1,035	2,093	3 14 8	59 4 0	62 18 8	
	1 July	1,004	2,030	—	—	1,004	2,030	3 12 10	57 14 2	61 7 0	
	8 July	994	1,980	—	—	994	1,980	3 11 4	56 10 3	60 1 7	
	15 July	991	1,991	—	—	991	1,991	3 10 8	56 10 8	60 1 4	
	22 July	986	1,977	—	—	986	1,977	3 11 4	56 4 34	59 15 74	
	29 July	994	1,986	—	—	994	1,986	3 13 24	56 16 0	60 9 24	
TEAM	15 April	2,125	4,867	3,950	9,002	6,075	13,069	0 1 0	347 6 84	347 7 84	
	22 April	2,305	5,519	4,487	9,741	6,792	14,960	0 2 3	364 5 64	364 7 94	
	29 April	2,436	5,489	4,154	9,736	6,590	15,226	0 2 3	378 10 104	378 13 14	
	6 May	2,402	5,638	3,981	9,262	6,363	14,900	0 5 9	368 1 04	368 6 04	
	13 May	2,374	5,207	3,610	8,032	5,984	13,419	0 5 9	342 9 84	342 15 84	
	20 May	2,398	5,426	3,453	7,437	5,851	12,865	0 1 9	384 16 11	384 18 8	
	27 May	2,422	5,563	3,565	7,637	5,967	13,219	0 1 9	343 0 11	343 2 8	
	3 June	2,482	5,605	3,215	7,327	5,697	12,922	0 1 9	333 5 10	333 7 7	
	10 June	2,566	5,948	3,249	7,073	5,815	13,021	0 1 9	336 17 24	336 18 114	
	17 June	2,676	6,144	3,219	6,577	5,895	12,721	0 5 3	327 8 74	327 13 104	
	24 June	2,750	6,284	3,367	7,448	6,117	13,732	0 8 4	348 18 44	349 6 84	
	1 July	2,820	6,467	3,434	7,479	6,254	13,946	0 3 6	351 11 114	351 15 54	
	8 July	2,902	6,437	3,436	7,345	6,338	13,782	0 3 6	360 4 54	360 7 114	
	15 July	3,028	6,504	3,402	7,325	6,430	13,829	0 4 7	363 9 114	363 14 64	
	22 July	2,958	6,697	3,343	7,725	6,301	14,422	0 5 6	380 13 104	380 19 44	
	29 July	2,912	6,559	3,332	7,532	6,244	14,091	0 8 6	376 6 5	376 14 11	
TULLAGHMORE	15 April	1,699	3,468	1,056	2,638	2,755	6,106	—	155 6 14	155 6 14	
	22 April	1,718	3,507	1,095	2,740	2,813	6,247	—	154 2 64	154 2 64	
	29 April	1,740	3,552	1,143	2,835	2,882	6,387	—	162 2 64	162 2 64	

Return of Persons receiving Out-door Relief, &c.—continued.

Names of Unions.	Week ended	Persons relieved under Sec. 1.		Persons relieved under Sec. 2.		Total relieved out of the Workhouse.		Expenditure.			Observations.
		Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	In Money.	In Kind.	Total.	
TULLAMORE. (continued)	6 May	1,654	3,133	1,104	3,025	2,838	6,158	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	13 May	1,675	3,226	1,143	2,979	2,818	6,205	—	124 7 6	124 7 6	
	20 May	1,673	3,209	1,127	2,997	2,805	6,206	—	128 7 10	128 7 10	
	27 May	1,639	3,169	1,016	2,804	2,675	5,973	—	128 4 5	128 4 5	
	3 June	1,669	3,176	980	2,704	2,649	5,800	—	125 17 5	125 17 5	
	10 June	1,677	3,185	920	2,711	2,507	5,696	0 3 6	124 2 11	124 6 5	
	17 June	1,715	3,274	846	2,365	2,561	5,639	0 1 0	114 10 7	114 11 7	
	24 June	1,724	3,264	848	2,380	2,572	5,664	0 3 6	122 17 6	123 1 0	
	1 July	1,743	3,328	856	2,360	2,539	5,606	0 5 2	117 14 7	117 19 9	
	8 July	1,729	3,334	810	2,185	2,539	5,519	0 3 0	113 11 1	118 14 1	
	15 July	1,719	3,320	778	2,071	2,497	5,291	0 1 9	115 0 10	115 2 7	
	22 July	1,715	3,316	720	2,043	2,435	5,359	0 2 6	111 4 10	111 7 4	
	29 July	1,699	3,273	723	2,020	2,422	5,293	0 6 2	110 1 3	110 7 6	
WATERFORD	15 April	3,048	6,946	156	312	3,204	7,258	176 3 0	—	176 3 0	
	22 April	3,121	7,092	156	312	3,277	7,404	171 8 1	—	171 8 1	
	29 April	3,183	7,244	156	312	3,339	7,576	171 2 1	—	171 2 1	
	6 May	3,224	7,298	161	322	3,385	7,616	162 5 1	—	162 5 1	
	13 May	3,290	7,365	171	342	3,461	7,727	163 19 11	—	163 19 11	
	20 May	3,335	7,442	179	358	3,514	7,800	165 9 6	—	165 9 6	
	27 May	3,379	7,539	179	358	3,558	7,917	164 0 3	—	164 0 3	
	3 June	3,405	7,607	179	358	3,584	8,065	156 17 7	5 8 4	162 5 11	
	10 June	3,444	7,689	179	358	3,623	8,047	157 10 10	5 19 0	163 9 10	
	17 June	3,493	7,570	179	358	3,672	8,228	71 9 0	63 1 9	154 10 9	
	24 June	3,543	7,907	186	372	3,734	8,279	30 8 10	109 15 7	148 4 5	
	1 July	3,621	8,092	190	390	3,811	8,462	14 4 5	129 15 5	153 19 11	
	8 July	3,714	8,345	195	390	3,909	8,735	3 11 5	144 13 3	148 4 8	
	15 July	3,749	8,440	195	390	3,944	8,820	3 13 4	154 4 4	157 17 9	
	22 July	3,779	8,509	197	394	3,976	8,903	4 3 0	155 5 8	159 8 9	
	29 July	3,810	8,597	199	398	4,009	8,995	3 17 2	160 8 2	164 5 5	
WESTPORT	15 April	2,390	6,538	6,083	14,349	8,473	21,307	—	—	—	Cost not stated.
	22 April	2,731	7,616	6,206	14,378	8,937	21,294	3 11 12	823 17 6	532 8 7	
	29 April	2,930	7,844	6,293	16,216	9,253	24,060	—	531 10 6	551 10 6	
	6 May	3,015	8,046	6,345	16,386	9,560	24,932	—	597 13 0	597 18 0	
	13 May	3,106	8,193	6,092	17,117	9,793	25,310	—	597 13 0	597 18 0	
	20 May	3,145	8,260	6,800	17,645	10,005	25,905	—	354 17 7	354 17 7	
	27 May	3,226	8,491	6,962	18,446	10,203	26,937	—	315 14 10	315 14 10	
	3 June	3,298	8,610	7,166	19,079	10,266	27,639	—	547 6 6	547 6 6	
	10 June	3,099	8,621	7,811	20,092	10,329	28,713	—	554 12 4	554 12 4	
	17 June	3,067	8,643	7,624	20,355	10,601	29,503	—	620 8 6	620 8 6	
	24 June	3,094	9,413	8,291	22,003	11,305	31,416	—	537 0 0	537 0 0	
	1 July	3,178	9,641	8,649	22,938	11,827	32,579	—	732 10 0	732 10 0	
	8 July	2,617	8,212	6,916	17,931	9,533	26,193	—	659 5 5	659 5 5	
	15 July	2,929	8,294	7,176	18,493	10,005	26,777	—	734 5 8	734 5 8	
WEXFORD	22 July	2,938	8,535	7,142	18,403	10,030	26,943	—	704 16 6	704 16 6	No out-door relief.
	29 July	2,684	8,376	7,006	17,287	9,690	25,663	—	687 0 3	687 0 3	
	15 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	700 7 6	700 7 6	
	22 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	29 April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	6 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	13 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	20 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	27 May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	3 June	1	1	—	—	1	1	0 2 0	—	0 2 0	
	10 June	1	1	—	—	1	1	0 2 0	—	0 2 0	
	17 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No out-door relief.
	24 June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	8 July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

SUMMARY.

Week ended	15 April	22 April	29 April	6 May	13 May	20 May	27 May	3 June	10 June	17 June	24 June	1 July	8 July	15 July	22 July	29 July
	193,181	429,813	90,939	245,301	292,120	675,114	2437 18 11	14763 1 6	17221 0 5							
	204,339	461,069	96,845	246,894	304,184	707,754	2379 17 9	14823 5 3	17415 3 0							
	201,903	455,934	102,323	255,097	304,426	711,631	2352 12 3	15617 19 2	17970 11 5							
	214,454	465,364	114,599	266,430	321,944	731,794	2271 2 10	16515 13 7	18746 18 5							
	209,035	450,069	108,134	256,934	308,169	707,803	2259 16 11	15329 9 11	17789 6 11							
	201,861	453,876	108,967	257,069	310,829	711,545	2674 11 9	14631 11 9	17306 3 6							
	198,253	445,860	107,477	263,133	305,730	708,996	2025 18 4	15369 2 10	17855 1 2							
	214,378	487,517	115,707	281,626	330,295	769,213	1965 11 5	17587 8 0	19562 19 6							
	206,700	473,329	114,432	285,185	321,183	759,024	1937 13 0	17732 7 0	19670 0 0							
	213,329	483,697	125,260	308,505	338,589	797,112	1878 13 13	18755 17 0	20634 10 2							
	212,765	486,735	133,535	320,793	346,690	815,571	1793 1 0	19619 16 7	21412 17 8							
	215,438	490,902	137,499	342,987	352,937	823,889	1780 15 3	20019 19 7	21890 14 10							
	212,700	484,315	132,648	332,463	345,318	816,763	1676 9 1	19859 3 5	21535 6 6							
	216,843	490,305	136,605	342,948	353,528	838,253	1772 0 3	20259 7 9	22031 8 0							
	211,700	482,020	136,507	343,214	348,297	825,234	1726 6 9	20144 6 9	21670 13 6							
	204,620	464,056	134,254	335,735	839,074	800,391	1690 11 6	19771 6 9	21461 18 3							

NOTE.—Returns not received from the Unions stated below.

Week ended	April 15.	Clifden and Loughrea.
"	April 22.	Clifden and Longford.
"	April 29.	Clifden, Longford, and New Ross.
"	May 13.	Clifden, Longford, and Loughrea.
"	May 20.	Clifden and Longford.
"	May 27.	Clifden and Dublin, South.
"	June 10.	Clifden.

Week ended	June 17.	Clifden and Glenties.
"	June 24.	Clifden and Glenties.
"	July 1.	Clifden and Glenties.
"	July 8.	Clifden and Ennistymon.
"	July 15.	Roscommon.
"	July 22.	Clifden.
"	July 29.	Clifden, Dublin South, and Dundalk.

RETURN showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per head (exclusive of Clothing), and the Total Weeks ended the 8th January, the 5th February, the 4th March, the 8th April, the 6th May, and

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Week ended the 8th January, 1848.							Week ended the 5th February, 1848.							Week ended the 4th March, 1848.						
	In-door.		Out-door.				Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance (exclusive of Clothing.)	In-door.		Out-door.				Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance (exclusive of Clothing.)	In-door.		Out-door.				Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance (exclusive of Clothing.)
	Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance (exclusive of Clothing.)	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic., Cap. 31.			Number of Persons relieved in each Union.		Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance (exclusive of Clothing.)	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic., Cap. 31.			Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance (exclusive of Clothing.)		Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic., Cap. 31.						
			Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.				Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.				Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.				
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Abbeyleix, . . .	847	1 11	2,073	114	2,187	0 8½	913	1 11½	2,833	425	3,258	0 7½	877	1 10½	3,120	285	3,405	0 7½			
Antrim, . . .	841	1 9	—	—	—	—	891	1 8½	—	—	—	—	920	1 8	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ardee, . . .	960	1 8½	2,642	—	2,642	0 6½	946	1 8	2,895	—	2,895	0 6½	888	1 8	2,886	—	2,886	—	0 7		
Armagh, . . .	1,297	1 7½	1,827	—	1,827	0 4½	1,276	1 7½	2,426	—	2,426	0 4½	1,223	1 7½	2,542	—	2,542	—	0 4½		
Athlone, . . .	874	1 11	—	—	—	—	998	1 9½	—	—	—	—	1,075	1 10	2,718	1,025	3,743	0 5			
Athy, . . .	1,058	1 8½	548	—	548	0 7½	1,180	1 10½	1,553	—	1,553	0 7	1,179	1 10½	2,329	—	2,329	—	0 7½		
Bailieborough, . . .	980	1 4½	4,171	13	4,184	0 6½	1,108	1 3½	4,104	85	4,189	0 7½	1,074	1 4	4,810	227	5,037	0 6½			
Ballina, . . .	1,350	1 5	2,821	6,508	9,329	0 3½	1,446	1 5½	7,381	16,239	23,620	0 5	1,267	1 5½	9,341	26,351	35,692	0 7½			
Ballinasloe, . . .	923	1 10½	—	—	—	—	1,398	1 10½	—	—	—	—	1,386	1 9	1,090	—	1,090	—	0 6½		
Ballinrobe, . . .	800	1 5½	3,158	10,000	13,158	0 7	908	1 6½	562	1,273	1,835	0 8½	842	1 6	7,871	17,137	25,008	0 6½			
Ballycastle, . . .	436	1 8	—	—	—	—	496	1 7	—	—	—	—	514	1 5½	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballymena, . . .	1,035	1 4½	—	—	—	—	1,069	1 4½	170	17	187	0 2½	1,002	1 4½	720	4	733	—	0 3½		
Ballymoney, . . .	729	1 3½	492	—	492	0 4½	778	1 3½	898	—	898	0 5	755	1 3½	1,035	—	1,035	—	0 4½		
Ballyshannon, . . .	697	1 9½	—	—	—	—	870	1 10½	596	—	596	0 6½	826	1 10½	884	—	884	—	0 6		
Balrothery, . . .	539	1 7½	—	661	661	0 7	556	1 9	790	—	790	0 6½	570	1 7½	—	838	838	—	0 6		
Baltinglass, . . .	628	1 5	1,294	—	1,294	0 6½	690	1 5	1,639	—	1,639	0 6½	703	1 5	1,729	—	1,729	—	0 6½		
Banbridge, . . .	1,330	1 7	212	—	212	0 5½	464	1 6	457	—	457	0 4	1,274	1 6½	1,731	—	1,731	—	0 4½		
Bandon, . . .	1,415	1 4½	—	—	—	—	2,069	1 3	—	—	—	—	2,177	1 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Bantry, . . .	874	1 5	4,496	—	4,496	0 6	914	1 7	8,602	—	8,602	0 6	1,276	1 4	6,663	—	6,663	—	0 7½		
Belfast, . . .	2,440	1 10½	—	—	—	—	2,863	1 9	—	—	—	—	2,924	1 9	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Boyle, . . .	694	1 5½	—	—	—	—	744	1 7	—	—	—	—	751	1 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cahiriveen, . . .	548	1 4½	Return	not received.	—	—	1,248	1 3½	1,113	—	1,113	0 8½	989	1 5½	2,526	257	2,783	0 7½			
Caillan, . . .	840	2 0½	2,669	2,562	5,231	0 4½	812	1 11	3,450	4,893	8,343	0 6	817	1 8½	3,582	4,933	8,515	0 6			
Carlow, . . .	1,568	1 9½	2,724	—	2,724	0 5½	2,014	2 3½	3,857	—	3,857	0 6	1,903	2 1½	4,563	—	4,563	—	0 5½		
Carrickmacross, . . .	555	1 2½	1,383	3	1,286	0 6½	642	1 2½	1,681	57	1,738	0 6	623	1 1½	2,017	63	2,080	—	0 6		
Carrick-on-Shannon, . . .	786	1 9	49	53	102	0 3	803	1 11	2,003	2,459	4,462	0 5½	696	2 1	5,238	9,593	14,831	0 5½			
Carrick-on-Suir, . . .	923	1 6	27	—	27	0 6½	1,043	1 8	209	—	209	0 7½	1,073	1 7½	717	—	717	—	0 5½		
Cashel, . . .	1,680	1 6½	2,982	—	2,982	0 9	1,504	1 6½	4,606	4,123	8,809	0 7	1,153	1 10½	3,993	7,233	11,226	0 8			
Castlebar, . . .	782	1 8	Return	not received.	—	—	804	1 6	Return	not received.	—	—	780	1 10½	7,281	10,446	17,727	0 5½			
Castleblaney, . . .	856	1 8½	1,923	—	1,923	0 7½	1,037	1 7	2,236	—	2,236	0 8½	1,104	1 11½	2,337	—	2,337	—	0 6½		
Castlederg, . . .	363	1 1	—	—	—	—	427	1 1½	—	—	—	—	408	1 1½	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Castlerea, . . .	1,126	1 8½	—	—	—	—	1,034	1 10½	—	—	—	—	1,063	1 10½	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cavan, . . .	1,323	1 8	3,374	—	3,374	0 6½	1,573	1 9½	5,559	—	5,559	0 10	1,533	1 9½	8,164	581	8,745	0 7			
Celbridge, . . .	381	1 9	—	—	—	—	458	1 9½	—	—	—	—	411	1 9½	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Clifden, . . .	504	1 6	1,281	—	1,281	0 5½	242	1 5	3,304	2,393	5,697	0 6½	274	1 6	5,709	3,443	9,152	0 6½			
Clogheen, . . .	593	1 7½	3,655	—	3,655	0 5½	969	1 6½	4,815	—	4,815	0 5	1,159	1 6	5,891	—	5,891	—	0 4½		
Clogher, . . .	643	1 4	1,027	—	1,027	0 5½	646	1 6	1,599	—	1,599	0 5½	671	1 5½	1,877	—	1,877	—	0 5½		
Clones, . . .	820	1 5	2,302	—	2,302	0 4½	840	1 3½	2,216	—	2,216	0 5½	800	1 4½	2,180	—	2,180	—	0 5		
Clonmel, . . .	1,739	1 9	78	—	78	0 1½	1,915	1 9	506	68	574	0 6	1,846	1 7½	1,187	1,400	2,587	0 6½			
Coleraine, . . .	743	1 7	—	—	—	—	755	1 7½	—	—	—	—	730	1 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cookstown, . . .	594	1 4½	389	—	389	0 4½	596	1 4½	562	—	562	0 4½	598	1 4½	761	—	761	—	0 4½		
Cootchill, . . .	1,063	1 4½	452	—	452	0 5½	1,121	1 4	3,662	—	3,662	0 6	1,099	1 5	3,766	96	3,862	0 6			
Cork, . . .	3,272	1 5½	—	—	—	—	3,805	1 5½	—	—	—	—	3,905	1 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dingle, . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Donegal, . . .	388	1 4½	—	—	—	—	540	1 4½	—	—	—	—	531	1 4½	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Downpatrick, . . .	791	1 6½	—	—	—	—	842	1 6½	—	—	—	—	830	1 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Drogheda, . . .	965	1 9½	2,809	—	2,809	0 4½	928	1 9½	3,161	469	3,630	0 5	865	1 9½	3,137	573	3,710	0 5			
Dublin, North, . . .	3,104	2 2½	3,179	—	3,179	0 7½	3,435	2 1	3,600	—	3,600	0 7½	3,447	2 1½	3,525	—	3,525	—	0 7½		
Dublin, South, . . .	2,319	1 11½	4,532	—	4,532	0 9½	2,362	1 10½	5,595	—	5,595	0 9½	2,483	1 10½	5,898	—	5,898	—	0 9½		
Dundalk, . . .	884	1 7½	1,419	—	1,419	0 6½	848	1 7	1,733	—	1,733	0 6½	788	1 7	2,086	—	2,086	—	0 6½		
Dunfarnaghy, . . .	235	1 8	—	—	—	—	319	1 3	—	—	—	—	380	1 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dungannon, . . .	883	1 8½	401	—	401	0 4½	917	1 8	1,005	—	1,005	0 5	974	1 6	1,409	—	1,409	—	0 4½		
Dungarvan, . . .	995	1 2	3,020	20	3,040	0 7½	1,482	1 1½	2,713	537	3,250	0 6½	1,215	1 2½	4,063	—	4,063	—	0 5½		
Dunmanway, . . .	560	1 3	—	—	—	—	780	1 1	592	25	617	0 4½	815	1 1	2,267	388	2,655	0 4½			
Dunshaughlin, . . .	484	1 11	857	1,525	2,382	0 9	495	1 10½	947	2,150	3,097	0 8½	440	1 10	1,024	1,737	2,761	0 77			

Number of Paupers relieved in each Union in Ireland; distinguishing the In-door and Out-door Poor, for the 3rd June, 1848, respectively; distinguishing also the Unions under the Charge of Temporary Inspectors.

Week ended the 8th April, 1848.										Week ended the 6th May, 1848.										Week ended the 3rd June, 1848.										Names of Unions in charge of Temporary Inspectors.
In-door.		Out-door.						In-door.		Out-door.						In-door.		Out-door.												
Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance, (exclu- sive of Cloth- ing).	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic. Cap. 31.			Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance. •	Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance, (exclu- sive of Cloth- ing).	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic. Cap. 31.			Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance. •	Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance, (exclu- sive of Cloth- ing).	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic. Cap. 31.			Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance. •													
		Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.				Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.				Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.														
s. d.	s. d.				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.			s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.				s. d.													
886	2 0	2,639	113	2,952	0 8	957	1 10	2,663	104	2,767	0 7	899	1 7	3,137	181	3,268	0 7	Ballina.												
841	1 4	-	-	-	-	809	1 3	-	-	-	-	766	1 3	-	-	-	-													
780	1 7	1,619	-	1,619	0 7	653	1 6	2,018	-	2,018	0 6	653	1 6	2,072	-	2,072	0 6													
1,152	1 6	1,836	-	1,836	0 4	1,142	1 1	986	-	986	0 4	1,045	1 1	390	-	390	0 5	Ballinasloe.												
1,150	1 9	5,863	3,541	9,404	0 5	1,069	1 8	5,359	2,109	7,969	0 5	1,274	1 9	6,693	2,206	8,899	0 5													
986	1 9	2,261	-	2,261	0 10	950	1 7	2,643	-	2,643	0 8	905	1 8	2,582	-	2,582	0 9													
1,064	1 11	4,002	-	4,002	0 7	1,112	1 2	4,120	-	4,120	0 6	1,116	1 1	4,030	-	4,030	0 6	Ballinrobe.												
1,394	1 5	11,106	26,849	37,955	0 7	1,339	1 6	11,344	24,745	36,089	0 7	1,305	1 6	11,196	23,435	34,631	0 7													
1,374	1 10	4,589	795	5,384	0 6	1,392	1 10	6,970	1,692	8,662	0 6	1,471	1 9	7,252	1,971	9,223	0 6													
782	1 6	9,135	22,690	31,825	0 6	818	1 5	10,238	26,362	36,600	0 6	826	1 6	10,992	29,128	40,120	0 6	Ballyshannon.												
447	1 6	-	-	-	-	429	1 7	-	-	-	-	420	1 5	-	-	-	-													
998	1 5	1,176	-	1,176	0 4	946	1 6	1,079	-	1,079	0 3	965	1 4	422	-	422	0 4													
729	1 3	977	-	977	0 5	714	1 3	1,013	-	1,013	0 4	681	1 2	938	-	938	0 5	Bantry.												
717	1 5	1,311	-	1,311	0 6	683	1 2	1,315	-	1,315	0 5	677	1 2	1,381	-	1,381	0 4													
462	1 7	868	-	868	0 5	487	1 7	962	-	962	0 5	440	1 7	942	-	942	0 6													
746	1 5	1,691	-	1,691	0 6	813	1 5	1,684	-	1,684	0 6	861	1 5	1,742	-	1,742	0 6	Boyle.												
1,227	1 3	1,837	-	1,837	0 4	1,178	1 4	1,796	-	1,796	0 4	1,150	1 4	1,450	-	1,450	0 5													
1,900	1 2	-	-	-	-	1,967	1 2	-	-	-	-	1,957	1 2	-	-	-	-													
902	1 3	6,137	-	6,137	0 6	789	1 3	6,520	-	6,520	0 5	916	1 2	6,927	-	6,927	0 5	Cahiriveen.												
2,883	2 1	-	-	-	-	2,795	1 8	-	-	-	-	2,609	1 5	-	-	-	-													
739	1 7	4,897	908	5,265	0 3	742	1 9	6,756	3,617	10,373	0 4	765	1 9	7,939	6,031	13,970	0 5													
1,029	1 3	2,764	293	3,057	0 6	954	1 2	2,793	232	3,045	0 6	1,064	1 3	2,696	1	2,697	0 6	Callan.												
808	1 5	3,369	3,905	7,274	0 5	855	1 6	3,461	3,625	7,086	0 5	866	1 7	3,639	3,930	7,569	0 6													
1,728	2 1	5,490	-	5,490	0 5	1,691	1 9	6,012	-	6,012	0 5	1,536	1 8	6,497	-	6,497	0 4													
635	1 1	1,943	112	2,055	0 6	612	1 2	2,086	174	2,260	0 6	701	1 2	2,131	160	2,311	0 6	Carrick-on-Shannon.												
907	1 7	5,503	5,277	10,780	0 6	936	1 4	5,972	5,472	11,444	0 5	899	1 7	6,554	6,210	12,764	0 7													
824	1 5	825	-	825	0 5	803	1 9	854	-	854	0 5	755	1 4	940	-	940	0 5													
1,402	1 9	4,535	6,376	10,961	0 6	1,502	1 9	5,097	4,334	9,631	0 6	1,528	1 5	5,843	4,817	10,660	0 6	Cashel.												
817	1 8	6,588	9,492	16,075	0 6	830	1 3	7,503	11,024	18,557	0 6	826	1 2	8,733	12,966	21,699	0 3													
783	1 6	2,318	-	2,318	0 5	865	1 6	2,273	-	2,273	0 5	838	1 5	2,257	-	2,257	0 5													
386	1 1	-	-	-	-	383	1 0	-	-	-	-	366	1 0	-	-	-	-	Castlereagh.												
1,107	1 8	6,754	-	6,754	0 7	1,041	1 1	8,925	6,333	15,303	0 6	1,214	1 8	7,553	3,650	16,203	0 6													
1,081	1 4	6,807	507	7,314	0 5	1,644	1 5	7,163	560	7,723	0 5	1,620	1 4	6,952	812	7,764	0 5													
320	1 9	-	-	-	-	311	1 9	-	-	-	-	287	1 9	-	-	-	-	Cavan.												
280	1 5	9,112	3,986	13,098	0 8	357	1 7	9,833	4,402	14,235	0 7	265	3 0	12,206	4,907	17,213	0 7													
943	1 7	7,800	94	7,894	0 4	879	1 7	7,867	61	7,928	0 4	839	1 6	7,526	96	7,622	0 4													
626	1 4	1,761	-	1,761	0 5	625	1 4	1,567	-	1,567	0 5	621	1 6	1,548	-	1,548	0 5	Clifden.												
801	1 4	2,127	-	2,127	0 5	873	1 5	1,990	-	1,990	0 4	871	1 5	2,064	-	2,064	0 4													
1,567	1 7	1,972	1,638	3,630	0 6	1,545	1 7	2,288	-	2,288	0 6	1,505	1 6	2,395	-	2,395	0 5													
674	1 6	-	-	-	-	616	1 6	-	-	-	-	640	1 6	-	-	-	-	Clonmel.												
583	1 4	805	-	805	0 4	583	1 4	747	-	747	0 4	599	1 4	686	-	686	0 4													
922	1 3	4,475	757	5,232	0 5	930	1 4	4,597	781	5,378	0 5	1,270	1 1	4,396	787	5,133	0 5													
3,760	1 4	-	-	-	-	3,656	1 2	-	-	-	-	3,590	1 2	-	-	-	-	Dingle.												
-	-	722	-	722	0 7	78	-	5,001	4,206	9,207	0 5	50	-	5,269	4,570	9,839	0 7													
550	1 5	1,132	-	1,132	0 5	350	1 4	1,259	-	1,259	0 5	621	1 5	1,376	-	1,376	0 5													
766	1 5	-	-	-	-	731	1 5	-	-	-	-	712	1 5	-	-	-	-	Donegal.												
723	1 9	2,972	410	3,382	0 4	619	1 9	2,894	403	3,297	0 4	590	1 6	2,840	-	2,840	0 5													
3,333	2 0	3,294	-	3,294	0 7	3,209	1 11	3,177	-	3,177	0 7	3,092	1 10	3,028	-	3,028	0 6													
2,479	1 9	5,819	-	5,819	0 8	2,323	1 9	5,736	-	5,736	0 8	2,005	1 8	4,067	-	4,067	0 7	Ennis.												
666	1 6	2,470	-	2,470	0 6	640	1 7	2,402	-	2,402	0 6	617	1 7	2,209	-	2,209	0 6													
285	1 3	-	-	-	-	253	1 4	-	-	-	-	241	1 2	-	-	-	-													
940	1 3	1,673	-	1,673	0 4	918	1 3	1,574	-	1,574	0 4	922	1 2	1,504	-	1,504	0 3	Fermoy.												
1,311	1 1	4,098	34	4,132	0 5	1,195	1 0	4,856	96	4,952	0 5	1,364	1 0	4,584	47	4,631	0 5													
828	1 3	2,736	590	3,326	0 5	806	1 2	2,662	230	2,892	0 5	927	1 0	1,985	162	2,147	0 7													
449	1 9	816	531	1,347	0 7	444	1 8	909	154	963	0 8	415	1 9	770	183	953	0 9	Galway.												
539	1 8	884	-	884	0 6	525	1 7	852	-	852	0 8	509	1 6	836	-	836	0 7													
1,081	1 3	9,603	8,582	18,185	0 6	1,219	1 3	8,773	10,124	18,897	0 6	1,494	1 3	9,002	8,227	17,229	0 6													
921	1 8	4,300	2,562	6,862	0 6	962	1 6	4,109	1,998	6,107	0 6	1,215	1 6	2,906	887	3,793	0 7	Glenties.												
1,082	1 10	3,915	457	4,372	0 5	1,207	1 9	3,688	370	4,058	0 5	1,202	1 8	3,685	357	4,042	0 5													
869	1 6	6,257	10,927	17,184	0 5	787	1 5	6,919	13,476	20,395	0 5	789	1 5	7,078	13,839	20,917	0 5													
1,314	1 3	12,024	495	12,519	0 5	1,338	1 4	10,584	507	11,091	0 5	1,559	1 2	11,502	512	12,014	0 5	Gort.												
1,156	1 6	8,136	16,542	24,678	0 7	1,365	1 2	9,439	16,409	25,908	0 5	1,333	1 2	10,2																

RETURN showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per head (exclusive of Clothing)—*continued.*

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Week ended the 8th January, 1848.						Week ended the 5th February, 1848.						Week ended the 4th March, 1848.										
	In-door.		Out-door.				In-door.		Out-door.				In-door.		Out-door.								
	Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance (exclusive of Clothing.)	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic., Chap. 21.			Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance.	Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance (exclusive of Clothing.)	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic., Chap. 21.			Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance.	Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance (exclusive of Clothing.)	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic., Chap. 21.			Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance.					
			Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.				Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.				Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.						
	s.	d.				s.	d.				s.	d.				s.	d.				s.	d.	
Kilkeel, ...	311	1 23	—	—	—	—	352	1 2	—	—	—	—	318	1 33	81	—	81	0 4	—	—	—	—	—
Kilkenny, ...	1,974	1 11	4,299	—	4,299	0 7	2,035	1 9	10,241	1,023	11,264	0 6	1,792	2 0	10,565	803	11,448	0 5	—	—	—	—	—
Killarney, ...	1,407	1 53	10,614	371	10,985	0 6	1,514	1 6	11,707	591	12,298	0 6	1,463	1 5	13,610	827	14,437	0 6	—	—	—	—	—
Kilmallock, ...	1,283	1 7	12,777	1,624	14,401	0 6	1,300	1 10	15,149	2,939	18,088	0 7	1,303	1 10	10,279	1,503	11,862	0 5	—	—	—	—	—
Kilrush, ...	1,122	—	9,764	—	9,764	0 7	1,105	1 4	13,200	—	13,200	0 6	1,080	1 4	13,538	—	13,538	0 5	—	—	—	—	—
Kinsale, ...	820	1 4	—	—	—	—	1,037	1 4	—	—	—	—	1,140	1 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Larne, ...	636	1 1	—	—	—	—	660	1 13	—	—	—	—	602	1 21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Letterkenny, ...	602	1 6	—	—	—	—	547	1 6	—	—	—	—	530	1 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Limerick, ...	2,469	1 5	6,292	—	6,292	0 8	2,892	1 8	7,455	—	7,455	0 8	2,504	1 6	8,481	—	8,481	0 8	—	—	—	—	—
Lisburn, ...	807	1 4	—	—	—	—	835	1 10	—	—	—	—	855	1 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lismore, ...	674	1 1	355	—	355	0 5	759	1 2	1,274	—	1,274	0 5	1,085	1 0	1,846	—	1,846	0 5	—	—	—	—	—
Lisnakea, ...	790	1 3	—	—	—	—	874	1 3	—	—	—	—	852	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Listowel, ...	754	2 4	4,156	11,770	15,926	0 7	959	1 10	5,723	16,135	21,858	0 7	1,129	1 10	6,014	16,017	22,031	0 6	—	—	—	—	—
Londonderry, ...	907	1 8	1,027	—	1,027	0 6	1,012	1 6	1,710	—	1,710	0 6	873	1 7	2,085	—	2,085	0 6	—	—	—	—	—
Longford, ...	1,283	1 7	6,557	520	7,077	0 5	1,442	1 8	8,159	989	9,148	0 6	1,397	1 8	7,701	2,993	10,694	0 7	—	—	—	—	—
Loughrea, ...	811	1 6	—	—	—	—	1,190	1 5	—	—	—	—	1,539	1 5	1,919	548	2,467	0 7	—	—	—	—	—
Lowtherstown, ...	583	—	622	—	622	0 7	726	1 3	1,720	—	1,720	0 8	784	1 2	2,502	127	2,629	0 6	—	—	—	—	—
Lurgan, ...	1,279	1 10	—	—	—	—	1,346	1 10	—	—	—	—	1,312	1 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Macroom, ...	1,049	1 7	—	—	—	—	1,220	1 6	1,913	—	1,913	0 8	1,284	1 4	3,849	951	4,800	0 5	—	—	—	—	—
Magherafelt, ...	912	1 9	294	60	294	0 2	940	1 9	428	114	542	0 8	969	1 4	589	186	725	0 3	—	—	—	—	—
Mallow, ...	944	1 7	—	—	—	—	1,400	1 3	—	—	—	—	1,172	1 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manorhamilton, ...	633	1 6	613	4	617	0 6	657	1 0	1,616	43	1,659	0 5	780	1 0	1,597	144	1,741	0 5	—	—	—	—	—
Midleton, ...	1,643	1 6	—	—	—	—	1,567	1 4	—	—	—	—	1,733	1 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milford, ...	409	1 9	183	50	233	0 3	380	1 9	1,071	—	1,071	0 2	389	1 0	1,759	—	1,759	0 2	—	—	—	—	—
Mohill, ...	699	1 1	411	107	518	0 6	985	1 3	3,270	1,331	4,601	0 5	895	1 3	4,891	1,986	6,877	0 7	—	—	—	—	—
Monaghan, ...	802	1 7	—	—	—	—	917	1 6	—	—	—	—	930	1 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountmellick, ...	1,491	1 6	3,376	—	3,376	0 8	1,596	1 7	3,755	—	3,755	0 8	1,645	1 9	4,226	—	4,226	0 8	—	—	—	—	—
Mullingar, ...	1,051	2 0	1,463	2,845	4,308	0 11	1,136	1 9	2,047	4,958	7,005	0 10	1,060	1 7	2,201	5,174	7,375	0 10	—	—	—	—	—
Naas, ...	788	1 7	1,833	—	1,833	0 9	973	1 8	2,370	—	2,370	0 9	1,039	1 8	2,643	—	2,643	0 9	—	—	—	—	—
Navan, ...	676	1 10	3,133	—	3,133	0 7	729	1 11	2,335	—	2,335	0 7	749	1 10	3,346	—	3,346	0 7	—	—	—	—	—
Nenagh, ...	1,217	1 8	7,084	14	7,098	0 10	1,539	1 7	9,095	5	9,100	0 10	1,303	1 7	10,172	42	10,215	0 6	—	—	—	—	—
Newcastle, ...	757	2 1	5,579	16,195	21,774	0 7	772	2 1	5,238	17,981	23,219	0 7	757	2 1	5,302	17,215	22,517	0 7	—	—	—	—	—
New Ross, ...	1,496	1 3	3,866	—	3,866	0 6	1,741	1 10	5,432	14	5,446	0 6	1,595	1 9	6,264	47	6,311	0 6	—	—	—	—	—
Newry, ...	1,000	1 8	1,269	27	1,296	0 3	1,045	1 6	2,865	36	2,901	0 3	1,139	1 6	3,156	23	3,179	0 3	—	—	—	—	—
Newtownards, ...	736	1 10	—	—	—	—	746	1 9	—	—	—	—	647	1 9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newtownlimavady, ...	519	1 5	—	—	—	—	551	1 6	—	—	—	—	585	1 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oldcastle, ...	808	1 9	3,465	2,657	6,122	0 7	840	1 7	3,645	3,109	6,754	0 7	868	1 7	3,318	2,879	6,197	0 7	—	—	—	—	—
Omagh, ...	985	1 8	111	—	111	0 3	999	1 8	2,503	47	2,550	0 5	1,094	1 8	2,905	305	3,110	0 5	—	—	—	—	—
Parsonstown, ...	1,016	1 10	—	—	—	—	1,160	1 9	—	—	—	—	1,085	1 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rathdown, ...	762	2 3	877	58	935	0 7	756	2 2	1,065	430	1,495	0 8	713	2 0	1,400	131	1,531	0 8	—	—	—	—	—
Rathfriland, ...	796	1 5	1,433	—	1,433	0 5	908	1 6	1,447	—	1,447	0 6	874	1 8	2,312	—	2,312	0 5	—	—	—	—	—
Rathkeale, ...	943	1 6	8,397	4,827	13,224	0 10	1,066	1 6	8,453	4,857	13,310	0 7	1,195	1 6	7,831	3,958	11,789	0 7	—	—	—	—	—
Rosecommon, ...	1,069	2 0	—	—	—	—	1,233	1 9	2,092	—	2,092	0 10	1,488	1 9	7,029	—	7,029	0 8	—	—	—	—	—
Roscrea, ...	1,083	2 1	1,484	21	1,505	0 8	1,023	1 9	4,266	113	4,379	0 8	1,018	1 9	4,609	1,967	6,576	0 7	—	—	—	—	—
Scariff, ...	1,654	1 7	2,582	—	2,582	0 9	1,855	1 7	7,798	370	8,168	0 10	1,944	1 5	9,674	2,716	12,390	0 8	—	—	—	—	—
Shillelagh, ...	690	1 6	—	—	—	—	630	1 7	147	—	147	0 8	646	1 8	518	—	518	0 7	—	—	—	—	—
Skibbereen, ...	1,503	1 3	4,683	—	4,683	0 8	1,896	1 3	4,033	—	4,033	0 7	2,496	1 2	5,583	—	5,583	0 6	—	—	—	—	—
Sligo, ...	1,607	1 11	7,359	—	7,359	0 6	1,705	2 1	7,353	—	7,353	0 7	1,693	2 1	7,430	148	7,578	0 6	—	—	—	—	—
Strabane, ...	906	1 6	20	—	20	0 10	992	1 6	792	—	792	0 6	846	1 7	1,409	—	1,409	0 5	—	—	—	—	—
Stranorlar, ...	395	1 2	—	—	—	—	307	1 2	—	—	—	—	367	1 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swineford, ...	760	1 1	43	—	43	0 5	901	1 2	288	101	389	0 5	1,067	1 1	1,651	2,842	4,493	0 7	—	—	—	—	—
Thurles, ...	1,035	1 8	4,591	8,727	13,318	0 5	1,007	1 8	5														

* In some few Unions there is a small allowance given for Lodging and Clothing.

RETURN showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per head (exclusive of Clothing)—*continued.*

Week ended the 8th April, 1848.										Week ended the 6th May, 1848.										Week ended the 3rd June, 1848.										Names of Unions in charge of Temporary Inspectors.
In-door.		Out-door.								In-door.		Out-door.								In-door.		Out-door.								
Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance (exclu- sive of Cloth- ing.)	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic., Cap. 31.			Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance. *	Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance (exclu- sive of Cloth- ing.)	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic., Cap. 31.			Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance. *	Number of Persons relieved in each Union.	Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance (exclu- sive of Cloth- ing.)	Number of Persons relieved under 10 Vic., Cap. 31.			Average Weekly Cost of Main- tenance. *													
		Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.				Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.				Under Sec. 1.	Under Sec. 2.	Total.														
s. d.	s. d.				s. d.	s. d.				s. d.	s. d.				s. d.	s. d.				s. d.										
267	1 13	197	-	197	0 54	256	1 2	162	-	162	0 54	237	1 13	187	-	187	0 43													
1,679	1 64	7,558	264	7,822	0 63	1,434	1 23	6,923	68	6,991	0 7	1,441	1 64	6,439	47	6,486	0 74													
1,259	1 34	12,229	1,562	13,811	0 63	1,291	1 2	8,980	1,420	10,400	0 6	1,518	1 1	9,440	993	10,433	0 74													
1,269	1 74	13,491	1,579	15,070	0 54	1,278	1 6	14,724	1,519	16,243	0 54	1,373	1 54	14,064	1,352	15,416	0 63													
1,330	1 4	14,292	-	14,292	0 5	1,322	1 7	18,606	-	18,606	0 63	1,229	1 24	9,792	3,664	15,456	0 63													
1,069	1 43	-	-	-	-	1,066	1 24	-	-	-	-	1,061	1 3	-	-	-	-				Kilrush.									
578	1 2	-	-	-	-	567	1 2	-	-	-	-	551	1 13	-	-	-	-													
409	1 43	-	-	-	-	416	1 5	-	-	-	-	433	1 24	-	-	-	-													
2,403	1 74	8,216	-	8,216	0 9	2,359	1 3	8,801	-	8,801	0 83	2,500	1 3	8,499	-	8,499	0 84													
832	1 3	-	-	-	-	759	1 3	-	-	-	-	692	1 24	-	-	-	-													
1,135	1 04	1,640	-	1,640	0 63	1,243	1 01	2,250	-	2,250	0 6	1,460	1 23	3,096	-	3,096	0 53													
821	1 14	-	-	-	-	752	1 13	-	-	-	-	725	1 13	-	-	-	-													
1,139	1 10	7,379	5,868	13,247	0 6	1,189	1 74	7,674	3,590	11,254	0 61	1,161	1 64	8,097	7,192	15,289	0 74				Listowel.									
853	1 74	1,724	-	1,724	0 6	846	1 63	1,564	-	1,564	0 54	827	1 43	1,525	-	1,525	0 44													
1,627	1 6	6,800	929	7,380	0 6	1,350	1 6	6,836	-	6,836	0 43	1,394	1 1	8,828	730	9,566	0 43				Longford.									
1,557	1 7	4,210	553	4,763	0 73	1,568	1 63	4,700	830	5,539	0 7	1,523	1 63	5,823	1,233	7,056	0 63													
639	1 33	2,463	-	2,463	0 63	625	1 2	1,365	134	1,499	0 63	630	1 13	1,163	97	1,260	0 6													
1,104	1 93	-	-	-	-	1,000	1 7	-	-	-	-	894	1 63	-	-	-	-													
1,277	1 3	3,786	2,778	6,566	0 53	1,325	1 2	3,540	2,333	5,873	0 53	1,398	1 1	3,415	2,368	5,783	0 53				Macroom.									
959	1 3	702	76	778	0 34	838	1 2	747	46	793	0 33	842	1 2	879	64	943	0 33													
1,111	1 13	-	-	-	-	951	1 1	-	-	-	-	1,037	-	-	-	-	-													
892	1 04	1,374	-	1,374	0 43	803	0 11	1,319	-	1,319	0 43	582	1 03	1,477	-	1,477	0 5				Manorhamilton.									
2,312	1 33	-	-	-	-	2,297	1 3	-	-	-	-	2,706	1 23	-	-	-	-													
328	1 9	1,611	169	1,780	0 33	272	1 9	1,564	140	1,704	0 33	258	1 9	1,516	134	1,650	0 3				Milford.									
897	1 34	5,473	2,379	7,852	0 7	819	1 21	5,561	2,441	8,002	0 7	969	1 53	5,193	2,624	7,819	0 74				Mohill.									
897	1 5	-	-	-	-	965	1 63	-	-	-	-	930	1 43	-	-	-	-													
1,524	1 9	3,641	-	3,641	0 84	1,556	1 9	2,072	-	2,072	0 73	1,543	1 9	4,002	-	4,002	0 74													
1,005	1 74	4,251	4,138	8,389	0 75	946	1 7	4,512	3,014	7,526	0 75	1,010	1 74	4,405	2,177	6,582	0 9				Mullingar.									
1,032	1 84	2,634	-	2,634	0 83	994	1 8	2,793	-	2,793	0 83	942	1 8	2,778	-	2,778	0 84													
694	1 63	2,090	-	2,090	0 73	623	1 74	2,006	-	2,006	0 73	606	1 63	2,644	-	2,644	0 73													
1,462	1 53	10,294	22	10,316	0 6	1,537	1 7	11,628	-	11,628	0 6	1,603	1 11	11,486	-	11,486	0 6				Nenagh.									
680	2 0	5,506	13,744	19,250	0 53	733	1 63	6,269	11,920	18,189	0 54	827	1 1	6,036	11,584	17,620	0 63				Newcastle.									
1,625	1 83	5,923	-	5,923	0 53	1,833	1 73	4,983	-	4,983	0 53	1,678	1 63	4,579	-	4,579	0 6				New Ross.									
1,160	1 53	2,929	-	2,929	0 33	1,225	1 64	2,179	-	2,179	0 4	1,276	1 33	1,851	-	1,851	0 43													
606	1 6	-	-	-	-	584	1 53	-	-	-	-	562	1 53	-	-	-	-													
513	1 43	-	-	-	-	479	1 33	-	-	-	-	413	1 3	-	-	-	-													
839	1 6	3,226	3,100	6,326	0 53	896	1 43	3,204	2,644	5,833	0 53	1,028	1 43	3,135	2,452	5,587	0 63				Oldcastle.									
998	1 3	2,796	272	3,068	0 5	881	1 4	2,662	259	2,921	0 43	897	1 4	1,883	-	1,883	0 43													
1,130	1 6	-	-	-	-	1,225	1 53	-	-	-	-	1,314	1 54	-	-	-	-													
638	2 0	1,340	74	1,414	0 83	608	2 0	1,118	42	1,160	0 8	546	2 04	796	21	817	0 73													
801	1 74	2,336	-	2,336	0 43	798	1 7	2,315	-	2,315	0 43	787	1 53	2,319	-	2,319	0 53													
1,005	1 6	8,033	3,609	11,682	0 7	1,168	1 53	7,816	930	8,746	0 7	1,475	1 4	8,167	675	8,842	0 7													
1,401	1 9	8,759	10,618	19,377	0 63	1,370	1 103	8,183	10,086	18,269	0 63	1,730	1 3	8,206	8,653	16,853	0 63				Roscommon.									
1,028	1 8	5,250	2,213	7,463	0 6	1,075	1 7	4,969	1,336	6,805	0 63	1,036	1 23	4,794	1,077	5,871	0 63				Roscrea.									
1,938	1 6	6,538	6,038	12,576	0 83	1,854	1 6	5,842	9,592	15,434	0 7	1,918	1 43	5,070	10,029	15,099	0 73				Scariff.									
627	1 63	575	-	575	0 73	628	1 53	624	-	624	0 74	590	1 5	672	-	672	0 73													
2,148	1 23	6,939	-	6,939	0 63	1,902	1 13	6,713	-	6,713	0 63	2,036	0 113	6,528	-	6,528	0 7				Skibbereen.									
1,662	1 83	6,433	270	6,703	0 53	1,702	1 4	7,616	387	7,997	0 43	1,961	1 3	8,118	453	8,571	0 43				Sligo.									
852	1 63	1,571	-	1,571	0 53	818	1 7	1,657	-	1,657	0 5	807	1 63	1,398	-	1,398	0 43													
356	1 23	-	-	-	-	359	1 23	-	-	-	-	394	1 1	-	-	-	-													
412	1 13	3,597	5,447	9,044	0 73	513	1 63	4,109	6,222	10,331	0 73	699	1 53	4,527	6,292	10,819	0 7				Swineford.									
1,098	1 6	4,735	10,132	14,867	0 63	1,052	1 6	5,110	9,398	14,508	0 43	869	1 6	5,243	9,040	14,283	0 43				Thurles.									
1,053	1 74	7,182	8,287	15,469	0 63	1,100	1 8	7,184	8,774	15,958	0 63	1,095	1 63	7,102	9,206	16,308	0 63				Tipperary.									
1,767	1 6	5,406	282	5,688	0 53	1,706	1 34	5,676	439	6,115	0 5	1,908	1 3	5,487	460	5,947	0 53				Trillick.									
439	2 13	2,055	-	2,055	0 73	439	1 103	2,154	-	2,154	0 73	409	1																	

which cannot be distinguished in the "Average Weekly Cost" for Out-door Relief.